



## Youth Employment Network (YEN) Newsletter, May 2004

### Core Partner Activities



#### United Nations launches new World Youth Report

The World Youth Report 2003 launched by the United Nations, in May 2004 describes the situation of youth in 15 areas of concern including youth employment. Recognizing young people as partners in development, the report states that they need to be given the right opportunities in order to be effective agents of social change.

Whilst the report mentions that some young people face unprecedented opportunities today, it highlights that many, particularly in developing countries are still severely hindered by a lack of education, poverty, health risks, unemployment and the impact of conflict, the new United Nations report on the global situation of youth reveals.

"If youth are indeed builders of their societies, then we need to be more concerned about their access to opportunities," says Johan Schölvinnck, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), which issued the report. <http://www.un.org/youth>

#### Toolkit to help youth review progress in the development of national youth policies.

The UN has developed a Toolkit 'Making Commitments Matter' (available electronically at <http://www.un.org/youth>) to help young people participate in the evaluation of national youth policies.

The Toolkit asks young people to consider what progress their Government and civil society have

made in the development and implementation of policies and programmes outlined in World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY).

#### Facts about Youth

- 133 million youth globally are illiterate.
- Only one in four young people (22 per cent of young women, 26 per cent of young men) is enrolled in secondary school in sub-Saharan Africa, 40-57 per cent in South Asia, and 62-67 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Worldwide, of the almost 1.1 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24, nearly 9 out of 10 live in developing countries
- In 2000, nearly a quarter (22.5 per cent) survived on less than one dollar a day
- Up to 110 million youth are estimated to be malnourished and up to 7,000 become infected with HIV daily.
- Young people represent around 18 per cent of the world's population yet they account for 40 per cent of the unemployed.
- Between 1993 and 2003, youth unemployment rose by 19 million, and some 88 million young people are currently without work.
- 2 million children and youth were killed and 6 million more were left disabled as a result of wars during the last decade. In addition, a total of 12 million were made homeless and more than 1 million were orphaned or separated from their parents; more than 10 million remain psychologically traumatized.

*Source: UN World Youth Report 2003*

The YEN Secretariat will work with colleagues at the UN to explore how this toolkit can also be used to support the strategic participation of young

people in the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) on Youth Employment as called for in [UN General Assembly Resolution on Promoting Youth Employment \(A/57/165\)](#).

### **Expert Group Meeting on Strategies for Creating Urban Youth Employment**

This expert group meeting and youth roundtable will be organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and YEN and held on 21-25 June 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. It will convene experts in youth employment from different regions of the world, and young people from African countries to address the challenges of urban youth employment and young people's hopes for decent employment and reduced social exclusion. For more info contact Julie Larsen [larsenj@un.org](mailto:larsenj@un.org)



### **New World Bank website for youth goes live**

[Youthink!](#) the Bank's new website about development issues that matter to young people, was launched in April 2004.

Youthink! invites young people to explore the research, knowledge and experience gathered by World Bank experts on issues like poverty, development, and conflict. Young people are also invited to share what they see around them through personal stories, photos, etc.

In addition to tackling globalisation, debt relief and trade, the site looks at issues singled out by youth participants at last year's [Youth, Development and Peace Conference](#), where World Bank President James Wolfensohn met with 100 young people from 70 countries. These issues include education, unemployment, crime and violence.

### **Broad youth consultations held in advance of meeting on poverty reduction**

The World Bank will hold a major conference on [Scaling Up Poverty Reduction](#) in Shanghai, on May 23-25, 2004.

Over the last few months a large number of young people have taken part in a range of activities

aimed at developing youth inputs to the Shanghai event:

- In February more than 1,300 young people from over 100 countries worldwide took part in an [online discussion](#) moderated by young people in which participants identified "scaleable" solutions to poverty reduction, including those related to employment.
- A series of videoconferences across four continents which concluded with the online conference: [Role for the Next Generation of Leaders](#)

Outcomes of these consultations will be taken to the Shanghai conference by youth representatives who will share the vision of their contemporaries with decision makers from around the world.



### **ILO Meeting of Experts on Youth Employment in the Arab States**

Tripartite delegations from 16 countries of the region as well as representatives of international (including the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Organisation of Employers), regional and Jordanian organisations, a group of young people from Jordan, local academia and ILO consultants met in Amman, Jordan, 5-9 April 2004.

The meeting proposed targeted measures, many put forward by youth including a representative from YEN lead country Egypt, to reduce youth unemployment in the Arab region:

- Convening a national youth conference in Jordan (and similar conferences in other countries), which could serve as a discussion forum on effective youth employment measures. The conclusions and recommendations could be used by decision makers in

the preparing of National Action Plans (NAP's) on Youth Employment in cooperation with employers, workers, and youth organizations. An Arab fund could be established to finance implementation of these plans.

- Establishing an Arab labour market database.
- Preparing an action manual for decision makers.
- Creating a Youth Employment Network for the Arab region.

#### **Youth employment facts – the Middle East and Arab States**

- Youth employment rate in the region is twice the world average.
- There is unprecedented need for employment in the region, estimated to approximate 100 million additional jobs by 2020.
- 6.5 million new jobs will need to be created every year for unemployment to be halved. This will involve a doubling of current levels of job creation.
- In Egypt, in 1998, almost 94 per cent of the unemployed were new entrants to the labour market; among them 90 per cent belonged to the 15-29 age group. The situation of young women is even dimmer with more than half of the unemployed new entrants to the labour market that year being women, at a time when the share of women in the labour force was only 21.2 per cent.

*Source ILO 2004 and UNDP 2002*

#### **Tackling youth employment in Central Asia and Caucasus**

The ILO Moscow office is organising a training course for Vice-Ministers from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan to develop strategies for addressing the youth employment challenge in their countries.

The course will be offered at the ILO Training centre in Turin, May 26, 2004 in the framework of its UK Department for International Development supported project 'Reducing Poverty through Support to Employment of Youth and Other Marginalised Groups in the Informal Economy of Central Asia and Caucasus.'

Azerbaijan, as a lead country of the YEN, will be asked to share its vision for the development of its National Action Plan on Youth Employment with the other countries and explore modalities for future cooperation and exchange of experiences.

#### **YEN proposes new indicators for monitoring progress on the youth employment Millennium Development Goal.**

In consultation with the YEN, at a UN inter-agency expert meeting on MDG Indicators in April, officials from the [ILO's Key Indicators of the Labour Market \(KILM\)](#) programme made the case for revising the MDG indicator for youth employment, the youth unemployment rate. They argued that the youth unemployment rate reviewed in isolation cannot fully gauge the ability of youth to meet their full-productive capacity and provides little policy guidance on how to meet or monitor progress on the Millennium Goals relating to youth.

Three additional indicators were proposed. These are 1) the ratio of the youth unemployment rate to adult unemployment rate, 2) the share of youth unemployed in total unemployment, and 3) the share of youth unemployed in the youth population. When combined with the youth unemployment rate, the four measurements can serve as a useful guide to the general state of the labour market and its ability to respond to the needs of young people.

The YEN proposal also stressed:

- The need to make the linkage between the MDG on poverty reduction and on youth employment both explicit and strategic.
- The importance of employment in general, in meeting the other economic, social or political Millennium goals.

## News from Lead Countries

### Azerbaijan

Youth employment is a pressing issue in Azerbaijan where two-thirds of the population are younger than 35 years.

The Government of Azerbaijan declared its commitment to become YEN Lead Country in 2003

A National Employment Strategy (NES) for the country is being finalised with ILO's technical assistance. Following recent meetings with the Government it was agreed that a NAP will be developed under the framework of the YEN, with ILO support, as an integral part of this NES.

Youth NGOs, led by the National Youth Council for Azerbaijan (NAYORA) have formed a coalition which will work closely with the government to provide youth inputs into the NAP development process

The ILO, in collaboration with the social partners, will carry out a School-to-Work Transition Survey based on a model tested successfully in [Indonesia](#). The responses of young people interviewed will be fed into the NAP process.

### Brazil

NGOs and youth organizations in six metropolitan areas across the country are designing and implementing a common training and job placement plan for Brazil's most disadvantaged youth.

The Ministries of Labour and Education and the Government's *Primeiro Emprego* team, initiated this process with the support of the World Bank and the ILO.

The results of a pilot training course in Brasilia will be evaluated at its conclusion in June.

These 6-month courses intend to create 250,000 new jobs for youth per year.

### Egypt

In consultation with the Ministries of Youth, and of Manpower, the ILO office in Cairo is exploring:

- A meeting bringing together Egyptian youth groups to discuss issues of youth employment and determine how young women and men can best participate in the development of the country's NAP.
- A School-to-Work Transition Survey in partnership with UNFPA and an Egyptian research institute,
- A specific half-day session on youth employment to be added to a National Tripartite Symposium on Employment, scheduled for summer 2004.

Outcomes of these activities would feed into the development of Egypt's NAP on youth employment.

### Indonesia

A National Youth Employment Action Plan for Indonesia (I-YEAP) has been drafted to form the basis of Indonesia's NAP on youth employment to be submitted to the UN General Assembly by September 2004 as outlined in UN GA Resolution [A/57/165](#). This follows a major consultation process led by the [Indonesia-YEN](#) (I-YEN) steering committee, involving the Indonesian Government, YEN core partner institutions, workers' and employers' organizations, youth and civil society groupings, and the academic community,

The IYEN Steering committee has recently secured additional funding from the Dutch Government to further refine the I-YEAP and assist in the implementation and review of the plan.

This next phase will also see resources allocated to encourage and support action programmes that enable young people to effectively participate in the I-YEAP implementation process.

Activities include the identification of the most active youth organisations in the country and the running of a training workshop to facilitate their involvement in the NAP process.

## Iran

Following Iran's decision to step forward as a YEN Lead country, there have been follow up meetings both in Tehran and Geneva with officials from the Ministry of Labour and the National Youth Organization (NYO) to determine next steps.

The YEN is following up with its Iranian counterparts to explore:

- Designation of a national coordinator on youth employment issues for Iran with whom the YEN could then pursue the development of the country's NAP and determine opportunities for the exchange of Lead Country experiences.
- Collaboration with YEN to develop a labour market information system.
- The co-hosting of workshops in Iran on youth employment and ICT and on micro-credit for youth employment.
- The development of a youth entrepreneurship programme in Iran

## News from the High-Level Panel

**Mr. Allan Larsson** recently chaired a session on 'Employment and Decent Work' at the Special Session for European Commission Officials on Employment, 22-23 April 2004 in Brussels. He also [addressed](#) participants at the ILO's [China Employment Forum](#), (CEF) 27-29 April, during the session on Youth Employment. Outcomes of this session included:

- The All-China Youth Federation announced it would to explore the possibility of opening a YEN Partner Office in Beijing;
- The Government of Japan's announced plans to hold an International Symposium on Youth Employment towards the end of 2004.

**Ms. Rosanna Wong**, also attended the China Employment Forum [speaking](#) on behalf of the YEN during the session on Youth Employment

**Mr. Magatte Wade** chaired a recent meeting of AFRICATIP (Association Régionale des Agences d'Exécution des Travaux d'Intérêt Public) in

Cotonou, Benin. AFRICATIP is a networking institution which facilitates communication and sharing of experiences between Francophone African countries who have programmes focused on labour-intensive public works projects, with major youth components.

## News from around the globe

### Forum of Cultures kicks off

From May 9 to September 26, 2004 the [Barcelona Forum of Cultures](#) will offer a highly original approach to international dialogue, making space available for reflection on the main cultural and social issues facing humanity at the outset of the 21st century.

One of the main objectives of Forum Barcelona 2004 is to contribute to the further development of models of coexistence. The UNESCO General Conference of November 1997 approved the three central themes—cultural diversity, sustainable development and the conditions for peace—that provide the focal point for all Forum activities.

From August 8 to 14, the Forum will host the [3rd World Youth Festival](#) with the participation of 10,000 young people from around the world. The World Youth Festival is the only event completely designed by and for youth organizations from all over the world.

The YEN core agencies, its partners, including a large number of youth organisations, will be involved in a wide range of events and workshops during the festival.

The YEN itself will run a dialogue panel on youth employment on 13 August (within the context of International Youth Day – August 12 – focussing this year on intergenerational equity) and will be publicising its activities in the "Fair"

arena alongside other UN agencies and initiatives.

### **Career guidance material for youth developed in Mauritius**

The guide, "Career Prospects: The Way Forward for Youth" has been developed by the ILO, the Mauritius Employers' Federation, the Rotary Club of Port Luis, and the Mauritian Institute of Management.

<http://www.mef-online.org/publications/index.htm>

### **Showcasing Entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Inter-American Development Bank's event [Young Entrepreneurs and Volunteerism](#) in Lima, Peru on 25-16 March, united young leaders, government, civil society, and private and academic sector leaders from the LAC region to share experiences on the impact of social capital, specifically the leading role of young entrepreneurs and youth volunteerism on the region's socio-economic development. The YEN was represented by one of its youth representatives from the region, Raquel Cuentas.



### **News from the YEN Secretariat**

#### **YEN Joint Secretariat Meetings**

The Senior Management Steering Committee of The YEN (Director level staff from the ILO, the UN and the World Bank) met in Washington D.C. in April to move ahead with the YEN Programme Document - a framework for joint collaboration and fundraising by the YEN core partners.

#### **Special Session for European Commission Officials on Employment**

Youth employment was a key topic at this event held in Brussels, 22-23 April 2004, YEN Secretary Mr. Steven Miller, supported by YEN partners, highlighted the work of the YEN and linked the UN NAP process and the youth employment components of the European Employment Strategy.

#### **Meeting with BMZ-GTZ**

In March, the YEN Secretariat met with representatives from the German Government to discuss the issue of youth employment and to

identify potential synergies between the Government's development co-operation activities relating to youth employment and the YEN.

### **News from Partners**



### **IADB support for Youth Business programmes in Latin America**

[Youth Business International](#) (YBI) has recently agreed a matched funding programme with the [Multilateral Investment Fund](#) of IADB. The 4-year project aims to start 2000 plus new businesses in four countries where YBI has programmes – Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. If successful, it will provide a model of alliances and matched funding that can be replicated with development banks in other continents. This project will be one of the major themes YBI will be discussing at its Global Conference in Buenos Aires in October 2004.



### **Nokia and IYF Expand Global Youth Initiative**

Nokia and the [International Youth Foundation](#) announced a three-year expansion of the Make a Connection programme. Since its launch in April 2000, the initiative has directly benefited more than 100,000 youth worldwide and indirectly benefited another 1.3 million people in the communities where these young people live. With this new agreement, the programme, currently active in 17 countries, could be expanded to a total of 30 countries over the next three years. Nokia's increased commitment now represents more than US \$15 million in support to date.

### **Major youth employment symposium gears up**

The XV Malente Symposium, [Youth Employment, Empowerment and Participation: Securing the Future](#), 20-21 October 2004 in Lübeck, Germany,

jointly organized by the Dräger Foundation, the GTZ and the YEN and supported by the World Organization of the Scout Movement, will bring together 300-400 stakeholders from all fields of society and of course from youth itself to examine the issue of youth employment. Discussions will focus on barriers, solutions and best practices with regard to fostering youth employment across the globe, through the lens of the two of the four YEN policy priorities, entrepreneurship and employability.

It is anticipated that a side event will bring YEN Lead countries together for the first time to share experiences and best practices in the development of national youth employment policy.

The Symposium will be preceded by a one-day "Youth Dialogue" 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.

### News from Youth Partners

#### Youth Participation

From 6 - 8 May 2004, the Council of Europe organised a large-scale event on the themes of Europe, Youth and Globalisation under the slogan "[How Big Is Your World?](#)" in Strasbourg, France. More than 400 young people aged between 18 and 30, representing non-governmental youth groups, regional youth platforms or other associations, and coming from all 45 Council of Europe member states, and other nations participated in this event.

A number of YEN Youth partner organisations attended and had the opportunity to showcase their work with the YEN as well as further discuss proposals for the development of a standing YEN Youth Consultative Group (YCG). It is expected to launch this YCG by June 2004.

### Related Issues

#### Vocational Training - Supporting the Introduction of the Cooperative (Dual) Technical Education and Vocational Training

Germany has over 100 years of experience in the development and successful application of a dual-system of vocational training - a system that combines on-the-job training in companies with

### Spotlight on Youth: Kelly Cristine Ribeiro

Kelly, 27 years old from Pernambuco, in North-East Brazil, has been working for almost five years as an organisational consultant, trainer and storyteller with several non governmental organizations - such as World Vision and Landless Workers Movement - mainly in the areas of non-formal education, social management, sustainable development and social entrepreneurship.

Kelly is Projects and Program Director at the Xeromoa Institute of Education & Culture. Based on a model developed by Kelly, the Institute runs training courses for teachers, trainers and non-formal educators in art-education, storytelling and other cultural activities. Emphasis is placed on the imparting of life skills and social values, such as peace and solidarity, which form much of the content of these cultural activities. The courses also aim to empower teachers to strengthen their relationship with their pupils, encouraging classes to be active participants in the learning process itself.

The institute plans to hold a major non-formal education summit in Montes Claros, in the state of Minas Gerais, in April 2005.

Kelly is also helping the Institute develop a social entrepreneurship programme for youth, in partnership with [The Christian Fund](#). Starting in July 2004, 40 educators and 40 youth will be trained for one year in approaching social entrepreneurship through three phases: identifying social concepts, then community needs and linking the two and finally, designing the aim, resources and management needed to get their enterprise up and running. The educators will learn how to teach the subject of social entrepreneurship itself.

Internationally, Kelly is partnering with Students' Forum 2000 ([www.sforum.net](#)), a Czech based organisation, to run a training course for 20 young people from around the world, aimed at helping them prepare and implement social projects that address needs in their own communities.

Kelly has a degree in Business and Management Administration and is currently attending a Specialization in Art-Education.

applied theory classroom schooling to develop young graduates with a well balanced match of skills, knowledge, working behaviour and experiences with the world of work which greatly improves their employability.

Building on this strong track record, GTZ, German Technical Co-operation for Sustainable Development, is providing support on behalf of the BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Development) to a number of partner countries in the design of vocational education training systems geared to the needs and development potential of the economy and society.

Since 1993 the German Development Cooperation has been supporting the Egyptian government in the reform of the country's vocational education training system. The aim is to implement comprehensive practice oriented training and upgrading measures geared to the current and future needs of Egypt's private sector. In this concept companies and institutions of the private sector play a vital role in development, implementation and financing of appropriate modern curricula.

The programme is designed to promote vocational training reform; it focuses on participation by the private sector, clarification and development of the legal, organisational and financial aspects of dual vocational training, and its integration into the national technical vocational education and training system.

These key areas are being implemented for 28 different occupations throughout the country in cooperation with several hundred companies, a number of technical secondary schools and the training centres of various ministries.

Particular emphasis is given to skills training for young people from poor families, giving greater consideration to rural areas and providing training for women and girls.

### Media Sampler

#### Conference examines youth unemployment dilemma

Daily Star, Lebanon, 30/01/2004

#### New scheme to boost job skills

Gulf Daily News, Bahrain, 26/02/2004

#### Proposed National Youth Policy Discussed

Paknews.com, 23/02/2004

#### Meet calls for equal opportunities to women

Business Line (The Hindu), 09/03/2004

#### Govt to find 300,000 jobs for youth

Bangkok Post, 05/03/2004

#### Sport as a means to promote youth development

UNDP Tirana, 10/2004

We welcome both feedback and contributions. We would like to hear from you at [monticone@ilo.org](mailto:monticone@ilo.org) and encourage you to share this Newsletter with colleagues and friends.

### Interesting links

The Italian Government funded ILO project **Skills development for the reconstruction and Recovery of Kosovo** has a new website: [www.ilo.org/skills/kosovo](http://www.ilo.org/skills/kosovo).

The aim of the project is the establishment of a training delivery system for the unemployed and workers, (the largest target group being youth) and the strengthening of Kosovar employment services institutions.

### Upcoming Youth Employment related events

9-12 June 2004: JCI Africa Conference  
Dakar, Senegal

21-25 June 2004: UNDESA and UN HABITAT expert meeting on youth employment. Nairobi, Kenya

27-30 June 2004: Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit  
Dakar, Senegal [nicholas.gouede@undp.org](mailto:nicholas.gouede@undp.org)

23 June - 8 July 2004: International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth. Herrsching, Germany  
<http://www.international-herrsching-seminar.de>

5-12 July 2004: 2nd sitting of the International Youth Parliament. Sydney, Australia <http://www.iyp.oxfam.org>

9-14 July 2004: International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO). Geneva, Switzerland

8-14 August 2004: World Youth Festival  
Barcelona, Spain <http://www.barcelona2004.org/>

- 12 August 2004: "International Youth Day"  
Youth and Intergenerational Relations

- 13 August 2004: YEN Youth Employment Dialogue

8-9 September 2004: African Union Extra-ordinary summit on Employment. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

6-8 October 2004: YBI Global Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina

13 -15 October 2004: ILO Technical meeting on Youth Employment, Geneva, Switzerland

19-21 October 2004: XV Malente Symposium: Youth Employment, Empowerment and Participation: Securing the Future.  
Lübeck, Germany

23-28 October 2004: World Youth Peace Summit  
Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.worldyouthpeacesummit.org>