

INCLUDING YOUTH VOICES

Regional Consultation with Adolescents and Youth on Education Equity and the Post-2015 Agenda for Europe and Central Asia

23 July 2013

BACKGROUND:

This Concept Note describes a Regional Consultation with Adolescent and Youth that will mark the beginning of young people's participation in two inter-related Regional initiatives in Europe and Central Asia that are planned for 2013:

1. A Regional Consultation with Adolescent and Youth on the post-2015 agenda for Europe and Central Asia (planned for autumn 2013 – Dates TBD); and
2. A Ministerial Conference – Including All Children in Quality Learning – that will be co-organized by the UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS and the Government of Turkey to launch a regional Call for Action to advance equity in education (planned for 10-13 December 2013).

(For more information about these two meetings, please see the individual meeting Concept Notes.)

The Regional Consultation with Youth will be organized in Turkey from 31 August-6 September 2013. In the context of the UN Secretary General's global youth agenda, this consultation will aim to: strengthen the capacity of adolescents and youth and their organizations; support young people to develop their contributions to both the Ministerial Conference and the Regional Post-2015 Consultation with Youth; and help young people define their roles in follow-up regional initiatives.

The Regional Consultation with Youth with Youth aims to engage young people meaningfully in high-level ministerial discussion and action on education access and quality in the CEE CIS Region. Young people have a right to participate in discussions about their lives and their future, and their contributions are considered to be crucial to ensuring the quality and relevance of both the Regional Post-2015 Consultation with Youth and the Ministerial Education Conference. Participation will be broad-based and will involve representatives of formal and informal youth networks.

OBJECTIVES:

- To empower adolescents and youth to contribute their views and experiences to discussions on advancing equity and quality in education and the post-2015 development agenda in the region
- To engage adolescents and youth meaningfully in the process, outcomes and follow-up to the **Regional Consultation with Youth on the Post-2015 Agenda** and the **Ministerial Education Conference** with the theme of Including all Children in Quality Learning.

PROPOSED STRATEGIES:

- Equip adolescents and youth with leadership skills and information that will enable them to contribute to the Regional Consultation with Youth with Youth on the Post-2015 Development agenda to be held in fall 2013 and the Ministerial Education Conference that will be held 10-13 December 2013.
- Develop and compile ideas for formal submission and inclusion in Ministerial Conference and post-2015 Regional Consultation with Youth discussion and output documents, including as part of Youth Statements
- Support adolescents and youth to define their contributions to the two meetings and to support them to develop their contributions to the two meetings
- Support young people to develop action plans for how they may contribute to the Regional Education Initiative – Including all Children in Quality Learning – upon their return to their countries.

PARTICIPANTS:

The Regional Consultation with Youth on Education and the Post-2015 Development Agenda is planned for about 30 adolescent and youth participants, aged 10-24. They will represent a broad-based group of youth, including but not limited to representatives of youth-led and youth-serving organizations. It will empower young representatives from 3 main 'pools' of adolescents and young people with previous leadership and/or education-related research/reflections experience:

- a. 26 adolescents and/or youth representing youth organizations from countries in the region (1 from each of the 26 countries in the region)
- b. 4 youth that have participated in a Prudential-funded research study on adolescents out of secondary education in four countries which will provide important insights on the situation of those young people without access to secondary school (one each from Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey)
- c. 2 youth representing youth organizations in Western Europe (any corresponding info from where?)

Selection of youth representatives: The selection of participants will be conducted jointly by UNICEF Regional and Country Offices. Based on the mixed profiles of adolescents and young people in these pools, the selection process will ensure that gender balance will be respected and that youth with disabilities and youth participants from other marginalised groups will be actively sought out and included. All adolescents and youth will be between the ages of 10 and 24 years of age; particular effort will be made to reach out to adolescents of basic school age. Both adolescents that are in school and out of school will be included. Results of country Regional Consultation with Youth for the post-2015 agenda will also be included, if applicable.

FORMAT OF THE CONSULTATION:

The format of the Regional Consultation with Youth will be based on the experience of the Istanbul-based International Youth Leadership Academy and facilitated jointly by UNICEF & Habitat, a partner organization based in Turkey that will help facilitate the meeting. Thus the consultation will have the following components:

Consultation Components
1. Orientation & Team Building
2. Skill-building training and information workshop based on Turkey's International Youth Leadership Academy curricula
3. Strand 1. Discussions and Working Sessions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
4. Strand 2. Discussions and Working Sessions on the Ministerial Conference – Including All Children in Quality Learning
5. The last two days of the consultation will be held back to back with the Regional Consultation with Youth on the post-2015 agenda. During these last two days, selected participants and will participate in the Regional Consultation with Youth. Participants will design the nature of their contributions to the Regional Post-2015 Consultation.

1. **Orientation & Team Building.** There will be a half-day introduction and team building to break the ice and promote a community dynamic.
2. **Skill-building training and information workshop** for youth to strengthen their and their organizations' capacity, including:
 - a. Basic training on: the international system; the MDG goals and the post-2015 agenda; recent research on education and other social/equity issues; human and child rights; child and youth participation principles; and opportunities at local, national and international levels.
 - b. Practical training sessions on skill areas that are identified by youth as priorities for building their capacity as leaders and their youth organizations' influence
 - c. Sharing of experiences between youth organizations
3. **Strand 1. Discussions and Working Sessions on the Ministerial Conference – Including All Children in Quality Learning.** This strand will include:
 - a. Youth input into the Ministerial Conference output document
 - b. Informational presentations and discussions on education, including on: out-of-secondary education research process and outcomes; demand in quality education research process and

outcomes challenges in inclusive education in pre/primary/secondary; and challenges in quality and relevance of education in pre/primary/secondary

- c. Development of a youth statement for the Ministerial Conference and consultation on the format of the youth participation process (e.g. through a Facebook page, through local presentations of a draft statement, etc.)
- d. Development of other inputs into the conference programme (virtual, direct, indirect, testimonials, marginalised groups' representations, other ideas...)
- e. Development of local action plan developments (until the Ministerial Conference and/or after the Ministerial Conference) and election of youth representatives to join the Conference Preparatory Meeting with partners (to be held in October 2013)

4. Strand 2. Discussions and Working Sessions on the Post-2015 Agenda. Strand 2 will include:

- a. Discussion to identify the most important issues for youth in the post-2015 discussions related to social inclusion and to identify the themes to be covered in the working sessions
- b. Informational presentations on post-2015 global discourse
- c. Working sessions to discuss and reach consensus on key messages to bring to the Regional Post-2015 Consultation
- d. Development of a youth statement for the Regional Post-2015 Consultation according to the themes identified by youth as the priorities and consultation on the format of the youth participation process
- e. Development of other inputs into the Consultation programme (virtual, direct, indirect, testimonials, marginalised groups' representations, other ideas...)

5. Participation of youth representatives in the Regional Consultation on the Post-2015 agenda and the Ministerial Conference: During the Regional Consultation with Youth, young people will define the ways in which they would like to participate in these regional meetings and initiatives and how they would like to be represented. Thus, beyond the planned contributions to the meetings, in a truly participatory manner, adolescent and youth representatives will be the ones to determine and propose other contributions and ways in which they would like to be (virtually or physically) present during the Ministerial Conference and Post-2015 Consultation. The Conference organisers will be prepared to incorporate the youth contributions to the Conferences in time.

Practical Facilitation Roles: For each session, some participants with experience with the core issues will be requested to act as trainers/informants for others, so that by the end of the workshop each of them will have had a direct trainer/presenter/facilitator function (announced, prepared and supported in advance of the workshop). In addition, Habitat and UNICEF facilitators will support the entire process and make interventions as needed.

Languages: The primary working language will be English, but translation will be available in Russian, Turkish and Serbo-Croatian.