CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

This Youth Civic Engagement initiative is proposed by the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja as an opportunity to promote youth-led production of knowledge, design and implementation of innovative solutions to instill their participation in decision making at the local, national and regional levels, for more inclusive and peaceful societies.

On this first edition, youth-led organizations/associations/networks operating from any of the four English-speaking countries under the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja – Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone – are invited to submit their applications. The essence is to capitalize on recent political transition experienced through elections in these countries; Ghana in December 2016, Liberia in October 2017, and Sierra Leone in March 2018, or preparation towards elections; Nigeria in February 2019.

For further information and for the procurement of the guidelines and registration forms please refer to the documents below.

THE MAIN SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. Registration
Youth-led organizations are invited to prepare and submit their application to UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, using the form attached in annex and to be sent as a PDF to contest.abu@unesco.org, by 15 September 2018 the latest.

2. Selection
Based on the evaluation of applications, ONE finalist candidate, from two (02) youth-led organizations per country, will be invited to a two-day workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, organized by UNESCO. The workshop will expose them to qualitative/quantitative research methodology, project design and implementation for active citizenship and civic engagement, as well as the sharing of experience from participating countries.

3. Co-operation for Civic Engagement
Following the acceleration workshop, participating youth organizations will be involved in practical assignments for active research and co-production of knowledge for civic engagement and democratic participation in their respective countries and communities.

4. Webinar
Webinar sessions, notably through Skype will be organized, providing opportunities for mentorship and support of research teams, as well as the sharing of information on findings, challenges and future openings. This will also be the occasion to support the fine-tuning of project proposals from youth organizations and final submission. Participating teams will be free to build national alliances, to stand better chances.

5. A Concrete Step Forward
After receiving the final proposals, up to four (04) will be shortlisted for the final phase. Selected finalist teams will be invited for a Skype interview, during which each of the proposals will be assessed by a Panel, with comments and questions for the project team. Deliberations at the end of the session will identify the winning team.

UNESCO will award a USD 10,000 Grant for the implementation of the winning team, in line with the Organization’s rules and procedures.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA/GUIDELINES/REQUIREMENTS:

1. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
   - Youth aged between 18 to 35 years, as designated representative from a registered youth organization in activity for a minimum period of five (05) years, and operating in at least one of the following selected countries: Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.
   - Have a demonstrated experience with concrete achievements in promoting youth civic engagement in any of the following areas: participation in decision-making, civic education, culture of peace, human rights, environmental protection, volunteerism, community dialogue, gender equality, etc.

2. WHAT ARE THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBMISSIONS?
   - Compliance with the deadline for submission of applications, by 15 of September 2018 at the latest, to contest.abu@unesco.org
   - Strict compliance with filling in the registration form. It should be duly signed and stamped;
   - Enclosure of ALL required supporting documents:
     - A letter of support from the National Commission for UNESCO of your country;
     - A copy of a document proving the official creation of your organization;
     - CVs of the 3 designated representatives of each organization;
     - Avoid plagiarized ideas in the proposal of study and intervention;
     - Each youth association must appoint three representatives; the Team Leader and two alternative. UNESCO will only be in contact with the team leader who will be the only liaison between UNESCO and his/her respective youth association, and will ONLY one attending the incubation workshop.
     - Submission not complying with ALL above-mentioned requirements will not be considered.
     - Only successful applications will be notified of the next steps of the process, including additional requirements, as may be necessary.

3. WHAT ARE THE SELECTION CRITERIA AND RATING SYSTEM?
   1. ORGANIZATION AND TEAM: The relevance of the organization’s mandate, recent achievements, team’s profile and expression of interest 20
   2. RELEVANCE WITH THEME AND INNOVATION: The extent to which the ideas proposed and narrative in both study abstract and intervention for are relevant to youth civic engagement (as explained above) and are innovative and creative in the approach as well as in the ambition to touch upon new areas and tackling pressing issues of interest to youth. It should integrate also global and regional issues in relation for example to: Agenda 2063 of the African Union (Aspiration 6), Sustainable Development Goals (in particular SDG 16), UNSC 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, etc.; 30 POINTS
   3. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound): In filling the form and documenting both abstract and idea of intervention proposal, make sure that the SMART principle is used; 25 POINTS
   4. QUALITY: professionalism and persuasiveness of the proposal write up; 15 POINTS
   5. GENDER-BASED APPROACH: the extent to which the proposal effectively shows sensitiveness, awareness and/or responsiveness to gender equality; 10 POINTS

4. RELEVANT SOURCES FOR CONSIDERATION
   - Agenda 2063 of the African Union (Aspiration 6)
   - UNESCO operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021)
   - UN World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement
   - Information on UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security
   - Information about Sustainable Development Goals
   - International Youth Day 2018
   - International Day for Peace 2018
1. ABOUT THE TEAM
Each youth association/organization/network must designate three representatives; the Team Lead and two (02) alternate, mindful but only one member will be conveyed in Abuja for the workshop, if the team is selected, while others could support the team from distance. CVs of designated representatives should be submitted as an attachment of this form to contest.abu@unesco.org

Lead:
Name:
Function:
Contact details (email and phone number):

Alternate 1:
Name:
Function:
Contact details (email and phone number):

Alternate 2:
Name:
Function:
Contact details (email and phone number):

Please provide team expression of interest/motivation to join this initiative and added value to bring to the programme, as well as expected benefit for your organization (200 words max)

2. ABOUT THE YOUTH ASSOCIATION/ORGANIZATION/NETWORK
Name:
Date of Creation:
Country:
Goals and Objectives (50 words max):
Main achievements in the past two years (150 words max):
Website:
Facebook Page:
Other Social Media:
Phone number:
E-mail:

3. ABSTRACT OF THE STUDY
Proposed Title:

Present key ideas of your proposed approach for a study on youth civic engagement in your country, focusing on problem identification and innovative methodological approach you envisage to collect information to document your study, and expected hypothesis you intend to verify. See Guidelines for more information. (Max. 500 words)

4. YOUR IDEA
Share your idea of an innovative intervention for creating safe space for youth civic engagement, youth participation in decision-making at the local or national level for peacebuilding, based on a theme of your choice, and considering an implementation through the digital space, and building on SDG 16, among others.

Proposed Title:

Present your proposal highlighting:

1. The context/problem statement (A description of the problem or need that your project will address. This statement must communicate your understanding of relevant research/statistics on the problem)

2. The objective of the proposed intervention

3. Three key activities you will undertake and related expected results

4. Indicate how innovative you think your intervention is to promote youth-led solutions to community needs and issues, and the creation of safer space for youth civic engagement.

5. How will your proposed intervention reach out to youth and how would you involve other youth organizations?

(Max 800 words)
5. ATTACHMENTS

Take note of the list below for important attachments to be submitted. Send all documents as one single PDF.

1. Team expression of interest/motivation to join this initiative and added value to bring the programme, as well as expected benefit for your organization (200 words max);
2. Goals and Objectives (50 words max);
3. Main achievements in the past two years (150 words max);
4. Abstract of the study (500 words max);
5. Proposal (800 words max);
6. Identification of all assisting members;
7. Copy of official registration documents;
8. Letter of support from the national commission of UNESCO for your country;
9. CVs of the 3 designated representatives of each organization.

Date, stamp, and signature