

Guidelines for Applying the SDGs in Youth Organizations

Empower - Learn - Lead - Expand: Youth4SDGs Changing the Rules
Transforming our World

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

EILE project is resulting from the current global challenges and local young needs. Advance in terms of human development has been uneven and deep challenges remain: many young people experiencing discrimination, limited political inclusion, high levels of poverty, limited access to health systems, educational opportunities and decent jobs. Young people are at the front-line of the impacts of unsustainable models due to their marginalization and higher vulnerability. Young people need to learn, acquire competence to build inclusive sustainable models of development. They need to shape the vision of the future to create it. Locally, young people are affected by the lack of opportunity by the society and labour market, they lack the knowledge and need to develop skills about sustainable methods of development.

EILE project aims to foster participation and cooperation of young people for sustainable development in the three peninsulas of South Europe through: youth empowerment, fostering inclusive development and building resilient communities and nations.



DISCLAIMER:

This project has been co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

UN Agenda 2030 & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 UN Agenda focuses on solving crucial matters that require attention, aiming at improving major issues - like Poverty, Good Health and Well-Being, Zero Hunger and many more.



Let's recap - What are the Sustainable Development Goals?



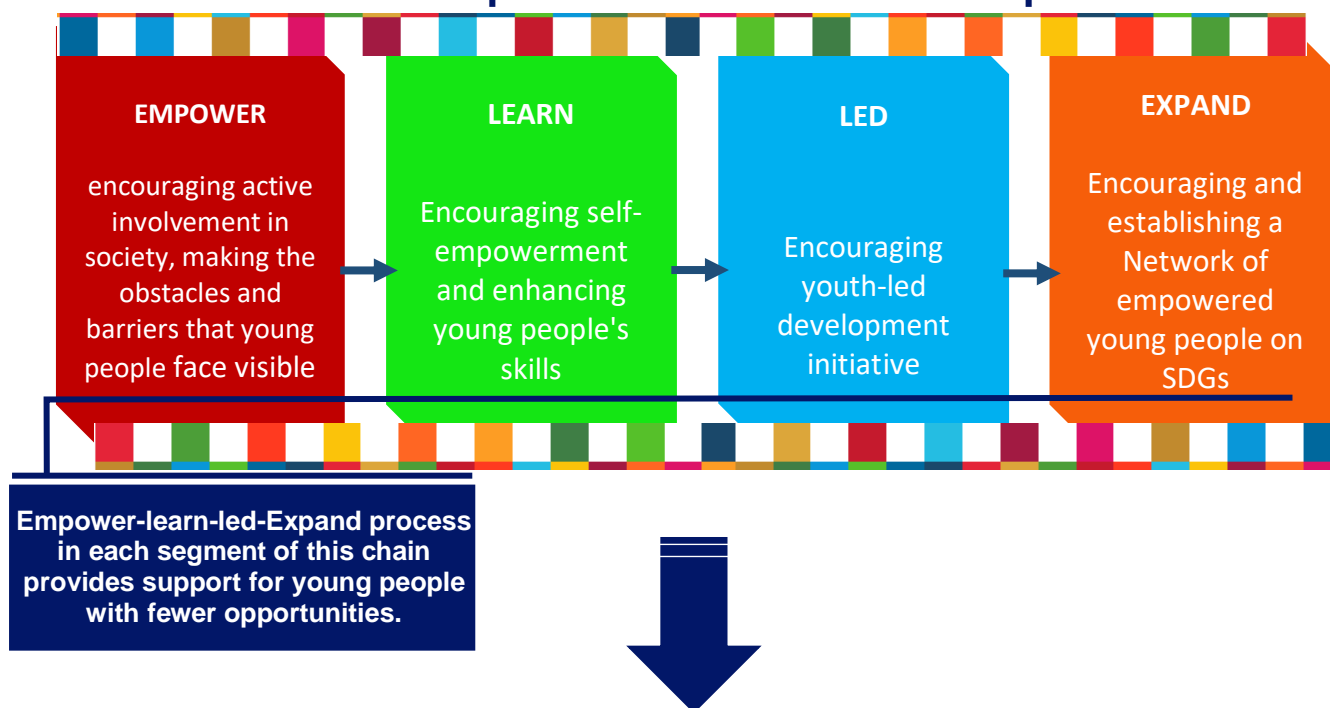
The **17 SDGs** cover all three aspects of sustainable human development:

- the **social, environmental and economic dimension**.

The goals that have been set are a blueprint that will be used to achieve a better and much more sustainable future for everyone. Addressing these global challenges is not easy. On a daily basis, we face more and more challenges and the Agenda is one of the most effective ways to solve the problems.

How to help and enlighten more young people about Sustainable Development Goals?

Chain: Empower – Learn – Lead – Expand



Awareness – Understanding – Action



#Youth4SDGs Changing the Rules Transforming our World

1. Guidelines - What do they cover?

“The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.” (2030 Agenda, paragraph 53)

The 2030 Agenda is the international community's ambitious response to today's most pressing challenges.

Young people are deeply embedded within the Agenda:

- specifically names young people as “critical agents of change”
- Young people represent a priority across its 17 goals
- 65 out of the 169 SDG targets reference young people explicitly or implicitly, with a focus on their empowerment, participation and well-being
- more than 20 youth-inclusive targets are spread over 9 SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 16

The Guidelines cover these 9 SDGs thus a brief OVERVIEW is given for each of them, as well as PROPOSALS and POSSIBLE INITIATIVES that are mainly aimed at young people with fewer opportunities and are the result of partnership work on the EIEE project.

They are born by the idea that when young people improve their knowledge and enhance skills and if they are supported to develop themselves and involved, they can drive change in their own communities and countries.



The basic assumptions of the theory of change are:

- if we advance the skills and competences of young people acting in an enabling environment with enhanced capacities and support, then empowered young people can take advantage of opportunities for their development and can act effectively as citizens, leaders, innovators and agents of change in their communities and abroad in partnership contributing to overall Sustainable Development and peace.
- if empowered young people will be engaged to influence decision-making then they will be able to contribute as positive agents of change.



2. Guidelines - Who are they for?

The guidelines are intended for youth organizations and youth workers, ie all those who work for and with young people.

For this reason, the guidelines recommend:

- ✓ development of capacities and skills to enable a strategic enhanced environment for young empowerment for their full inclusion and participation, and leadership
- ✓ those who work for and with young people to have the skills and capacities to receive, listen and respond to the voices of young people and to propose inclusive policies for all youth
- ✓ young people to have enhanced skills and conditions to be able to articulate their needs and propose solutions
- ✓ celebrate and recognize young people's achievements and contribution



3. Guidelines - How to use

→ YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

INCLUDE IN YOUR STRATEGY OR PROJECTS

Review the Guidelines and include initiatives in your strategy or choose existing projects and find out what you can customize or upgrade in them.

INTERNAL CAMPAIGNS

Organize internal challenges for your members and volunteers to initiate some actions from the Guidelines and identify the best achievement.

INFORM YOUR NETWORK

You can raise awareness and engage people in/outside of your organization by spreading the Guidelines through your channels and letting them adopt the initiatives in their daily work.

ASK SUPPORT FROM OTHER DRIVERS OF CHANGE

These Guidelines will help you to take the first step - engage your people, but, also, the Global Goals are the responsibility of governments, educational institutions, corporations, the third sector or civil society, NGOs, etc. Connect, ask for help and support - suggest them cooperation and networking.

→ YOUTH WORKERS

INCLUDE IN YOUR PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES

Review projects and initiatives organized by your NGO/CSO and see how the actions from the Guidelines can fit into your project plan and empower more young people.

OFFER YOUR EXPERTISE

Also, you can choose existing projects run by young people in your local community which need your help with expertise or resources.

EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE SDGs

You can organize training or workshops or use the SDG Curriculum to educate young people about the SDGs and let them explore which initiatives they want to organize.

SUPPORT INITIATIVES FROM THE GUIDELINES

A big part of the initiatives and guidelines require support for young people to realize their ideas to support the SDGs - consider how you can provide them with spaces or opportunities..

The best way to support young people is to include them in activities and initiatives.

These Guidelines do not claim that accommodate all the things you can do for young people to achieve Global Goals. Consider them as a guidance tool to discover what you are dedicated about and get some ideas of what is in your capacity to help. Be innovative and create your initiatives and actions! (just make sure they match the description of the Global Goals).



#1 SDG

OVERVIEW

**1 NO
POVERTY**



Youth in poverty have trouble participating in the activities of youth organizations. Because of the social and economic conditions in which they live, they have the following disadvantages:

- ⇒ They cannot participate in activities with financial contribution
- ⇒ They can hardly have the technological tools to lead an association or fill essential roles
- ⇒ Often do not have the tools to increase their knowledge and skills
- ⇒ They have difficulty traveling and having experiences
- ⇒ They do not have the opportunity to reach to the information, or the information does not arrive to them

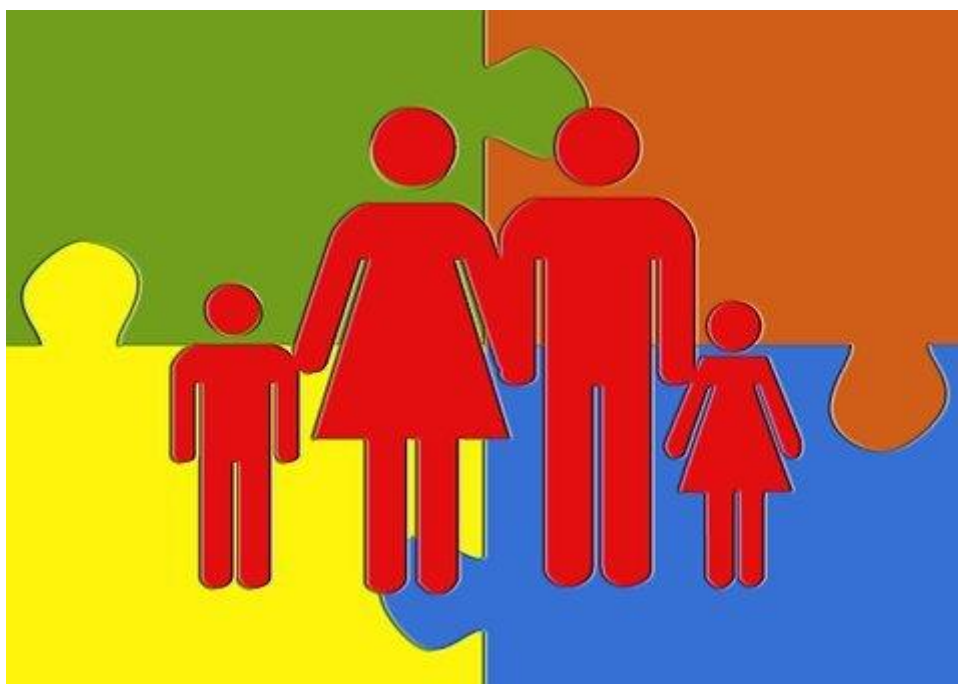
In 2019, 12.8 per cent of young workers in the world lived in extreme poverty, compared to only 6 per cent of all adult workers.

PROPOSALS

- Have an organization solidarity fund to allow everyone to participate in activities
- Create common areas where you can have access to internet and technological tools
- Provide empowerment activities accessible free of charge or at subsidized rates, for those living in poverty
- Activate planning activities to recover economic resources for cultural and educational exchanges at regional, national and international level
- Manage ways for the information to reach to these young people, collect information and put in strategic places these youngsters go to

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Provide for a mutual fund of up to 3% of the association's available resources, to ensure universal access to activities
- Establish contacts with public and private entities to create common spaces usable by young people with fewer opportunities
- Have at least one young person with fewer opportunities on the decision-making bodies of the association
- Create moments of shared planning within youth organizations, to have an analysis of the needs of all people, including those in poverty
- Create opportunities in the organization for these young people to learn specific tools and competencies
- Workshops and open spaces for the young people to gain practical professional knowledge for free





#2 SDG

OVERVIEW

2 ZERO
HUNGER



Some young people suffer from hunger, many of them, particularly the poor and in vulnerable situations, including infants, do not have safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round, our aim would be to end all forms of malnutritions.

- ⇒ Many times, the only healthy and complete meals vulnerable young people eat is in schools, and only one meal per day

PROPOSALS

- Promote the issue of hunger for young people and understand the issue inside the community
- Raise awareness of the problem and let these young people they should not be ashamed of these situations, and they can communicate with youth organizations to ask for help
- Other young people with more opportunities can bring foods to the organization into a source of "food bank", in a weekly basis
- Any time the Youth Organization has an event, instead of a free entry, each participant must bring food and groceries, such as rice, milk, eggs, etc. These will later be given to the youth facing hunger and malnutrition problems

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Create programs about food waste and the restaurants, cafés, bakeries, etc. That usually do not sell some foods, instead of going to the garbage, the Youth Organization can create sustainable ways to make this food arrive to young people facing hunger problems
- Food Bank initiative with partnerships with private and public institutions
- Initiatives and funding for public and private places to give out meals for these young people
- Organize agricultural workshops or (urban) farms so that healthy and varied foods can be raised and cropped to then be delivered to these young people





#4 SDG

OVERVIEW

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



All youth have a right to education. While education must not be reduced to considerations of youth livelihoods and transitions to the world of work, it is widely accepted that this is a major aspect of youth education.

- ⇒ At the end of 2019, millions of children and young people were still out of school, and more than half of those in school did not meet minimum proficiency standards in reading and numeracy
- ⇒ In 2018, 258 million children, adolescents and young people aged 6 to 17 still did not attend school, which represented 17 per cent of the global population of that age group

Closing schools to slow the spread of COVID-19 harms learning outcomes and the social and behavioural development of children and young people. Although distance learning is provided to many students, children and young people in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, such as those living in remote areas, extreme poverty, fragile states and refugee camps, they do not have the same access. The digital divide will widen existing gaps in equality concerning education.

PROPOSALS

- Convene and support platforms and fora enabling and promoting global and cross-regional knowledge exchange on youth empowerment for sustainable development and peace
- Establish partnerships with government entities, higher education institutions, non-governmental organization to improve education curricula
- Create programs (internships, traineeships, etc.) that give young people the opportunity to develop their skills

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Develop an SDG Calendar that will be sent monthly to youth organizations and youth workers with the events for the following month and 3 suggested activities to be implemented with young people in their community.
- Mentor young people. It's a thoughtful, inspiring and a powerful way to guide someone towards a better future.
- Teach the goals to young people, in this way they can see that a better world is possible.





#5 SDG

OVERVIEW

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Many challenges remain: discriminatory laws and social norms remain pervasive, women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of leadership.

- ⇒ Women spend three times more hours than men on unpaid household chores
- ⇒ In 2019, every fifth young woman aged 20 to 24 worldwide was married in childhood, which less than every fourth in 2004 and with the largest number in sub-Saharan Africa, with more than every third young woman
- ⇒ In 2019, 28 per cent of management positions in the world were held by women, which is a small increase from 25 per cent in 2000
- ⇒ As of 1 January 2020, the representation of women in single or lower houses of the national parliament reached 24.9 per cent, which is slightly higher compared to 22.3 per cent in 2015

PROPOSALS

- Promoting a nonbinary approach in the activities
- Gender mainstreaming: Striving to promote gender diversity within the activities managed by your activities (board of directors, internal team, educational programs, events)
- The activities implemented should incorporate the principles of gender equality by creating an atmosphere of gender equality
- Gender balance should be understood as a balance between gender representation rights, with respect to the individuals that don't want to associate themselves with a specific gender (non-binary)

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Promote young women's participation and leadership in public life
- Establish a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of violence at work, including verbal/ and/ or physical abuse and prevent sexual harassment
- Assure sufficient participation of women – 50% or greater – in decision-making at all levels and across all activities
- Promote good examples of women in positions of leadership



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



#8 SDG

OVERVIEW

- ⇒ The unprecedented shock to the world's labour markets is expected to result in a decrease of around 10.5 per cent in aggregate working hours in the second quarter of 2020, equivalent to 305 million full-time workers.
- ⇒ In 2018, the rate of growth of global real GDP per capita was 2 per cent. In addition, the rate for least developed countries was 4.5 per cent in 2018, less than the 7 per cent growth rate targeted in the 2030 Agenda.
- ⇒ Globally, 61 per cent of workers were in informal employment in 2016.
- ⇒ In 2019, 22 per cent of the world's young people were not in employment, education or training, a figure that has hardly changed since 2005.
- ⇒ According to data for 2019 from 102 countries, 98 per cent had a youth employment strategy or a plan to develop one in the near future.

PROPOSALS

- Propose activities that have the capacity to increase soft and hard skills of young people
- Use the activities of associations, to promote the specialization of young people in specific tasks

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Increase opportunities for meetings between young people and economic operators in the area
- Use European programs such as Erasmus+ and Esc to provide answers in the area of training and employment
- Make connections between youth organizations and schools to foster opportunities





#10 SDG

OVERVIEW

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



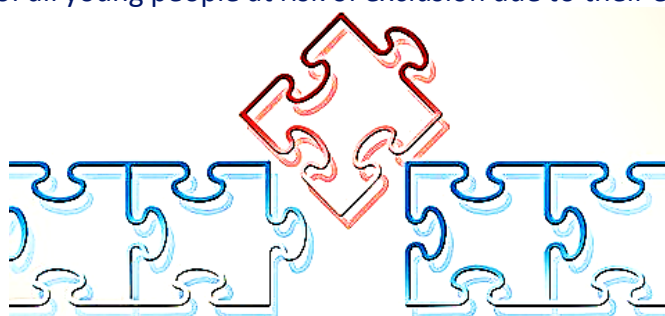
- ⇒ The COVID-19 crisis is hitting the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries the hardest and threatens to have a particularly damaging impact on the poorest countries.
- ⇒ In 73 of the 90 countries with comparable data during the period 2012–2017, the bottom 40 per cent of the population saw its incomes grow.
- ⇒ One in five persons reported having personally experienced discrimination on at least one ground of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law.
- ⇒ In 2018, total resource flows for development to developing countries from Development Assistance Committee donors, multilateral agencies and other key providers were \$271 billion.

PROPOSALS

- Have an approach to the inclusion of all diversity in youth associations: in the case of youth especially regarding the disabled, migrants, different sexual orientations and people in economic and/or educational poverty
- Preventing economic poverty from becoming a discriminator for participation in youth activities
- Promote social inclusion of all

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Adopt internal policies of equality and inclusion, including in the governing bodies of youth organizations
- To encourage the participation of all young people at risk of exclusion due to their economic or social status





#11 SDG

OVERVIEW

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Rapid urbanization has resulted in a growing number of slum dwellers, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure and services and worsening air pollution.

- ⇒ More than 1 billion slum dwellers worldwide suffer from a lack of adequate housing, no running water at home, shared toilets, few or no waste management systems, overcrowded public transport and limited access to formal health-care facilities.
- ⇒ Access to adequate, reliable and safe public transport is a basic urban need.
- ⇒ Most urban areas recorded a general increase in the extent of built-up area (defined as the presence of buildings) per person.
- ⇒ The share of land allocated to streets and open spaces, which is critical to cities' productivity and the social and health dimensions of their populations, averaged only about 16 per cent globally.
- ⇒ Industrial pollutants and urban waste are highly selective of their victims—they always attack the poorest and most socially and educationally disempowered members of our community
- ⇒ Alongside environmental destruction is the increasing impoverishment of the world's poor. It is now thought that six out of 10 of our future children will grow up in cities, in poverty, at risk

Rapid urban growth creates huge imbalances between the available resources and the needs of the population. If cities do not develop in sustainable ways, the impact of this growth on their infrastructure will be the continuance of large-scale poverty and urban slums.

PROPOSALS

- Decline of urban population
- Improvement of settlements in urban areas
- Improvement of public transportation
- Conduct an environmental assessment of the activities implemented by youth organizations
- Place the issue of sustainability at the heart of the association's activities
- Make participants aware of the organizations, the actions each person can take to make their community sustainable



POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Make an environmental assessment of each initiative by finding the critical issues to overcome
- Propose activities with the schools of which the children are a part, to improve the sustainability of those same schools
- Propose actions shared with other associations in the territory, to make the SDGs guidelines applied by territorial systems
- Cooperation with institutions and local authorities for programs that aim at the improvement of slums with resources that can be found in every area through charities and with the work of volunteers
- Training to young people who can move to rural areas that will teach them how to work from home – online
- Initiatives and funding for the creation of open spaces in cities
- Inform young people about alternative means of transportation, e.g. initiatives with bicycles
- Run social campaigns to promote the SDGs





#13 SDG

OVERVIEW

13 CLIMATE ACTION



There has been a global average temperature of 1.1°C above estimated pre-industrial levels, greenhouse gas emissions are projected to drop by 6 per cent in 2020, and air quality has improved as a result of travel bans and the economic slowdown resulting from the pandemic. However, all these changes are only temporary, so governments and businesses should accelerate the transitions needed to achieve the Paris Agreement, redefine the relationship with the environment and make systemic shifts and transformational changes to lower greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient economies and societies, and have a national disaster risk reduction strategy.

- ⇒ From 1880 to 2012, average global temperature increased by 0.85°C
- ⇒ Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and sea level has risen
- ⇒ Given current concentrations and on-going emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century, the increase in global temperature will exceed 1.5°C compared to 1850 to 1900 for all but one scenario
- ⇒ Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by almost 50 per cent since 1990
- ⇒ The historic Paris Agreement provides an opportunity for countries to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius

PROPOSALS

- Deep understanding of the importance of the environment preservation
- Assessing emissions from each activity
- Evaluate how it can decrease the environmental impact of youth organization sites
- Evaluate how much travel is required to perform activities and how to optimize it
- Evaluate whether it is possible to abandon fossil fuels to carry out their activities
- Inform audience about the Paris Agreement and other relevant frameworks/initiatives and their targets that have been set for climate change
- Change lifestyle, especially in big cities

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Arrange shared travel for youth organization members
- Conduct environmental impact testing <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>
- Apply best practices to decrease carbon footprint <https://www.nytimes.com/guides/year-of-living-better/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint>
- Projects promoting recycling and other activities to protect the environment in cooperation with schools, universities, public institutions
- Use of social media and social media influencers to inform about the importance of the environmental preservation
- Creation of groups with volunteers that will show children and young people environment-friendly ways of doing everyday activities
- Promotion of important dates regarding environment days globally through all means of communication





#16 SDG

OVERVIEW

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



The 2030 Agenda, as a guiding thread, considers that Youth empowerment is both an imperative of human rights and a smart investment in Sustainable Development and peace.

Young women and men in poverty have trouble participating in the activities of youth organizations. Due to the social and economic conditions in which they live, they have the following limitations:

- ⇒ They still suffer from stereotypes, myths and panic in politics that harm their involvement and affect the realization of their full potential for peace
- ⇒ They are often seen as just victims or perpetrators rather than as citizens and key partners for peace
- ⇒ The perspectives of these young people are often distorted by contagious stereotypes that link them to violence
- ⇒ These young people are often seen as a problem to be solved and a threat to be curbed, and this framing of young people contributes to their further marginalization and stigmatization

Everyone deserves the opportunity to develop their full potential as an individual. Every voice should be heard. Every voice counts.

PROPOSALS

- Support policy and programmatic efforts in the field of youth, peace and security
- Respond to the needs of young people and guarantee that their human rights are recognized and enforced
- Promote an environment that recognizes young people's important and positive contributions to peace and security, while creating safe spaces and expanding opportunities for young people
- Encourage youth empowerment, active and meaningful participation in societies and democratic practices and all processes of vital importance
- Increase the participation of young people in decision-making processes at all levels, including by listening to the voices of local actors
- To reach the most vulnerable and marginalized, youth workers must go to places where young people are, spend their time and move away from town halls, formal workshops, etc.

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

- Create activities and initiatives in which young people are perceived as equal partners, not only as project implementers or grantees → Youth must be seen as equal partners!
- Develop activities that contribute to strengthening the participation of young people in peacebuilding policies and practices
- Work to provide young people with a favourable environment for violence-prevention activities and peacebuilding efforts
- Engage young people in human rights and peacebuilding efforts through: Human rights education, Training of peacebuilding and leadership; Youth-led social activities with justice actors, Youth reintegration in communities, etc.
- Generate collective knowledge on youth, peace and security and acquaint young people with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419
- Advocate for meaningful and inclusive youth participation in policy-making at the local, national, regional and global levels
- Involve youth in local politics, it is crucial for raising awareness of youth-related issues and demanding change
- Provide support to the formulation and implementation of legislative and policy frameworks, in partnership with communities including young people, the National Governments and bodies of the European Union
- Publish youth-friendly articles on human rights, social cohesion and active citizenship, including alternative narratives to violent extremism through blogs, vlogs, social media and available articles on local and national communication channels
- Build a network community of peacebuilders and active citizens to reinforce the excluded voices of young people by recording the debates and discussions on social issues and sharing them online
- Promote important dates regarding peace and security days globally and historical memories through all means of communication
- Join the UN-led initiative Youth4Peace to help promote and maintain international peace and security and support youth participation in peacebuilding



PROJECT PARTNERS

We are a team of 5 organizations from Italy, Romania, Serbia, Portugal, Greece and we will collaborate to foster participation and cooperation of young people for sustainable development.



GRAMIGNA OdV

Gramigna ODV is an Italian Association that offers social inclusion and Sustainable Development for disadvantaged people in social farming (refugee, migrants, people with psychiatric disorders, prisoners).



EDUFONS – Centar za celozivotno obrazovanje

EDUFONS is established to strengthen social community through lifelong education, informing, promotion of active democratic citizenship, respect for diversity and earning key competences.



GEYC – Group of the European Youth for Change

Group of the European Youth for Change – GEYC is a Romanian NGO whose mission is to empower young people to change their community. GEYC is coordinating the activity of PRISMA European Network.



ASSOCIACAO CHECK-IN – COOPERACAO E DESENVOLVIMENTO

Check-In – Cooperation and Development is a non-profit organization, founded in 2010, based in Beja and operating from Lisbon, in Portugal. It works in close cooperation with public and private entities, actively participating in quality of life improvement activities.



IED – Institute of Entrepreneurship Development

The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (IED) is a Greek NGO committed to the promotion of innovation and the enhancing of the entrepreneurial spirit. By recognizing entrepreneurship as a crucial factor for the development and cohesion of societies, they conduct research and they are in position to provide innovative solutions.