

**8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum**  
29-31 October 2013  
UNESCO, Paris, France

**“Youth and Social Inclusion:  
Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development”**

**– Call for projects –**  
**15 July 2013 – 12 August 2013**

***Framework of reference***

The UNESCO Youth Forum is an integral part of UNESCO’s General Conference. It was initiated in 1999 to bridge the gap between UNESCO’s work on youth and youth organizations. More than an event, the Forum is a process that enables young women and men to submit strategic recommendations to representatives of 195 Member States and to engage in their implementation. For the first time in its 12-year history, the outcomes of the Youth Forum will include, besides strategic recommendations, fifteen youth-led action projects (3 projects per each of the 5 UNESCO regions<sup>1</sup>).

Representing one of the main outputs of the Forum, the 15 selected action projects will be selected by the young Forum delegates and will receive the “8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum Label”. The label is a guarantee of quality and excellence of the projects, which will have to be in line with UNESCO’s priorities. It will provide their initiators with opportunities to mobilize funds, partnerships and international visibility and will also be a recognition of grass-roots action and engagement by young women and men across the world. More concretely, the label will be the starting point of the projects implementation process over a period of up to two years, thereby constituting a central feature in the Forum’s follow-up.

Action projects can be submitted from youth or youth organizations (see eligibility conditions under pt.4 below) in all regions of the world, following the criteria and conditions described below. The selection process will involve an independent jury mainly composed of youth, which will shortlist 45 projects (9 per region). The participants of the 8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum who will meet at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, from 29 to 31 October, will then select 15 projects (3 per region) from the 45 shortlisted projects (see selection process under pt. 5).

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<sup>1</sup> Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean. For the lists of the UNESCO Member States composing each of these regions, consult the following link: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/worldwide/>

## 1. WHAT SHOULD THE ACTION PROJECTS FOCUS ON?

Overall, the submitted action projects should propose innovative and feasible **action for development, by and for youth, tackling youth-related issues in a holistic approach**. They should relate directly to the general orientation of the 8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum which focuses on the role of “youth as agents of social transformations, sustainable development and peace”.

### ▪ Thematic focus

All action projects proposed should contribute to the general theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum: “**Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development**”. Under this generic theme, they should address one of the 7 specific themes proposed below, stemmed from the youth consultations conducted by UNESCO from February to April 2013.

It would be desirable that one specific theme is privileged as a common thread in each proposed project.

### ▪ Specific themes

*(See enclosed document for working definitions for each of these themes)*

1. Social Inclusion
2. Civic Engagement and Participation
3. Intercultural Dialogue
4. Social Entrepreneurship & Social Innovation
5. Violence and Conflict Prevention, and Consolidation of Peace
6. Democracy
7. Skills Development

### ▪ Fundamental principles

All action projects must aim at promoting several fundamental principles that lie at the core of UNESCO’s mission, namely: human rights, gender equality, culture of peace and sustainable development.

## 2. WHAT SHOULD BE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PROJECTS?

The proposed projects should focus on the three axes of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021) with a view to reaching the following long-term objectives<sup>2</sup>:

- i) Address the policy environment that can impact **policy formulation or implementation affecting youth** – the objective of these is to strengthen and encourage meaningful youth participation in the formulation, revision or implementation of public policies and programmes affecting youth;
- ii) Focus on **capacity development** of young women and men, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized, strengthening their inherent competences and skills thus providing them with diversified learning opportunities to ensure their integration in social, economic and political life; or
- iii) Support or further enable **youth engagement as citizens and social actors**, particularly by vulnerable or marginalized young women and men or by youth that do not have the opportunities to engage in and lead constructive action in their

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<sup>2</sup> These follow the three Axes of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth for 2014-2021, namely: 1) Policy formulation and review with the participation of youth; 2) Capacity development for the transition to adulthood; and 3) Civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation. For the full text of the Operational Strategy, see <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002202/220254e.pdf> (pp. 31-39).

communities, with a view to encouraging innovative action, particularly by exercising their rights and assuming their responsibilities.

### 3. WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECTS?

- The proposed projects should address **one of the 7 specific themes that are mentioned under point 1** (see above).
- They should focus on **one of the 3 types of interventions mentioned under point 2** (see above).
- The **target populations** of the projects should be young women and men<sup>3</sup> in general and, among them in particular, those vulnerable and marginalized.
- The projects should be **youth-led**.
- The projects should be planned to be implemented over a period of up to **2 years**
- The **scope** of the projects could be local, national, sub-regional, regional or inter-regional.
- **Multi-disciplinary approaches** are encouraged.

### 4. WHO CAN APPLY?

- Youth-led organizations, associations or entities;
- Young members of youth-focused organizations (18-35 years of age), on behalf of these organizations;
- Young entrepreneurs with an established NGO or enterprise, in particular social enterprises.

### 5. HOW WILL THE SELECTION PROCESS TAKE PLACE?

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 15 July-12 August 2013 | Submission of action projects  |
| 13-31 August 2013      | Verification by UNESCO's Secretariat that the projects meet the established criteria   |
| 2-30 September 2013    | Pre-selection and shortlisting of 45 projects (9 projects per region) by an International independent jury composed of youth and experts in the relevant fields.   |
| 1-28 October 2013      | Online posting of the shortlisted 45 projects which are made available to the youth delegates of the 8 <sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum who can further debate on them online.   |
| 29-31 October 2013     | Examination and debate on the 45 projects during the 8 <sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum to select 15 projects (3 per region) that will receive the "8 <sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum Label".                                     |
| November 2013          | The 15 projects identified by the Forum having received the "8 <sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum Label" are presented to the 37 <sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference alongside with the strategic recommendations |

<sup>3</sup> Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group. The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by its Member States. For its activities at international level, UNESCO uses the UN's universal definition. For activities at national and regional level, recognizing that in each country and region the understanding of youth depends on a variety of different political, social, historic and cultural factors, UNESCO is flexible to using the definition applied by the specific country or the specific region.

## **6. BUDGET**

Each project proposal should be submitted with an estimated budget for the project which can range from 10,000 USD to 500,000 USD.

Having a project selected by the Forum and receiving the 8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum Label does not mean that the project will be funded by UNESCO. The quality of the projects and the “8<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum Label” will serve as a basis for the mobilization of funds by the project initiators/applicants, with the support of UNESCO, the Youth Forum delegates and other partners that may be identified during or after the Forum.