United Network of Young Peacebuilders
Annual report 2013
About UNOY Peacebuilders
UNOY Peacebuilders is an international network connecting 60 youth peace organizations across 35 countries. Our goal is to create a world where young people have the opportunity and skills to contribute to peace. We work to strengthen youth-driven peacebuilding initiatives based on the needs of our members, facilitate a safe space for dialogue and conflict transformation, develop the organizational capacities of our members and to bring the voices of young people to policy makers on a regional and global level.

In accordance with our strategic plan 2011-2015, we contribute to the work of our members through our programs on Capacity Development and Advocacy. In addition to these programs strengthening the UNOY Network and Communication and Outreach are additional focus areas. There is a strong gender dimension to UNOY’s work, including the development of specific activities and increased gender sensitiveness transversally in the various activities, projects and management dimension.

The History of UNOY Peacebuilders
In 1989, Nikolai Firjubin, a Russian UN diplomat had a dream about a general assembly hall filled with young people discussing the major challenges facing humanity. The dream was so strong, that he decided to pursue it. Jointly with others that also shared his dream, such as Maria Kooijman, he started to give meaning to this dream. Not long thereafter, the first group of young people from four continents met in Handel, the Netherlands and committed themselves to building a new international youth organisation, which they called United Nations of Youth (UNOY pronounced as You Know Why).

UNOY Peacebuilders has grown into an established network with members and affiliates all over the world. The organisation has kept its dynamism and commitment while continuously working for a Culture of Peace. UNOY Peacebuilders has gone through different phases, narrowed its scope, evolved, learned and professionalised. In 2003 UNOY changed its name to United Network of Young Peacebuilders and in 2007 there was an organisational restructuring from a loose network to a membership-based network.
Annual report 2013

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Summary

UNOY Peacebuilders’ work in 2013 was centred on the two pillars of capacity development and advocacy, with the over-all aim of strengthening member organisations and increasing the voice of young people within peacebuilding.

Throughout the year UNOY organised a diverse range of activities aimed at increasing the capacity of member organisations. Examples include the seminar Volunteering for Peace, multilateral job shadowing in Job Shadowing 2.0 and a Regional Training Course for youth leaders in West Africa.

UNOY’s International Steering Group was substantially more active in 2013 than previous years. It has held regular meetings online and has regularly come with valuable input regarding the working of our organization. This is a very positive development and has definitely contributed to a stronger link between the network and secretariat.

A lot of focus was placed on outreach and increased collaboration with key stakeholders in the field of youth and peacebuilding 2013. UNOY’s cooperation with the Global Partnership on Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding and the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) Sub-working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding, Human Security Collective. UNOY joined the Civil Society Network for Human Security and became a member of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), with whom UNOY has regular meetings as of 2013. In The Hague UNOY has built relations with the Women Peacemakers Program, the Anna Lindh Foundation Dutch network, Alliance Francaise, and with the Human Security Collective. In New York we have built relations with the UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, with the Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Habitat, Search for Common Ground, World Vision and UNFPA. UNOY built strong connections with a number of bigger peacebuilding organizations, and in which we reintroduced the network to the UN Headquarters in New York. Both of these factors have resulted in UNOY strengthening its profile and being recognized as a key player in the filed of youth and peacebuilding.

In addition UNOY strengthened its links with the Dutch Foreign Ministry in 2013, and signed the Dutch National Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 at the annual event at the Foreign Ministry. In 2013 UNOY was selected for the Council of Europe’s Advisory Council on Youth for the period 2014-2015.

In accordance with UNOY’s Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy, the Annual Impact Review (AIR) of member organisations was carried out for the first time in 2013. The AIR is a questionnaire sent out to all UNOY members including questions of the impact of the member organization in the past year, their outreach, as well as their feedback on the workings of the UNOY network. The AIR is compulsory for all members to fill in. An annual AIR report is written and gives a good insight into the impact of the UNOY network as a whole, as well as on points for improvement for the network. An insight into the results of the AIR for 2013 can be found in this report as well.

In 2013 UNOY was able to employ an additional project coordinator, making the staff total 4 persons (3,35 FTE).
Activities in 2013

For many years, UNOY has been working with two main pillars – Capacity Development and Advocacy. We now want to cement these two pillars into the two programs in which UNOY runs its activities. This is a step to give a much needed framework and linkage to the existing activities. It will also mean a clearer division of roles between the two leading coordinators.

In addition to the two programs, this report, and the work of the International Secretariat has two additional focus areas: the UNOY Network and Communication and Outreach.

Keeping in mind the importance of the gender dimension in all peacebuilding work, as gender inequality is both a grassroots cause and a consequence of many conflicts, the annual report for 2014 also includes a strong gender dimension of the work and activities throughout the year. This gender dimension is twofold and includes specific activities on the one hand and increased gender sensitivity transversally in the various activities, projects and management dimension of UNOY on the other.

Capacity Development Program

**Third Regional Training Course - West Africa**

**Location:** Accra, Ghana  
**Timeframe:** 25-31 August  
**Funding:** Cordaid

Objectives achieved: a week-long training course with 24 participants, 5 Concept Notes for National Endowment for Democracy, 4 Project Proposals for National Endowment for Democracy, 1 Radio interview uploaded to YouTube, 2 Organizations in Liberia are exploring future cooperation, 2 Organizations in Sierra Leone are exploring future cooperation

The training introduced a new style of training, namely non-formal education, to the participants. The participants emphasized the importance of self-management and self-expression that was promoted during the participatory and encouraging training. The participants stated that they are now able to manage themselves, their activities and environment better and will also use this lessons learned in their professional and personal lives. The target group was also inspired by the training to use the acquired skills, such as project proposal writing and applying appreciative inquiry, within their own organizations. Furthermore, the training has served as a starting point to come in contact with youth (organizations) from their own countries and the entire West-African region in order to start
partnerships, exchange strategies and ensuring successful projects implementation for youth in West Africa.

**Gender and Youth in Fragile States**  
**Location:** Online, in Noordwijk (NL) and in partner countries  
**Timeframe:** May-December 2013  
**Funding:** Oxfam-Novib

22 participants participated in an online mapping phase, a one-week training course, and implemented 12 follow up projects.

**Achieved objectives:**
- To build up the capacity of youth leaders and partner organizations to run gender-sensitive and gender-mainstreaming youth projects in fragile states and conflict situations.
- To deepen the analysis and understanding of core concepts in oppressive gender relations and gender inequality in relation to youth and conflict.
- To identify and bridge the gap between policy/theory and practice.
- To raise awareness and understanding among young people from various cultural and geographical backgrounds on gender concepts and on fighting gender inequality in their localities, organizations and peace building practices.
- To develop and gather best practices and inspirational project ideas to address the theme of gender linked with peacebuilding, youth and human rights.
- To support partner organizations to embed gender sensitive policies and practices within their organizations.
- To generate more South-South gender-related youth initiatives.
- To build up and strengthen international partnership, networking capacities and intercultural understanding among UNOY partners – thereby strengthening the network of UNOY.

We see this project as very successful mainly due to the great projects carried out by the partnering organizations, and also due to the holistic training experience participants experienced as a result of the high level of activity on the online platform in preparation of the training course. The selected participants were all fantastically motivated and interested in the issue – though few with previous experience on the topic, and this proved successful, as the group dynamics were very good. Half of the participants were from sub-Saharan Africa and half from Asia. This did not result in unwanted regional groupings during the training, but added to the learning experience as it showed how gender plays out differently – and similarly – in both regions. For future projects we would want to facilitate for more peer-to-peer interaction online, we would - at least partly - choose different trainers, and we would set clearer shared rules during the training course.

Participants evaluated the project as good. “the training has given me the tools I was missing to organize and structure my feelings and opinions about the gender inequalities in my context.” Aref, participant from Afghanistan

**Build peace on your own - Civil society for a united Caucasus: Training Course on Project Management**  
**Location:** Schoorl, the Netherlands  
**Timeframe:** 10-17 April 2013  
**Funding:** European Commission - Youth in Action

The training course was part of the two year project framework “Build peace on your own civil society for a united Caucasus”. Objectives achieved:

- to deepen the competencies in sustainability, monitoring and evaluation of projects
- to enhance the quality of the local initiatives in the Caucasus
- to open potentials for cross-border cooperation in the Caucasus region
The training was a partial success. The idea was that this training course was supposed to be a follow up training with the same participants as at an earlier training. Unfortunately, very few of the participants from the first training were able to attend, which meant that we needed to reconsider the initial goals and objectives for the training.

As for the participants’ evaluations, in the final evaluation intercultural communication and interaction scored the highest out of all questions with 96% of respondents confirming that there were sufficient opportunities for intercultural learning during the training. Also, 95% stated that they felt there was a positive group dynamic on the course.

**Volunteering for Peace: Share Experience and Learn Together**

**Location:** Georgia

**Timeframe:** 1-7 July, 2013

**Funding:** European Commission – Youth in Action

The seminar provided international and local youth workers active in the field of peace building and volunteering with a deeper understanding of the diversity of volunteering opportunities to foster social change and peace in Europe and beyond.

Objectives achieved:
- to promote volunteering and active youth participation as conflict transformation tools,
- to foster youth involvement and community development in Europe and the Caucasus
- to share best practices for volunteering projects in conflict settings
- to develop local and international volunteering projects based on an in-depth conflict analysis of the conflict settings in the Caucasus

The seminar was evaluated as successful. A participant mentioned “Non-formal learning itself was very interesting to me as it was my first experience. I really enjoyed all the methods and ways of interactive presentations.” Reflecting on the participatory methodology of the seminar, one participant said “Because I have problems with my English, I didn't want to speak on the first days, but then I realized that I must speak, share my thoughts with others because the participation of everyone is very important” On the interculturality of the seminar, one participant said “Often participants with different cultural backgrounds were in the working groups which gave us the opportunity to exchange experiences in different contexts.”

One of the most important learnings for UNOY came with the session on the prioritization of the network. With a diverse range of youth represented at the seminar it was a good opportunity to hear how UNOY can really support young grassroots peacebuilders and volunteers. The mini ‘needs analysis’ will inform future UNOY projects in the region and is a direct result of active participation.
Mainstreaming Peace Education: Approaches, Methodologies, and Visions

**Location:** in partner countries  
**Timeframe:** 24 months (01.08.2012 - 31.07.2014)  
**Funding:** European Commission – Grundtvig

The objectives achieved thus far in the project:

- To develop organizational capacities in mainstreaming peace education as a tool for adult education: The project consists of six partner organizations in Turkey, France, Spain, Germany, England and the Netherlands who collaborated to produce a manual on mainstreaming peace education in adult education. Each organization was responsible to host and send participants throughout the project. This consisted of a total of 14 mobilities in which participants came and observed the local activities of the host origination to gain inspiration and ideas.
- To link local multipliers in the field of intercultural dialogue and inclusion: The project brought together over 30 different participants over an 18 month period working in the field of peace education. The purpose was to build informal networks and partnerships between them and help design the manual on mainstreaming peace education.
- To share and exchange approaches, methodologies and expertise on adult empowerment, intercultural dialogue and inclusion of marginalized groups: Throughout the 14 mobilities, the participants observed local projects run by the host organization. This allowed them to observe different approaches and methodologies on how to promote peace education.

An evaluation of the mobility is done on the last day of each mobility. Participants of the mobility sit around and use non-formal education methodologies to review the activities and share their highlights and frustrations with the team. This is then recorded by the hosting organization for the Mobility Report, which is compiled and completed for every mobility. There are continual checks inbuilt in the mobility as well to ensure that the activity is addressing the needs and expectations of the mobility.

**Job shadowing 2.0 – for Peace and Sustainability**

**Location:** Prep-meeting in The Hague, job-shadowing globally in the partner countries  
**Timeframe:** Prep meeting in January 2013, rest of project throughout 2013  
**Funding:** European Commission – Youth in Action, Haella Foundation, Cordaid

The project helped build up the capacity of youth leaders and partner organizations to run youth projects linking peace-building and environmental sustainability: 12 Job Shadowers successfully completed the exchange and were able to do research on the links between peacebuilding and environmental sustainability. Several follow-up concept notes were created and shared between organizations and approvals are pending to see if they are to be developed further.

The project also helped to raise awareness and understanding among youth from various cultural and geographical backgrounds about the impact of environmental challenges and climate change on peace-building processes: The Job Shadowers were able to see the local realities in which youth organizations work in. This gave them a better understanding of the challenges different organizations face. It also allowed the Job Shadowers to exchange best practices and tips and tricks on how to better manage and run a youth organization.

In addition the project helped build up and strengthen international partnerships and networking capacities between youth peace organizations, strengthening understanding of working conditions, challenges and opportunities among partners - and thereby strengthening the network of UNOY Peacebuilders: The Job Shadowing project helped strengthen the ownership of the network by its members as they were able to meet face to face and interact and create professional and personal relationships with each other.

The evaluation was conducted using online evaluation forms for both the Job Shadower and the Host Organization which were to be filled in within two weeks of the exchange. The participants were overwhelmingly positive about the experience. Comments were made that more pre-departure
information could have been made available before the visit, which was taken on-board immediately and the Job Shadowers that went towards the end of the project received more preparatory information before they left. Feedback was also received informally through Facebook, Skype and emails as we try and communicate with the participant after the project. The host organizations themselves were also happy with the project. They enjoyed the structure of the Job Shadowing program and felt comfortable that they were able to amend it slightly depending on the needs and interested of the host organization and the Job Shadower.

Content Development and Curation: Youth in Peacebuilding from a Global Perspective

**Location:** Online and throughout the network  
**Timeframe:** June 2013-May 2014  
**Funding:** Open Society Foundation

The project ‘Content Development and Curation: Youth in Peacebuilding from a Global Perspective’ allows members of the UNOY network to share their experience and knowledge on European and other youth policy related to peacebuilding and provide valuable grassroot voices from the ground on youth policies both in Europe and beyond.

This project is still in progress, so a final evaluation has not been made.

In preparation for the project, a timeline was created to keep track of articles that were to be submitted and to monitor the deadlines. Members were requested to submit their articles in the month before publication (for example, submit by end of July to be published in August). The aim was to publish one article per week in order to maintain the audience’s interest publishing too many or too few articles, in our experience, results in the loss of interest in our network. In addition, by only publishing one article a week we are able to maintain a content ‘library’ which we can use in the event that a member should fail to submit an article for the month.

Activity on the thematic page has increased monthly. Activity was the highest in December, with more than 700 more monthly visitors than in November. This demonstrates that we are gauging interest in the project and page. The number of hits or page gets on a day to day basis varies, but it is fair to say that the page is more active on days that new articles are published. There is a change in outreach on a week to week basis though, which cannot be explained so easily. We have found that members with a larger network or outreach are able to gain more exposure for their articles. We believe this may be the case for the week to week changing audiences.

Conference: Recipeace for Dialogue: Shaping Diverse Societies through Culture, Youth and Education

**Location:** The Hague  
**Timeframe:** May 21, 2013  
**Funding:** Anna Lindh Foundation

As a Member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Dutch Network (ALF-NL), UNOY Peacebuilders arranged a conference on the theme of Shaping intercultural Dialogue through Actions in the Field of Youth, Media, Education and Culture.
The highlight of the conference was a ‘Meeting of the Minds’, where eminent thinkers in the cultural, political, social and strategic field from North-Africa and the Middle-East had the opportunity to meet and share their ideas on the challenges of intercultural dialogue with ALF-NL Members.

In addition, during the conference a ‘sharing practices’ series of workshops took place in which ALF-NL members shared good practices on youth, education and culture projects. During a ‘bazaar of ideas’ members were also enabled to showcase their projects, network and share initiatives.

Participants’ evaluations attest to the fact that they learnt a lot and enjoyed the very varied program. They saw that overall they were satisfied or very satisfied with the impact of the day: the day provided a useful opportunity to network with other members and new organizations.
Advocacy program

UNOY Peacebuilders advocates for the role of youth in peacebuilding, and more specifically to promote the visibility and recognition of youth active in peacebuilding, promote partnership between young peacebuilders and other stakeholders, involve youth in campaigning for a culture of peace and, finally, encourage them to voice their opinions and concerns in forums. In 2013 UNOY Peacebuilders appointed two representatives responsible for advocacy: David Langle (focused on advocacy in New York) and Oliver Rizzi Carlson (focused on advocacy in Geneva).

In 2013, UNOY Peacebuilders’ advocacy work focused on the Youth Advocacy Team’s efforts to lobby for a UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.

Youth Advocacy Team
Location: The Hague, New York, online
Timeframe: January-June 2013
Funding: Cordaid

4-9 February 2013 in The Hague an advocacy training was held for the members of the Youth Advocacy Team (YAT). During the training course, the team prepared for their lobbying mission to the UN. They gained advocacy skills and made lobbying visits to the Dutch Foreign Ministry, in order to discuss European policy on youth, peace and sustainability.

6-13 July 2013 the team carried out a lobbying mission to New York. The week-long lobbying mission to the UN Headquarters in New York including two public events and meetings with 12 Permanent Missions; a concept note.

The work of the Youth Advocacy Team (YAT) – including the training course in February and the lobbying mission in July – we evaluate as highly successful.

The participants of the YAT were overall very satisfied with the training week, both the content and the organization of it. They especially liked the teambuilding exercises and the meetings with relevant people for the teams’ mission. The training facilitators from Cordaid and Perspectivity were appreciated for their work and enthusiasm when delivering their insights on stakeholder analysis, team building and lobbying in general. More discussion with experts on lobbying at the UN or a more prepared exercise of lobbying would have been appreciated. It was stated that having the opportunity to meet each other in person strengthened the team as well as their position. Discussion on the concept note and strategy were valuable to pinpoint down what the YAT’s goals and aims are and how they can be achieved concretely.

The team is very content with the results from the lobbying missions. Several representatives of permanent missions were surprised by the angle taken by the team - youth as active agents for peace instead of troublemakers – and we are very happy to have introduced them to this new perspective. Although they might not have thought of youth this way before, they saw it as a clear and natural angle to take on the issue of youth. We see this as a step towards changing the discourse on youth from troublemakers to peacemakers, and as an indication for the success of the mission. Furthermore, several representatives of permanent missions also agreed on the importance of inclusion of youth in peace building processes, something that really exceeded our expectations. As a result of the July 2013 lobbying mission strong support for our cause was expressed by member states and notably by members of the Security Council (Argentina and Luxemburg).
The World We Desire: UNOY’s Post-2015 MDG-Consultation

Location: Online, Global, New York
Timeframe: July-December 2013
Funding: Cordaid

The outputs of the project were: A consultation on the Post-2015 agenda in the UNOY network including 116 participants from 25 countries, a report on the Post-2015 consultation, recruitment of 4 new members to the YAT, a week-long lobbying mission to the UN Headquarters in New York including two public events and meetings with 15 Permanent Missions and 6 UN entities, a report on Agreed Language on Youth and Peacebuilding.

The consultation and lobbying mission related to the development of a new development agenda for the UN, we evaluate as very successful. We managed to involve more young people than expected in the consultation, and managed to produce a very well received report.

We launched the report “A Space for Peace: Inclusion of Youth and Peacebuilding in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” together with the Permanent Mission of Argentina at the UN Headquarters in New York in October 2013. The launch was attended by over 60 participants from permanent missions, UN entities and civil society and live-streamed on UN web-TV. The deputy head of the Argentinian mission stressed his gratitude to UNOY for bringing a youth voice on peacebuilding into the discussions on the Post-2015 framework.

UNOY Peacebuilders’ Advocacy Efforts in Geneva

2013 was a particularly busy year for UNOY Peacebuilders in Geneva. While not as directly focused on advocacy at UN and other meetings, efforts went into organizing a week-long international event on infrastructures for peace, the Sixth Summit of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace (GAMIP) entitled “Nesting Peace: Creating Infrastructures to Sustain Diversity,” which took place on September 16-20, with a pre-Summit learning event on September 14-15, 2013.

Organized in partnership with GAMIP and Pacicultura, this event bore a clear sign of UNOY Peacebuilder’s involvement in terms of its youth component, as well as the emphasis on the sustainable creation of a culture of peace. UNOY Peacebuilders contributed substantially to the event by gathering youth interns and volunteers who worked on organizing the event for over a year, starting in November 2012 and ending with the publication of the event report in January 2014. Additional work to organize the event had been done by the Geneva office prior to November 2012, and more follow-up work was done up to April 2014. The event was an example of a substantial and innovative peace project developed by youth. As a complex and far-reaching event, the advocacy impact was considerable. For a detailed description of the event and its impact (up to January 2014), please see the Nesting Peace Report, available here: www.gamip.org/summits/switzerland-2013-nesting-peace/summit-documents/

While the focus for 2013 remained the Summit described above, UNOY Peacebuilders was active at many other events and meetings, both within and outside of the UN in Geneva. All of these were leveraged to raise awareness about the role of youth in peacebuilding, UNOY Peacebuilders’ work, and the importance of the culture of peace.

- Participation in the meetings of several groups and networks
- NGO WG on Human Rights Education and Training (HRET)
- Swiss Peace Education Network (Bern and Broc, Switzerland)
- ZIFF – Center for Integral Peace Promotion (Bern, Switzerland)
- GMCoP - Global Movement for the Culture of Peace (New York)
- Swiss White Ribbon Campaign (to end violence against women)

Advocacy at the UN in Geneva
• Preparatory meetings for Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEWG) on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace (Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 15, 2013), including:
  • Oral statement on implementing the right to peace (Jan. 24, 2013)
  • Written statement on implementing the right to peace (Jan. 24, 2013)

Participation in meeting of the OEWG on the Right to Peace (Feb. 18-21, 2013), including:
• Oral statement on general comments on the Advisory Committee Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace (Feb. 18, 2013)
• Oral statement on Art. 2 related to human security of the Advisory Committee Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace (Feb. 19, 2013)
• Oral statement on Art. 4 related to peace education of the Advisory Committee Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace (Feb. 19, 2013)

Participation in the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council, including:
• Co-organized and spoke at HRC side event: 20 Years of Human Rights Education: Building a Culture of Human Rights (Mar. 7, 2013)
• Spoke at HRC side event: Ending violence against women and girls: youth as agent of change (Mar. 8, 2013)
• Joint oral statement on Human Rights Education, delivered by Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

Raising awareness in schools in Geneva
• Classes at Collège Voltaire (Jan. 14, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Feb. 25, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Apr. 29, May 2, 2013)
• Spoke at Collège Florissant (Mar. 5, 2013)

Special events
• Spoke at Be the Change social justice conference at Franklin College Switzerland in Sorengo, Switzerland (Nov. 7, 2013)
• Participated in the organization and spoke at 2nd Swiss Peace Education Conference in Broc, Switzerland (Nov. 9-10, 2013)
• Spoke at Juse Talk session of the Federal Youth Session at the Swiss Federal Parliament in Bern, Switzerland (Nov. 14, 2013)
• Participated in 2nd National Conference on Youth and Violence in Geneva, Switzerland (Nov. 14-15, 2013)

Projects UNOY partnered in

Global Partnership on Children and Youth in Peacebuilding – Multi-donor, multi-stakeholder, multi-country evaluation of children and youth in peacebuilding (3M)
We wish to improve existing peacebuilding practices and we see the need for a rigorous evidence base on child and youth participation in peacebuilding developed through a multi-agency, multi-country, multi-donor evaluation, that will work to strengthen the impact of peacebuilding programs, and peacebuilding architectures, to in the long-run achieve societal transformation. Such a global evaluation of children and youth peacebuilding has never been carried out. The evaluation will focus on Colombia, DR Congo and Nepal.

The evaluation is a collaborative initiative by the Global Partnership for Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding. The Project Leadership Group, consisting of PATRIR, Save the Children Norway, Search for Common Ground, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and World Vision are the implementing organizations.

The project was developed in 2013, and has not yet started.
Build peace on your own - Civil society for a united Caucasus: Trans-Caucasian Youth Camp, September 2013 in Barcelona

This seminar and youth camp was the culminating/final phase of the two year project framework “Build peace on your own – Civil society for a united Caucasus.” It aimed to evaluate and share project results of the local community initiatives developed and implemented throughout the duration of the 2 year project, for and with young people affected by the conflict in the Caucasus.

Training Course: Chance for Peace, February 2013 in Kobuleti, Georgia

The training course “Chance for Peace” provided 30 youth workers with tools to empower young people both in EU and Neighbouring Partner Regions to take an active role in settling conflicts and tensions between each other on local as well as on international level, particularly among young people affected by the conflicts in the EECA and SEE regions.

Partnership building activity. September 2013 in Barcelona

The PBA brought together 24 youth workers/project managers/coordinators/trainers/multipliers from youth organisations from EU and EECA interested in building a sustainable partnership in the field of peacebuilding, conflict transformation and intercultural dialogue. The project gathered youth organizations who are committed to support and contribute to a 2-year global project (Youth Building Peace: Empowering the Caucasus) – with the aim of bringing in new ideas and perspective to develop the quality of support systems for youth through a series of 5 trans-national activities.

Working with Conflict, April 2013 in Barcelona

The overall aim of the Training Course Youth Working with Conflict was to support organisations to help young people learn different ways of addressing conflicts and learn from them. It gathered 30 youth workers from the 47 Council of Europe countries. The main topics of the training are conflict transformation, peace education and intercultural dialogue.

Nesting Peace: Creating Infrastructures to Sustain Diversity”, the Sixth GAMIP Summit, September 2013 in Geneva

Nesting Peace is the Sixth Summit of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP), a worldwide community of individuals in civil society, business and government who work toward a Culture of Peace by promoting the development of infrastructures for peace at various levels.

Events UNOY participated in

- Earth Charter Youth Network meeting in Amsterdam January, 2013
- MENA Youth Consultation coordinated by Search for Common Ground and Cordaid in Tunis in March 2013
- European Youth Seminar and the Conference “Acting against Youth Sexual Aggression and Victimization in Europe” in Amsterdam in March 2013
- NCDO Jongerenleertraject, Spring 2013
- Intern training LVM on budgeting in The Hague in May 2013
- Liberation Day Festival in The Hague in May 2013
- Workshop on Increasing impact with Berenschot & Mazars hosted by Anna Lindh foundation in The Hague in June 2013
- Training on Logical Frameworks hosted by Netherlands Helsinki Committee in the office in June 2013
- After the MDGs Policy Debate in the European Parliament organized by the European Youth Forum in Brussels in June 2013
- European Youth Forum Advocacy Training in Brussels in June 2013
- Search for Common Ground’s Join the Search Campaign
- UNPO Speak out in the Hague in August 2013
- The Peace Philanthropy Symposium organized by International Network of Museums for Peace in The Hague in September 2013
- HOPE XXL Peace Panorama in the office in September 2013
- International Day in The Hague in September 2013
- Presentation of UNOY at Webster University Leiden in November 2013
- 4th Arab-Euro Youth Forum in Doha in December 2013
Structure of UNOY Peacebuilders

The organisational structure of UNOY Peacebuilders is designed to develop and coordinate the work of an international network of young peacebuilders. Activities are initiated by members and the International Secretariat (IS), led and supported by a small international team based in The Hague, The Netherlands which is guided by an International Steering Group (ISG). The Board advises and supervises issues of a financial and legal nature. UNOY Peacebuilders is registered as a foundation (stichting) in the Netherlands.

The organisational chart of UNOY Peacebuilders is the following:

The Network of UNOY Peacebuilders

UNOY Peacebuilders is a global network of youth-led organisations or youth-led groups within adult peacebuilding organisations active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation and able to work in English. In 2013, the 58 members of our peacebuilders’ network were based in North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. The network is non-hierarchical; member organisations are not branches or representatives of UNOY Peacebuilders. They preserve their own identity, their goals and strategies to deal with their local and regional challenges.

The members are selected on the basis of their thematic orientation, activities, experiences, interests and geographical location. The IS regularly makes a call for membership after which organisations can apply for membership; their application will be reviewed and decided upon by the International Steering Group (ISG). Organizations can also be invited to apply by the ISG. Members must have the capacity to participate in and benefit from the work of UNOY Peacebuilders. In order to apply, the
prospective members must complete an application form including information about their activities, their motivation to become a member and letters of reference.

In 2013 two organizations left the network: International Friends Youth Society (IFYS), Bangladesh, and Initiative for Peace and Justice (IPJ), Kashmir, India. 2 new members were welcomed into our network: Federação Caboverdiana da Juventude (Cape Verde Youth Federation) and Etijah Youth Development (Egypt).

For more information about these organizations, please see the section below.

Networking with UNOY Peacebuilders is done in various ways, for instance through mailing lists, the monthly newsletter and social media as well as by attending events organised by UNOY Peacebuilders. The network is also strengthened through joint projects, namely becoming partner organisations for a specific project. UNOY strives to help its members develop their capacity, and does so in various ways.

The development of a Network strategy to clarify how the network is structured and managed was started in 2013.

**UNOY Peacebuilders members in 2013**

**EUROPE**

**Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre, Armenia,** http://yic.am/

YIC organizes activities for young people to increase their participation in national policies and decision making processes. It also raises awareness of the impact of volunteering and advocating for the legal designation of voluntary work.

**Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly-Vanadzor (HCAV), Armenia,** www.hcav.am

HCA Vanadzor is a non-political, non-religious, non-profit NGO. The Mission of HCA Vanadzor is the promotion and support of Civil Initiatives, the strengthening of Human Rights Protection, and Peacebuilding Activities on national and regional levels. The Vision of HCA Vanadzor is a society formed with the supreme values of Human Dignity, Democracy and Peace.
Peace Dialogue, Armenia, www.peacedialogue.am

The vision of the organization is, through the formation of multilayer dialogue, to create consciousness among members of society so that they themselves are responsible for peace, that they are vested with the right to demand peace from the authorities. Our mission is to support the active participation of civil society in the processes of peaceful conflict resolution and promotion of respectful dialogue among members of conflicting societies, with the long-term aim of contributing to peaceful prevention of new conflicts.

SCAF Youth Center, Belarus, http://scaf.int.by

SCAF Youth Centre is an independent think tank and resource centre focused on youth involvement in peacebuilding, violence prevention, inter-ethnic confidence building, human rights and civic education. There are 70 active youth in the organisation. Some 500 young people are involved annually in SCAF Youth Centre activities.

Service Civil International, Belgium, www.sciint.org

Service Civil International (SCI) is one of the world’s largest international volunteering organisations with ninety years of experience in coordinating short and long term volunteering projects. Through volunteer exchanges they help break down barriers and prejudices between people of different social, cultural and national backgrounds.


U Move 4 Peace (UM4P) is the youth movement of Pax Christi Flanders which works with youth between 17 and 30 years old. UM4P works on three levels by creating encounters, dialogue, and peace projects between youth using art and expressive methods of peacebuilding. The organisation organises national and international trainings and exchanges.

Seiklejate Vennaskond, Estonia, www.seiklejad.org

Seiklejate Vennaskond literally means adventurers brotherhood. This adventure seeking and daring non-profit organization specializes in areas such as; equality, media impact, fights against racism, HIV prevention and environment protection. It’s also a sending and coordinating organization for European Voluntary Service.

Academy for Peace and Development, Georgia, http://www.apd.ge

The Academy for Peace and Development (APD) is an international, non-governmental, non-profit, non-political youth organisation, which aims at empowering youth, promoting peace, tolerance and solidarity in South Caucasus, through assisting young people to acquire knowledge and develop their skills and competencies.

European Intercultural Forum, Germany, http://www.european-intercultural-forum.org/

EIF aims to contribute to democratic and peaceful development in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus. It seeks to achieve these objectives by involving
Youths and adults on the international level, specifically in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus.


The Human Rights Initiative (HRSI) is an awareness raising and capacity building organization based at Central European University (CEU). HRSI’s mission is to promote social engagement through awareness raising and capacity building. Our main target groups are CEU students and alumni, local and regional students, NGO staff and activists as well as local and regional NGOs.

**CEIPES, Italy**, [www.ceipes.org](http://www.ceipes.org)

CEIPES is a non-profit global organisation active in the field of social and human development that works through education for a world of peace and equality in order to grant fulfilment of universal human rights. The mission of CEIPES is to foster and support the sustainable development of local communities and individuals’ empowerment through education and training, human rights and international cooperation.

**The Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Romania**

[www.patrir.ro](http://www.patrir.ro)

PATRIR has become one of the leading international centres for adult training in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, development, post-war rebuilding, reconciliation and resolution. The Youth and Peacebuilding Programme channels young people's energies and inspiration to enhance knowledge, capacities and possibilities for actions that are decisive in resolving conflicts, bringing alternatives to violence and waging sustainable peace. PATRIR’s activities include training and voice (school presentations, teacher training, on-line learning), consulting, action (movie showings, festivals, campaigns), research and publication, and networking.


The Private Foundation Catalunya Volunta is a non governmental, non-profit and non partisan organisation founded in October 2007, though its origins are found in the local youth association Barcelona Volunta, established in 1999. The FCV exists to offer young people the opportunity to develop their competences through their active participation in actions and projects with a positive impact on their communities.

**Peaceworks Sweden**, [http://www.peaceworks.se/welcometopeaceworkssweden](http://www.peaceworks.se/welcometopeaceworkssweden)

Peaceworks Sweden is a non-profit peace organisation that is targeted towards the youth. It provides the needed tools for youth and volunteers to run successful projects on their own and on their own terms. As part of their objectives, they aim to, through peace, encourage sustainable developments.

**Beyond Skin, United Kingdom**, [www.beyonddskin.net](http://www.beyonddskin.net)
Beyond Skin is a UK organisation which uses the arts to address sectarianism and racism in Northern Ireland. Beyond Skin uses initiatives such as the internet radio station Homely Planet to promote cultural relations and education among youth in Northern Ireland.

**LATIN AMERICA**

**Argentine Youth Organisation for the United Nations (OAJNU), Argentina, [www.oajnu.org](http://www.oajnu.org)**

OAJNU is a youth organisation that shares the values and goals of the UN charter. The organisation has headquarters in 6 main cities in Argentina and has over 300 young volunteers under the age of 30. OAJNU promotes change through education, and in 2001 was acknowledged by the UN and incorporated into the UN Department of Public Information.

**Fundacion Escuelas de Paz (Schools of Peace Foundation), Colombia, [www.escuelasdepaz.org](http://www.escuelasdepaz.org)**

The Fundación Escuelas de Paz is a collective project with an interdisciplinary team of professionals which started working in October of 1997. The project is part of a range of national and international institutions that work in the promotion and popularization of the Culture of Peace, human rights and International Humanitarian law.

**Forum of Youth Corporation from Guayaquil, Ecuador, [http://orbs.tigweb.org/18005](http://orbs.tigweb.org/18005)**

*Corporación Foro de la Juventud de Guayaquil - Ecuador* is a nonprofit organisation founded on March 30, 1995 in Guayaquil, Ecuador to promote the civic education by developing programs that promote comprehensive human welfare and the protection of human rights. The aim is to support youth leadership and social responsibility by developing educational and training programs.

**Dinamismo Juvenil A.C., Mexico, [www.dinamismojuvenil.org.mx](http://www.dinamismojuvenil.org.mx)**

Dinamismo Juvenil is a Mexican civil non-profit organisation. Its mission is to promote spaces for children and youths, to transform the living conditions in their communities and to help young people lead community projects.

**Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru (BVBP), Peru, [http://bvbperu.ning.com](http://bvbperu.ning.com)**

The Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru is a national youth organisation that works with and for young people by implementing voluntary service activities with an international focus and aimed at social cohesion and solidarity. They work for change, for the personal and social development of young people, and for their integration and participation in the decision-making on youth policies for social change.

**AFRICA**

**African Youth Relief Organisation (AYRO), Benin**
ARYO is a peace organisation from Benin, working towards the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. ARYO mainly operates through capacity building, advocacy and public conferences on peace. The organisation aims to protect human rights and to support those living with HIV/AIDS.

**African Millenium Vision, Burundi**

**Initiatives and Actions for Peace and Development, Burundi,** http://actionsforyouthburundi.wordpress.com/Initiatives and Actions for Peace and Development is an organization that mainly focuses on sustainable peace and development, specifically in Burundi. It executes these objectives through willing and inspired youths from diverse background. Youths who are eager to change their communities and the world in which they live in are major actors.

**Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD), Cameroon,** http://www.c creadcameroon.org/

CCREAD is a non-profit organization managed by youths. As the name connotes this organization is targeted at developing and improving the lives of disadvantaged women, children, youths and poor indigenous people. CCREAD also dedicates much attention to the conservation and preservation of our environment.

**Organisation of African Youth, Cameroon,** http://www.oayouth.org/

Organisation of African Youth is a continental youth led non-profit organization based in Cameroon. It reaches out mainly to the youths in its region. Through its many projects, it inspires and empowers youths to contribute to social, political and economic development. By so doing OAYouths aspires to make young people become more responsible citizens.

**Federação Caboverdiana da Juventude (Cape Verde Youth Federation) www.fcj.org.cv**

The Cape Verde Youth Federation (FCJ) is the umbrella organization of youth associations in Cape Verde; its boarding members represent the Youth Leagues of the 22 municipalities of the country, where most of youth networks and groups are affiliated in order to choose a legitimate representative. Around 1.300 youth organizations are affiliated. Established in 2006, it is affiliated the Pan-African Union of Youth, CPLP Youth Forum and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

**Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la Paix (ADECOP), Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la Paix is a non-governmental, apolitical and non-profit youth-led organisation created in Goma (Democratic Republic of the Congo) in 2002 and has 117 youth active in the organisation. There is also a Youth-led Initiatives (YLI) network of about
700 members throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The activities reach about 10,000-15,000 youth each year.

**Groupement de Promotion Integrale (GPI), Democratic Republic of the Congo**

GPI is an organisation working to rebuild peace and transform conflict between tribes and ethnicities in Burundi, following the 1996 war there. Their activities are mostly conducted through education, promotion, dialogue and cultural activities.

**Programme déncadrement et de reinsertion des jeunes ex combattants et en difficultes (PerexCV), Democratic Republic of the Congo**

PerexCV is a youth organisation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The organisation focuses on helping ex-combatants reintegrate into the community. Activities include training the ex-combatants in professions and fostering peacebuilding between them and their communities.

**Etijah, Youth Development**

Etijah’s primary concern is to create and tailor up-to-date and high-quality development methodologies, research tools, applicable practices of youth development and training delivery models, to be able to qualify youth by providing them with the skills, know-how and aptitudes, as well as contribute in building the capacity of governmental and non-governmental youth-serving organizations.

**National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), Eritrea, [http://www.nueys.org/](http://www.nueys.org/)**

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that stands for the betterment of Eritrean youth. The mission of NUEYS is to organise and build a versatile youth that is aware and proud of its culture, identity, heritage and history. It also strives to build disciplined, self-confident, mature and responsible youth throughout the country, as well as among Eritrean youth in the Diaspora.

**West Africa Center for Peace Foundation, Ghana, [www.wacpfgh.org](http://www.wacpfgh.org)**

The aims and vision of WACP are to promote peaceful coexistence for all, and to provide youth with the necessary skills in peacebuilding, leadership and non-violence. Their main areas of expertise include youth training on peace building, conflict resolution, human rights, leadership skills and community advocacy.

**Young Peace Brigades (YPB), Ghana and Sierra Leone, [www.youngpeacebrigades.org](http://www.youngpeacebrigades.org)**

Young Peace Brigades is a charity and NGO focused on tackling poverty through promoting access to opportunities for community education, economic development, and health services through volunteering and community self help initiatives. Along with capacity building, advocacy and research, YPB runs a number of successful volunteer and exchange programmes and services.

**Kenya Youth Foundation (KYF), Kenya**
Kenya Youth Foundation is an indigenous youth organisation founded in 1998 with the sole mandate of mainstreaming youth issues and concerns within the paradigms of policy and development at local, national and international levels. KYF envisions a society where youth from all walks of life play their role in policy development, so as to engage in self-sustaining socio-economic activities with the focus of making the world a better place to live in.


Kesofo uses sports as a medium of social change with a focus on youth transformation. The specific aims of the organisation are to use sports to promote social cohesion through management of risk groups (i.e. young people) and the promotion of unity within communities and to promote education by using sport as an attraction to encourage school enrolment and supporting sports as strategy to enhance child development.

**Centre for Legal Rights Education Advocacy and Development-CLREAD, Kenya**, http://www.cleadkenya.org/

CLREAD is a non-profit organization that provides diverse development programmes and services to community members, private sectors, NGO’s and public institutions. Its objectives are to contribute to human rights, gender, democratic governance and development matters and in this way reduce poverty, ignorance and influence policy change.

**The Youth Congress, Kenya**, http://www.theyouthcongress.org/

The Youth Congress is a youth targeted and youth led organization. It aims to provide youths with a more conducive environment, an environment where their rights as humans are not disregarded and there is equal opportunities for all.

**Elwak Youth for Peace and Development, Kenya**

The Elwak Youth for Peace and Development is a youth NGO in Kenya. Its’ major target group is the youth in its region. This organization provides a platform for the youths in conflict transformation and violence related activities. Through leadership and advocacy programmes, the youth is empowered to take up decision making roles.

**Jumuiya Women Group, Kenya**, http://www.jumuiyawomengroup.org/

As the name implies, most of Jumuiya Women Group empowerment and advocacy programmes, as well as activities, are targeted towards women. As part of its objectives, it aims to realize its goals through and with the involvement of women and youth. It strives to achieve the key elements of the Millennium Development Goals in specifically Uasin, Gishu areas and the North Rift region of Kenya.

**National Institute for Public Opinion in Liberia (NIPO-Liberia)**

National Institute for Public Opinion in Liberia (NIPO-Liberia) will conduct workshops on democracy, human rights, and conflict resolution; establish community Peace Forum meetings to discuss peace and democracy; and bring together leaders of conflicting ethnic groups to discuss conflict mediation and the importance of peace and the rule of law in a democracy.
Students Against Destructive Actions and Decisions (SADAD), Liberia

The aim of this organization is to encourage and build a violent free society, protect and promote the rights of women and children, and empower youths across the country and sub-regions. SADAD strives to equip its community with the right tools to resolve conflicts and initiate peace and thus promote human rights and the rule of law.

African Child Peace Initiative (ACPI), Liberia

The African Child Peace Initiative is a youth-led, secular, non-tribal, non-political, non-governmental peace and community development organisation dedicated to creating a better future for the children and young people in post-war Liberia through youth friendly community development and peacebuilding programmes. ACPI works with Liberian youth affected by the civil war - especially the children - and young women working with children. It also focuses on providing skill training programs to young people and encouraging active participation by young people in peacebuilding and community development in Caldwell and surrounding townships.

Youths for Peacebuilding and Development in Africa (YOUPEDA), Nigeria, www.youpedafrica.org

Youth for Peace Building and Development in Africa- (YOUPEDA) is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-religious non-profit youth organisation formed in 2005 for the development of youth in their immediate communities. YOUPEDA invests in health and peace education for young people, individuals, society and Africa as a whole.


This patriotic but non-partisan, non-profit making organization is managed by youths. AYHD aspires to create a Nigerian society where both young and old combine their efforts and skills to build peace, harmony and help develop the country.

Peacelinks, Sierra Leone, http://peace-links.org

Peacelinks is a youth led organisation that is dedicated to enabling young people, especially those in extremely difficult circumstances, to discover their hidden talent and untapped energy so as to become responsible and well-informed global citizens. The organisation reaches about 500 young people each year through their outreach programme, youth camp, vocational skills training, arts and craft training and music.

Young Leaders Sierra Leone (YLSL), Sierra Leone, www.youngleaders-sierraleone.org

Young Leaders Sierra Leone was formed in 2003 by youth leaders from Sierra Leone and Sierra Leonean Diaspora to promote the growing recognition of the importance of young people’s participation in decision-making. YLSL was officially launched by the Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone in July 2005 at the Miatta Conference Center in Freetown. The organisation promotes commitment and understanding of human rights and democracy. It also fosters a democratic, economically viable, culturally minded, socially oriented, development focused, politically stable, peaceful and enlightened people, who are free from corruption.

Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA), Somalia
SOYDA is a youth based organisation and all activities and programmes run by SOYDA are led by youth. The aim of these youth led programs is to show that youth are able to benefit their communities and are best able to assist other youth. SOYDA wants Somali youth to be able to tackle their problems and participate actively in all issues concerning their life and the community in general.

Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization (SOYVO), Somalia, http://www.soyvo.org/
SOYVO is an organization which gives a voice to the marginalized people, particularly women, children and youths in Togdheer Region in Somaliland. It articulates their problems and strives to make this group of people self-reliant. It also complements the efforts of its government to develop the region through sports, education and environmental protection projects.

Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (SOYDAVO), Somalia, http://www.soydavo.org/
The focus of SOYDAVO is on youths, women and children. It works closely with local authorities and contributes to the realization of Somaliland’s short and long term goals. This way it intends to strengthen the peace, ensure democratic changes and alleviate poverty in the region.

Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA), www.copfrica.org
COPA Southern Africa is part of COPA continental which is an African network of peace builders whose purpose is to promote peace, justice, human rights and development through capacity building, advocacy, research and documentation. Today COPA has a membership of 217 individuals and organisations, of which a good number are youth-led, working for peace at various levels across Africa.

ASIA
Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT), Afghanistan, http://www.apt.af/
APT mainly focuses on students, specifically university students. They work together with this group to develop a free and peaceful society. Their trainings, conferences and debates serve as a platform where new ideas are shared and relevant changes are discussed or enforced. The relationships between university schools both within and across its borders are also strengthened.

Centre for Communication and Development (CCD), Bangladesh, http://www.ccdbd.org/
This communication and journalism based non-profit organization is a proponent of free flow of information, of press and of speech. CCD utilizes communication media to promote human rights, good governance, women empowerment and gender equity. It also seeks to develop and sharpen the skills of journalists, thus making them better professionals.

National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh (NFYOB), www.nfyob-bd.netfirms.com
National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh (NFYOB) is the national coordinating council of youth organisations in the country with a central committee that is elected and constituted
by the representatives of different member organisations. There are 300,000 youth active in the organisation and it reaches about 500,000 youth through its activities. In 2000 NFYOBO became a nationally lead agency and organized the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). It has conducted the GYSD successfully each year since then.

**Youth Power (YUVSATT), India, [www.yuvsatta.org](http://www.yuvsatta.org)**

Volunteers of Yuvsatta realize that for improvement in man’s condition, every dimension of social life must be improved. They do it, in their small ways. By combining discussion with action, in social, educational, environmental and medical arenas, with the aim of a more desirable future built on contributions from youth.

**Youth Network for Peace and Development, Nepal**

YNPD has a vision of prosperous Nepal with the leadership of youth leaders, where the youth manipulated still, will be in leading place and the adults will be for advices. YNPD attempts to build capacities of youth leaders from rural areas on project planning and management. YNPD is an organization fighting for the whole empowerment of the local and rural youth who are still not provided any opportunity for exploring their internal talents.


JCYCN is acknowledge as being the first ever child club established by former child club activists and youths. It is a non-partisan and non-profit making organization. Its activities are targeted towards the protection and promotion of the rights of Nepal’s children and youths.

**Coalition of Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY) Pakistan, [www.crypk.tk](http://www.crypk.tk)**

Coalition for the Rights and Responsibilities of Youth is a youth-led organisation that promotes and protects youths’ rights and responsibilities in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. CRY’s vision is to develop a sense of responsibility among adolescents and young people by organising them into groups and building their capacities so that they can play roles as agents of change in their communities for the promotion of rights, responsibilities and tolerance.

**Arab Education Institutes (AEI), Palestine, [www.aeicenter.org](http://www.aeicenter.org)**

AEI-Open Windows is an Arab-Palestinian NGO affiliated with Pax Christi International and established in Bethlehem in 1986 by a group of Palestinian educators. Working with youth, women and educators, it is engaged in the field of community education to contribute to the general causes of participation in public life and in peace and justice.

**International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL), Palestine, [www.ipyl.org](http://www.ipyl.org)**

IPYL’s mission is to empower youth aged 15-35 against social, economic, and political challenges in Palestinian society, which the Israeli occupation has aggravated. As a result of this, Palestinian youth have been denied educational opportunities, sites for cultural activities and community development resources.

**GZO Peace Institute/ GenPeace, Philippines, [http://GenPeace.tk](http://GenPeace.tk)**
GenPeace is a network of organisations and individuals engaged in youth-led advocacy for a just and sustainable peace in the Philippines. Peace, according to GenPeace, is jobs, justice, food, freedom, land and liberation. It is social justice and food. It is the Bangsamoro’s right to self-determination, as well as the Indigenous People’s right to ancestral lands. Peace is a government accountable to its people. Peace is freedom from fear and want.

International Steering Group (ISG)

The International Steering Group (ISG) has a strategic advisory role and counsels the International Secretariat (IS) and the Board, on matters related to the focus of the work, plans and activities of the IS and the network. The ISG consists of six representatives of the network’s member organizations. The ISG provides advice on themes within the field of Peacebuilding and Youth; it reports on the membership status of organizations in the network and appoints new members to the ISG. The ISG represents within its capacity the members of the UNOY Peacebuilders network. In 2013, the ISG met every 6 weeks online and face-to-face once.

Members of the ISG are proposed by the member organisation and the secretariat, in response to an open call. ISG members are selected for a period of two years. Members of the ISG should seek to promote the work of the network as a whole and not the interests or positions of their organisation of origin and they can communicate directly to both the secretariat and the ISG to express their views and concerns. The ISG is in charge of selecting its new members, in consultation with the member organisations, Board and secretariat.

Throughout the year, the ISG has discussed the AIR, the network procedures, disaffiliations and affiliations to the network. The ISG agreed to skip the old system of peace tokens and to have the AIR as only formal requirement for joining the organization.

The ISG convened in November 2013 in The Hague, the Netherlands. The main issue discussed during the two-day meeting was communication within the network and the need for finding the right communication channels to reach out to our members and beyond. In addition a public event on the need for youth voice in peace and security was held at Leiden University College.

In 2013, the ISG consisted of:

- Rahel Weldeab, National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), Eritrea
- Paula Ramirez Diazgranados, Fundacion Escuelas de Paz, Colombia
- Armand Giramahoro, Initiatives and Actions for Peace and Development (IAP), Burundi
- Victoria Vasalo, Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU), Argentina
- Meghann Villanueva, Fundacio Catalunya Voluntaria (FCV), Spain
- Saba Ismail, Coalition of Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY), Pakistan

Board

The Board is the legal body of UNOY Peacebuilders and supervises the activities of the International Secretariat. The Board’s main function is to approve overall plans and budgets, overview financial administration and make decisions related to the hiring of staff in the future, in consultation with the ISG.

The Board is composed of two co-chairs, a secretary, a treasurer; and general board members all based in the Netherlands. Board members are selected, by the board, according to a gender and age balance, qualifications and experience in the field of peacebuilding, institutional development,
financial management and past involvement in UNOY Peacebuilders’ activities. The members of the board are all volunteers and receive no remuneration for their work.

The board is the legal body of the organization and oversees the working of the International Secretariat. In 2013 it met every 6-8 weeks face-to-face and online if needed in-between. The board held a whole day strategy day in September to be able to discuss issues related to the organization in depth.

Members of the Board in 2013 were:
- Jennifer Aggus, co-chair
- Valari van Tusschenbroek, treasurer
- Sanne Tielemans, board member
- Eugenia Boutylkoa, co-chair
- Jonne Kuusisto, board member
- Shireen Lau, board member (joined the board in September 2013)
- Ralph Schreinmachers, board member (joined the board in September 2013)

Honorary Chairs:
- Nikolai N. Firjubin
- Rabbi A. Soetendorp
- Maria Kooijman

International Secretariat (IS)

The International Secretariat consists of a young international and multicultural team under the age of 35, led by two Leading Coordinators, who together form the Management Team (MT) and consisting of a financial coordinator, a project coordinator and several interns. The main function of the International Secretariat (IS) is to coordinate and implement the activities of the network and provide administrative support in cooperation with the members and in consultation with the ISG and the Board.

Staff in 2013:
- Matilda Flemming, International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator
- Roderick Besseling, International Network and Programme Coordinator
- Joseph Kojo Foli, Financial Officer (until June 2013)
- Esther Irungu (as of May 2013)
- Emily Miller, Project Coordinator (March-June 2013)
- Laura McManus, Project and Fundraising Coordinator (June-December 2013)

Team members have the opportunity to take part in training courses, study sessions, or conferences, as representatives of UNOY Peacebuilders, as learning from these activities benefits both the individual and the organisation.

Interns make up an essential part of UNOY Peacebuilders’ activities. The interns in the office are all un-paid, and make up a corner stone of our activities. Internships generally span from 4 to 6 months on full- or part-time basis. Special trainings are provided to the interns jointly with other organisations. Volunteers furthermore make important contributions to events organised by UNOY Peacebuilders.

In 2013, the International Secretariat has been supported by the following interns:
- Imre Veeneman, the Netherlands, F
- Leena Laitinen, Finland, F
- Alissa Reinach, USA, F
- Emily Miller, United Kingdom, F
- Erik Meinema, the Netherlands, M
- Bharath Nataraj, India, M
• Dani Bender, the Netherlands, M
• Anna Kadar, Germany/Hungary, F
• Robin de Vogel, the Netherlands, F
• Maria Altieri, Italy, F
• Jasper van der Ploeg, the Netherlands, M
• Laura McManus, Australia, F
• Holly Sweeney, USA, F
• Keith Thomson, UK, M

The international and multicultural, young and dynamic atmosphere is especially appreciated. Efforts continue to be made to strive for gender balance in the team. The turn over of volunteers remain high, and the management works to ensure that proper hand over takes place between volunteers in order to ensure continuity and sustainability. Interns do feel that they gain professional experience while working at UNOY; they have been given responsibilities to work equal to staffs at UNOY.

Annual Impact Review

We strive to monitor and evaluate our work continuously and as a lot of our work is based on the feedback from our members, we send out a survey called the Annual Impact Review (AIR) to them once a year. The AIR evaluates the impact of the network and provides the members with a mechanism to provide feedback on the performance of the International Secretariat. The main objectives of the AIR are to:

• evaluate the overall performance of UNOY Peacebuilders
• update the contact details of contact persons to ensure involvement in network
• evaluate the expectations of the member organizations
• gain insight into the projects and reach of the members
• identify ways in which UNOY can improve the experiences of the members

The questionnaire was sent 58 members and was divided in four main sections:
1. details of the organization,
2. projects of member organizations and the impact of UNOY’s projects,
3. significance of membership and
4. the (realization of) expectations.

The survey consisted of 35 questions, both open and closed, and members were given a months’ time to fill in the questionnaire.

The response rate for the AIR was almost 90%, 5.5% higher than last years’ rate. The AIR is the only requirement to be part of the UNOY network, and members that did not fill in the AIR face the risk of disaffiliation.

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<tr>
<th>Annual Impact Review</th>
<th>Total AIR 2013 Response</th>
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<td>AIR response rates of 2013</td>
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The AIR 2013 shows that UNOY truly is a youth-led network. More than three quarters of the MOs’ staff is aged below 35. Members also share UNOY’s priorities: 45 out of the 53 respondents stated to have participated in advocacy activities in the past year. Altogether, our MOs were able to organize 764 projects, and 90% of our MOs have organized a project based on the theme Education for a culture of peace. In total, the UNOY network reached up to 800,000 young people in 2013. The results of the AIR also show that most of our member organizations are small organizations with regards to staff and budget, and most of our members largely depend on voluntary work. It allows UNOY to adjust goals and objectives of our capacity development program, be of added value with regards to the providing of trainings, toolkits and exchange of information.
The answers relating to the question about our members expectations show that most of our MOs would like UNOY to “bring the network together”. We are proud to state that in 2013, more than half of our MOs (29) cooperated with another UNOY member organization, which allows our MOs to exchange information as well as to build partnerships, and is a concrete sign of there being dynamic collaboration in the UNOY network. Most of our members feel that either their expectations have been partially met or to a great extend have been met, although most of them also ask for better communication and more involvement of all member organizations in trainings. All in all, it seems that our member organizations are quite positive about UNOY Peacebuilders; they thank UNOY for being able to be part of it, and state to be proud to be part of our network.

Recommendations

Member organizations recommend that UNOY takes actions:

- To intensify the communication and the number of joint projects
- To connect member organizations and support collaboration between them
- To develop a strategy/tool that will help its members with finding funding opportunities
- To assist its members to organize joint projects
- To organize an annual meeting with all members on an online platform
- To ensure more transparency in UNOY’s projects and involve more member participation
- To have French represented in the administration of UNOY to improve communication with African members
- To help strengthen regional cooperation and communication
Communication and outreach

Communication and outreach is an essential activity of UNOY Peacebuilders, as we are a global network with limited opportunities for face-to-face interaction. Our aim this year has been to make the website more static and focus on outreach using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. The newsletter has also been replaced with more targeted MailChimp campaigns that go out ad-hoc depending on the information that needs to be disseminated to the members.

Communication Results

- 51,143 hits on Website in 2013
- 7,090 likes on Facebook page
- 0 friends on UNOY Peacebuilders Facebook profile page (as this has been deactivated)
- 597 twitter followers
- 1,045 tweets sent
- 14 targeted outreach campaign to our members: Opportunities, Press Releases, Calls
- 72 members Closed Facebook Group
- 46 youtube videos

Website: The website was redesigned in 2013. The main purpose was to make the back-end of the website easier to use and not rely on the external person we used to use. This has had mixed success. While the website is easier to manage from the back-end, interns that are capable and confident with social media were hard to come by this year. The website itself is more static now and all posts on the site are also automatically posted on twitter and Facebook.

Facebook: We have removed UNOY Peacebuilders' profile page, as this was confusing as this was a ‘person’ and had friends. We have since focused on building up the audience of our Facebook page, with more success. We have had an increase in likes and interaction on the page. We have also created a Facebook closed group in which all our member organisations are part of. In this group, we post opportunities for them that we get.

Twitter: We are continuing to grow in twitter followers and we have attempted to tweet more when we are at events, during projects and generally from the office. This is something that can improve in the future but it is going the right way.

Youtube: We are not actively promoting our youtube account. We use youtube to upload videos and embed them in webpages mostly.

MailChimp: We have moved away from a regular newsletter as the click and open rate was very low and the amount of time it took to put together every month. We have since moved to MailChimp which can be integrated with our CRM software to target our members ad-hoc when we need to make announcements.
Fundraising and Finances

In 2013 UNOY Peacebuilders had a partial focus on corporate fundraising, and started building relations with Manpower, IBM and HP.

We developed joint fundraising proposals with Global Human Rights Defenders, Human Security Collective and Cordaid. UNOY is since 2013 registered with USAID, which facilitates for applying for funding with them.

The finances of UNOY Peacebuilders have been kept in check during 2013. The annual turn-over in 2013 was 323,223 euro, which is a 78% increase compared to 2012. The result for the same year was 378 euro.

Donors, Sponsors and Partners

Thank you to all our donors, sponsors and partners!
General contact information

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