



## Conclusions and Recommendations

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At the end of the deliberations, participants made the following recommendations:

### **Studies and data about youth**

Update the study using recent data and articles on youth issue and their involvement in the development process, and expand the bibliographic research to include autonomous scientific publications in order to complete and qualify as much as possible the existing data and figures, and some statements about the role of the family or of tradition and their influence on youth life.

Carry out specific studies about North African countries in order to better identify the issues which are difficult to identify in a general overview.

Create a Special Fund to help North African youth integrate the labour market.

## Youth participation

### *In economic life*

Carry out information, communication and sensitization campaigns for youth in order to inform them about existing support mechanisms in terms of training but also in terms of support to creating and funding their own business.

Intervene both before and after the creation of the company since an efficient support mechanism starts at the pre-creation level and goes on to the first years of the young company's existence.

Focus on the geographic location of the interventions to ensure that they do benefit to youth in rural areas.

Create a national youth accompanying mechanism and not only an administrative structure supporting the funding of initiatives. The mechanism could rely on three major actors:

- a structure management agent like the Young Entrepreneur Center
- Young Entrepreneur Centers dedicated to supporting young people with a commitment to produce results
- committed banks

Protect youth from the exploitation of their talents by associations which aim to promote youth professional insertion

### *Social policies*

Acknowledge youth participation in political life, economic life and community life at the normative level.

Establish recognized mechanisms at the highest possible level, for an inclusive participation of the youth, adolescents and civil society in general to the process of elaboration and implementation of youth "multisectoral" laws and policies.

Include youth and adolescents' participation in national and local development plans, while acknowledging that participation is an objective within the context of socio-political transition in North Africa.

Make sure that social budgets are allocated to ensure the participation of adolescents and youth.

Invest in youth leadership and in the democratization process and involve the youth in political life.

Reinforce research on adolescents and youth rights, mainly the most marginalized ones.

Progress towards gender equality by encouraging the participation of North African young women in decision-making, at all levels.

Favour the institutionalization of participation through the elaborations of standards and norms related to adolescents and youth participation, namely in departments in charge of adolescents' and youth protection.

Formulate and implement laws, policies and programs in order to promote volunteering.

Design programs to mobilize and promote the participation and socio-professional inclusion of adolescents and marginalized young people.

Facilitate the access to funding for the job-creating young, in particular in the most fragile groups (young women, young delinquents, young people without diplomas, youth with special needs, etc.)

Deploy special efforts to change the media policies in order to reinforce youth participation in society.

### ***Capacity building in the adolescents and youth sector***

Ensure strengthening the capacities of governments, international agencies, the media, the private sector and youth for their effective participation in society. Share experiences between North African countries and other regions of the world, by organizing an Annual Forum on Development, Adolescents and Youth Participation.

Organize meetings between youth and policy makers in the the North Africa to listen directly to the youth demands and expectations

Inform and sensitize the population on the right to participatory citizenship in order to enhance the role of adolescents and youth in society.

Favor the training on citizenship and on adolescents and youth participation within schools, at the family level, in civil society organisations, in the media, and in public sectors and services.

Establish information, listening, orientation and training mechanisms for youth, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, to help them meet their needs to participate to the life of their community.

### ***Youth associations***

Strengthen networking of youth associations and groups in North Africa to foster relations, and exchange of information and experiences.

Encourage the creation of adolescents and youth associations and groups and contribute to promoting their effective functioning..

Reinforce coordination between adolescents and youth associations at the national and regional level through networks, federations, local, national and regional councils, and students committees.

Create a North African Fund for community work and youth participation, with the collaboration of governments, regional cooperation agencies and the private sector.

## **Youth and sustainable development**

Sensitize youth on sustainable development by organizing citizenship seminars in schools and in the education system in general.

Youth need to get organised and look for information, as the present educational systems in Africa do not prepare them for the new green economy jobs.

Reinforce youth capacities in order to allow them seize available opportunities related to sustainable development and to green economy, including the reform of educational systems.

Establish adequate mechanisms which integrate youth organizations as actors in decision -making, as well as in strategic planning and program implementation processes.

Use youth networking capacities to launch and implement sensitization activities on sustainable development.

Promote the exchange of experiences between countries.

## **Youth sexual and reproductive health**

Strengthen advocacy on the importance of sexuality and sexual health rights in people's life (including youth and adolescents) for decision-makers, religious leaders and opinion leaders, and support integrated approaches for the institutionalization of sexual education.

Increase information and sensitization about youth's sexual and reproductive health rights, including HIV/AIDS prevention and gender-based violence, with a bigger participation and implication of youth and the media, and particular emphasis on the most vulnerable groups in rural and peri-urban zones.

Ensure easy access to information, prevention and care for vulnerable youth with relation to SRH, including HIV/AIDS; and fight against gender-based stigmatization and discrimination.

Share the good practices and experiences in the area of SRH services (health centers dedicated to the youth), and SRH protection rights protection for youth, through using networks of civil society and peer educators.

## **Youth and Employment**

Exploit the use of "Solidarity Economy" and promote cooperatives / associations;

Invest in new markets and in research and development, as well as in green jobs;

Hold accountable education institutions and foster a creative educational that supports entrepreneurship;

Strengthen programs for the integration of youth who are first job seekers;

Promote a MORE participatory employment policy based on an integrated approach that links together education, jobs skills and youth development;

Strengthen strategic incentives for employers to involve and train young professionals;

Promote the production of detailed employment statistics that are disaggregated by age / gender /vulnerability, etc, so as to facilitate monitoring and evaluation;

Establish centers of young entrepreneurs who provide training and assistance to young people, including helping them develop bankable business plans, and located in urban and rural areas, while providing a safe place for young women

## **Youth and Regional Integration**

Organize youth networks at the national level to ensure a better participation in programs and activities related to regional integration;

Ensure that North Africa regional institutions, including UMA, take into consideration the new dynamics created by the youth in the region, so as to further involve them in the formulation and implementation processes of inclusive policies, strategies and programmes;

Give a greater role to NGOs, employers' organizations and other civil society actors to foster greater economic interdependence and convergence of interests, so as to influence the integration agenda, particularly with regard to mobility of people and goods

## **Youth, the Media and Social Networks**

Revisit the role of the media in the sub-region to promote greater participation of youth people, both qualitatively and quantitatively. This presupposes the real strengthening of media institutions, both public and private, official and independent;

Urge the media to respect, as institutions, the profession's rules of conduct and ethics;

Help bridge the digital divide that some countries in the region and a number of social groups- including youth are still facing; and seek the best way and means to help them gain access to information and communications technologies and benefit from the facilities they offer;

Recognise the skills of youth in relation to social networks and put them to contribution;

Put at the disposal of youth in Arabic- which is the language most spoken in the subregion - the existing wealth of internet training material material , including that available on You Tube;

Set up a Maghreb Observatory of Laws so that young people can make the necessary monitoring and ensure that they are involved in the preparation of these laws before they are enacted;

Put in place a "Post Revolution Observatory on Youth and the Media" whose purpose would be to undertake advocacy work for the sensitization of all social actors as to the need to involve young people and boost their leadership in the development process.