

OPEN CALL - Are you the next Minority Messenger?



Are you the next Minority Messenger?

- ❖ Summer has come and it is time to spread the message of diversity, spread the word about issues of young people and minorities in Europe and to create understanding and help in the building of peaceful societies.
- ❖ Become part of YEN's **Minority Messengers Project**, travel Europe and meet young people, youth organisations, other minorities and others interested in your story.
- ❖ Learn how to prepare, implement and follow up on your own project. Practise your skills in implementing workshops, speaking in front of people or presenting an idea and try out some non-formal education methods.
- ❖ To become part of the Minority Messengers Team, simply write to mmsteeringgroup@yeni.org !

Find out more and get inspired by the stories of Minority Messengers:

<https://www.facebook.com/minoritymessengers/>

<http://www.yeni.org/minority-messengers/>



MINORITY MESSENGERS

The Minority Messengers project empowers young people in their identity of national, ethnic or linguistic minority, by providing them with the opportunity of sharing their experience and sharing the message of diversity. Young people organize visits in school or with other youth groups and conduct workshops to spread the word about the minorities and issues of young people belonging to minorities. The project creates understanding between different social groups and contributes to building peaceful societies through youth empowerment and peer-to-peer networking.

[HTTP://WWW.YENI.ORG/MINORITY-MESSENGERS/](http://www.yeni.org/minority-messengers/)





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What is a Minority Messengers Visit?

1. One or Two Minority Messengers of YEN
2. Arrange a "Minority Messengers Visit", a meeting with a group of interested people
3. You, as the Messenger, conduct a workshop to present a topic related to your experiences as a young person of a minority in Europe

1. One or Two Minority Messengers of YEN...

You can go on visits alone or with another Minority Messenger, if you already know with whom you would like to go on a visit, that's great. If you don't want to go on your visit alone, we can also team you up with an experienced Messenger!

2. Arrange a Meeting with a group of interested people...

- Maybe start with a visit close to "home", an organisation where you know someone, a place where you know your way around.
 - You could visit a school that you attended. Maybe you still know the teachers and it is easy to arrange the visit.
 - You could visit other minority organisations.
 - You could visit a youth organisation you know.
- ➔ **IMPORTANT:** Before you contact an organisation (weather minority or youth) please inform the Steering Group about your ideas in case we already have contacts!

3. You, as the Messenger, conduct a workshop present a topic related to their experiences as a young person of a minority in Europe...

- You can talk about your experiences of being a minority – present your minority, language, traditions and current situation.
 - Another good topic would be youth participation, maybe you already learned something about it during a YEN event in 2019 – you can talk about different possibilities to participate, about why it is important to vote or get engaged in youth organisations.
 - It would be great if you use methods of non-formal education as you experienced in YEN's seminars.
 - It should be something you care about – that is usually the easiest to talk about 😊
 - Previously to the visit you should talk with your hosts about your topic and how you plan to present it.
- ➔ We are currently working on some examples for topics if you need further inspiration

Important issue regarding organisation, logistic etc. can be found in the document [General Guidelines and Information](#)... or you can ask the mmsteeringgroup@yeni.org.

Examples of Minority Messengers Visits

In a School

Our Minority Messenger Heroes Clemens and Jakob from Serbske mlodzinske towarstwo Pawk z. t. have recently been in Leipzig to present to the students the Sorbian minority, Youth of European Nationalities YEN / JEV and other European minorities. The approximately 20 present - among them were also Sorbian students - were very interested in the minority in the East Germany and were curious to know more by asking many questions.

In a Youth Club

"I thought it was quite challenging to organise my visit, as I wasn't sure, how many people will participate and if they would be interested. It quickly became clear that my fears were unnecessary and unfounded. The participants of the meeting were very interested in the Vlach minority and had a lot of questions regarding Minority Messengers as well as Youth of European Nationalities YEN / JEV. Also youth participation and minority politics were the topics of the discussion. In the end, they have asked me how I prepared myself for the visit and offered me their support in my further engagement", these were the impressions of Andjelo Pavlovski, who visited the Civil Youth Club in Skopje as a Minority Messenger.

With Another Minority Organisation

"As a Western European I was really struggling to understand what set them apart from majority Croatians when it's not necessarily religion, language or surnames that differs" said one of our Minority Messengers Nina Peckelsen when visiting the Serbian Minority in Croatia this August. During the visit the main topic was position of the Serbs in Croatia, their identity as minority and the changing (as well as challenging) political climate.

With A Youth Network of different minority organisations in a region

Another Minority Messenger duo, Daniel Mielcarek and Anna German, strikes with their visit to the different minorities in Moldova on the 14-17 th of September. This includes the Gagauzian, Ukrainian, Russian, Sinti, Roma and many others. They met with the Youth Platform for Interethnic Solidarity that unites young people from different Moldovan minorities and protects their rights. "We presented them the structure and activities of YEN and talked about minorities in Europe: the challenges they face and opportunities they have. We also learnt a lot about the Republic of Moldova and minorities that live there. The organization presented itself too and told us about their history and projects, so that we both could identify possible ways of further cooperation. We are thankful for this marvelous opportunity to visit the Republic of Moldova, make new friends, broaden our horizons and do something which we believe makes the world a better place." We also are very thankful and proud of all our MMs for their hard work and dedication.

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In the course of another event/seminar/festival

Topics such as sustainability and climate change are important to young people. Tomislav Lulzim Perušić participated in the international meeting of BREFest 2018 in Sharr Mountains, Kosovo in August 2018. On this occasion, he organized a Minority Messengers Meeting with young people from the Albanian and Serbian minority in Kosovo. Together they discussed about minority policies in the Balkans as well as environmental issues.

During a Workcamp/A Short Term Volunteering Activity

Valeria Mayer from MOO HMO Jugending der Russlanddeutschen joined several young people and spent part of her summer in a work-camp "Conservation de arte y patrimonio en la junta de voto II" in Iberian Peninsula. The camp organized by Gobierno de Cantabria – Consejería de Educación, Cultura y Deporte allowed participants to not only practice on the conservation of art and heritage but also to acquire experience and knowledge in the field of promoting solidarity, coexistence and participation of the volunteers.

Our Minority Messenger Valeria took a minute out of her busy schedule to arrange a small event dedicated to minority languages and landscape with other young volunteers to discuss language diversity and social inclusion on the examples of concrete minorities in Europe.

"I really believe that this project has an important meaning for both minorities and majority because it's a very unique possibility to sit together, share our ideas and express our common concerns," Valeria concluded her visit.

- ➔ If you are interested in joining a workcamp/volunteering and at the same time doing a Minority Messengers visit, we are cooperating with the Alliance of European Voluntary Services and can find an option like this for you too

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