

# Chairpersonship Youth Forum

– from Helsinki to the next 50 years

29–30 July | Helsinki



## ***Participant Instructions & Expectations***

### **Welcome to the Youth Forum**

The OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum 2025 brings together young experts and leaders, practitioners from international organizations, as well as civil society, from across the OSCE region to contribute to the development of an OSCE-wide Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Roadmap, a product launched by Finland in its capacity as Chair-in-Office of the OSCE in 2025.

All participants are invited to support the development of the Roadmap by sharing their experience and expertise, enriching discussions, and helping to shape practical, inclusive approaches to youth engagement in peace and security. As a selected participant, you are not just attending - you are actively shaping the future approach to YPS in the OSCE area. Your insights and contributions are central to the Forum's successful outcome.

Your voice matters! Come ready to engage fully in different sessions of the Forum. Bring your perspective – whether from community/organisational work, advocacy, research, or lived experience – and translate it into practical ideas for the OSCE and its participating States. Actively collaborate in working groups, contribute to developing concrete recommendations, and engage in plenary sessions to build shared understanding.

Please also honour the Forum's safer space and sustainability principles to ensure an inclusive and respectful environment for everyone.

### **Your Role as a Participant**

#### **Before the Forum**

In preparation for the Forum, we invite you to:

- Familiarize yourself with the YPS agenda, especially the five pillars of UNSCR 2250: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement & reintegration.
- Reflect on your own context:
  - How are young people currently contributing to peace and security in your country / community / organisation?
  - What challenges do they face in being heard or involved in decision-making?
- Think ahead about solutions you would like to propose - either new ideas or lessons learned from real-life experience.

- Consider joining the optional preparatory briefing: this will provide background on the OSCE's work and how the Forum will function.

## **At the Forum**

Your main contributions will be expected in working groups, where you will collaborate with other participants to develop practical ideas for the OSCE-wide YPS Roadmap.

### **Session 1: Checklist for meaningful youth engagement, Tuesday, 29 July**

*Purpose: Define core principles and identify what works - and what does not - when it comes to engaging youth in peace and security efforts truly meaningfully, beyond tokenism.*

Guiding questions:

- What does meaningful youth engagement entail? What should we keep in mind when engaging with and for youth?
- What are the most relevant do's and don'ts? What helps or hinders inclusive, sustained youth participation in security-related processes?
- What principles can ensure a structured, inclusive, and effective approach to integrating youth as co-leaders, equal partners and experts in peace and security?

### **Session 2: Options for OSCE action, Wednesday, 30 July**

*Purpose: Generate actionable, realistic ideas for how the OSCE and its participating States can better engage and support youth in peace and security work.*

Guiding questions

- How can we build and ensure political buy-in for the YPS agenda within the participating States?
- What are the most effective ways for the OSCE to institutionalize youth participation across its peace and security work?
- Which actions, mechanisms or partnerships would strengthen young people's agency and expertise to ensure sustained youth input into OSCE decision-making and operational work?

## **After the Forum**

*Reflect and evaluate* the key takeaways identified. *Engage* within your own networks and communities and share what was learned. *Take concrete steps* to address the issues discussed at the Forum. *Stay connected* with other participants. *Seek support* from relevant counterparts in your community, whether it is the official/decision-making bodies within your country or representatives of international organisations, including the OSCE.

Please also provide the organisers with feedback (through a link provided separately).