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GLOBAL TOOLS, LOCAL ACTION



















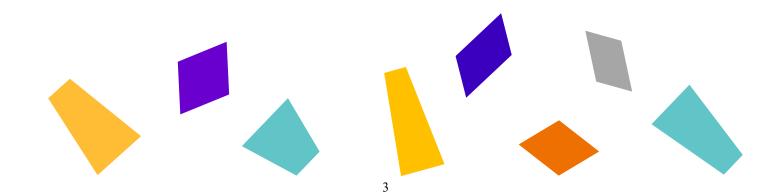






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Welcoming Remarks







Young people provide a solid foundation on which to build. Their talents are diverse, they yearn to engage and even those who live in difficult circumstances are generally optimistic. According to the UN demographic data, in 2020, there are 1.85 billion young women and men 10 to 24 years of age in the world, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries. One in four young people is affected by violence or armed conflict. Young people around the world are striving for **peace**, **justice**, **inclusion**, **gender equality and human rights**. Their aspirations, opinions and demands need to be heard. Their potential must be fulfilled and their participation must be inclusive and celebrated.

Young people face significant challenges stemming from globalization, violence, demographic shifts, inequalities, new technologies, forced displacement, shrinking civic space, pandemics and climate change. Despite the wide array of challenges, the majority of young people are resilient and peaceful. Young people represent a vast source of innovation, ideas and solutions. Connected to one other like never before, they are driving social progress, renewing environmental activism and inspiring positive change.

The Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) supports young people in fulfilling their potential as a positive force for **building peaceful and just societies in and around Europe.** The FGYO and partner organisations provide space and tools for peace education, memory work, and intercultural learning to young people who participate in Franco-German or trinational projects and programmes.

A very special project, because of its international dimension was the international youth meeting "Youth for Peace – 100 Years After World War I, 100 Ideas for Peace" implemented by the FGYO in 2018 under the patronage of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Mission du Centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale (MdC). The objective of the youth meeting was to reflect on concepts and events related to peace and conflict through intercultural learning approach. With a particular focus on "the Transition from War to Peace" and "Peace in Europe" as well as the future of the European continent and the future relationship with the societies in its eastern and southern neighbourhood, the participants had mentoring mechanisms and safe space to discuss innovative ideas for social change and implement them at local levels with the support of their community organisations.

Following the first global youth meeting of "Youth for Peace – 100 Years After World War I, 100 Ideas for Peace" uniting 500 participants from Germany, France, the European Union as well as accession countries and countries in its eastern and southern neighbourhood, the FGYO continues promoting youth active participation in peace – building and conflict transformation processes. The FGYO continues engaging with youth participants after the global meeting to promote peace messages and carry out a local action to bring positive changes and novel discourses in their respective communities.

From 2019 to 2021, the FGYO carries out a series of follow-up meetings and brings a small number of youth participants from the 2018 meeting, who are actively involved in local contexts in order to create peace messages while promoting peace education and intercultural dialogue.

How did it begin?

In November 2018 a diverse, multicultural and multidisciplinary group of young people have come together from different corners of wider Europe to reflect and discuss innovative ideas for building peace across communities, countries or geographical regions.



As a continuation of the global meeting "Youth for Peace - 100 Years after World War I, 100 ideas for Peace" 20 outstanding ideas have been chosen for further implementation at the international, European or national levels.

Following the stimulating intercultural meeting with the use of creative non-formal educational approaches and tools and with a global outreach,

the FGYO has decided to further support a small group of grassroots active young people by hosting a series of follow-up meetings.

One year after, an engaged and dynamic group of 32 former participants of the global meeting (8 from Germany, 3 from France, 21 from different countries within and around European Union) has been formed through an open call.

The selected young people have enriching backgrounds and represent different country contexts. Their geographical outreach is in and around Europe stretching from Algerian sea-sides to Caucasian mountains. They come from conflict-stricken areas with fewer opportunities, or are exposed to shrinking civic space environment or deterioration of democratic principles and good governance. They all possess multiplying roles while being actively engaged in local communities and having access to local resources and peers.

In November 2019 the Paris meeting gathered 32 participants to work collaboratively and create peace messages with the use of technology and digital tools. The messages were meant to focus on four key concepts (cultures, histories, languages, conflicts) and evoke a new narrative that would promote peace, understanding, acceptance, and solidarity.

The participants were provided with space and support to use creativity and reflection to design messages with audio-visual materials, which would aim to:

- Promote self-reflection and curiosity on the questions related to peace and conflicts and would be entirely designed from a youth perspective,
- Encourage a wider public discourse,
- Invite local youth to engage in intercultural learning and exchange, and
- Showcase the importance of the role youth can play in the promotion of peace through the use of new technologies and innovative tools.

Timeline 2020

The main challenge was to let the project **survive the Covid-19 pandemic situation** and the travel restriction in most of the countries.

In the 1st half of the year, the team had to keep up with the status of the work of the small groups, adapt the participants' personal schedules, make sure that all the participants are involved, create an online platform acting as a resource for their common work, documentation and sharing updates as well as the social media subgroups for more interactive contact with the participants.

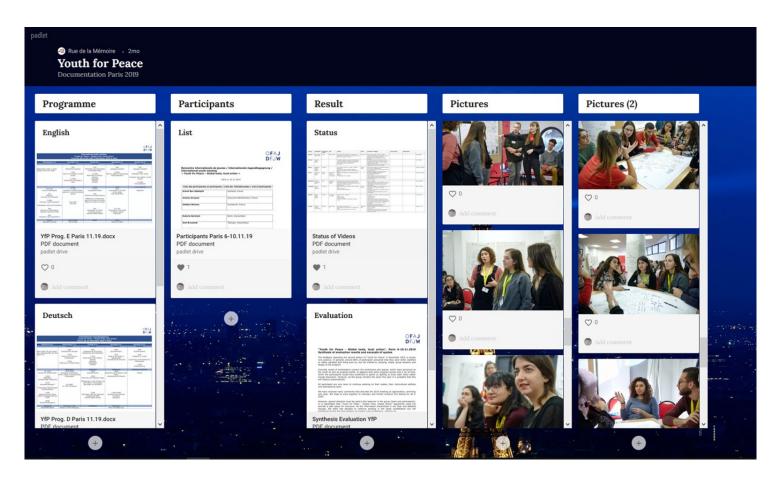
In the **2**nd half of the year, the team shared the aim of motivating those who were negatively affected by canceling formerly planned offline meetings and to be attentive to their inquiries and needs together with guiding the aim and message of their videos and their storyboard together with sharing with them team's feedback, providing them with any missing materials, already prepared ones in Paris meeting, and support technical help, programs or devices with the assistance of video makers with the ultimate target to have the videos finished and ready to be publicly shared. Continuous team meetings were planned ahead **over the whole year** as well as each tandem of facilitators organized separate meetings within small groups.

Two online group meetings were planned throughout the year; One in the first half, 6 and 8 May, 2020, together with the launching of a video message to celebrate the anniversary of the end of the World War II on 8 May, 2020 and Europe day on 9 May, 2020. The second one on 4, 5 and 6 November, 2020, to organize the finalization and dissemination of the videos made by the young people. In addition, a collective celebration of the International Day of Peace took place on 21 September, 2020.

Finally, the videos made by young people for young people were officially presented online on **17 February 2021.**



As a refreshing restart in **April 2020**, a collaborative work wall (padlet) of "Welcome back" was established. This was created to renew communication between all the participants and the team. A second information padlet has been set up: all the documents related to the last meeting, a synthesis of feedback, a summary of the status of the video projects as well as the photos taken by the photographer in Paris with giving the option for the participants who cannot continue in the project to quit as a matter of assuring commitment and sustainability aiming at our project objectives.



The table of experiences was established among the team members listing their availability throughout the year, available tools and mastered methodologies that can fit to online formats. Online meetings were established through video conference tools as part of the follow up process.

The team met regularly online mainly in April, May and June before the summer vacation. Later the meetings were scheduled over September, October and November.

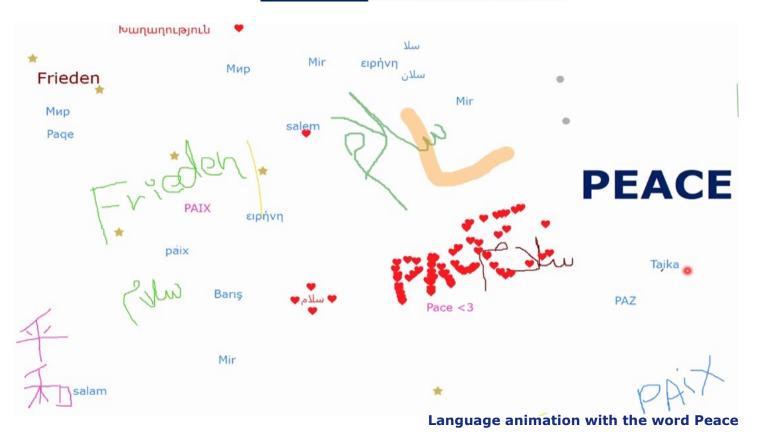
May Meetings

The **6**th **of May** meeting took place online through computer programs with reaching those who couldn't through video conferences, phone calls and social media.

The participants were welcomed back after the November 2019 meeting with a few words from each member. team Icebreaker allowed young people to test the techfeatures available online and to express themselves on their current situation.

A language animation activity on the theme of Peace was organized.





Afterwards, the participants were able to discuss the current state of the videos in small groups and share their results in plenary. This get-together session stimulated their imagination, creativity and motivation to continue working on the videos. The 2-hour session ended with an exchange of their wishes and dreams and the agenda for the next session on 8 May 2020 to open a positive perspective.

On 8 May, the FGYO Secretary General, Mr Tobias Bütow, and the Head of the Intercultural Training Department, Ms Elisabeth Berger, welcomed the participants and discussed the cooperation of France and Germany with Europe and the world in the time of crisis and the role of youth. The historian, Nicolas Moll, enriched the small group discussions on the significance of the days of 8 and 9 May in the world. He brought his expertise by giving an overview about the world in 1945 and after, highlighting the historical importance and political significance of these dates for Europe and the Balkans. This session underlined the FGYO position for a multiperspectival culture of remembrance.



Tobias Bütow Secretary General of the FGYO



Elisabeth Berger Head of department Intercultural training



The multiperspectivity of 8 and 9 May in the different countries was brought to the table of discussion among the participants in small groups and later shared among the rest of the group.

The participants were again fronted with the question of realizing their role in post -health crisis situation and How they would like to contribute to their community, environment or the world.

Lastly, we came to concluding the meeting with perspectives on the pursuit of further work. The feedback from the participants was overall positive over the 2-days program with some suggestions for improvements for team members.



8/9 May: End of the World War II in Europe / Europe Day

"World, I wish you...": A group activity for commemorate and share

To commemorate the end of the Second World War, to celebrate Europe Day in a worldwide way and reflecting on the challenges Europe and its neighbours to the East and South are currently facing, the young people sent a video message to the world on the theme of "World, I wish you...". This allowed the participants to express their commitment and to participate in a unifying video project.

https://www.fgyo.org/news/the-wishes-of-the-youth-for-peace-participants-for-peace-





International Day of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on **21 September.** The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening **the ideals of peace.**

On this special day, the participants of "Youth for Peace - Global tools, local action" project have gathered together via an online platform in order to celebrate and cherish their efforts towards contributing to the ideas of peace as well as to have brief animation and exchange of opinions.

In the beginning of the meeting, the participants were introduced to two videomakers who have joined the project in order to support the group works and further video production processes.

Following to the presentation, a dynamic activity was introduced in order to trigger discussion about the current commitment of the participants within their community organisations and in civil society actions with an aim to contribue to building just and peaceful societies.

The participants then were divied into small groups in order to reflect on the mode of cooperation to advance on the videos while working online. They were provided with space to raise their questions and concerns as well as develop a framework which would ease the process of working together via online platforms.

At the conclusion of the online meeting, the participants were invited to take a group photo showing a part of their body that is not normally visible in online meetings: a foot, as a symbol of their willingness to continue to go forward with the project.

OFAJ DFJW

Youth for Peace Online Meeting





November Meetings

From 4-6 November, a 3-day programme has been proposed to the participants in order to continue interactive sessions on intercultural learning as well as unleash further discussions around processes related to the final production of video materials.

The first meeting took place on **4th November** with the following agenda:

Icebreaker/Language Animation

Information

The FGYO team briefly introduced the general framework for continuing online cooperation and work on the videos with the final deadline of 15th November 2020. The official presentation of the videos would take place at the beginning of 2021. The team of intercultural facilitators and videomakers are mobilisied to provide any necessary support in the progress.

1st activity in small groups

Given the situation related to the pandemic, the challenges and difficulties to be overcome in these extraordinary circumstances, but also because of the unstable political situation in several countries, an activity was proposed to allow participants to discuss their situation and what is happening in general where they currently are or where they come from (Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Lebanon, Lithuania, Marocco, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine).

What do you wish for 2021

The participants were given space to reflect on their wishes for 2021. Some of their wishes can be found below.

2nd activity in small groups

The participants shared their ideas on how possibily to organise and host the presentation in the online format. In smaller groups, they also discussed different ideas of video dissemination and outreach processes as to be able to reach out to different audiences and share their vision of peace.

Debriefing on the previously held discussions discussions



I just want a hug when I see my friends For the democratic forces to strike back against authoritarianism

Succesfull peacuful revolutions in some countries

I basically wish that they announce that COVID expired or something

I hope that instead of just saying we are a group that works for solidarity, peace and cooperation, we actually worked on it more actively and did not shy away from hard truths and even harder actions that could change the course of history itself

To stop war against Ukraine and return Crimea and all out territories

No new version of covid-19 like covid 20 or 21

I wish my family and friends and close ones would stay alive, healthy and happy and that no harm whatsoever happens to them

PEACE (including peace of mind because the psychological effects the pandemic has caused are obvious)

Peace, calm, health and chance to meet again in real life

I wish not to be afraid of war the next year and especially war and covid together







YOUTH FOR PEACE

In the scope of the November meetings, the participants were also invited to attend a web talk on 5th November hosted by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Young DGAP, and the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) entitled Learned: Post-war Reconciliation "Lessons Through German Lens"

Post-war reconciliation is a long-term process and, as history has shown, it is not easily achieved. While there is no clear path to peace between countries, societies, or ethnic groups, there are outstanding examples of successful processes of reconciliation. One is the Franco-German case, which can serve as an inspiration for future post-war situations. In the Web Talk, four authors featured in the new Franco-German Relations Seen from Abroad: Postwar Reconciliation in International Perspectives presented their views on reconciliation. They talked about their experiences in peace research as they pertain to specific regions: Israel/Palestinian Territories, Algeria/Morocco, Poland/ Germany, and the Western Balkans. Together and with the participants they assessed whether states have learned their lessons in terms of promoting and sustaining peace in the aftermath of war - and what there is still to do.

The event was supported by Germany's Federal Foreign Office and was part of the FGYO project "Youth for Peace," which gathers young people from France, Germany, and associated countries on an annual basis to reflect upon and discuss questions of peace within the international system.

Welcome:

Claire Demesmay

Head of the France/Franco-German Relations Program at DGAP

Moderator:

Sabine Ries

Co-Chair of the Board of Young DGAP

Speakers:

Cécile Cohen-Blaser: Author; PhD Candidate at the University of Fribourg,

Switzerland

Idriss Jébari: Author; Al Maktoum Assistant Professor in Middle East Studies at

the University of Dublin

Kornelia Kónczal: Author; Post-doctoral Researcher at the Ludwig Maximilian

University of Munich

Nicolas Moll: Author, Independent Researcher, Freelance Trainer, and Consultant

based in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Closing remarks:

Tobias Bütow

German Secretary General of the FGYO

The 6th of November was dedicated to the question of the acquisition of competences by young people throughout the project. Due to the absence of many participants, the session did not take place as planned.

The objective of the session was to invite participants to reflect on three central questions:

What did I learned and what do I want to develop / to continue on it? What skills were acquired by the participants on this project? How to reinvest what they have learned in their communities and organizations?

The session was constructed in the following way:

Introduction

1. Brainstorming skills: What did you learn? / What was missing in the learning process?

- a. An overall discussion about the scope of skills, which can potentially be acquired in international youth projects. Documentation of the results on the online platform
- b. Individual reflection on the developmenet and improvement of skills
- c. Small group discussions and sharing process

2. Discussions around acquired competences (knowledge, skills and attitude) in small groups

- a. Introduction to the second part of the session
- b. Individual reflection
- c. Group discussion
- d. Sharing and debriefing with the group

Closing and end of the session



Youth for Peace Online Meeting





The process of group work on video production

Already in November 2019 in Paris, the following outlines were established with the participants for the preparation of the videos in 8 small groups:

- Presentation of aspects related to intercultural understanding and peace, in relation to the predefined themes: cultures, histories, languages and conflicts
- Launch of an appeal to encourage the involvement of other young people from all over the world;
- 2-4 minutes in length;
- Use of free and open resources;
- Simplicity, especially with regard to language understanding (non-verbal, subtitles);
- Collective production of the videos.

From June 2020 onwards, the timetable envisaged that the young people would work remotely on the videos in small groups until September, and then finalise the videos with the support of video experts in October in order to present them at the November meeting and disseminate them as widely as possible at the end of the year. To do this, a collaborative virtual wall and a regular exchange with the team were set up.

Each small group of 4 participants was accompanied by a tandem of 2 facilitators and later by a video maker. The participants were very disappointed to be informed in mid-September that the face-to-face meeting in Berlin in November had to be cancelled. As a reminder, it was originally scheduled for May 2020 and had been postponed to November due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Following this cancellation for health reasons and to ensure the safety of the participants and the team, the motivation of the young people dropped significantly. They also expressed doubts about the feasibility and timeframe of finalising the videos online. Some groups requested in writing that the finalisation of the videos be postponed until a meeting in Berlin could actually take place on site.

Although the team understood the need for young people to interact physically with each other and to work in face-to-face groups, there was the challenge of dealing with the new situation of the pandemic and finding a balance between the needs of the young people and the achievement of the project's objectives.

For internal planning reasons and because the international health situation remained very uncertain, the FGYO in consultation with the team decided to maintain the timetable, allowing an extra month for the online finalisation of the videos. The team insisted on continuing the work as a priority with motivated and available groups and participants. An indefinite postponement seemed counterproductive.

The team motivated each group individually, reminded them of the rules of communication and cooperation as well as our common objectives and insisted on the need for investment and active contribution from the participants.

The deadline for finalising the videos online was therefore set for 15 November 2020. Regular online meetings with the teams and video makers took place between September and November to address the following two challenges:

How to move forward and achieve a good result with the resources we have, adapting the content, while taking into account the health crisis legislation? How to solve the problems of distance and finalise the videos online?

Finally, out of the 8 groups, 7 groups managed to finalise their video within the deadline. One group needed more time to complete their work.

Presentation of videos

The Playlist is available here:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpyHZ1mkC-xh2zo0vtYK4Vm8vy1qyxdV2

YOU CAN FIGHT CONFLICTS! https://youtu.be/bdsvXpXyDjI

Our short video-adventure shows by using simple life moments how to solve conflicts with the most powerful tools. Weapons you will think? No, solutions are communication + love + open-kindness + critical thinking. We propose this universal formula, which you can use in everyday life, just try!

Group Conflicts 1:

Begüm Karahan (Turkey) Lorenta Kadriu (Kosovo) Mariia Kaplina (Ukraine)

WHAT IS CONFLICT? https://youtu.be/rNIsy-Rxtl4

This video was conceived during a very difficult time for all the group members. It's a friendly love letter to remind that despite conflict's inescapable nature we can always build from it, as this very concept was built through the conflict of our ideas.

Group Conflicts 2:

Estéban Meneau (France) Khanum Gevorgyan (Armenia) Kinga Majchrzak (Poland) Marios Krantas (Greece)

Facilitators: Ludovic Fresse (France) and Isabella Cîrlănaru (Romania)

Video support: Séverine Beaudot (France)





A HISTORY OF PEACE https://youtu.be/Kl71UnbdvCk

We often think that history is of the past. That it's out of our hands. Forgetting that our actions today will be tomorrow's history. That we make history.

Group Histories 1:

Abdeladhim Dhia E Cheraa (Algeria) Jaohar Bouyaghroumni (Spain-Morocco) Roberta Bartkutė (Lithuania)

HISTORY OF PEACEMAKERS https://youtu.be/CBZREbsvIPE

Peace is a result of dedication, tolerance, acceptance, love, courage and hard work and history proves it!

Group Histories 2:

Anna Farmakioti (Germany-Greece) Emil Breustedt (Germany) Mariam Khachatryan (Germany-Armenia) Salma Zouari (Tunisia)

Facilitators: Garance Thauvin (Germany-France) and Galya Rebecca Hovhannisyan (France-Armenia)

Video support: Arnaud Absil (France)

ACCENTS: ARE THEY IMPORTANT? https://youtu.be/XAe-wXPdMiy

An accent is very subjective, it can be erased, very present, added or mixed, it can be conscious or unconscious but is it important? Here an interview, a personal story and a scene that happened in real life about accents.

Group Languages 1:

Igor Kalchenko (Russia) Marina Cretu (Germany) Noémie Jobard (Germany-France)

UNITED IN PEACE https://youtu.be/NiPwWkSYdm0

Is language a bridge or a barrier?

No matter what language we speak or what borders surround us, we all have a common instinctive understanding of peace. That was proved when different people were asked what makes them feel at peace.

Group Languages 2:

Iro Sala (United Kingdom) John Nazer (Egypt) Rania Sediri (Germany) Velislava-Mihaela Krachunova (Spain-Bulgaria)

Facilitators: Sarah Neis (Germany) and Ahmed Khallaf (Egypt)

Video support: Séverine Beaudot (France)





LET'S MAKE PEACE GREAT AGAIN https://youtu.be/382fNnub1vo

This short video journey explores cultural diversity, individuality and unity and shows us that our footsteps hold our creative soul and lead us to the path of peace. It encourages multiculturalism and warns against polarization of attitudes, systemic intolerance and racism.

Group Cultures 1:

Achraf Ben Abdeljelil (Tunisia-France) Afaf Lamkoutar (Morocco) Maja Tešić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Samra Radončić (Montenegro)

CULTURES

https://youtu.be/cgcHzbzPJJs

Often, we put barriers between us and others from different cultures that makes it more difficult to understand them. In this short video, we see what happens when one puts aside prejudices and open up to learn about THE OTHER.

Group Cultures 2:

Aya Elkhodary (Germany) Rim Trad (Lebanon) Shadin Nassar (Palestine) Velimir Milošev (Serbia)

Facilitators: Anna Kauert (Germany) and Saad Fikri (Italy-Morocco)

Video support: Arnaud Absil (France)

Participants and Team Members

Participants in the international youth project Youth for Peace – Global tools, local action

Roberta Bartkutė Achraf Ben Abdeljelil Jaohar Bouyaghroumni **Antoine Braquet Emil Breustedt** Marina Cretu Abdeladhim Dhia E Cheraa Aya Elkhodary Anna Farmakioti Khanum Gevorgyan Noémie Jobard Lorenta Kadriu Igor Kalchenko Mariia Kaplina Begüm Karahan Mariam Khachatryan Velislava-Mihaela Krachunova **Marios Krantas** Kristýna Kunovská Afaf Lamkoutar Kinga Majchrzak Estéban Meneau Velimir Milošev Shadin Nassar John Nazer Samra Radončić Iro Sala Rania Sediri Barbara Szpilka Maja Tešić Rim Trad Salma Zouari

Facilitators

Isabella Cîrlănaru Saad Fikri Ludovic Fresse Galya Rebecca Hovhannisyan Anna Kauert Ahmed Khallaf Sarah Neis Garance Thauvin

Coordination FGYO

Sandrine Debrosse-Lucht Mélizane Lecomte Lucile Poulteau

Video makers

Séverine Beaudot (https://anothervision.fr) Arnaud Absil (https://lisba.hubside.fr)







Youth for Peace



Global tools, local action





Report done by Rebecca Hovhannisyan and Ahmed Khallaf in cooperation with Sandrine Debrosse-Lucht and the team members

Graphic illustrations: Ani Hovhannisyan













