

“Rock the Peace” Workshops Curriculum*

February 2024

*Please note that BCMS and MKD versions of the curriculum are available upon request.

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1. Rock the Peace Activity Description

"Rock the Peace" is a comprehensive program consisting of two levels of training: an initial online session followed by an in-person workshop. The first segment focuses on Training of Trainers (ToT) and aims to deliver a one-day workshop, complete with educational materials, tailored to introduce secondary school students (aged 15-19) to music from the former Yugoslavia and beyond, which advocates for peace, social justice, and societal change. Highlighting the efforts of numerous Ex-Yu rock artists who vehemently opposed the rise of nationalism and the conflicts of the 1990s, these workshops illuminate the power of music as a platform for expressing political dissent and challenging governmental policies. Featured artists include iconic bands like EKV, Kud Idijoti, Partibrejkers, Rambo Amadeus, as well as renowned Western musicians such as Bob Dylan, Bob Marley, Joan Baez, Stiff Little Fingers, and Rage Against the Machine.

Participants (aged 20-25) will be recruited for an interactive online Train-the-Trainer event conducted in English, with 2-3 representatives from each country. Encouraging active engagement, participants will complete self-assessment questionnaires upon completion to facilitate collaborative learning.

Project management will collaborate with and mentor the three trainer teams, aiding in the planning and execution of their own in-person Rock the Peace workshops in their respective countries. This includes partnering with trainers, EYRS, and Alicorn to recruit participants (aged 15-19), with a target of 7-10 participants per country. Additionally, Eurothink Project Management aims to involve at least one local musician per location to speak or perform at each event, with the possibility of recruiting additional musicians to participate online or send video greetings to inspire youth participants.

Three one-day, in-person workshops will be conducted, with representatives from each of the three partner organizations present to observe and provide support as necessary. Active engagement will be encouraged among the youth attendees, with promotion efforts extended through social media platforms. Participants will be invited to complete self-assessment forms to aid in project evaluation and learning.

A post-workshop lyrics competition will be organized in which workshop participants will have one month to write lyrics that reflect the values of Rock the Peace. A three-member jury will be composed, which will evaluate the songs written by the participants during the in-person training and declare the best texts as winners. The participants with the best texts will be presented at the Rock for Unity final event in Sarajevo

Upon completion of the program, all workshop participants will receive certificates of achievement and a two-year membership to the EYRC Fan Club.

2. Open Call

2.1. Framework for youth outreach

Two open calls for participants will be announced. Furthermore, a key strategy for fostering youth engagement and ensuring the success of this initiative involves establishing partnerships with institutions that engage young people. Institutions such as high schools, social and artistic centers, and non-governmental organizations are identified as strategic partners for facilitating youth exchange activities.

The previous activities like RockTours and Rocking the History facilitated networking and the creation of cooperative experiences between the project and young individuals interested in participating. In addition to the young people who registered for these activities, there are also individuals who have registered but were unable to participate due to the project's predetermined limitations. These individuals express an interest in engaging in future activities.

2.2. Criteria of selection

The Rock for Unity project partners place a strong emphasis on enhancing social inclusion and aim to implement an inclusive and participatory approach to members from diverse backgrounds to foster cooperation and interaction among them. Youth interest in learning about Ex-Yu Rock music and motivation to engage creatively with other participants will be the main criteria for selection. Furthermore, gender, ethnic, and urban affiliations will be considered to create balanced groups. The calls will target two groups of participants according to the two training sessions. The first group will include individuals aged 20 to 30 (students, unemployed individuals, employees, and volunteers). One of the main selection criteria will be experience in creating music and writing lyrics. Participants will develop this experience during the online training and then have the opportunity to apply it during the in-person training.

For the other group, consisting of participants aged between 15 and 19 who will attend the in-person training, the selection criteria will include their experience with writing songs/lyrics, as well as their motivation to participate and learn how to improve. Individuals without prior experience in writing songs and lyrics but with a strong motivation to learn and be part of this training will not be excluded.

As the first group will then be tasked with holding the workshop with the younger group, it will be very important to select individuals who show not only an interest and proficiency when it comes to writing lyrics, as well as the topics of peace and social justice, but also those who have proven abilities in leadership and team building, as these are crucial for the workshops to be efficient and effective. When choosing the trainers, this will be assessed through: their past experience when it comes to similar tasks (leadership, workshops, etc.), their application form – which will seek for them to demonstrate in written form how they would plan to hold this workshop (in general terms), and the knowledge that they wish to pass on to the younger group.

2.3. Participants application form

The application form will be prepared on Google Forms and will be easily accessible. It will be made available on official websites and/or social media profiles of Eurothink, Alicorn and EYRS for interested applicants. The Open Call and application form will also be shared to the strategic partners (CSO/organizations and high schools) for further dissemination.

The form will gather the following information:

1. Name, Last name
2. Age
3. Sex/Gender
4. Location
5. E-mail
6. Short description of your motivation to take part in the workshop
7. Do you have experience writing songs/lyrics/poems??

2.4. Participant evaluation form

Participants in the in-person training will be invited to **fill out a form** with questions related to their overall satisfaction with the training and activities.

The form will contain the following statements (1- very low; 5 - very high):

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. My overall satisfaction with this event was | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. Workshop learning materials were relevant | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. Relevance of acquired knowledge in relation to my current interests | 1 2 3 4 5 |

4. Assessment of the presentation and the lecturers

1 2 3 4 5

5. Rate the organizational aspect of the workshop

1 2 3 4 5

Additional comments

3. Rock expert (Training of trainers)

The presence of a single local rock expert is a pivotal element in this activity. His/her profound knowledge of the socio-cultural and political factors that have shaped Ex-Yu Rock music over the past 50 years is indispensable. They play a crucial role in helping young participants discover essential insights into the essence of Rock music and its societal impact.

Rock music in Yugoslavia exhibited distinctive stylistic and thematic characteristics in each of the three countries—North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. While part of a unified Ex-Yu rock scene, rock'n'roll in these nations was shaped by diverse influences and regions, resulting in varying rates of evolution within their respective music scenes.

The rock expert will, with the assistance of primary (music, lyrics) and secondary (analyses, encyclopedias) resources, present a short history of the relationship between peace, social change, songwriting and music in the 20th and 21st century. The trainer will highlight the ways in which artists took their perspective on various social movements and affairs and channeled it through music. Specific examples and methods will be presented.

3.1. Expert biography and work

The workshop trainer was carefully selected based on a thorough assessment of his contributions to the field of rock 'n' roll history, as well as his demonstrated pedagogical skills in similar youth workshop formats. Three key criteria were considered: firstly, his expertise in Yugoslavian rock music and its historical context; secondly, his knowledge of the global history of rock music; and finally, his understanding of the political and social dimensions underlying the emergence of values such as "peace" and "social justice" within these two rock music traditions. The trainer's role is to guide participants in comprehending the aforementioned general principles and methodologies, and to help them apply this knowledge in future training sessions scheduled in three cities (Skopje, Podgorica, and Sarajevo).

Trainer Biography:

Goran Perišić is a Sarajevan author, music critic, musician who has been an integral part of the city's punk and underground scene for over 40 years. He is the creator of one of Sarajevo's most important fanzines – „EPITAPH.“ He was part of the band Viva La, a DJ,

and is currently writing a book on the Sarajevo underground scene between 1980 and 1992.

He has closely followed both the local and the international music scene for many years.

4. Rock the Peace Workshops

4.1. Training of Trainers workshop approach

The training sessions will take place on the Zoom online platform, with advance notice provided to all participants. The attendees will include the trainer, 6, the selected candidate participants, and the coordinators of the Rock for Unity project from Skopje, Podgorica, and Sarajevo.

The primary objective of the trainer is to introduce the traditions of rock music in the former Yugoslavia and globally, serving as platforms for the development of themes and ideas that opposed military-political dynamics during specific historical periods. Moreover, these criticisms, which often signify an affirmation of values, address conflictual relations primarily instigated by political and military establishments.

Another key area for the trainer to address is the concept of social justice within the realm of rock music in both aforementioned traditions. Social justice, deeply embedded within the political and cultural narratives of Yugoslavia, is readily discernible in the works of numerous musicians from that era, constituting a significant aspect of the broader repertoire of renowned rock artists worldwide.

The online workshop and the trainer will empower attendees (aged 20-30) from the three countries to subsequently conduct trainings in their respective countries for a younger audience (aged 15-19) on the topics covered during the workshop.

Participants will engage in vibrant exchanges of opinions and perspectives with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds, extending beyond their own interview experiences to include discussions on interviews conducted by others. These discussions will encompass not only question types but also narrative structures, with the trainer giving precedence to these aspects. This collaborative environment will foster teamwork among different groups, facilitating the sharing of newly acquired knowledge and the structuring of workshop outcomes.

Additionally, participants will receive comprehensive instructions on the methodological approach for effectively presenting the historical development, critique, and promotion of values opposing war and advocating for social justice to younger audiences. The exposition must include data on:

- The emergence of criticism against war and advocacy for peace globally and within the Yugoslav period.
- The emergence and critique of the concept of social justice within the context of both the global and Yugoslav periods.
- The potential applicability of these two enduring and timeless categories in rock music and broader societal contexts.

Following the completion of Rock the Peace activities, the three groups of participants aged 15-19 will each write a lyrics containing these valuable elements within one month. These lyrics will be translated and evaluated by a three-member jury.

Following the final event, all lyrics will be posted on EYRS website and promoted on social media.

4.2. Guidelines for online trainers

As an introductory part of the online training, there will be a crash course on the impact of World War II and the Yugoslav Wars on the culture and politics of promoting peace globally, including within Yugoslavia. During the 90-minute exposition, the expert will focus on numerous rock music performers who incorporated these significant themes into their music. Of particular importance is the context of Yugoslavia and the surge of nationalism following the political system change and the independence of Yugoslav member states. This period saw the amplification of nationalist narratives and identities, often characterized by antagonistic attitudes towards 'others,' including those ethnically different or neighboring states.

In this context, many Ex-Yugoslav rock artists were (and are) staunchly opposed to the rise of nationalism and the conflicts of the 1990s. These workshops will highlight their songs and efforts to promote peace, illustrating how music can serve as a vehicle for expressing political opinions and opposing government policies. Bands such as EKV, Kud Idijoti, Partibrejkers, and Rambo Amadeus will be featured, alongside Western bands and artists such as Bob Dylan, Bob Marley, Joan Baez, Stiff Little Fingers, and Rage Against the Machine.

As the second segment of the online training, there will be a section dedicated to instructing the trainers on how to effectively train younger trainers during the in-person sessions. This part will emphasize the key elements that trainers should consider when interacting with the younger participants. These elements include:

- Exploring the relation between music and politics in respect of social change and combating any kind of antagonism
- Providing examples of lyrics (also poems) that promote love over hate
- Demonstrating how to write poems advocating for love and peace

Considering this, the trainer will furnish supplementary materials to facilitate a more thorough examination of these concepts, aiming to facilitate better comprehension of their presentation.

4.3. Learning materials

Before the online training, candidates selected for the program will receive materials aimed at familiarizing them with key concepts concerning the intersection of politics and music. In line with the objectives of this activity and the Rock For Unity project, both the TOT trainer and the subsequently trained trainers will be tasked with introspectively explaining the significance of music primarily as a medium for conveying important messages. These messages, within the context of Yugoslavia, undeniably reflect the prevailing antagonisms in those countries. In the broader global context, where rock music encompasses a wide range of themes, it serves as a mechanism for the intergenerational transmission of such values, including commitments to peace, opposition to wars in Vietnam and the Middle East, and resistance against poverty and capitalism.

Suggested materials are:

- Jeff Tweedy, How to write one song: Loving the things we create and how they love us back, October 13, 2020.
- Dorian Linskey, 33 Revolutions per Minute: A History of Protest Songs, from Billie Holiday to Green Day, 2010
- James Greene, Jr, Brave Punk World: The International Rock Underground from Alerta Roja to Z-Off, October 6, 2017
- Barry Phillips, In Search of Tito's Punks: On the Road in a Country That No Longer Exists, 2023

4.4. Guidelines for trainers in person

The participants in the online training will have the opportunity to organize their presentations related to rock music and peace, including the theme of love within the traditions of both global rock music and Yugoslavian rock. In this regard, they will assist young participants (aged 15-19) in gaining initial knowledge of the topic. In each of the

cities (Skopje, Podgorica, and Sarajevo), they will encourage them to write the lyrics for one song per participant. These lyrics will eventually be part of a competition, with the winning entry being announced.

Post-workshop lyrics competition in which workshop participants will have 1 month to write lyrics that reflect the values in Rock the Peace. Submissions are emailed to Eurothink, and will be translated into the project languages (BCSM and Macedonian language) and English.

4.5. Workshop outcomes

These two workshops have two main goals that are crucial and directed towards outcomes. Namely, the first goal is the study of the relationship between rock music and values related to social relationships (peace, anti-nationalism, against wars, etc.). The second goal is the study of writing lyrics for songs, a skill that the participants will need in order to participate in the Lyrics Competition.

Participants in the first workshop will not only gain new knowledge but will also be tasked with presenting a specific topic to a younger audience, providing them with a new experiential learning opportunity. To achieve this, they will research world and Yugoslav rock music and prepare presentations on the influence of these genres on anti-nationalist and anti-violent rhetoric found in song lyrics.

Younger participants (aged 15-19) will acquire knowledge about the history of world and Yugoslav rock music, thereby grasping the fundamental concept of the Rock the Peace activity. Additionally, they will gain insight into the prevalent anti-nationalist rhetoric that has characterized societies in recent decades. Moreover, they will engage in a creative competition where they will actively contribute to crafting song lyrics that directly promote these values.

Upon the completion of the workshops, participants will be given a time period in which they shall write their own lyrics based on what they have learned during the workshops. They will be encouraged to write within the themes of social justice and peace. Upon their completion, a jury of three members and the management of the Ex-Yu Rock Centar will assess their lyrics and choose what they consider to be the best. Those whose lyrics are chosen as the best will have an opportunity to present their work at the Rock4Unity final event.

5. Rock the Peace: Lyrics Competition

After the conclusion of the in-person training, participants will have the opportunity to take part in a Lyrics competition. A public call for participation in the competition will also be posted on the online platforms of the three partner organizations implementing the project. Individuals aged 15-19 from North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro will be eligible to participate.

One of the primary themes of this activity is the promotion of peace and mutual understanding in the post-Yugoslav context within the countries where the Rock For Unity project is being implemented. Lyrics will be evaluated by a three-member jury selected based on their competencies.

The submission address for song lyrics and all other relevant details will be included in the call for participation in the competition. Upon completion of this activity, the lyrics will be showcased in the Rock Museum in Sarajevo, and the winners will be presented at the final event of the Rock For Unity project in Sarajevo.

5.1. Criteria of selection for the Jury

Following the in-person training, the planned Lyrics competition, aimed at promoting peace and values that overcome nationalism and inter-ethnic antagonism, will be set in motion. A three-member jury, selected for their expertise and specialized training, will be tasked with evaluating the lyrics written by workshop participants. Additionally, a public call for participation in the competition will be issued.

Selection criteria for jury members will prioritize competence. Specifically, members of the jury committee must possess extensive knowledge of rock music, music in general, the context of rock music in Yugoslavia and post-Yugoslavia, and must also advocate for the values of peace and mutual understanding.

Each country involved in the Rock For Unity project will nominate a candidate for the jury committee, with the project management team making the final decision regarding their appointment.

Following the selection of jury committee members, several meetings will be conducted with them on online platforms to discuss their roles, responsibilities, and activities within the framework of this competition.

5.2. Biography of Jury members

- **Tošo Filipovski**, from North Macedonia, researcher, journalist and musician, author of the "First Macedonian Rock Encyclopedia"
- **Ljupcho Jolevski**, from North Macedonia, researcher, journalist and author of book on music in North Macedonia.
- **Goran Perisic**, from Bosnia and Hercegovina is a Sarajevan author, music critic, musician who has been an integral part of the city's punk and underground scene for over 40 years.

5.3. Criteria of evaluation of lyrics

The criteria for evaluating lyrics should be consistent across all submitted entries, and they are as follows:

- Relevance and engagement of the solyrics
- Language and style of writing
- Focus and treatment of the reality and surrounding in which the author is creating
- Understanding of change
- Understanding and empathy

Requirements for participation:

- Participants must be aged between 13 and 19 years old and from one of the three following countries: Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia.
- Lyrics must be written in the author's native language.

- The lyrics should address topics such as: the place of young people in society, their everyday lives and drive to affirm their own ideas and creative energy, standing up for their own ideas
- No hatred or discrimination towards any group people, yet a promotion of peace and empathy

5.4. Awards

One award category is foreseen, namely the best lyrics that will reflect the previously presented values through the three criteria: Textuality, Contextuality, and Thematic Whole. In that regard, this award includes first prize(s), second prize(s), and third prize(s).

- The first prize will be a signed postcard by one or more Ex-Yu rock legends
- The second prize will be a vinyl record
- The third prize will be ticket(s) to an upcoming rock concert

6. Rock the Peace Activity Implementation Timeline

Timeline	
Organisation of Rock the Peace online workshop in 3 cities	March 15, 2024
Organization of Rock the Peace workshops in person in Skopje	March 29, 2024
Organization of Rock the Peace workshops in person in Podgorica	April 5, 2024
Organization of Rock the Peace workshops in person in Sarajevo	April 3, 2024
Publication of a call for participation in a competition for rock lyrics	April 19, 2024
The call for lyrics is closing	May 19, 2024
Announcement of winners	May 20, 2024

6.1. Training of Trainer (ToT): Rock the Peace Workshop Agenda

15:00 - 15:10 Workshop Intro

- Introducing R4U project and Rock the Peace activities
- Ice breakers, getting to know the participants

15:15 - 16:00 International music

- Introducing participants to international movements in the 20th century and its impact on music
- Showcasing a select few songs as examples of peace and social justice in music

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 - 17:00 Ex-Yu

- Introducing participants with some of the more critical moments between social themes and rock in the former Yugoslavia
- Showcasing a select few songs as examples of promoting peace and social justice related to relevant affairs

17:00 - 17:15 Coffee Break

17:15 - 18:00 Lyric analysis

- Analysis of lyrics which spoke of the relevant themes
- Understanding methods and inspirations when it comes to writing lyrics on these themes.

17:15 - 18:00 Conclusion

- New steps
- Workshop wrapup

6.2. Rock the Peace Workshop in person Agenda

09.00 - 09.30 Workshop Intro

- Ice breakers, getting to know the participants

09.30 - 11.00

- Presentation of relation between music and socially engaged songs

11.00 - 11.30 *Coffee Break*

11.30 - 12.30

- How to write a socially engaging lyric

12.30 - 13.00 Conclusions