

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

10 September 2004

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a new service of the UN Programme on Youth, keeping you up to date on the youth agenda of the UN and partnering youth organizations around the world. We encourage you to forward Youth Flash to people in your network. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN Headquarters in New York
- News from UN Agencies around the world
- Feature: Croatian Human Development Report devoted to youth development
- Upcoming events
- Website of the month: Korea Institute for Youth Development
- Our contact information

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News from UN Headquarters in New York  
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>> Third Committee to meet in first week of October <<  
The General Assembly will gather for its 59th session this fall, starting in September. Its Third Committee will discuss social development issues, including youth development, on 4, 5 and 6 October (dates are tentative). Various countries will include youth representatives in their official delegations to the General Assembly, including Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. You can read more about the role of youth delegates during the General Assembly meetings and about how to lobby for one in your country at:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm>

>> Toolkit in Spanish and Portuguese <<  
The Toolkit 'Making Commitments Matter' has been translated into Spanish and Portuguese. The Toolkit was developed by the United Nations Programme on Youth to prepare for the General Assembly's review of the 'World Programme of Action for Youth to the year 2000 and beyond' (WPAY) in 2005. It enables young people around the world to participate in this review by assessing their country's progress towards achieving the commitments made in the WPAY. Besides the Spanish and Portuguese versions, the Toolkit is available in English and French and in the near future it will also be available in Arabic. You will find the Toolkit in all available languages as a free download on the website of the Programme on Youth: <http://www.un.org/youth>

>> Website of the Programme on Youth now available in three languages <<  
Besides an English and French version, the website of the United Nations Programme on Youth, is now also available in Spanish. Please visit <http://www.un.org/youth> or go directly to the Spanish version via:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/spanish/index.html>

>> International Youth Day Celebrations around the world <<  
International Youth Day was celebrated globally on 12 August around the  
'youth in an intergenerational society'. To read more about celebrations in  
various countries, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday/index.html>

To visit the official United Nations press release:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=11617&Cr=youth&Cr1=>

>> Report "Workshop on Youth in Poverty in Southeast Asia"

The report of the Workshop on Youth in Poverty in Southeast Asia is now  
available on the website of the Programme on Youth. The Workshop was  
organized from 2-4 August by the UN Division for Social Policy and  
Development, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia. The contributions of  
the various presenters will be used as an input to the Secretary General's  
report to the 60th session of the General Assembly, as well as the World  
Youth Report 2005.

To download the report of the workshop, visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/workshops/main.htm>

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News from UN Agencies around the world

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>> ESCAP: launch of the electronic Youth Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS <<

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
(UNESCAP) has launched an electronic Youth Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS.  
Numerous declarations and commitments by governments stress the importance of  
youth involvement in HIV/AIDS policy and programme development. However,  
these commitments require serious follow-up by governments, NGOs and young  
people themselves. The electronic forum (<http://www.unescap.org/forums>)  
serves as an advisory group for UNESCAP to tune into young people's HIV/AIDS  
concerns in the Asian and Pacific region. Young people from this region are  
invited to participate in three discussion threads:

1. Analyze the main strategic issues for young people in the region in order  
to fill gaps in existing HIV/AIDS strategies.
2. Reflect on political commitment for youth engagement on HIV/AIDS issues in  
their countries/communities.
3. Analyze what is needed to strengthen the capacity of young people and  
youth organizations to participate more actively in HIV/AIDS-related  
processes.

To read more about the electronic youth forum and to participate in it,  
please follow this link: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/forum/index.asp>

>> ILO: Half the world's jobless are under 24 <<

Global Employment Trends for Youth 2004, a new analysis prepared by the  
International Labour Organization (ILO), found that youth unemployment has  
skyrocketed worldwide over the past decade to some 88 million, reaching an  
all time high, with young people aged 15 to 24 now representing nearly half  
the world's jobless.

The problem goes far beyond the large number of young unemployed people: the  
report says that young people represent some 130 million of the world's 550  
million working poor: people who work but are unable to lift themselves and  
their families above the poverty line set at the equivalent of US\$ 1 per day.

These young people struggle to survive, often performing work under unsatisfactory conditions in the informal economy.

To read the press release and download the full report:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/stratprod.htm>

>> YEN: Guidelines to assist in the development of National Action Plans <<  
The Secretary General's Youth Employment Network (YEN) launched the publication "Improving prospects for young women and men in the world of work: A Guide to Youth Employment". The book specifies basic considerations, trade-offs and experiences that can be drawn upon to develop and implement policies, including National Action Plans on youth employment.

To download the publication:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/download/guidelines.pdf>

>> YEN: Indonesia Launches Youth Employment Action Plan <<

In Indonesia, a National Youth Employment Action Plan (I-YEAP) has been drafted under the direction of the Indonesia Youth Employment Network (I-YEN) steering committee. This plan was launched by the Indonesian Vice President, H.E. Hamzah Hazin on International Youth Day, 12 August, and will form the basis of Indonesia's September 2004 National Action Plan submission.

To find out more:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/leaders/index.htm>

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Feature: Human Development Report written by Croatian youth  
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The sixth edition of the Croatian Human Development Report is entirely devoted to youth development. The UNDP office in Croatia decided to use a different approach this year, judging that youth and their status in the country is one of the key questions to development and foundation to further enhancement of Croatian society. Besides a youth focus, young people themselves wrote it and decided upon the decisive issues concerning their status and future. The report thus represents views on human development from the perspective of young people: how they insist their future should be shaped by all who can influence it.

Tomislav Tomasevic, of the Croatian Youth Network, is active in many different NGOs and UN activities and was one of the young people involved in drafting this Human Development Report. We asked him some questions concerning the process of developing the report and implementing the results.

Question (Q): How did the idea come about to devote the report to youth development and to involve youth in its drafting? How did you get involved, and what was your role?

Tomislav Tomasevic (TT): In summer 2003 I was present at a coordination meeting of donors who are currently active in Croatia. The meeting's theme was youth and I was invited as vice-president of the umbrella youth organization in Croatia (CYN). During the coordination meeting donor organizations wanted to know what are the top priority problems for young people in Croatia. I argued that there is no comprehensive report available on the situation of young people that explicitly draws conclusions and

prioritizes problems. I suggested that the first step should be to develop a list of priority youth problems. As a respond to my suggestion UNDP office in Croatia offered to devote a UNDP National Human Development Report (NHDR) for 2004 exclusively to youth.

Q: What was the division of tasks between the youth and the UNDP office?

TT: The Croatian UNDP office decided to invite three national youth NGOs working in the field and partnering with local youth NGOs all over Croatia - i) the Democratic Youth Initiative, ii) the Center for Peace Studies and iii) the Croatian Youth Network. That was a risky step as it was the first time UNDP sub-contracted an external organization to produce a NHDR. Beside the three national youth NGOs six other local youth NGOs supported the report by organizing focus groups in different regions around Croatia. The UNDP office Croatia hired an external manager to provide assistance to these three youth NGOs and to coordinate the team of authors.

Q: How were youth selected to participate?

TT: There were three partner youth NGOs (me including) who served as the main youth consultants in the process. They are youth activists with 5-6 years of experience working on youth issues. Other local youth NGOs were included through working groups and focus group discussions. In fact almost the whole team was under 25 years of age.

Q: How did you ensure the incorporation of the views of all youths in Croatia?

TT: The three youth NGOs who were responsible for the entire process organized focus groups in different regions of Croatia in cooperation with local NGOs. We had around 20 youth participants in each focus group and in order to assure a representative pattern we included youth who are active in NGOs, high school and faculty students, members of youth branches of political parties, employed young people and unemployed young people. These regional focus groups identified the youth issues and prioritized them. It resulted in a list of the top priority problems.

Q: What has been the role of the Croatian Government in drafting the report?

TT: In the end of 2003, the government in Croatia changed and since then existing ministries have been reformed. Currently the restructuring process is still underway. As a consequence there still is no governmental body, which has capacity for the implementation of the national youth policy. The NHDR pinpoints that problem in the chapter on the relationship between youth and government. However, interviews with governmental officials responsible for youth programmes were carried out and the findings have been included in the NHDR.

If you would like to read the rest of the interview go to  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/news/croatiahr.htm>

For more information you can reach Tomislav at: [tomit@globalnet.hr](mailto:tomit@globalnet.hr)

The Croatian Human Development Report can be downloaded at:  
[http://www.undp.hr/en/areas/democratic/nhdr\\_2002.html](http://www.undp.hr/en/areas/democratic/nhdr_2002.html)

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Calendar of Youth Events  
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NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 18-21 September 04: "Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit"  
Hiroshima, Japan. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organizes, together with the Global Peace Initiative of Women, Shumei International in Japan and the United Nations, a Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit. This Summit is the second in a series of regional Summits aiming to identify, train and mobilize the next generation of Asia-Pacific leaders for effective involvement in the advancement of the Millennium Development Goals agenda. The first was held in June in Dakar, Senegal (for the results, visit: [www.africa2015.com](http://www.africa2015.com)) and more will follow in other parts of the world. All Summits will eventually feed into a Global Youth gathering during the 60th session of the General Assembly in 2005 in New York. For more info: <http://www.asiapacific2015.org>

>> 17 October 04: "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty"  
The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2004 will be observed around the globe between 17 and 24 October under the theme "Youth - A New Voice for the Millennium Development Goals". More information will be posted on <http://www.un.org/youth> as it becomes available.

>> 18 October 04: "Youth Dialogue on Employment and Participation"  
Lübeck, Germany. The Youth Dialogue is organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, the Organization of the Scout Movement and the Youth Employment Network. The dialogue precedes the XV. Malente Symposium (see below) and is designed to give young people the opportunity to review and evaluate current international youth employment efforts and present methodologies for successful youth participation in employment policy at the country level. More info: <http://www.gtz.de/youth/youthdialogue2004/index.html>

>> 19-20 October 04: "XV Malente Symposium on Youth Employment, Empowerment and Participation: Securing the Future"  
Lübeck, Germany. The XV Malente Symposium on youth employment, jointly organized by the Dräger Foundation, the GTZ and the Youth Employment Network (YEN) - a collaborative effort of the World Bank, the ILO and the UN - and supported by the World Organization of the Scout Movement, will bring together stakeholders from all fields of society and of course from youth itself to examine youth employment. Discussions will focus on barriers, solutions and best practices with regard to fostering youth employment across the globe, and to developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work. Visit for more info: [http://www.draegerstiftung.de/htm/e\\_conf\\_malente\\_2004.htm](http://www.draegerstiftung.de/htm/e_conf_malente_2004.htm)

>> Autumn 2005: "Evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Youth"  
UN Headquarters, New York. The UN World Programme of Action for Youth will be evaluated by the General Assembly. More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

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Website of the month: Korea Institute for Youth Development  
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The Korea Institute for Youth Development (Seochon, Republic of Korea) is a specialized research institute for the development of policies pertaining to young people, reporting directly to the Office of the Prime Minister. Visit their website at: <http://www.youthnet.re.kr/en/html/index.html>

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Contact information  
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UN Youth Flash is a free service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

Currently working with the programme are Joop Theunissen (Focal Point on Youth), Fred Doulton (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes) and Birgit Matten (intern).

If you have news that you want to share via the UN Youth Flash, please send an email to: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to the information service, please send an email to: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org), with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' as the subject line.

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