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my peace magazine

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FEATURED ON

BADEN TV SÜD

BORDEAUX

WORKSHOP

MY PEACE

MUSIC SESSIONS

ACROSS EUROPE



Co-funded by
the European Union

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CONTENTS



01

PAGE 03

WELCOME

When music becomes a vehicle for peace

Mypeace Germany featured on Baden TV Süd

02

PAGE 04



03

PAGE 07

Setting up for the Music Session in Emmendingen

Bordeaux Workshop

Co-ordinated by Musique de Nuit and supported by LABA.

04

PAGE 09



05

PAGE 10

Music sessions implemented in Bosnia & Herzegovina

Danish Partner EUEI hosts Music Sessions

06

PAGE 11



07

PAGE 13

A project that resonates across European media

MY PEACE Reaches Irish Student Community Through Music Sessions

08

PAGE 14



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When music becomes a vehicle for peace

*Music has always had the **power to bring people together**, to move them and to create bonds. With the **MY PEACE - Music of Youth project**, it also becomes a tool for engaging young people in peace building.*

*This innovative project **offers young people a captivating and accessible way to get involved**, using music as a means of expression and intercultural dialogue.*

A musical project in the service of peace

Music is an essential component of cultural identity, and culture itself is a fundamental vehicle for understanding and empathy. This is the basis of MY PEACE, an international programme that encourages young people to explore peace through musical creation. This project is being implemented in several countries: Ukraine, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Denmark and France.

The objectives of the Music Sessions in each country



Mypeace Germany featured on Baden TV Süd

Music can be a bridge between cultures, generations, and lived realities. This is the central message of the recent TV feature by Baden TV Süd, which highlights the Mypeace Songwriting Workshop.

Held on **April 5, 2025**, in Emmendingen, the workshop brought together young people aged 15 to 35 to engage creatively with the topic of peace through songwriting and collaboration.

In the interview, Krischan **Lukanow, director of musiclab Emmendingen** and one of the workshop facilitators, emphasizes:

“The Mypeace Songwriting Workshop is much more than a one-off project - we see it as a pilot, an example of how peace can be creatively and tangibly explored with young people.”



The MyPEACE Project

The workshop is part of the MyPEACE – Music for Youth initiative, **co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme**. Its goal is to promote peace education through music and creative expression by young people across Europe. MyPEACE involves **eight partner organizations from six countries**.

In Germany, the project is coordinated by musiclab Emmendingen and Outside Media & Knowledge.

Why Music?

- 01 **Music is a universal language.** It transcends borders, cultures, and opinions.
- 02 For many **young people**, music provides a natural way to engage with complex topics like war, peace, identity, and hope.
- 03 In **classrooms across the Freiburg region**, students often speak many different mother tongues. This linguistic and cultural diversity can be challenging - but it is also a great strength. Music creates a shared space and fosters community, even when spoken language is not shared

Why Peace Education?

Peace is a global issue – but we can shape peace education locally.

Peace is more than just the absence of war. It's about:

These values were brought to life in the workshop – **through collaborative writing, music-making, conversation, and mutual support**. Music gave participants a safe space to reflect, express, and connect.

- 01 **Respect**
- 02 **Listening**
- 03 **Solidarity**
- 04 **Taking responsibility for one another**



The Creative Outcome: A Collaborative Song

Led by facilitators Teddy Oculi and Krischan Lukanow of musiclab Emmendingen, the participants wrote and performed an original song exploring the theme of peace from personal and global perspectives.

The entire process was documented on film by Outside Media & Knowledge. The final performance will be released soon on the project website.

CLICK
TO VIEW



Voices from the Workshop

"We have a lot to say, but aren't always heard."

"Music gives me hope that today can be a good day – even when I don't feel like going to school in the morning."



Setting up for the Music Session in Emmendingen



*Just hours before the **second MY PEACE music session in Emmendingen**, the place was buzzing. There was a mix of excitement, focus, and that energy you feel when something special is about to happen.*

Setting Up the Space

Vedran from Outside Media & Knowledge was in his element. Camera gear out, equipment checked, and the space slowly taking shape

Everything needs to be just right — the lighting, the angles, the sound. The plan was simple: capture the vibe, the raw emotion, the moments that matter. It's about showing the energy, the process, the collaboration.

When planning these music sessions and the recording of them there's a clear intention behind every setup. It's not just about filming an event — it's about telling a story, one that resonates and leaves an impact. Vedran makes sure every shot counts.

Getting the Music Ready

Krischan and Teddy from MusicLab led preparations for the music session itself. Instruments were tuned, microphones adjusted

They discussed the flow: songwriting, dialogue, finding a rhythm to guide the group. It's about creating a space where young people can explore what peace means to them - a space where creativity meets purpose.

They know that the participants might have felt unsure, maybe even hesitant. But that's part of the process - letting those thoughts unfold, helping them find the words, the notes, the feelings they've been carrying. They were prepared to guide the group in shaping those ideas into music.





Coordinating the Details

Sanja was making it all come together. Laptops open, messages coming in, last-minute checks being made

Food orders confirmed. Schedules finalised. There was a steady rhythm to the preparation - practical, focused, ready for the unexpected.

All the coordinators share a sense of responsibility - making sure everything is ready so that when the participants walked in, they felt welcomed and comfortable. It's not just about organising a workshop, it's about creating a moment where people can connect and express themselves.

The Thoughts of The Music Session Tomorrow

The young people have seen the words: MY PEACE. They started to wonder what that means to them. Peace. It's not something they're often asked to think about.

What does peace mean to me? Is it a feeling, a place, a memory? Can I talk about it? Should I sing about it? The realisation hit - they could, and they should. This was their chance to speak up, to share, to create something that reflects their own experiences.

It's a new idea, this notion of being asked - really asked - what peace means to them. They got ready to put it into words, into melodies. Nervous, curious, but mostly, ready to take part.

Music as a Way Forward

Tomorrow, Emmendingen will become more than just a location - it will be a space where ideas are voiced, emotions are shared, and peace becomes tangible through music.

The team is prepared, the space is set, and the energy is building. With MY PEACE music sessions for peacebuilding, a new chapter of stories, sounds, and shared reflections is inspired. One song at a time, one thought at a time - the process of peacebuilding continues.

Bordeaux Workshops

In Bordeaux, the workshops took place at the Rocher de Palmer, co-ordinated by Musique de Nuit and supported by LABA. These immersive sessions allowed the young participants to use music as a universal language to convey a message of peace

Immersion in the heart of a creative workshop



The project was organised over two days of discovery and experimentation, led by **Souleymane Diamanka** and **Ophélia Hié** and with the participation of 10 youths.

Day 1: Writing and musical discovery

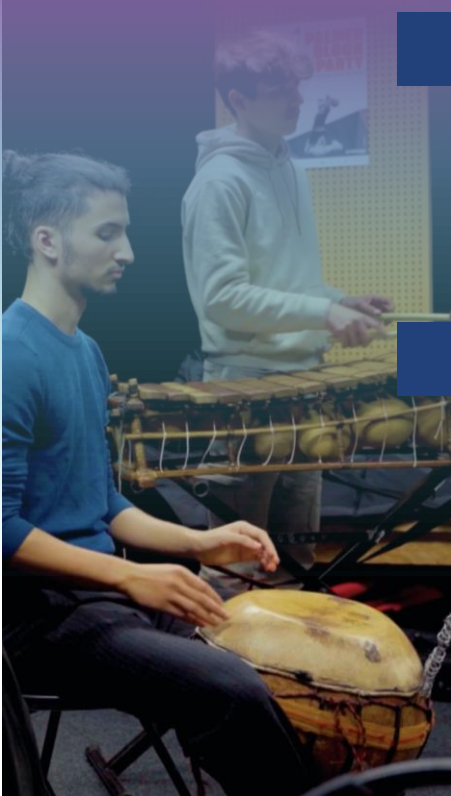
The workshop began with a group discussion on the concept of peace, before the participants set about writing a rhyming text on their own vision of the subject. With the help of Souleymane Diamanka, they refined their creations through readings and constructive feedback. In the afternoon, it was time for music with Ophélia Hié: discovering and playing traditional African instruments, such as the balafon, for an unprecedented sound immersion. An opportunity for young people to learn about new sounds and to co-create a collective melody.

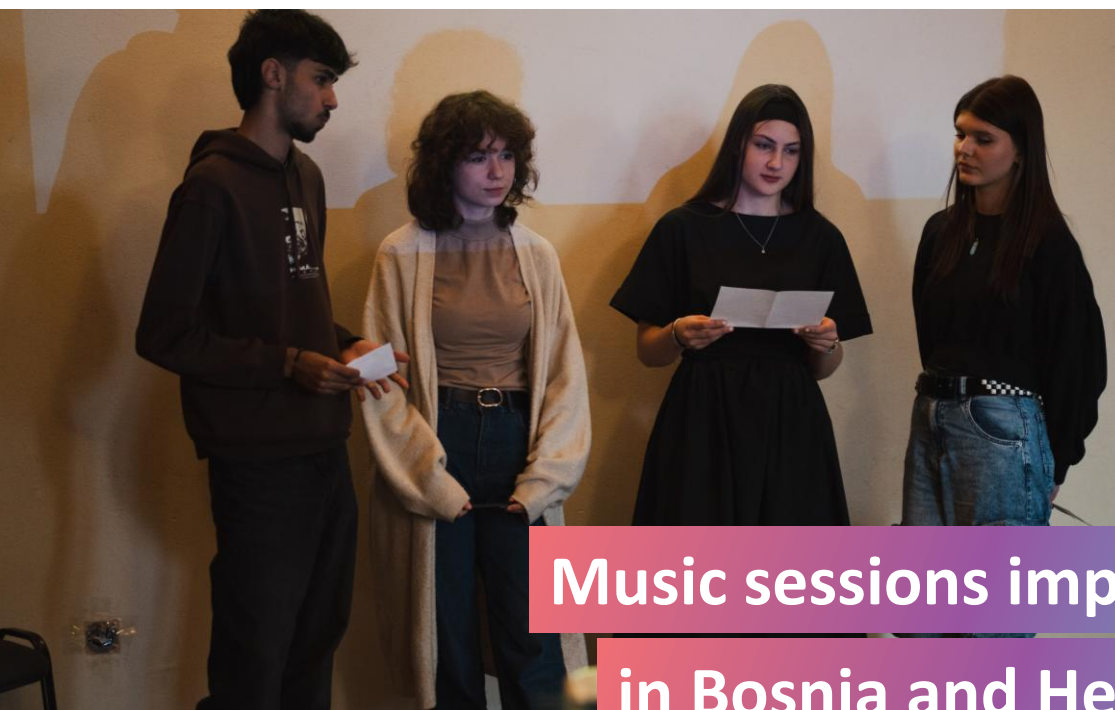
Day 2: From finalisation to performance

The second day was devoted to refining the texts, before they were set to music and recited to a guitar accompaniment. The afternoon marked the culmination of the workshop: a collective performance where the poetry of the words mingled with the sounds of African instruments, creating a unique moment of harmony and sharing.

An artistic approach to develop essential skills

More than just a workshop, MY PEACE gave young people the chance to enjoy a complete artistic experience, involving them in a process ranging from writing to musical performance. This project offered them a space for free and benevolent expression, where music becomes a powerful tool for conveying ideas and fostering dialogue. By exploring orality and creativity, participants strengthened their ability to structure and express their thoughts. The group dynamic also taught them the importance of listening, dialogue and collaboration, all valuable skills for actively engaging in the construction of a more inclusive and peaceful world.





Music sessions implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Session 1

The Power of Music Vol. 1 – Peace in Every Note

*Held on **February 8th, 2025** in Tuzla, “The Power of Music” session launched with a warm and creative energy. This session focused on music’s historical role in peace movements and revolutions that shaped humanity. Participants took part in “Music Speed Dating,” an interactive icebreaker where they matched countries with traditional songs or instruments, leading to fast-paced cultural exchanges and new friendships.*

A playful Kahoot quiz tested their knowledge about music’s influence on social change, covering everything from anti-war anthems to songs that unified divided communities. As the workshop unfolded, participants split into smaller groups to explore how music can influence peacebuilding in fields like education, politics, and the arts. Two moving stories grounded the session in real-life examples: the peaceful revival of Ladino music

by the Sephardic Jewish community in Sarajevo, and the powerful legacy of the Roma anthem *Đelem Đelem*. Participants not only analysed the song’s meaning but also learned to play and perform it together, turning musical heritage into a living, shared experience. The session concluded with hand-written messages for peace, left as a collective reminder of what harmony, in sound and society, can look like.





Session 2

Music, AI and the future of peacebuilding



The second session shifted the focus from history to the present and future, asking: How can technology and artificial intelligence support (or threaten) music's role in building peace? The day began with Live Music Chairs, a musical twist on a classic game where those "out" joined the live band slowly building an impromptu orchestra. This activity set a tone of joy, spontaneity, and collaboration.

Participants then worked in teams to research songs that changed the world, such as Imagine and Redemption Song, and presented how these tracks contributed to global movements for peace and justice. From there, the group explored modern music-making tools, including real-time AI software that can generate melodies and lyrics in seconds. This led to a structured debate: Can AI Music Serve Peace? where young people took on opposing roles and critically discussed the emotional, ethical, and social

implications of AI-created music. One participant commented, "AI can write a song, but can it feel pain, joy, or hope? That's what peace needs."

The debate was followed by a live demonstration of AI-assisted music creation, culminating in the group learning and playing a newly generated song. Using a MENTI board, participants anonymously shared what peace "sounds like" to them today, offering words like "harmony," "freedom," and "togetherness."

Impact of the sessions

Both sessions highlighted that while tools and formats evolve, the core of music's power remains the same: connection, emotion, and collective expression.

Whether through ancient folk instruments or AI-driven platforms, music still holds immense potential to inspire, heal, and bring people together.

And in the hands of young changemakers, its future as a peacebuilding force looks both bright and bold.



Danish Partner EUEI hosts Music Session

On May 2nd, EUEI, the MY PEACE Partner from Denmark, hosted a music session as part of their collaboration with the project. EUEI reached out to classically trained musicians and members of a Community Choir by email and gathered an engaged group together for the session.

The Community Choir was born from the desire to heal, unite, and inspire in the wake of tragedy. This choir has long stood as a symbol of hope, reconciliation, and the power of young voices to bridge divides in the community. EUEI facilitators led a discussion on the impact of music on peacebuilding, as well as the emotional impact of performance. Participants shared their experiences of conflict, overcoming the negative impact of conflict on them and the role music played in that. This then led to discussions on the shared experiences and on how music could be used to support peacebuilding and conflict resolution in their future activities.

The session ended with a group performance of BIKO, a powerful tribute to South African activist Steve Biko, whose life and death became a rallying cry against apartheid. This song not only remembers a man who stood for justice, but also reminds us of the role music plays in resistance, healing, and peacebuilding.

Following the performance, Kathryn O'Brien of EUEI closed the session, stating:

‘Music has the unique ability to carry truth across borders and generations. Let this performance be a reminder that through harmony - both musical and human - we can build a more just and peaceful world.’



A project that resonates across European media

In recent months, My Peace has received coverage from several European media outlets, illustrating its growing visibility in both professional and public arenas.

In France, the project was featured in a full-page article in **L'Affût**, the journal of cultural policy published by L'Agence L'A. The article, appearing in the spring 2025 edition, positioned My Peace within broader regional strategies linking youth engagement, artistic practice, and transnational cooperation. This publication enhanced the project's visibility among cultural professionals, policymakers, and public institutions across Nouvelle-Aquitaine.



At the European level, **My Peace** was also the subject of an audio feature broadcast on **euradio**, a transnational station with editorial offices in several French cities. The Bordeaux edition aired a dedicated segment titled **My Peace, le reportage**, providing a compelling narrative of the project's workshops and highlighting the potential of music as a vector for civic expression and intercultural dialogue.

Through these various media—print, audio, video—My Peace is not only gaining visibility but also reinforcing its contribution to a cultural ecosystem that promotes youth participation, democratic values, and artistic cooperation across borders.





MY PEACE Reaches Irish Student Community Through Music Sessions



*Irish project Partner **Momentum** reached out to the **Atlantic Technical University (ATU)** to share the work of MY PEACE with their student and leadership community. ATU is a multi-campus university based in the West and Northwest of Ireland.*

With a student body exceeding 26,000 across 600+ undergraduate and doctoral programmes, ATU serves a diverse community of learners, staff, and organisations and offers a unique blend of academic excellence, research innovation, and quality of life.

The Momentum team recognised that introducing MY PEACE to this diverse community offered a wonderful opportunity to share the work and objectives of the project with young people, educators and leaders at the University from a range of disciplines. With the support of the Communications Manager and the Wellbeing Officer at the University, music sessions were arranged at the Sligo campus.

Members of the Traditional Irish Music Society and the Music and Bands Society were invited to attend and participate at MY PEACE music sessions held in the evening after classes had ended. The format of the sessions was largely informal but began with a presentation on the work of MY PEACE, its aims and objectives. Next, issues around peace building and conflict resolution were addressed, and students

were asked to consider the role music could play in. Following the presentation, the attendees divided into groups and moved to a nearby classroom, where a discussion on peacebuilding, conflict resolution and the role of music in this was facilitated. Students were invited to share their reflections on how music had supported them and how it could be used to support others aspiring to peacebuilding. Many students chose to offer these reflections to the camera.

The sessions finished with the entire group coming together to collaborate and play music related to the themes they had discussed during the evening. Participants were from the entire Northwest region of Ireland as well as from Canada and France and from a range of academic disciplines.

Everyone embraced the spirit and the objectives of the project, and Momentum looks forward to returning to the campus later this year to share the project video with the wider ATU community.



Music of Youth - A Peace Building Approach

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