



## UNAOC welcomes a new cohort of Youth Solidarity Fund recipients

Seven youth-led organizations receive funding to implement intercultural dialogue projects focused on peacebuilding and violence prevention (Story on page 3)



Main photo: Aware Girls (Pakistan); Left to right: Integrated Community Development Initiative (Uganda), Camp for Peace (Liberia), Cooperation for Peace & Development (Afghanistan), Chantiers Sociaux Marocains (Morocco), FOFCOD (South Sudan), SRADHA (India)

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# New cohort of Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF) recipients

*“Our participation in YSF means we’re developing toward what we intended: promoting unity. As project coordinator, I hope to initiate a dynamic of peace and coexistence in my society.”*

**Youness Ben-Abbou, Chantiers Sociaux Marocains**

*Their project fosters the social inclusion of migrants through arts-based public events in rural areas of Morocco.*



UNAOC welcomed the seven youth-led organizations that received funding to implement intercultural dialogue projects focusing on peace-building and violence prevention.

Since 2008, 50 other youth-led organizations have been funded through YSF.

Based in Asia and Africa, the organizations were selected to receive a grant of up to USD 25,000 as well as technical support from UNAOC to implement projects in their community.

The Youth Solidarity Fund is implemented through financial contributions from the governments of Finland and Spain, and addresses the need for increased funding of youth-led initiatives, in order to better support the critical contribution young people make to peace and security issues.



Chantiers Sociaux Marocains, Morocco, 2017 YSF Recipient

“We consider the grant as a major boost to our passion for transmitting the message of peace and reconciliation in Liberia,” shares Philip Quoqui, project coordinator for Camp For Peace Liberia. “It is my anticipation that the grant will contribute to achieving behavioral change for peaceful elections in our country”.

*Continued in page 4...*

## New cohort of Youth Solidarity Fund recipients *(continued)*



Integrated Community Development Initiative, Uganda, 2017 YSF Recipient

*“Our project builds mutual respect among people of different cultural and religious identities from Nakivale refugee camp with surrounding communities in Uganda. The support from YSF will help youth drive this change.”*

**Kato Ssekah Abdu**  
Integrated Community Development Initiative (ICODI)  
Uganda

The selected projects will advance intercultural dialogue with a view to prevent violent conflict, promote social inclusion and encourage peacebuilding, through different means.

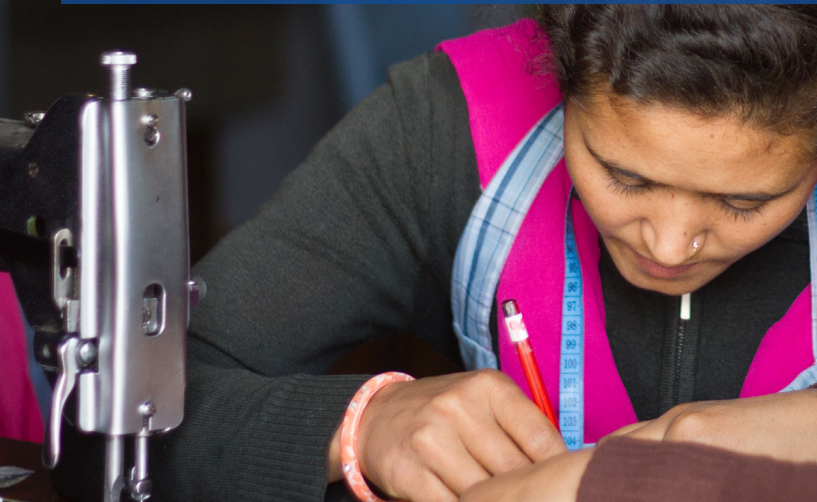
Other projects will focus on peace education to reduce instances of violence and hatred towards refugees in Uganda; the role of the media in promoting tolerance and preventing violence in South Sudan; engaging young women in peace clubs and sports to promote diversity in Afghanistan; training Pakistani youth in interfaith dialogue and advocacy to prevent violent extremism; and advocate for the localization of Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security.



Aware Girls, Pakistan, 2017 YSF Recipient

## Spotlight on Alumni from the Youth Solidarity Fund (YSF): SAATH, recipients of YSF 2014-15, launches a livelihood programme in response to the 2015 earthquake in Nepal

Recipients of the Youth Solidarity Fund in 2014-2015, SAATH decided to respond to the 2015 earthquake in Nepal by starting a pilot livelihood programme called Danfe with 5 beneficiaries from earthquake-affected districts.



Danfe serves as a platform for young girls to realize their potential and provide opportunities to make them capable of leading an independent life. The programme targets girls from the areas of Sindhupalchowk, Kavre and Makwanpur, where there is less opportunity and more incidents of human trafficking. Most beneficiaries of the programme either left school early or never had the chance to attend. Through Danfe, SAATH empowers women with training and education, thus creating more inclusive societies. In 2016, the programme provided assistance to 30 beneficiaries, and to 19 beneficiaries by mid-2017.

# First edition of the Young Peacebuilders: *community-level actions implemented by participants*



## Young Peacebuilders IN WEST AFRICA

UNAOC's first edition of the Young Peacebuilders program concluded with an applied learning phase, which took place from December 2016 to May 2017.

After participating in two months of online learning and a one-week face-to-face workshop in Abuja, the 20 participants from 11 West African countries returned home to put into practice the most useful lessons learned.

Ola, who leads "Girl Pride Circle" in Nigeria, experienced theater as a tool for change and shared her view with students at a school: "I greatly explored the power of storytelling in using the play to encourage young boys and girls to embrace intercultural dialogue, do away with stereotypes, and promote peace in their communities."

Each participant of the Young Peacebuilders in West Africa (YPWA) developed a personal action plan during the workshop in Abuja. In the months following the workshop, they were challenged to make it come to life by engaging their networking, project management and stakeholder engagement skills. Participants thus had the opportunity to reinforce and integrate the learning through concrete practice, and to multiply the messages and benefits of their intercultural learning experience.

Together, the group reached more than 800 additional persons by organizing step-down training events in their own organizations, sharing sessions and workshops with

*"The use of new strategies I acquired helped me to make this activity unique, instructive and fun. The use of some simulation games also facilitated the understanding. I was very impressed by the responses of the participants and their zeal to learn more about peace and development in Africa after using those news skills of training."*

**Germain, from Togo**

schools, colleges and universities, participating in radio talk shows, creating poetry videos and facilitating peace drawing campaigns and theatre plays in schools. These actions were undertaken individually or in collaboration with other members of the YPWA group.

A majority of participants were excited to share how their own participation in the peace education workshop back in November 2016 had allowed them to refine their own facilitation skills as emerging peacebuilders and community educators, by modeling the interactive and participatory methods used by the training team in Abuja:

"After this holistic learning with the YPWA program, I adopted this new method to discuss with my fellows and exchange ideas instead of trying to give all the answers by myself. And sincerely, it worked", shared Mamadou, from Guinea.

*Continued on page 6...*

## First Edition of Young Peacebuilders *(continued)*



*"I realized during this program that in my community people often use violence without paying attention. That is why I decided to share with members of my organization about violence and conflict and transforming narratives."*

**Lamine, Senegal**

The applied learning phase was also intended to encourage a sense of accomplishment, by empowering participants to translate the learning into specific actions that can benefit their organizations and advance intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding in their communities, thus increasing their contribution as agents of peace.

During the applied learning phase, participants stayed connected online and on social media with their peers, the organizers and the trainers and benefitted from the support of this newly formed network. They continued sharing their every day lives as peacebuilders, facing challenges and successes, but hopeful.





INTERCULTURAL LEADERS, a project of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in partnership with the BMW Group, is an exclusive skills & knowledge-sharing platform for civil society organizations and young leaders that work on addressing cross-cultural tensions.

LOGIN

PASSWORD

## UNAOC strengthens Intercultural Leaders platform to boost alumni engagement and highlight their achievements

UNAOC recently unveiled a new and improved Intercultural Leaders platform, a revamped version of its alumni engagement network.

Recognizing the role of alumni in the implementation of its mandate and broader outreach, UNAOC created Intercultural Leaders to provide an exclusive web-based platform for its alumni to collaborate, increase the visibility of their activities, as well as exchange opportunities and knowledge. By strengthening civil society capacities, Intercultural Leaders also enhances UNAOC's role as a convener, catalyst, and thought leader.

Intercultural Leaders is funded by BMW Group and was initially designed as a private network accessible to Intercultural Innovation Award recipients. However, when it was launched in 2014, it was opened to alumni of other UNAOC programmes, albeit still closed to the general public. Since then, the needs of its users have evolved significantly, and in response, UNAOC devised a strategy to restructure the platform accordingly.

The result of this effort is an enhanced platform with both public and private components where alumni can highlight their achievements by featuring their profiles and sharing their success stories. In addition, the platform aims to boost their collaboration by exchanging knowledge and expertise in their respective areas of focus.

More alumni of UNAOC projects are expected to join the Intercultural Leaders community, including those who participated in the Intercultural Innovation Award, Youth Solidarity Fund, Fellowship Programme, PLURAL+, Summer Schools, and Young Peacebuilders, among others.

With these improvements, Intercultural Leaders is evolving into a robust skills and knowledge-sharing network for civil society organizations and young leaders who work on addressing cross-cultural tensions; a strong network of like-minded organizations and individuals with a common goal of achieving a more diverse and inclusive world through intercultural dialogue.

# Intercultural Innovation Award (IIA): 2nd Capacity Building Workshop in India



*"We had the opportunity to really exchange with each other about leadership challenges. It feels like it started internal processes among many of us!"*

**Participant, IIA Capacity Building Workshop**

Monitoring and evaluation, organisational development and leadership were the focus of the second capacity building workshop for ten recipients of the 2016 Intercultural Innovation Award. Hosted by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the BMW Group, the workshop took place in Gurgaon, India from 12 February to 16 February 2017.

Participants came from Brazil, Bulgaria, France, Germany, India, Israel, Kenya, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The training sessions were designed with the aim of building their long-term impact and ongoing sustainability so that their initiatives could be expanded and replicated in other contexts.

The first part of the event focused on leadership, organisational development and sustainability, taught by experiential group learning, case studies and simulations. The participants were then taken through the steps to develop a monitoring plan, and use results from monitoring and evaluation to make management decisions and for communicate.

The work of current awardees, "Routes 2 Roots" and "Safecity" was the highlight of the workshop. Based in Delhi, "Routes 2 Roots" is an organisation that promotes peace through



cultural diplomacy. Workshop participants were able to view one of their projects "Virsa", which teaches cultural heritage to students throughout India on an interactive digital learning platform. On its end, Safecity is a platform that crowdsources personal stories of sexual harassment and abuse in public spaces. The organisation arranged for their Youth Campus Ambassadors to conduct an example of their meetings on gender rights and stereotypes, which takes place in colleges throughout several cities in India.

This training is part of the one-year support program provided to recipients of the Intercultural Innovation Award. The first capacity building workshop took place in Munich, Germany at BMW Group Headquarters.

For more information about the Intercultural Innovation Award please visit: <https://interculturalinnovation.org>



# Spotlight on Intercultural Innovation Award recipients

## Elsa Marie D'Silva of Safecity Honored by Vital Voices

Elsa Marie D'Silva, founder of Intercultural Innovation Award recipient Safecity, received the "Light of Freedom Award" from Vital Voices on International Women's Day. Elsa was honored for her work as a digital gender activist, alongside other female leaders including Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan. Also in attendance was Vital Voices co-founder, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who praised Elsa as "...an aviation executive who left behind a successful career to take on the culture of rape and everyday harassment".



## Unistream Visited by the President of Slovakia



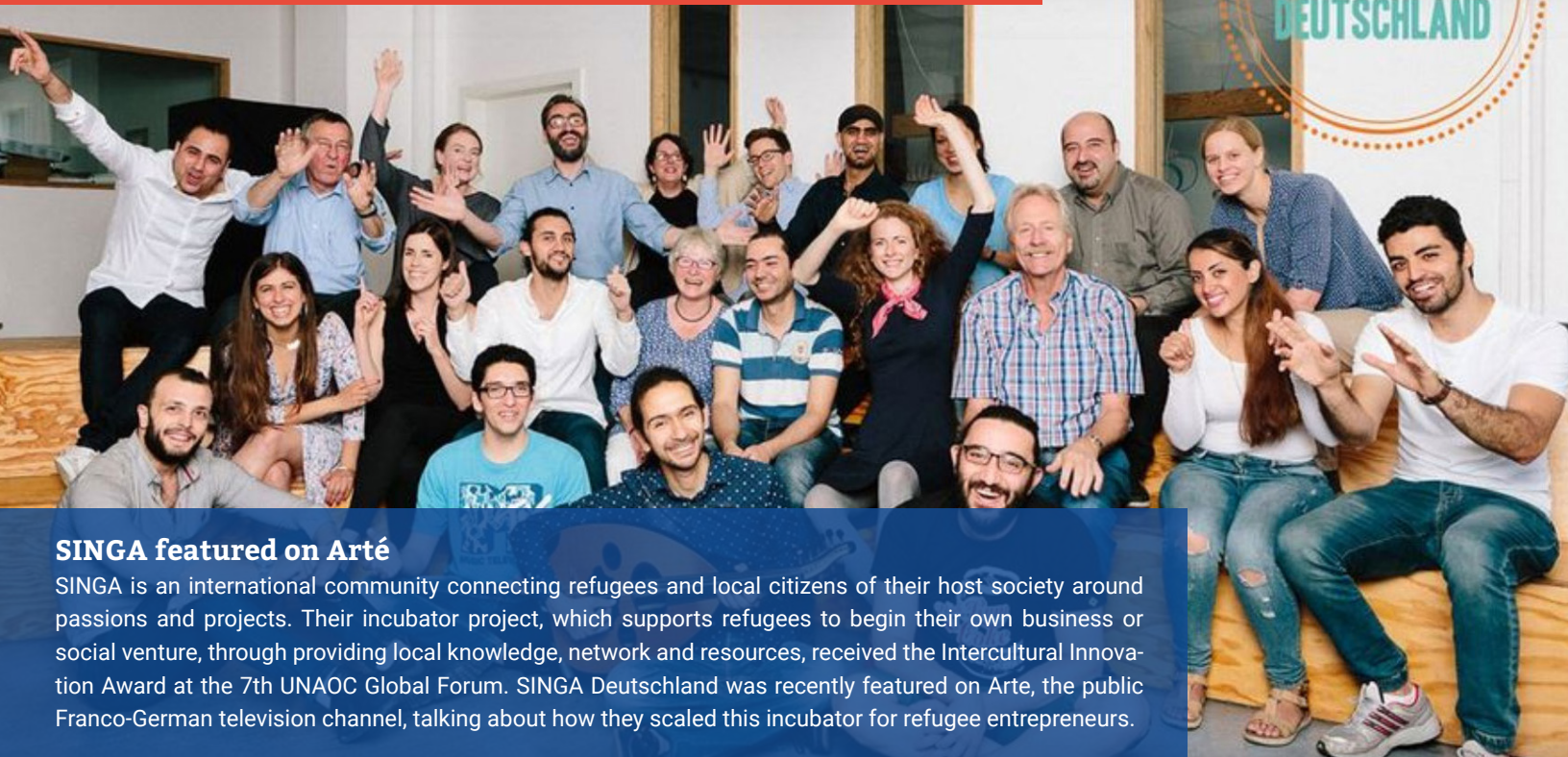
On 27 April 2017, Intercultural Innovation Award recipient Unistream was visited by the President of Slovakia, His Excellency Andrej Kiska. He met with students at one of Unistream's centres in Israel and experienced how intercultural dialogue between Arabs and Jews brings about social change, through Unistream's programmes of empowering teens to become the next leaders of Israeli society by establishing their own technological startups.

Since its founding sixteen years ago, Unistream has worked to create socio-economic mobility by utilizing educational and entrepreneurship platforms, thus reshaping the lives of hundreds of participants every year. These participants represent the diversity of Israeli society: Jewish, Muslim, Druze, Christian, Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi), religious, secular, and others, including children of foreign workers and immigrants.

In addition to the existing thirteen enterprise centers, seven more centers will open in the coming year including two in the Bedouin sector where significant investment is required to reduce economic, social, and technological disparities. Two other centers will focus on integrating Arab and Jewish teens.

## Spotlight on Intercultural Innovation

### Award recipients *(continued)*



#### **SINGA featured on Arté**

SINGA is an international community connecting refugees and local citizens of their host society around passions and projects. Their incubator project, which supports refugees to begin their own business or social venture, through providing local knowledge, network and resources, received the Intercultural Innovation Award at the 7th UNAOC Global Forum. SINGA Deutschland was recently featured on Arte, the public Franco-German television channel, talking about how they scaled this incubator for refugee entrepreneurs.

#### **Theresa Carrington of The Blessing Basket Project Delivers the Keynote Presentation at the BMW Group Supplier Diversity Conference**

Theresa Carrington, founder of The Blessing Basket Project and a recipient of the Intercultural Innovation Award, served as the keynote speaker at the annual Supplier Diversity Conference held by BMW Group. In her speech, Theresa encouraged participants to embrace their own stories and to share them with others. Conference attendees were each given a placemat crafted by women in Uganda that are among artisans in seven countries supported by The Blessing Basket Project.



#### **Vaga Lume replicated its Net Program internationally**

With the support of UNAOC and the BMW Group, Vaga Lume replicated its Net Program internationally for the first time. The idea of the international replication was born during the First Intercultural Innovation Award Alumni Meeting held in Berlin in November 2015.

The pilot started in September 2016 and stimulated the dialogue between teenagers from São Braz (a community in Pará – Amazon, Brazil) and the Kehila Democratic School (in Tel Aviv) through the production of projects, including letters, drawings, posters, models, hand-crafts etc. that deals with identity and environment.



It benefited 71 teenagers and two educators from the Amazon and Tel Aviv, and is opening many doors to other potential international exchanges.

# PEACEapp : a new workshop for refugees and local youth in Algeciras



*“The video game that we designed wants to call the attention to young people in Africa, thinking in coming to Europe without proper migration permits, that they will find many difficulties and challenges if and when they manage to set their feet on the North side of the Mediterranean”*

A PEACEapp workshop took place from 16 to 20 January 2017 in Algeciras, Spain, where undocumented youth, young refugees, and local youth worked together towards creating digital games on relevant social issues as a platform for gaining digital literacy as well as encouraging and facilitating intercultural dialogue.

The 25 participants of the PEACEapp Algeciras workshop included youth from nine countries: Spain, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Algeria, Paraguay, Ukraine, Cameroon, Senegal and Mali. The workshop was an opportunity for these young people, who would, for legal and social status, not necessarily meet and work together, to jointly develop video games in small groups using MIT's Scratch platform.

The workshop was not only an opportunity to develop digital competencies but also, for many of the participants, an occasion to improve on communication skills. After the workshop,



“OmniumLab”, a local gaming company, joined the initiative and continued working with the group. Together they created “SURVIVAL”, a gamified app on the challenges of refugees arriving in Europe.

Simple yet attractive, the game generates public awareness on migration challenges. It can be downloaded here: <https://www.unaoc.org/2017/02/refugees-and-local-youth-participate-at-the-peaceapp-workshop-in-algeciras-spain/>

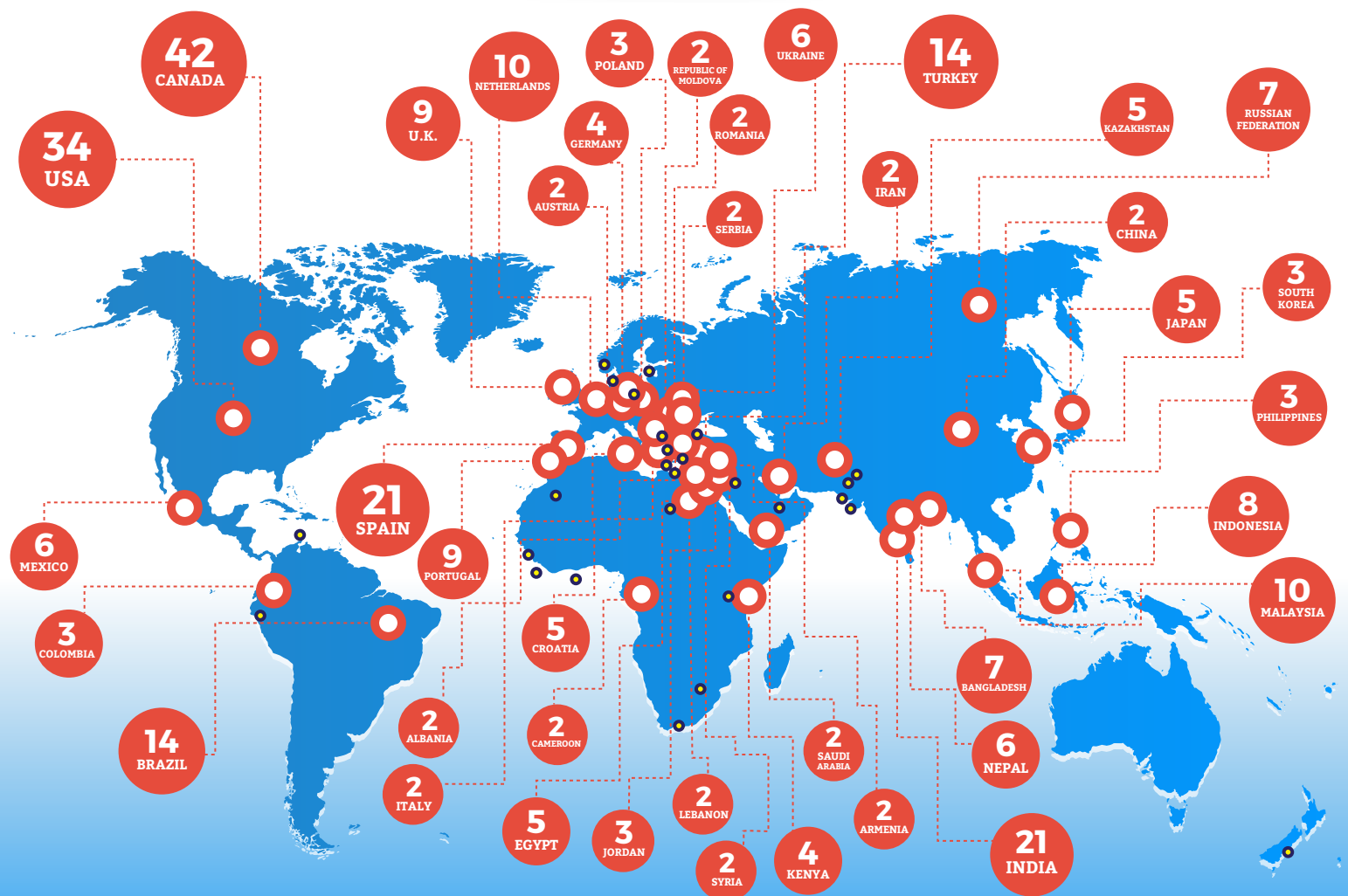


# PLURAL+ receives more than 300 videos from 67 countries

PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival, a joint initiative of UNAOC and International Organization for Migration (IOM), received 320 entries from 67 countries across the world. The award winning videos will be announced, screened and discussed during PLURAL+ 2017 Awards Ceremony and Festival, November 9 and 10 in New York City.

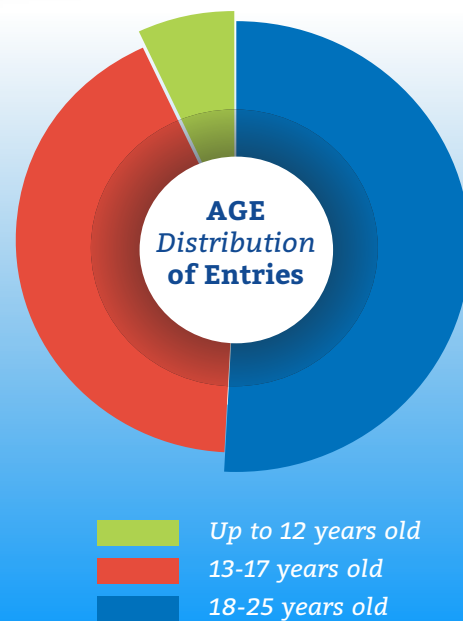
## PLURAL+ 2017 ENTRIES

*In 2017, PLURAL+ received 320 video entries from 67 countries*



**●** In addition, 1 entry each was received from the following countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe

## Number of PLURAL+ Entries Received Per Year



## PLURAL+ receives the 2017 Cine y Salud Award



PLURAL+, the youth video festival on the themes of migration, diversity and social inclusion, co-organized by UNAOC and IOM, was awarded the “Cine y Salud 2017 Prize,” an initiative of the regional government of Aragon, Spain. Cine y Salud is a program for high-school students from the region, where once a week, during school time and as part of their curriculum, students watch and discuss films that have health relevant themes on its narrative. This innovative program, quite unique and creative, offers students opportunities for health discussions through filmic experiences. It intertwines health education and entertainment; in addition, the program also includes the production of videos by the students participating in the initiative. Cine y Salud has been a partner of PLURAL+ for several years, supporting the outreach and distribution of PLURAL+ award winning videos within their network of schools.

While receiving the award from Francisco Javier Faló, Aragon’s Director General for Public Health, Jordi Torrent, UNAOC’s Project Manager for PLURAL+, reminded the audience of this year’s PLURAL+ deadline -June 4th -encouraging the students to submit their videos, and calling particular attention to this year’s special award for a video that creatively addresses the prevention of xenophobia.

For further information on PLURAL+ and to view the award winning videos, please visit: [pluralplus.unaoc.org](http://pluralplus.unaoc.org).

# PLURAL+

YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL ON MIGRATION  
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION



UNAOC  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



IOM • OIM

# Organization of the 4th #SpreadNoHate Symposium in Brussels in partnership with the European Union

UNAOC continued to develop its #SpreadNoHate initiative aiming at countering hate speech against migrants and refugees in the media, in line with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants as well as the United Nations TOGETHER initiative against racism and xenophobia towards migrants and refugees.

UNAOC and the European Union jointly organized a Symposium to address "Hate Speech against Migrants and Refugees in the Media." The Symposium took place in Brussels on 26 January 2017 and gathered over 100 participants from the media sector, civil society, international organizations, migrant communities, and tech companies such as Facebook and Google.

This fourth #SpreadNoHate symposium included discussions on the role of media in the rise of populism and the role of Internet intermediaries in combating hate speech. Speakers included Mrs. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission; Mrs. Cecile Kyenge, Member of the European Parliament; Mr. David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of



opinion and expression; Brittan Heller, Director of Technology and Society at the Anti-Defamation League; and Ezzat Ibrahim, Managing Editor of Al Ahram newspaper in Egypt.

The discussions were broadcast live and reached 13+ million Twitter accounts, with close to 30 million impressions. The Symposium trended on Twitter with the hashtag #SpreadNoHate as number 1 topic in Belgium and among the 35 top topics in the U.S. Following the success of the 4th #SpreadNoHate initiative, UNAOC is currently working on organizing its 5th Symposium in the MENA region in winter 2017.

## UNAOC Organizes Side Event on Migrant Integration at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Berlin

UNAOC participated in the 10th Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) at Germany's Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, 28-30 June 2017.

More than 700 policymakers and practitioners from 140 states, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector were in attendance. The three-day Summit benefited from the participation of Germany's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel; the Kingdom of Morocco's Secretary General and Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. El Habib Nadir; the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration, Mrs. Louise Arbour; the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, Mr. William Lacy Swing; the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi; and the Director-General of the International Labor Organization, Mr. Guy Ryder.

As an observer of the GFMD, UNAOC organized a side event on "Fostering Migrant Integration Through Innovative Civil Society



Actions," in collaboration with BMW Group and the Government of Canada. The side event showcased the work of civil society organizations that have contributed to migrant integration. Selected organizations, which have all received UNAOC's Intercultural Innovation Award, were Welcoming America, Give Something Back to Berlin, and SINGA Deutschland. The organizations' representatives presented their work with migrant communities and focused on lessons learned and recommendations based on their diverse experiences.



## UNAOC announces the selection of participants in the new edition of the Fellowship Programme for 2017

UNAOC is pleased to announce that participants from Europe and North America (EUNA) and participants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have been selected to participate in its Fellowship Programme.

Twelve emerging leaders from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, and Tunisia will travel from October 1st to October 18th to the United States, Germany, France, and Spain. Then, twelve emerging leaders from Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States, will travel from October 15th to November 1st to Spain, Morocco, Egypt and Qatar. Both groups will meet in Madrid, Spain for two days.

During their respective trip, besides addressing issues related to intercultural dialogue, both cohorts will also take part in activities

and discussions focusing on a secondary theme: "The role of media and civil society in combatting hatred and fostering inclusion". This theme has been chosen to ensure that the programme has a concrete impact on the ground, while serving UNAOC mission to foster intercultural collaborations. The choice of such theme has also framed the selection process and participants from both group are all involved professionally in the field of media and/or civil society.

The Fellowship Programme seeks to foster intercultural understanding by engaging with civil society leaders from Europe, North America, the Middle East and North Africa. Organized around two-week exchange trips, the Programme sends participants from each geographic area to their counterparts' region. In every country visited, Fellows are being provided with crucial comprehension tools to help them understand the plurality and the complexity of their

surroundings, and to get an extensive grasp of their host country's culture, politics, society, religion, media and more. By immersing participants into culturally diverse environments, the Fellowship aims at challenging perceptions and deconstructing stereotypes. Building on that, participants become then better equipped to position themselves as informed stakeholders and develop cross-cultural partnerships while bridging divides between peoples from different faiths and cultures.

For more information about the UNAOC Fellowship programme, please visit [fellowship.unaoc.org](http://fellowship.unaoc.org).

*During the Call for Applications for the 2017 edition of its Fellowship Programme, UNAOC received 486 eligible applications from 52 countries.*





*UNAOC aims to improve understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples across cultures and to reduce polarization at local and global levels. It helps develop more inclusive societies, in which diversity is experienced as an asset.*

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