

# France / Germany: one war after another

**1870-1871:** 138.871 dead French / 44.781 dead Germans

**1914-1918 (World War I):** 1.370.000 dead french soldiers + 300.000 dead french civilians / 2.037.000 dead german soldiers + 700.000 dead german civilians

**1939-1945 (World War II):** 210.000 dead french soldiers + 150.000 dead french civilians / 5.180.000 dead german soldiers + 1.170.000 dead german civilians



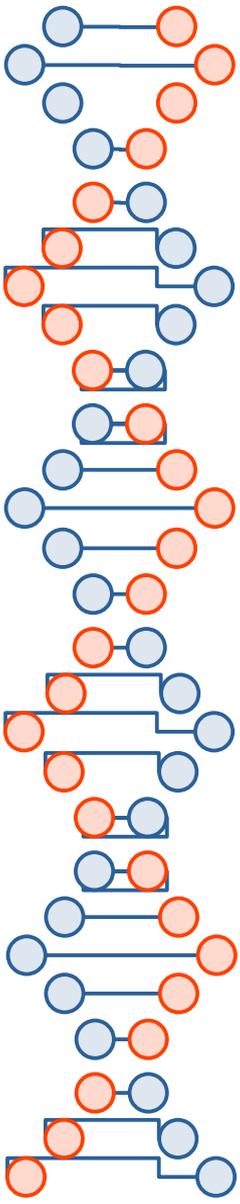
*Wikipedia*

# Peace comes from 'below'

In 2014, mostly British and German soldiers celebrated Christmas together on some sections of the front. This truce was not authorised and a large proportion of the units were withdrawn from the front because they were no longer 'reliable'.

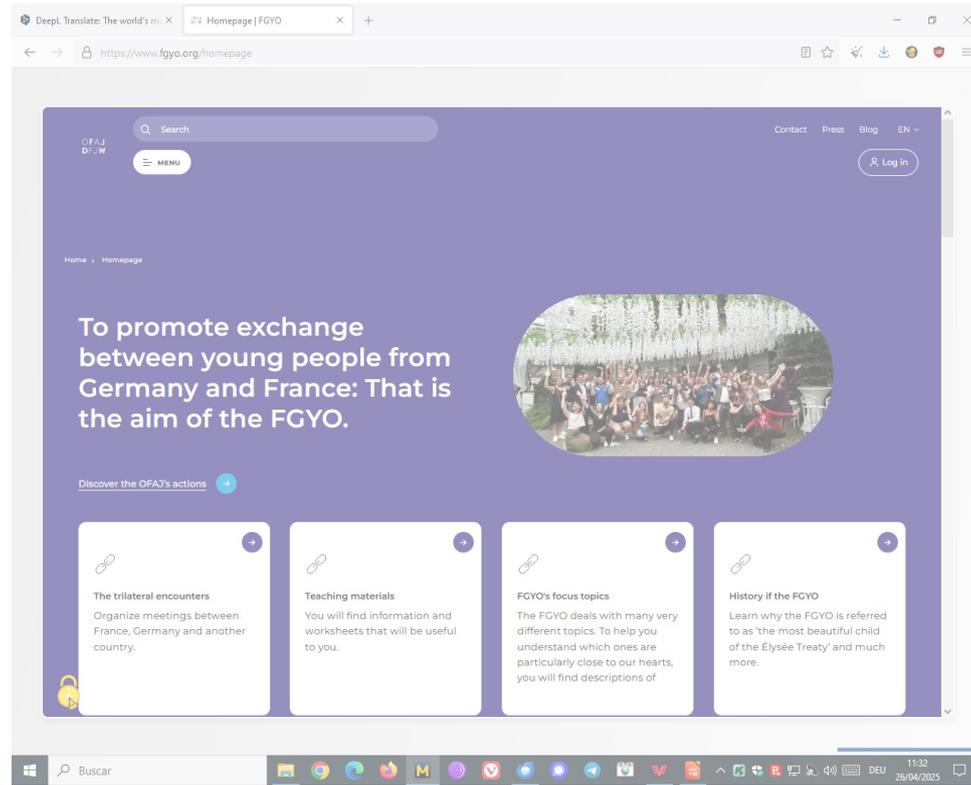


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas\\_truce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_truce)



# Franco-German Youth Office

To avoid a fourth war, the DFJW/OFAJ was founded in 1963 and organised more than 380.000 (tandem) exchange programmes.



# History of Tandem

- 1968: first use of the term ‚tandem‘ for language exchanges in courses of the DFJW/OFAJ/FGYO
- 1979: transfer of the idea to 1:1 language partnerships
- Since 1983: organisation of the Tandem<sup>®</sup> Network
- 2014: development of the app ‚Tandem‘, launch 2015
- 2019 - 2025: ‚Peace Tandem‘



# What can the app 'Tandem' do?

Here is a brief overview:

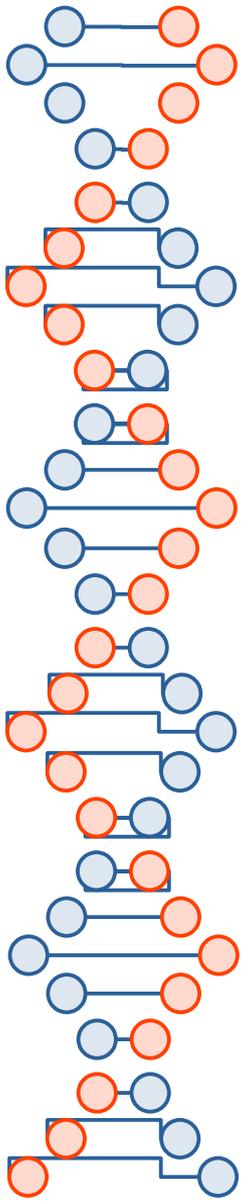
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sgl-3lerq9c>

and here a larger one (in Russian, you may translate):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgUREtSFjNo>

*(The screenshots of slide 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 are taken from:  
[Connecting Cultures Through Language Exchange](#),  
Michelle Kubitza & Tobias Dickmeis,  
Polyglot Gathering Prague, May 2024)*

# Direct information through the partner



“I have learned that the media portray many countries in a bad way and most of it is simply untrue.”

ON THE PHONE: JORGE BANA  
KEEPING THE ELDERLY  
MNL PACKAGE  
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES  
19 PANDEMIC

# Language Parties 1

Someone who has a Pro account can set up several groups for up to 19 people, which s/he selects themselves. S/he can declare them as 'private'. So, they are invisible to the public. Then you can talk about all topics, including conflicting ones. He/she must moderate.

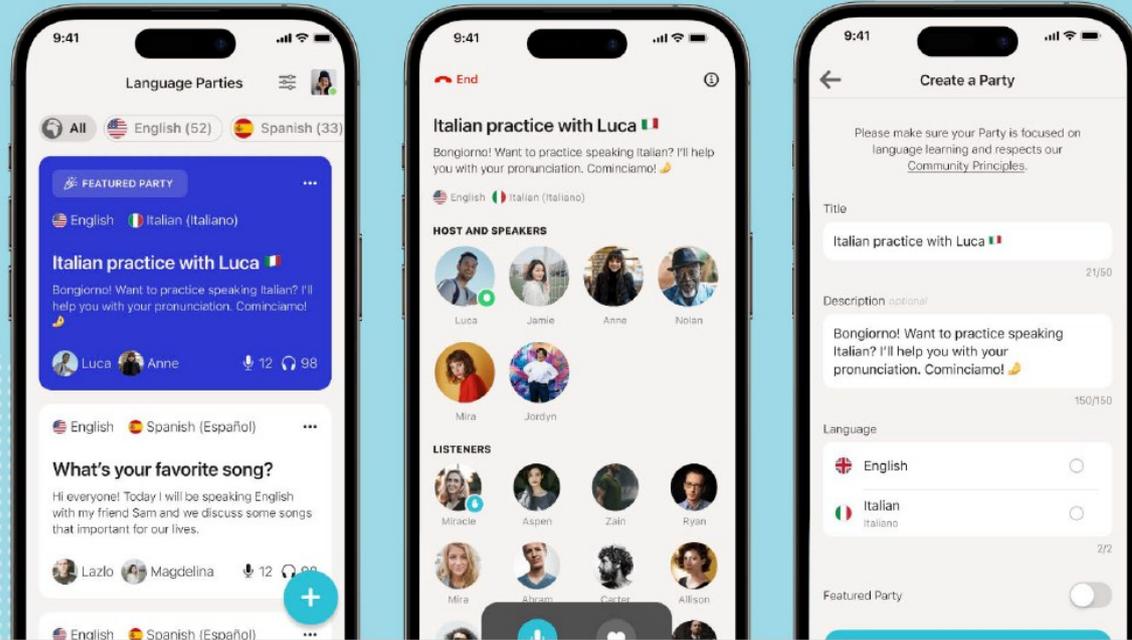
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Where can I find Language Parties?

- You should see a little icon with 📍 balloons and the word 'Social' (or the equivalent in the language of your app) at the bottom of your Tandem app – next to the Chats tab.
- More references in the paper ,How do I use the ,Tandem' app?'

# Language Parties 2

## Group learning in Language Parties

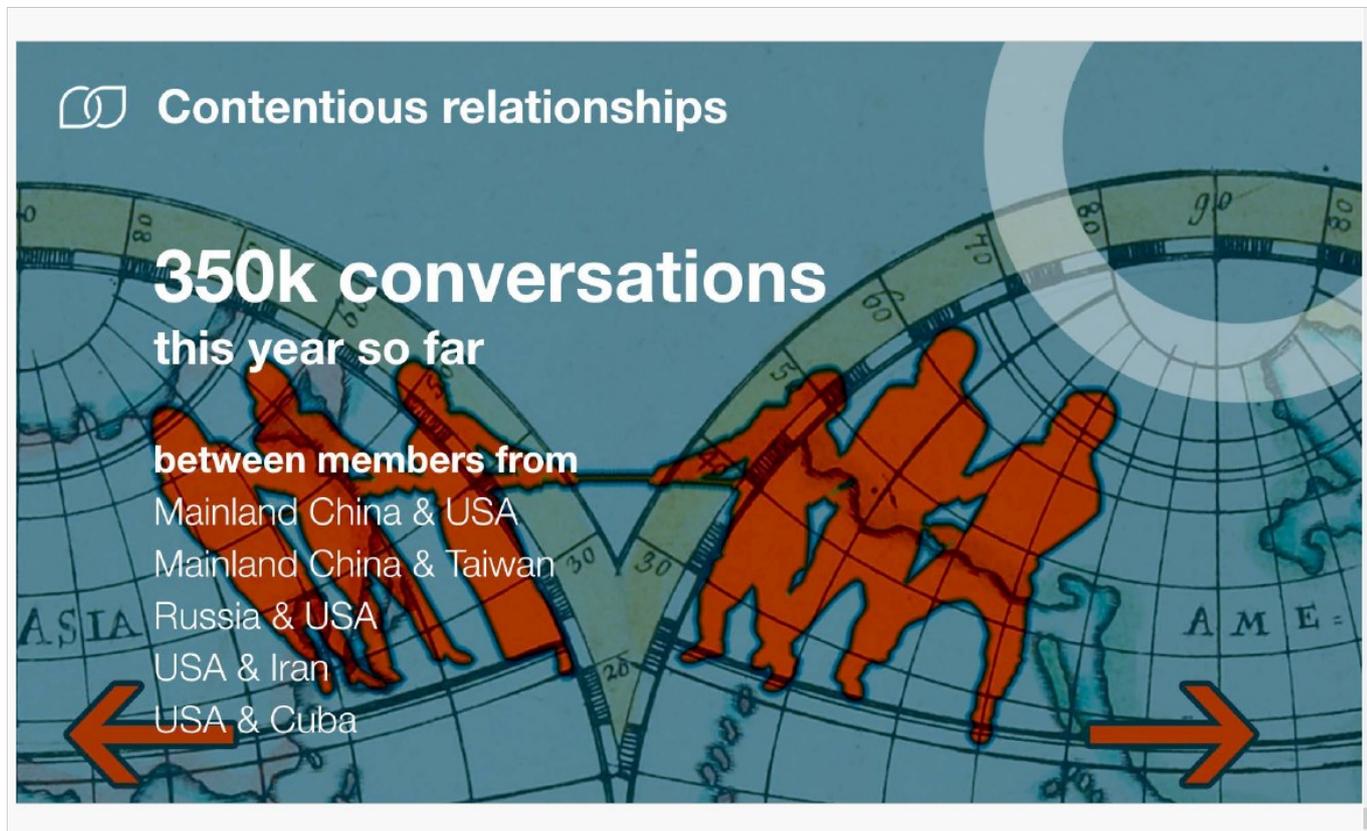


# What can the 'Tandem' app not do?

- Attach Word or pdf documents
  - Share the screen
  - Conduct video conferences in the Language Parties
- To do this, you need to complement the app using signal.org or Big Blue Button or <https://jitsi.org>, for example.

**Despite these limitations, their value for peacebuilding has been proven:**

# In contentious relations



# In armed conflicts

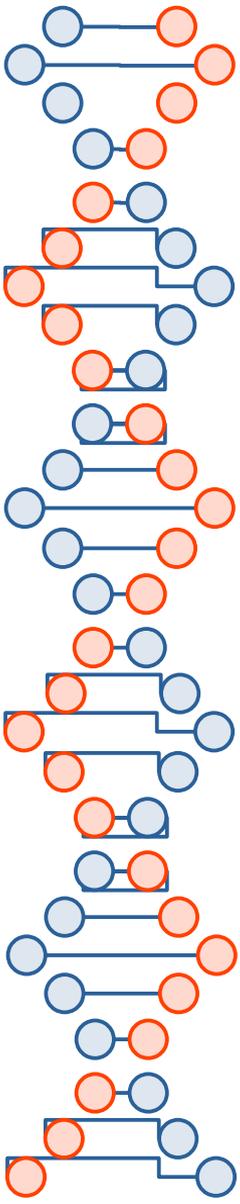


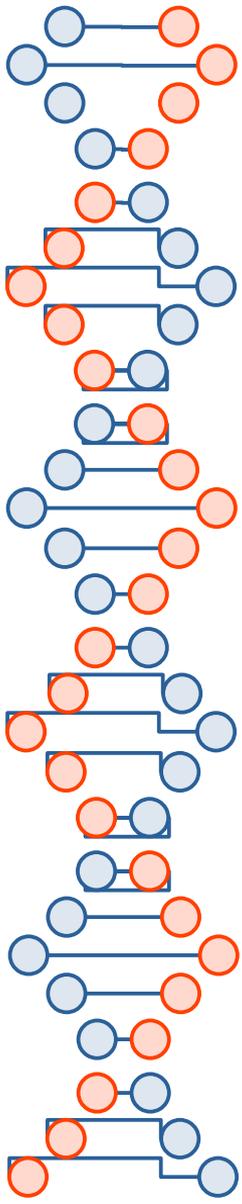
 In armed conflict

**15k conversations**  
this year so far

between members from

- Ukraine & Russia
- Israel & Palestine
- Iran & Israel
- Armenia & Azerbaijan

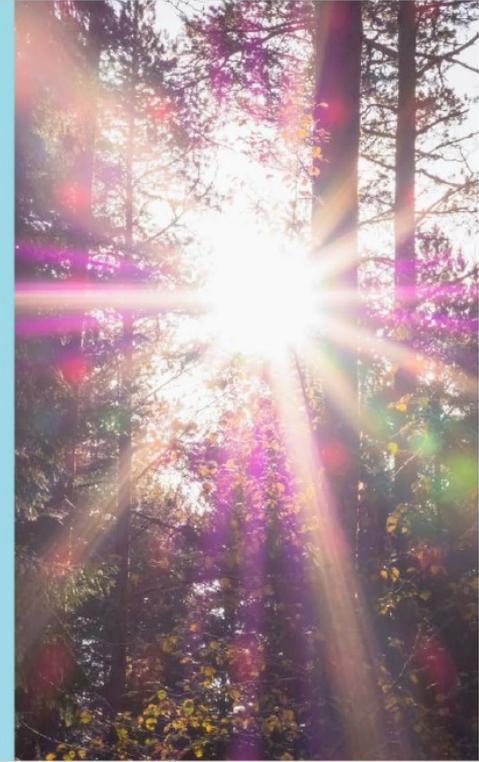




# Example



“In a Language Party, a woman from Ukraine and a woman from Russia expressed their sympathy for each other on a deeply sincere level. The Ukrainian woman lived in a city that was being repeatedly attacked. It was very touching for everyone present. For me, this moment was a ray of hope in the face of all the human tragedy, because everyone saw each other as human beings and not as enemies or strangers from different countries.”



# Contact addresses

Help with onboarding and technical issues of the app:

[support@tandem.net](mailto:support@tandem.net)

Pedagogical support for the use of the Tandem approach in group exchanges:

<https://tandemcity.info/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Handbook-Peace-Tandem-EN-v7.pdf>

