

DIASPORA YOUTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Young people are universally acknowledged for their role in sustainable development, both for how it will affect their futures, and how they are some of the most active, effective and dynamic advocates for global change. Youth is a priority partner for the European Union's external action, as set out in the Youth Action Plan, the first ever policy framework for a strategic partnership with young people around the world.

The transnational nature of diaspora youth means they often operate in multiple spaces, across the breadth of sustainable development goals, bridging gaps between cultures, nations and generations. Diaspora youth are making waves in sustainable development and EUDiF seeks to support, promote and empower them in their work.

1.8BN **YOUNG PEOPLE**
IN THE WORLD TODAY



Our insights

- The hyper diversity of diaspora youth in terms of aspirations, capabilities and realities creates a huge number of entry points and partnership opportunities.
- Youth advocate for an inclusive, fair and green global development, leaving no one behind.
- Youth diaspora are an under-valued source of knowledge and capabilities to address big societal challenges, able to operate at macro and micro-level.
- In many contexts, barriers to entry are higher for young people and their organisations, than for more established actors.
- Modern skills empower young people with great adaptability and ability to work in multicultural and digital environments.
- Youth engagement should be holistically integrated throughout policy and intervention cycles to maximise collaboration potential and prevent tokenism.
- Youth engagement starts through "tipping agents" (highly educated youth ambassadors & leaders) but must be complemented with work to create inclusive spaces for all young people in the diaspora.
- There is a plethora of individual and collective initiatives and a shift towards regional and global consolidation, but still work to do to map youth diaspora groups.
- The voice and role of youth diaspora is increasingly recognised in global dialogues, but unequally across regions. More work is needed to move past assumptions, build trust and foster collaboration.

EUDiF's diaspora youth work

KNOWLEDGE

Celebrating, sharing and learning from existing practices led by, or designed for, youth diaspora

 [Heritage tourism & youth entrepreneurship: long-term thinking for diaspora engagement](#)

 [Youth practice collection](#)

DIALOGUE

Platforming youth voices and priorities

 **Diaspora consultations: [15 recommendations, including on youth](#)**

 **Regional thematic meetings on youth: [GUAM & Africa](#)**

 **Future Forum 2021, a dedicated day on “[youth drive](#)”**

 **Future Forum 2022: [Diaspora youth rapporteurs](#)**

 **Future Forum 2023: [Diaspora Youth Pitch Competition](#)**

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

In our capacity development work, youth is a priority group which benefits directly from several of our actions, particularly in [Ethiopia](#) and [the Philippines](#) where we work on education. For more information, explore [our actions](#).

In the future, EUDiF aspires to work more with youth actors within our actions, building on the success of the diaspora youth internship programme which has been instrumental in the first phase of the project via the Diaspora Youth Internship which is part capacity development, part a way of promoting diaspora expertise in development.

DIASPORA YOUTH INTERNS AND ALUMNI

Appreciating the great value of lived experience, the Diaspora Youth Internship ensures that youth diaspora play an active role throughout the project's implementation. The internship is an early-career opportunity designed to maximise the benefit for participants and the project. It includes mentoring, accompanied and independent projects, networking with alumni and much more. As every intern is different, so is each internship.

Find out more

Whether you are a diaspora youth organisation, a government institution, or an international organisation, contact the EUDiF team to discuss collaboration opportunities related to diaspora youth and development: eu-diaspora@icmpd.org

You may be interested to read European Union's [Youth Action Plan \(YAP\)](#) in external action for 2022-2027, the first ever policy framework for a strategic partnership with young people around the world, as well as the UN's [World Youth Report: Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). For more on youth in the EU, see the European Parliamentary Research Service's digest on the occasion of [International Youth Day 2023](#).

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