

OSCE PA

REPORT OF OSCE PA
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
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WINTER MEETING



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Introduction – Executive Summary

I have the honour to present this report outlining the activities carried out in my capacity as OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement during the period from July 2025 to February 2026.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons for the confidence placed in me through my appointment, as well as for his strong and visible support for youth engagement across the Assembly's work, including through his personal participation in several youth-focused events during the reporting period.

Building on the priorities set out in previous reports and in line with my mandate, my work during this period focused on three mutually reinforcing objectives:

- advancing meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes;
- strengthening the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's contribution to the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda;
- further institutionalising youth engagement within the Assembly through the work of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians and youth-driven policy initiatives.

This report provides an overview of my engagements in external and OSCE-related youth events, highlights the activities and growing role of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians, and presents two key initiatives launched during this period: a new cycle of the **Youth Perspectives** initiative focused on affordable housing, and the Parliamentary Dialogue Platform on Youth, Peace and Security.

Special Representative Engagements



On 10 July 2025, I participated in and moderated a session at the youth event **“Pact for the Future: A New Order of International Cooperation that Delivers a Better Present and Safeguards the Future”**, held at the Hofburg in Vienna. The event was co-organised by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Finnish OSCE Chairpersonship, ODIHR, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and brought together young researchers, representatives of OSCE executive structures, diplomats, and parliamentarians.

The event provided a platform for structured dialogue between young experts and decision-makers on how multilateral institutions can respond to contemporary challenges while safeguarding the interests of future generations. Discussions were framed around the UN-led **Pact for the Future** process and its relevance for the OSCE’s comprehensive security mandate.

In my role as moderator of the session dedicated to the presentation of policy papers prepared by the Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN), I facilitated discussions on media freedom, disinformation, digital governance, artificial intelligence, and democratic resilience. Particular attention was given

to balancing efforts to counter disinformation with the protection of freedom of expression, as well as to the role of international organisations in shaping norms in emerging policy areas.

The event was also attended by OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons, underscoring the Assembly's commitment to youth engagement and intergenerational dialogue. His participation reinforced the message that youth perspectives are integral to shaping forward-looking parliamentary and multilateral responses.

OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum, Helsinki (29–30 July 2025)



OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum in Helsinki

Later in July, I participated in the OSCE Chairpersonship Youth Forum in Helsinki, organised under the Finnish OSCE Chairpersonship. The Forum brought together young leaders, youth organisations, representatives of participating States, and OSCE institutions to assess progress on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and identify priorities for its future implementation.

I contributed to a panel on international good practices related to YPS, highlighting the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's experience in institutionalising youth

participation through parliamentary diplomacy. I emphasised that meaningful youth engagement requires permanent structures, political ownership, and clear pathways linking youth inputs to decision-making outcomes.

Together with former Vice-Chair of the Network of Young Parliamentarians, Aleksander Stokkebo, we presented the Network and the Youth Perspectives initiative as examples of how youth engagement can move beyond consultation towards co-creation of policy outcomes, including through youth-driven parliamentary resolutions and national-level follow-up.

A key outcome of the Forum was the adoption by the Finnish Chairpersonship of an OSCE-wide **Roadmap on Youth, Peace and Security**, later presented at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Vienna. The Roadmap provides a strategic framework for advancing the YPS agenda across OSCE structures and offers an important reference for parliamentary engagement.

Following the Forum, I also attended the **Helsinki +50 Conference** together with OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons and President Emeritus Pia Kauma, marking the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and reflecting on its continued relevance for today's youth and future generations.



OSCE Helsinki + 50 Conference

Visit to Ukraine with the OSCE PA President and Secretary General

During the reporting period, I joined OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons and Secretary General Roberto Montella on an official visit to Ukraine, conducted in the context of Russia's ongoing war of aggression. The visit focused on demonstrating parliamentary solidarity, support for Ukraine's sovereignty, and engagement with Ukrainian political leadership and institutions.

In meetings with Ukrainian counterparts, including President Volodymyr Zelensky, Chair of the Verkhovna Rada Ruslan Stefanchuk, and Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, particular attention was given to the impact of the war on young people. Discussions highlighted severe and multidimensional consequences, including mental health challenges, disruption of education and employment pathways, forced displacement, and reduced opportunities for civic participation.



Meeting with President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky

We also discussed the role of youth councils, student organisations, and local youth initiatives in sustaining social cohesion and democratic resilience under wartime conditions. Ukrainian interlocutors underlined the importance of preserving youth participation mechanisms even in times of conflict, both as a safeguard for democratic culture and as an investment in post-war recovery. Engagements with the OSCE Programme Support for Ukraine further highlighted

the importance of continued international support for youth-focused programmes, including psychosocial assistance and capacity-building, reinforcing the relevance of the YPS agenda in conflict and post-conflict settings.

OSCE WIN Academy – Youth Edition (3 November 2025)

On 3 November 2025, I participated in the OSCE WIN Academy – Youth Edition, co-organised with the Bled Strategic Forum and the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana. The Academy brought together young people from South-Eastern Europe to strengthen their capacity to advance gender equality and contribute to inclusive peace and security.

The programme focused on equipping participants with practical skills, policy knowledge, and confidence to engage in peacebuilding, mediation, and decision-making. In my contribution, I emphasised the importance of engaging youth—particularly young women—in political processes and highlighted the role of parliamentary institutions in removing structural barriers to participation and supporting youth-led initiatives.



International Anti-Corruption Day Conference

In December 2025, I delivered a video address to the OSCE International Anti-Corruption Day Conference. In my remarks, I highlighted the disproportionate impact of corruption on young people, noting its role in undermining trust in democratic institutions, limiting opportunities, and discouraging youth participation in public life.

From a parliamentary perspective, I stressed that anti-corruption efforts must be closely linked with youth engagement and inclusion. Parliaments play a central role not only in strengthening transparency and oversight, but also in creating meaningful avenues for young people to contribute to policy development and monitoring. I also underlined the relevance of the OSCE PA's Youth Perspectives initiative in linking youth participation with parliamentary anti-corruption efforts.

OSCE PA School Dialogues Initiative on Preventing Youth Radicalization

I would also like to welcome the launch of the **School Dialogues on Preventing Youth Radicalization** initiative by the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism. The initiative reflects a growing recognition across the Assembly of the importance of engaging young people in security-related discussions through inclusive, dialogue-based approaches.

While education, critical thinking, and civic and media literacy are essential tools for prevention, it is equally important to avoid framing young people primarily as a risk group. By giving young people the space to express their views, engage with decision-makers, and contribute to policy discussions, initiatives such as the School Dialogues help strengthen trust in democratic institutions and reinforce resilience. Designing policies with young people, rather than merely about them, remains key to addressing security challenges in an inclusive and democratic manner.

OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians

The OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians (NYP) continued to play an increasingly important role in the Assembly's work during the reporting period. Its activities demonstrated how structured youth engagement within a parliamentary framework can contribute substantively to the OSCE PA's comprehensive security agenda, while also strengthening democratic renewal and intergenerational dialogue.



Network of Young Parliamentarians

Beyond serving as a platform for exchange among young legislators, the Network has further consolidated its role as a mechanism for translating youth perspectives into concrete parliamentary outputs, including resolutions, thematic debates, election observation, and outreach to youth and civil society at the national level.

Leadership Developments and Institutional Consolidation

Following elections held during the OSCE PA Annual Session in Porto, a new Board of the Network was established, marking an important step in strengthening its institutional continuity and political visibility. The Board consists of myself as Chair, and Michalis Yiacomou (Cyprus) and Federica Onori (Italy) as Vice-Chairs.

The reporting period was also marked by a notable increase in the representation of young parliamentarians in leadership positions across the OSCE PA. This development reflects the gradual mainstreaming of youth perspectives within the

Assembly's work and demonstrates the impact of sustained efforts to empower young members through the Network. In particular:

- Jevrosima Pejović was elected Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security;
- Sargis Khandanyan was elected Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions;
- Federica Onori was appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence;
- Linnea Wickman and Monika Zajkova led OSCE PA delegations during Election Observation Missions in Moldova (September 2025) and Kyrgyzstan (November 2025), respectively.

These appointments underscore the growing trust placed in young parliamentarians and highlight the added value of youth leadership in areas ranging from security and democracy to emerging technologies and electoral integrity.

OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians Visit to Cyprus (September 2025)



NYP Visit to Cyprus

In September 2025, the Network conducted an official visit to Cyprus, hosted by the House of Representatives. The visit combined internal Network discussions with substantive exchanges with Cypriot parliamentary leadership and local authorities, providing an opportunity to reflect on regional security challenges, confidence-building, and youth participation in divided or post-conflict contexts. A central theme of the visit was the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. Discussions focused on the role young parliamentarians can play in peacebuilding, dialogue facilitation, and trust-building across communities, as well as on the importance of inclusive political processes in societies affected by protracted conflict.

In addition, the visit included focused discussions on affordable housing, identified by young people across the OSCE region as an increasingly pressing socio-economic challenge with direct implications for democratic participation and social cohesion. The exchanges in Cyprus helped frame housing affordability not only as a social policy issue, but as a matter of comprehensive security—an understanding that directly informed the selection of this theme for the new Youth Perspectives cycle.



NYP Visit to Cyprus

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the House of Representatives of Cyprus and Mr Michalis Yiacoumi, Vice-Chair of the Network was putting together an excellent programme and hosting the visit.

NYP Meeting in Istanbul – OSCE PA Autumn Meeting (November 2025)

The Network met in Istanbul on the margins of the OSCE PA Autumn Meeting, with discussions centred on the theme “Youth in the Digital Era: Bridging Technology, Education and Responsibility”. The meeting that was organized together with the Türkiye delegation to OSCE PA, addressed the opportunities and risks associated with rapid digital transformation, particularly for young people’s participation in democratic life.

Substantive exchanges focused on media freedom, digital literacy, online safety, disinformation, and youth well-being. Contributions from experts representing the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, media professionals, youth-focused organisations, and international partners enriched the debate and provided practical insights into policy challenges faced by legislators.



NYP Meeting in Istanbul, OSCE PA Autumn Meeting 2025

The meeting highlighted the need for balanced approaches that protect freedom of expression while addressing online harms, and underscored the responsibility of parliamentarians—particularly young legislators—to shape forward-looking

regulatory frameworks that reflect the realities of digital-native generations.

The programme also offered an important opportunity for members of the Network to meet and exchange with young people from youth-led civil society organisations. These discussions provided valuable grassroots perspectives on youth activism and civic engagement, as well as on structural challenges faced by young people across the OSCE region, including limited opportunities for political participation, brain drain, and growing difficulties in accessing affordable housing.

Upcoming NYP Meeting in Vienna – OSCE PA Winter Meeting

The next meeting of the Network will take place in Vienna in February 2026, on the margins of the OSCE PA Winter Meeting. The programme will focus on affordable housing and will include substantive exchanges with Austrian authorities, experts, and practitioners.

In addition to internal Network discussions, the meeting will feature presentations on Vienna's social and communal housing models, as well as site visits illustrating good practices in ensuring access to affordable and sustainable housing. These activities aim to link local policy solutions with broader OSCE discussions on social inclusion, democratic resilience, and security.

Launch of a New Youth Perspectives Cycle: Affordable Housing

As a key initiative during the reporting period, the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians launched a new cycle of the Youth Perspectives project focused on **Affordable Housing: A Pillar of Stability and Inclusive Security in the OSCE Region**.

This thematic choice reflects consistent feedback from young people engaged through previous Youth Perspectives cycles, who identified housing affordability as a major barrier to socio-economic inclusion, political participation, and trust in public institutions.

In January 2026, I hosted the first workshop of this cycle with young people in the Slovenian Parliament in Ljubljana. The workshop provided a space for

open dialogue between young participants and parliamentarians on housing challenges, policy gaps, and possible solutions. Discussions highlighted the links between housing security, youth mobility, brain drain, and democratic engagement.



Capture: Youth Perspectives workshop in Ljubljana

Members of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians, as well as all interested OSCE PA members, are encouraged to organise similar workshops at the national level. These consultations will feed into a youth-driven draft resolution to be submitted as a supplementary item for consideration at the 2026 OSCE PA Annual Session. Through this process, young people will once again directly contribute to shaping OSCE PA policy outcomes.

Parliamentary Dialogue Platform on Youth, Peace and Security

During the reporting period, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly launched the Parliamentary Dialogue Platform on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), a new initiative aimed at strengthening the role of parliamentarians in advancing the YPS agenda across the OSCE area. The Platform responds to a growing demand from OSCE PA members for practical, policy-oriented exchanges on how parliaments can contribute to the implementation of YPS commitments at the national and international levels.

The Platform is designed as a structured series of thematic webinars bringing together parliamentarians, national authorities, and experts to exchange good practices, lessons learned, and challenges related to youth participation, prevention, and inclusion. It places particular emphasis on the parliamentary dimension of YPS, including legislation, oversight, budgetary scrutiny, and engagement with youth and civil society.

The first webinar of the Platform has already taken place and focused on introducing the YPS agenda from a parliamentary perspective. The discussion highlighted the added value of parliamentary diplomacy in translating international YPS commitments into national policy frameworks and parliamentary action and featured key-note presentations from the UN Assistant Secretary-General on Youth Affairs, Dr Philippe Paullier, Co-Chair of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, Mr. Saji Prellis, and Ms. Briona Collins, Advocacy Lead, United Network of Young Peacebuilders.

Building on this initial exchange, the second webinar, scheduled for 26 February 2026, will focus on National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security. It will provide an opportunity to learn from OSCE participating States that have adopted YPS National Action Plans, as well as from those currently in the process of developing them. The webinar will also explore the specific role parliaments can play in initiating, shaping, monitoring, and evaluating these plans.

All OSCE PA members are encouraged to actively engage in the Parliamentary Dialogue Platform. The discussions held within this framework are expected to contribute to the development of a practical checklist for parliamentarians, aimed at supporting the advancement of the YPS agenda through concrete parliamentary tools and practices.

Conclusion

The activities carried out during the reporting period demonstrate the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's continued commitment to meaningful youth engagement as a core component of comprehensive security, democratic resilience, and intergenerational dialogue across the OSCE area.

Across high-level conferences, youth forums, field visits, and parliamentary initiatives, a consistent message emerged: young people are not only stakeholders in peace and security, but essential partners in shaping sustainable and inclusive responses to current and future challenges. Whether in conflict-affected contexts such as Ukraine, in debates on digital transformation and media freedom, or in addressing socio-economic issues such as housing affordability, youth perspectives offer critical insights that strengthen policy relevance and legitimacy.

The growing role of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians, the launch of a new **Youth Perspectives cycle** on affordable housing, and the establishment of the Parliamentary Dialogue Platform on Youth, Peace and Security together reflect a shift from ad hoc engagement towards more institutionalised and outcome-oriented youth participation within the Assembly's work.

Looking ahead, continued political support and engagement by OSCE PA members will be essential to further embed youth perspectives across the Assembly's activities and to ensure that parliamentary contributions to the YPS agenda remain substantive, inclusive, and responsive to the realities faced by young people across the OSCE region.

Special Representative on Youth Engagement

Lucija Tacer

Vienna, 20 February 2026

