



With the support of the Culture, Youth and Sports Directorates of
both North and South Mitrovica Municipalities

BALKAN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT FOR PEACE 2025

MITROVICA, KOSOVO

PEACE



BALKAN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT FOR PEACE 2025



Të Rinjtë dhe Studentët për Paqen Ballkan
Mladi i studenti za mir Balkan
Youth and Students for Peace Balkan



Komuna e Mitrovicës së Veriut
Opština Severna Mitrovica
Municipality of North Mitrovica

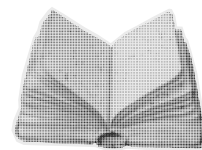
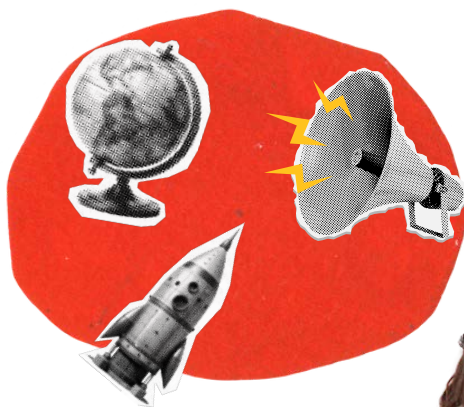


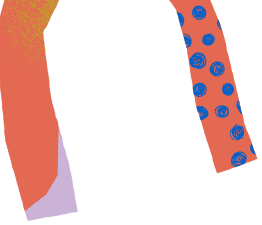
DKRS e Mitrovicës së Jugut
DKRS iz Južne Mitrovice
Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports of South Mitrovica



YSP Balkan is a Kosovo-based NGO and a regional chapter of the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace Europe and the Middle East (IAYSP EUME). Operating across six Balkan countries, YSP Balkan brings together young people passionate about making a positive difference in their communities, promoting peace, and driving sustainable development in the region. We work in collaboration with universities, local governments, and civil society organizations in Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, and beyond, fostering partnerships that inspire positive change. By supporting youth-led projects, organizing S!NERGY events, and facilitating cross-border collaborations, YSP Balkan plays a vital role in advancing a peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable future for the region.

In this spirit, YSP Balkan developed the International Youth Summit for Peace as a concept, which is designed based on active communication with local, regional, and international stakeholders and a thorough evaluation of the needs of the youth. The summit serves as a platform to further engage young leaders, promote peacebuilding initiatives, and address pressing regional issues, continuing YSP Balkan's commitment to creating lasting positive change across the Balkan region. Further details of the summit are outlined below.





Young people in Kosovo and other Western Balkan (WB) countries face significant challenges rooted in a divisive political climate that often breeds mistrust, stigma, and a sense of "otherness" among different ethnic groups. Political rhetoric frequently exacerbates these tensions, creating formidable barriers that discourage youth from engaging in peacebuilding and civic initiatives—despite their potential and desire to drive meaningful change. This disconnect not only perpetuates stereotypes but also deepens misunderstandings and reinforces social divides.

In the heart of Mitrovica, a city symbolically split by the Ibër River—serving both as a boundary and a lifeline—there is a growing vision of peace. The divide between the North and South of the city, long marked by walls of history and mistrust, now feels the stirrings of unity as shared aspirations begin to emerge. Against this backdrop, the 2025 International Youth Summit for Peace, organized by Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) Balkan, seeks to capitalize on this positive momentum. The initiative aims to create a platform for youth from both sides of Mitrovica to actively contribute to long-lasting peace through dialogue, collaboration, and shared experiences.

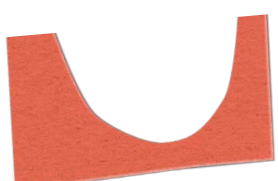
A THREE-LEVEL APPROACH TO EMPOWER YOUTH

Local Impact: North and South Mitrovica

The summit will directly involve 40 young people from both sides of the city, making them the core audience throughout the entire implementation. These participants will not only engage in peacebuilding activities but will also see their cultural backgrounds promoted and embraced across all initiatives. This localized focus aims to bridge divides within Mitrovica itself, creating a model for reconciliation that can inspire broader efforts across the Balkans.

Regional and International Impact: A Global Youth Network

Expanding beyond Mitrovica, the summit will engage youth from across the Western Balkans. And on a global scale, the project will bring together 80 youth from Europe, the Middle East, and the United States to Mitrovica. This international dimension seeks to dismantle barriers and foster a shared vision for peace through cultural exchange, dialogue, and collaborative problem-solving. Participants will have the opportunity to experience Kosovo firsthand and connect with its vibrant, resilient youth who are actively working to build an inclusive, democratic, and prosperous society.



SPOTLIGHTING GLOBAL PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

Moreover “Balkan International Youth Summit for Peace 2025” will showcase both local and international initiatives that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The summit will emphasize democratic values, tolerance, and mutual respect, inspiring participants to pursue collaborative solutions to common challenges. By celebrating shared aspirations, this initiative aims to empower youth to envision a future where diverse communities coexist peacefully and thrive. Additionally, the project seeks to address global peacebuilding challenges by drawing parallels with other conflict-affected regions such as Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, and Russia. By incorporating these contexts into discussions, the summit will underscore the universal relevance of peace efforts and the pivotal role of youth in building bridges across divides.

IMPACT

On a broader scale, the summit will create lasting social change by raising global awareness about youth involvement in peacebuilding through media campaigns, and it will build stronger partnerships between youth, NGOs, and institutions. The mentorship and support provided to winning projects will ensure their sustainability, leaving a legacy of youth-led solutions that continue to impact local communities. Through these efforts, the project will contribute to regional stability, encourage collaboration across borders, and inspire global advocacy for peace and cooperation, making a significant contribution to fostering peaceful, inclusive societies.



THE WORLD MEETS IN MITROVICA

Join 120 young leaders
from over 40 countries for
three powerful days of:



High-level panels & working
sessions



Peace Road actions through
divided Mitrovica



Youth-led solutions for a
more peaceful future



Cross-cultural dialogue &
networking





DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT FOR PEACE

20 September 2025 – Day I | Youth-Led Innovation and Cultural Exchange

Official Opening & S!NERGY Event

Time: 15:00 – 18:30 | Venue: Qendra Kulturore – South Mitrovica

The official opening of the Summit will commence with the S!NERGY Youth Innovation Forum, a platform for young changemakers to present community-based projects developed through Peace Designer Trainings across the Western Balkans. These initiatives are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reflect local solutions to global challenges in areas such as education, gender equality, environmental protection, and democratic participation.

Dinner | Time: 18:30 PM - 19:30 PM

Cultural Night

Time: 20:00 PM - 22:00 PM | Venue: Cultural Event Space

An interactive evening of cultural celebration through traditional dances, musical performances, and national costume showcases by participating delegations. This program fosters intercultural dialogue and encourages respect and curiosity for diversity.

Delegations are invited to prepare a short (5–7 minute) cultural contribution reflecting the theme “Peace Through my Culture.”



21 September 2025 – Day II

Session 1: Inclusive Governance, Programs, and Youth as a Factor of Peace and Development

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM | Venue: Qendra Kulturore – South Mitrovica

The opening session focuses on the importance of youth participation in governance processes and institutional programs aimed at peacebuilding and development. Panelists will present national and regional initiatives that create pathways for youth engagement in public policy and community development. The discussion will emphasize cross-sector collaboration and the value of intergenerational partnerships.

Representatives from the Kosovo Government

Representatives from Local Municipalities in Kosovo

Representatives from International Governmental and Nongovernmental Organisations

Representatives from IAYSP Europe and Middle East (IAYSP EUME)

Representatives from the Universal Peace Federation (UPF)

Session 2: Youth and Integrity – Combating Corruption Through Education and Participation

Time: 10:00 AM – 13:30 PM | Venue: Qendra Kulturore – South Mitrovica

Session Overview:

In an era marked by institutional uncertainty and public distrust, fostering a culture of integrity among the younger generation is vital for long-term democratic consolidation and social cohesion. This session, facilitated by experts in collaboration with regional partners, explores the pivotal role of youth in promoting transparency, preventing corruption, and advancing ethical governance.

Part I – High-Level Panel

A distinguished panel of experts, institutional representatives, and youth practitioners will present successful anti-corruption initiatives from national governments, international agencies, and civil society. The discussion will cover:

- National integrity education frameworks and civic curricula
- Community-based monitoring mechanisms
- Youth-led accountability campaigns and digital advocacy tools
- Institutional strategies to prevent and respond to corruption



Part II – Interactive Design Lab: “Youth Integrity Challenges”

Participants will be divided into working groups and guided through a structured anti-corruption innovation challenge, using real-life scenarios from local governance, education, and public service. Facilitated by experts and Peace Designer Trainers, each group will:

- Identify a key integrity-related challenge in their local context
- Map root causes using problem trees
- Propose a practical action or campaign based on transparency, youth mobilization, or institutional engagement
- Present a pitch to the full audience for peer and expert feedback

Launch | Time: 14:00 - 15:20

Session 3: Regional Youth Cooperation and Post-Conflict Recovery – Building Peace Through Mental Health and Dialogue

Time: 15:30 – 18:00 | Venue: Qendra Kulturore – South Mitrovica

This session centers on the lived realities of young people growing up in post-conflict contexts and their potential to be agents of healing, reconciliation, and sustainable peace. Also, the session will examine how youth engagement can address the invisible wounds of conflict, particularly in the domains of trauma, social exclusion, and interethnic distrust.

Part I – Expert Dialogue

The first segment features a moderated discussion between regional mental health professionals, youth workers, and peacebuilding practitioners who will address:

- The impact of unresolved conflict on youth mental health and identity
- Reconciliation through storytelling, non-formal education, and cultural exchange
- Promoting social cohesion through cross-border initiatives and youth dialogues
- Institutional responses to youth psychosocial needs in conflict-affected regions

Part II – Action Lab: “Healing Through Action”

Participants will form multi-country teams to co-develop project concepts that combine mental health awareness with community engagement. Using a design-thinking approach, each group will:

- Identify mental health and reconciliation challenges in their communities
- Develop a creative and feasible youth initiative (e.g., school-based peer support, interethnic art workshops, mobile listening spaces)
- Receive mentoring on how to turn ideas into proposals for support



Peace Road Initiative – Youth Ride for Reconciliation

Time: 10:00 – 11:30

Route: Starting from South Mitrovica - Crossing the Main Bridge - Loop through North Mitrovica - Return to Starting Point

The Peace Road Initiative is a symbolic and participatory action that gathers young people, civil society leaders, institutional partners, and citizens from across the region in a united call for peace and coexistence. This year's bike procession will cross the historically significant Mitrovica Bridge—long considered a dividing line between Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb communities. By reclaiming this space through peaceful movement, the initiative aims to foster a narrative of hope, reconciliation, and shared identity.

Concert & Official Closing Ceremony – “Harmony in Diversity”

Time: 11:40 – 13:30

Venue: Main Stage, Mitrovica Bridge (central point between North and South)

Overview:

The closing ceremony marks the culmination of the YSP Balkan International Youth Summit 2025, uniting all participants, partners, and citizens in a celebration of cultural diversity, resilience, and collective action for peace. Held directly on the Mitrovica Bridge—transformed into a vibrant public venue for the day—the event features a multicultural concert, keynote messages, and a formal acknowledgment of the youth who contributed to the Summit's success.



PARTICIPANT LOGISTICS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All registered participants of the YSB Balkan International Youth-Based Summit (20–22 September 2025) will be accommodated at Palace Hotel & SPA, a 5-star hotel located in Mitrovica.

- Check-in: 20 September, starting from early afternoon
- Check-out: 22 September, after lunch

All meals during the summit will be fully covered. The meal plan includes:

- 20 September: Dinner
- 21 September: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- 22 September: Breakfast and lunch

Note: Vegetarian, vegan, halal, and other special dietary needs will be accommodated. Participants must submit any dietary restrictions through the designated form by 1 September 2025.

Travel and Arrival Information

Participants are expected to arrive in Mitrovica by the morning of 20 September. A shuttle service from Pristina International Airport to the hotel will be provided at designated times. Exact pickup times and registration links will be shared with selected participants by 1 September.

Participants arriving on their own must arrive at the hotel no later than 12:00 to complete check-in before the official opening session begins at 15:00.

What to Bring

- Valid identification document or passport
- Casual and comfortable clothing suitable for indoor and outdoor activities
- Swimwear (if you wish to use the spa or pool facilities)
- Personal hygiene and grooming items
- Notepad and pen for taking notes during the sessions
- Any prescribed medications
- Optional: Traditional or cultural clothing for the Cultural Night

Registration Fee

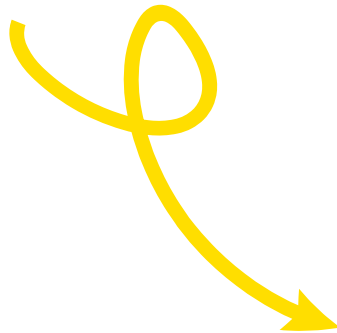
A registration fee of €50 is required from all participants. The collected amount will contribute to a dedicated fund aimed at supporting local youth initiatives and community-based activities in Mitrovica following the summit. Please note that this fee will be paid upon arrival and check-in at the hotel.

Contact Information

For any questions related to travel, accommodation, or dietary needs, please contact the logistics team:

- Email: workspaceysp@gmail.com
- WhatsApp: +383 49 106 507

Reserve your seat at this international event and seize the opportunity to network, share ideas, and connect with youth leaders from around the world in Mitrovica.

REGISTRATION FORM

2025 YSP BALKAN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT FOR PEACE

Expected impact numbers

120

PARTICIPANTS

20 Serbian youth from North Mitrovica (16.7% of local participants).

20 Kosovar Albanian youth from South Mitrovica (16.7% of local participants).

80 international participants from over 40 countries (66.7% of total participants)

40+

Countries represented, meaning each country contributes approximately 2 participants on average.

3,000+

Viewers over its 3-day duration.

With social media amplification, this reach could extend further to 10,000+ impressions.

1200+

Each participant represents an extended network. If every participant influences at least 10 peers or colleagues post-summit, the indirect impact reaches 1,200+ individuals globally

40

The event directly fosters peace dialogue between 40 local youth from Mitrovica, contributing to cross-community cooperation in a historically divided region

05

Kosovo-based NGOs in Mitrovica

10

Young Journalists will actively cover and amplify the event's impact.

15

International NGOs

Scan the QR code to visit our website and stay updated on our latest programs and events!





YSP BALKAN

Achievements Over the Past Two Years

204

Students have completed the Peace Designer Training in Kosovo and North Macedonia

54

Peace Designer Training sessions

04

Local peace projects successfully implemented

02

Erasmus+ Youth Exchange projects

04

Projects underway, set for completion by April 2025

24

Consulting sessions provided, with ongoing mentoring throughout the training period

09

Partner and institutions collaborated in these initiatives

23

23 young leaders participated in the annual flagship event, EUME S!NERGY, hosted by IAYSP EUME| UN Headquarters Visit

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION SO FAR!



HELSINKI
YMCA



Scan the QR code to visit our website and stay updated on our latest programs and events!



BALKAN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT FOR PEACE 2025 , MITROVICA, KOSOVO



YSP Balkan has formalized two collaboration agreements with the Municipality of North Mitrovica | DKRS (Directorate for Culture, Youth, and Sports) and, Municipality of South Mitrovica. Both municipalities have endorsed and actively supported the initiative to host the summit in Mitrovica, committing to partial financial coverage and comprehensive logistical support to ensure the seamless execution of activities.

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