

‘Mainstreaming of Youth’

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Mainstreaming of Youth in UNESCO's Programmes and Activities

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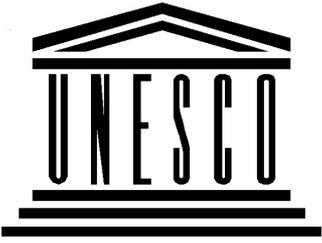
1. UNESCO's Strategy of Action with and for Youth

- Young people have distinctive **needs, problems, concerns and expectations**.
- UNESCO's objective is to **empower youth** so as to ensure their **full potential and participation in society as equal and valuable partners**.
- UNESCO considers young people
 - as a **resource** - and not as a problem
 - as **partners** - and not merely as a target group.
- UNESCO is **mainstreaming the needs, concerns and requirements of the youth** throughout all its programmes and activities during all phases of programme development, implementation and evaluation. To that end, it employs a variety of approaches and develops new tools.



1. UNESCO's Strategy of Action with and for Youth - Functions of Youth Participation

- **Ensure the presence of young women and men in UNESCO bodies (Secretariat, Delegations, National Commissions) as well as in workshops, meetings and conferences organized by UNESCO or its partners – the governance function**
- **Develop partnerships between UNESCO and young people, to solicit and integrate their views and priorities and collaborate with them in setting up projects and programmes in the areas of the Organization's competence -the programming function**
- **Provide assistance to Member States in mainstreaming youth issues into their policies and programmes in order to create spaces and opportunities for empowering young people and giving recognition, visibility and credibility to their contributions - the policy development function**
- **Act as a clearing house of information concerning youth, disseminate publications and information material, prepare and sustain campaigns and coordinate action with other UN agencies and programmes - the advocacy function**
- **Monitor and evaluate projects targeting and involving young people and promote research on youth development – the monitoring function**



2. Objectives of Mainstreaming Youth

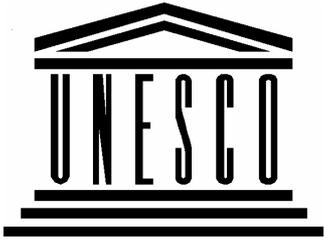
- **Taking into account the distinct and expressed needs and aspirations of young people in UNESCO's fields of competence**
- **Promoting opportunities for young people to take on greater responsibilities, e.g. by means of developing **partnerships** and by increasing the active **participation** of young people in all stages of program design, implementation and evaluation**



3. The Section for Youth – Approach and Functioning

- Charged with giving an **impetus** and **coherence** to UNESCO's action with and for youth
- Benefits from direct **communication** with a wide network of associations and youth NGOs and through its participation in numerous youth events at the regional and international level
- **Monitors** and **analyzes** UNESCO's activities with and for youth through **SISTER**
- Defines ways of establishing **real partnerships** in order to help UNESCO enhance young people's participation and to foster the creation of connections which allow youth to make a difference
- Strives to highlight the indispensable contributions made by youth and defends a **positive approach** towards youth

www.unesco.org/youth



4. Priorities 2006-2007 (I)

Four Priorities:

1 . Interagency cooperation

Increased interagency coordination and collaboration, in particular as concerns the areas of youth development indicators, poverty eradication through the empowerment of young people, HIV/AIDS preventive and treatment education, non-formal education and life skills, cultural diversity

2 . Partnerships with youth NGOs and networks

Identification, facilitation and support of partnerships between youth organizations and UNESCO on priority issues and projects



4. Priorities 2006-2007 (II)

3. Training and capacity-development in youth-mainstreaming

Development of capacity-building initiatives and tools on youth mainstreaming and initiation of pilot training sessions for both staff at Headquarters and in the field / development of guidelines and youth-specific toolkit on joint work with young people and youth organizations

4. UNESCO Youth Forum

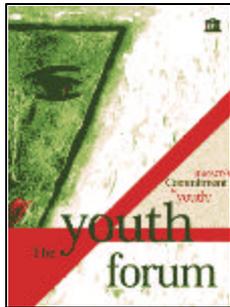
Follow-up to the recommendations of the 4th UNESCO Youth Forum, its further consolidation as an integral part of the General Conference and preparations of the Youth Forum of the 34th session of the General Conference (including the organization of a Youth Forum in each of the UN regions)



5. The UNESCO Youth Forum

Institutionalised as integral part of the General Conference in 2003

4th UNESCO Youth Forum 2005



Follow-up 2006-2007

Theme: Young People and the Dialogue among Civilisations, Cultures and Peoples - Ideas for action in education, the sciences, culture and communication

Final Report presented at the UNESCO General Conference, bringing the opinions of young people before the highest decision-making body in the Organization

229 youth participants (128 Member States' delegates and 45 youth NGOs as observers)

Regional Youth Forums on the themes of

- Education for Sustainable Development
- Young people and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, including intercultural and interfaith dialogue to ensure peace

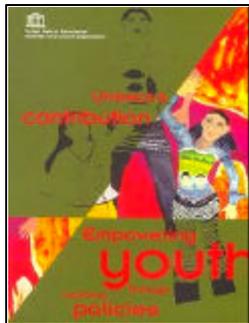
Publication 'UNESCO's commitment to youth: the Youth Forum'



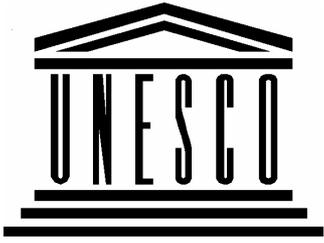
6. UNESCO and National Youth Policies

UNESCO's contribution is in highlighting best practice in involving young people in consultations, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

- **UNESCO calls on Member States to:**
 - Commit themselves to youth policies
 - Back it up with solid research
 - Improve and increase their cooperation with youth NGOs and organisations
 - Assist young people in building networks with youth NGOs in other countries.
 - Monitor results (Poverty reduction projects and Youth Development Index)



Publication 'Empowering youth through national policies – UNESCO's contribution'



7. Developing Partnerships with and for Youth

Trends of youth organisations and movements:

- New forms of participatory structures: away from membership-based organizations towards looser, network-based structures
- active *spontaneous* student movements that can bring about social change
- Youth organizations can be highly effective and successful partners at all levels of interventions

Challenges

- Lack of financial resources, in particular means to travel
- High fluctuation of members and representatives
- Need for effective and youth-friendly communication involving young people as peer communicators
- Need for training



8. Key points to remember

- 1. Youth is a mainstreaming issue for UNESCO**
- 2. UNESCO's strategy of action with and for young people is based on five interrelated dimensions: Participation, Programming and Partnerships, Policy Development, Advocacy, and Monitoring**
- 3. The Section for Youth coordinates the development, implementation and monitoring of UNESCO's strategy with and for young people**
- 4. Mainstreaming youth implies: • Taking into account the distinct needs and visions of young people • Promoting and developing partnerships aimed at fostering young people's capacities and empowerment**
- 5. Reaching these objectives is a collective effort which must mobilize a variety of stakeholders**



Mainstreaming Youth : Best Practice Examples

- 1. Education**
- 2. Social and Human Sciences**
- 3. Natural Sciences**
- 4. Culture**
- 5. Communication and Information**
- 6. UNESCO National Commissions**
- 7. Joint Programmatic Commission on Youth**
- 8. Key points to remember**



1. Education

CCT 'Breaking the Poverty Cycle of Women'

Monitoring and Evaluation by youth NGOs

- Testing of peer-group Monitoring and Evaluation in cooperation with local youth NGOs
- Development of indicators for measuring empowerment of adolescent girls in rural areas in South Asia
- Training of youth NGOs
- Development of policy guidelines and youth-specific toolkit

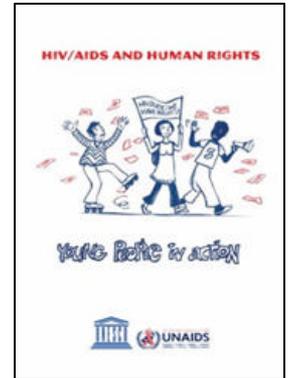




2. Social and Human Sciences

Youth Initiative HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

- Development of toolkits and educational material in cooperation with youth and student NGOs (IFMSA)
- Sub regional training workshops on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights for peer educators
- Human Rights Youth e-space: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1141&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html





3. Natural Sciences

Youth Visioning for Island Living - www.islandyouth.org

The 'Youth Visioning for Island Living' initiative allows young islanders to articulate how they want their islands to develop in the future and how they plan to help make this happen.

Youth Forum Mauritius 2005 on three themes:

Life and love in islands - island lifestyles and cultures

My island home - safeguarding island environments

Money in my pocket - economic and employment opportunities



Follow-up

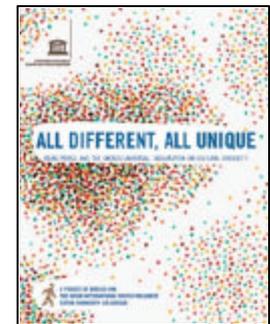
- Implementation of Youth Visioning projects and activities – support through micro grants (January 2005 onwards)
- Regional Youth Forum on Sustainable Development for Pacific Islands, Tahiti, 2006



4. Culture

‘All different, all unique – Young People and the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

- **Development of a youth-friendly version in cooperation with Oxfam International Youth Parliament**
- **Consultations of youth in different regions and development of tools and workshops on cultural diversity**

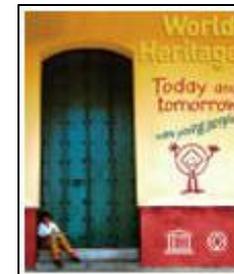


‘Youth PATH’ – Poverty alleviation through heritage preservation

- **Training young people in the Caribbean in development and documentation of natural and cultural heritage sites and in entrepreneurial skills for income generation**

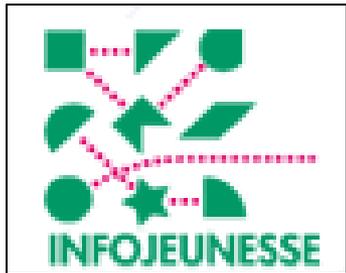
World Heritage in Young Hands

- **Creating awareness on cultural world heritage amongst youth**
- **World heritage as a means to get to know the ‘Other’**





5. Communication and Information



INFOYOUTH Network

www.foyouth.org



- Databank on national and international youth policies and programmes
- Training young people in the use of ICTs
- Promotion of networking between institutions, field workers, youth NGOs and researchers



- http://www.foyouth.org/cd_rmed/ (The Middle East Youth Directory)
- www.jeunessearabe.info (Internet portal in French and Arabic)



6. UNESCO National Commissions

Canadian National Commission

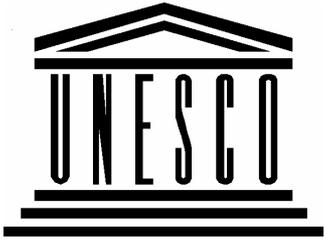
- Youth Consultation held prior to the 4th UNESCO Youth Forum
- Nomination of staff as youth focal point
- Intermediary between UNESCO and youth networks in Canada

Korean National Commission (Rep. of Korea)

- Youth Committee in place
- Organization of an annual International Youth Camp

Swedish National Commission

- Organization of a pre-conference prior to the UNESCO Youth Forum gathering youth from Northern Europe, Asia and Africa to identify priorities and follow-up to the Youth Forum



7. Joint Programmatic Commission on Youth

- **Part of the UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee**
- **Representing international youth NGOs in official relations with UNESCO**
- **Objectives:**
 - 1) **Assure a dialogue between UNESCO and youth NGOs**
 - 2) **Serve as a centre of expertise and reference on youth perspectives**
 - 3) **Advocate and disseminate information on UNESCO's activities**
 - 4) **Promote youth mainstreaming in the performance and decision-making processes of UNESCO**





8. Key points to remember

- 1. Each Section and partner should mobilize with and for youth**
- 2. Young people should not only be involved in specific projects aimed at youth, but in all activities of UNESCO**
- 3. The National Commissions and the Joint Programmatic Commission Youth are crucial partners in all efforts aimed at youth mainstreaming**



Youth development in Africa : Recommendations

1. **Giving « Leadership » position to one UN agency for policy, projects and programmes design in cooperation with governments, *with* and *for* youth, in its focus areas ;**
2. **Creating a UN Steering Committee composed by UNDESA, UNECA, UNESCO, etc...for the Addis Ababa Youth Development in Africa workshop ;**
3. **Building sustainable partnerships that lead to resource mobilization.**



Thank you !