



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

The EU's Implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda: Gathering Young Experts' Recommendations

13 January (10:30-12:30 CET) and 14 January (10:30-12:30 CET) 2022

Online

Concept note

Background

In recent years, the European Union (EU) has made clear that it is committed to supporting young women and men's participation in decision-making processes and the roles that they can play in preventing conflict and building peace.¹ In particular, in June 2020, the Council of the EU adopted conclusions on ['youth in external action'](#) in which it stressed the need to 'actively engage youth [...] in efforts to build lasting peace, to contribute to justice and reconciliation and to counter violent extremism', and to 'support young people's [...] efforts to build democratic, peaceful, inclusive, equitable, tolerant, secure and sustainable societies.' The High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and other EU actors have also repeatedly expressed support for United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020), and for the implementation of the youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda in general.

As part of the EU's efforts to strengthen its support to young women and men's participation in decision-making processes and contributions to sustainable peace, this meeting will bring together young civil society experts (particularly from fragile and conflict-affected areas) and EU officials to exchange on these issues.

Objectives

The overall aim of this meeting is to gather concrete recommendations from young civil society experts on how the EU should enhance its implementation of the YPS agenda, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected areas. The meeting will feed into the drafting of the EU's upcoming Youth Action Plan.

Specifically, the meeting will seek to gather input on how (including with whom, to do what, and when) the EU should:

1. Engage with young women and men on peace and conflict issues, including to strengthen their participation in the analysis informing EU peace and security engagements and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of engagements.
2. Promote and support the participation of young women and men in local, national and international governance structures and political processes.
3. Support young women and men's diverse initiatives to prevent conflict and build peace, and help limit their exposure to, and participation in, exclusion and violent conflict.

The discussions will explicitly address the gendered implications of these issues.

¹ For example, in 2017 the EU organised a consultation of young women and men to contribute to the UN Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security; in 2018 it organised a ['Conference on Youth, Peace and Security'](#); in 2018 the Council of the EU adopted conclusions on ['The role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society in Europe'](#); in 2020 it adopted conclusions on ['Youth in external action'](#); and in 2021 it adopted conclusions on ['Strengthening the multilevel governance when promoting the participation of young people in decision-making processes'](#).

Format

The meeting will take the form of a facilitated online round-table discussion under the Chatham House Rule.² It will be held over two days via the online platform Zoom. It will include four sessions and last four hours in total (two hours each day). Participants will be split into small groups during some of the sessions.

Participants

The meeting will bring together 20-25 participants, including about 15 young civil society experts and officials from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC).

Preparation

Civil society participants will be invited to submit written input in advance of the meeting in order to help structure the discussions.

Language

The discussions will be held in English.

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The fourth phase of the CSDN will last from 2020 to 2023. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

² Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed (see: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/chatham-house-rule>).

Agenda

| Thursday 13 January | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 10.30 – 10.45 CET | <p>Welcome and introductory remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonya Reines-Djivanides (EPLO) • European Union • Laura Davis (EPLO) |
| 10.45 – 12.00 CET | <p>Session 1: Designing recommendations for the EU (1/2)</p> <p>In this session, participants will be invited to discuss and exchange in small groups on a number of issues relating to youth, peace and security in order to design recommendations for the EU's implementation of the YPS agenda.</p> |
| 12.00 – 12.30 CET | <p>Session 2: Designing recommendations for the EU (2/2)</p> <p>In this plenary session, participants will be invited to reflect and exchange on the issues and recommendations relating to youth, peace and security identified in the previous session.</p> |
| Friday 14 January | |
| 10.30 – 11.15 CET | <p>Session 3: Finalising recommendations for the EU</p> <p>In this plenary session, participants will finalise their recommendations on youth, peace and security for the EU.</p> |
| 11.15 – 12.15 CET | <p>Session 4: The EU and the Youth, Peace and Security agenda</p> <p>In this plenary session, participants will be invited to present their recommendations for the EU's implementation of the YPS agenda and to discuss them with EU officials.</p> |
| 12.15 – 12.30 CET | <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Davis (EPLO) • European Union |