



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Digitalisation and Inclusivity: How to Create an Equal World

Background and Rationale

The topic under discussion pertains to "Digitalisation and Inclusivity: How to Create an Equal World," with a focus on "Equalise the Future" project from Türkiye and the significance of its' initiatives in empowering youth in different fields.

"Equalise the Future" is a project aimed at enhancing digital competencies, social entrepreneurship skills, and employability among Turkish and foreign youth aged 15-24 residing in Türkiye. Implemented in collaboration with UNICEF and Habitat Association, the project operates through two primary programs: Skills Development Program and Entrepreneurship Support Program.

The relevance of this topic to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region lies in its alignment with the region's goals for sustainable development. In times of multiple crises, including economic challenges, environmental concerns, and social disparities, the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions becomes imperative. Digitalisation and entrepreneurship, offer opportunities for addressing these challenges while promoting inclusivity and equality.

In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review, this topic particularly resonates with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The objective of the side event "Digitalisation and Inclusivity: How to Create an Equal World" is to showcase the "Equalise the Future" project from Türkiye as a best practice for promoting digital inclusion and empowering youth with entrepreneurial skills. Expected outcomes include sharing insights on strategies for enhancing digital competencies, fostering social entrepreneurship, and promoting gender equality in the context of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

The results of this side event can serve as valuable inputs for other events within the Forum, particularly those focusing on youth empowerment, digital transformation, and sustainable development. For example, findings and lessons learned from "Equalise the Future" may inform discussions on best practices, and innovative solutions for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the ECE region amidst multiple crises.



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Organizers

Lead organizers: Habitat Association

Contributors: Project's beneficiaries

Focal points: Hayat Atasoy

E-Mail: hayat@habitatdernegi.org

Agenda and Structure

1. Opening Remarks: (10 minutes)

- Welcome and Introduction to the side event.
- Brief overview of the session's agenda and objectives.

2. Presentation of "Equalise the Future" Project (15 minutes)

- Overview of the "Equalise the Future" initiative, its objectives, and key components.
- Sharing success stories and impact achieved so far, highlighting the role of GenU Youth Challenge Turkey and Global winners.

3. Panel Discussion: Promoting Digital Inclusion and Gender Equality (20 minutes)

- Discussion on strategies for promoting digital inclusion and gender equality, led by GenU Youth Challenge Turkey and Global winners.
- Insights from successful volunteers of the program on their experiences.

4. Closing Remarks and Q&A session with the audience. (15 minutes)

List of Panellists

Habitat Association: Hayat Atasoy, Tuğçe Yıldırım

GenU Youth Challenge Winners: Melis Ata and Naz Kurtuluş

Habitat Association Volunteer: Barış Gözcü

Sign-up / Registration Link

<https://form.jotform.com/240525672825055>

The event's link will be sent via email to all the people who register.