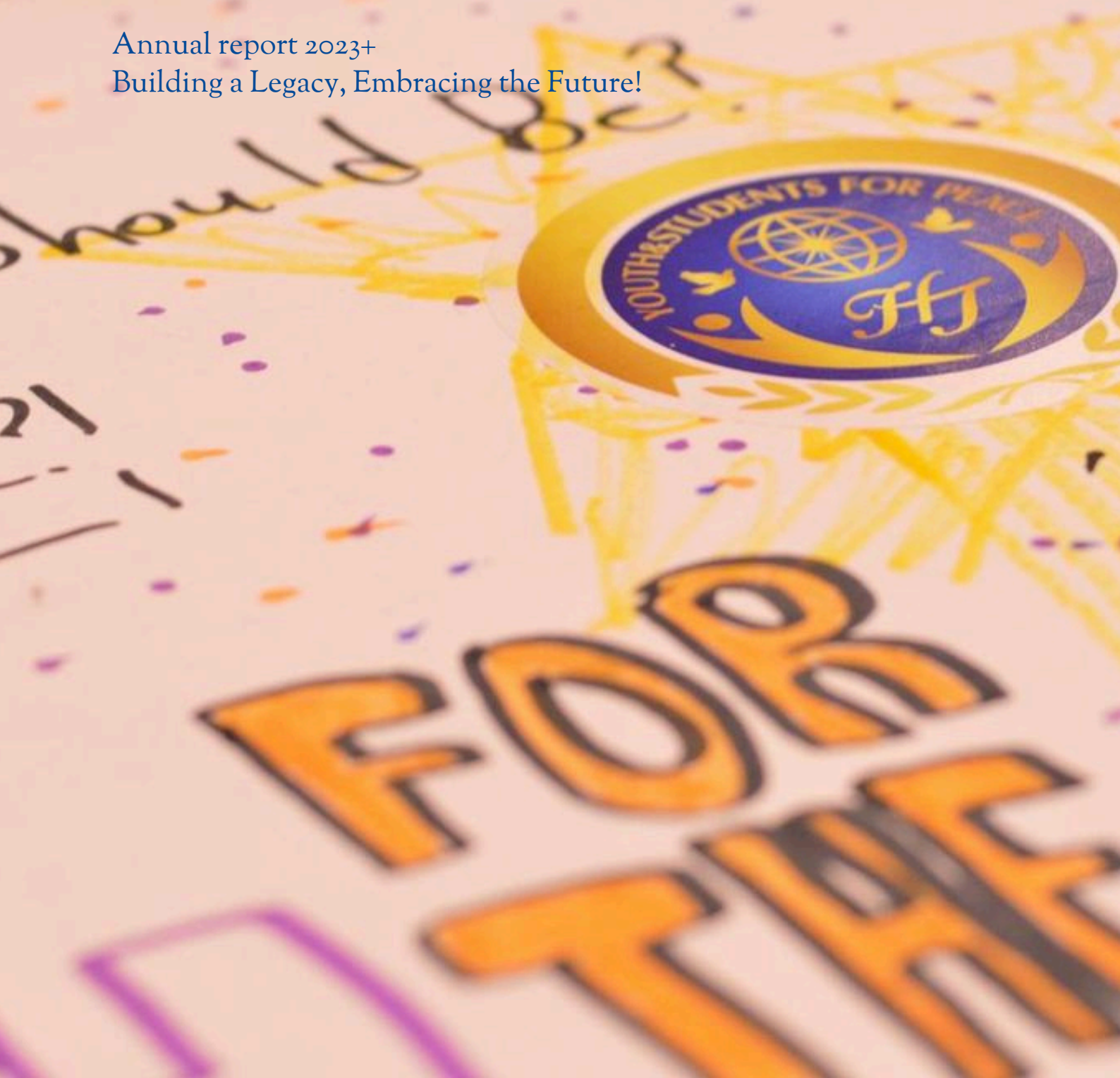




IAYSP EUME

Annual report 2023+

Building a Legacy, Embracing the Future!





International Association of Youth and Students for Peace Europe and Middle East

IAYSP EUME

The International Association of Youth and Students for Peace Europe and Middle East was founded 2018 in Europe in Vienna. IAYSP holds Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, underscoring our commitment to global collaboration for youth-driven peace and development initiatives. As a dynamic NGO focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we believe in the transformative power of youth to shape a peaceful society and strive to build a robust support network for their development.

Our Vision:

Every young person experiences that their contribution matters for peace

Our Mission:

We provide youth and students with a fresh vision, practical tools, and exciting opportunities to grow their skills and character while solving pressing issues in their communities and beyond.

We're here to empower the next generation of changemakers! How? We create global and multi-sectoral partnerships and alliances to further amplify the impact of young people. Together, we can achieve incredible things!

Our Values:

Responsibility

Human beings have a duty to deal with and manage ourselves and our environment to a degree unparalleled in other living being. By fulfilling responsibility, we find our greatest freedom, highest value and fulfill our noblest ideals

Integrity

Defined as "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles," integrity begins within each of us, by uniting our words and deeds

Service

Living for others is the foundation and indispensable principle needed to create good character within us and true love between people.

Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others as if they were our own. The most natural environment to develop our heart to empathize with others is in the family. This heart of familial love is then brought into in society and creates a culture of peace.



A Year of Growth & Resilience

Welcome to our 2023+ Annual Report, highlighting the efforts and achievements of IAYSP's amazing volunteers and chapters in Europe and the Middle East. We could not have done this without our partners. In 2023 we were working and collaborating with the international and local partners such as the UN, UNESCO, universities, NGOs and local bodies, towards shaping a sustainable future for all.

You can find IAYSP EUME chapters and operational areas in countries across Europe and the Middle East, including Austria, Switzerland, UK, Moldova, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Lebanon, Portugal, Hungary, Germany, Russia, Czech Republic and Moldova.

This picture shows only a small part of the large IAYSP EUME Team. Behind these visible members, there is a diverse group including staff, volunteers, mentors, and coordinators. Together, we collaborate to provide young people with opportunities to enhance their skills and support the Sustainable Development Goals. We are enthusiastic about welcoming new members and partnering with other organizations on similar initiatives.





IAYSP EUME & the United Nations

Activities

From 8-11th February 2023, IAYSP Austria and Switzerland hosted 15 students from Korea IAYSP at UN Geneva with support from UPF and WFPW Switzerland. Expert discussions on human rights, SDGs, and climate change were insightful. Participants were inspired to continue their impactful work for positive change.

On 17th March 2023 IAYSP EUME in cooperation with WFPW organized a side event at UN Vienna to the topic of “Encouraging Involvement of Young People in Community Development and Entrepreneurship to counter the abuse of Narcotic Drugs and other Criminal Activities.” The session highlighted diverse approaches to youth empowerment and rehabilitation and speakers highlighted the family's role in shaping values and character, the importance of youth involvement in decision-making and character education's impact in schools.

On 25th May 2023 IAYSP organized a side event at UN Vienna on the topic of “Role Of Young People In Shaping A Sustainable Society”. Representatives from various youth organizations and social activists participated in the event, contributing diverse perspectives on youth engagement for sustainability. Speakers presented existing projects engaging youth comprehensively. The event fostered networking among participants, sparking interest in future collaborations.



The Role of Youth in Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals

On February 7, 2024, the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) hosted a conference titled "The Role of Youth in Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals" at the UN Office in Vienna. The event aimed to harness the energy and creativity of young people to address global challenges. Speakers included Bogdan Pammer, IAYSP President, who stressed the importance of unity and the need for young people to feel their efforts matter. Red Cross Ambassador Banan Sakbani shared her refugee experience and emphasized the importance of equality in pursuing peace. Marvin Huber, UN Youth Delegate of Austria, advocated for youth inclusion in decision-making processes, citing their underrepresentation in policymaking. Sohee Kim, a Korean student showcased their Peace Designer school project on energy conservation campaigns. Shushan Bleyan, representing the Armenian community in Vienna shared about grassroots initiatives on educational projects in Armenia and Austria. Paloma Munne from UNODC highlighted UN efforts to engage youth in SDG initiatives. The conference fostered collaboration and inspired youth to take proactive roles in achieving global peace through personal development and SDG-aligned projects. During the final networking session several new connections were made, opportunities for collaboration were discussed and the youthful readiness to act became evident.





IAYSP EUME Autumn Assembly

The IAYSP EUME Assembly has truly been an unforgettable journey. Around 30 young people from Europe and the Middle East gathered between 14-17. September 2023 in Vienna. Our members had the privilege of visiting the UN headquarters where they could meet Billy Batware, who works as a Programme Officer at the UNODC. Participants could learn from inspiring professionals, such as Prof. Ille Gebeshuber, an Associate Professor at the Institute of Applied Physics at the Technological University of Vienna and an expert in Nanotechnology, Biomimetics and Tribology and her interest is how to address global human challenges of humankind with this. They could also meet Marvin Huber, UN Youth Delegate of Austria at the Austrian National Youth Council. Among other outcomes of the Assembly was a refined Vision and Mission statement of IAYSP EUME, and renewal ideas of the Peace Designer Training Material. Furthermore, participants could brainstorm for future activities, and of course, build friendships and valuable networks. This European and Middle East Assembly has ignited the spark of change within each individual and were inspired to bring the newfound knowledge and enthusiasm back to their chapters.





IAYSP Austria

Activities

In 2023 IAYSP Austria hosted various events focusing on peace, cultural exchange, and environmental efforts. We started off the year with a 3-day Peace Designer Training, resulting in creative projects in various areas. Collaborative cultural events, with partnering organizations, like the gathering for Iftar, a Romanian as well as an Armenian cultural evening promoted cultural understanding.

IAYSP Austria also actively participated in United Nations events, engaging in discussions on global peace and youth empowerment. We also met with Korean IAYSP members in Geneva to strengthen international ties. During the Summertime we organized clean-ups along the Danube River to support environmental sustainability. We ended the year with the Lifestyle series, which covered topics like goal setting, spirituality and communication, to nurture young people's personal development.

Overall, in 2023, IAYSP Austria showcased its commitment to fostering peace, building connections, and advocating for positive change locally and globally.

IAYSP Austria Director: Breatrice Kiedler

Impact:

The total number of individuals engaged through the activities conducted by IAYSP Austria in 2023:

Peace Designer Workshop: 15

Intercultural and Other Events: 371

Cooperators: AFIKÖ, Afghan WULAS, League of Romanian Students Abroad, Be UP, Schwimmverein Donaukanal, UUGS, Armenian Church, UPF Austria, WFWP Austria, CARP, Austria

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed: 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17 .





IAYSP Balkan

Activities

Throughout the 24-week program from October 2023 to April 2024, YSP Balkan facilitated transformative experiences for youth in Kosovo and North Macedonia, fostering personal and professional growth alongside community engagement. With a comprehensive approach encompassing 24 sessions and 12 consulting sessions, 856 participants were empowered to address local challenges, resulting in the development of 8 impactful project proposals aimed at driving positive change.

We've signed two collaborative agreements with UBT University and the University of Tetovo, while promising partnerships with the University of Ferizaj, Tetovo Municipality, and the Olympic Committee of Kosovo are anticipated to be finalized within the upcoming year. Their enthusiastic engagement underscores our joint dedication to sustainable development goals, particularly in education, gender equality, and environmental stewardship.

These initiatives, as well as those planned for the future, have been realized under the guidance of YSP Balkan's Executive Director, Ejona Icka, and the Balkans' Project Manager, Mikaela Llalla. Furthermore, two upcoming conferences, in collaboration with UBT and the University of Tetovo, will bring together stakeholders from the region, academia, media, and policymaking realms. These gatherings will serve as forums to communicate IAYSP's vision for a fairer, more unified, peaceful, and prosperous world and Balkan region.

IAYSP Balkan Director: Ejona & Rexhin Icka



Mentoring Team

MSc. Mikaela Llalla & Prof. Ejona Icka

Impact:

The total number of individuals engaged through the activities conducted by YSP Balkan during October 2023 to April 2024 is as follows:

840 participants in sessions and workshops
840 participants in consulting sessions
400 youths impacted through project activities

Total individuals engaged: 2,080.

Cooperators: UBT University, UBT High School, University of Tetovo, Empower Team and Mr. Rose Dale

Location: Kosovo and North Macedonia



PEACE DESIGNER TRAINING

Collaboration with UBT University, UBT High School, and University of Tetovo



IAYSP BALKAN

Empowering Change in the Balkans





IAYSP Hungary

Activities

IAYSP Hungary's events involved visits to a children's home in Budapest. Here we engaged in teaching English, playing games, and cooking alongside the younger children. We also shared inspiring messages to encourage them to aspire to greater dreams and had meaningful conversations with the young adults of the home. Our aim is to bring joy to their lives, empower them through positive examples and to teach them useful skills. We invite our friends and colleagues as well to these programs, which proved to be an impactful experience for them and for us as well. Through a similar program we organised a sports day for disadvantaged children in Tar, not so far from Budapest. Additionally, our initiatives included YSP youth clubs, where university aged youth gathered to develop their personal growth and character through a poetry night, and a workshop demonstrating effective tools to overcome negative emotions. Our team also took part in international events, the Peace Road between Slovakia, Austria, and Hungary, and the YSP assembly in Vienna.

IAYSP Hungary: Mónika Nanys

Impact: In 2023, IAYSP Hungary engaged 51 individuals through its activities.

Cooperator: Children's Home in Budapest

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed include SDG 3, 4, and 10.





HUNGARY





IAYSP Lebanon

Activities

In commemoration and celebration of the work that YSP Lebanon is doing and to award youth who are working to make an impact in the country, a Youth Peace Festival was held on the 28th of September 2023, in collaboration with Universal Peace Federation in Lebanon, under the theme, Peace Starts with Me.

At the UNESCO Palace in Beirut, 142 participants gathered for the event, in addition to 57 others joining online and 24 staff and guest speakers, making a total of 223 people attending the event. The program included speeches by Thomas Schellen, president of UPF Lebanon; Dr. Koji Matsuda, president of IAYSP International; Mr. Bogdan Pammer, president of IAYSP Europe and Middle East; Dr. Sarah Ahmed, president of IAYSP Middle East & Lebanon; Ms. Maryam Kairouz, youngest Arab to reach Base Camp on mount Everest; and Mr. Umberto Angelucci, chair of UPF Middle East.

Entertainment was an important element in the event! The famous Lebanese singer Mr. Nicolas El-Osta sang four very inspiring songs that reflected about Lebanon, peace, love and unity. He inspired the participants to stand up and dance in joyful spirits. To commemorate his work for peace, Mr. El-Osta was awarded by UPF as Ambassador for Peace.

IAYSP Lebanon Director: Sarah Ahmed & George Pereira

Impact:

142 participants gathered for the event, in addition to 57 others joining online and 24 staff and guest speakers, making a total of 223 people attending the event, other activities 314.

Cooperators: Universal Peace Federation Lebanon

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed: 10, 14, 15, 16, 17.



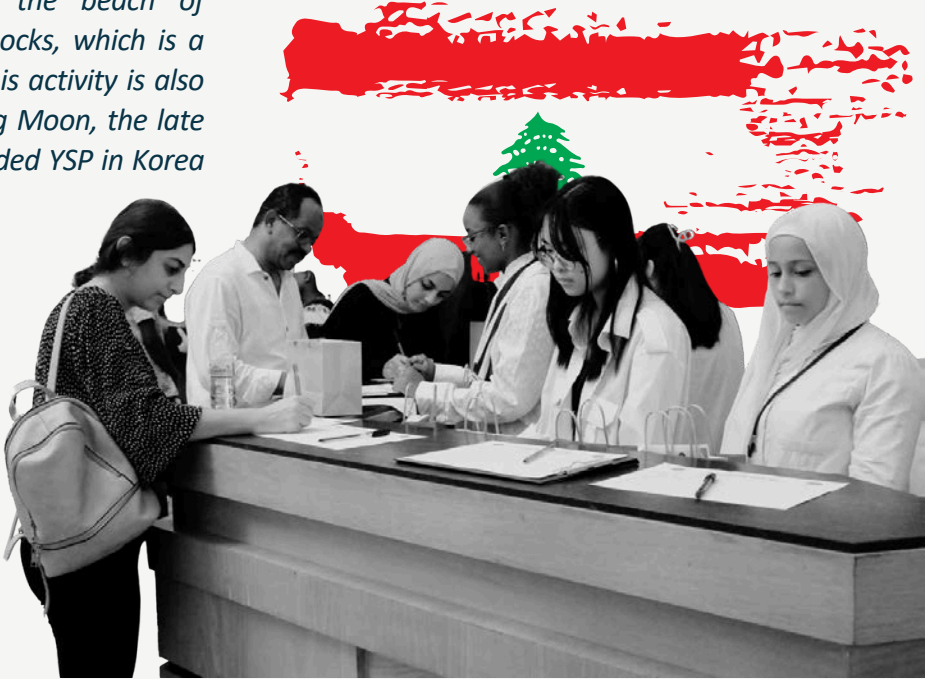


Inspiring Change

YSP Lebanon Honors Youth Making a Difference

In addition, YSP Lebanon offered the Environmental Hero Award to Mr. Hrair Kurdian, for his tremendous work to preserve and protect nature in Anjar, East of Lebanon. Few other youths also received certificates and prizes for a video competition, where they made videos proposing a solution for problems that they identify in their surroundings. The team of YSP Lebanon hopes that by doing those activities, youth can be inspired to make a difference and acquire the tools they need.

As part of YSP Lebanon's work to keep the environment clean and sustainable, every week during the months of March and April 2023, YSP youth including European and Japanese volunteers, went to clean the beach of Raouche, just overlooking the Pigeon Rocks, which is a famous landmark in Beirut, Lebanon. This activity is also to honor the place visited by Sun Myung Moon, the late husband of Hak Ja Han Moon who founded YSP in Korea in 2017.





IAYSP Moldova

Activities

In 2023, YSP Moldova organized a series of events to promote character development and intercultural friendships among youth. The weekly Youth Club served as a cornerstone, offering activities aligned with monthly themes such as reading sessions, sports, skill-building, and storytelling sessions.

On February 12, the Peace Embassy in Moldova hosted the Intercultural Festival to celebrate Interreligious Harmony Week. This event featured seven representatives from various cultures and countries who showcased their heritage through performances, traditional food, and presentations of customary practices.

On May 14, to celebrate the International Day of Families, the 'Peace Road' event was organized in Chisinau. Families and friends gathered to cycle through the city, promoting world peace, health, and the strengthening of family bonds. This enjoyable activity encouraged physical well-being and community solidarity and emphasized the importance of family values, showing how shared experiences can enhance relationships and foster a peaceful environment.

On August 19, YSP Moldova participated in the Youth Forum for Peace at the Youth Festival, organized by the National Youth Council of Moldova. This collaborative effort, involving students from Moldova, India, and Ukraine, aimed to foster peace and enhance social cohesion among young people. The event highlighted the crucial role that youth play in shaping a peaceful society through active engagement and collaboration with various youth NGOs and community leaders.

IAYSP Moldova Director Cornelia

Impact:

In 2023, IAYSP Moldova engaged a total of 210 individuals through its activities.

Cooperators: FFWPU and UPF Moldova, IAYSP EUME, Mr Dale Rose, NYCM and other partners

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed: 3, 4, 16.





Together We Learn, Together We Grow: YSP Moldova Celebrates Student Diversity.

On International Peace Day, September 21, YSP Moldova engaged in a meaningful celebration with the residents of Chisinau. The organization marked the occasion by distributing greeting cards with inspirational quotes from the founders of IAYSP, aimed at spreading messages of peace and unity. Additionally, the event was brightened with the joyful distribution of balloons to children, bringing smiles to the young participants. This initiative not only spread joy among the community but also reinforced the importance of peace and solidarity in everyday life.

On November 18, International Student Day, YSP Moldova hosted an event that celebrated the diversity of student life from around the world. Students from Brazil, Japan, Romania, South Korea, and Moldova came together to share their unique experiences as international students. The event featured a variety of activities that promoted cultural exchange and understanding, including musical performances, engaging games, and discussions where students exchanged views on their academic and social lives, creating a warm, atmosphere that highlighted the importance of global friendship and unity.





IAYSP PORTUGAL

Activities

On April 27, 2024, IAYSP Portugal, with the support from UPA youth, hosted a Korean writing workshop at the Embassy of Peace in Barcarena, Portugal. Promoted across universities and social media, the event attracted 25 participants eager to delve into Korean culture. Attendees learned basic Korean greetings and name writing, engaged in traditional games like Dalgona, and enjoyed snacks.

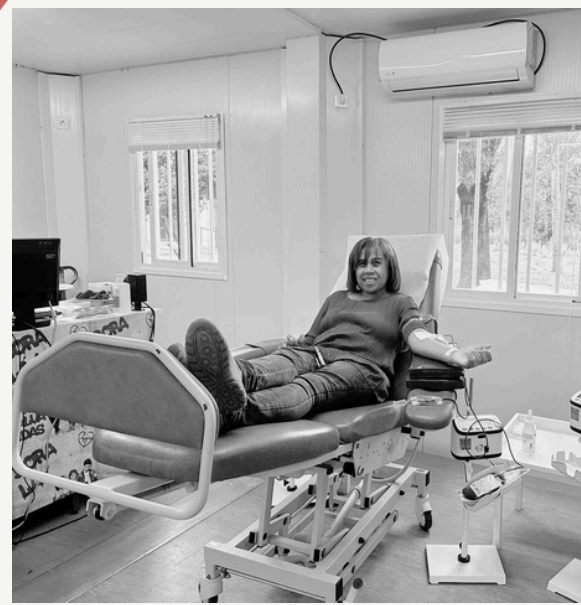
On September 3, IAYSP Portugal organized a workshop focused on ChatGPT at the Embassy of Peace in Barcarena, drawing 15 attendees. Participants explored ChatGPT's practical applications and interacted with the technology through hands-on activities, demonstrating its versatility across various fields.

October 15, 2023, marked the official inauguration of IAYSP Portugal in Barcarena, Lisbon. The event introduced IAYSP's mission and vision to the local community, showcasing youth talents and laying the groundwork for future activities supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This inaugural event signified IAYSP's commitment to promoting peace and positive change among Portugal's youth. Additionally, IAYSP Portugal organized a blood donation drive at the Instituto Português do Sangue e Transplantação in Lisbon, involving fifteen enthusiastic youth participants. The initiative aimed to encourage blood donation among the youth, promoting community health and fostering compassionate service.

IAYSP Portugal: Osman Gimenes Brito

Impact:

The total number of individuals engaged through the activities conducted by IAYSP Portugal in 2023: 95 people





Activities

In 2023, IAYSP Russia spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at empowering active youth and instilling valuable societal values. The year kicked off with the Volunteer School, a rigorous training program preparing 9 participants for the forthcoming Lapland youth forum. Notably, the "Peace designer" training equipped them with essential leadership skills, fostering a culture of responsibility and collaboration.

Spring saw the organization's engagement in the All-Russian Spring Week of Good Deeds, marked by the "Ecopoint" events in Moscow. These interactive sessions educated communities on waste sorting and recycling, fostering confidence and independence among IAYSP Russia members. Summer witnessed the impactful "Baikal - point of growth" forum, uniting participants in volunteer work and ecological projects, with 11 innovative initiatives born from the "Peace designer" training.

Moreover, the Ural branch continued its dynamic engagement, nurturing the "Helping Hand" volunteer squad and fostering collaborations with local authorities. Our current focus in 2024 remains on conducting flagship projects that empower youth to contribute positively to society, showcasing a commitment to continuous growth and impact.

Cooperators: National Council of Youth and Children's Associations of Russia (Женя участвовал), Youth Center and Administration of Mikhailovsky Municipal Education (Ural, Sverdlovsk Region). Administration of the Oktyabrsky District of Yekaterinburg City. "Guardians of the Ural Trails".

Youth Ecological Campus "Eco.Workshop", created by BAIKAL.CENTER VEB.RF. Baikal Project > Volunteering > Ecotourism. Great Baikal Trail - Buryatia.

IAYSP Russia Director Elena Kalmatskaya

Impact:

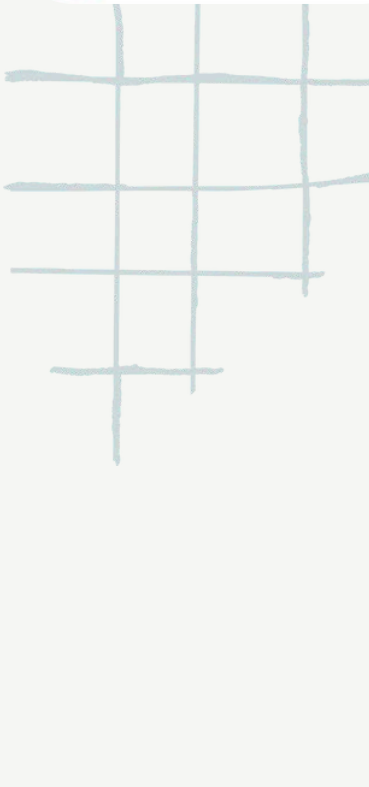
The total number of individuals engaged through the activities conducted by IAYSP Russia in 2023 is 541

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed: 11, 13, 15, 17





RUSSIA





IAYSP Switzerland

Activities

Among the various activities in 2023, on 20th January 2023, IAYSP Switzerland organized a meeting on "Our Environmental Footprint". The goal of this event was to find ways one can help slow down global warming and to come up with ideas for future IAYSP events. During the meeting, participants discussed how they can reduce their environmental footprint by analyzing a self-reflection online test.

The follow up event to this event was "Exploring Sustainability at the Zoo of Zürich" on 4th March 2023. IAYSP Switzerland and UPF Switzerland host regular one-day basic Ambassadors for Peace trainings, supplemented by weekly meetings and further education sessions throughout the year.

On January 28th, 2023, they focused on "Restoration of the Conscience and Universal Values." Participants explored the concept of conscience as the arbiter of good and evil, delved into the origins of conflicts, and discussed the impact of corruption. Case studies highlighted the functioning of conscience, with exercises revealing unconscious biases. The session fostered compassion and emphasized shared values for building a harmonious global community. Positive feedback from participants underscored optimism for the future. In connection to a UN International Day, IAYSP Switzerland held an event on the topic "Celebrating the UN International Day of Sports for Development and Peace!" where participants could enjoy some sports activities and games.

IAYSP Switzerland Director Gael Jayme-Wojtowicz

Impact:

The total number of individuals engaged through the activities conducted by IAYSP Switzerland in 2023: 97 participants

Cooperators: Universal Peace Federation Switzerland

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed: 3, 4, 13, 14, 15





Sustainability Starts with Us:

Explore, Learn, Act!

July 24, 2022
19:30 - 20:10 CET
@iaysp_switzerland

Our Purpose in Life?
InstaLife Series
by IAYSP-Switzerland

Episode 3

How to Reestablish Trust & Confidence Within Myself

WITH DIANA WINTER
Founder and owner of Winter Meditation
@winter.meditation
Wintermeditation.com



Formation continue des Ambassadeurs de paix


« Restauration de la conscience et des valeurs universelles »

28 JANVIER 2023, 9H-12H30

BIENNE
RUE DU CHÂTELET 11, 2504

GENÈVE - BUREAU UPF SUISSE,
RUE ANNE-TORCAPEL 10, 1202

En présence et par Zoom





Fédération pour la paix universelle - Suisse

Inscription
bit.ly/FormationAdP280123

Contact
switzerland.upf@gmail.com

Site internet
switzerland.upf.org



Association Internationale des Jeunes et Etudiants pour la Paix



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION





IAYSP UK

Activities

IAYSP UK enjoyed the summer sun in Cardiff, volunteering at Cosmeston Lake to support the growth of 110+ trees planted earlier. Volunteers weeded and trimmed to aid growth. Park Ranger Sharon provided plant education. The day concluded with a pond dipping experience, exploring aquatic habitats. On the 14th of August, IAYSP UK and the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star held a Peace Workshop with an introduction to IAYSP, introduction to Principles of Peace and session 1 of the Peace Designer Training. The event took place at the Elephant & Castle Cathedral (central London).

IAYSP UK has had an exciting few months, really picking up since September 2023 with new team members. Since the annual assembly in Vienna last September, our team has been steadily growing with a mix of students from various universities taking part, as well as involving communities and high school students.

So far in 2024 we have run a Community Swap where we could promote a circular consumption of clothing as well as offer significant donations (in the form of clothing, book and other household items) to Cancer Research UK. We have also run a healthy living day in Wales, encouraged communities across the UK to take part in a food drive for food banks and supported activities in Austria and Ukraine. We are moving forward very excited for the future!

IAYSP UK Director: Sophia Nicholls

Impact:

The total number of individuals engaged through the activities conducted by IAYSP UK in 2023/2024:

199

Cooperators: Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, Cancer Research UK

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) addressed: 10, 14, 15, 16, 17.





Education and Environmentalism

IAYSP UK's Cardiff Project Blends Plant Care with Pond Exploration



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire team of IAYSP EUME for their dedication and collaborative efforts. Operating across Europe and the Middle East, they bring together youth from diverse backgrounds to foster collaboration and promote peace-building efforts aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thus contributing to a sustainable future. You can find IAYSP EUME chapters and operational areas in countries across Europe and the Middle East, including Austria, Switzerland, UK, Moldova, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Lebanon, Portugal, Hungary, Germany, Russia, Czech Republic, and Moldova.

This report was prepared by MSc Mikaela Llalla, Project Manager for the Balkans at YSP Balkan.

The future is you.
You are hope!

*International Association of Youth and Students for Peace Europe and the Middle East
Seidengasse 28/4 1070 Vienna, Austria
Registered Number (ZVR): 1826882729*

*Visit Us Online: yspeace.eu
Follow Us on Instagram: [@iaysp.eume](https://www.instagram.com/iaysp.eume)
Send Us an Email: office@yspeace.eu*

