

## International Training Programme “Strengthening Capacities for Youth-Led Peace Initiatives” *January 2019 – September 2019, Georgia*

Peacebuilding and conflict transformation are of increasing relevance in contemporary Europe. The adoption of UNSCR 2250 in 2015 consolidated the importance of the work of youth and youth-led organisations and initiatives in the processes of peacebuilding. The follow-up Progress Study submitted to the General Assembly of the UN in March 2018 presented recommendations to the member states to increase these efforts and gave new directions for the inclusion of youth in peacebuilding processes.

Nevertheless, conflict and potential violent up-rise are present at many levels all across Western Europe, and groups and movements embracing violent ideas are growing among EU societies, mostly as a reaction to complex challenges such as the migratory movements, the economic struggle of youth, the regression in democratic and participation rights, among others. The frozen and hot conflicts in the post-soviet world have no positive developments or reconciliation processes in the last years.

### **Aims and objectives**

This project aims to bring together youth workers and youth leaders willing to improve their competences in triggering youth-led peace-building processes at community level in their countries. Thus, this project will **develop the capacities of youth leaders and youth workers to engage other youth in positive, nonviolent approaches to working with community conflicts**. Specifically, the project aims at the following primary objectives:

- To strengthen youth workers conceptual understanding of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, specifically in the context of youth-led peace work
- To strengthen the competences of youth workers in planning, monitoring and evaluation of youth-led peacebuilding activities
- To empower youth workers to guide their local peers in the collective planning and implementation of youth-led follow-up projects dedicated to peace-building in order to strengthen grass-root conflict transformation processes
- To strengthen ties between people engaged in the field of youth and peacebuilding across different European regions

The educational programme will include **one e-learning module, two residential training courses, a community needs assessment and follow-up activities**.

### **Project Steps/ Timeline**

#### **1. E-Learning preparation for the participants (14 January – 10 February 2019)**

The learning process starts with an e-learning module of 4 weeks on peacebuilding and conflict transformation. The expected amount of work per week is around 3 hours.

The content covers the following: Conceptual understanding of youth empowerment work, basics in advocacy work, basic understanding of peace work.

#### **2. Training course on peacebuilding and conflict transformation (11 – 19 February 2019, Lagodekhi, Georgia)**

The course covers the following topics:

- Understanding of youth and community challenges in the participating countries
- Conceptual understanding of peace and peacebuilding work
- Practices for youth-led peace advocacy work, especially with tools for collective intervention planning, conflict analysis and intervention design.

#### **3. Community needs assessment (February – April 2019)**

After the course, the participants will conduct a research at the community level to deepen their understanding of the conflict context in which they would like to place their youth-led peacebuilding initiative.

#### **4. Training Course on project planning, monitoring and evaluation (13 -21 May 2019, Kobuleti, Georgia)**

The course covers the following topics:

- Analysis of the community needs assessment
- Planning youth peace advocacy projects addressing the conflicts/challenges identified during the community assessments in cooperation between the organizations
- Conceptual understanding of theory of change and logical framework for conflict transformation.

#### **5. Local activities (May – August 2019)**

Building on their learning from the two training courses, 24 participants are supported in finalising the planning of their youth peacebuilding activities and implementing them locally. The format of these activities will depend on the participants ideas.

**The project will involve participants from Spain, Germany, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Georgia, Macedonia, and Netherlands. EIF is recruiting 3 participants living in Germany.**

#### **Participant Profile**

To apply to participate in this project, you have to be living in Germany and be involved in youth or peace work as a volunteer or staff member of an organisation. You should have the following profile:

- Basic knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, and of the specific conflict contexts in your community
- Available and motivated to take part in the entire program (from the Online Training in January 2019 till September 2019, including their participation in 2 face-to-face training courses)
- Good level of English to follow the course and to contribute to it
- being 18 years or older and (preferably) below 30 years old

**Please bear in mind that you can only apply for the full programme, and not for single programme activities.**

**If you apply together with other members of your organisation, movement or initiative please indicate that in your application. Make sure all of you applied for the programme.**

#### **Conditions**

As the project is partially financed by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission, board and accommodation are fully covered by the organisers. Moreover 70% of the travelling expenses will be reimbursed by the organisers – up to a maximum amount of 360 EUR - upon presentation of the travel documents. **Administrative fee:** 24 EUR

#### **Application Procedure**

Please send a short CV in English and a motivation letter to [eif.germany@googlemail.com](mailto:eif.germany@googlemail.com)

**Deadline for application: December 28 2018**

#### **Contact**

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