



paths to peace

tourism with a purpose -
powered by a new generation



www.pathstopeace.eu

Youth, Tourism, and Peace

Case Studies

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Case Studies
Collection

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Introduction



Ideas and Projects That Inspire

This collection of inspiring, real-world projects is part of the *Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap* and highlights the incredible power of tourism to foster peace. Featuring the efforts of young leaders and innovative initiatives already making an impact in tourism-based peacebuilding, these stories are here to spark ideas and action.

The successful youth-led projects are designed to inspire and guide young people, educators, and changemakers worldwide. They not only showcase the potential of tourism as a tool for reconciliation, intercultural understanding, and social cohesion but also empower others to take action and join a global movement toward a more inclusive and peaceful future.

Let these examples fuel your imagination and motivate you to create your own peacebuilding initiatives through the transformative lens of tourism! Explore the collection and start your journey today.

To learn more about tourism-based peacebuilding and discover how young people can get involved, explore the *Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap* on the *Paths to Peace* project website: pathstopeace.eu

JÄRVSÖ

Case Study

The city of Järvsö

A model for sustainable tourism in Sweden



Country

Sweden



Category

Community-Led Sustainable Tourism

Website

<https://jarvso.se/>



Alignment with Paths to Peace

Järvsö aligns closely with the mission of *Paths to Peace* by demonstrating how community-led tourism can foster sustainability, inclusion, and dialogue. Through its focus on local ownership, cultural exchange, and youth engagement, Järvsö promotes understanding between people from different backgrounds while strengthening community identity and resilience. By integrating environmental care, accessibility, and shared experiences, the destination exemplifies how tourism can evolve into a platform for empathy, collaboration, and peacebuilding- reflecting the core values of *Paths to Peace* and contributing to its vision of youth-driven, sustainable development.

Introduction

Järvsö, a small town in the Hälsingland region of Sweden, has emerged as a sustainable tourism destination that balances economic growth, environmental protection, and social well-being. Known for its scenic landscapes, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and outdoor activities such as skiing, biking, and hiking, Järvsö has strategically positioned itself as a leader in sustainable and community-driven tourism development.

This case study explores the dimensions of environmental, economic, and social sustainability in Järvsö, highlighting how the destination contributes to long-term resilience, innovation, and cross-cultural understanding.



Järvsö: A Model for Sustainable and Peace-Oriented Tourism

Nestled in the Hälsingland region, Järvsö has long been known for its natural beauty, outdoor recreation and cultural heritage. But what makes it remarkable today is how the entire community has come together to shape tourism as a force for good. One that supports the environment, strengthens the local economy and nurtures social connection.

From renewable energy use to year-round eco-tourism activities, Järvsö shows that environmental sustainability can coexist with economic growth. Local ownership and regional collaborations ensure that the benefits of tourism stay within the community reinforcing shared responsibility and resilience.

At the heart of Järvsö's success, however, lies its social sustainability. Tourism here is not only about attracting visitors but about inviting them into meaningful dialogue with local culture, heritage and everyday life. Cultural events like Järvsö Kulturnatt (Culture Night) bring together local and international artists, musicians and storytellers, creating space for exchange and mutual understanding.

Inclusivity is another building block. Järvsö has worked to make its attractions accessible to families, elderly visitors and people with disabilities. This approach ensures that everyone can experience the landscape and culture- a true embodiment of tourism as a right for all.

Perhaps most inspiring is Järvsö's investment in youth engagement. Through local schools and youth projects, young people are actively involved as guides, storytellers and sustainability ambassadors. They are learning not only professional skills but also empathy, leadership and a sense of global citizenship.

Järvsö's experience demonstrates that when local people, and especially young people, take ownership of tourism, it becomes a platform for connection, inclusion and peacebuilding.



Insights from the Field: Reflections from tourism stakeholders

To deepen our understanding of how tourism can promote peace and social inclusion, we spoke with leading voices in Swedish tourism and regional development. They have seen first-hand how tourism can unite people across generations and backgrounds.

One stakeholder described tourism as *“a peace project for all generations”* a way to meet challenges together, share experiences, and create understanding through encounters in nature and culture.

However, they also reminded us of the importance of perspective. In their words, *“It’s often not young people who are the challenge - it’s the rest of us. The younger generation wants to be part of decisions. They want a seat at the table.”*

These insights resonates deeply with the mission of Paths to Peace: to make youth partners in shaping a more connected and compassionate world.

According to stakeholders, tourism strategies should focus not only on the hospitality industry but also on how travel connects local industries, education and community life. They see a future where partnerships between schools, NGOs and tourism actors become key to promoting inclusion and understanding to ensure that tourism supports peace at every level of society.



“It’s often not young people who are the challenge - it’s the rest of us. The younger generation wants to be part of decisions.”

-Tourism stakeholder



Looking Ahead

- ✓ Through stories like Järvsö's and perspectives from stakeholders, we are seeing how tourism can evolve from an industry into a movement, one that builds empathy, celebrates diversity, and strengthens our shared responsibility for the planet.
- ✓ As Paths to Peace continues to develop its Global Peace Perspectives Roadmap, these insights will shape our understanding of what peacebuilding through tourism looks like in action locally, nationally, and globally.
- ✓ Stay tuned as we continue to explore new case studies and youth-led examples that show how tourism can truly become a path to peace.

Relevance to Paths to Peace

At its core, Paths to Peace aims to explore how tourism can serve as a driver for dialogue, empathy, and understanding. Järvsö embodies this vision: it uses local tourism experiences from cultural storytelling to outdoor recreation, to bring people together across social, cultural and generational divides. Events like Järvsö Kulturnatt and community-led initiatives show how shared experiences can foster respect, trust, and peaceful coexistence- the essence of peacebuilding through tourism.

One of Paths to Peace guiding principles is that peace starts at the community level when people are heard, included and empowered. Järvsö's model of community-owned and locally driven tourism reflects this approach exactly. Residents play an active role in shaping the destination, ensuring that development is inclusive, participatory and rooted in shared values. This bottom-up model mirrors Paths to Peace youth engagement strategy, where young people are not just participants, but *co-creators* of sustainable and peaceful communities.

Another key component of Paths to Peace is empowering youth to become Peace Building Advocates through tourism-based engagement. Järvsö's strong focus on youth involvement from ski and bike instructors to cultural interpreters and sustainability ambassadors, demonstrates how tourism can foster leadership, empathy and employability among young people.

Paths to Peace promotes tourism as a tool for social cohesion, ensuring everyone, regardless of background or ability, can participate. Järvsö's emphasis on accessibility, inclusion and equality making outdoor and cultural experiences available to all reflects our commitment.

Case Study

Transcaucasian Trail

Sneaky Peacebuilding in the Caucasus



Country

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia



Category

Volunteering, hiking



Website

transcaucasiantrail.org



Introduction

Mission

“Develop, promote, and maintain the Transcaucasian Trail in order to improve access to the region’s diverse cultural and natural heritage and encourage its preservation, benefiting local communities and trail users through the development of sustainable tourism.”

Alignment with Paths to Peace

The Transcaucasian Trail (TCT) enables youth 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.



THE CAUCASUS REGION



South Caucasus – A Region of Cultural, Historical and Biodiversity

The South Caucasus is a region that includes Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan — small countries on the southern side of the Caucasus mountain range, surrounded by the Black and Caspian Seas and bordering Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. This is a truly unique place in terms of geography, history, culture, and nature. It is home to the Greater and Lesser Caucasus Mountains, two of the world's great mountain ranges, including the highest peaks in Europe. Historically, the region was part of the Ottoman, Persian, and Russian empires, and the Soviet Union, resulting in a distinctive culture that blends these influences with its own unique traditions. Along with their cultural and natural richness, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia have experienced numerous conflicts. Direct violence has led to lost lives, displacement, closed borders, and restrictions on travel.

These past and present uncertainties faced by the South Caucasus countries are reflected in the views of their youth. A [Youth Study](#) from 2023 found that both Armenian and Azerbaijani youth are wary of cooperation between their countries, while Georgians perceive Russia as the major threat. Additionally, many young people believe their interests are poorly represented in politics. Many are concerned with climate change and support measures to combat it.

Thus, opportunities to give youth a platform to express themselves and make an impact in their community and society are urgently needed.

 View trails

Volunteer With Us

Photo credit: transcaucasiantrail.org



What is TCT?

The Transcaucasian Trail (TCT) is an opportunity for youth to connect by working together on the joint project of building a hiking trail through the Caucasus Mountains. Several times a year – but mostly in summer – volunteers from all over the world gather for 7 to 10 days programs to experience nature together and improve recreating conditions in the Caucasus.

It started as an amateur project by two passionate hikers and evolved into a fully-fledged organization working across three South Caucasus countries.

Activities During TCT

Volunteers from all over the world work side by side, repairing trail routes, mapping existing ones, and building new ones. They eat and sleep together in the forests of Georgia, the plains of Azerbaijan, and the mountains of Armenia. After work, there is always time for a chat, shared activities, and cultural exchange. In addition to these enjoyable moments, the volunteers also receive specialized training that prepares them to carry out trail building in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

Progress Today and Future Plans

The goal of the TCT is far from trivial. Once the planned 3,000 km of trail are completed, the trail will connect the three countries, allowing local and international tourists and explorers to experience all three South Caucasus nations with ease. Additionally, the project seeks to promote conservation efforts and foster responsible tourism across the region. Since its launch in 2016, the Transcaucasian Trail has managed to repair, renew, and build new trails spanning about 1,800 km

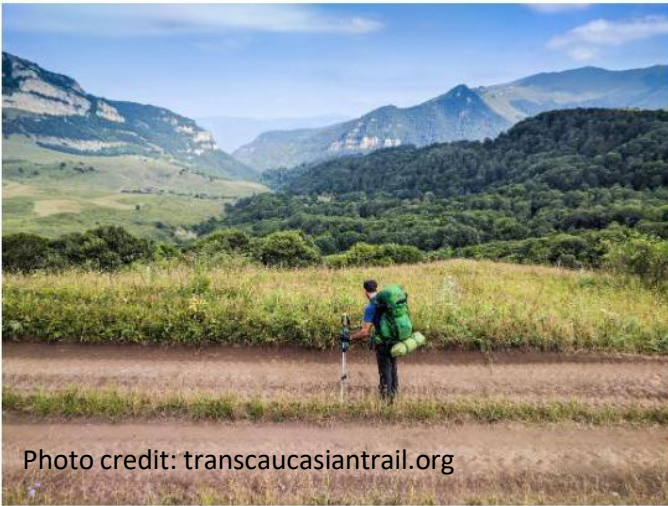


Photo credit: transcaucasiantrail.org

More than 1800 kilometers of the Transcaucasian Trail are open and ready to hike. Check out our [current trail sections](#) or join our [hiker support program](#). We'll give you all the info you need.

 View trails

Progress To Date and Future Plans

- ✓ 1750 kilometer of currently hikeable trail
- ✓ 3000 total kilometer of trail, when complete
- ✓ 30, 000+ volunteer trail-building hours
- ✓ 60 local trail crew leaders trained
- ✓ 150+ local communities impacted

Navigating Barriers and Setbacks

The TCT has been a passion project for those working on it — staff and volunteers alike — even though it has not always been easy. The most recent shock came from newly introduced legislation by the Georgian government that places restrictions on civil society organizations receiving foreign funding. This has greatly limited the work of the TCT, as its main branch office is located in Georgia. Funding from foreign donors has often been used to finance the participation of local volunteers from the three countries in longer-term programs, which, apart from trail building, have a strong cultural and cross-border exchange component. This is a significant loss, as regional governments, while they in principle support such trilateral cooperation, have been less willing to invest resources into these initiatives themselves.

While government officials are generally interested in tourism's importance for the local economy, it has been a challenge to convince them that improving and maintaining tourist infrastructure is essential to attract more visitors and encourage them to stay longer. However, some gradual change in attitudes can be observed, with more awareness among civil servants about these issues as the TCT continues its work.

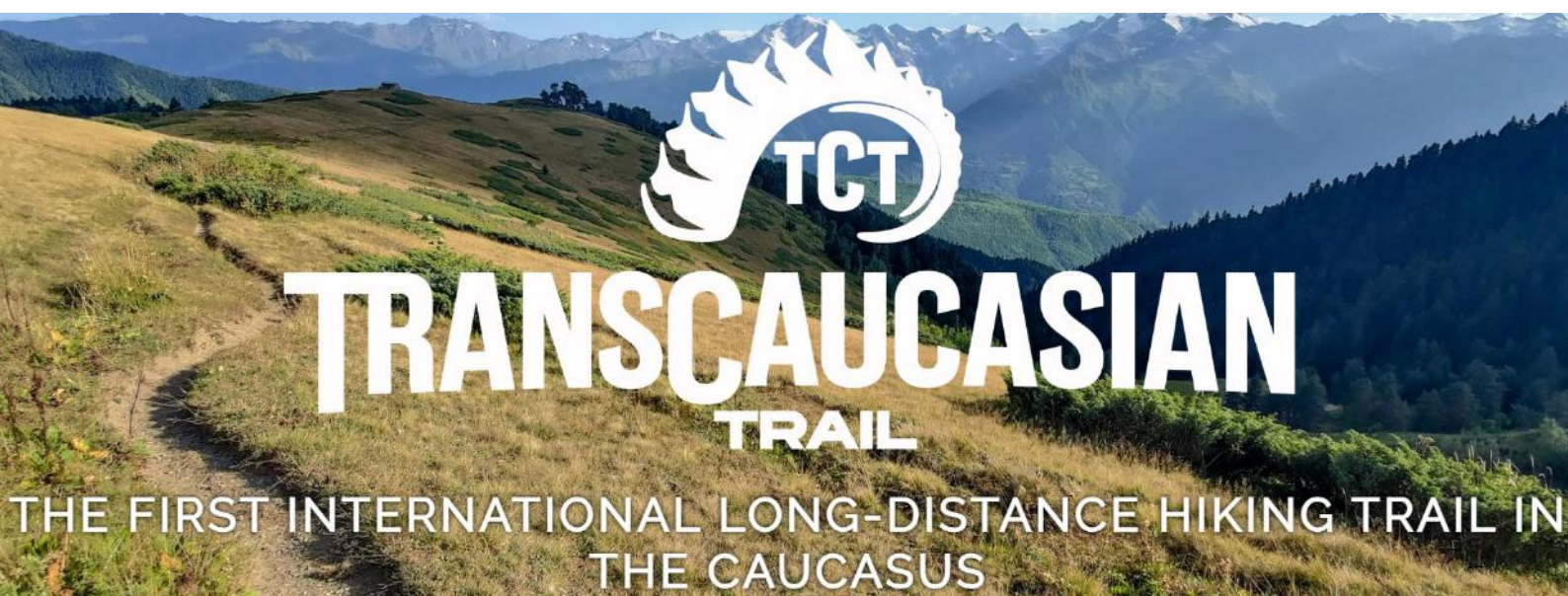
A 'Sneaky' Path to Peace?

The Transcaucasian Trail does not explicitly position itself as a peacebuilding initiative. Such branding could attract unwanted attention, as, in the highly sensitive political climate of the Caucasus, it might not always be perceived positively, and one should be cautious not to overstate its impact. On the other hand, as practice shows, tourism has proven to be an effective way to engage in subtle forms of 'sneaky peacebuilding.' Even without explicitly using those terms, it can still bring people together around shared goals.

As the project develops and grows, it attracts more and more people of diverse backgrounds. Bringing them together to work in groups requires additional facilitation and teambuilding activities that weren't necessary at the beginning when the TCT first started. Facilitation, communication, and conflict resolution skills also help to work effectively with locals from the villages near the hiking trails.

Overall, the ideas of interconnecting the region and providing opportunities for cultural exchange and learning for young people are central to the TCT's goals. This approach inherently contributes to fostering a culture of peace, and thus, even if unintentionally, the TCT plays a meaningful role in promoting peace and peacebuilding in the region.

Eventually, when all 3,000 km of the trail are completed, its goals might shift into a new realm. Once the trail is built, it will require ongoing maintenance. The TCT can also provide valuable opportunities for environmental education, community building, and the improvement of mental and physical health. Given all these aspects, along with the creativity and passion of the staff and volunteers working on this project, the theme of peace could become even more prominent. It therefore has the potential to evolve into a fully-fledged peacebuilding project.





Country

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Category

Cultural Heritage; Peacebuilding through Remembrance; Volunteering



Website

<https://srebrenicamemorial.org>



SMC Mission

The Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial Center, established in 2000, preserves the history and honors the victims of the 1995 genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its mission centers on the annual July 11th Day of Remembrance, ongoing research, exhibitions, and actively combating genocide denial and intolerance globally. The Center relies a fact-based approach to promote tolerance and peace.

Case Study

A Story of Dennis Miskić

Empowered Youth to Protect the Memory of Srebrenica

Alignment with Paths to Peace

Dennis' volunteer work at the Srebrenica Memorial Center (SMC) aligns with the *Paths to Peace* project because it involves confronting the past, educating others, and fostering understanding between communities. At the Center, he worked directly with Srebrenica genocide survivors, which made him gain the clarity and insight needed to challenge attempts to rewrite history in the region and to support young people in building lasting peace.





How Dennis Found His Commitment in Srebrenica

Dennis, a 22-year-old student finishing his Bachelor's studies in the University of Vienna, had a complex relationship with his Bosnian roots. Like many young people in the diaspora, he grew up with the war largely unspoken, leaving him mostly unaware of the history that shaped his parents.

His journey began, unplanned, as a civil service requirement. At age 19, he needed to fulfill his required Austrian Service Abroad. He chose to seek a 10-month volunteer service in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), a decision rooted in a vague desire to connect with his background. This led him unexpectedly to the Srebrenica Memorial Center (SMC).

What started as a compulsory civil service quickly evolved into a profound personal, turning point.

The museum director's welcome to him wasn't warm or casual, but an acknowledgment of the Center's weight: "Welcome is all I can say." This simple, heavy line immediately showed Dennis that this was a place where people weren't just "welcomed" - they were confronted with tragedy.

As a volunteer at the Srebrenica Memorial Center, Dennis guided visitors, supported group programs, and helped organize conferences that commemorated the past and fostered understanding. His efforts encouraged dialogue and reflection in a place shaped by loss and resilience.

His time in Srebrenica was shaped by the people he worked with. What struck him most was the staff's unique connection to the site: every single employee is directly connected to the 1995 Srebrenica genocide.

This reality makes the tours and educational programs immensely powerful. Visitors learn directly from the genocide survivors and those who grew up in the shadow of the events, turning the Center into a living testimony.

Through the Austrian Service Abroad, Dennis became Austria's first volunteer in the Memorial Center, paving the way for other young Austrians to get the opportunity to volunteer at the Memorial Center and engage with visitors.



Dennis Miskic © Ahmedin Đozić



“Talking about peace as a young person made it easier for others to connect.”

- Dennis Miskic

Dennis and the Srebrenica Truth

When you speak with Dennis, you're immediately struck by his clear vision and his stubborn dedication to the truth, grounded in facts.

At the Memorial Center, where the core of the staff is made up of survivors and their families, remembrance isn't an abstract idea – it's rooted in lived stories and extraordinary resilience. It's a daily, human reminder that the truth is personal.

Dennis helped convey the human realities of the genocide, confronting narratives that glorify war criminals and organizing visits for his Austrian peers. In this role, he and his colleagues acted as reminders, making sure Srebrenica's legacy isn't stuck in the past. Instead, it remains a living lesson in justice, empathy, and personal responsibility – one that cuts straight through inherited political and cultural divides.

Empathy alone isn't enough. True reconciliation demands structural change. For Dennis, a key step is the revision of school history curricula in the distinct parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is essential to establish a shared, fact-based understanding of history. Only when this foundation is laid can young people stop passively inheriting the divisions of the past and start actively becoming the architects of a peaceful, inclusive future.

Young Voices: the Legacy of Srebrenica

For young advocates like Dennis, the work in Srebrenica isn't just about sharing facts; it's about making those facts relatable.

Dennis discovered that his greatest asset was just being a young person. He wasn't a historian or a professor; he was a bridge:

"I was maybe a bit more approachable than a professor... I could break [the history] down in a language and in gestures and in mimics that [young people] understand."

In this role, Dennis wasn't just reciting history; he was translating trauma, using a shared language with young people to make sure the profound, painful lessons of Srebrenica are heard, understood, and truly felt by those who will shape the future.



Dennis and the team of the Srebrenica Memorial Center during a visit to the Austrian Parliament, October 2023.

The Museum's Challenges

Dennis's time at the Srebrenica Memorial Center offered him an unvarnished view of the complex, intertwined challenges that confront both the Memorial's essential mission and the broader, fragile efforts toward reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Hostile" Peace

For Dennis, the primary threat is crystal clear: the denial of the genocide. He sees this as the main obstacle that actively deepens division and injects misinformation into younger generations.

For the staff and genocide survivors connected to the Center, life still doesn't mean peace. Though there is no armed conflict, they frequently describe their reality as living in a "hostile society and surroundings." They are regularly confronted by public tributes and honors dedicated to those responsible for their

suffering. As Dennis explained, this constant tension means "they never even had the space to work through their experiences."

Practical Pressures and Difficult Reflection

There are also some practical difficulties, especially concerning visitors. Managing tourism in such a sensitive setting is very difficult. Many visitors – particularly younger ones – arrive without the necessary background or emotional preparation to fully grasp the weight of the site.

The most effective way to overcome a visitor's lack of background is through direct, personal connection. This reinforces the importance of using survivors and those directly affected by the genocide as tour guides, as their lived experience immediately conveys the gravity that books alone might not.

July 11th

The Memorial Center's mission truly comes alive with the deeply significant Day of Remembrance for Srebrenica's victims, held every year on July 11th. This powerful commemoration doesn't stop there; it blossoms into a moving, week-long program of thoughtfully arranged activities and events. These efforts are designed to actively engage local, national, and global communities, uniting everyone in a shared, vital commitment to honoring this memory.

Yet, the dedication of the Memorial Center stretches far beyond July. Their crucial work continues year-round through important research, projects, exhibitions, events, and publications, all intended to increase public awareness of the genocide and ensure the victims are eternally commemorated.

The intense international focus on July 11th can be counterproductive. The sheer volume of massive crowds makes quiet reflection difficult. More importantly, it is the day many staff members are privately honoring their own loved ones, meaning they aren't available to lead tours.

Dennis Miskic © Ahmedin Đozić

Srebrenica: Youth, Tourism, and the Path to Peace

Dennis believes tourism can make a real difference for local communities. Instead of focusing visits only around July 11th, he encourages people to come to Srebrenica throughout the year. That way, survivors and residents can rely on a steadier flow of visitors to support their livelihoods. Still, he says, this kind of tourism needs care and preparation — visitors should come with some understanding of the history and emotional weight of the place.

He also highlights how youth-led projects can bring people together. Programs like *Paths to Peace* give young participants a chance to meet, learn from each other, and create something positive for their communities.

Dennis adds that when remembrance and tourism are done thoughtfully, they can go beyond simple memorial visits. They can become a form of shared action — turning memory into something living, something that helps build peace.

“You go to the museum, you actually visit the place, you talk to people who were there — your tour guide might be a survivor,” he says. For Dennis, the best way to truly learn and connect is through direct experience. That’s where real understanding starts.

Ever since his volunteer experience in Srebrenica, Dennis has felt a deeper connection to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and has remained engaged in promoting the message of the Center. Through his freelance journalism, he’s been passionately dedicated to sharing the realities of life in the region today and keeping its stories alive.



Case Study

Winds of Change

Alignment with Paths to Peace

Winds of Change aligns with the **Paths to Peace** vision by demonstrating how **youth engagement, mobility, and peace education** can be interconnected through innovative approaches such as sailing.

The initiative embodies:

Youth as agents of change: empowering young people to take leadership roles in an intercommunal team.

Mobility as connection: transforming maritime travel into a space for shared learning and trust-building.

Experiential peacebuilding: using sport and movement as pathways to dialogue, empathy, and resilience.

Like *Paths to Peace*, the project redefines mobility as both physical and symbolic — a movement across boundaries and toward reconciliation.

Country



Cyprus

Category



Youth-led peace & mobility

Website



@wingsofchange



Introduction

Winds of Change is the first intercommunal sailing initiative in Cyprus, designed to promote reconciliation through shared adventure and education. Launched on **1 April 2023**, coinciding with the *International Day of Sport for Development and Peace*, the project brought together young Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots to form a unified sailing crew.

The initiative symbolised more than a voyage, it represented a *journey of understanding and cooperation* across the island's divide. Sailing side by side, participants challenged old narratives and built friendships through





Model and Activities

The Winds of Change model is built on **experiential learning, cooperation, and shared purpose**.

Key activities included:

- Formation of a **bicommunal youth sailing crew** (Greek- and Turkish-Cypriots aged 18–35).
- **Training sessions** in teamwork, communication, and maritime navigation.
- A **sailing journey around Cyprus** covering 327 nautical miles — the first such voyage in 50 years.
- **Workshops and discussions** during stopovers, reflecting on unity, coexistence, and the meaning of peace.

The initiative culminated on **21 September 2023**, the *International Day of Peace*, when the crew completed their circumnavigation of the island.

Winds of Change



“We shared one boat, one wind, one goal — proving that unity can move us forward.”

Impact

Winds of Change became a **powerful symbol of reconciliation and collaboration.**

Participants developed mutual trust, leadership, and intercultural communication skills.

Many youth experienced meaningful contact with peers from the “other side” for the first time.

The initiative inspired thousands of young people through public outreach, media, and educational follow-up.

The sailing journey’s success was celebrated nationally and internationally, earning the **World Sailing 11th Hour Racing Sustainability Award** in 2024.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The project faced several challenges:

- **Logistical and political complexities** of organizing a cross-community maritime journey.
- **Ensuring sustainability** beyond a single voyage — translating a symbolic act into long-term cooperation.
- **Balancing sport and reflection:** integrating structured dialogue and educational activities into a physically demanding experience.

Despite these challenges, Winds of Change proved that when properly facilitated, **mobility and shared activity** can break barriers and build empathy.

Looking Ahead

Building on its success, Winds of Change aims to:

- Expand to **annual sailing events** involving youth from both communities.
- Develop **educational materials and documentaries** to share participants' experiences.
- Incorporate **cultural visits and workshops** into future journeys, linking maritime mobility with heritage and peace tourism.
- Strengthen partnerships with educational institutions and EU youth programmes.

The initiative's long-term vision is to establish a **permanent youth sailing academy** that combines sport, sustainability, and intercultural dialogue.

Relevance to Paths to Peace

Winds of Change is a model example of how **mobility and experience-based learning** can foster peace.

The initiative highlights that:

Peacebuilding can take many forms — even through the shared rhythm of the sea.

Mobility-based learning allows participants to challenge physical and emotional boundaries.

Youth-led experiential projects can shift perceptions and build a culture of coexistence.

By transforming the sea into a shared space of hope, Winds of Change perfectly embodies the *Paths to Peace* philosophy — that peace is not only taught, but lived, one journey at a time.



Case Study

Building Ukraine Together



Country

Ukraine



Category

Youth Empowerment and
Peacebuilding through volunteering



Website

bur.org.ua/en



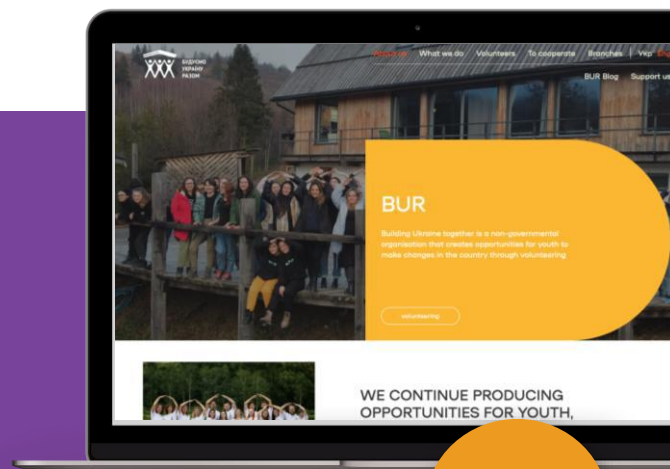
Introduction

Building Ukraine Together (BUR) is a Ukrainian NGO whose **mission** is to foster trust and responsibility among Ukrainian youth, empowering them to participate in building a democratic Ukraine. Founded in 2014 as a one-time volunteer action by the Ukrainian Educational Platform to help rebuild homes in the de-occupied city of Kramatorsk (Donetsk region), BUR has since evolved into a nationwide initiative that uses volunteering and youth mobility as tools for non-formal education, inclusion, and long-term civic impact.

Alignment with Paths to Peace

The complex realities of living through the “war-work-life balance” in Ukraine, related challenges of youth participation in civic and social life have created an urgent need to build networks and connections among people. These help youth to cope with uncertainty, enable them to participate meaningfully in rebuilding Ukrainian communities.

BUR “builds” it with a mobility-based volunteering program, enabling young people to travel to new places and work hand-in-hand with residents. Together, they co-create value, discover the socio-economic, cultural, and historical nuances of Ukraine’s diverse regions, build trust and solidarity across the country in challenging times.



CLICK
TO VIEW



Repairing the walls of buildings, rebuilding the bridges of trust, cooperation, and unity

The camp-leader role refers to co-creative leadership positions within BUR's volunteer camps, where young people restore infrastructure, create youth spaces, and support communities affected by war. Camp-leaders organize and facilitate these complex activities for newcomers experiencing volunteering for the first time.

The camp-leadership project is not primarily about construction, but rather youth development, community resilience, building a volunteering-based leadership capacity within Ukrainian civil society by guiding and facilitating these unique group experiences.

“Repairing the walls of buildings, rebuilding the bridges of trust, cooperation, and unity”,- as they say.

“BUR: From War to Belonging” (<https://www.bur.org.ua/en/from-war-to-belonging-help-us-create-a-youth-space-in-byshiv-2/>)



“People are truly at peace with themselves: feeling engaged, needed, appreciated, and capable, even amid the unimaginable challenges we face in Ukraine, despite the absence of physical peace.”

- Oleksii, Educational Impact Manager at BUR

Sustainability and Holistic Approach: How the Initiative Promotes Peace

Within BUR’s long-term strategy, called the Volunteer’s Path, every small personal transformation of a young person contributes to a larger, sustainable impact. BUR has developed a **“strategy of small responsibilities”**- a model that allows each participant to gradually take on more initiative, responsibility, and agency at their own pace.

Instead of forcing abrupt transitions (for example, from a first-time participant to their own project or initiative), BUR provides a structured, step-by-step environment that supports both individual development and organizational stability.

This approach serves a dual purpose:

1. Empowerment: Engaging youth through volunteering and encouraging them to become decision-makers and creators of BUR’s activities, not merely participants. It offers them a platform and tools for personal and professional growth.
2. Capacity-building: Enhancing BUR’s organizational sustainability by training a broad base of youth capable of organizing and facilitating projects, thus scaling impact and addressing war-related educational and community challenges.

Camp-leadership's program results

Before launching the camp-leadership initiative, BUR's core team of 6–9 people managed all volunteer camps, enabling around 500 volunteers per season. By 2022, after training 50 camp-leaders (42 of whom successfully led at least one camp), BUR was able to support 82 volunteer shifts, engaging over 1,500 participants in non-formal education and rebuilding experiences. **This tripled both the number of youth involved and the number of communities reached.** Although BUR does not formally track all long-term outcomes, online communication from alumni shows that many continue to create their own projects and volunteer groups with peers they met through BUR - demonstrating strong social sustainability beyond the program itself. Which only proves the efficiency of the “strategy of small responsibilities”.

Moreover, the **camp-leader role** often **becomes a career pathway for young people**: many go on to work as youth workers in municipal youth centers, facilitators in (for example) UNICEF projects, summer-camp animators, or L&D specialists in the private sector.

Ultimately, participants become more adaptable and socially mobile*, not only changing the places they live, but also exploring new professions and life directions they had never considered before.

**Mobility itself is a complex trauma within the current context of Ukraine, with around 10 million Ukrainians displaced inside Ukraine or abroad. Yet, skills developed through BUR - adaptability, teamwork, cultural awareness, and social mobility - help youth cope with forced mobility and rebuild social ties wherever they go.*





Insights from the Field. Testimonies

“The space created by our crew helps volunteers not only to engage, but also to regain their strength.”

A vivid example is **Arysia Chernobai**, an internally displaced person from Sievierodonetsk who joined BUR as a volunteer three years ago. What she values most about volunteering is the people, the atmosphere, and the sense of community they co-create.

“I really appreciate being able to help my fellow countrymen with my own hands, even simple things like helping an elderly woman make her bed because her back hurts,” she recalls. While volunteering in the village of Busha (Vinnytsia region), Arysia had come to build a temporary house for IDPs. And even being IDP person herself, she says she felt “at home”:

“During my break from volunteering, I felt something was missing. When I returned to BUR camp, I called my mom and said: Mom, I’m home with BUR. Because here, I’m surrounded by like-minded people, and experiencing the sense of trust and community.”

Source: <https://eef.org.ua/en/story/formuvannya-svidomoyi-molodi-cherez-vidbudovu-ukrayiny-dosvid-bur/>



“The space created by our crew helps volunteers not only to engage, but also to regain their strength.”

Relevance to Paths to Peace



“People are truly at peace with themselves: feeling engaged, needed, appreciated, and capable, even amid the unimaginable challenges we face in Ukraine, despite the absence of physical peace.”

- Oleksii, Educational Impact Manager at BUR

While many Ukrainian initiatives focus on physical reconstruction, few place equal emphasis on building communities of co-creators. Comparable initiatives such as Ukraïner, Ukrainian Volunteer Service, or Tolocar also use volunteering as a tool for empowerment. However, BUR’s camp-leadership model is unique for its structured facilitation, mentorship, and management experience it offers to young participants.

Camp-leaders coordinate and support groups of 20–25 volunteers, developing practical skills in facilitation, communication, and social mobility—competences rarely cultivated in traditional education or civic engagement sectors in Ukraine.

This project teaches young people how to transform diverse groups into cohesive, motivated teams and how to address the individual needs of newcomers. The hands-on leadership experience they gain enhances their capacity across professional and civic contexts alike.

Ultimately, these young leaders learn not only to rebuild, but also to reconcile—both internally and socially. By applying their skills in project management, learning & development, conflict transformation, and cultural awareness, they become true advocates for peace, capable of bringing this mindset into government, NGOs, and business sectors beyond BUR—fulfilling the long-term mission of Building Ukraine Together.



Country



Sweden (but worldwide YMCA)

Category



Youth Empowerment and Peacebuilding
through Community Development

Website



<https://kfum.se/om-kfum/>



Introduction

KFUM Sweden (YMCA/YWCA) stands as one of the country's oldest and most influential youth movements, fostering growth, leadership and community among young people. Rooted in values of respect, empathy and inclusion, KFUM empowers youth to take responsibility for themselves and their surroundings, both locally and globally. Through camps, sports, leadership training and international partnerships, KFUM provides spaces where young people can grow, collaborate, and contribute to a more peaceful and connected society.

Case Study

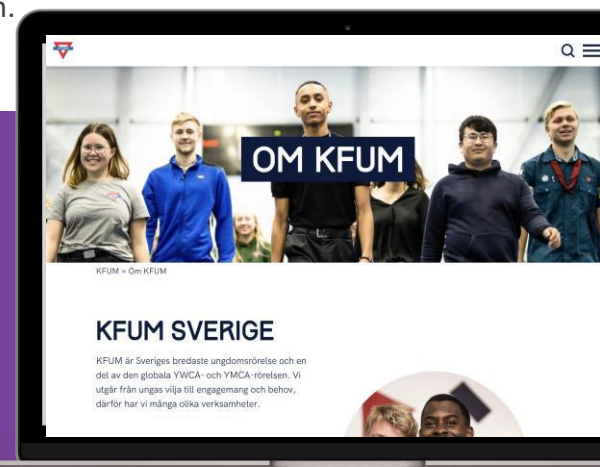
KFUM

Empowering Youth Leadership
for Peace and Inclusion

Alignment with Paths to Peace

KFUM's mission resonates deeply with the Paths to Peace vision of empowering youth as Peace Building Advocates through tourism and intercultural engagement. Its long tradition of inclusion and leadership development mirrors P2P's bottom-up approach, where young people are co-creators of solutions for sustainable and peaceful communities.

Partnerships between Paths to Peace and KFUM could open new pathways for collaboration-peace camps, youth exchanges, and mentorship programs that combine tourism, learning, and civic action.





Building Leadership and Inclusion in Practice

KFUM's activities span across Sweden, connecting thousands of young people each year through camps, youth centres, sports and leadership programmes. These initiatives combine fun, reflection and teamwork to promote empathy, respect and social responsibility.

At KFUM's summer camps located in nature-rich regions like Dalarna and Småland, youth leaders design and lead workshops that strengthen communication and self-confidence. The camps prioritise inclusion, offering free or reduced participation fees for those from underrepresented or lower-income backgrounds.

Local KFUM branches also organise community projects, such as mentoring for young refugees, sports-for-all initiatives and creative workshops that foster understanding across cultural and social divides.

Internationally, KFUM participates in youth exchanges and leadership camps through the global YMCA movement. Swedish youth have joined international meetings with peers from Ukraine, the Netherlands and other countries, learning to navigate cultural differences and practice peacebuilding through shared experiences.

These activities together create what KFUM describes as a “meeting space”, where young people can test ideas, learn empathy and experience global citizenship in action.

Challenges and Reflections

While KFUM provides a strong foundation for youth leadership and peacebuilding, young people also face important challenges. One recurring theme is **access and diversity**. Many camps and programmes depend on participation fees, which can unintentionally limit inclusion. KFUM works actively to counter this through scholarships and free spots, yet ensuring that everyone (regardless of background) can join remains a continual effort.

Another challenge lies in maintaining long-term engagement. As youth leaders transition through studies, jobs, and other commitments, sustaining active participation can be difficult. KFUM addresses this by offering flexible roles and mentorship, but the balance between voluntary energy and organisational continuity is ongoing.

Finally, peacebuilding in everyday life can be emotionally demanding. Standing up for inclusion, addressing conflicts, or challenging bias requires resilience. KFUM supports young leaders through peer networks and reflective spaces, but as interviewee noted, real change takes time and patience.

These challenges underline the importance of *Paths to Peace* and similar projects that provide young people with the tools, mentorship, and international community to turn small acts of inclusion into lasting social impact.



Peacebuilding in Everyday Practice



“We work a lot with inclusion. It’s important that everyone feels appreciated and part of the group.”

- Youth Interviewee

Meeting Youth!

When interviewing a young person from KFUM Sweden, a few things immediately stand out: her empathy, curiosity and confidence in taking responsibility. She speak about peace not as a distant goal but as something that begins in small, everyday actions such as listening, including others and showing respect.

KFUM (the Swedish YMCA/YWCA) has long been a meeting place for young people to grow and connect. Grounded in the values of inclusion, diversity and care for others, KFUM empowers youth to take initiative and build communities where everyone feels they belong.

At the heart of KFUM’s model is **youth leadership**. Most leaders start young and often as participants themselves in summer camps before becoming mentors themselves. Our interviewee describes her journey:

“KFUM has always been a place where I could grow. You can take on new roles and learn leadership in a safe environment.”

KFUM’s community-based approach ensures that young people learn by doing. Camps and local groups become small laboratories for inclusion and cooperation, showing how peace starts at the community level when people feel seen, heard, and appreciated.

Looking Ahead

In a time when global challenges can feel overwhelming, KFUM demonstrates that peace begins with small, consistent actions—welcoming others, building trust, and learning from difference. Swedish youth are increasingly aware of their role in shaping a more just and compassionate society. As our youth interviewee says,

“Young people want to be part of the change. Peace is about meeting others, wherever they are.”

KFUM Sweden stands as a living example of how youth empowerment, inclusion, and cross-cultural encounters can together form a **path to peace**.



Tourism and International Exchange as Tools for Understanding

Although KFUM is not a tourism organisation, travel and exchange play a vital role in its peace education. Young leaders participate in European and global camps, leadership conferences, and partnerships with other YMCAs, including in Ukraine and the Netherlands. These encounters allow youth to see new perspectives and experience the power of cultural exchange.

“Travelling and meeting people in their own cultures helps you see the world differently,” Our interviewee reflects. “But there’s a fine line between appreciating and using other cultures. Tourism can unite, but if done wrong, it can also divide.”

This awareness reflects *Paths to Peace*’ focus on conflict-sensitive tourism, encouraging young people to engage with new cultures ethically and with empathy.




Case Study


Trampoline House


Refugees and migrants
living in Denmark





Alignment with Paths to Peace

Trampoline House aligns closely with the mission of Paths to Peace by using community-based tourism and cultural exchange to foster inclusion, empathy, and social cohesion. Through guided tours, exhibitions, and events led by asylum seekers and refugees, the initiative promotes intercultural dialogue and challenges stereotypes. By empowering marginalized voices and creating spaces for mutual understanding, Trampoline House exemplifies how tourism can be a platform for peacebuilding and youth engagement in diverse, post-conflict contexts.

 **Country**
Denmark

 **Category**
Cultural Inclusion

 **Website**
<https://www.trampolinehouse.dk/>

Introduction

Trampoline House is an independent community centre in Copenhagen that supports refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants by providing a safe space for social connection, empowerment, and mutual learning. Through cultural exchange, community engagement, and public-facing activities such as guided tours and exhibitions, the organisation promotes inclusion and challenges discrimination. Its work aligns with the Paths to Peace mission by using tourism and storytelling to



Peacebuilding Elements



- ✓ Builds bridges between refugees and Danish society through shared activities, dialogue, and advocacy
- ✓ Offers real-world examples of civic engagement, empowering displaced people to become visible and active contributors to community life
- ✓ Uses creative expression (art, storytelling, fashion, exhibitions) to raise awareness of refugee experiences and shift public narratives
- ✓ Operates as a platform for resistance against exclusionary policies, highlighting peacebuilding as a form of social justice and structural change

Relevance to Paths to Peace

Trampoline House exemplifies how tourism-related experiences — including guided community tours, public events, educational exhibitions, and cultural workshops — can serve as powerful platforms for peacebuilding. By inviting local residents, international visitors, students, and civil society actors to engage with the lived realities of refugees and asylum seekers in Denmark, the House fosters empathy, intercultural dialogue, and a shared sense of humanity. Its inclusive programming provides opportunities for visitors to encounter complex social issues not as abstract concepts, but through real stories and relationships. This human-centred approach helps dismantle stereotypes and confront systemic injustices, encouraging participants to reflect critically on migration, identity, and belonging.

As a grassroots initiative grounded in co-creation and solidarity, Trampoline House aligns closely with the core values of Paths to Peace. It models how displaced youth and marginalised groups can use creative tools — such as storytelling, artistic expression, and cultural exchange — to raise awareness, influence public discourse, and promote structural change. In doing so, the House not only builds community within its walls, but also acts as a gateway for tourism that is socially engaged, ethically aware, and deeply rooted in the pursuit of justice and dignity.



“In the camp I felt invisible — like my story didn’t matter. But here, I can speak, I can act, I can belong. And people listen.”

- Participant

Activities & Methods

Trampoline House uses a wide range of participatory, intercultural, and creative methods to build understanding and foster connection between refugees, asylum seekers, and the wider public. Key activities include:



Legal & Social Counseling – Supporting refugees and asylum seekers with practical guidance and human rights advocacy.



Community Dinners – Shared meals that promote dialogue, friendship, and cultural exchange.



Arts & Cultural Events – Exhibitions, performances, and workshops that amplify refugee voices and challenge dominant narratives.



Community Tours & Talks – Opportunities for visitors and stakeholders to learn directly from those with lived experience of the asylum system.



Education & Capacity-Building – Danish and English classes, democracy workshops, and youth-led initiatives that empower participants and build confidence.

Tikitut

Community-based tourism

Case Study

Tikitut

Multicultural
Exchange Tours



Country

Sweden



Category

Cultural Tours & Kayaking



Website

<https://www.tikitut.se/kajakpaddling>



Introduction

Tikitut operates on the principle of "glocal" engagement—combining global perspectives with local action. The organisation aims to **bridge cultural divides** by facilitating **meaningful interactions** between visitors and local residents, many of whom are immigrants or from marginalised communities. By doing so, Tikitut not only **enriches the tourist experience** but also **promotes positive community development and social cohesion**

Alignment with Paths to Peace

Tikitut Community-Based Tourism is a **youth lead peace initiative**, specifically in the multicultural district of Bergsjön.

Established to promote **inclusive, sustainable, and socially conscious tourism**, Tikitut offers visitors authentic experiences that highlight the area's **cultural diversity** and natural beauty.





Kayaking in Vättelefjäll

Take a break from everyday life and go kayaking with us in Vättelefjäll.
Book a guided tour or come to our various trial kayaking opportunities



What we do!

Since summer 2021, we have been able to offer kayaking for residents in Lövgärdet. The network is part of Tikitut community-based tourism, and we who are involved are residents from Lövgärdet/Angered, young people from LUGN and the kayaks' owner and board member Björn from Flatökajak.

- ❖ **Guided City and Nature Walks**
- ❖ **Culinary Experiences:** Participate in cooking and dining events featuring cuisines from diverse cultures represented in the community, including Assyrian, Kurdish, Kenyan, Turkish, and Somali. These experiences are often hosted in local homes, offering an intimate setting for cultural exchange.
- ❖ **Language and Cultural Workshops:** Engage in language dinners where participants learn basic phrases of a new language while cooking and sharing a meal, promoting both linguistic and cultural learning.
- ❖ **Accommodation:** Stay in local bed and breakfasts or self-catering apartments managed by community members, offering an authentic living experience and supporting local livelihoods.



Connecting Communities with

Natural Experiences

We at Andas Frisk want to be a door opener to nature experiences through kayaking for both mental and physical health. We want to contribute to an active environmental commitment, a sustainable lifestyle and at the same time become a support for local associations with similar interests who benefit from our activities.



Welcoming people to our community!

The True Colours of Foliage

Today, there is a black and white image of the suburb that makes people even afraid to visit a suburb. We want to change that. We are passionate about showcasing the warm and welcoming side of our community and sharing our image of Lövgärdet with you. We want the true colours of Lövgärdet to bloom!

<https://www.tikitut.se/sannafarger>

Try-out kayak

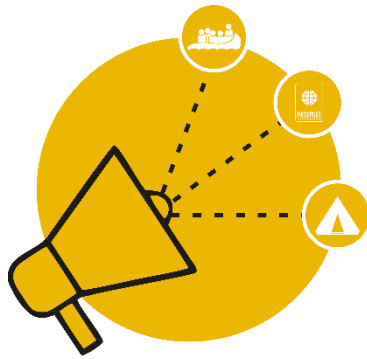
For those who want to try kayaking, everyone gets a short paddle introduction. A free activity. No registration required. Paddling subject to availability!

<https://www.tikitut.se/kajakpaddling>

Tikitut Summer Hikes 2025

Take an evening walk with us through the wonderful nature of northeastern Gothenburg. Hiking with a focus on meetings, people and nature.

<https://www.tikitut.se/tikitut-sommarvandringar-2025>



Refugee Voices Tours



Country

Germany



Category

Walking Tour & Workshops



Website

<https://refugeevoicestours.org/>



Introduction

Experience Berlin from the perspective of people who living with refugee status

The tours aim to offer a space for reconciliation, with the guides hoping that presenting their own views and experiences of Berlin will help cross the barriers of perceived “otherness”.

“It’s really rare to find a normal way of interacting, because people have a stereotype” Walid adds

Case Study

Refugee Voice Tours

Syrian Refugees in Berlin

Paths to Peace

Refugee Voices was founded in October 2015 by activists and refugees who met on Oranienplatz and the Gerhard-Hauptmann-Schule, when both places were occupied by people trying to change the unfair situation for many people with refugee status in Europe.

The idea of our initiative is to give a voice to people who are often talked about in the media, but who are rarely given a chance to speak for themselves and explain their own stories.

 400+ Tours

 6000+ Participants

 85+ Nationality

CLICK
TO VIEW



19

Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 3 PM – 5:30 PM

Why We're Here: A Walking Tour in Berlin

Wilhelmstraße 45, 10117 Berlin, Deutschland

Aim of Refugee Voice Tours

We aim to break down the stigma of the word 'refugee' by people who are themselves refugees speaking about their experiences. We hope this will open people's eyes to the challenges that refugees face in Europe, but most importantly, we hope it will change people's attitudes towards the current situation.

Our **walking tours and workshops** seek to inform the public about why so many people have been forced to flee their countries and seek refuge in Europe. We draw parallels between Europe's own history of revolutions, wars and migration to create a relatable dialogue around what it means to be a refugee in 21st Century Europe and what issues lie at the heart of one of the most contentious topics of our time.

Since 2015 we have offered tours and workshops to thousands of people from all across the world, from all age groups and all walks of life. Our community of guides continues to grow across Europe, and most recently, we have made it possible for the public to attend our tours online.

On Saturday, 30th July, Refugee Voices is offering a new tour [Afghanistan: caught between occupation and oppression](#), raising awareness of the situation Afghans are facing today and explaining this very complex history in a way that is both understandable and interactive.

<https://www.theleftberlin.com/refugee-voices-tours/>
[Lonely Planet: How Berlin's powerful history helps modern-day refugees tell their stories](#)

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Workshops



'IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES'

After learning why so many people were forced to flee Syria and understanding how the 'refugee crisis' was dealt ...

Finding comfort in Berlin!

More than 40% of the neighbourhood's residents have an immigrant background, and it is "one of most energetic areas in Berlin", he says.

"It's the most demanded area for living, simply because it's full of foreigners. If you are a migrant or come from outside of Berlin, you can find comfort here."

If people understand the context and history of refugees, they will deal with them differently'

Walid

Using the war in Germany to communicate the war in Syria and its impact.

An estimated 1 million refugees came to Germany in 2015 alone, nearly half of them hailing from war-torn Syria, seeking asylum.

Berlin, a city that itself has a recent history marked by **political division and war**. Now, several Syrian refugees are leading a weekly walking tour of Berlin's historic center that draws parallels between the **city's history and the civil war in Syria**. Organised by the initiative Refugee Voices Tours, the tour is aptly called "**Why we are here.**"

The two-hour excursion includes stops in locations such as the Topography of Terror, an outdoor museum on the site of the former **Nazi secret service headquarters**. "It's similar to what happened in Syria," guide Eyas Adi tells

Turkey is currently home to 2.9 million Syrians

For **Adi**, leaving Syria was not something he had wanted. Before he moved to Berlin in May, he was studying medicine and working with UNICEF and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, a humanitarian aid group, in Damascus. But when it came to the point that he could no longer avoid the Syrian government's mandatory service in the military, he decided that fleeing the country was preferable to serving with President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

VIRTUAL TOURS



WHY WE'RE HERE



Borders and Migration

The conflict and need for peace!

There were around **3,500 attacks on refugees or refugee shelters in Germany in 2016.**

Arnold witnessed an assault in March last year in Marzhan, when a man poured vodka on a young Syrian, spat on him and gave a Nazi salute.

*The tours aim to offer a **space for reconciliation**, with the guides hoping that **presenting their own views and experiences of Berlin will help cross the barriers of perceived "otherness"**.*

"It's really rare to find a normal way of interacting, because people have a stereotype," Walid adds.

"There's a huge misunderstanding of what a refugee is. If people understand the context and history of what made people come here, they will start to deal with them differently."

*"Berlin gives me hope," says Walid. "This city was heavily damaged in the second world war, and in a few years it was rebuilt and there was democracy. **That's what gives me hope for Syria now: that one day we might be able to build it again.**"*

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/dec/21/refugee-migrants-berlin-walking-tours-neukolln-sonnenallee>



There were around **3,500 attacks on refugees or refugee shelters in Germany in 2016.**



MOHAMAD

Tour Guide and Workshop Leader

Mohamad comes from a small city just outside of Damascus. In Syria he was studying mathematics at university when the war came after which he fled to Libya...



LORNA CANNON

Founder and Managing Director

Lorna Cannon is a tour guide and founding director of Refugee Voices Tours. After being involved with the refugee community in Kreuzberg, Lorna founded Refugee Voices Tours in...



NEHAD CHAHIN

Project Manager

In Syria, Nehad worked for many years as a university lecturer, project manager for large budget projects and education expert. During the war he served as mayor of...

ETHNO

Case Study ETHNO

Fostering Intercultural
Dialogue and understanding

Alignment with Paths to Peace

Ethno Denmark aligns with the goals of Paths to Peace by empowering young people through intercultural music exchange, peer learning, and inclusive collaboration. By bringing together diverse youth to share traditional music in a spirit of respect and hospitality, the camp fosters mutual understanding, personal growth, and lasting international friendships. Its focus on youth leadership, cultural dialogue, and community-based tourism directly supports peacebuilding and social cohesion.

 **Country**
Denmark

 **Category**
Cultural Inclusion

 **Website**
<https://ethno.world/>



Introduction

Ethno is an international music programme for young musicians aged sixteen to thirty, focusing on folk, traditional and world music. Founded in 1990 by Jeunesses Musicales International, it uses peer-to-peer learning to promote cultural exchange and collaboration. Participants share music from their own backgrounds while learning from others in workshops, rehearsals and performances. With events in over forty countries, Ethno encourages respect, creativity and intercultural understanding. Its values closely align with the aims of the Paths to Peace project, particularly in youth engagement and





Peacebuilding Elements

- ✓ Fosters intercultural understanding through shared music-making, dialogue and cultural exchange, creating a welcoming space where differences are valued and cultural barriers are broken down
- ✓ Empowers young people as leaders and educators through peer-to-peer learning, encouraging active participation, equality and mutual respect across diverse backgrounds
- ✓ Builds strong cross-cultural relationships by encouraging communal living, cooperation and shared responsibility, helping participants develop trust, empathy and a sense of global community
- ✓ Supports long-term peacebuilding through international friendships and informal networks, allowing young people to remain connected and engaged in intercultural dialogue beyond the camp experience

Relevance to Paths to Peace

Ethno Denmark embodies the core principles of the Paths to Peace project by using music as a practical tool for intercultural understanding and social cohesion. Through a collaborative and inclusive environment, the camp brings together young people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds to share traditional music, live communally and learn from one another. This experience encourages mutual respect, empathy and open dialogue, helping to break down cultural barriers in a natural and engaging way.

By promoting peer-to-peer learning and giving participants the opportunity to lead, Ethno Denmark fosters youth agency, confidence and leadership. Its welcoming and participatory model empowers young people to take an active role in shaping inclusive and peaceful communities. The friendships and networks built during the camp often continue well beyond the programme itself, contributing to sustained intercultural exchange.

Additionally, Ethno Denmark supports the goals of community-based tourism by drawing international visitors to rural Denmark and connecting them with local culture through music. In doing so, it strengthens local-global ties and demonstrates how creative cultural exchange can serve as a foundation for long-term peacebuilding.



“It’s so nice that people here are open-minded... there is an understanding that you don’t find anywhere else.”
— 2019 Participant on intercultural openness and mutual respect

Activities & Methods

Ethno Denmark combines creative collaboration and communal living to foster intercultural learning and peacebuilding. Through shared music workshops, rehearsals, dialogue, and public performances, participants learn from one another in a supportive, inclusive environment. These key activities encourage trust, cultural exchange and long-term friendships across borders.



Peer-to-Peer Music Workshops

Participants teach traditional songs from their own cultures to the group. This method encourages mutual respect, cultural exchange and shared ownership of learning.



Communal Living and Shared Meals

Everyone lives, eats and collaborates in the same space, creating a strong sense of community, equality and everyday intercultural connection.



Group Rehearsals and Co-Creation

Music is arranged and performed collectively, blending instruments, styles and traditions. This reinforces teamwork, creativity and shared responsibility.



Dialogue and Reflection Circles

Facilitated discussions allow participants to share experiences, explore cultural perspectives and build deeper mutual understanding.



Public Performances and Cultural Sharing

Concerts give participants the opportunity to present their collective work to local audiences, promoting intercultural dialogue beyond the camp and fostering pride and visibility.

Case Study

HADE

Intercommunal initiative
promoting peace in Cyprus

HADE!★



Country

Cyprus



Category

Community-led peace
tourism



Website

@hade.cyprus



Introduction

HADE is a youth-led organisation based in Cyprus that bridges peace education with tourism. Founded in 2021, it emerged during a time when border crossings were closed due to the pandemic, symbolising the persistent barriers—both physical and psychological—on the island. HADE reimagined mobility not only as travel but as a path toward peace.

Through excursions, cultural walks, and interactive workshops, the organisation promotes cross-community dialogue between Greek-speaking and Turkish-speaking Cypriots, as well as international residents. Each activity invites participants to explore identity, history, and coexistence through shared experiences, reflection, and storytelling.

Alignment with Paths to Peace


HADE embodies the *Paths to Peace* vision by demonstrating how **youth, education, and tourism can intersect to foster peacebuilding and inclusion**. The organisation's model aligns with the project's core principles:

Youth as changemakers: empowering young people to lead and design tourism experiences with social purpose.

Tourism as dialogue: transforming heritage and mobility into spaces for reflection, empathy, and shared humanity.

Community-based impact: encouraging local ownership and collective participation.

By turning tourism into an educational and emotional journey, HADE mirrors the *Paths to Peace* mission of creating youth-led networks that transform travel into an act of reconciliation.



HADE!★
LET'S EXPLORE CYPRUS

HADE!

LET'S MINGLE



HADE's Peace Tourism Model

HADE's work centres on **non-formal peace education** blended with tourism. Activities typically include:

- **Cross-community excursions** to symbolic sites such as Lazanias village and the Pentadaktylos mountains.
- **Storytelling and dialogue circles** that explore themes of identity, conflict, and coexistence.
- **Cultural evenings** featuring food, music, and art as means of shared expression.

Participants are mostly youth but include people of all ages, creating **intergenerational exchange**. Around 80% of participants are Cypriots (Greek- and Turkish-speaking) and international residents living in Cyprus.

HADE

HADE!
LET'S ★ EXPLORE
OUR PUBLIC SPACE

“When you eat, walk, and laugh together, borders feel smaller.”

Impact

HADE's initiatives have had significant social impact:

- Many participants experienced their **first crossing** between the island's north and south—helping overcome fear and build empathy.
- Activities fostered **friendships across communities**, turning curiosity into connection.
- Tourism became a **tool for healing historical trauma**, allowing participants to see how families once lived before the division.
- The organisation has built a **reputation for inclusion and peace education** among local youth and NGOs in Cyprus.

HADE!
LET'S ★ LEARN
EACH OTHER'S
LANGUAGE

Challenges and Lessons Learned

HADE's journey has not been without challenges:

Cultural sensitivities when addressing contested heritage sites.

Logistical and political barriers to cross-community mobility.

Sustainability in maintaining volunteer-driven initiatives with limited funding.

However, the organisation learned that success depends on **sensitive facilitation, networking, and local partnerships**. Building trust between participants and communities remains key to long-term impact.

Looking Ahead

HADE aims to:

- Expand its peace tourism activities across more regions of Cyprus.
- Strengthen **digital storytelling**, producing videos and virtual maps of peace routes.
- Foster **international exchanges** through Erasmus+ and youth networks.
- Promote **sustainable, community-led tourism** that supports local businesses and heritage preservation.

Relevance to Paths to Peace

HADE serves as a **model of youth-driven peace tourism** in a post-conflict context. Its work demonstrates that:

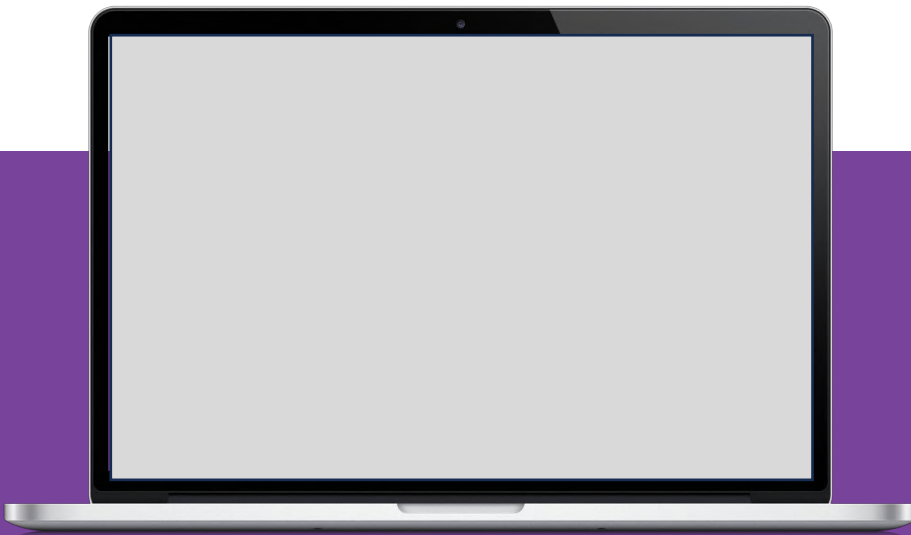
- Tourism can humanise rather than commodify places.
- Non-formal learning enhances empathy, critical thinking, and inclusion.
- Youth-led initiatives can become sustainable agents of peace and social cohesion.

By combining **mobility, memory, and meaning**, HADE illustrates how tourism can transcend economics to become a platform for connection and coexistence—a living example of a *Path to Peace* in Cyprus.



paths to peace

tourism with a purpose -
powered by a new generation



Follow Our Journey



www.pathstopace.eu

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