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# Web release / Bringing creative thinking to the table

Launching a young speaker selection process for  
European Development Days / 21-26 years old, worldwide

PRESS

Young people from around the world, aged 21-26, are invited to join the debate on the future of internal cooperation at the upcoming edition of European Development Days (EDD15), Europe's premier forum on global cooperation and development, which will take place in Brussels on 3-4 June. This year's edition will be the flagship event of the European Year for Development (EYD2015) – the first ever European Year to focus on international cooperation.

## A call to all Future Leaders

Young adults will have until 18 March 2015 to submit a detailed application, including a CV, as well as a two-minute video explaining which one of the 12 topics that will be discussed at the EDD15 they would like to focus on, and why. The European Commission will select youth representatives, or 'future leaders' on the basis of their skills, experience and commitment on a given issue. Twelve Future Leaders, one per auditorium session, will be selected to join other prominent decision makers on the main high-level panels at EDD15. Future leaders will be able to share their experience and ideas alongside key development stakeholders and policy makers.

Chernor Bah, from Sierra Leone, who took part in 2013 edition of the EDDs, explains: *"As young people, we want to push for a different vision of development, looking at poverty as a result of actions and consumption patterns in one part of the world, that affect populations in another part. We should be focusing on using social consciousness in young generations around the world as a complementary tool to aid in the fight against poverty and inequality."*

## A fresh vision for development

Young people actively contribute to the fight against poverty on a daily basis through their research or endeavours as business or civil society leaders. The European Commission wants to recognise this contribution and put their achievements in the spotlight; helping to give them a role in shaping the development policies that will affect them and their future. This year, Future Leaders will be showcasing their expertise not only in their own name, but as representatives of other youth and their inspiring initiatives.

Young people are very much driven by ideas such as global solidarity and a fair and decent life for all. According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, 88% of young Europeans (aged 15-24) think it's important to help people in developing countries. Young people are very much at the heart of the 2015 European Year for Development, which aims to inspire people – particularly young people – to get actively involved in development.

The selected Young Leaders will also be given the opportunity to attend Green Week in Brussels and meet with leaders from European institutions.

Applications will be received via the EDD15 website:

➤ <http://www.eudevdays.eu/futureleaders>

## ➤ Contact

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## Note to the Editors

European Development Days (EDD) shows Europe's commitment to the eradication of poverty. The forum builds on a core belief: cooperation is the cornerstone of a fairer world. An essential aim is thus to facilitate networking and inspire the desire to work together even more closely in a spirit of true partnership. EDD is an incubator of new ideas to inform our shared aim of a poverty-free, sustainable and fair world where everyone has a chance at a decent life.

Each year, European Development Days attracts about 7 000 participants from over 140 countries, representing 1 200 organisations from the field of development cooperation, human rights and humanitarian aid. In bringing together the global development community, the European Union also engages political leaders, development practitioners, the private sector and civil society in shaping the EU's policies for tackling poverty worldwide. Everyone is given a voice in this open, collaborative and inclusive platform.

Since 2006, European Development Days has led debates around the challenges ahead in international cooperation: climate change, policy coherence, global governance, human development, food and energy, security and fragility, support for democracy. In 2015, European Development Days (EDD15) will serve as the flagship event of the [European Year for Development](#) (EYD2015).

As declared by President Juncker at the opening of EYD2015 in Riga: *"It will be a year, in which we will see actions all over Europe, in all Member States, among civil society, local authorities and from all European institutions."* Each individual and every policy have a role to play for a more sustainable and peaceful world. In 2015, we want to tell stories from around the world to show that regardless of where we come from or where we want to go, our aspirations remain the same. We strive for a stable and peaceful world, education for our children, jobs for young people and a decent life on a planet, of which we need to take a better care.

Commissioner Mimica believes in the importance of collaboration between development actors: *"Today's challenges are universal and interrelated, and need a global response – just think of climate change, insecurity, migration, or famines. These problems are not just limited to a specific region; they are issues that affect the whole world. This obviously makes them Europe's concern, too. The EU, as a major global player, is ready to play its part in tackling these challenges."*

**The title for EDD15 thus echoes the motto of EYD2015 "our world, our dignity, our future" while discussions will be structured around 4 themes and 12 topics:**

1. Our world / **Creating sustainable growth within the limits of our planet**
  - Halting climate change and building resilience
  - Sustainable energy for growth
  - An urban world: challenges and opportunities
2. Our dignity / **Developing a shared vision of universal and fundamental rights**
  - Gender rights
  - Right to health
  - Inclusion and inequality
3. Our future / **Each of our policies can make a difference a Feeding the planet together**
  - Feeding the world together
  - Fair globalisation
  - Migration
4. Our future / **We are all actors in development**
  - Growth and poverty eradication
  - Global citizenship
  - Decent jobs