TOGETHER FOR PEACE: Pamoja Kwa Amani webinar

Date and time	10 October 2026, 15:00 – 16:30 CEST
Organiser	EU Youth, Peace and Security (EU YPS) Network – Central Africa & Europe
Format	Online webinar, English/French with interpretation
Moderators	Ema, Carol (Europe); Jospin, Bertin (Central Africa)

1. Background and objectives

Youth engagement is essential for inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies. When young people are marginalised and denied opportunities, societies become more vulnerable to conflict; when they are supported, they become drivers of peace and progress. Yet stereotypes, generational divides, mistrust and a lack of spaces for real participation can reinforce conflict dynamics. Transforming conflict therefore means understanding and deconstructing the narratives, assumptions and social structures that sustain division, while creating spaces where generations and regions can learn from one another.

The webinar brought together young activists of the EU YPS network, practitioners and intergenerational actors, with a particular focus on peacebuilding initiatives in Albania, and a presentation by PAMOJA KWA AMANI on cross-continental youth peacebuilding.

The webinar had three objectives:

Youth-led conflict transformation: explore how youth-led peacebuilding contributes to conflict transformation and diplomatic advocacy.

Cross-regional and intergenerational learning: connect experiences from Albania (Youth Voices Network), the Central African Republic (Bangui Peace Lab) and the DRC (Sauti ya Vijana kwa Amani).

From dialogue to action: identify, with participants, concrete opportunities for joint community outreach, advocacy and future collaboration.

2. Opening and welcome

The moderation team led the session: Ema coordinated the moderation and timekeeping, Carol coordinated for Europe, and Jospin and Bertin for Central Africa. Moderators alternated between English and French, with the support of interpretation by Paula.

Mr Rok Koželj opened the session by presenting the purpose of the EU YPS network, congratulating the organisers and calling on young people and participants to make the most of this space.

3. PAMOJA KWA AMANI presentation

Bertin, co-coordinator of the Central Africa region of the EU YPS Network, explained that “PAMOJA KWA AMANI” means “together for peace” in Swahili. The name comes from the need for peace everywhere in the world, and the initiative seeks to connect young people from Africa, and Central Africa in particular, with those from Europe.

He explained that the session was designed to share experiences and inspiration, and that speakers from both regions would present projects built in response to the challenges young people face in their contexts, in order to understand each region and look for ways forward together.

The moderators then recalled that transforming conflict requires more than settling immediate disputes: it means deconstructing narratives, assumptions and social structures that sustain division, such as stereotypes, generational bias and mistrust. Pamoja kwa Amani creates spaces where generations and regions learn from one another.

A further intervention stressed that the initiative aims to strengthen youth leadership as well as cooperation and proximity between young people and between regions. As both regions have lived through similar contexts, the aim is to turn this shared history into lessons learned and good practices.

4. Guest speakers

4.1 Democratic Republic of the Congo — Sauti ya Vijana kwa Amani

Mr François Bahanuzi, Program Manager at SELP and Head of Project, presented “Sauti ya Vijana kwa Amani” (“Youth Voices for Peace”), implemented in North Kivu, in the city of Goma and the territory of Nyiragongo, where populations are heavily affected by conflict. The initiative aims to train a generation that will build peace and restore social bonds between youth and elders, and works on three pillars:

- **Capacity building:** young peer educators are trained, with a simple toolkit, to multiply the message of peace among other young people, through community work, digital networks and webinars.
- **School and mental health:** school peace committees and psychosocial support (MHPSS), using forum theatre, forums, slam and drawing to open up dialogue and ease the trauma of young people long exposed to stress.
- **Dialogue and mediation:** community and intergenerational dialogues on land and generational conflicts, followed up by joint committees, so that generations that no longer speak to each other come to know one another.

Over the course of the project, 300 young people were sensitised, 25 were trained to become peer educators for peace, and 2 community dialogues brought together 40 leaders and young people. These are the key results of the project.

Facing insecurity, the project applies a “Do No Harm” approach and flexible, decentralised formats. François added that other activities under way should multiply these results. To save time, the moderators moved directly to the next speaker, so questions to the DRC team were left for the Q&A.

4.2 Central African Republic — Bangui Peace Lab 2250

Hermas Dieu-Parfait Sabe, Country Representative of Global Youth Synergy for Peacebuilding and Security (CAR Chapter), presented Bangui Peace Lab 2250, a project on youth, climate and peace. He opened with two questions to the audience: can we build peace by protecting the environment, and could this initiative be a bridge to reach the world?

The project is inspired by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security. Its ambition goes beyond the text: to bring its spirit to life through concrete initiatives led by young people in their communities, since young people often lack spaces for their ideas and tools to turn them into action. The project rests on:

- **Koua ti Kodro Vert:** a nursery of 10,000 plants, 50 young people trained (including vulnerable youth), and geolocated digital monitoring with a transparent QR code, to grow trees, skills and green jobs.
- **A citizen laboratory for peace:** a Youth Diplomatic Academy 2250 (100 young people trained in leadership, negotiation and conflict prevention), Diplomatic Cafés (dialogue between youth, diplomats and experts), citizen operations (clean-ups, awareness, social cohesion) and a PeaceTech dimension (digital tools to prevent tensions).
- **An Africa–Europe partnership:** Africa brings a dynamic youth, ideas, local knowledge and innovation; Europe brings experience, skills, networks and cooperation opportunities. Proposed support: technical assistance, mentoring, training, exchanges, networking, material support and fundraising.

The presentation closed with the ambition to grow from Bangui a model linking youth, peace, climate and innovation, and with an invitation to exchange, contribute ideas and skills, and help turn the vision into action.

4.3 Albania Youth Voice Network of Organisations

Andi Rabiaj, Executive Director of the Youth Voice Network of Organisations since July 2016, was scheduled to present how the programme works, followed by the testimony of Irini Demo, a student, on how the programme has helped build resilience and transform conflict in her community. Among other points:

- **Youth Engagement & Policy Co-Creation:** the project emphasises youth co-creation, integration and empowerment, ensuring youth voices directly shape policies through the endorsement of key recommendations.
- **Local to National Localization (YPS Agenda):** policy insights gathered across various municipalities are being validated using tailored methodologies (such as YPS indicators and roadmaps) to localise and integrate Youth, Peace and Security policies from the municipal to the national level.
- **Action Plans & Strategic Roadmaps:** these initiatives have led to concrete action plans, notably in Albania, to bridge structural gaps in national youth strategies.
- **Awareness & Community Outreach:** outreach campaigns, such as the “Peace Caravan”, use games, media communications, postcards and digital tools to raise community awareness around the peace and security agenda.
- **Empowerment & Opportunities:** members of the Youth Voice Network highlight how targeted training in peace, security and human rights provided transformative growth, expanding their access to networks, academies and professional opportunities.

He also stressed Funding & Institutional Support: sustainable youth trust depends on concrete action; national and local strategies must be backed by dedicated government budgets and international donor funding.

The session also featured a testimony from Irini Demo, a young student from Albania and a beneficiary of the Youth Voice Network’s programmes. She shared what she gained through her participation, in particular the skills, confidence and opportunities she developed through the trainings and activities she took part in. She explained how these initiatives helped her better understand peace and community issues and encouraged her to take an active role in her community. Her story illustrated, in a very concrete way, how youth-focused programmes can build resilience and help transform conflict at the local level. It was warmly welcomed by the participants and reinforced the message that young people are builders of peace today.

5. Open Q&A

This session was designed as an open space for young activists of the EU YPS network to ask questions, challenge assumptions, share experiences and identify areas for cooperation, in English or French, by “raise hand” or in the chat.