

# Peace Pending



2016

## INSPIRING YOUNG EUROPEANS

Peace Pending is a project for young Europeans that will bring them together in Kosovo for one week, where through looking at the Kosovar independence and the situation of minorities in Kosovo, they will get a better understanding of Europe and be able to share it with other Europeans.

## SUMMARY

Peace Pending is a project that will bring together **30 young people aged between 18-22** from Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, Sweden and Kosovo together for 5 days in Pristina, Kosovo. The project will take place from the **2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2016** (including travel days).

And **you** can be one of them, no matter if you study, work or do anything else. But what is this project even about?

The project will work around two main topics: The Kosovar conflict and the role of the EU and US in solving the conflict, and the current situation of minorities in Kosovo. The objective for the participants is to learn how to deal with obstacles that minorities face and how conflicts (both small and large scale) can be solved.

The goal of every participant is to use the tools of **journalism** to draw attention to the situation in Kosovo. May it be print, radio, photography, video or any other kind of media form – you are free to express yourself with the use of any journalistic tools known to you. **You are in charge to produce your own unique piece of media** with support of our team.

These media pieces **will be published on the internet** and in various regional or national media outlets (to be confirmed).

To be able to do proper research, the participants will be able to meet with various groups and people in Kosovo who work around the related topics. They will also take part in workshops to learn about the topics from various angles and will visit Mitrovica, a border region in Kosovo where the conflict is still very tangible.

## The Topics

Peace pending has **two main themes** and some related subthemes which we tackle as well.

**Conflict in Kosovo:** The conflict in Kosovo related to its independence from Serbia can be framed in the various struggles for independence and conflicts in the Balkan region following the collapse of Yugoslavia. Although the situation in most of the Balkan countries is quite stable nowadays, the conflict in Kosovo is still not resolved. Kosovo is not yet recognized as an independent state by approximately 1/3 of the countries in the world. Especially in the border region with Serbia (Mitrovica) the tension is still very tangible. The European Union, the United States, the United Nations and the NATO all play a role in striving for a solution. We will explore the history and background of the conflict as well as the impact of the above mentioned powers.

**Minorities in Kosovo:** The various conflicts in the Balkan were often intertwined with struggles of minorities. Minorities are present everywhere and often encounter similar obstacles. We will explore a variety of minorities present in Kosovo and the obstacles they encounter. We will also dig deeper into ways to overcome those obstacles and how to integrate minorities better in society in order to promote a more equitable society.

## The Team

Today's group leaders of Peace Pending initially met through '**Mission Europe**'. Mission Europe was yEUth's previous international exchange bringing together 24 youngsters

from 3 different countries to learn more about the road from war to peace in Europe and the European Union. This youth exchange was set up by two of the current team members of Peace Pending after meeting at a follow up project of the **Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship Institute (BFTF)**, a US Department of State funded summer institute. This follow up project allowed them an unforgettable experience which inspired and motivated them to start working on their own follow up project.

Over time, former participants have joined the team of organisers and have established the non-profit organisation **yEUth** to support Mission Europe in a legal framework. A team of best friends, co-workers, fellow Europe-enthusiasts and lovers of travelling and exploring new cultures was created. This team was soon named “The Dreamteam”. As they love organising projects together, they decided that after five years of organising Mission Europe the time had come for a new challenge. Peace Pending was born.

## The organisation: yEUth

yEUth vzw is a non-profit organisation founded in 2012. yEUth wants to inspire **young people** from all over Europe through intercultural dialogue, debate, and conflict-resolution workshops and discussions to become more politically active and to initiate positive action in their communities as true **European citizens**. The organisation also aims to develop mutual understanding in an atmosphere of free exchange of ideas via **peer-to-peer and non-formal education** and an environment that encourages young people to actively help shape their understanding.

## Application and Participation fee

If you are between 18-22 and from either Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, Sweden or Kosovo, you can apply [here](#) by filling out the application form.

**There is no participation fee.** However, to confirm, your participation, a deposit of € 30 will be requested (after you're selected). This deposit will be returned to you in full if you have attended the full project.

Peace Pending will be funded by the **Erasmus+** programme of the European Commission. This funding is unfortunately not enough to cover all project costs. We strongly believe the project should be available for anyone, regardless of economic background and this is why we specifically choose not to charge any participation fee to the participants.

## CONTACT

If you have a question regarding the project; you can check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) [here](#). If you require any more information after that, you can contact us on [info@yeuth.eu](mailto:info@yeuth.eu)

## LEGAL

yEUth is officially established as a “vereniging zonder winstoogwerk” (non profit organisation) in Belgium, with *ondernemingsnummer* (VAT number): 0844.516.246 and legal address: Schapenstraat 6, 3080 Tervuren, Belgium.

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