



# Rotary YOUNG FRIENDS Project

## Promoting Peace and Reconciliation

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# Facts about the Young Friends Project

## Peace and conflict prevention and resolution

- First time 2008
- 81 post war generation students, from former Yugoslavia

## Mission:

- Initiate changes in mindsets and way of thinking
- Understanding of cross cultural divides
- Peaceful conflict resolution
- Reconciliation among young people

## Additionally

- Increase professional competencies
- Knowledge to Rotary and what we stand for



## Key Partners

- **Rotary clubs in the Oslo area**
- **Rotary clubs in Southeast Europe**
- **The International Summer School at the University, Oslo**
- **Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue, Lillehammer**
- **Rotary District 2310**



## Running annual programs

- **Annual program include**
  - A five days seminar the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue at Lillehammer
  - Six weeks studying at The International Summer School at the University of Oslo
  - Social activities to enhance friendship, building of networks and social learning
- **Candidate selection and screening process**
- **Funding: 5-6 kUSD pr. student**



## Seven weeks in Norway

- Dialogue techniques
- Tools for conflict resolution
- Norwegian culture, society and politics
- Human rights
- Peace and reconciliation work





## Seven weeks in Norway



**A short stroll away, yet an ocean  
to cross**



## Social Activities



Garden party – meeting Rotarians and Rotaracts in a social setting



Experiencing Norwegian Culture

Team building – rafting in Sjoa



Extending personal limits – mountain hiking



## Feedback from participants





## Feedback from participants



## Feedback from participants



## Feedback from participants



...how dialogue techniques can be used for conflict resolution  
and reconciliation...



## Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue

### Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue.

- Part of the Nansen Academy, established 1938
- Coordinating The Nansen Dialogue Network, in southeast Europe since 1994
- Honorable Mention of the “UNESCO Prize for Peace Education” , 1998
- “Amalie Laksow’s Human Rights Prize” and “Bridge-builder Prize” (for Senior Advisor Steinar Bryn)
- Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, 2009 and 2011



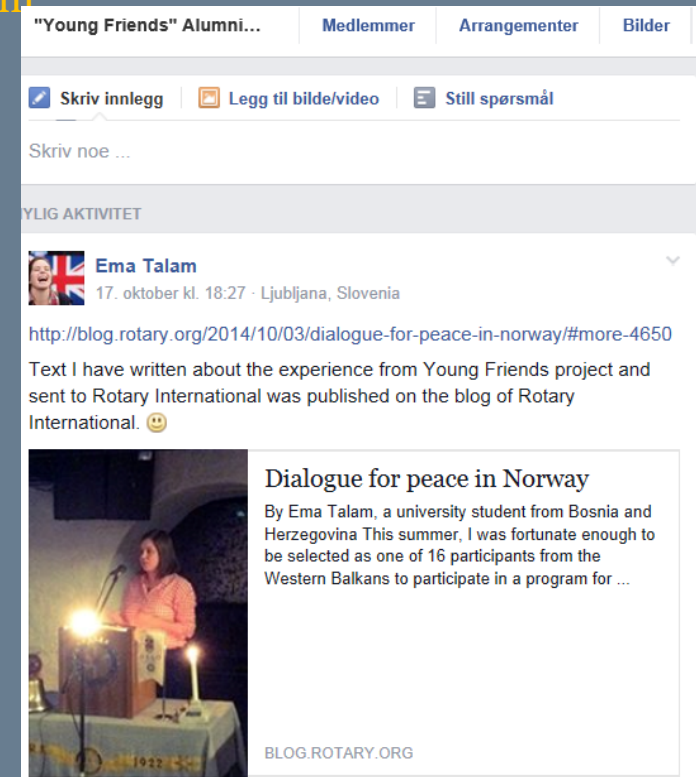
Students at the Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue, Lillehammer.



# Achievements and Challenges

## Achievement

“This opportunity provided by Rotary members in Norway and the Balkans has given me a great desire to find and join a local Rotaract club, so I can pursue friendships with people from all around the globe” Ema Talam



## Achievements and Challenges

### Achievement

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### Challenges

- Sustainability of the current model.
- Heavy burden on the organizers
- Contact with the participants after their return home

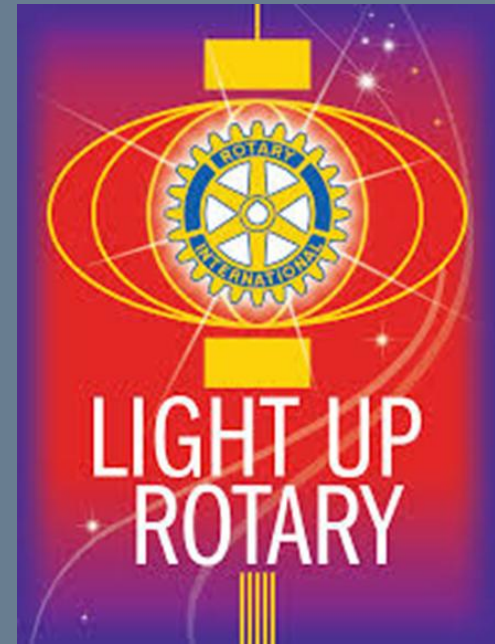
### Study group established





## Possible future changes to the model

- **Significant increase in local ownership**
- **Capitalize on partnership**
- **Base the new project model on Rotary International Global Grant framework.**
- **The local Nansen Dialogue Network emerging as a key partner for Rotary**



Thank you for your attention!



Young Friends garden party 2011