



# paths to peace

tourism with a purpose -  
powered by a new generation



## Global Peace

## Perspectives Roadmap

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2025

By  
International Institute for  
Peace

# Welcome



## Executive Summary

The **Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap** explores the intersection of tourism and peacebuilding, with a focus on empowering youth to become active agents of change. Developed as part of the *Paths to Peace* project, this document provides a comprehensive analysis of how tourism can foster reconciliation, intercultural understanding, and social cohesion in conflict-affected and post-conflict regions. The link between tourism and peace has not been widely recognized or utilized, despite its **immense potential**. We believe that young people could play a crucial role in promoting and implementing this idea.

The Roadmap draws on research, conducted across six European countries: **Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and Ukraine**. The findings emphasize the importance of youth engagement, intercultural dialogue, and responsible tourism practices in creating a **culture of peace**. The Roadmap also highlights key **barriers** to tourism-based peacebuilding, as well as critical **skills gaps** among youth that must be addressed to empower them in this field. The document concludes with actionable recommendations for policymakers, tourism professionals, educators, and civil society organizations. It also offers a **resource pack for young people** interested in engaging in peacebuilding through tourism and seeking corresponding opportunities.

# Young People Using Travel & Tourism to Build Peace Across Europe

A Europe where youth design and deliver travel and tourism experiences that build peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion in conflict affected areas.

## Global Peace is Declining Rapidly

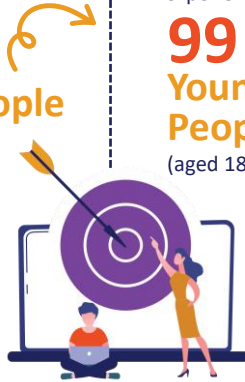
**87 Countries**

saw a decline in peace, including Europe's largest drop since 2008 (*Global Peace Index, 2025*)

**100+ Million People**

are refugees or internally displaced worldwide (*UNHCR, 2022*)

Young people are growing up in a world shaped by conflict, division, and displacement — and are looking for meaningful ways to respond.



## Our Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap is Designed to Enable Peace

A research-based, practical guide that helps young people turn travel and tourism into meaningful peacebuilding experiences. Contributors included,

**99 Young People**  
(aged 18-30)

**32 Experts**  
from tourism, NGOs, academia & civil society

**11 Best-practice Case Studies**

## The Need for Peace Tourism in European Countries

### Ukraine: Active Conflict

*Paths to Peace is difficult to implement, but deeply needed*

Ongoing violence and travel restrictions shape youth perspectives. Many young people are cautious about tourism's role in peace, reflecting the realities of war.

### Cyprus: Frozen conflict

*Paths to Peace provides a safe, neutral meeting space*

While violence has stopped, deep divisions remain. Young people see tourism as a way to create non-political spaces where Greek and Turkish Cypriots can meet and connect.

### Ireland Post Conflict Society

*Paths to Peace as a bridge for unfinished reconciliation*

Decades after the Troubles ended, divisions persist. Young people show strong awareness of tourism's peace potential and travel as a way to support dialogue and understanding.

### Austria/ Denmark/ Sweden Stable & Peaceful Contexts

*Paths to Peace connects cultures and communities*

With no active conflict, young people see tourism as a tool for cultural exchange, social inclusion, broadening perspectives, and addressing polarisation



## Young People Are Saying 'We Believe Tourism Can Bring Peace'

### Key Insights

**80%**

believe tourism can promote peace

**60%**

have never participated in peace-tourism initiatives



### Young People's Voices

*"Learning from the experience of other people that come from different communities... is how tourism could help build peace and understanding in my country."*  
Young person, Cyprus.

*"Peace for me is calmness, safety, and the opportunity to live and create without fear."*  
Young person, Ukraine.

*"Tourism that promotes peace is a new way of seeing travel for me."*  
Young person, Sweden.

*"Peacebuilding tourism is when people travel to learn about each other's history... and traditions that connect us."*  
Young person, Ireland.

## Young People are Not Taking Action because...

- Lack of awareness and information
- Low confidence and no opportunities
- Aren't sure how to get involved.
- Funding constraints
- Skills and training gaps

**70%**

Say they need training in...

- Intercultural dialogue & facilitation
- Digital and in-person storytelling
- Community engagement & co-creation
- Conflict sensitivity & ethical tourism
- Inclusive tourism practices
- Mentorship, peer and wellbeing support

## 32 Experts and Organisations Believe in Youth-led Peace Building

Youth-led tourism experiences can be powerful peacebuilding tools when intentionally supported and guided. Such initiatives strengthen local ownership, constructive dialogue and mutual understanding.

**Key Support Challenges Include...**

- Logistics in remote areas
- Mismatched expectations
- Time pressures (e.g., work)
- Youth feel unheard and under-represented

Need for "transversal" skills in youth training (e.g., communication, empathy, leadership). Youth peacebuilders need mentoring and mental health support when dealing with post-conflict issues

*"We need more transversal skills rather than hard skills to support youth to participate or lead tourism-based peacebuilding."*  
Austria, Youth Worker



## Effective Peace Tourism Approaches Require

- **Youth-led hands-on, shared experiences** (e.g. community tours, cultural workshops, volunteer tourism) are seen as high-impact ways to build empathy and connections.
- **Cultural exchanges and engaging storytelling** help break down barriers (e.g., sharing stories about culture and history can turn sightseeing into shared learning and build understanding).
- **Embedding conscious, structured reflection** (e.g. guided dialogues) to avoid stereotyping and ensure meaningful intercultural exchange.
- **Ongoing support, mentorship, peer support**, and mental health support to help youth cope with the emotional challenges of peace work

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[www.pathstopeace.eu](http://www.pathstopeace.eu)

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# 01

## Introduction



# Tourism with a Purpose -

## Powered by a

## New Generation



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*Paths to Peace* is a scalable, non-formal education program designed to empower young people, youth workers, and tourism professionals to integrate peacebuilding methodologies into tourism practices. By combining intercultural dialogue, conflict-sensitive tourism, and youth-led innovation, *Paths to Peace* addresses social divisions in conflict-affected and post-conflict regions across Europe. Through research, hybrid workshops, mentorship, and the development of actionable tourism-based peacebuilding proposals, *Paths to Peace* promotes civic engagement, human values, and builds a sustainable network of Peace Building Advocates committed to advancing social cohesion and global citizenship.

As part of the effort to equip European youth with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in peacebuilding through tourism, the project partners conducted research to better understand the needs of young people and key stakeholders in relevant industries, including tourism, youth organizations, non-governmental

organizations, international organizations, and academia. This work culminated in the creation of the document you are now reading – the *Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap*.

The *Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap* is a research-based guide that explores how tourism can promote peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion—especially in post-conflict or divided regions. It includes country-specific case studies of existing tourism-based peacebuilding projects, interviews with young peacebuilders and tourism actors, an analysis of barriers and enablers to peace tourism, policy and practice recommendations for educators, NGOs, and authorities, as well as an analysis of a small-scale survey conducted by project partners to better understand the needs and skills of youth to engage in tourism-based peacebuilding.

# 02

## About Us



# Who we are

The *Paths to Peace* project brings together a diverse team of experts from various fields, including tourism, youth work, marketing, and research, to empower young people to drive innovation in tourism-based peacebuilding activities.

## **The Swedish Tourism Innovation Centre (STIC)**

**Website:** [tourisminnovation.se](http://tourisminnovation.se)

STIC is a national knowledge and innovation hub that supports the sustainable transformation of tourism across Sweden and Europe. Their mission is to turn forward-thinking ideas into practical, scalable solutions. STIC works with regions, SMEs, educational institutions, and young entrepreneurs to foster tourism that is not only economically sound but also inclusive and socially impactful.

The centre is well-known for its work on tourism in post-pandemic recovery, circular economy practices, and integrating youth voices into tourism planning. Their team combines technical know-how with a passion for empowering communities.

## **The Hub Nicosia Ltd**

**Website:** [hubnicosia.org](http://hubnicosia.org)

Hub Nicosia is more than just a space – it's a vibrant ecosystem that brings together young changemakers, educators, and civil society organisations. As a recognised hub for social entrepreneurship, intercultural collaboration, and youth engagement, Hub Nicosia has a long-standing track record of fostering inclusive education and building resilient communities.

Their work spans diverse fields, from gender equality and cultural heritage to refugee support, sustainable development, and digital inclusion. With deep local roots and broad international reach, Hub Nicosia is uniquely positioned to support peacebuilding efforts in Cyprus that start with youth and ripple outward to create lasting change.

## **International Institute for Peace (IIP)**

**Website:** [iipvienna.com](http://iipvienna.com)

The International Institute for Peace, based in Vienna, has been a fixture in European peacebuilding since the 1950s, but in recent years, under new leadership, IIP has evolved into a forward-thinking hub for critical dialogue, policy research, and international cooperation.

Their work spans European security, civil society engagement and conflict analysis, with a strong focus on building bridges between sectors and generations.

IIP engages with scholars, policy experts, and grassroots actors to investigate the root causes of conflict and develop practical pathways to peace.

## **Building Ukraine Together (BUR)**

**Website:** [www.bur.org.ua/en](http://www.bur.org.ua/en)

BUR is a grassroots youth organisation that emerged in response to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Since its founding, BUR has mobilised thousands of young volunteers to rebuild homes, public spaces, and communities across the country. But BUR is more than a construction crew — it's a platform for youth civic engagement, intercultural dialogue, and social cohesion.

Their projects combine hands-on volunteerism with educational programmes, cultural exchange, and leadership development, giving young people the tools and support to be changemakers in their own communities.

## **Momentum Marketing Services (MMS)**

**Website:** [momentumconsulting.ie](http://momentumconsulting.ie)

Momentum designs innovative educational resources and leads impact-driven dissemination. Based in Ireland, Momentum is an award-winning education and innovation organisation dedicated to designing transformative learning experiences that empower individuals and communities. With a strong focus on inclusion, entrepreneurship, and regional development, Momentum brings deep expertise in project dissemination, digital learning design, and stakeholder engagement.

## **European E-Learning Institute (EUEI)**

**Website:** [euei.dk](http://euei.dk)

The EUEI, based in Denmark, is a leader in digital education and accessible learning. Since 2017, EUEI has specialised in creating innovative, inclusive, and interactive online learning environments for learners of all ages and backgrounds. With a strong emphasis on equity, human-centred design, and ethical leadership, EUEI's mission aligns perfectly with the goals of the *Paths to Peace* project.



**“When I saw the opportunity to work in the Peacemakers Museum, I saw myself engaging in my own heritage and serving the community that shaped me.”**

Young Volunteer at the Peacemakers Museum in Derry, Northern Ireland



# 03

## Wider Context



# Peace and Conflict: Background

## The State of Peace and Conflict in Europe and Beyond

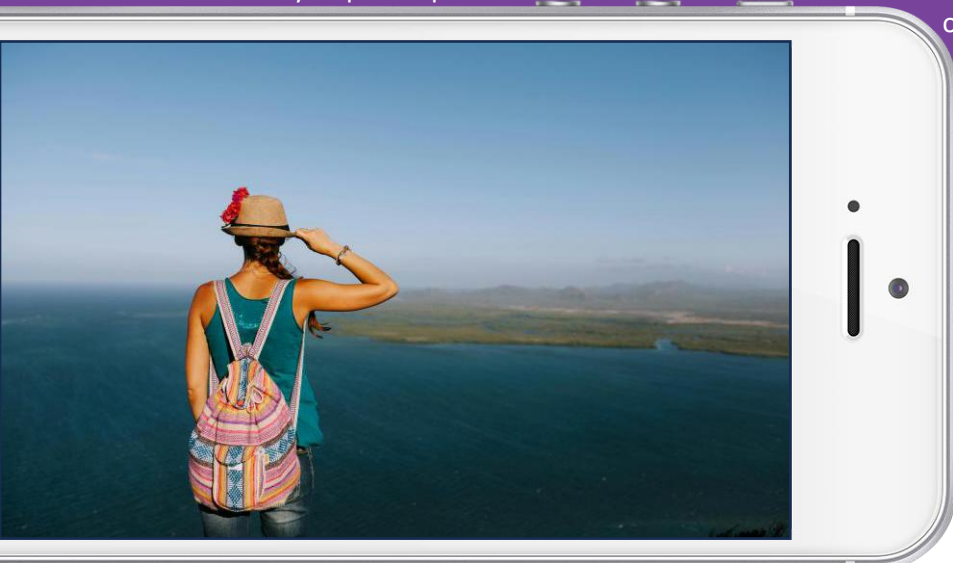
Over the past decade, the state of peace and conflict in the world has been marked by a complex interplay of progress and setbacks. According to the [Global Peace Index \(GPI\) 2025](#), produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the world has become **less peaceful, with the number of conflicts being higher than at any time since World War II**. The report highlights that global peacefulness has deteriorated in 2025, with **87 countries experiencing a decline in peace** and only **74 showing improvements**.

Key drivers of this decline include ongoing conflicts, political instability, and the rise of authoritarianism in some regions. The war in Ukraine has had a significant impact, with Europe experiencing its **largest decline in peace** since the index was first published in 2008. Additionally, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has reached

record levels, surpassing **100 million globally** in 2022, according to the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#).

However, there are also positive developments: homicide rates have decreased in some regions, and several countries have made strides in reducing violent crime and violent demonstrations (IEP, 2025). Despite these improvements, the overall trend suggests that the world is facing increasing challenges to peace, driven by **geopolitical tensions, economic instability, and the effects of climate change**, which exacerbate resource scarcity and displacement.

These findings underscore the urgent need for global cooperation and innovative approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the years ahead. Tourism, as a platform for intercultural dialogue and social cohesion, offers a unique opportunity to contribute to these efforts.



# Methodology

This Roadmap employed a multi-faceted methodology to explore the nexus between tourism and peacebuilding, combining desk research, stakeholder engagement, and a youth-focused survey. The methodology was designed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and best practices in tourism-based peacebuilding.

## 1. Desk Research

The research began with a review of academic and policy publications on the relationship between tourism and peacebuilding. This included analyzing existing frameworks, case studies, and theoretical approaches to understand the state of the art in this emerging field. Additionally, interviews were conducted with key stakeholders from academia, international organizations, and the tourism industry to gather expert insights and identify gaps in current practices.

## 2. Youth Survey

A survey was conducted with 99 young people aged 18-30 from Sweden, Cyprus, Denmark, Ireland, Ukraine, Austria, and other countries during the summer and autumn of 2025. The survey aimed to explore the perspectives, skills, and needs of youth regarding tourism-based peacebuilding. It included open-ended questions to capture nuanced responses and provide deeper insights into how young people perceive the connection between tourism and peacebuilding, as well as their potential role in fostering peace through tourism.

## 4. Stakeholder Survey and Interviews

To explore the tourism-peace nexus, a survey was conducted with 32 stakeholders from the tourism sector, civil society, international organizations, and academia. The survey aimed to identify opportunities and barriers for youth engagement in tourism-based

peacebuilding. In addition, 10 in-depth interviews with select stakeholders provided deeper insights into their perspectives. Participants represented six project countries, offering a diverse range of views on the potential of tourism to foster peace and reconciliation.

## 3. Case Studies

Project partners identified and analyzed best practices from Europe and beyond, focusing on existing initiatives that leverage tourism for peacebuilding and actively engage youth. These case studies highlight the potential of tourism to promote reconciliation, intercultural understanding, and social cohesion. The compiled collection of case studies is available on the Paths to Peace project website: [pathstopeace.eu](https://pathstopeace.eu).

# 04

## Tourism, Peace, and Youth Nexus



# Tourism and Peace

## Creating a Culture of Peace as an Agenda of Civil Society

The connection between tourism and peace is not yet widely recognized, either in academic literature or among practitioners. Several stakeholders surveyed for this project expressed surprise at the idea, despite their own work being indirectly linked to tourism-based peacebuilding. This lack of awareness highlights the need to promote concepts such as responsible tourism and tourism with a social purpose.

Building peace is not simply a question of politics and the political class. The foundations for lasting peace must be laid in society itself. The creation of a culture of peace—as a prerequisite for social peace, peace between states, and world peace—is primarily a task for civil society. Organizations such as the United Nations and UNESCO have dedicated special years and even decades to promoting this agenda. Notably, the World Tourism Organization ([UN Tourism](#)) has a century-long history and has been instrumental in positioning tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and sustainability.

Other international organizations have followed suit. For instance, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) recognized tourism's role in fostering [intercultural exchange](#) and driving economic diversification, supporting projects in [Kosovo](#), [Montenegro](#), and [Kyrgyzstan](#).

As a global industry and a platform for intercultural exchange, tourism holds significant potential to contribute to peacebuilding efforts. However, the connection between tourism and peace must be approached thoughtfully and deliberately to ensure meaningful and lasting outcomes.



# The Complex Relationship

## Between

## Tourism and Peace



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When discussing tourism and peace, it is important to avoid oversimplifications. While tourism and travel can foster cultural understanding between different peoples (as suggested by the **contact hypothesis**), such encounters may also reinforce pre-existing stereotypes and prejudices, potentially leading to rejection of the "other" and even contributing to conflict<sup>1</sup>.

The impact of tourism on peace depends heavily on how tourist experiences are mediated—whether by tour operators, guides, or hospitality establishments—and the pre-existing knowledge and attitudes that travelers bring with them. There is a lack of evidence that suggests that tourism (understood as the tourism industry or individual travelers) can contribute to peace processes, as oftentimes, 'high politics' is a decisive factor in whether or not a conflict comes to an end. However, when one thinks of 'positive peace' in the sense of establishing social justice, the tourism industry and individual travelers can make a contribution to peace. For example, the tourism industry – if organized in a sustainable and responsible way – can play a positive role in eradicating global poverty. Individual travelers can also make their

contribution to positive peace by practicing responsible ways of traveling and being mindful of local human and natural environments. In this sense, one can argue that tourism has the **potential** to contribute to the overall 'culture of peace' in our societies. Although there is scarce evidence that any kind of tourism can promote peace, it is possible to formulate concrete framework conditions under which the peace potential of tourism can actually take effect. One possibility is, for **example, study trips and supervised trips for young people**, which explicitly serve to understand other countries and cultures and also include encounters with people from the countries visited as an essential element. To keep the language straightforward, we use the term 'tourism-based peacebuilding' in this Roadmap. By this, we refer not to just any kind of tourism, but to travel undertaken with the conscious purpose of learning, fostering understanding, and contributing to positive change.

<sup>1</sup>Wohlmuther Cordula and Wintersteiner Werner. 2014. "Tourism and Peace – an Emerging Field of Action and Research". In *International Handbook on Tourism and Peace*, edited by Cordula Wohlmuther and Werner Wintersteiner, 31-61. Klagenfurt: Drava Verlag.

# Tourism, Peace and Youth Work

Building a culture of peace requires not only a **certain mindset** but also the development of **specific skills**, such as self-reflection, communication, cultural sensitivity, and conflict resolution. Youth organizations can play a pivotal role in fostering these skills through peace education activities.

Youth mobility—traveling—can be used as a method of peace education. The advantage of this approach is that peace-related skills are not simply taught in theory but are developed through practical experience and reflection.

This meets the needs of young people and ensures

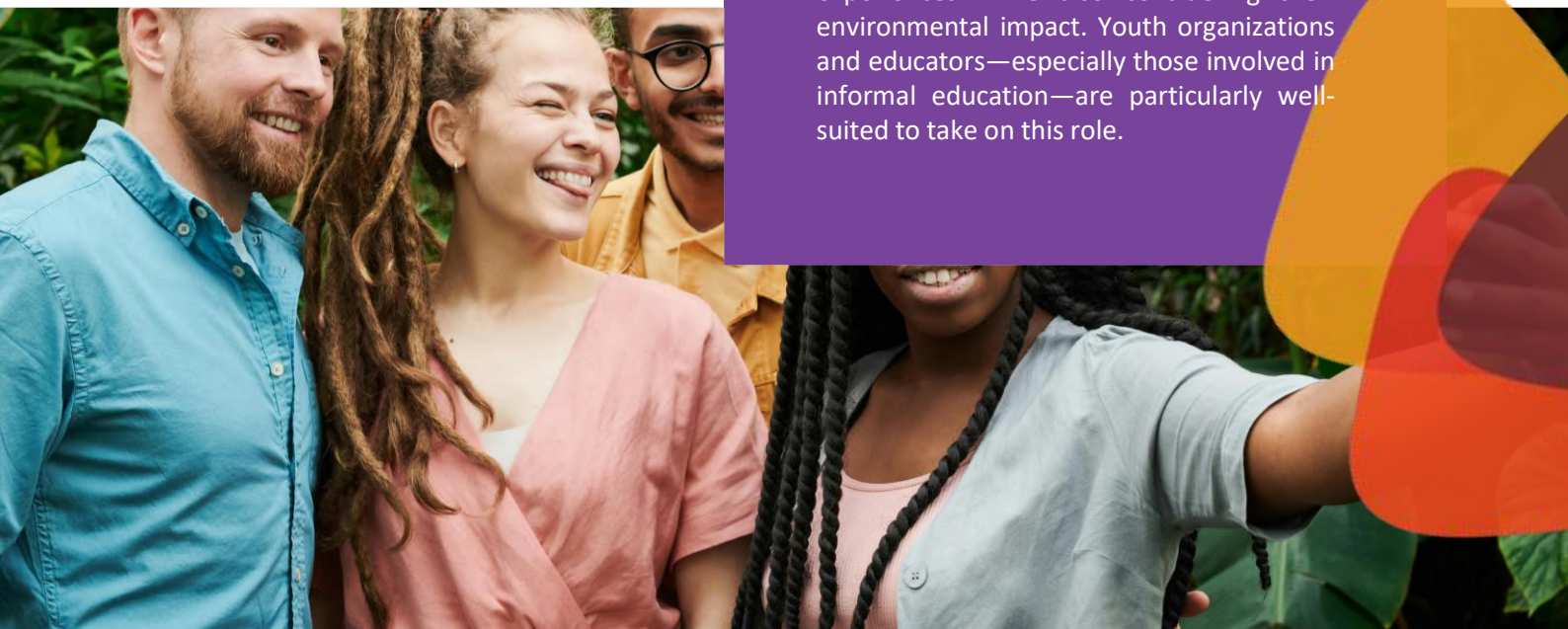
In addition, when designing peacebuilding activities that involve tourism, it is essential to critically reflect on its **environmental and climate impacts**. Activities such as nature-based tourism, often seen as sustainable, can still contribute to negative effects, particularly when involving long-distance travel like flights for experiences such as forest walks. A more conscious approach is needed to balance the benefits of tourism with its ecological footprint.

more sustainable learning outcomes.

Mobility can also be involuntary, such as fleeing war, hunger, or climate change—experiences many young people have faced firsthand. These challenging situations often teach valuable skills relevant in peacework, such as intercultural understanding, through **lived experience**. Therefore, young people, especially those with **migrant or refugee backgrounds**, should not only be seen as beneficiaries of peace education but also as educators, as they can share insights and lessons from their own experiences.

## The *How* Matters

To summarize, tourism has immense potential to contribute to intercultural understanding and foster a culture of tolerance, dialogue, and peace within societies. However, such activities must be deliberately designed to incorporate peacebuilding components into tourist experiences while also considering their environmental impact. Youth organizations and educators—especially those involved in informal education—are particularly well-suited to take on this role.



# Peace Education through Tourism in Practice

Developing a culture of peace by coming to terms with historical experiences of conflict is a meaningful and impactful approach. Tourism serves as an essential and memorable way to achieve this. For instance, in the border regions of Austria, Slovenia, and Italy, there are hiking routes known as "[Walks of Peace](#)," which follow former front lines from the First World War. These routes are equipped with numerous information boards that educate hikers and visitors about the tragedy of war and the value of peace.

Another example is the project "[Cyprus: A Classroom Without Walls](#)", developed by the Association of Historical Dialogue and Research, enabled pupils from both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to participate in joint walking tours across Cyprus. Together, they learned about their shared history by visiting sites associated with it. This initiative provided many young people with the opportunity to meet someone from the "other" side for the first time and engage in meaningful conversation.

Visiting peace museums located at sites of past conflicts is a powerful way to convey the message of peace. For example, the [Peacemakers Museum](#) in Derry, Northern Ireland, was opened a few years ago to offer a space for education, reflection, and engagement with the history of the conflict in Ireland and the ongoing peace process.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For more examples and detailed case studies of tourism-based peacebuilding projects, visit the Paths to Peace website: [pathstopeace.eu](http://pathstopeace.eu)



# Youth Policies



## Existing International Frameworks

International organizations have long recognized the importance of youth engagement for peaceful, democratic, and prosperous societies. This is reflected in several key policy frameworks:

- **EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027:** Encourages youth participation in democratic life, civic engagement, and decision-making processes.
- **United Nations Youth Policy "Youth 2030":** Stresses the need for youth engagement in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and humanitarian action.
- **The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** focuses its youth engagement efforts on addressing the root causes of youth radicalization and promoting dialogue and tolerance.
- **Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030:** Aims to revitalize pluralistic democracy by supporting youth participation in decision-making and strengthening the quality of youth work and non-formal education.

# Youth in Decision-Making

Despite the existence of numerous policy frameworks and programs, **youth remain underrepresented in decision-making processes**, both in governance and the tourism industry. This exclusion is detrimental not only to young people themselves but also to the growth, adaptability, and innovation of governance structures and the tourism sector. For example, young people's overwhelming concern with climate change is evident in their activism, such as the global **Fridays for Future** movement, which has mobilized millions of young people to demand urgent climate action

from governments and corporations. This concern is also reflected in their recreational choices, as many young people increasingly favor outdoor and nature-based tourism over urban or mass tourism. Activities such as hiking, eco-tourism, and visits to national parks are becoming more popular among youth, as they align with their values of sustainability and environmental preservation. This shift highlights the growing demand for tourism experiences that minimize environmental impact and promote a deeper connection with nature.

Integrating youth perspectives into decision-making is crucial for shaping policies that address their needs and aspirations. The **EU Youth Dialogue** framework is one example of an initiative designed to support youth engagement in policymaking. However, only 13% of young people have [reported](#) being aware of it.

Another example is the **Youth Climate Dialogue**, developed by the United Nations, which enables young people to share their views on climate action and discuss solutions. Yet, only 27% of surveyed youth have [participated](#) in it, according to a survey conducted by UN CC:Learn.

## Role for Civil Society

Limited awareness of the existing opportunities for youth to engage in decision-making raises important questions about the ability of governments to effectively reach young people and adapt to the new communication tools and platforms that youth commonly use. In contrast, civil society and grassroots organizations are often more agile and adaptable, making them better positioned to support and amplify these initiatives.



# 05

## Youth Survey: Key Findings



# Countries and Contexts

A youth survey has been a major element of this research, providing valuable insights into young people's perceptions of tourism-based peacebuilding, their existing skills, and the gaps that need to be addressed to empower them in this area. Conducted among a hundred young people, the survey aimed to better understand their views and identify opportunities for growth and engagement.

## Target Countries and Contexts

The survey primarily targeted youth from six project countries—Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and Ukraine—representing diverse contexts and stages in the conflict cycle. These countries were selected to explore how conflict and peacebuilding dynamics influence young people's attitudes toward tourism and peace.

- **Ukraine:** As a country experiencing active war, Ukraine faces daily violence and military fighting, which profoundly impacts the lives of its citizens. For young people, this means restricted opportunities to travel, study, or build a future, compounded by constant psychological pressure and fear for their safety.
- **Cyprus:** The conflict in Cyprus remains dormant or "frozen." While violence has ceased since the 1970s, the island remains divided, with Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities living separately and maintaining conflicting narratives. Sustainable reconciliation has yet to be achieved, leaving peacebuilding efforts crucial.
- **Ireland:** Although the violent conflict in Northern Ireland ended in the late 1990s, divisions between Irish Catholic and Protestant communities persist, alongside unresolved questions about unification with the Republic of Ireland. Grassroots peacebuilding remains essential, especially in light of new challenges such as Brexit.
- **Austria, Denmark, and Sweden:** These countries are considered to be in a late post-conflict stage or at peace. While large-scale violence occurred generations

ago, societal challenges such as migration, integration, and climate-related conflicts keep peacebuilding relevant. Austria, in particular, continues to grapple with its Nazi past, which occasionally resurfaces in socio-political discourse.

To summarize, the six project countries can be grouped into three categories based on their conflict stage: active conflict/war (Ukraine), cold peace or unresolved reconciliation (Cyprus and Ireland), and post-conflict/peace contexts (Austria, Denmark, Sweden).<sup>3</sup> This diverse mixture of contexts allowed us to compare whether the concept of tourism-based peacebuilding is perceived differently across varying conflict stages. Looking ahead, the survey results revealed that youth across all contexts find this idea both interesting and convincing, and they expressed a strong willingness to engage in such initiatives and projects.

## Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted over four months, between July and October 2025, and targeted youth aged 18–30. Its purpose was not to provide a representative sample of the youth population in the target countries but to gather insights from socially and politically engaged young people who are already interested in activities for the public good. These insights will help design hands-on activities for the Paths to Peace Project to support their personal growth and engagement in peacebuilding.

To distribute the survey, project partners reached out to youth and volunteer organizations, university students (particularly in social and political sciences), youth educators, and their own networks. A total of 99 eligible responses were received, with 13–17% of responses from each project country and 8% from respondents residing outside the six target countries.

<sup>3</sup> The classification of countries based on the intensity of existing conflicts aligns with findings from peace research, see e.g. Salomon, G. (2002). „The nature of peace education: Not all programs are created equal“. In G. Salomon & B. Nevo (Eds.), *Peace education: The concept, principles, and practices around the world* (pp. 3–13). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.



# Key Findings

## Youth Mobility and Travel Patterns

As expected, young respondents generally represent a highly mobile population group, with travel being common for various reasons, such as visiting family, holidays, work, or studies. However, mobility patterns varied significantly across countries:



“Tourism that promotes peace is a new way of seeing travel for me.”

*Youth respondent from Sweden*


**Austria, Denmark, Sweden, and Ireland:** Respondents reported significant travel for holidays and leisure, with much less travel for other reasons.

**Cyprus:** Mobility among young respondents was limited overall, with only a few reporting occasional travel for holidays and rare travel for family, education, or work/volunteering.

**Ukraine:** Travel was primarily for visiting family, while travel for holidays was very limited due to the ongoing war.

Interestingly, only respondents from Ireland demonstrated a higher degree of awareness that leisure travel could serve as a means of peacebuilding. In other contexts, the link between leisure travel and peace work was not widely perceived.

While we report the travel patterns of youth classified by country, it is important to note that the intensity of travel is also linked to the social status or class of the youth and their families. Therefore, future research could explore the travel patterns of youth from different European countries in greater depth.



“Youth are not passive recipients but co-creators. This is critical, because peacebuilding is not simply ,adding a module‘ but embedding an attitude of participation, reflection, and connection.”

Stakeholder from Cyprus



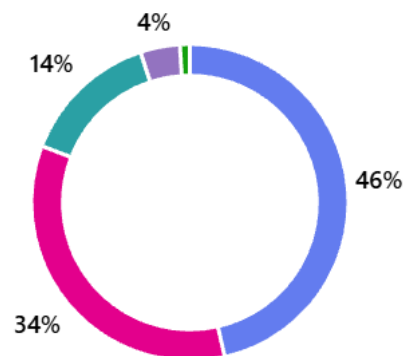


**“Peacebuilding tourism is when people travel to learn about each other’s history, but also about shared culture — music, food, and traditions that connect us.”**

**Young person from Ireland**

**I believe** that *'tourism can be used to promote peace!'*

● Strongly agree	46
● Agree	34
● Neutral	14
● Disagree	4
● Strongly disagree	1





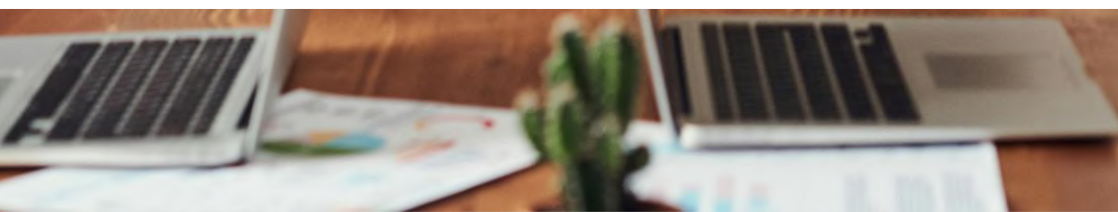
## What Do Youth Think?

### Tourism as a Tool for Peacebuilding?

A vast majority of respondents (80%) agreed that tourism can be used to promote peace. However, perceptions varied across countries:

- **Ukraine:** Respondents were more skeptical about tourism's role in peacebuilding, likely reflecting the challenges of implementing such initiatives during ongoing war.
- **Cyprus and Ireland:** Respondents strongly agreed with the statement, highlighting the potential of tourism to create "non-political spaces" for interaction between formerly conflicting communities.
- **Austria, Denmark, and Sweden:** Respondents generally agreed, perceiving tourism as a means for cultural exchange and an opportunity to broaden horizons about other cultures.

This suggests that tourism-based peacebuilding may be most impactful in contexts where direct violence has ceased but reconciliation remains incomplete. In post-conflict or peaceful contexts, tourism may become normalized as a tool for cultural exchange rather than active peacebuilding.





## Barriers to Engagement

Despite the interest and belief in the concept of tourism-based peacebuilding, many young people may find it challenging to actively participate in such initiatives or develop their own projects. Additionally, a significant number of them have yet to come across relevant opportunities, which creates an additional barrier to engagement.

The survey revealed that over 60% of respondents reported never having been involved in tourism-based peacebuilding activities, confirming the relatively poor establishment and popularization of the connection between tourism and peacebuilding.

Key barriers included:

- Lack of knowledge about relevant opportunities.
- Financial constraints and busy lifestyles.
- Lack of self-confidence or necessary skills.

Skepticism about tourism as an effective or morally acceptable means of peacebuilding has been expressed, albeit rarely. Such skepticism underscores the need for further dialogue among researchers and practitioners regarding impact measurement and the promotion of responsible tourism practices that actively mitigate environmental and social impacts.

**“Learning from the experience of other people that come from different communities, listening to stories, and understanding their point of view is how tourism could help build peace and understanding in my country.”**

Youth respondent from Cyprus



# Potential for Learning

## Skills Gaps

The survey revealed several skill gaps—or areas where further skill improvement is needed—among youth that must be addressed to empower them in tourism-based peacebuilding.



**“Peace for me is calmness, safety, and the opportunity to live and create without fear.”**

Youth respondent from Ukraine

Over 70% of respondents expressed interest in improving or learning the following skills:

- Facilitation and group leadership;
- Peacebuilding principles, values, and civic engagement;
- Community engagement and co-creation;
- Intercultural dialogue;
- Ethical tourism and cultural sensitivity;
- Conflict resolution and empathy.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the skills the youth respondents felt most comfortable with included digital storytelling, general storytelling, and social media promotion.

# Motivation

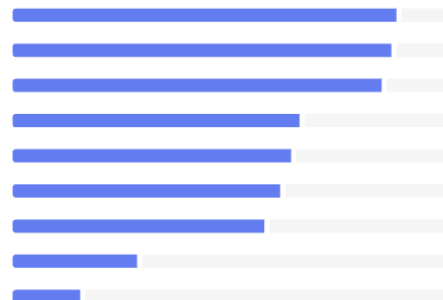


Approximately half of respondents indicated that they had experienced discrimination or belonged to a vulnerable group. Regardless of that, a vast majority expressed interest in tourism-based peacebuilding, primarily driven by a desire to make a positive difference and learn from others. Many respondents viewed tourism as a way to learn about the world and other cultures while traveling with purpose or making a positive impact at home. This enthusiasm and energy can be harnessed to drive meaningful change through initiatives like the Paths to Peace Project.

Overall, the youth survey results highlight the **untapped potential of tourism-based peacebuilding among youth**, as well as the barriers and skills gaps that need to be addressed to fully realize this potential. While young people overwhelmingly agree that tourism can promote peace, their limited involvement in such activities underscores the **need for greater awareness, accessibility, and practical implementation of responsible tourism practices.**

*Why are you interested in tourism as a way of bringing people together and promoting peace?*

- 1 To make a **positive difference**.
- 2 It's **meaningful travel** with purpose and impact.
- 3 I enjoy **learning from others**, their perspectives, cultures and experiences.
- 4 I believe tourism can **help people see the truth** behind stereotypes and clear up misunderstandings.
- 5 I've experienced conflict or division and want to **understand its roots**.
- 6 I want to **learn skills** to create positive change through tourism.
- 7 I want to **grow professionally** in the tourism or peacebuilding fields.
- 8 **Not interested** in using travel for peace.
- 9 **Other**



# 06

## Insights from Stakeholders



# What do Professionals Think?

A survey involving 32 stakeholders from the tourism sector, civil society, international organizations, and academia was conducted to explore perspectives on the tourism-peace nexus. The survey aimed to identify opportunities and barriers for youth engagement in tourism-based peacebuilding, as perceived by practitioners. Stakeholders were selected from the networks of project partners to represent a diverse range of actors and industries essential for tourism-based peacebuilding. To complement the survey findings, in-depth interviews were held with select stakeholders, providing richer insights into their views. The participants represented six project countries.

## Tourism as a Tool for Peacebuilding

Across the board, stakeholders unanimously agreed that tourism holds significant potential as a tool for peacebuilding. Many had already participated—either directly or indirectly—in initiatives or projects that leverage tourism for fostering peace. Stakeholders identified a diverse range of activities that could be utilized for tourism-based peacebuilding, including:

- Community-led walking tours
- Cultural exchanges
- Storytelling initiatives
- Nature-based activities such as cycling tourism, hiking, water sports, eco-tourism, and regenerative tourism.

Several stakeholders emphasized the importance of incorporating conscious reflection on culture and society into peacebuilding tourism. Without such reflection, cultural exchanges risk reinforcing stereotypes rather than dismantling them.

## Youth Engagement in Tourism-Based Peacebuilding

A majority of respondents reported involvement in initiatives that actively engage youth in tourism-based peacebuilding. These projects were noted for strengthening local ownership and benefiting from the energy and creativity of young participants. While some initiatives faced challenges, such as initial misunderstandings or disagreements among participants, constructive dialogue often emerged as a positive outcome. Nature-based activities, such as hiking or collaborative tasks (e.g., building a tent during a storm), were highlighted as effective in fostering a sense of shared purpose and social cohesion. These projects provided safe spaces for learning, sharing, and building connections.

However, several **challenges** were identified:

- Logistical hurdles, particularly in remote or hard-to-reach areas
- Mismatch in expectations, such as limited opportunities to channel youth creativity
- Competing priorities, including schooling and work pressures faced by young people
- Disconnect between local community voices and broader tourism frameworks.

Stakeholders also identified key skills required for youth participation in tourism-based peacebuilding, including intercultural dialogue, empathy, facilitation, and digital skills.





## Other challenges...

A lack of funding and resources emerged as a common challenge, affecting both young people and organizations interested in tourism-based peacebuilding. Additionally, the connection between tourism and peace remains underrecognized, resulting in relatively few initiatives explicitly designed to promote this nexus. Some existing projects may contribute to peacebuilding unintentionally, without consciously framing their work in this context.

**“We need more transversal skills rather than hard skills to support youth to participate or lead tourism-based peacebuilding.”**

Youth worker from Austria

Another significant barrier is the perceived lack of legitimacy or experience among youth to participate in such initiatives. This perception can limit opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles or contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding efforts.

The theme of mental wellbeing and psychological support for youth was echoed by several stakeholders, both in the survey and interviews. Recognizing the emotional challenges young people may face in peacebuilding contexts, stakeholders emphasized the need for resources and support systems to ensure their mental health is prioritized alongside their active engagement.



**“There is very little money left over for ‘nice-to-have’ projects like tourism, making it difficult for young people to get the funds needed to run their initiatives.”**

**Stakeholder from Ukraine**



# 07

## Conclusions and Recommendations





## Conclusions

The *Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap* has explored the transformative potential of tourism as a tool for peacebuilding, particularly through the active engagement of youth. By examining the perspectives of young people and key stakeholders, this document has identified both the opportunities and challenges inherent in tourism-based peacebuilding. The findings underscore the importance of fostering intercultural dialogue, addressing barriers to youth participation, and equipping young people with the skills needed to lead peacebuilding initiatives. This concluding chapter synthesizes the key insights from the research and offers targeted recommendations for policymakers, tourism professionals, educators, and civil society organizations to harness the potential of tourism in building a more peaceful and inclusive future. It also offers a list of resources for young people looking for opportunities to engage in tourism-based peacebuilding or to improve relevant skills.

**“People are more interested in hearing about the conflict than the peace — but you still have to explain the peace as well.”**

Stakeholder from Ireland



# Recommendations

## For Public Sector and Tourism Industry

- **Include youth in decision-making:** Both in the public sector and within the tourism industry. A valuable resource on youth involvement in tourism at the national level is a [handbook](#) developed by UN Tourism to promote youth engagement in tourism decision-making.
- **Mainstream peace and tourism concepts:** Integrate peacebuilding themes into tourism marketing to normalize the idea.
- **Develop responsible tourism programs:** Ensure these programs account for local contexts, cultural sensitivities, and climate impacts.
- **Promote responsible tourism:** Ensure that tourism initiatives prioritize local communities and environmental sustainability.
  - **Dedicate** micro-funding to enable grassroots projects.
- **Foster a culture of peace:** Develop specific skills such as cultural sensitivity, communication, and conflict resolution through youth-focused initiatives.

# Recommendations

## For Youth Workers, Youth Educators, and Peacebuilding Activists

### Raise awareness

- Popularize the concept of tourism-based peacebuilding through targeted campaigns and educational initiatives.
- Provide visibility for youth-led initiatives by showcasing success stories through media platforms, such as via podcasts, blogs, or guided walks.
- Organise a showcase festival featuring youth-led peace tourism experiences to inspire and scale similar initiatives.

### Address barriers

- Develop programs that reduce financial and logistical constraints, making peacebuilding opportunities more accessible to youth.

### Build skills

- Provide training in facilitation, intercultural dialogue, and civic engagement to empower young people as active participants in peacebuilding.
- Develop mentorship programs to guide and support young leaders

### Empower youth experts

Create spaces for youth to share their experiences and learn from one another. Youth, especially those with lived experiences of conflict or migration, should be seen as experts with valuable insights and peace-building skills. Avoid labeling them, as this risks overlooking their true value and contributions.

### Foster a culture of peace

Develop specific skills such as cultural sensitivity, communication, and conflict resolution through youth-focused initiatives.



# Recommendations

## For Research Institutions

### **Expand academic and policy research**

Further studies are needed to establish the relationship between tourism and peacebuilding and popularize this idea.

### **Foster a culture of peace**

Develop specific skills such as cultural sensitivity, communication, and conflict resolution through youth-focused initiatives.

By addressing existing challenges, policymakers, tourism businesses, academia, civil society, and grassroots organizations can harness the enthusiasm and energy of young people to shape a more peaceful and inclusive future.



# 08

## Resource Pack for Youth: Ways to Get Involved



# Ideas for Inspiration



## Ideas and Projects That Inspire

Traveling, exploring new cultures, and building friendships worldwide and in your own community are incredible ways to spend your time. Not only is it enjoyable, but it's also deeply enriching, fostering trust and understanding among people. There are many ways to participate in such activities or even create your own projects inspired by similar ideas. In the following pages, you'll find resources to help you discover opportunities for tourism-based peacebuilding and related initiatives. While this list is not exhaustive, we hope it will guide you in the right direction. Who knows—perhaps soon you'll not only get involved but also launch your own project, which we would be delighted to add to this list!

# Global Programs

Many international organizations offer opportunities for youth – but also people of all ages – to build new skills, travel abroad, and learn about peacemaking and conflict resolution.

**The United Nations Volunteers (UNV)** program provides global citizens with the unique opportunity to contribute to meaningful causes across the three pillars of the United Nations (UN) system: development, peace and security, and human rights. Whether you choose to volunteer in your home country or abroad, UNV assignments allow you to make a tangible impact while gaining valuable experience in international cooperation and community engagement. For more information about the UNV program, including its mission and how to apply, visit their official [website](#). You can explore [currently open volunteer assignments](#) and find opportunities that match your skills and interests.

**The European Union** provides plenty of opportunities to get engaged in peace-related work, including via volunteering, traineeships at EU institutions, Erasmus+ educational exchanges, support for start ups and young entrepreneurs, and more! You can find out more about various ways of engagement and building skills at the [EU Youth Portal](#)

**Council of Europe** organizes various youth activities, including their flagship youth program – the [Youth Peace Camp](#). The Youth Peace Camp allows young people and youth organizations from conflict-stricken regions to engage in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning. The program enables mutual learning among participants, making use of a variety of non-formal working methods which support inter-personal dialogue with young people from “the other side” of the conflicts. By the end of the camp, participants are encouraged to develop initiatives as peer leaders and multipliers with other young people in the field of dialogue and conflict transformation.

**The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** is an international organization that works on topics of security and peace in Europe. It has a dedicated youth program and organizes numerous training courses, summer schools and other projects to engage young people in its work across the OSCE region. For example, it [hosts](#) an annual educational course on conflict prevention and resolution for young professionals with a particular goal to involve more women in this strand of work. You can find out more about the current opportunities by monitoring this page: [OSCE Opportunities for Youth](#)

**ICJA Volunteer Exchange Worldwide (ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit)** contributes to practical peacebuilding through international encounters and intercultural education, while promoting socio-political engagement. For 75 years, people have been committed to the ICJA organization, working voluntarily and on a non-profit basis. ICJA enables young and older Germans to go abroad and volunteer in various projects, while also providing people from all over the world the opportunity to do the same in Germany. You can find out more how you can engage on the ICJA’s website: <https://www.icja.de/>

**CISV** is a global organization dedicated to educating and inspiring for peace through building inter-cultural friendship, cooperation, and understanding. Founded in 1950, today it is a federation of nearly 70 National Associations with over 200 Chapters or local groups. CISV educates and inspires action for a more just and peaceful world. It offers programs for children, youngsters, and people of all ages in such topics as human rights, diversity, conflict resolution, and sustainable development. <https://cisv.org/>

# Regional Initiatives

If you are interested in a specific regional context, you might want to explore initiatives that focus specifically on that area. Often, you don't necessarily need to be from that region to participate in those initiatives.

**The Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO)** is an international organization working for Franco-German cooperation. It was created in 1963 with the aim to foster ties and thereby promote peace between French and German youth after World War II. Since then, more than 10 million young people from France and Germany have participated in 400,000 exchange programs. FGYO organizes various events and training programs for youth that have been expanded to include youth from other countries, not only Germany and France. Check out their webpage to find out more how to engage or how to get funding for your own project: <https://www.fgyo.org/homepage>

**Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)** is an independently functioning institutional mechanism, founded by the Western Balkans 6 participants (WB 6): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, aiming to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region through youth exchange programs. RYCO promotes reconciliation, trust, cooperation and dialogue in the Western Balkans through supporting and funding projects which bring youth of the region together. More information on the existing opportunities can be found here: <https://www.rycowb.org/>

**The European Democracy Youth Network (EDYN)** empowers young civic and political leaders to become active in public life. Its goal is to prepare the next generation of young pro-democracy leaders across Central and Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus by equipping them with the tools, networks, and opportunities to engage meaningfully in civic and political life at local, national, and European levels. It offers expert-led trainings and educational opportunities; provides its members with resources, both financial and

non-financial, to support their initiatives aimed at tackling the most pressing problems facing their societies; and offers a platform for the exchange of good practices, experiences, and knowledge not only among its members but also with high-level connections from its extended network of European and American political leaders, experts and academics. <https://edyn.eu/>

**The Transcaucasian Trail (TCT)** enables youth and people of all ages from all around the world — but especially from Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan — to connect by working together on the joint project of building a hiking trail through the Caucasus Mountains. Thereby the project supports sustainable tourism practices as well as develops trail-building and interpersonal skills of volunteers, enabling cultural exchange among them. <https://transcaucasiantrail.org>

## **European Heritage Volunteers (EHV)**

European Heritage Volunteers is a Europe-wide initiative that engages young people in heritage preservation projects across different countries. Through short- and long-term volunteering opportunities, participants contribute to the conservation of cultural heritage sites while living and working in international teams. These projects foster intercultural understanding, practical skills, and reflection on shared European heritage, making EHV a strong example of how mobility, place-based learning, and cultural tourism can support peacebuilding and mutual respect.

Website: <https://www.heritagevolunteers.eu/index.php?lang=en>

# Country-specific projects

Here you can find examples of youth initiatives focused on specific countries. Whether they aim to promote peace and reconciliation or foster democracy, young people's engagement is essential. Additionally, you often don't need to be from that country to be eligible to participate in the activities of a given initiative. We hope you find these examples useful, and we would love to hear from you about initiatives and projects that are not listed here. Feel free to drop us a line and share your ideas!

**The International Youth Meeting Centre in Oświęcim (Poland)** is an extracurricular educational institution established by the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace and the City of Oświęcim with the support of former Auschwitz prisoners. Located between the city of Oświęcim and the former Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp, the International Youth Meeting Centre is an excellent place where, under the care of experienced educators, a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site can be prepared and subsequently summarized. The task of the IYMC is to prepare young people for committed action against racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of exclusion, and to strengthen their attitudes to courageously defend civil and human rights, peace, equality, and social justice. <https://mdsm.pl/en/>

**AFS (Austauschprogramme für interkulturelles Lernen), Austria** is an internationally active, independent, and non-profit volunteer organization. AFS's intercultural education programs help individuals develop the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. AFS aims to empower people to take responsible action for peace, better understanding, and improved interaction in a changing world. AFS is a community of global citizens who are committed to fostering better coexistence in the world. AFS empowers global citizens by providing intercultural education programs that develop leadership skills, problem-solving strategies, and 21st-century competencies. Through student exchange programs, volunteer opportunities, and hosting exchange students, AFS fosters

cultural understanding, shared traditions, and new perspectives. <https://www.afs.at/>

**Campus Polska Academy (Poland)** is a unique space for young people who want to actively shape the future of their country and the world. It brings together individuals with diverse perspectives, experiences, and passions to discuss key contemporary challenges such as economy, ecology, democracy, rule of law, European integration, security, and international cooperation. Beyond discussions, Campus offers workshops, panels, and debates to help participants develop both soft skills and practical abilities needed to thrive in a changing world. Participation is free, ensuring access to knowledge, tools, and growth opportunities for everyone, regardless of background or financial situation. <https://campuspolska.pl/pl>

**The German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge)** is a humanitarian nonprofit organisation. It is dedicated to the task of searching for and recovering war dead abroad, giving them a dignified burial and caring for their graves. The Volksbund offers services for relatives of the war dead and advises public and private bodies, also internationally, on issues of war graves care. The Volksbund is committed to the culture of remembrance and promotes the exchange and education of young people at the resting places of the war dead. Youth projects bring together young people from all over Europe to work together for peace. Whether in Germany or in other European countries, the focus is on intercultural exchange, learning in an international group and examining shared history from new perspectives. <https://www.volksbund.de/en/youth-encounters/international-youth-exchanges-and-workcamps>

# Country-specific projects

**The Heritage Youth Ambassadors (HYA)** are young Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, aged 18-35, working under the [Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage](#) (TCCH) to promote and preserve **Cyprus's** shared heritage, acting as the "youth voice" for peace-building by engaging peers through social media, site visits, and joint activities to foster inter-community dialogue and understanding, supported by the UNDP and EU funding. They raise awareness about monuments, share stories, and provide feedback to make heritage efforts more relevant, building a future generation of custodians for the island's diverse culture. Learn more about how to engage [here](#)

**PRONI Center for Youth Development**, located in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, works to overcome the barriers that create differences within society. Its vision is that all young people have the ability to develop and equal opportunities to contribute to a democratic and just society in which their needs are recognized and addressed. Activism, cooperation and understanding between people are an integral part of a democratic and just society. All areas of activity of PRONI are focused on improving the position of young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also beyond. It focuses on such activities as Non-formal education; Youth policies; Volunteerism and activism; Peacebuilding; Youth mobility; Local community development, and more! Website: <https://www.proni.ba/>

**Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina** is a women-led, peacebuilding organization and research center dedicated to fostering a culture of peace and preventing violent conflict in the Western Balkans. It strives for a society where people no longer perceive diversity as a source of conflict but rather as the foundation for prosperity. It actively engages with youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond by organizing the Peace Youth Academy, the Srebrenica Youth School, and by running a dedicated internship program for local, regional, and international youth. More information can be found here: <https://p-crc.org/our-work/peace-education/>

**Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) Cyprus** is a non-profit, independent youth NGO based in Nicosia, that works closely with young people aiming to empower them in realizing the societies they want to be living in. The idea of closer cooperation and better understanding among the global youth community lies at the core of YEU's work. Being a members-based organization, YEU is an organization created by and for young people. It specializes in organizing and facilitating workshops, conducting training courses, and orchestrating dynamic youth exchanges. Website: <https://www.yeucyprus.org/>

**Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR)** AHDR is a bicomunal NGO based in Nicosia that promotes peace, reconciliation, and critical engagement with history through education, heritage, and dialogue. Through initiatives such as A Classroom Without Walls, youth from Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities participate in joint walking tours, site visits, and experiential learning activities across **Cyprus**. These place-based experiences use cultural heritage and shared spaces as tools for dialogue, encouraging participants to reflect on multiple narratives of the past while building trust and mutual understanding. AHDR regularly offers opportunities for youth participation through workshops, trainings, guided tours, and volunteer roles. Website: <https://www.ahdr.info/>

**Home for Cooperation (H4C)** Located in the UN Buffer Zone in Nicosia, the Home for Cooperation is a bicomunal space that brings together people from across **Cyprus** through cultural, educational, and youth-led initiatives. H4C regularly hosts guided heritage walks, cultural events, exhibitions, and dialogue-based activities that explore shared histories and contemporary challenges. Youth are encouraged to engage as participants, facilitators, and volunteers, gaining experience in intercultural dialogue, event organization, and community engagement in a uniquely symbolic location that embodies peacebuilding through everyday interaction. <https://www.home4cooperation.info/>

# Country-specific projects

**CITYarts** (New York, **USA**) engages youth with professional artists in the creation of public art, including murals and mosaics. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth and children locally and around the world to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming communities. There are many ways how to get engaged in CITYarts projects. You can also volunteer with them. More information is available on their website: <https://www.cityarts.org/>

The **Austrian Service Abroad** is a program that allows young Austrians to complete their mandatory national service in the form of **civilian service** abroad. It offers opportunities to complete a **volunteer service abroad** lasting between **6 and 12 months**. Participants can choose between **Memorial Service**, **Social Service**, or **Peace Service**, contributing to meaningful projects worldwide. The organization provides comprehensive support, including preparation, cultural and linguistic training, and ongoing assistance throughout the service. It's a unique opportunity to gain valuable experience, immerse yourself in a new culture, and make a positive impact globally. <https://www.auslandsdienst.at/en/>


**Austrians** have access to various other options for volunteering abroad. These can be found on the **WeltWegWeiser** portal, which provides information on international volunteering programs and offers guidance on reputable opportunities in the fields of social work, development, and human rights. [www.weltwegweiser.at](http://www.weltwegweiser.at)

**Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP)** has been showing ways to peace for over 40 years. It offers a neutral platform for dialogue and mediation, whether at the Peace Castle in Stadtschlaining, its second location in Vienna, or worldwide. The ACP capacity development programmes prepare experts for conflict-sensitive work in crisis regions. Peace education sensitises the younger generations of our society. The ACP has i.a. been awarded the United Nations title „Peace Messenger“ and the UNESCO „Peace Education Prize“ for its work.

The ACP has offered the [International Civilian Peacebuilding Training Programme \(IPT\)](#) as well as [Environmental Peacebuilding](#) training courses. During the summer, the ACP hosts the annual Peace Forum, which includes a dedicated summer school for young people as part of the event. You can find more information about how to apply for these courses at the ACP's website: <https://www.aspr.ac.at/#/>

The **European Forum Alpbach Youth Program (Austria)** is designed to empower and connect young talents from around the world, offering them the opportunity to participate in the forum's interdisciplinary discussions and activities. Through scholarships, the program enables students, young professionals, and changemakers to engage with global leaders, experts, and peers in addressing pressing societal challenges. Participants gain access to workshops, seminars, and networking events, fostering personal and professional growth while contributing fresh perspectives to the forum's debates. The program emphasizes diversity, innovation, and collaboration, creating a vibrant community of future leaders committed to shaping a better world. Website: <https://www.alpbach.org/>

**University programs.** There are numerous university programs in peace and conflict studies that can help broaden your understanding of how to become a peacebuilder. A quick internet search will allow you to find the program that best suits your needs, as such programs are available in many parts of the world. In the European context, you might consider exploring the Master's Program in Peace and Conflict Studies at [Uppsala University](#) in Sweden, the Cross-Border Studies program at the [University of Klagenfurt](#) in Austria, or the International Peace Studies program at [Trinity College Dublin](#) in Ireland – just to name a few.

A photograph of two women standing on a rocky shore, seen from behind. They are both wearing knit sweaters and berets. The woman on the left is wearing a grey beret and a purple sweater, while the woman on the right is wearing a pink beret and a pink sweater. They have their arms raised in the air, and their hands are clasped together at the top. They are standing on dark, jagged rocks. In the background, there is a body of water and a cloudy sky. The overall mood is one of joy and celebration.

“Peace doesn’t happen through big conferences or policies alone – it happens through small, genuine encounters.”

Business owner from Denmark





# paths to peace

tourism with a purpose -  
powered by a new generation



## Follow Our Journey



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