

YOUTH LEAD

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERS, TRAINING & FUTURE-PROOF SKILLS FOR YOUTH





BACKGROUND

The world today is home to 1.2 billion young people. Known as the most connected generation, despite the limited resources and access that young people are often challenged with, young people have been contributing to their communities, developing innovative solutions, driving social progress, and inspiring political change.

However, as the world continues to grapple with multidimensional challenges such as climate crisis and risks of unemployment in the background of rapid digital development, young people have also noticed the changes in opportunities and prospect of their future.

Young people understand the need to rethink the way we prepare and approach the future. At the Transforming Education Summit, young people called on decision-makers to invest in future-proof skills development, and other relevant opportunities to ensure access to decent jobs for youth, especially members from vulnerable and marginalized communities. Their visions and insights are detailed in the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education, in which they demanded the provision of “quality and relevant training, professional development, necessary facilities, appropriate working conditions, and an innovative, safe, and enriching environment for teachers, including by raising the status of the profession, and particularly by working with young teachers, women teachers, refugee teachers, and representatives of teachers’ unions”.

It is an imperative to address young people's concerns, and the #YouthLead Innovation Festival does just that. It provides a platform for relevant stakeholders to discuss ways to upgrade teachers' skills in integrating technology-based and -enhanced solutions in classrooms so that they can effectively respond to the lifelong learning needs of young people, employers and workers in a rapidly evolving world of work.



ABOUT #YOUTHLEAD INNOVATION FESTIVAL

The #YouthLead Innovation Festival is a biennial celebration of innovative youth-led solutions led by the Office of The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. #YouthLead Festival brings together young innovators and solutions makers together with United Nations, policymakers, civil society, and industry leaders. The Festival presents opportunities for multistakeholder dialogue and collaboration for the use of innovation and technology to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and engage young people as equal partners in achieving this ambition.

The Festival also addresses the fact that despite the growth of digital technology and innovation, many young innovators from the vulnerable and marginalized community are still left behind. Young women, LGBTQI youth, indigenous youth, and young people with disability face greater challenges in hardly receiving equal opportunities, recognition, or acknowledgment for their work because of the unique challenges they face. #YouthLead Innovation Festival aims to be a space and platform that provides special highlights and emphasis on the great innovative work of young people who identify with these groups.

The Festival usually features 3 main segments that include: (a) Multistakeholder Discussion, (b) #YouthSolves Solutions presentation and (c) a showcase of youth-focused work from UN and its partners.

A #YouthLead Innovation Spotlight will be organized ahead of World Youth Skills Day 2023, the conversation will be taken forward to a high-level panel, ensuring that the momentum and insights gained at the Spotlight continue to shape our discussions.



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Leveraging on OSGEY's expertise in convening meaningful multistakeholder conversations and mobilizing young people from around the world, OSGEY hopes to give the opportunity for partners to take part in the collective effort to empower the world's generation of young people by providing an enabling environment to foster future-proof skills through the lens of innovation.

Building on the Special Session on SDG 17 Partnerships - Youth-Led Innovation for Decent Jobs that took place at the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2023 in April, the #YouthLead Innovation Spotlight will highlight the importance of future-proof skills and empowered teachers and trainers in support of the World Youth Skills Day commemoration in July 2023.

Recognizing the vital role of teachers, trainers, and other educators in equipping young people with the necessary skills for successful entry into the labor market and fostering a lifelong passion for learning, the #YouthLead Innovation Spotlight aims to delve deep into the potential of both technological and non-technological innovations that educators can integrate into their teaching practices. It will also explore how technology can enrich the learning experience for students of all ages and secure continuity of learning in the face of school and training center closures induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.



FORMAT

Time: 10am - 12pm EDT, 14 July 2023

Disrupting the Future As We Know

Interactive brainstorming session led by young innovators and young trainers/teachers with in-person and/or virtual audience. In this short interactive session, audience will be asked to collectively write down their versions of the future and imagine the skills needed to achieve them.

Youth-led Solution and Ideas Presentation

Young innovators and solutionsmakers are invited to share their work in challenging the "expected" future of jobs, showcasing their efforts in pushing for creation of decent jobs, and most importantly sharing about their innovative approach on this.

Multistakeholder panel

Taking into account the outcome of the brainstorming session and the solutions presentation, the event will continue with a multistakeholder dialogue that centers around young innovators, teachers, and trainers as an enabling ecosystem. This intergenerational dialogue with young people, United Nations, policymakers and industry leaders on the topic of enabling environment for future-proof skills.