



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Press Kit

Contact:

Isabelle Le-Fournis, UNESCO Press Officer

Tel.: +33 (0) 1 45 68 17 48

Email: i.le-fournis@unesco.org



The 8th UNESCO Youth Forum is organized and coordinated by the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) of UNESCO.

Contact:

Moufida Goucha

Team Leader

Youth-led Social Innovation

Social and Human Sciences Sector

UNESCO

1, rue Miollis, 75015 Paris – France

Email: youth@unesco.org

Tel: +33 (0)1 45 68 45 52

Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 57 29



Bringing together the world's youth at UNESCO, 29 – 31 October 2013

Youth from more than 150 countries, as well as well-known personalities and young leaders, will be coming together in Paris on 29 October 2013 to participate in the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum, which runs until October 31 2013 at UNESCO's Headquarters under the theme "Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development."

During the three days of the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum, participants will debate the challenges faced by young people from all continents, and review the main objectives of the Organization's programmes for youth, to verify their relevance and enhance their effectiveness.

They will be invited to make policy recommendations that will be submitted directly to the 195 Member States of UNESCO at the 37th General Conference of the Organization, which will open the following week (5-20 November 2013).

For the first time in the history of UNESCO's Youth Forum - in addition to the policy recommendations mentioned above - young participants will also be invited to identify 15 Action Projects (three per world region), from amongst the 45 projects shortlisted by an international jury after a call by UNESCO aimed at youth organizations from around the world in July-August 2013.

The 8th edition of the Forum will receive yet another important innovation: a more interactive format than in previous editions. Following proposals made by the youth themselves, during online consultations in early 2013, the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum will last three days instead of four, and will focus on working sessions by regional or thematic groups, as well as direct exchanges.

The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, will open the proceedings of the Forum on October 29th alongside Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), in the morning, and will award, at 6 p.m. on the same day, the first UNESCO / Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean to Karen Nathalia Cerón Steevens, a 25 year old Colombian sociologist, for her work on the prevention of youth violence in Central America.

Many side events will be held throughout the three days of the Forum, both inside and outside UNESCO.

Furthermore, in cooperation with the International Music Council, one of UNESCO's partner NGOs, the "John Lennon Tour Bus 2013", will make a stop in Paris from the 22nd October 2013 until the end of the Youth Forum, right outside the main entrance of UNESCO Headquarters, Place Fontenoy

The Forum is organized with support from the following partners: Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Kuwait, the U.S. Mission to UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, Airbus, Écoles de Condé, Govern d'Andorra, International Student Identity Card (ISIC), the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF), Osato Research Institute, Startup Weekend and the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT).

For more information: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/youth-forum-2013/>



Youth Leaders invited to the Forum



Ahmad ALHINDAWI
29, United Nations Special Envoy for Youth (Jordan)

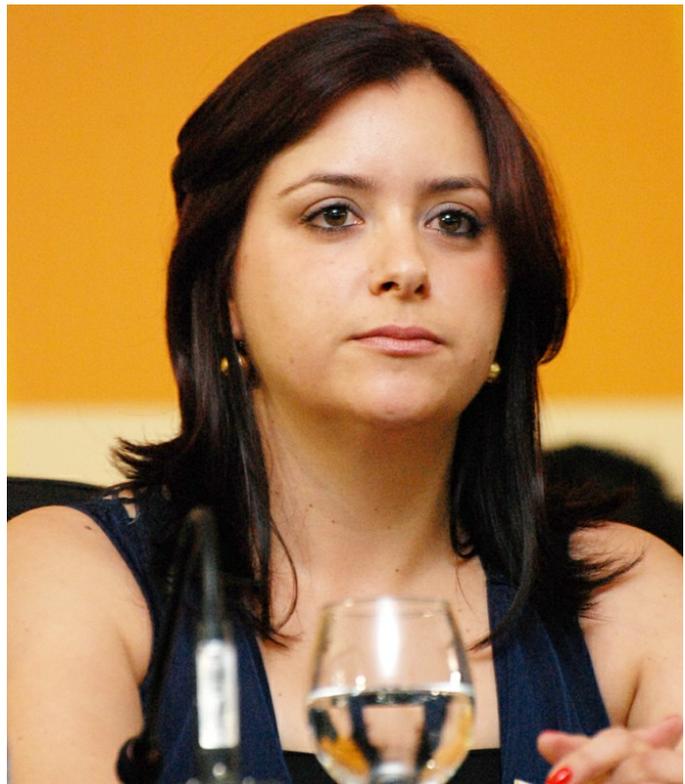
Appointed *Special Envoy for Youth* by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in January 2013, Ahmed Alhindawi, 29, has been involved in youth action on a local, regional and international level for a long time. He previously worked as a Team Leader for a World Bank-funded programme on Institutional Development to Strengthen Arab Policy and Participation with the League of Arab

States. Prior to this, he served as the Youth Policy Advisor to the Arab League in Cairo and as an officer in the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Youth and Sports Ministers Council. He has also been a Team Leader for the National Youth Policy Project in Iraq and Youth Programme Associate at the Iraq office of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). Furthermore, Mr Alhindawi has been an Emergency Programme Officer at the non-governmental organization Save the Children and has supported Danish Youth Council's projects in the Middle East and North Africa. As a volunteer, he participated in the creation of the Jordanian Youth Commission, co-founded the Youth for Democracy Network at the Jordanian Commission for Democratic Culture, and been a co-founder of the International Youth Council, based in New York.

Severine Carmen MACEDO
31, National Youth Secretary (Brazil)

Appointed as National Youth Secretary in 2011, Severine Macedo, 31, is a committed young leader both in the field and in her office. At the age of 16, she became a militant of the Brazilian Federation of Family Farmers (FETRAF) and joined Brazilian Labour Party. Twelve months later she coordinated youth action as part of the Workers' Federation of the State of Santa Catarina (Fetrafesc/CUT). She subsequently became the coordinator of the movement of young farmers for southern Brazil.

In 2005, Macedo became the youngest member of the National Youth Council, established by President Lula one year earlier





Shamla MAHARAJ
26, 2010 Winner of the Merit for Youth Contribution prize
(Trinidad and Tobago)

Winner of the 2010 Award of Merit for Youth Contribution, a prize of The Trinidad Express newspaper, Shamla Maharaj is an astonishing young woman who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at an early age and overcame her physical challenges, obtaining a Bachelors of Science Degree and a Master's in Agribusiness Marketing from the University of the West Indies (UWI).



Nick D'ALOISIO,
17, Multimillionaire
Entrepreneur (UK)

Born Nicholas D'Aloisio-Montilla, Nick D'Aloisio, is a young British-born Australian entrepreneur. A computer programmer, he has become famous for having been the youngest person to receive a round of venture capital in technology at the age of

15. In March 2013, he sold "Summly"—the application he developed to reduce long texts to short summaries—to Yahoo! for 30 million dollars, making him the youngest ever self-made millionaire.



Malamine KONÉ
42, Founding President of
“Airness” (France/Mali)

Winner of numerous French, European and African prizes for entrepreneurship, Malamine Koné arrived in France at the age of 10 to join his parents in Seine-Saint-Denis, near Paris. Unable to read, write or speak French, he was sent to school for the first time in France, and after two years in a French language class, he was able to follow the standard curriculum and went on to obtain a Bachelor’s degree in law. Meanwhile, he became a keen boxer and was twice crowned French champion in the amateur middleweight category.

Nicknamed “The Panther” in the ring, he was injured in a road accident in 1995 and narrowly avoided losing his left leg. As his dreams crashed and doubt crept in, he began

another combat. Physically challenged after 12 knee operations, and rehabilitation, he asked himself new questions. Noticing the clothes of his boxing friends wore he found a new source of inspiration and created his own brand of sportswear, which over 10 years became the leading French sportswear label.



THE UNESCO YOUTH FORUM IN DETAILS

The UNESCO Youth Forum forms part of the UNESCO General Conference. It was established in 1999 in order to create a synergy between the UNESCO programme for youth, youth organizations, and public institutions of youth. The preparation of the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 29 to 31 October 2013, has revolved around:

- evaluation of the 7th Youth Forum UNESCO (October 2011)¹;
- two online consultations conducted with the participation of 2,500 young people (February-April 2013);
- exchanges with all programme areas of the Organization.

TWO MAIN INNOVATIONS IN 2013

- In addition to the strategic recommendations on UNESCO programmes provided by the youth participants at the Forum and presented to representatives of the 195 Member States of UNESCO, **the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum will make a collective decision on 15 action projects that are to be implemented at local, national or regional level over a period of 2 years.**

Certified by the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum, the 15 projects identified following a call for proposals issued by UNESCO to youth organizations around the world, will be developed and implemented after the event in their respective countries and / or regions. Participants will be able to exchange views with members of UNESCO's Secretariat and Forum partners to help organize fundraising for the projects.

Various tools and face-to-face coaching sessions, offered by public and private partners of UNESCO, will be accessible to young participants throughout the 8th Youth Forum to develop their capabilities and make them more operational when returning to their home country.

THEME OF THE 8th YOUTH FORUM OF UNESCO

Based on an initial on-line consultation with 1,895 young women and men in February 2013, the theme for this 8th UNESCO Youth Forum is "Youth and Social Inclusion: civic engagement, dialogue and skills development."

This global theme will revolve around the three axes of UNESCO's 2014-2021 Operational Strategy on Youth: "The formulation and revision of policies with the participation of youth", "The reinforcement of capacity during the transition to adulthood" and "civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation."

¹ Available on UNESCO website: <http://bit.ly/Z2KWOr>



PARTICIPANTS

- **Young delegates / participants**

This year, for the 1st time, the opportunity to participate in all or part of the work of the UNESCO Youth Forum will not be reserved to organizations and associations linked to UNESCO: **anyone wishing to attend the 8th Youth Forum can apply by registering online at the following address <https://en.unesco.org/feedback/registration-au-8e-forum-jeunes-unesco>.**

National authorities are responsible for the designation of youth delegates to the Forum. In response to the letter of invitation from the Director-General of UNESCO, each National Commission for UNESCO has been invited to nominate a youth delegate who is chosen in a participatory and transparent process. **The participation of young women is "highly recommended" by UNESCO, but Member States are also strongly encouraged to increase the participation of disadvantaged youth; including vulnerable or disabled youth.** Once the delegate is designated, the National Commissions should encourage exchanges between the candidate and the most representative organizations of young people in their respective countries to prepare for the Forum.

- **Volunteers**

UNESCO brings together young women and men who are motivated to contribute on a voluntary basis to take part in the Secretariat's work before and during the Youth Forum.

AN INTIMATE AND A MORE INTERACTIVE FORMAT

Following the proposals put forward by 595 young people from all over the world during the second on-line debate organized by UNESCO from 14 March to 9 April 2013, **the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum will last for three days compared to four in previous years, and will rely on group work such as workshops and one-to-one coaching sessions** aimed at enhancing the capacities of all the young participants.

Workshops by regional groups will be organized to select 15 projects which will receive the label "UNESCO's 8th Youth Forum".

Workshops by themes will be organized around the three axes of UNESCO's Operational Strategy for Youth and will focus on the strategic recommendations for the 8th Youth Forum including the focus groups managed by young social science professionals who will analyze the Strategy and the implementation issues by region and/or by topic.

An exhibition of young designers' work will be organized with discussions on potential partnership with other Forum participants.

An open stage for "15 minutes of glory" will present an opportunity to appreciate the achievements of youth who have changed the world, or at least their own world, often in the face of formidable obstacles. After each presentation, a Q&A session will seek to encourage, inspire and guide the young Forum participants.

Cultural events organized with our partners were also encouraged. Thanks to the cooperation of the International Music Council, a UNESCO's partner NGO, **the "John Lennon Tour Bus 2013" will make a stopover in Paris from 22 October until the end of the Youth Forum, in front of the main entrance of UNESCO's Headquarters, at Place de Fontenoy.**



Finally, this year for the first time, **an online discussion platform was launched for young people from all over the world for them to be able to discuss the Forum's themes during the event and contribute to the formulation of nine recommendations that will be discussed at the Forum.** On 1 October the platform available in the six official languages of UNESCO (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) had over 800 active members on all five continents.

DESIGNED BY YOUNG STUDENTS

For the first time in the Youth Forum's history, and for the first time at UNESCO, all of the Forum's workspaces and meeting places were designed and set up by youth.

The first-year students of Masters in Global Design, Research and Innovation of *l'École de Condé Paris-Ségur* were asked to participate in designing, organizing and installing this international event. According to the managing team of the graphic design school, *"this partnership presented an opportunity to experience the pivotal role of a strong transversal thought creating synergies between the skills and expertise for a global understanding of a project and the consistency of its applications in graphic design, space design, object design and textile design."*

The design students were also asked to carry out other complementary tasks:

- Come up with a signalling concept for the event based on the universality of visual language,
- Design the reception areas, ceremonial rooms, and meeting spaces to be used by hundreds of visitors in the monumental architectural space of UNESCO;
- Create textile objects used for participants' identification as well as objects that would serve as manifestos expressing the values underpinning the event;
- Devise an editorial concept for the dissemination of information about the projects selected at the end of the Forum.

After two weeks of reflection and research, the students put forward a proposal that was presented to and then assessed by the representatives of UNESCO. They subsequently worked on the implementation of this ambitious project with a technical team.

They will all be invited and congratulated at the closing ceremony of the 8th Youth Forum, on 31 October.



MEDIA, ONLINE TOOLS AND VISIBILITY

UNESCO's Youth Forum has made extensive use of social media to enable youth to express their ideas and help them create content on the topics to be discussed during event. In this way, **UNESCO will continue to mobilize social networks and media** during the entire duration of the Forum to ensure that the voices of youth are heard and to disseminate the Forum's messages.

MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

Taking into account the Organization's limited financial resources, **unprecedented efforts have been made to mobilize extra-budgetary funds and contributions in kind from different corporate and public sector partners working on issues related to youth development.** Member States of UNESCO have been encouraged to sponsor delegations from one or more developing countries, particularly of youth from the least developed countries (LDC) and Small Developing Island States (SDIS), so as to ensure plurality and universality at the Forum.

FOLLOW-UP

The outcome of the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum will include strategic recommendations and 15 projects bearing the UNESCO's 8th Youth Forum label, which will be presented to the 37th session of UNESCO's General Conference (5-20 November 2013). The Secretariat of the Organization will then determine the follow-up strategy, which will be formulated and implemented in close cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO, the Forum participants and main partners, until the 9th Forum, scheduled for October 2015.

PARTNERS

The Forum is organized with support from the following partners: Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Kuwait, the U.S. Mission to UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, Airbus, Écoles de Condé, Govern of Andorra, International Student Identity Card (ISIC), the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF), Osato Research Institute, Startup Weekend and the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT)





FINALISTS : 45 PROJECTS

AFRICA

Country	Project type	Project Title	Organization	Thematic Focus
Burundi	National	Electoral & Citizenship Education of young people for fair, transparent & non-violent elections in 2015, Burundi	Réseau des organisations de Jeunes en Action pour la paix, la réconciliation et le développement (REJA)	Civic Engagement and Participation
Cameroon	National/ Local	Collective Action for the promotion of rights for the youths living with disabilities (CAPRiY)	Action Foundation Common Initiative Group	Social Inclusion
Mauritius	National	Youth inclusion and Democratic Consolidation in Mauritius	Institute of Social Development and Peace	Democracy
Democratic Republic of Congo	Local	Project to reinforce non-violent youth movements, consolidate peace & local governance in Bukavu	International Governance Institute	Civic Engagement and Participation
South Africa	Local	Intercultural and Intergenerational dialogue for celebrating and conserving cultural diversity	Khanya: African Institute of Community	Intercultural Dialogue
Uganda	Local	Skills for Youth Employment	Future Hope Foundation Uganda	Skills Development
Uganda	National/ Local	Addressing Ethnic Tension and Religious Differences Amongst University Students in Uganda	Students for Global Democracy Uganda	Violence and Conflict Prevention
Uganda	National/ Local	Recycling banana peels to produce briquette as an alternative source of energy and employment to youth	Youth Fraternity for Change (YFC-Uganda)	Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Zimbabwe	National/ Local	Young People We Care-Help Line	Youth Advocates	Social Inclusion



ARAB STATES

Country	Project type	Project Title	Organization	Thematic Focus
Bahrain	Regional (M.E.N.A.) & National (Egypt & Jordan)	Social Entrepreneurship for Marginalized Youth	3BL Associates	Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Jordan	Regional (8 M.E.N.A.)	Generations For Peace - Middle East and North Africa	Generations For Peace	Violence and Conflict Prevention, and Consolidation of Peace
Lebanon	National	MentorSHE	Youth Shadow Government	Civic Engagement and Participation
Lebanon	National/ Local	Young Voices Reach Out: A youth-to-youth civic engagement initiative	Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts	Intercultural Dialogue
Lebanon	National	Youth Acts for Development (YAD)	Arcenciel	Civic Engagement and Participation
Morocco	National	Annual Moroccan Educational Summit	AMES	Skills Development
Morocco	National/ Local	The National Entrepreneurial Camp	Rabat Entrepreneurial Challenge	Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Palestine	Local	Provision of safe environment for youth in the Gaza Strip to participate, volunteer and improve their capacities "Youth Club"	Elwedad Society for Community Rehabilitation	Civic Engagement and Participation
Tunisia	National/ Local	Youth Council	Eurêka	Civic Engagement and Participation



ASIA PACIFIC

Country	Project type	Project Title	Organization	Thematic Focus
Afghanistan	Local	Youth Empowerment through Civic Engagement and Skills Development	Nawshaakh Development Cooperation	Civic Engagement and Participation
Bangladesh	National	Building Bridges through Leadership Training	Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC)	Skills Development
Nepal	National	Guiding Hands	ENGAGE	Civic Engagement and Participation
Pakistan	Local	Strengthening youth's social inclusion and civic engagement through developing key social-economic competencies	Management & Development Foundation	Social Inclusion
Pakistan	Local	Empowering Young Leaders	Global Educational, Economic & Social Empowerment (GEESE)	Social Inclusion
Philippines	Two-country project (Indonesia, India)	Building the Capacity of Indigenous Youth Worldwide Towards Unity and Effective Participation	Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN)	Civic Engagement and Participation
Philippines	National	Sign for Health	Alliance of Young Nurse Leaders and Advocates (AYNLA) Manila Chapter	Social Inclusion
Samoa	National	SHINE Project	Samoa Victim Support Group Juniors	Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Vanuatu	Local	Engaging Rural Youth in Cultural Rights Activity in Vanuatu	Further Arts	Social Inclusion



EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Country	Project type	Project Title	Organization	Thematic Focus
Belgium	Regional (Europe)	"Why Not", EPTO	European Peer Training Organisation	Intercultural Dialogue
Belgium	Inter-regional (multiple regions)	Youth Leaders Training in Reforming the world and skill training for the Rural and Vulnerable Youth	MIJARC WORLD	Social Inclusion
Bulgaria	Sub-regional	Mobile School for Global Citizenship	Omega	Social Inclusion
Canada	Local	Animation	Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick	Skills Development
France	Inter-regional (multiple regions)	Don Contre Don	Solidascension	Social Inclusion
Greece	Inter-regional (multiple regions)	Training for Developing Youth Reporting Capacities (You.Re.Ca.)	Youthnet Hellas	Civic Engagement and Participation
Hungary	Intra-regional	Choice is Yours (CIY)	CEIPES Hungary Egyesület	Skills Development
Slovakia	Local	Bio-seeds cultivation and reproduction as the key to development of sustainable green local economy in rural regions of Slovakia	Svatobor	Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Sub-regional	Mladiinfo: Your Link to Free Education	Mladiinfo Skopje	Skills Development



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Country	Project type	Project Title	Organization	Thematic Focus
Colombia	Intra-regional (5 countries)	Battle de Barrio: Hip Hop, Non-Violence and Social Inclusion	Fundación Artística y Social La Familia Ayara	Violence and Conflict Prevention, and Consolidation of Peace
Ecuador	Local	Training program in Human Rights and culture of peace for grassroots youth organizations of northern border of Ecuador	Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos- APDH del Ecuador	Violence and Conflict Prevention, and Consolidation of Peace
El Salvador	National	Youth players with participatory and inclusive leadership	ASOCIACION JUVENIL CEDROS	Social Inclusion
Guatemala	Local	Creando Comienzos Creando Paz	Tejedoras de raíces	Civic Engagement and Participation
Honduras	National	Mi Voz Es Poder (My Voice is Power)	OYE Adelante Jovenes	Civic Engagement and Participation
Jamaica	Local	I Can Development Programme	Joy Town Community Development	Skills Development
Mexico	National/ Local	Innovating educational approach for prevention and citizen participation	Mukira	Violence and Conflict Prevention, and Consolidation of Peace
Mexico	Local	Workforce Inclusion for Youth with Disabilities	Enlaces ConTacto A.C.	Social Inclusion
Peru	National/ Local	Regional project for LGBT Youth towards Inclusion	MOVIMIENTO GAY LESBICO TRUJILLANO	Civic Engagement and Participation