



3RD East Project's Regional Exchange Meeting

YOUTH TRANSFORMING CONFLICT ONLINE & OFFLINE

Capacity Building and Regional Networking of the Local Organizations

in the Western Balkans and Moldova

Vaqarr, Albania 19 – 23 September 2015

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The experiences of the East Project have shown that partner youth organizations in the Balkans are often confronted with similar difficulties and challenges. They also often have the same needs in terms of training or exchange; e.g. with regards to project management, communication, fundraising, etc. The organizations often operate on a local or regional level and do not have the possibility of sharing their experiences and expertise, nor developing a network, even though several organizations are active in similar fields. Exchange meetings are organized with the aim of reinforcing capacities of the organizations and skills of their employees and volunteers, thus furthering the organizations and their mutual exchange.

2. BACKGROUND

East Project is a project lead by the National Youth Council of Switzerland, on a mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The East Project has been supporting youth organizations from the Western Balkans since 1991 and is currently focuses on the non-UE countries of the region, and Moldova. East Project facilitates the exchange between Swiss and Balkan youth by giving them the opportunity to develop common projects towards a better living-together. The regional exchange meeting is based on a youth-to-youth approach to learn jointly from the issues faced by youth organizations and find solutions together.



3. TOPIC

This year's topic will be "Youth Transforming Conflict Online & Offline". Conflicts have a broad scope and might affect young people at different levels: at the personal level, at the level of the civil society organization that they are involved in and at the level of the community. Even when young people are not directly involved in a conflict, they are always among the first ones to be affected by its negative consequences through the psychological damage, destruction of social life and opportunities for self-development.

Online dimension of the programme gains importance because of the inalienable impact of social media and internet on the lives of young people. Internet opens great opportunities to develop, communicate, learn and cooperate, but it also exposes young people to hate speech and cyberbullying that are often the reflections of conflicts in the community.

During this regional meeting, we will therefore learn how to face diverse conflict situations online and offline, and different methods to transform the conflict, based on the method developed by the "Youth Partnership" and various approaches within the framework of the human rights education. "Youth Partnership" is a joint initiative between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth.

At this regional meeting, the participants will strengthen their knowledge and develop practical skills in the following areas:

Facing conflict: Nowadays and especially in Europe, youth work faces different conflict environment. A conflict can have very different forms, either internal or external to a youth organization, and can influence youth work in very different manners. Experience-sharing is helpful to let people discover different kinds of conflict situations, and to observe how it has been dealt with.

Understanding conflict: In order to transform a conflict, yet to understand a situation, a conflict analysis is necessary, in which the history, actors and dynamics of the conflict are observed. This "scanning" of the situation helps consider the escalation of the conflict and break down its different components. It also defines your personal part in it and finds the most appropriate instruments to effectively deal with the issue constructively. Intercultural misunderstanding is an often cause of conflict, and this aspect will be particularly addressed during the seminar.

Working with conflict: A conflict intervention is to be thought through or it can have bad consequences, just as a non-intervention can have. It is easy to notice when a conflict is taking place, it is more difficult to know how to deal with it. Participants will learn about different methods to intervene in the conflict thanks to a broad set of tools that, when correctly put into practice, enable to gain a positive outcome of a conflict.

Deconstructing hate speech: hate speech online is always the reflection of conflicts and social tensions happening offline. For young people as civil society activists it is very important to be able to define hate speech and to reduce its impact for themselves and for the target group of their organization

4. WHERE & WHEN

Vaqarr, Albania on 19th – 23rd September 2015.
Albanian Center for Rehabilitation of Blind People



5. DRAFT AGENDA

Saturday, 19th September	Morning: Arrival of the participants Introduction and presentations of participants
Sunday, 20th September	Facing and understanding conflict: definition, causes, dilemmas
Monday, 21st September	Working with conflict: methods and tools for non-violent communication
Tuesday, 22nd September	Facing conflict & hate speech online
Wednesday, 23 rd September	Morning : Conclusions and closing event Afternoon : Departure of the participants

The experts on youth, conflict and non-violent communication will be Iana Minochkina and Luis Bektashi from Youth Center "Perspektiva", Albania, and Oltiana Rama, from PVN "Projekte Vullnetare Nderkombetare Albania" - "International Voluntary Projects Albania".

The event will be moderated by Sophie Neuhaus, International Officer, National Youth Council of Switzerland.

6. PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING

Participants must comply with the following criteria:

- ✓ Be nominated by a youth organization in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia or Switzerland
- ✓ Be aged between 18-30
- ✓ Be motivated by the topic of the event
- ✓ Be committed to take active part in the whole meeting
- ✓ Be able to communicate actively in English

Selection procedure: Selection will be undertaken by the Swiss National Youth Council regarding the above-mentioned criteria. The geographic origin and the purpose of ensuring a broad scope of organizations will guide the choice of participants.

Number of participants: 24

N.B.: An organization can nominate maximum 2 people.



7. TECHNICAL DETAILS

The Swiss National Youth Council will fully reimburse the following costs:

- ✓ Travel costs of the participants to the meeting place (up to 190 euros – CHF 200.-)
- ✓ Accommodation (4 nights, single room) and meals

Participants are expected to arrive on 19th September (morning) and leave on 23rd September (afternoon). If not possible, a 5th night (18th or 23rd) can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Language of the meeting: English

Shuttle buses will be arranged from Tirana to Vaqarr. More information will be shared with selected participants.

Insurance: Partners on this project have no travel or liability insurance covering the guests or their possessions during travel to the meeting or at the venue.

8. DEADLINE

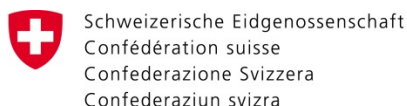
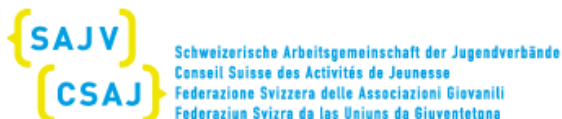
Application forms should reach us at sophie.neuhaus@sajv.ch, with CC. to youth4perspektiva@gmail.com, by Tuesday August 4 2015, 23:59.

9. CONTACT

For questions concerning the content of the event, please contact Sophie Neuhaus from National Youth Council of Switzerland at sophie.neuhaus@sajv.ch and/or Iana Minochkina and Luis Bekteshi from Youth Center "Perspektiva" at youth4perspektiva@gmail.com.

10. PARTNERS

The East project is a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and is implemented by National Youth Council of Switzerland. The organization of the East Project's Regional Exchange Meeting is a collaboration between the [National Youth Council of Switzerland](#) and [Youth Center "Perspektiva"](#) from Albania.



**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



Application Form

Deadline: Tuesday August 4, 2015

To be sent to sophie.neuhaus@sajv.ch with CC. to youth4perspektiva@gmail.com

Regional exchange meeting: Capacity Building and regional networking of the local organisations in the Western Balkan on the topic of "Youth Transforming Conflict Online and Offline", September 19-23, Vaqarr, Albania.

All three parts (details, motivation and experience, signature form, 1 page each) must be filled for the application to be taken into account.

1/3 - DETAILS

Personal Information

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Nationality: _____

Personal Address: _____ Phone number: _____

Any Special needs: _____

Organization Information

Name of Organization: _____

Function or role in the organization: _____

Organization Address: _____ Phone number: _____



2/3 - MOTIVATION FORM

<p>1. Why do you (and your organization) want to take part in this exchange meeting?</p>	
<p>2. What are your organization's main projects and how are they related to the topic of the meeting?</p>	
<p>3. Please describe some of the experiences you have had that are relevant to the topic of the meeting</p>	
<p>4. How are you and your organization involved at a regional level?</p>	
<p>5. How do you and your organization plan to use the skills developed during the meeting and its opportunity of networking?</p>	
<p>6. Regarding the topic of the seminar, which aspects would you like to see treated?</p>	



3/3 - SIGNATURE FORM

To be completed by applicant

"I commit myself to actively participate in the regional exchange meeting from September 19th to 23rd, 2015"

Place and date: _____

Full name, acting as signature: _____

To be completed by a representative of nominating organization

"I hereby confirm that our organization supports his/her application and that the applicant will do her/his best to represent our organization during the regional exchange meeting."

Name of Organization: _____

Position in the organization: _____

Place and date: _____

Full name, acting as signature: _____