



Press Release

Youth Time Global Forum 2015: Winners Announced

October 31 marked the end of a leading youth contest event – the Youth Time Global Forum in Barcelona. It was a unique forum, which brought together around 100 young people from all parts of the world. Their role: to evaluate the proposals of others or to present their own solutions to the most prevalent youth issues of today, such as the transformation of education and the fight against unemployment.

During the forum, youth from all over the world presented 16 projects. Only the best were honored with four awards: a realization grant for the best project, two fully-paid scholarships to the Anglo-American University in Prague, Czech Republic, and a six-month-long paid internship at the IES consulting company in Barcelona.

Vladimir Yakunin, founding president of the World Public Forum “Dialogue of Civilizations”, an expert at the forum and a jury member, mentioned afterwards: *“The level of the projects has been high. There have been some initiatives that were more like ideas than well-planned projects. However some young people really did a lot of work and put a lot of effort and passion into developing their ideas into proper projects. So we definitely had a choice”.*

Julia Kinash, President of the Youth Time International Movement, also pointed out that, for the first time since the movement started offering realization grants for projects three years ago, participants were allowed to vote. *“For the first time ever, they were able to choose that project they liked most. Now they can feel on their own backs the weight of making decisions, the weight of responsibility for the lives of other people. The grant fund also came partially out of the participants’ fees, which is also motivated them to make the right choice. And generally during this forum we tried to build a bridge between the current situation and possible positive changes in the future.”*

Both jury members and participants agreed that the **winning project** should be “Health for Women Community Leaders in Nepal,” an initiative created and presented by **Swekshya Neupane**, a recent medical school graduate from Nepal. She received a realisation grant for 70% of the project’s budget. This six-month-long educational project is meant to teach 200 women in Nepalese rural areas everything they need to know about children’s healthcare.

“This initiative is of pressing importance for Nepal as child mortality is very high in the country (54 per 1000 live births). I’ve chosen four areas regarding child health so far: diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition, and malaria. So what I’m planning is to make women in the provinces aware at least of the signs and symptoms of these diseases.” Watch Swekshya’s project presentation or read an interview with her.

A six-month-long paid internship at **IES Consulting** in Barcelona has been given to **Bojana Naumoska**, a young entrepreneur from Macedonia who presented a project titled **Start Up Academy** (watch project presentation). This initiative aims to create a year-long entrepreneurial training program for young adults who would like to launch their own startups. *«We have a big problem with youth unemployment in Macedonia, so we want to stimulate self-employment among the citizens in our country»,* Bojana explained.



The six-month-long scholarships for any bachelor's or master's course at the Anglo-American University in Prague went to **Kristina Arakelova**, a student from Armenia, and **Anastasiia Troshkina**, a student from Russia. Troshkina came to the Youth Time Global Forum to present her project **KeepOnCasing: Professional Development School** (watch project presentation), which promotes the importance of self-education and teaches students a range of practical professional skills that will help them to develop their careers harmoniously. The purpose of Arakelova's project **Research and Evaluation Center** (watch project presentation) is to help reduce unemployment by identifying job market requirements, preparing competitive workers, and evaluating job applications in accordance with these requirements.

You can follow all the updates about developments at the Youth Time Global Forum in Barcelona on social networks by using in #yglobal hashtag. Or watch the videos from the Forum's live stream (Day I, Day II)

If you would like to receive photos for publication or need any further information or interviews please contact Yuliya Mazykina (y.mazykina@youth-time.org).

We are glad to announce that the next Youth Time event will be an annual Summer School, which is going to be held next summer in China. Follow the updates at www.youth-time.org or www.youth-time.eu.