



INNOVATIONS FOR DECENT JOBS FOR YOUTH

2-3 MAY 2018 / ILO, GENEVA / ROOM XI

DRAFT VERSION: 23 MARCH 2018

The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth

The challenge

Today, over 66 million youth are without a job globally and nearly 145 million youth are working, yet living in poverty. These figures embody a massive waste of potential and a threat to social cohesion. Despite the sweeping recognition about how vital it is to invest in both the quantity and the quality of jobs for youth, efforts remain fragmented and low-scale.

The response

Decent Jobs for Youth is the global initiative to scale up action and impact on youth employment under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Launched in 2016, with the endorsement of the executive heads of the United Nations, *Decent Jobs for Youth* is a unique platform to address fragmentation and catalyse effective and innovative action at country and regional levels.

An inclusive alliance of multiple partners

Decent Jobs for Youth brings together the resources and expertise of multiple partners to create linkages that maximize the effectiveness of youth employment investments, recognizing the key roles of governments, social partners, the UN System, youth and civil society, the private sector, regional institutions, parliamentarians, foundations, academia and the media. Partners subscribe to 15 guiding principles, which set the basis for effective, collaborative action.

The strategy

The strategy of **Decent Jobs for Youth** relies on four inter-connected elements:



Building a strategic alliance to advocate, ensure policy convergence, stimulate innovative thinking and mobilize resources



Scaling up evidence-based action and impact across key thematic priorities in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Sharing and applying knowledge by capturing, analysing and sharing best practices, highlighting innovative approaches and facilitating learning



Mobilizing resources by securing high-level commitments from national, regional and international actors

Priorities for action

Responding to today's most pressing challenges faced by young people in the world of work.



Green jobs for youth



Digital skills for youth



Quality apprenticeships



Youth in fragile situations



Youth transitioning to the formal economy



Youth in the rural economy



Youth entrepreneurship and self-employment



Young workers in hazardous occupations

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Our achievements and the road ahead

After the launch in 2016 and with the commitment of 22 entities of the United Nations, Decent Jobs for Youth set in motion working groups to advance the strategy.

During 2016, the United Nations partners set the foundations of the strategic multi-stakeholder alliance, the engagement principles and key communication elements of **Decent Jobs for Youth**. Active and purposeful inter-agency collaboration has been a constant asset of the partnership and a flagship for multi-sectoral collaboration accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2017, partners of **Decent Jobs for Youth** launched thematic plans of action [anchored](#) in rigorous and empirical evidence. The plans highlight what works, identify innovations, and offer concrete ideas to scale up action and impact across the key topical areas, namely:

1. [Digital skills for youth](#)
2. [Quality apprenticeships](#)
3. [Youth in the rural economy](#)
4. [Green jobs for youth](#)
5. [Youth entrepreneurship and self-employment](#)
6. [Youth transitioning to the formal economy](#)
7. [Youth in fragile situations](#)

With a concrete value proposition, Decent Jobs for Youth launched its engagement platform, expanding the alliance with strategic partners from governments, social partners, youth and civil society, private sector and beyond.

The engagement platform, www.decentjobsforyouth.org, launched in November 2017, is centred on the [commitments of partners](#) to take joint action on youth employment at local, country, regional and global level in line with the Global Initiative's strategy and guiding principles. Commitments towards **Decent Jobs for Youth** are recognized as direct contributions to the UN Partnerships for SDGs.

With 22 UN entities at its nucleus, **Decent Jobs for Youth** has grown today into an inclusive multi-stakeholder alliance, encompassing over 20 pledges for action that aim at improving the quantity and the quality of jobs for over 16 million young women and men around the world.

Moving forward the focus is on scaling up action and impact at country level.

In 2018, with the catalytic support from the governments of Spain and Luxembourg, **Decent Jobs for Youth** will be translating evidence into action at country level. To support scalability, partners will direct efforts towards identifying **innovations that work**. This effort includes initiating a conversation about innovative financing for youth employment and exploring cutting-edge mechanisms with potential for wide replication and high impact on labour market outcomes of youth.

Event objectives

The event brings together partners of **Decent Jobs for Youth** and other key youth employment actors to:

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- **ACTION: Stimulate innovative thinking and collaboration** on youth employment advancing Decent Jobs for Youth's strategy for 2018-2019.
- **FINANCE: Exchange lessons learned and good practices on innovative financing** to scale up action on youth employment.
- **PARTNERSHIP: Create an open space for collaboration and networking** under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, launch new commitments for Decent Jobs for Youth, and highlight how existing commitments translate our guiding principles into action.

Event features

The event will feature:

- **Young global leaders.**
- **Co-designed expert sessions on innovative action and innovative financing** for decent jobs for youth.
- **Launch of new partner commitments** towards Decent Jobs for Youth.
- **One-on-one networking** opportunities and **Media Zone on Decent Jobs for Youth.**

Participation

The event will provide a global platform for governments, social partners, youth and civil society, private sector, UN entities and beyond to foster collaboration on Decent Jobs for Youth under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Date and Venue

The event will be held in **Room XI** at the **International Labour Office in Geneva** from **2-3 May 2018**. The address is **4 route des Morillons, Geneva, Switzerland**.

Register and co-design

To apply for participation, please complete the [online registration](#). Support us in designing the event programme and suggesting speakers. What topics do you want to explore? Who do you want to hear from? Please note that registration does not guarantee participation. Only registered and approved applicants will be formally invited to attend. Places being limited, the organizers will give priority to applicants coming from the target audience.

Languages

The event will be held in **English**, with interpretation available in **French** and **Spanish**. Participants are kindly asked to inform the organizers in advance if there is need to provide sign language interpretation or to support any special arrangement to make the event accessible for all.

Agenda

Day 1: Innovative Action Day – Wednesday, 2 May 2018		
8:30	Registration Welcome coffee, Espace Gobelins – R2 South, ILO	
9:00	1. Opening: Action for decent jobs for youth Welcome remarks by Moussa Oumarou, ILO's Deputy Director-General for Field Operations & Partnerships and partners of Decent Jobs for Youth.	
9:20	2. Keynote speech by a young leader Speech by Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.	
9:30	3. A Future with Decent Jobs for Youth Moderated high-level panel discussion on the future of youth employment and the role of decent work, with the participation of representatives from governments and social partners.	
10:30	4. Coffee break	
10:50	5. Partners in Action: Innovating for Decent Jobs for Youth Moderated conversation with four partners highlighting their contribution to Decent Jobs for Youth.	
11:50	6. Priorities for action on youth employment: why, where and how? Dynamic and engaging session highlighting achievements and the road ahead for Decent Jobs for Youth as well as seven lightning talks on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital skills for youth 2. Quality apprenticeships 3. Youth in the rural economy 4. Green jobs for youth 5. Youth entrepreneurship and self-employment 6. Youth transitioning to the formal economy 7. Youth in fragile situations 8. Youth in hazardous occupations 	
12:30	7. Networking lunch At Espace Gobelins – R2 South, ILO	
13:30	Thematic partner-led sessions: Innovations that work for youth employment	
	8. Quality apprenticeships	9. Youth in the rural economy

Day 1: Innovative Action Day – Wednesday, 2 May 2018			
14:15	10. Marketplace Coffee: Partners for Decent Jobs for Youth Coffee and partner-led pitch of commitments across thematic priorities, highlight achievements and collaboration opportunities.		
15:00	11. Digital skills for youth	12. Green jobs for youth	13. Youth transitioning to the formal economy
15:45	14. Marketplace: Joint action for Decent Jobs for Youth Focus on identifying collaboration opportunities to scale up action and impact across seven thematic plans of action		
16:30	15. Youth entrepreneurship and self-employment	16. Youth in fragile situations	17. Young workers in hazardous occupations
17:15	18. Key areas of action for Decent Jobs for Youth Plenary session to identify action areas and next steps for partners. Summary of Day 1		
18:45	19. Evening reception Keynote speech on digital skills for decent jobs youth.		

Day 2: Innovative Financing Day – Thursday, 3 May 2018	
8:30	1. One-on-One meetings Coffee and pre-arranged One-on-One meetings among partners of Decent Jobs for Youth in the ILO Library space, surrounded by almost 100 years of knowledge on what works in the world of work.
9:30	2. Opening of Day 2 Overview of the programme.
9:40	3. Rethinking financing for youth employment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development A fireside chat with experts on opportunities and challenges moderated by Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard, ILO's Director for Partnerships and Field Support.
10:30	4. Marketplace: Joint action for Decent Jobs for Youth Focus on identifying collaboration opportunities to scale up action and impact across seven thematic plans of action

Day 2:

Innovative Financing Day – Thursday, 3 May 2018

11:00	<p>5. Results-based financing: promoting and measuring decent jobs for youth</p> <p>Panel conversation moderated by Vic Van Vuuren, ILO's Director of the Enterprises Department, on lessons from results-based financing experiences and opportunities for replication and scale in the youth employment field.</p>
12:00	<p>6. Networking lunch</p> <p>At Espace Gobelins – R2 South, ILO</p>
13:00	<p>7. Impact investing and crowdfunding: challenges and opportunities</p> <p>Moderated panel conversation on lessons from impact investing and crowdfunding and opportunities for replication and scale in the youth employment field.</p>
14:15	<p>8. World Café: Leveraging innovative financing to scale up action on youth employment</p> <p>Take-aways from previous sessions and replicability for high impact on labour market outcomes of youth.</p>
15:45	<p>9. Coffee break</p>
16:00	<p>10. Road to 2030: What's next for Decent Jobs for Youth</p> <p>High-level panel discussion with existing and new partners of Decent Jobs for Youth</p>
17:00	<p>11. Closing</p>



SCALING UP ACTION & IMPACT ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The event is organized by

The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth

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