



PRESS

## Young voices to speak up for development

European Commission launches a worldwide call for young leaders to have their say at the European Development Days 2016, Brussels, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June.

**Young people from around the world, aged 21 to 26 are invited to join the debate** on the future of international development cooperation at the next edition of European Development Days (EDD 2016). Europe's leading forum on global development cooperation will take place in Brussels on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### A call for Young Leaders worldwide

EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: *"Young people must be at the heart of the global development efforts. It is about their future life, their future, their planet. Through this initiative, the European Commission wants to value the critical contribution that young people are making and to involve them in shaping the future development policies."*

### Contact

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The European Commission will select 16 youth representatives based on their skills, experience and commitment to development issues. They will be invited to participate in EDD 2016's high-level panels on subjects of their expertise, where they will share their experiences and ideas with key development stakeholders, policymakers and participants.

## An opportunity to share ideas with international decision-makers

Marion A. Osieyo, from Kenya, one of the Young Leaders selected for the last edition, says: *'European Development Days Young Leaders had the opportunity to not only attend but also to engage in high-level discussions as issue experts, not just youth experts.'*

Following EDD 2015 in June, Marion was invited as a youth delegate to attend the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development 2015, 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September, in New York, USA.

The online application for the Young Leaders Programme is open from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February until the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Applicants will need to submit a two-minute video explaining why they should be chosen to speak on one of the **EDD 2016 topics**.

## Sustainable Development Goals in action

This year's forum – *Sustainable Development Goals in Action: Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future* – will focus on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the heart of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To achieve the SDGs, the international community will have to include young people as they work together to build a more sustainable future.

For its 10th edition, EDD 2016 will be one of the first international conferences to address the way forward for this ambitious 2030 Agenda. The EDD 2016 forum will be shaped by the '5 Ps' outlined in the preamble to the 2030 Agenda – People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

Applications will be received via the EDD 2016 website:  
**[www.eudevdays.eu/young-leaders](http://www.eudevdays.eu/young-leaders)**

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**Neven Mimica,**  
EU Commissioner for International  
Cooperation and Development

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## Note to editors:

European Development Days (EDD) is Europe's leading forum on development and international cooperation. Organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, the forum brings the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

In 2016, the 10th edition of EDD will be a platform to address the 2030 Agenda – the Sustainable Development Goals. EDD has served as the voice of the international development community. The forum builds on the core belief that cooperation is the cornerstone of a fairer world. An essential aim is to facilitate networking and inspire the desire to work together even more closely in a spirit of true partnership. In this way, the forum is an incubator of new ideas to inform the global community's shared aim of a poverty-free, sustainable and fair world where everyone has a chance at a decent life.

Each year, EDD attracts around 5 000 participants from more than 140 countries, representing 1 200 organisations from the field of development cooperation, human rights and humanitarian aid. In bringing together the global development community, the European Union has also engaged political leaders, development practitioners, the private sector and civil society. These stakeholders work together to shape the EU's policies for tackling poverty. Everyone is given a voice in this open, collaborative and inclusive forum.

The key thread for the EDD 2016 edition; *Sustainable Development Goals in Action: Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future*, is reflected in the forum's themes: the 5 Ps of the preamble of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. Sessions and activities will focus on:

### People

Inequalities  
Gender  
'Leave no-one behind'

### Peace

Working with fragile states  
Migration and refugees  
Inclusive and peaceful societies

### Planet

Climate change  
The circular economy / sustainable consumption and production  
The water-energy-food nexus

### Partnership

Means of implementation  
Engaging the private sector  
Ensuring accountability – follow-up and review

### Prosperity

Inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities  
Science, technology and innovation  
Trade, growth and sustainable development

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