



16 Young Leaders to 'headline' EU's flagship development event EDD 2016

Global search puts development's most promising young talent on the European Development Days' main stage alongside world leaders

16 of the brightest young minds in international development have been selected from over 300 applicants to represent the voice of youth – and the future of development – at the European Development Days 2016 (Brussels, 15-16 June). The European Commission's Young Leaders programme gives 21-26 year olds making a difference in their countries and communities the chance to have their say on the world stage.

The 16 successful candidates, who come from a range of different backgrounds and countries, will each represent an EDD theme related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at this special 10-year anniversary edition of the forum. Each Young Leader will take part in a day of foresight training with the Joint Research Centre, speak at an auditorium panel on their specialist subject, and join a lab debate on youth and development.

Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, said; *"I'm delighted to welcome the 16 outstanding Young Leaders for this 10th edition of European Development Days. They come from various countries around the globe and bring rich experience, strong determination and a fresh perspective to spark lively debate about some of the world's most pressing issues."*

During their 10-day trip to Brussels, the Young Leaders will visit European institutions, meet influential EU policymakers, and network with other young people driving change around the world. To find out about the Young Leaders' sessions and read their profiles, visit www.eudevdays.eu/young-leaders

Providing a voice for the Global South in development

The European Commission received applications from 91 countries. This year's chosen Young Leaders come from diverse locations including Benin, Bolivia, India, Jordan, Malawi, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines and South Africa.

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Sana Afouaiz
Morocco

**Ensuring Accountability:
A Shared Commitment**

Sana is the Founder of "AYAP", a youth-led capacity-building platform, which shares knowledge about policy making, an interactive and open space for youth to advocate their rights in Africa and beyond.



Hovhannes Aghajanyan
Armenia

**Science, Technology
and Innovation (STI)**

Hovhannes is Co-Founder at Citybugs Social Start-Up, an award-winning citizen-reporting platform.



Ruba Ahmad
Jordan

Inequalities

Ruba is currently working with ActionAid's Global Platform Jordan on Human Rights and Governance, raising awareness and fighting different aspects of inequality and discrimination; against women, refugees, and young people.



Marouane Bakit
Morocco/Libya

Inclusive & Peaceful Societies

Marouane founded Makers of Hope for Human Rights, an organisation working on strengthening the capacity building of youth in peacebuilding practices, and advocating for youth participation in peace processes.



Reuben James Barrete
Philippines

Working with Fragile States

Reuben is the founder of the Christian-Muslim Solidarity Network, an organisation that advocates for mutual respect and understanding between various faiths, cultures and communities through concrete social actions and online campaigns.



Ruben Baumer
Belgium

**Circular Economy / Sustainable
Consumption and Production**

Ruben founded S n rgie, a social business selling small solar systems in rural areas without electricity, based in Thies, Senegal. He has a strong commitment and knowledge of technological solutions that help face environmental and social challenges.



Nestor Dehouindji
Benin

**Trade, Growth
and Sustainable Development**

Nestor is the Head of the Western Africa Block for the World Youth Government Ministry of World Trade.



Ayesha Durrani
Pakistan

Gender

Ayesha has developed a business model to sell contraceptive and hygiene products door to door for women in the Dhok Hassu area.



Alan Andres Jarandilla Nuñez
Bolivia

Means of Implementation

His aims are to discuss the need to develop inclusive and participatory processes that ensure transparency and accountability, and to establish a network of youth organisations and Civil Society Organisations to participate in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Pilirani Khoza
Malawi

Water-Energy-Food Nexus

She founded the Bunda Female Students Organisation (BUFESO) where, as coordinator, she works for the empowerment of young women to get academically involved in the field of Science & Agriculture.



Joselin Manzanares Nuñez
Nicaragua

Climate Change

Joselin is a member of Young Environmentalists Movement in Nicaragua, where she has coordinated different activities; one of them is the international initiative Earth Hour.



Faith Tendai Munyati
South Africa

Migration & Refugees

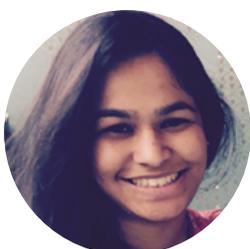
Faith works to defend refugees and inform newly arrived migrants about their rights. She represents the Lawyers for Human Rights, where she lobbies for reforms in the law and advocated for migrants' rights in South Africa.



Abbas Sbeity
Lebanon

Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Cities

He founded the Lebanese Architecture Club; a youth-led organisation based in Beirut that focuses on the role of architecture in social impact.



Vandinika Shukla
India

Education

Vandinika has been the Head of Project Enable, an initiative aimed at empowering high school children to make their schools more accessible and equal opportunity driven through the implementation of the Indian Right to Education Act.

For further details on the Young Leaders of this year, please go to the page

Meet the EDD 2016 Young Leaders



Elsa Zekeng
Cameroon

Leave no-one behind.

A final year PhD candidate in Infectious Disease and Global Health, Elsa is a young woman specialised in health care in developing countries.



Rosa Sakala
Malawi

Engaging the Private Sector

She represents the potential of young African entrepreneurs, out to improve their societies.

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