

UPDATE ON THE OUTCOMES OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION ON THE GFMD CONSULTATION

Europe OECD Regional Consultation
- by UN MGCY



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

CONTEXT

Created in 2007, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a state-led, informal and non-binding process, which helps shape the global debate on migration and development. It provides a flexible, multi-stakeholder space where governments can discuss the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to migration, development, and the link between these two areas. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) took over the Chairmanship of the GFMD on February 1st 2020.

The UAE has proposed that six GFMD regional consultations were held over the course of 2020, with the assistance of state-led regional processes. The regional consultations elaborated on the six thematic priorities, according to each region. The Friends of the Forum meetings will finalise background documents for the Summit, which is anticipated to take place, in the UAE, in January 2021.

The consultations in Europe were led in conjunction with the OECD on the following themes:

- **Skilling Migrants for Employment**
- **Fostering partnerships to realize migration-related goals in the Sustainable Development Agenda and managing the future of human mobility**
- **Governance of Labor Migration in the Context of Changing Employment Landscapes**

In preparation to this discussion, the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY) led an open **European Regional Consultation on youth perspectives and priorities on these topics**, interviewing and receiving written inputs from **16 locally-based youth-led and youth-focused organizations** with national or international focus, **acting in 23 countries** and representing around **2,300 youth overall**. The results of these consultations are summarized in the [policy briefs](#) that can be reached [here](#), and were presented at the **Civil Society Preparatory Meeting**, and then at the main GFMD-OECD breakout session by **6 young representatives**.

CONTEXT

The main objectives of our participation were to:

- **Identify youth led actions and perspectives in the region**
- **Bring youth perspectives to the attention of relevant stakeholders**
- **Create a solid presentation and basis to foster partnerships among youth organizations and other stakeholders**

We participated both to the **civil society preparatory meeting** and to the **OECD-GFMD consultations for the European region**, where we presented youth perspectives and examples of concrete actions that can be taken forward and scaled on tackling migration issues, showing how youth voices are a relevant part of the conversation.



70

organisations contacted from all European subregions

16

youth organizations participated in this consultation process

80%

of the participants strongly agree that the team effectively brought the voice of the consulted youth organizations

2,300

youth reached in total

REFLECTION ON OUR IMPACT ON THE GFMD PROCESS AS OF OUR OBJECTIVES

a) Identify youth led actions and perspectives in the region:

We **reached out to more than 70 organisations** from all European subregions, and **16 of them participated in our consultation process**. An opportunity for improvement was identified regarding the possibility to increase our reach of youth-led and youth-focused organizations. In this regard, we are learning from other regions that engagement with youth organizations throughout the year can reflect on a higher number of youth consulted.

b) Bring youth perspectives to the attention of relevant stakeholders:

The participation of UN MGCY to the regional consultations was well received by other participants. **We were detailed but concise in presenting our findings. We respected the assigned time and were able to join the conversation in different moments during the sessions.**

In each one of the sessions each participant was able to speak for 2 minutes and we had **6 youth participants in total, 2 for each session**. In the Partnership breakout sessions we were able to **intervene as last speakers of the sessions and to make an open invitation for future partnerships**.

In addition to our virtual participation in the regional consultation, **acknowledgement of the youth representatives interventions were made**. We have also been **invited by KNOMAD, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development to discuss synergies and opportunities for collaboration after the breakout sessions**.

REFLECTION ON OUR IMPACT ON THE GFMD PROCESS AS OF OUR OBJECTIVES

Based on our self-assessed impact performance, **more than 80%** of the participants **strongly agree that the team effectively brought the voice of the consulted youth organizations** and **80% agree that our interventions helped to steer the discussions**. Moreover, our participants felt that their points were able to influence the conversation, considering how **various speakers directly addressed the importance of taking into account youth perspectives**.

c) Create a solid presentation and basis to foster partnerships among youth organizations and other stakeholders:

The final reports from the three thematic breakout sessions will be launched on the GFMD website at the end of October so we expect to update this impact report mentioning which topics present on the Regional Consultation - and summarized on our policy briefs - that were expressly mentioned on the final version of the background documents that will support the Summit discussions.

Overall, **UN MGCY's contribution was explicitly mentioned in the oral report of the breakout sessions during the Closing Plenary**, and youth topics and priorities were mentioned as connected to each item presented in the breakout sessions. We can say that youth has been successfully included in the discussion, which translates to an opportunity for the consulted organisations to further participate in the GFMD process.

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

The main objective of our advocacy strategy is to **get youth voices in Europe heard on migration issues**. We want youth experiences and perspectives to matter in the upcoming GFMD Forum, and successful projects to get visibility. In the next months, we aim to offer youth-focused and youth-led organizations and initiatives in the region new opportunities to engage with each other, creating a space to discuss shared goals and opportunities for partnerships. For this reason, we are presenting the following for future activities:

- We will participate in the **GFMD Migration Labs**, proposed with a focus on facilitating the identification of potential partnerships among GFMD stakeholders, to be presented at the GFMD Summit's Open Space. We will participate in small group discussions, to start fleshing out concrete ideas and building a work plan.
- **We will organise two webinars**, one in September and one in November, to gather projects and initiatives showing the diversity of perspectives and experience within youth migration, focusing on vulnerable groups such as girls and women, undocumented migrants, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ migrants, and collect data regarding youth and migration.
- **We will increase our presence on social media and expand our advocacy campaign on the importance of youth voices** to relevant stakeholders.

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

- We aim at establishing partnerships with as many youth-led and youth-focused organisations as possible, in order to bring their voices to the **Migration Youth Forum of the XIII GFMD**, where youth will sit at the same table as governments, mayors, business leaders, and civil society stakeholders to discuss common migration policy priorities and actions at the GFMD.
- We are also launching the **1st Youth Leadership and Innovation Award for Migration**. The Award will showcase existing initiatives aiming to empower and improve the living conditions of young people on the move, led by youth at the XVIII GFMD and receive support in their ongoing journey, with a two months mentorship program, seed funding for their initiative (TBC) and the chance to participate in the Youth Forum and be part of the GFMD process.

For more information, reach us at migrationyouthforum@unmgcy.org

We thank all youth-led organizations that have participated in this process. This was only possible as a result of the contribution that all youth-led organisations offered to the consultation process.

We aim to establish partnerships with as many youth-led and youth-focused organisations as possible, in order to be aware of all the innovative initiatives based on strong and successful track records present in the region, as well as to overcome language and inequality barriers and to ensure meaningful youth participation in upcoming events.

We invite you to work with us to demonstrate youth's contributions and proposed solutions to these spaces.



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