



17 OCTOBER, 2017

OECD, PARIS

# NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND GLOBAL RESPONSES FOR YOUTH WELL-BEING

An expert meeting to share experiences on  
scaling up innovative youth programmes

## Rationale

Youths (aged 15 to 24) account for more than a quarter of the world's population. The vast majority of them live in developing countries where, in many places, they represent 30% of the population. Many developing countries have the potential to realise a demographic dividend, if the right social and economic policies and investments are in place. Policies for youth require addressing challenges on multiple fronts, from getting decent employment and education to accessing youth-friendly health services and becoming active citizens.

Too often, policies or development co-operation programmes are however not youth-sensitive. Integrating youth issues into national development policies makes good sense for progress. First, young people not only shape the present of any country, but they also profoundly determine its future. Second, young people are at a stage in life characterized by a high capacity to learn and acquire skills and to adopt positive attitudes about contributing to society. Third, investing in young people has inter-generational benefits that can create powerful agents for change. Last but not least, the exclusion of youth from central societal sectors generates tremendous social and economic costs to the society and may even lead to social and political unrest.

As part of its Youth Inclusion project, co-financed by the European Union, the OECD Development Centre has been working since 2014 with governments of 9 developing countries<sup>1</sup> to review their policies and programmes for youth. In-depth diagnosis on the situation of youth in the areas of health, education, employment and civic participation were carried out for these countries and policy gaps identified. In parallel, global research on youth entrepreneurship, youth aspirations and rural youth livelihoods found new insights into the youth employment challenges. Based on these findings, the OECD Development Centre is preparing a Guidance Note for practitioners to highlight policy gaps and to take stock of lessons-learned on policies and programmes that work for youth. on how youth well-being issues could be better integrated into development co-operation programmes.

## Objectives of the meeting

The meeting aims to:

- 1) share the main findings of the country reviews and global diagnosis on youth well-being, undertaken as part of the EU-OECD Youth Inclusion project;
- 2) identify policy approaches and concrete interventions by governments and development co-operation actors to narrow youth well-being gaps; and
- 3) based on the discussions, to inform the 'Guidance Note' on how to better integrate youth into national strategies and development co-operation programmes.

The meeting bring together development experts and practitioners in the youth field to share experiences in implementing youth policies and to identify innovative approaches to scale up into development strategies.

## Expected output

The OECD project team will integrate all comments and discussions from the meeting into a Guidance Note. The Guidance Note will include an overview of the current investment trends by international organisations, donors and governments on youth programmes, a list of priority investment areas for youth well-being as assessed in the countries, and innovative approaches and policy recommendations for scaling up youth programmes in the areas of health, education, employment and civic participation.

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<sup>1</sup> Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Jordan, Malawi, Moldova, Peru, Togo, Viet Nam. For more information about the Youth Inclusion project, please visit: <http://oe.cd/1h0>

## Agenda (Draft)

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| <b>8.30 – 9.00</b>   | <b>ARRIVAL/REGISTRATION</b>   |
| <b>9.00 – 9.30</b>   | <p><b>OPENING REMARKS &amp; INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p>Introduction of the structure, objectives and agenda of the meeting.<br/>Presentation of EU-OECD Youth Inclusion project and findings from the global research.</p>   |
| <b>9.30 – 10.30</b>  | <p><b>SESSION 1: YOUTH CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</b></p> <p>The vast majority of young people live in developing countries. Investing in youth inclusion is a way to promote the full participation of all people in economic, social and cultural life. Targeting young people requires, however, addressing challenges on multiple fronts, from getting decent employment and quality education to accessing youth-friendly health services and becoming active citizens. As part of its Youth Inclusion project, the OECD Development Centre reviewed policies and programmes for youth in 9 developing countries. The reviews were carried out using a multi-sectoral approach to analyse the situation of youth.</p> <p>This session will present the main challenges found through the country-level assessments.</p>  |
| <b>10.30 – 10.45</b> | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>   |
| <b>10.45 – 11.45</b> | <p><b>SESSION 2: NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGIES</b></p> <p>In light of the massive youth challenges, more and more countries are developing national youth strategies and policies. However, strategies are not always turned into actions and not enough is being done in areas other than education and employment. Vulnerable youth – low-skilled and low-educated – are often left out of youth programmes. Understanding where policy and programme gaps are, both in terms of areas but also target groups are pre-requisite to designing inclusive policies for youth.</p> <p>This session will share countries experiences in implementing and funding national youth strategies and the challenges of youth participation and inter-ministerial co-ordination. (Possible country representatives: Côte d’Ivoire, Moldova)</p>   |
| <b>11.45 – 13.00</b> | <p><b>SESSION 3: GLOBAL RESPONSES TO YOUTH CHALLENGES</b></p> <p>The rights of young people have long been recognised in international conventions and treaties. During the last decades, policy agendas on youth have also gained prominence in development co-operation. The United Nations and the Council of Europe have long been committed to youth issues and the support of youth development with a diverse range of programmes and activities. The framework for EU cooperation in the youth field has been continuously developed since the Commission adopted a White Paper on youth in 2001. Young people are increasingly identified as a priority group for co-operation activities within the EU external cooperation programmes. Many other development agencies are also mainstreaming youth into their development co-operation.</p> <p>The session will discuss the global youth agenda, as well as EU instruments and other donors’ approaches in the youth field.</p> |
| <b>13.00 – 14.30</b> | <b>LUNCH</b>  |
| <b>14.30 – 16.30</b> | <p><b>SESSION 4: BRIDGING THE GAPS</b></p> <p>So where should the next investments be in? How can we take stock of the work already initiated to further integrate youth well-being issues into development programmes? Policy recommendations will be discussed on four thematic areas of youth well-being: health, employment, education and civic participation. (Possibly in break out groups)</p> <p>This session will focus on how development practitioners can take into consideration policy recommendations and come up with concrete policy guidelines on better integrating youth well-being into development programmes and interventions.</p>   |
| <b>16.30 – 16.45</b> | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>   |
| <b>16.45 – 18.00</b> | <b>CONCLUSIONS FROM SESSION 4 AND CLOSING REMARKS</b>   |