

Proposal



Organisation for citizenship
+32 50 35 27 20
info@ryckvelde.be
www.ryckvelde.be

In 2014, we commemorate the start of the First World War, 100 years ago. On this occasion we want young Europeans to reflect on that time period, and let them try to generate useful knowledge they can use to strengthen themselves and our society.

According to MacMillan (Oxford University), the situation in the world today is similar to the one before 1914. 1) We too see shifts in the international order with some powers rising and others declining. The world has its trouble spots where local tensions or rivalries have the potential to drag in larger powers (e.g. the Ukraine and Syria). 2) In periods of stronger globalization, people often turn their backs on it by taking refuge strongly rooted national, ethnic, or religious identities. Now as then we see similar fears of enemies within countries growing across Europe today whether of Muslims or migrants from Bulgaria or Romania, or in the shape of social or ethnic conflicts, etc. These conflicts became more significant, due to the financial and economic crisis in Europe.

MacMillans' recipe to prevent war/conflict is: 'institutions are important, leadership is important, we are important'.

All project partners are convinced that new generations should learn from the past to shape a positive future. According to research youngsters today take peace for granted. Therefore, this project aims to show the 60 youngsters participating in this project that conflicts are an integral part of society and that we need to develop strategies to deal with them in a positive and sustainable manner. This way they can reflect on the future they have in mind for Europe.

Throughout the project, the youngsters will gain knowledge about past and current conflicts in and outside Europe. They also develop civic and problem-solving skills, as they learn how to consider issues from different perspectives.

By bringing together 60 youngsters from different European countries we aim to confront them with the possible impact and consequence of war and conflict, but also with the opportunities of conflict resolution. That way they learn to be responsible and solidary with the society they live in. Peace education is for the project partners therefore a means to develop our future in a different way.

The project partners propose _____, preceded by a _____, called _____.

The project starts with analyzing the dynamics of a conflict in the past: World War I, and its causes and consequences. Then, the participants have a closer look at conflicts today at the border of the EU, conflicts that happen closer to the life of the participants, such as the Ukraine or Syria. Also conflicts within the EU today are discussed. In the (future) member states, we determine e.g. existing tensions between different ethnic groups in Turkey or raising tensions as a consequence of nationalist feelings in Spain or Belgium. But also between the (future) member states, we notice tensions/frictions: between north and south, east and west, citizens and politicians, between generations, etc.

the future with a well thought-out voice and open attitude. It adopts a grass-roots and innovative approach with the aim to bring Europe closer to its citizens.

initiates, develops and supports projects that encourage people and ultimately nations to live together harmoniously in a diverse Europe. It promotes respect for diversity, both individual and collective and works to strengthen people's physical, psychological and moral integrity

is an inclusive youth organisation working for the intellectual, cultural, spiritual and health development of the youth through cultural, education and sport projects. YMCA Dobrich is very successful in developing projects that involve arts and culture, theatre, music and performing arts, seminars, conferences, youth development, intercultural communication, education and sport. The team is very competent and experienced in formal and non-formal education.

is an organization which works for peace, promoting community life to achieve comprehension and solidarity between different societies and respect for the environment, peace education and fair, sustainable development. Therefore, its main activity is the organization of work camps, long term volunteering programs and international youth exchanges which are prepared every year.

SCI-Catalunya organizes seminars and trainings in peace education and in international cooperation and nowadays it is running a cooperation project in Palestine and it has had cooperation projects with Guatemala, Lebanon, Western Sahara and Afghanistan. Furthermore, it is accredited as a coordinator, sending and hosting organization for EVS. So it is promoting throughout the year the youth participation in Long term volunteering.

– the International Network for Cultural Exchange and Active Citizenship is a NGO that builds an international and independent network of engaged people. They are working for a vital civil society and for cultural and language diversity: in Europe and its neighbouring regions. They qualify and establish space for encounters and dialogue. MitOst Association was founded in 1996 in Germany and until today has been growing up to 1400 members in 40 countries. In addition to the membership activities the organization is running programs and projects in the fields of active citizenship and cultural management. Our focus regions are Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. On the European level, MitOst is promoting a wide range of professional and volunteer activities in the areas of cultural exchange and international cultural management. With educational programs, volunteer project work, trainings and conferences we support the idea of active citizenship and border crossing dialogue in Europe. For our network of members, partners and committed individuals, the annual International MitOst Festival is the highlight of the year. We connect volunteers and professionals, inhabitants and festival visitors in an inspiring atmosphere. The last festival 2013 took place in Leipzig (Germany).

are people who are dreaming of a modern, open, and liberal Poland. Those, to whom a democratic, effective and citizen-friendly government is a key goal, and who help accomplish this goal while enjoying themselves, forming new friendships, and furthering their own interests.

The Projekt: Polska Association is a democratic, nationwide membership-based organization open to anyone, a decision-making environment composed of twenty-one local circles working to better their local communities, and over 300 activists cooperating for the achievement of common goals.

The Projekt: Polska Foundation is a framework, a group of professionals with immense experience in direct action: entrepreneurs, leading NGO heads, civil servants.

, Centre for Community Development and Mobilization, started as a collaborative project in the Örebro region in Sweden in 1984. It was initiated as an NGO foundation by the county council in 1993, the aim being to strengthen community work and mobilization and promote competence in this field.

Voluntary organizations, associations and public or private bodies may consult Cesam concerning community development, active citizenship, democracy and empowerment strategies and practice. Cesam can assist in any part of the process (initial phase, implementation, evaluation). The assignments can be on a short or long-term basis.

GEGED) is a non-governmental youth organisation. It acts as a youth centre and volunteer source for the social problems of the town. It was established in July/2007 and since then it has hosted around 350 volunteers and send many Turkish Volunteers to EU and Non EU countries. Our organisation provides assistance in social field of homeless children, homeless teenagers, victims of violence, mentally disabled, children of home seekers from Syria and Afghanistan. GEGED also organizes intercultural events, training courses, seminars and research projects in field of education.

end of september/beg. of october 2014 in Antwerp (Belgium)

Day 1

AM - Arrival of the delegation leaders

16h - Presentation of project + Peacha Cucha presentation of each partner organisation

19h - Joint meal in town

Day 2

8h - Finalisation of the program of the conference

10h - break

10h15 - Validation of the competences

11h - Practical and financial arrangements

12h - Lunch

13h - National Workshop

15h - end

18/10/2014 in 7 countries

The selected participants meet per country. They receive more information on the project in general and on the other participants. On a RealtimeBoard (online collaboration tool), every group presents itself to the others. Then, they also work on the theme.

They create a video to briefly present the impact of WWI on their country. Then they debate on 2 statements about a recent conflict, that are presented in 2 videos. In a video they present the voting result before the debate, arguments pro and con (max. 30 seconds) and the result of the final vote after the debate. Both clips are posted on RealtimeBoard. The participants are encouraged to comment on the other videos.

24-30/11/2014 in Brussels, BE

Opening of the conference, by welcoming the participants and giving an overview on the programme and the house rules. Then, every group presents itself in a creative way, participates to some ice breaking activities and an informal drink.

'Conflict in the past'

The participants visit Ieper, where they perform experience-based activities to discover WWI. During an (inter)active visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum, they learn about facts and figures of the Great War. On the British cemetery Tine Cot the group discovers the impact of the war. Divided into mixed groups they perform an assignment. By solving they find a code that leads them to a victim of WWI, from a region involved in a contemporary conflict. The visit to Ieper ends with an exchange of information on the impact of WWI in the partner countries.

: 'Conflicts today'

We start with an introduction on conflicts and its causes. In the morning session, the group discusses conflicts at the borders of Europe, e.g. Syria, Ukraine. The participants are split up in 2 groups, each discussing a different external conflict, coached by an external expert. In the afternoon session the groups work on 2 conflicts within the EU today, e.g. youth unemployment, democracy. The workshops will be worked out by means of creative and activating methods.

During both workshops, the delegation leaders are spread over the group. They gather the results of each workshop in a dynamic presentation and work out a draft version of the preamble of the Peace Treaty, where causes of and threats for conflicts are described.

'Peace Treaty - preamble'. In the final session, the group results and the draft preamble are presented. The participants reflect in different teams on it, and propose amendments for adaptations or additions. The groups share their conclusions in a plenary fishbowl discussion.

: 'Peace Treaty - Institutions are / leadership is important'

The European cooperation was designed to create peace. Therefore, the participants discover the EU in Brussels. During a walk in the European quarter participants get an introduction on the EU, its institutions and the Parliamentarium. In the afternoon, they visit the EP and meet MEPs to discuss the role of the EU in solving conflicts and leadership. The participants individually write down ideas for the part 2 of the Treaty.

: 'Peace Treaty'

First, the delegation leaders present the final version of the preamble. The group votes on each article. Articles that are not accepted, are discussed until a compromise is found. Then, part 2 of the Peace Treaty is designed. Participants formulate recommendations on the role of institutions (EU) and leadership to deal with conflicts in a positive way. This part is split up in 4 topics. There are 2 working groups per topic, using a method to swap results, coached by a delegation leader.

In the afternoon, the 3rd part is realized: 'we are important'. The participants work out 4 personal commitments. All participants first do the exercise 'I plead guilty', which results in 10 ways humans can destroy society. By means of the open space method ideas are gathered to prevent this from happening. In 10 groups, the participants work out the best ideas in a 3-step manual. The results are presented. The delegation leaders present the final 'Peace Treaty' to the group.

Presentation

In groups, they put the 3-step manual into Moovly animated videos. The videos are used as input for the public debate in the afternoon. This debate is open to the general public, presents the Treaty and discusses part 3. The debate and conference ends with a drink, signing the Peace Treaty and handing out the Youth passes.

Departure

: the participants launch a campaign on Facebook to find support for their Peace Treaty, and evaluation of the project.

CONTACT

Elieen Spillebeen

elien.spillebeen@ryckvelde.be

info@ryckvelde.be

+32 50 352720

