



Meeting Report:
Youth, Peace & Security
European Regional Consultation
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Introduction

In December of 2015, the Security Council adopted ground-breaking Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) – dedicating, for the first time, a full resolution to the positive role young people can and do play in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremism.

Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 mandates the Secretary-General “*to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels*”, and to present the results of the Study to the Member States of the United Nations. The Study will provide evidence of young people’s contribution to sustaining peace, through a participatory research process. An independent [Lead Author](#), as well as an [Advisory Group of 21 experts](#), were appointed by the Secretary-General to undertake the Study. Consultations with young people and youth-led civil society organisations offer an essential contribution to the Study, in order to gather the views, aspirations and demands from young people for peace and security issues. For more information about the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security (hereafter: the Study YPS), [please click here](#).

The European Regional Consultation, held in Brussels, Belgium, from 25-27 September 2017, was the seventh and last of a series of regional consultations for the Study. It was organized by the European External Action Service, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the European Youth Forum and the European Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding. For the concept note of the event, [please click here](#). 44 young participants between the age of 15 to 30 from the region were selected out of an open call for application ([see annex A](#)). Participants came from 19 different countries and territories: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo¹, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Participants were selected by the organizing partners on the basis of their active engagement in peace and security issues, their involvement with youth-led or youth-focused peacebuilding organizations, or affiliation with peacebuilding networks and non-violent movements, ensuring gender and age balance.

The consultation was facilitated by four youth facilitators from the region, through a series of parallel interactive break-out discussions. A child participation expert supported the three minors who attended the consultation to ensure their meaningful participation throughout the consultation.

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

This report provides an analytical summary of the consultation: it provides an overview of the activities and initiatives undertaken by participants on peace and security, analyses the challenges they face, and lists their recommendations for peace and security in Europe.

1) Young people's Activities and Initiatives to Build Peace and Prevent Violence

Include Actors Who Traditionally Are Not Part of Dialogue Processes

One of the ways young people sustain peace in Europe is to listen to marginalized and excluded young people, whose voices are not typically heard on peace and security related issues. To this end, some youth-led and youth-driven peacebuilding projects across Europe create dialogue and public debate platforms to listen to the voices of socioeconomically marginalized young people living in suburban areas of major cities and to re-integrate young people who are formerly recruited by non-state armed actors. To arrange these dialogue platforms, some of the participants identify and work with strategic interlocutors, who are being trusted by the members of excluded and marginalized communities. For example, as one of the participant from France mentioned that having members who live in the banlieues enable his organization to access marginalized communities. According to participants' experience, the success of these youth-led public debates is that it emphasizes importance of "listening" over "speaking". A participant from Spain highlighted how the Structured Dialogue mechanisms could be used to broaden up and strengthen meaningful youth participation on peace & security, as it is already being used in the Basque country.

Advocate to Change the Narrative on Youth Identity

Some of the participants build vertical relationships between local peacebuilders and national and regional policy-makers through forming youth-led regional and national peace advocacy networks. In this context, participants use SCR 2250 on YPS as a tool to build these relationships, write national level reports on the Resolution to guide government officials for its implementation, and translate the Resolution into local languages to raise awareness among young people on their right to participate in peacebuilding processes at all levels. The overarching goal of these advocacy efforts is to shift the narrative on youth identity in relation to violence and violent extremism, and to inform policy-makers' on the positive role of young people in sustaining peace and preventing violent extremism. National Youth Councils and other youth led organisations are already part of changing this narrative and are an instrument for engaging multiple youth voices in the process.

Use Social and Economic Entrepreneurship to Bring Divided Communities Together

Consultation participants use entrepreneurship & economic prosperity as a strategic channel to build inter-community relations. As participants from Cyprus and France mentioned, providing tools such as online databases, networking opportunities, trainings and mentoring in a single place to connect entrepreneurs of divided communities, nations, territories in Europe and its neighbourhood. The added value that young people bring in this context is that they integrate information and communication technologies to economic and social entrepreneurs focused projects. In participants' experience, engagement in these online platforms not only empowers economically vulnerable individuals and communities, but also transforms social relationship within and between divided communities.

Provide Alternative Peaceful History Education

Education is vital to build peaceful societies and an important element to motivate and empower young people to become peacebuilders. Yet, some of the participants who are mostly from Balkan countries emphasized that what the education system teaches is important to consider. According to participants, history classes provided by formal education institutions lead young people to take a violent path because they sometimes transmit vicious views and perceptions about other groups, and thereby create boundaries between nationalities, religions and ethnicities. To counter destructive impact of history teaching, some of the participants teach critical thinking skills and provide media literacy courses to their peers to analyse past and current events from multiple perspectives. For the participants, these activities support the leadership role young people take in reconciliation processes in Europe.

Bring Peace Education to Schools

Youth peacebuilding in Europe often takes place in schools, universities and other educational platforms where people above the school age can benefit from the youth-led projects. Participants provide peace education and violence prevention strategies to primary and secondary school students. Peace education activities that are taking place in schools drive students to examine their values and bias from a critical point of view. Additionally, youth-led peace education also targets adults. Participants spoke of young people in Europe who conduct peace education trainings that can inform teachers and principals on how they can work with young people to positively contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.

Supporting Integration of Refugees and Minorities

Some participants spoke of projects they conduct to increase the protection of refugees in Europe and its neighbour countries. Their activities focus on violence prevention, conflict transformation and mediation training in refugee camps. To make refugees' journey safer, one participant from Germany explained how his organization developed a mobile phone app that can guide refugees to take relatively safe routes and designed a

website that can provide free language education for refugees. In order to inform the wider public on the current conditions of refugees, a participant from Greece established a local level think-tank that can produce knowledge on regular basis.

2) Challenges to Youth, Peace and Security in Europe

Rising Right Wing Populism

Contemporary right wing populist movements in Europe conflate the migration related social and economic issues with the fear of violent terror acts and the problem of youth unemployment in Europe. Despite Europe is one of the most secure and prosperous regions of the world, number of European countries have been experiencing high youth unemployment rates for more than a decade. Contemporary populist movements in this respect focus on the issue of youth unemployment, and use economic concerns of young people as a tool to mobilize political support to shape policies and a public debate opposed to refugees and migrants. In other words, populist movements create a biased understanding of the underlying reasons for unemployment among young people and the wider European society. Thus, a new form of economic nationalism attracts a wide audience and produces exclusionary political messages feeding aggression and hatred towards refugees, who are predominantly children and youth. Moreover, rising right wing populist movements push for policies that can block national and regional borders to fight against violent terror attacks. In this context, right wing populist movements portray securitization of borders as the solution to the problem of violent extremism in Europe. Securitization however only push forced migrants to take dangerous routes and present challenges to the unity of European States. Populism creates dangers not only to the protection and integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe, but also to minorities who hold European Union citizenship and national citizenship of European countries. Xenophobia, discrimination, racism against citizens with immigration background encourages a dangerous identity politics among young people, which is a threat to the multicultural European identity.

Gendered Aspect of Exclusion

YPS field in Europe needs to tackle gendered dimension of exclusionary practices. In this context, participants mentioned that their projects fall short to include young women and their issues. Swiss participant mentioned that they face difficulties to create an enabling environment for the participation of young women from religious minorities in Sweden, where she is currently working. Such as, according her experience, participation of young women with hijab in youth peace work is very low. Moreover, participants also mentioned that young women in Europe are also challenged at accessing positions in governmental and non-governmental security institutions. From some of the participants experience, even if young women work for governmental or non-governmental security institutions, they are not as visible as young men, their voice is not heard equally and their work is not acknowledged. In addition, participants also articulated that peace and security policies and programs in Europe often hold narrow gender lenses. In this respect,

participants emphasized the youth, peace and security policies need to take an intersectional approach and create space to address the challenges and demands of LGBTI youth.

Expanding the Notion of Security in Europe

YPS should aim to challenge the common-sense perspective that Europe is a secure and peaceful place. It is an undeniable fact that Europe is one of the most secure parts of the world, since wars and violent armed conflicts currently pose threats to a relatively low level. However, from participants' view, absence of wars and armed conflict is a too narrow and limited perspective to respond to young people's own peace and security concerns. In participants' view, structural issues such as climate change, natural disasters, human trafficking, limitations of employment opportunities, violent terror attacks, etc. challenge the idea that Europe is a secure and peaceful continent. For example, participants are concerned about the exclusion of vulnerable groups (such as refugees and asylum seekers) from the labour market and social services, anxious about the foreseeable impacts of climate change, frustrated with the sexual harassment young women face, and feel insecure on cyberspace. For participants, these issues are not being sufficiently recognized as important dimensions of security policies in Europe. In this context, participants suggested that youth, peace and security should set ambitious goals to integrate their broader security and safety concerns in major security policies. Additionally, some of the participants highlighted that young people are only included in security related discussions that are almost only on violent extremism. In this respect, participants mentioned that selective inclusion of young people and their concerns devalue the impact of various forms violence and security threats young people are concerned about.

3) Young People's Priorities for Peace and Security in Europe

Recognizing the Impact of Youth Work on Peace and Security

For participants, youth work focused on sports, art and culture in Europe has an observable impact on the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies. However, according to participants, the peacebuilding impact of youth work on sports, art and culture has not been recognized in Europe. In this context, documenting and measuring the importance of youth work, and analysing its impact in relation to prevention of violence and sustaining peace in the region should be a priority.

Addressing Youth Exclusion from Societal Decision- and Policy-Making

Although youth work contributes to peace and security in the region, young people have not been recognized as actors who are entitled to discuss and meaningfully participate in formal decision making and policy-making processes on peace and security. Addressing youth exclusion from peace and security related policy-making, design and implementation should be a priority issue to promote youth, peace and security in Europe. A number of consultation participants articulated their relatively privileged

position to contribute to political life by being a member of national youth councils, working for governmental or non-governmental organizations. However, participants mentioned that they still face multiple challenges to participate in decisions-making processes about security related matters that directly affect their lives. Youth, peace and security in Europe means to create an enabling environment for the inclusion of young women and men to participate in decision-making processes to bring young people's specific security needs and concerns at local, national and regional levels.

Moreover, youth, peace and security field in Europe should address not only youth exclusion from peace and security related policy and decision-making processes, but also from policy and decision-making processes broadest sense possible. According to participants, the lack of youth involvement in decision-making and policy-making processes fall short to address issues, such as mitigating climate change, ensuring gender justice, addressing socio-economic inequalities, stopping human trafficking that are conducive and vital to promote and sustain peace and security in the region.

Advancing Intercultural Dialogue

Participants highlighted that advancing intercultural dialogue should be a priority issue for the youth, peace and security policies in Europe. Intercultural dialogue has multiple functions and should be recognized as contributing to peace and security in the region and its neighbouring countries. Intercultural dialogue platforms that are predominantly populated by young women and men serve as reconciliation platforms in countries and territories that experienced violent conflicts in the past few decades. Participating in intercultural dialogue provides an opportunity for young people to take a leadership position to advance reconciliation processes and to reduce prejudice and misunderstandings among diverse ethnic and national groups. As Europe becomes an increasingly diverse region due to migration trends within and from outside the region, intercultural dialogue performs as a driving force of culture of tolerance, respect and understanding. In this context, participants highlighted that the promotion of intercultural dialogue between different nationalities, faiths, communities and ethnicities plays a crucial role in preventing violence and sustaining peace in the region. Intercultural dialogue platforms in Europe function as a tool to empower young people, including those who are marginalized and excluded from participating in social and political discussions, and thereby create inclusive spaces for the participation of whole-of-society.

Scaling-up the Support for Youth Peacebuilding in Europe

Youth, peace and security policies in Europe should prioritize stronger financial and political support for youth peacebuilding. Participants suggested that the youth, peace and security policy field should entail the creation of channels and opportunities to increase the impact of youth peacebuilding in Europe and its neighbourhood. In participants' experience, youth peacebuilding in Europe is trapped at the community level and faces multiple challenges to enhance its impact to serve for the interest of cities, nations and the region. Moreover, policy-makers' preconceived ideas about young

people's limited political agency block young people to take part in shaping, designing and implementing peace and security policies. In this respect, participants highlighted that stronger political and financial support for youth organizations is vital to create an enabling environment for young people's meaningful political participation.

4) Recommendations

a) Inclusion and Recognition

1. Collect data on young people's impact on sustaining peace and preventing violence.

- ✓ Youth, peace and security should trigger knowledge production as a tool to change the "negative and stereotypical narratives" on young people. Quantitative results and evidence based examples on young people's contribution to peace and security should be mapped and systematically reported in Europe.
- ✓ The impact of youth-led organizations and initiatives should be mapped, and their contribution to peace and security should be analysed. Demonstrating the positive impact of young people should be used as an argument to create youth inclusive conversations on peace and security policies, and changing the narrative on youth identity.

2. Establish a youth, peace and security award.

- ✓ An award system dedicated to youth, peace and security should be established in order to recognize and bring visibility to young people's peace and security work at the grassroots level. Local authorities and youth-led organizations should be actively involved in the process of identifying community level award-winners.

b) Socio-Economic Inclusion

3. Create long-term and accessible youth, peace and security fund.

- ✓ The application process for such a fund should be youth friendly. To this end, innovative methods should be explored. For example, municipalities and youth-led organizations could be involved in defining eligibility criteria. Allocate a certain segment of the fund for the start-up of projects focused on peace and security.

4. Establish a multi-layered youth, peace and security network in Europe.

- ✓ The network should be active at local, national and regional level. The network should be responsible to lobby with local and national governments regarding funding-related issues. The network should also be responsible to mobilize young people and create a link between national governments and youth organizations working on peace and security related issues. The regional network should meet twice a year.

5. Invest in intercommunal entrepreneurship.

- ✓ Entrepreneurship is a great tool both to fight unemployment and to build intercommunity and inter-religious relations. Specially, tech-based entrepreneurship cooperation among conflicted communities should be financially supported, in the territories and countries, where trade has been banned or restricted. Nongovernmental organizations should be encouraged to train and support refugees with initiatives as bootcamps, incubators and accelerators designed to help them to establish their own businesses. This will not only decrease the financial aid being made to refugee camps in a shorter term but will also contribute to refugees' integration to society and economy of the country. This will help young refugees' socio-economic development and will create jobs and aid the inter-communal and inter-religious dialogue and tolerance that will lead to peace and security.

c) Protection

6. Establish a global “green card” system for refugees/asylum seekers.

- ✓ Instead of creating mandatory measures and mechanism to force national governments to accept refugees, Member States should be encouraged to form a “coalition group” to welcome refugees. The coalition should establish a digital embassy system to enable asylum-seekers to register in their country of origin.

7. End early marriage.

- ✓ Stricter marriage laws should be adapted to end early marriage. All countries need to raise the legal age for marriage to at least 16, by year 2022. The process of adapting laws to end early marriage should be monitored by annual reports. In addition, violation of the law should be punished through international court/justice systems.

8. Raise awareness on sexual assault.

- ✓ In order to protect children and young people, awareness raising campaigns on the harmful impact of sexual violence should be organized in elementary schools. Families should be involved in the awareness raising campaigns. Religious institutions and schools should be actively engaged to extend the outreach of campaigns. User-friendly reporting systems and mobile phone applications should be developed.

d) Education

9. Recognize the positive impact of non-formal education on peacebuilding.

- ✓ Non-formal education is used by young people to develop soft-skills and to create peaceful learning environments, which needs to be highlighted in peace and security discussion in Europe. Non-formal education should be accessible for not only for well-educated youth from middle- to high-income families, but also for young people from marginalized and excluded communities. In this respect, non-formal education should be used as a peacebuilding tool.

10. Build partnership between formal educational institutions and non-formal education providers.

- ✓ Enabling environment should be created for non-governmental organizations to provide peace education trainings in formal education institutions. To this end, formal education institutions should be encouraged and supported to work with non-governmental organizations working in peace education. Peace education, conflict transformation and mediation toolkits should be developed for teachers working in formal education institutions.

11. Create alternative education platforms.

- ✓ A non-violent debate culture should be used as an educational tool. Ethnically and/or religiously segregated schools and history education creates division between communities. In order to counter the division among communities, interactive and inclusive dialogue platforms and clubs should be promoted. Family members, teachers, students, representative of civil society organizations should be invited to participate in these dialogue platforms.

e) Shifting paradigms

12. Work with non-traditional actors in peacebuilding.

- ✓ Collaboration with the private sector should be established to create channels for increased youth participation in peacebuilding. Private companies working on information and communication technologies should be seen as potential partners. All private companies should be encouraged to support youth, peace and security projects as part of their corporate social responsibility projects.

13. Fight against patriarchy and re-define masculinity.

- ✓ Create opportunities to discuss about masculinity and patriarchy at local level, and especially engage young men in the discussions. Mainstream critical issues related to patriarchy and masculinity in education curricula. Promote gender inclusive dialogues that can give space and voice to sexual minorities.

14. Analyse climate change related risks in peace and security context.

- ✓ Collect data and conduct comprehensive research to highlight the impact of violence generated by the following consequences of climate change.
- ✓ Take action to mitigate climate change and build connection between climate change mitigation and prevention of violent conflict.
- ✓ Create an enabling environment for young people to innovate solutions to the social problems created by climate change.

f) Political Participation

15. Develop mechanisms to monitor policies that have influence on young people's lives.

- ✓ Acknowledging and addressing young people's interest in peace and security policies should be considered as a way to promote peace and security. To this end,

all peace and security policies should be monitored in terms of their impact on young people's lives and whether young people's interests are sufficiently considered. Control mechanism should be established at local, national and regional levels.

16. Establish youth, peace and security advisory councils.

- ✓ In addition to direct representation of young people in formal political institutional settings, governments and international organizations should establish advisory councils composed of young people that can advise them on issues related to peace and security related policies and programs.

17. Ensure meaningful participation of young people in political and civic life.

- ✓ Young people have the right to participate politically and civically, including on matters related to peace and security. Ensure that youth political participation is free from legal persecution.
- ✓ Meaningful participation should be understood as participation on equal terms and as equally valued as everyone else, ensured through an enabling environment and supported through sufficient funding. Young people should be allowed to make meaningful and informed choices.

18. Increase meaningful participation of young people in peace processes and conflict analysis at all levels.

- ✓ Develop mechanism to ensure the direct participation of youth constituency in formal peace talks. Use existing participatory mechanism – such the Structured Dialogue - to ensure meaningful youth participation in peace and security policy and decision-making at all levels.
- ✓ Include young people and youth peacebuilding experts in mediation support teams. Build and invest in the networks of youth mediators.
- ✓ Integrate the youth dimension in conflict analysis, take youth participatory approaches in conducting conflict analysis and promote youth-led conflict analysis.

g) Recommendations on the implementation mechanism for SCR 2250 (2015)

19. Build mechanisms that enable youth contribution to peace and security.

For national implementation in the European context

- ✓ Create National Action Plans for the implementation of SCR 2250 that include concrete goals, actions and tools to implement the resolution. Define indicators to assess the progress, and mechanisms for evaluation. Process of creating action plans and complementary guidelines should include both officials and youth representatives.
- ✓ Create funding lines for youth, peace and security in national budgets. Ensure that there is a rapporteur and adequate resources for implementing resolution 2250.

- ✓ Establish independent and inclusive monitoring committees to follow the progress of implementation of SCR 2250, including officials, experts of peace and security policy and representatives of youth organisations. Ensure high-quality evaluation by inviting evaluation experts across national borders to observe progress. Share the progress reports with wider public. Ensure that data-collection and evidence-built progress of evaluation.
- ✓ Develop SCR 2250 cooperation networks and platforms between non-governmental organisations, government officials and institutions in each country and launch local level consultations on SCR 2250.
- ✓ Establish a youth national representative body on youth, peace and security framework.
- ✓ Create links between existing national youth representative structures (such as national youth councils or organized youth networks) and bodies working on peace and security.
- ✓ Support existing UN Youth Delegates to advocate for their involvement processes related to SCR 2250. Support youth delegates to participate to the UN General Assembly and other youth, peace and security relevant events.
- ✓ Support the UN Secretary General Advisory Group and UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth for the implementation process of SCR 2250.
- ✓ Make youth participation a national flagship goal, visible in home affairs and foreign affairs. Make youth engagement a central theme in development co-operation and UN advocacy, and include youth in the work of relevant ministries and institutions, such as national Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

20. Sustain peace and security in local and national level.

- ✓ Allow institutionalized, structured, constant and vertical youth participation in democratic processes. Involve young people in general policymaking, instead of just youth policy or youth working groups. Support young people to access parliamentary committees and other institutions. Considering the diversity of youth populations, different genders, backgrounds and religions should be included in policymaking processes.
- ✓ Establish quotas for political parties to include a certain percentage of young candidates for national, regional and local elections. Develop additional youth-led monitoring mechanisms to observe the credibility of the quota systems.
- ✓ Initiate participatory budget planning in different levels of decision-making processes. Ensure legal status of youth councils as part of decision-making processes.

21. Promote youth, peace and security across borders.

- ✓ Address and recognize the role of youth in the whole cycle of conflict. Allow young men and women to participate in preventing and transforming violent conflicts. Mainstream SCR 2250 to actions of different organisations and connect the framework of youth, peace and security to the implementation of Agenda 2030 by

emphasizing UN Sustainable Development Goal number 16 on peaceful societies and participation.

- ✓ Increase awareness on SCR 2250: initiating cooperation and campaigns between different non-governmental organisations, schools and institutions, with the goal of reaching the diversity of youth, and making 2250-work accessible and inclusive.
- ✓ Support universities to conduct research on youth, peace and security theme.
- ✓ Share an open, updated overview of developments and implementation 2250 in different parts of the world.
- ✓ Push youth engagement as a central theme in UN development cooperation. Include youth in creating and evaluating development cooperation strategies.
- ✓ Promote peace education and research globally. Ensure access to quality education worldwide. Give young people tools to prevent violent extremism.

For the implementation of SCR 2250 at the European Union.

- ✓ Integrate SCR 2250 in the European Union Youth Strategy to be implemented both internally and as part of the EU Global Strategy. Create a framework for evaluating the impact of EU decisions on youth and future generations.
- ✓ Use EU political leverage to advocate for the implementation of UNSCR 2250 (2015). Support Member States with complementary implementation guidelines regarding the evaluation of action plans, taking into consideration the questions of data collection, youth participation and cooperation among relevant actors.
- ✓ Establish a funding line for youth, peace and security work, in particular through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). Build the funding criteria to guarantee accessible funding for youth organisations.
- ✓ Build structured youth participation in decision-making processes within the European Union institutions. Build connections between current European youth policies and foreign peace and security policies.
- ✓ Establish an inclusive and representative YPS consultative body with the power to select a Special Adviser for Youth, Peace and Security. Conduct extensive participatory consultative processes for the appointment of the Special Adviser for Youth, Peace and Security.
- ✓ Appoint an independent rapporteur and adequate financial resources for EU level implementation of 2250.

For the implementation of SCR 2250 at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

- ✓ Mainstream the United Nations Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) in OSCE documents and activities related to the cycle of conflict.
- ✓ Use OSCE political leverage advocate development and implementation of SCR 2250.
- ✓ Develop a crosscutting OSCE Youth Policy, and establishing an inclusive and representative OSCE Youth Consultative Body with the power to select OSCE Special Representative for Youth, supported by a Secretariat as part of the unified budget.

h) Prevention

22. Support for evidence based research.

- ✓ Initiate and increase comprehensive research, scientific projects and studies on youth in peacebuilding. Provide means and tools for an international exchange of youth data related to violence; conflict prevention etc.
- ✓ Increase massively funding for science on youth policies and assure that research and evaluation opportunities are accessible and transparent, including socio-economically vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.
- ✓ Provide all means to guarantee visibility of research results and the SCR 2250 academic circles.
- ✓ Encourage young people to participate in scientific projects related to peace and security.
- ✓ Create safe space and opportunities for peaceful youth engagement In

23. Create safe space and opportunities for peaceful engagement.

- ✓ Urge subnational, national, international organizations and formal political institutions to invest in youth activities and to create spaces where young people can express themselves. Provide facilities and meetings rooms for youth activities. Invest in instruments to support art and sports by recognizing their instrumental to include diverse social groups in these spaces and platforms. Promote youth activities in socio-economically challenged areas to ensure participation of all youth in these safe spaces.
- ✓ Urge local and regional authorities to prioritize funding for projects focusing on inclusion and meaningful participation of young people. Arrange exchanges between youth at cultural and social level, with special regard to youth at risk of exclusion in society.
- ✓ Urge national institutions to increase funding for youth organizations and youth initiatives aiming at social inclusion and prosperity for young people, recognizing and valuing the role of these for creating positive peace
- ✓ Urge intergovernmental organizations to create safe spaces for youth discussing sensitive politics.

24. Create equal opportunities for young people to be in control of their own lives

- ✓ Urge non-governmental organizations to value young people's voluntary work by paying them and to promote a safe and sound work environment.
- ✓ Urge local and regional authorities to invest in job opportunities for young people in meaningful sectors.
- ✓ Create equal accessibility for marginalised and excluded youth to benefit from mental health care provisions.
- ✓ Urge national institutions to invest and commit to an accessible welfare system and social security, with special focus on young people in conflicted areas.

- ✓ Increase the presence of civil society institutions in rural and suburban areas, for example police, to build a positive and trusting image of state authority
- ✓ Urge intergovernmental organizations to promote strong welfare systems as an important pillar in the creation of positive peace.

25. Build security policies aiming for peace

- ✓ Stop arms trade to conflict zones and develop new legal framework for defence industries to create a universal black list catalogue of countries (and proxies) that should be banned from importing weapons.
- ✓ Support peacebuilding focusing on youth development; have a set percentage of the peacebuilding budget used for youth activities and setting up local councils.
- ✓ Invest in youth participation in security ministries and prevention strategies; partnerships with youth organizations and legal binding commitments.

26. Support social cohesion between communities.

- ✓ Urge non-governmental organizations to include most marginalized and excluded group in their project and activities.
- ✓ Urge local and regional authorities to provide safe meeting spaces for youth events.
- ✓ Prevent co-optation of successful youth-led grassroots initiatives by formal political institutions.

27. Shape youth identity through peaceful narratives

- ✓ Support projects dedicated to wellbeing and identity shaping, through education, exchanges, inclusion, with a positive goal
- ✓ Create opportunities and spaces where young people can safely explore and discuss their diverse identities in relation to nationality, religion and history.

Annex A:

Country Profile

List of Countries	Number of participants
Albania	1
Austria	1
Belgium	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
Bulgaria	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Cyprus	2
Czech Republic	1
Netherlands	1
Estonia	1
Finland	2
France	1
Greece	1
Germany	2
Hungary	1
Ireland	1
United Kingdom	1
Italy	2
Kosovo*	2
Latvia	1
Lithuania	1
Montenegro	1
Netherlands	1
Norway	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Romania	1
Serbia	2
United Kingdom	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	2
Sweden	2
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1
United Kingdom	2

Age Profile

Age	Number of participants
15	1
16	1
17	1
20	3
21	3
22	2
23	3
24	3
25	7
26	6
27	2
28	5
29	7

Gender Profile

Gender	Number of participants
Male	21
Female	22
Prefers not to answer	1