Youth Power, formerly known as the Cyprus Network for Youth Development, inspires and energises Cypriot youth to actively participate in efforts to support reconciliation between the two communities. More than a dozen youth organisations, with the administrative assistance of the newly formed Youth Power Secretariat lay the foundations for the formation of projects and activities that involve youth as active and concerned citizens of a future Cyprus. Throughout this project various activities such as youth exchanges, dialogue opportunities, islandwide youth committees, festivals and research are being jointly designed and implemented to further engage youth in peacebuilding.

Let me hug a Cypriot! Part of the mobile One StreetS Festival activities in Nicosia, 10 December 2011

Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 constitute one sixth of the total Cypriot population. Over the past years, many youth organisations have been involved in peacebuilding activities, which have granted a large number of young Cypriots the opportunity to meet their peers from the other community, to build new friendships, and learn about each other’s views, perspectives, fears and hopes. The new phase of Youth Activism is reaching out to even more organisations, decision-makers and youth, particularly through its Small Grants initiative.

The current member organisations of the Youth Power network are: Peace Players International, Soma Akriton, Mediation Association, EUC Research Centre, HASDER, International Centre for Sport Research and Development, Environmental Studies Centre, Future Worlds Centre, ADHD Cyprus, Frederick Research Centre, University of Nicosia Research Foundation and KAYAD Community Centre.

One StreetS Festival

“One StreetS gave us the chance to experience the true meaning of multiculturalism, the true significance of acceptance and understanding of other people’s differences and what peace really stands for... We can only truly embrace peace if we immerse ourselves in a circle of multicoloured and multicultural people and actively promote, in unison, the human values that everyone shares.”

Maria Papadopoulou, 24, One StreetS Festival Project Coordinator

“I can only report what our students have told me. They were happy to discover that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots have so much in common. Many of them met Greek Cypriots for the first time, during the festival, and were impressed at how few the differences were. They felt happy to be included in a multicultural event, along with the locals of both sides, and enjoyed themselves immensely. They felt empowered and reassured in their effort to exchange positive emotions from the other participants and made many new friends.”

Deniz Urfali, 28, Event Coordinator for Morphou

Click here for videos from One StreetS and other Youth Power events and activities

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230,000 EUR (Phase 2)