How youth drive change
7th UNESCO YOUTH FORUM
17-20 October 2011

MEET THE 7TH UNESCO YOUTH FORUM TEAM

Golda EL-KHOURY
Lebanon

Golda is the Chief of the Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education and responsible for the organization of this 7th UNESCO Youth Forum. In this capacity she is in charge of the development of research and policy initiatives and building networks. Since her appointment, she has also leveraged the affinity of youth and sport and developed strategic partnerships promoting the power of sport in youth development. Before UNESCO, Golda held a number of senior positions worldwide with UNICEF and Save the Children, and has significant expertise in the Arab region. She is passionate and committed to promoting children and youth engagement and participation in all matters that affect their lives.

In alphabetical order

Berenice ALCALDE
Mexico

Originally from Mexico, Berenice holds two Master’s degrees: one in Economics and Management of Nonprofit Social Institutions and another in Social Economy. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in Paris. Throughout her career she has been responsible for various projects and research initiatives at the European Center for Resources on Social Enterprises. She is also the Director of International affairs at EVAC and was Director of Youth Programs of the Foundation for the Support of Youth and chairperson of the Youth Advisory Council. She has organized multiple forums and meetings related to youth. She worked at UNESCO for four years and was involved in the 5th and the 6th UNESCO Youth Forums.
Célia DEPOMMIER  
France  
Celia is a 24-year old French student who completed her Master’s degree in International Relations. After 3 years at the Superior Institute of Interpretation and Translation in Paris, she completed a 4,5-month internship at the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW), in the Dominican Republic, which is now part of UN-WOMEN, and specializes in women’s issues. She joined the youth section at UNESCO just two months ago and feels privileged to be part of this amazing 7th UNESCO Youth Forum team!

Daniel COULOMB-HERRASTI  
Mexico  
Daniel is a 32 year-old French Mexican, who has been working at UNESCO Headquarters since January 2008. He holds a degree in International Relations from the Iberoamericana University of Mexico and a Master’s in Comparative Political Science from the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). He works with and for young people in projects on Youth Development and Violence Prevention. He is currently part of the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education.

Gabriel JOHNSTON  
Canada  
Gabriel is a Master's of Public Administration student at the University of Victoria in Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University, where he studied English and competed as a 1500m runner in NCAA Track and Field. Prior to joining UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education, Gabriel worked for the Canadian International Development Agency where he evaluated environmental policy. He has also worked as an English Teacher in Republic of Korea, as a Media Monitor in the Ontario Ministry of Labour, and as a Junior Development Coach for the University of Toronto Track and Field Program.
Hoda ESSASSI
Morocco

Hoda completed a Bachelor’s degree in political science and a Master’s degree in International Law at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). Her interest in diplomacy led her to participate to the National Model United Nations as a delegate. She held the position of a Research Assistant at the UNESCO Chair of philosophy at UQAM and completed an internship at the International Bureau of children’s rights for the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). She is from Rabat, Morocco.

Johanna TÖRNSTRÖM
Sweden

Johanna completed her Bachelor’s with a major in Economics at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and pursued her Master’s studies at the University Paris I Panthéon – Sorbonne in Economics and Global Risk and Crises Management. She has also previously studied French and Spanish and is very interested in international development issues. She joined the Section of Youth at UNESCO four months ago and has previously done an internship at the French Red Cross.

Malik SAMASSEKOU
Mali

Malik is a 27 year-old Malian consultant for UNESCO. He has completed his studies in Political Sciences and International Public Action at the University Jean Moulin, Lyon 3 in France. After working at UNESCO as an intern, then consultant since 2008, he joined the UNESCO Youth team in 2011. During these years he worked on Social and Human Sciences issues such as poverty eradication and human rights, as well as African youth-related issues.
Manuel GONZALEZ-SCHULER  
Colombia

The youngest member of the team, 23 year-old Manuel is originally from Bogota, Colombia. He completed his studies of Finance and International Relations at the Externado University of Colombia and post-graduate studies of Public Affairs at the Paris Institute of Politics (IEP – SciencesPo Paris). He is now enjoying his internship at the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education and closely working with the Youth Delegates of the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum.

Marc-Hippolyte JANDRAIN  
France

Marc-Hippolyte is a 24 year old consultant for the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sports and Physical Education. He holds a Master’s degree in political and social sciences, and a post-graduate degree in management from the University of Paris Dauphine. He specialized in the sociology of sport journalism, and advocates for a light-hearted and more sustainable football. Marc-Hi spent two years in Indonesia, and one in Chile, where he worked as a chancery officer for the French Embassy. Ironically, this massive fan of “la Roja”, the Chilean national team, is a mediocre football player.

Maria KYPRIOTOU  
Greece

Maria is 30 year-old, originally from Greece. She has completed her studies in Social and Political Sciences and European and International studies in both Greece and France. After having been involved in youth NGOs in Greece and France and worked for research and policy institutions, she became a member of Youth team of the Section in 2006. During these years she has specialized in youth participation issues, youth policy formulation, strategic planning and conducted relevant research on key issues affecting youth. She has organized, facilitated and/or participated in various youth Forums and meetings.
**Maria Isabel VALDERRAMA**  
*Colombia*

Maria Isabel is a Colombian social communicator and journalist. After working in the field in her country, she pursued her post-graduate studies in France and obtained her Master’s degree in Social Sciences at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in Paris. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the EHESS, focusing on Social Geography and Anthropology of Institutions, and is strongly interested in issues relating to social inequalities from a territorial perspective. But she is not so serious! She also loves traveling and experiencing other cultures.

**Maria Soledad MEJIA**  
*Ecuador*

Maria Soledad is an Ecuadorian student in cultural administration. Passionate about the theater, in 2007 she founded a theatre company in Paris that is now an association called "Babelocura" which presents different cultural events every year. She has worked teaching theater to women and children in situations of vulnerability in Noisy Le Grand. She has also worked in the production of the "Festival de l'Imaginaire" in 2010. She has a Bachelor’s degree in performance arts from the University of Saint Denis Paris 8 and is currently finishing her Masters in Cultural administration at La Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III.

**Michalia LYMPEROPOULOU**  
*Greece*

Michalia is a Greek lawyer affiliated with the Athens Bar Association. She completed her studies in law in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She pursued her post-graduate studies in France and obtained her Master’s degree in *Public Law* at the University of Paris I Panthéon – Sorbonne. Highly motivated to work in the field of human rights, she concluded another Master in *Human Rights and Humanitarian law* at the University of Paris II Panthéon – Assas.
Mila is a 25 year-old Peruvian. She studied History at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University and she is currently undertaking a Master’s in “International Studies: Latin America and the Caribbean” at the Institute of Latin American Studies, in Paris. After working with youth in both Peru and France and doing some research on youth violence in Latin America, Mila did her first internship last year in the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education. She came back this year to help organize the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum.

Mira, from Lebanon, completed her Master’s of International Management of Territories at the University Paris 12 Créteil. She has worked as an area development programme manager in Lebanon within an international NGO. She has conducted projects on social and economic development of local communities. She joined UNESCO a year ago mainly to participate in the preparations of the UNESCO Youth Forum.

Originally from Scotland, Nancy has an MA in English Literature and Language and an MSc in International Relations, Human Rights and International Law. She has been working as an Assistant Programme Specialist in the Youth, Sport and Physical Education Section since June 2008. During her time at UNESCO, she has specialized in partnership development, strategic planning and the coordination and implementation of programme activities. Additionally, she has organized a number of high-level meetings and was a member of the organizing team for the 2009 UNESCO Youth Forum.
Séverine CALZA  
France  

A graduate from the Paris Institute of Political Studies “Sciences-Po”, Séverine has been working in the field of International Relations and International Cooperation for six years. She holds a Master’s degree in Human Rights from University College London and has worked in Human Rights NGOs in Brazil and in Europe. She conducted several missions as a consultant for UNESCO in the Urban Development Programme and the Human Rights and Gender Equality Section before joining the UNESCO Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education.

Stephanie WELLS  
USA  

Stephanie is a native of San Francisco, California. She completed her BA in International Communications from the American University of Paris before working in media in New York and San Francisco, and eventually joining the Alliance Française de San Francisco as its Director of Communications and Public Programming. Returning to Paris in 2010, Stephanie obtained her MBA in European Business from the IAE de Paris, Sorbonne Graduate Business School. Currently a consultant for the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum, Stephanie relishes her role in connecting with youth around the world and helping them to tell their stories - particularly through social media. She is excited to help bridge the gap between young people and the larger powers that be. In addition to this, she is also a writer, a journalist, and a bonne vivante.

Viviane BREFORT  
France/USA  

Viviane is a Franco-American soon-to-be lawyer. She studied French and English law as an undergraduate at the Université Paris X and the University of Essex, in England, and has just finished her Master’s of Law at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. She wishes to specialize in International Criminal Law and will be flying out to Tanzania in January to complete an internship with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. She joined the youth section at UNESCO just two months ago and is very excited to welcome you all.
Zeineb NASRI
Tunisie

Zeineb completed a Master’s of Arts in Foreign Languages Applied to Business (Eng/Fr/Arabic) at the “Université de la Sorbonne” and a Master’s Degree in International Trade at the “Centre d’Etudes Supérieures de Commerce International” in Paris. A major part of her professional experience has been at the international level, for private companies and international organizations. She has been working at UNESCO for 3 years, in different sectors: Sector of External Relation & Public Information, Sector of Administration and finally Sector of Social and Human Sciences.