

# APPLICANT'S GUIDE

## *Youth, Peace & Security European Regional Consultation*

Brussels, 25-27 September 2017

An initiative of:



Peacebuilding

In association with:



Co-organised with:



Supported by:



## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Youth, Peace & Security European Regional Consultation**

Calling young people promoting peace and security in Europe!

We are seeking 40 young people<sup>1</sup> (between the age of 15 and 29) who are active, enthusiastic and invested in promoting peace and security across the European Union (EU), the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)<sup>2</sup> and the Western Balkans<sup>3</sup>, to help discuss and orient the role of youth in sustaining peace in their communities and countries.

As part of a series of regional consultations organised within the framework of the Progress study on Youth, Peace and Security, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), the European External Action Service, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the European Youth Forum and the European Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding<sup>4</sup>, will organise a European consultation on Youth, Peace and Security. The consultation will take place in Brussels, Belgium from 25 to 27 September 2017, and it will form part of a global effort to bolster action on the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 that calls for a greater role for young people in strengthening peace and security. The discussions from various regional consultations, and other discussions with young people throughout the world, will feed into the Progress study highlighting the positive contribution of young people to peacebuilding. The Progress study will be presented to the UN Security Council and Member States in early 2018. The European consultation in Brussels will comprise of strategic peer to peer discussions among 40 selected young people from the region.

The selection of participants will be made based on motivation and experience, with the majority coming from youth-led organisations. The organisers will ensure balance in terms of age, gender, geography and diversity among selected participants.

Successful applicants will be notified by email. All expenses, including travel and accommodation, of the selected participants will be provided for.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Call for Applications, the terms "young people" and "youth" are used interchangeably.

<sup>2</sup> Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

<sup>3</sup> the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo (the designation 'Kosovo' is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence)

<sup>4</sup> The European Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding includes the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, World Vision International and Search for Common Ground

All applications must be submitted by Wednesday, 2 August 2017 at 6 pm (Brussels time). Please read the Applicant's Guide for more information on the eligibility and application process before applying here.

For questions please write to [enquiries@youthpeacesecurity.com](mailto:enquiries@youthpeacesecurity.com)

We wish you the best of luck in the application, and we look forward to reviewing your application!

## **Background**

In December 2015, the UN Security Council adopted the ground-breaking [Resolution 2250 \(2015\) on Youth, Peace and Security](#). For the first time, the UN Security Council dedicated a resolution to the positive role youth<sup>5</sup> play in preventing conflict and violent extremism and in sustaining peace. UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 is premised on the fact that governments and the multilateral system have been challenged in effectively accessing, working with and fully including young people in peacebuilding, prevention efforts and decision-making at all levels. UNSCR 2250 mandates the Secretary-General "to carry out a progress study on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels", and to present the results of the study to Member States of the United Nations. The study is being undertaken as an independent, evidence-based and participatory research process, and will produce an operational report proposing a forward-looking agenda for the international community. It will provide the evidence of young women's and young men's engagement on peace and security issues and help overturn the negative stereotypes surrounding youth in conflict, by highlighting and promoting young people's active and positive contributions to sustaining peace.

The regional consultation on Youth, Peace and Security in Europe will represent the last regional step in a process of structured consultations with selected young men and women in all regions of the world. The European consultation will bring together young people promoting peace and security from the 28 Member States of the EU, the four Member States of the EFTA and six countries from the Western-Balkans.

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<sup>5</sup> For the purposes of this Concept Note, the terms "youth" and "young people" will be used interchangeably.

## **How to Apply**

The application process involves **submitting an on-line application form and optionally a creative submission. Please submit your application by Wednesday, 2 August 2017 at 6pm (Brussels time).** Please follow the steps below:

1. **Fill out the on-line application form.**

2. The **optional creative submission**, inspired by peacebuilding, can take the form of a video, a photo story/essay, a painting, a poem or a written story, etc. **You can choose to upload your submission or provide a link to it** in the appropriate section of the on-line application form.

In order to be evaluated, **your application has to be complete and submitted before the deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.**

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible, **applicants need to fulfil each and every one of the following criteria:**

- **Applicants should be between the age of 15 and 29 at the time of the consultation.**
  - Most participants will be selected from the age bracket 18-29, however, in order to capture the experiences and perspectives of younger people on peace and security, the **application of adolescents (15-18) is also encouraged.**
  - Child protection protocols require that **participants under the age of 18 will have to be chaperoned** to the place of consultation by a family member or an adult appointed by the parents. **Expenses of one chaperone will be covered for the selected participants.**
- **All applicants must be the citizens of and must currently reside in one of the following countries:**
  - **the Member States of the EU:** Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Croatia | Cyprus | Czech Republic | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Hungary | Ireland | Italy | Latvia | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Netherlands | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | United Kingdom
  - **the Member States of the EFTA:** Iceland | Liechtenstein | Norway | Switzerland
  - **the countries of the Western Balkans:** the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Montenegro | Serbia | Albania | Bosnia and Herzegovina and

- **Applications must be submitted in English. Candidates must be fluent in English.**
- **Applicants must be able to travel to and participate in the entire event in Brussels from 25 to 27 September 2017 (travelling on 24 and 28 September 2017).** Participants will be expected to **take part in side events** convened by the organisers **during their visit to Brussels.** Participants will also be expected to **make themselves available**, as far as practicable, **for possible follow-up events convened by the organisers in the course of 2017.**
- **Applicants must be involved in activities/activism and/or youth-led organisations promoting peace and security.** Promoting peace and security is understood in a broad sense – encompassing all aspects of conflict prevention and sustaining peace, with strong linkages to sustainable development and human rights –, including young people's political and democratic participation; youth leadership; promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; countering radicalisation leading to violent extremism; promoting mutual respect, tolerance and dialogue; violence reduction; promoting social cohesion and inclusion; peace education; promoting cybersecurity; combating climate change and its impacts and contributing to humanitarian assistance.
- **All applicants must demonstrate commitment, experience and a vision for youth and peacebuilding.**
- **Youth from various socioeconomic backgrounds, with disabilities, varied ethnic or religious backgrounds, minority groups, the LGBTI community, etc. are encouraged to apply.**
- **No applications from individuals employed by the United Nations or the European Union will be accepted.**

**Creative Submission guidelines:**

- Producing a **creative submission is optional.**
- The submission **should be inspired by peacebuilding**, can take the form of a video, a photo story/essay, a painting, a poem or a written story, etc.
- The submission **must be an original work and not previously submitted to another competition.**

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<sup>6</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

- **Any individuals featured in the submission must be identified by name and age. Any videos, photos or posters featuring a child** (defined as any individual under the age of 18) **must be accompanied by a consent form** duly filled and signed by the parent or legal guardian of the child.
- **You can use any language, but an English translation must be provided.**
- **All creative submissions will become the property of the co-organisers, regardless of whether the applicants are selected to participate in the consultation.** Any future usage of designs will give credit to their creators. With your submission, you are consenting to the use of your submission.

### **Selection Process and Evaluation**

In the **initial screening**, all applications will be reviewed **to assess their eligibility on the basis of the above criteria. Applications found eligible will be judged by a panel made up of the representatives of the organising partners. Applications will be judged and selected based on the answers provided and the quality of the creative submission** (where available). **The selection panel will also take note of the following guidelines** when selecting participants:

- **The selected applicants are not chosen as representatives of their country, but to represent the diversity of youth, in particular organised youth, promoting peace and security across Europe.**
- **Aim for gender balance** to ensure equal participation of female and male participants.
- **Aim for an appropriate mix of rural and urban based participants.**
- **Aim for diversity among participants:** youth from various socioeconomic backgrounds, with disabilities, varied ethnic or religious backgrounds, minority groups, the LGBTI community, etc.

**Selection notifications will be sent via email between 16 and 23 August 2017. Only those selected to participate will be notified.**

We wish you the best of luck in the application, and we look forward to reviewing your proposal!

### **More Information**

For questions please write to [enquiries@youthpeacesecurity.com](mailto:enquiries@youthpeacesecurity.com)

For more information on the Youth, Peace and Security European Regional Consultation, please see concept among the Background Documents.

**Additional Resources:**

- Click [here](#) to access UNSCR 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security in all official UN languages
- Click [here](#) to visualise the UNSCR 2250 Infographics
- Click [here](#) to read the Amman Youth Declaration (2015)
- Click [here](#) to access UNSCR 2282 (2016) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture
- Click [here](#) to download the Overview of the Progress study