

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Democracy education for democratic societies

Background and Rationale

Half of the world's population is under 30, but they have little say over the decisions that shape their future. Statistics show that the world's young people are increasingly disengaged from political life: they're [voting less](#), [rejecting party membership](#), and [telling researchers](#) that their country's leaders aren't working in their interests.

But at the same time, young people remain engaged in civic life. They attend demonstrations, use the internet to make their voices heard, and are active outside the traditional political sphere, like in business, at school, and in civil society organisations. At a time when political rights and civil liberties are in decline, why are youth so dissatisfied with democracy? And how can civic and democratic leaders bring them back into the fold?

Democracy is the foundation for sustainable development. This session brings together the goals 4 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

This side event brings together actors working for democracy and wider understanding of education to transform the societies for more and better sustainable development. The discussion will take an educational perspective by asking the key questions: what is the role of education in societies as a tool towards meaningful participation and reaching political goals and how can the democracy education provide aspirations for politicians and activists?

Organizers

Lead organizers: Bridge 47

Contributors: UNESCO, Demo Finland

Focal points: Mr Rilli Lappalainen

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REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

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

Agenda and Structure

Event will happen on 12th March at 12.00h online.

Agenda:

12.00-12.15 Welcome and introduction

12.15-12.45 Interactive panel

12.45-13.00 Q&A

List of Panellists

Speakers in the panel:

- Ms. Bella Forsgrén, member of Finnish parliament
- Ms. Miren Gonzalez-Bals, UNESCO
- youth representative, Georgia

Moderated: by Mr Rilli Lappalainen, Chair, Bridge 47

Sign-up / Registration Link

<https://www.lyyti.in/democracyeducation>