

Next Generation

Local and Global Challenges

What We Know Brief

May 2022



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LSE Consulting

Matt Cresswell, Senior Expert

Marit de Bruijne, Graphic Designer

Max Frás, Project Director

Elisabet Vives, Project Manager and Junior Expert

Amy White, Senior Expert

British Council

Isabelle Van de Gejuchte, Senior Adviser – Policy Engagement

Maria Nomikou, Sector Lead – Youth, Skills and Communities

James Perkins, Interim Head of Research – Research and Policy Insight

Reece Waldron, Interim Senior Research Adviser – Research and Policy Insight

Christine Wilson Interim Director – Director Research and Insight / Director Next Generation programme

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Next Generation research is driven by a desire to empower, and an understanding that in engaging with young people, and supporting their energy for positive change, we can all benefit.



Foreword

It's a pleasure for me to share with you the latest outputs from our Next Generation series.

At the British Council, we can see that young people across the world are active in transforming their own circumstances. Next Generation research engages with young people in order to support them in doing that. It does not look solely at the barriers facing them, nor does it view them simply as a way to drive the future economy of their country. A deficit approach to youth, or a purely instrumental one, is unhelpful and does not capture the true picture of their lives, and of their potential. Next Generation research is driven by a desire to empower, and an understanding that in engaging with young people, and supporting their energy for positive change, we can all benefit.

Next Generation has been running since 2009, and in that time we have listened to the voices of tens of thousands of young people from countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Vietnam, Myanmar, Germany, Colombia, Lebanon and the UK. Their insight has enabled colleagues working in those countries to ensure their programming is truly serving the needs of this vital demographic. We have also ensured the views of young people are shared with policy-makers and influencers locally.

These new What We Know briefs allow us to look beyond geographical boundaries and explore the themes that emerge time after time. We see that while there may be differences in their circumstances, young people across the world share similar views on areas such as education and employment, as well as on the challenges facing their generation. Their commitment to tackling those challenges shines through, as does their frustration that their voices are often missing from the conversation when policies that will affect them are being developed.

We still have a way to travel to ensure that this research is as participatory as it can be, that it reaches as many young people as possible, including those often excluded from public discourse, and that the findings are widely available and accessible.

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These briefs allow us to look beyond geographical boundaries and explore the themes that emerge time after time.

We reviewed the programme in 2020, and that review offered us a clear way forward, including on how we need to be more consistent in the data we gather, as well as being more creative in how we present the results. We view the three What We Know briefs as part of this renewed commitment to sharing common insights and engaging with youth organisations and policy-makers to support inclusive youth programming and policy-making.

At the time of writing, we have two new projects underway, in Pakistan and Indonesia, and we look forward to welcoming them to the Next Generation family. We are also embedding the Next Generation approach within our new global Young Leaders programmes, ensuring that all of our work with young people around the world is properly informed by their voices. Within and outside of the British Council, the examples of youth programming included as case studies in these briefs demonstrate how organisations are meeting the needs of young people. We hope that our Next Generation research continues to support this.

Beyond any one programme, I see Next Generation as absolutely central to our work in cultural relations. As well as actively listening to young people around the world, it enables those young people involved to enter into dialogue with their global peers. In seeking ways to co-operate on shared challenges, and through the exchange of ideas for solutions, this intercultural dialogue can help to build a better world. I will leave the final word to one of our Next Generation participants from Colombia, in a statement from 2018 that still resonates today: “I believe that all of us at some point dream of a country in peace, but peace is something that is built, by building relations to one another.”

Christine Wilson

Director, Research and Insight, British Council

Executive Summary

This What We Know brief explores the topic of Local and Global Challenges from the perspectives of young people in Germany, Poland, Italy, Lebanon, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Vietnam as captured in research carried out by the British Council under its [Next Generation](#) programme. The research was analysed and summarised, and key findings presented and discussed by international groups of young people, youth practitioners and organisations and policy-makers at an online event in March 2022.

This brief contains an overview of relevant policy frameworks from major international organisations, summarises the key points of the research and presents some of the recommendations for action and next steps captured in the event's discussion groups. It is complemented by case study examples of inspiring programmes and projects connected to the themes of the research.

The research identified three key areas of primary importance to young people:

- **Security.** Young people are concerned and feel insecure about a number of issues ranging from personal and community safety and security, food security, climate security, financial security and peace and stability.
- **Discrimination and exclusion.** Youth experience discrimination in many aspects of their lives and this can restrict their life chances and opportunities to engage.
- **Identities, values and outlook.** Young people have a strong sense of self. How they view themselves, their communities and their countries has a significant impact on how they live their lives.

Reflections and recommendations both from the Next Generation research carried out and from the event discussion groups are highlighted. These focused on the need to provide safe spaces for women and for victims of gender-based violence, to tackle corruption and introducing more transparency, greater representation of inclusion and diversity in public life and to build an understanding among young people of the realities and complexities of policy-making.

Two further What We Know briefs are published in this series: Education and Skills and Youth Voice (Political and Civic Engagement).



Next Generation Programme

The Next Generation programme is part of the British Council's commitment to exploring youth voice and choice. It aims to understand youth attitudes and aspirations, amplify youth voice and support better youth policy-making.

The Next Generation research examines the conditions that support young people in becoming creative, fulfilled and active citizens in their countries during moments of change. The research looks at young people's views on:

- education, employment, lifestyle and their hopes and fears for their country;
- their degree of international engagement and opinions on the wider world; and
- the values and beliefs that affect their lives.

The Next Generation research uses a mixed-methodology approach to gathering data. The methodology and sample size vary slightly to suit each country and are detailed in each report. Next Generation reports include:

- a desk-based literature review; and
- a national survey with a diverse segment of the young population covering both urban and rural locations.

Each country report also relies on additional sources such as interviews and focus group discussions and includes a Youth Task Force advisory board with young people, youth organisations and other key youth stakeholders. Next Generation reports also produce a series of recommendations supporting policy change.

Since 2016, the Next Generation programme has conducted research in countries such as [Turkey](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Zimbabwe](#) and the [United Kingdom](#). To see the full range of countries covered in the Next Generation portfolio, you can visit the British Council website [here](#).



It aims to understand youth attitudes and aspirations, amplify youth voice and support better youth policy-making.

Next Generation What We Know Briefs

To better understand and compare the aspirations and attitudes of young people from across the world, three What We Know briefs bring together findings and insights from our most recent reports and examine the global attitudes and opinions that young people have on Education and Skills, Local and Global Challenges, and Youth Voice (Political and Civic Engagement).

The What We Know briefs are based on a review and analysis of the latest Next Generation reports from [Germany](#), [Poland](#), [Italy](#), [Lebanon](#), [Nigeria](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Myanmar](#) and [Vietnam](#), and include:

- Desk research/literature review on the current global youth policy and strategy context relevant to the three identified Next Generation topics above.
- Case Studies of British Council and external policy and programming relevant to the three core Next Generation areas (understanding youth attitudes and aspirations, amplifying youth voice and supporting better youth policy-making).
- Reflections from three What We Know workshops that were carried out in March 2022 with a range of young people, youth organisations and policy-makers from across the world to discuss the findings identified from the Next Generation research, current practices and opportunities for action.

The table on the following page provides an overview of the samples used in the Next Generation countries analysed in this brief.

This What We Know brief focuses on young people's views on the challenges they experience in their everyday lives at a local level which also have resonance and impact across national boundaries.

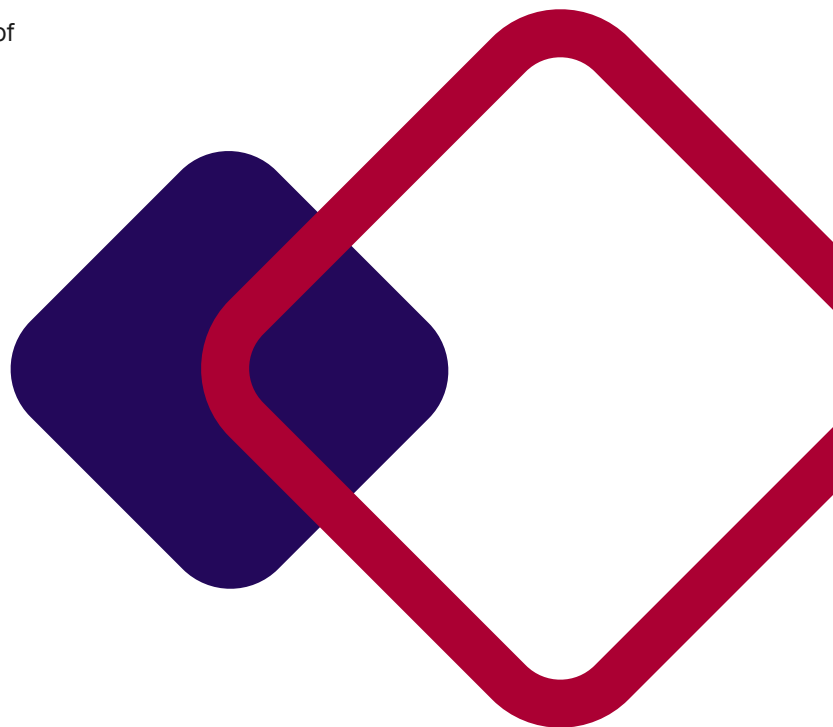


Table 1 Samples used in the Next Generation countries analysed in this brief

Next Gen Country	Year of Publication	Age of Participants	Scale of Data Collection
Ethiopia	2019	15-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2,332 survey respondents – 10 in-depth interviews (IDIs) (2 hours) – 8 workshops (6-8 participants each)
Germany	2019	18-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2,018 survey respondents – 24 digital diaries over a two-week period – 6 participants took part in qualitative follow-up to develop key themes emerging from their diaries
Italy	2020	18-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2,015 survey respondents – 5 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 10 participants each – 9 IDIs with young people – 2 interviews with heads of organisations – 13 IDIs with civic society stakeholders – 1 workshop with 35 participants
Lebanon	2021 (Next Steps) ¹	15-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 185 participants through 42 FGDs and 17 IDIs – 8 participants in key informant interviews (KIIs).
Myanmar	2019	18-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2,473 survey respondents – 10 FGDs with between 5 and 11 participants each – 20 KIIs – 5 one-day youth policy workshops with 20 participants each
Nigeria	2020	18-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 5,001 survey respondents – 32 youth engagement workshops and IDIs – 237 online surveys – 18 online interviews – 24 participants' COVID diaries (3 diaries each)
Poland	2021	18-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2,000 survey respondents – 12 FGDs (92 participants) – Social media research of 17 Facebook groups
Vietnam	2020	16-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 15 stakeholder interviews – 1,200 survey respondents – 108 FGD participants – 20 IDIs – 1 validation workshop with advisory committee – 2 validation workshops with youth task force – 4 IDIs with young entrepreneurs

¹ This study reflects on the initial [Next Generation Lebanon report](#), published in 2020, that included 13 auto-driven photo elicitation interviews, 13 photovoice discussions with young people with 6-13 participants per discussion, and a survey involving 2,879 respondents, aged 15-29.

Policy Overview

Major international organisations have developed policies, directives and initiatives connected to the themes identified in the Local and Global Challenges research:

- **Security** - how safety and security are experienced and perceived by youth.
- **Discrimination and exclusion** - issues around access and opportunity for young people.
- **Identity, values and outlook** - the role that identity plays in young people's lived experiences and outlooks.

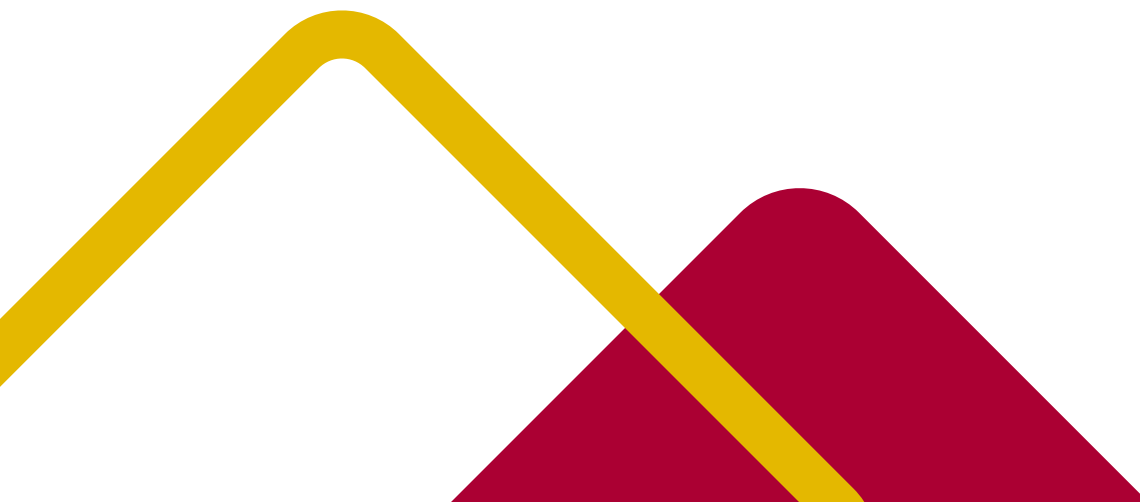
The **European Union**, whilst observing the principle of subsidiarity in which the role of protecting the rights of individuals and communities rests with member states' national constitutions, has established the Charter of Fundamental Rights to which national governments are bound when implementing EU law. The Charter protects against discrimination on the grounds of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, gender, disability and protects the rights of children and the elderly. A series of EU Directives forbid discrimination, including in the workplace on the grounds of age, sexual orientation and religious belief. Gender equality is supported by the EU's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 which includes a number of measures to tackle gender discrimination for children, young people and adults, including pay transparency and proposals for combatting gender-based violence. Additionally, of the 11 European Youth Goals agreed under the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, Goal 2 supports Equality of All Genders, whilst Goal 3 focuses on Inclusive Societies. The EU's Foreign and Security Policy sets a framework to strengthen security and defence to address security as a far-reaching issue including climate, energy and financial security. In turn, the European Green Deal aims to support climate security through striving to ensure

the bloc emit no net greenhouse gases by 2050 and NextGenerationEU is an €800 billion post-Covid recovery package aimed at strengthening security and resilience.

The **United Nations** addresses issues of security for young people through UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security. Its five pillars support participation, protection, prevention, partnership and disengagement and reintegration. It supports member states to give greater agency to youth voice in peace processes and mechanisms. It was followed by Resolution 2419 (2018) which recognises the vital role young people can play in peace negotiations and the need for their full and equal participation in peace processes. Most recently, Resolution 2535 (2020) notably calls for the development of guidance to protect young people. The UN's World Programme of Action for Youth works to bring about improvements for young people globally, including in the areas of girls and young women, hunger and poverty and access to justice.

The **Council of Europe (CoE)** tackles discrimination of young people through Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights, with a focus on removing discrimination, eradicating poverty and combatting violence. It seeks to enable active participation of young people in youth initiatives and projects, as well as stressing the vital role of youth work and youth organisation in this process.

The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** maintains a gender portal that analyses gender-based inequalities across education, employment, healthcare and governance.



Findings

Security

Security is raised as a fundamental issue by young people across the globe. It is identified across a range of key areas at a local level and in terms of a global connection, including personal and community safety and security, food security, climate security, financial security and peace and stability. Young people want to feel safe and are acutely aware of threats and risks to their everyday security.

Key issues identified by young people

- **Socio-economic disadvantage** is experienced across all countries, impacting the ability of young people to access education, jobs and life chances, and can be particularly acute in rural communities. This issue is compounded by corruption reported in many areas of public life. Many young people fear not being able to provide for their families' futures or not achieving the financial milestones that their parents' generation did (such as being financially independent or buying property).
- **Interlinked issues of corruption, violence and crime** are common themes expressed by young people. In countries where corruption is reported, such as Italy, Ethiopia and Nigeria, its impact can be seen in many areas such as access to and progression in education, labour market opportunities and in the recruitment and accountability of institutions and politicians.
- Young people growing up in regions or countries which are **in conflict, post-conflict or in transition to peace** (including Lebanon, Ethiopia and Myanmar) are having to navigate a particularly complex set of circumstances and conditions in order to build their lives and identities. Additionally, young people in Nigeria reported a widespread **lack of sense of personal safety** due to crime, access to justice and police brutality.
- **Food safety and security** is seen as a key concern for some young people, rating amongst the very highest of concerns for youth in Vietnam for example (70%), level with employment and ahead of living conditions and water and sanitation access (both 58%).
- **Financial security** is a common theme identified amongst young people, with anxiety expressed about the ability to provide for their families, or sustain current levels of quality of life and livelihood across many countries. This corresponds to issues identified by young people in the What We Know brief focussing on education and skills, published as part of this series.
- **Climate security**, even though not discussed at length in the Next Generation reports, has become a key priority and area of concern for young people. For instance, in Poland, climate change was the most commonly cited global threat by survey respondents (just under 40 per cent). This is reflected in the case study below and in other British Council programming such as The Climate Connection which supports a cultural relations approach to tackling the climate emergency.



Case study 1



YOUCCAN – Youth for Climate and Clean Air Network

Policy / Programme: YOUCCAN – Youth for Climate and Clean Air Network

Dates: 2020 - present

Locations: Mongolia

Institutions: UNICEF Mongolia, in partnership with Scout Association of Mongolia, funded by Swiss Development Cooperation

Case study 1 offers an innovative and empowering approach to collecting data and communicating insights on air quality to drive community-level action to improve it and reduce harmful effects on health, including for young people.

Evidence Overview

Quality methods

- Peer-to-peer approach
- Integration of technology

NG-relevant impact

- Promotion of youth voice
- 21st-century skills development

Sustainability of results

- Community outreach
- Use of social media
- Leadership training (Training of Trainers)
- Training resources and materials
- Partnership working
- Teenage Parliament Initiative to influence decisions

YOUCCAN - Youth for Climate and Clean Air Network - empowers young people to take direct action on the high level of air pollution in Mongolia which can impact lung health and brain development, and contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG4 – Affordable and Clean Energy and SD13 – Climate Action.

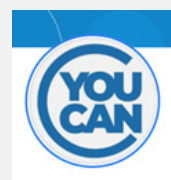
YOUCCAN engages, empowers and upskills young people in climate and environmental knowledge and 21st-century skills including technology, teambuilding and leadership so that

they can increase public awareness and effect change in their local communities. YOUCCAN also equips young people with low-cost air quality monitoring devices. Innovative responses are supported by Philips Netherlands, with 16 communication experts assisting in sustainability assessment.

The project has an 8-step approach: train the trainers on youth engagement in air pollution monitoring; develop training materials; training for youth volunteers at district and provincial level; support Youth Mappers to monitor and record air quality data in their local communities; Youth Mappers upload results to the [UNICEF youth portal](#) as well as to other websites and social media; youth-led school and community-level events and social media advocacy on air quality; stakeholder engagement and influencing; and formal reporting of process, outcomes and lessons learned.

YOUCCAN activities including training, competitions for children with disabilities, UNLEASH Hackathon digital solutions and thinking workshops, reached over 176,000 children nationwide. Five thousand children learned about energy-efficient cooking, heating and insulation solutions to replace coal with electric heating, whilst more than 21,000 children and young people responded to online surveys on the environment, climate change and its impacts.

As a part of the project, the Teen Parliament initiative was launched jointly with the Sub-standing Committee of the Parliament on SDGs. Ninety members of the Teen Parliament aged 15-17 were equipped with knowledge on climate change, air pollution and child rights and gained tools and skills to communicate, lead, act and advocate for climate change decision-making and action.



The longer-term vision is to scale up efforts and enable more young people to take action.

Discrimination and exclusion

Discrimination and exclusion are major concerns identified by young people around the world, with many reporting direct experience of being discriminated against due to many different factors including gender and sexual orientation, religion, age, social and economic status, among others. The Next Generation research programme has identified key issues which contribute to marginalisation in different aspects of life and society as a whole, which in turn can have a significant impact on life chances and opportunities.

Key issues identified by young people

- Young people experience **discrimination on the basis of their identity** – national, religious, ethnic, gender, sexual. This is particularly prevalent in countries undergoing transition or conflict, such as Myanmar and Ethiopia. In Myanmar for example, discrimination is felt by young people in various ways, based significantly on the level of education they have (29%), their gender (28.6%) and the job they do (26.5%). Youth from ethnic minority backgrounds report being denied National Registration Cards, which effectively bars them from accessing social services and from gaining employment. In Poland, 65% of young people surveyed see the EU and further integration with it as a means to promote greater tolerance.
- Although there has been some progress in tackling **gender-based discrimination**, it remains pervasive and impacts education options, career choices and employment prospects for women as well as their ability to influence and participate on a civic and political level. Gender-based violence is a phenomenon rooted in gender inequality. Countries involved in this study have differing experiences and views. In Vietnam for example, tackling gender inequality is recognised as a priority by young people, with an identified need to focus on safety and welfare of those who have experienced gender-based violence, whilst in Ethiopia, young women (30.9%) are significantly more likely to be unemployed than young men (19%), and experience additional barriers to employment due to gender roles and family responsibilities.
- **LGBT young people** are likely to experience discrimination due to their identities in spite of recent developments in many countries in recognising LGBT identities and rights. Acceptance of LGBT youth amongst peers and the protection of rights are not a given in many countries, such as Poland (which has seen the emergence of so-called “LGBT-free zones”) and Myanmar (where only 21.5% of young people disagreed that it was shameful to be LGBT). Young people can be forced to conceal their identities in order to avoid discrimination and violence. They continue to campaign against anti-LGBT legislation and practices.
- **Disability status** can adversely affect young people’s access to education opportunities and facilities, the labour market and civic and political participation. In Ethiopia for example, those with a disability are significantly less likely to think employment opportunities will improve in the future (54%, in comparison to 66% without a disability).

“**Gender-based discrimination remains pervasive and impacts education options, career choices and employment prospects for women.**”

Discrimination and exclusion are also reported by young people as significant factors in their ability to access education and training. This topic is explored in further detail in the What We Know brief focusing on education and skills, published as part of this series.

Case study 2



Inclusive Futures

Policy / Programme: Inclusion Works and Disability Inclusive Development (DID), collectively known as Inclusive Futures

Dates: 2018 - 2024

Locations: Nigeria, Bangladesh and Tanzania

Institutions: BBC Media Action, member of [Inclusive Futures consortium](#), funded by the UK FCDO

Case study 2 is an example of a disability-inclusive approach by addressing gaps in disability awareness and disabled people's lack of representation in the media. This approach could also be useful in addressing exclusion from education or promoting disabled youth's voice, as relevant to the other What We Know briefs.

Evidence Overview

Quality methods

- Inclusion of people with disabilities
- Co-developed content (local and international partners)
- Research-led

NG-relevant impact

- Promotion of disabled youth voice

Sustainability of results

- Journalist capacity built should endure beyond the project
- Dissemination of learning & insight online

15% of the global population has a disability and 80% of those people live in low- and middle income countries. Research has shown that a lack of understanding, and awareness of the causes and characteristics of disability is a significant driver of stigma towards disabled people. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated exclusion of disabled people further.

Inclusive Futures aims for the long-term improved well-being and inclusion of people with disabilities in low and middle income countries. It does this by trialling and scaling projects to increase equitable access to health, education, jobs/self-employment and improved livelihoods, and reduce negative stereotyping and discrimination, and by producing and sharing evidence on what works.

Through Inclusive Futures, BBC Media Action has supported the promotion of rights to healthcare and employment for people with disabilities through media and communication.

In Nigeria, weekly radio drama *Story Story* tackled stigma and discrimination around disability, increasing audience understanding and prompting discussion about disability and disability inclusion. Capacity-building of journalists has enabled them to advocate for people with disabilities and has already created new disability positive or inclusive programming. In Bangladesh, capacity building also included a TV debate on inclusive policy with policy-makers. In Tanzania, BBC Media Action created new content for a popular youth radio show *Niambie* ('Tell me'). Guidance from organisations of persons with disability and young disabled media trainees ensured a sensitive and empowering approach.

Evaluation has shown that programming increased the audience's understanding of stigma and discrimination and challenged misconceptions and negative attitudes. Some listeners also reported using less discriminatory language when talking about disability or with disabled people.

Further resources can be found [here](#).



Inclusive Futures
Promoting disability inclusion

Identity, values and outlook

Personal and group identity and values are hugely significant factors in the lives of young people around the world. In spite of the diversity of countries that form the Next Generation research portfolio, each piece of research demonstrates that how young people reflect on what they hold dear and how they view themselves in their communities, countries and in the world plays a major part in their lived experience. Diversity is considered an asset, and young people want to be able to express themselves freely.

Key issues identified by young people

- Amongst youth in countries in transition (such as Ethiopia at the time of the country level research) there is a general feeling of optimism that their **future lives will be more positive** than previous generations, though optimism can be tempered with anxiety about being able to provide financially for their families or maintain their current living standards.
- Where multiple nationalities, cultures, ethnicities, religions and languages are brought together in one society, some young people experience anxiety that their **“own” ways of life may be eroded**. In Poland, for example, some respondents fear losing their Polish national identity, traditions, history and language, with some anti-migrant and anti-refugee sentiment also expressed. Young men were more likely to perceive threats relating to membership of the EU, and to support greater autonomy.
- Connected to this, **identities can still be largely shaped by tradition and history**. In Vietnam for example, hierarchical societal structures are reported as limiting outlooks, opportunities for expression and engagement, whilst young people in Germany feel acutely that their country's identity is associated with the Second World War, and this impacts the role that the country can play on the world stage.
- **Perceptions of life chances and opportunities can be markedly different** between different groups of young people, e.g. those in rural vs urban areas, and those who have been educated at university level vs those who have not. A substantial proportion of young Vietnamese people, for example, (58%) felt that their education defined their identity, behind family (80%) and friends (64%).

Case study 3



Young Mediterranean Voices

Policy / Programme: Young Mediterranean Voices

Dates: 2018 - 2021

Locations: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

Institutions: Funded by European Union with co-funding by World Bank Group, British Council and Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; coordinated by Anna Lindh Foundation Euromed, co-founded by British Council and delivered through a [range of partners](#).

Young Mediterranean Voices (YMV) provided skills and opportunities for youth to explore diversity and common ground through debate and exchange. YMV provided a model for exploring connections between local and global priorities, whilst also developing critical thinking skills and youth engagement with policy-makers - topics discussed in the other What We Know briefs on education and skills and youth voice.

Evidence Overview

Quality methods

- Diverse and inclusive
- Promotes gender equality
- 21st century skills including debate, critical thinking
- Intercultural dialogue

NG-relevant impact

- Youth influence on policy
- Promotion of youth voice – challenges identified by young people themselves
- Youth research
- Strong focus on skills development

Sustainability of results

- Policy recommendations at country level
- Reaches wider audience through website and social media

Young Mediterranean Voices (YMV) was the EU's flagship intercultural dialogue programme for the Southern Mediterranean and Europe region.

Research found that opportunities for debate and dialogue with peers and policy-makers were lacking and youth felt politically, socially and culturally disengaged. Young Mediterranean Voices programme aims to address this by empowering young people through its core approach:

- to build a culture of dialogue through debate and dialogue training and embedding this in formal and non-formal education for sustainability
- to contribute to public policy
- to influence media discourse by providing leadership and media training
- to create a shared understanding with peers across the Mediterranean on how to address issues of common concern by providing opportunities for exchange and debate across borders, and developing communication and intercultural skills

YMV has engaged and trained 9,421 young debaters (57% female, 43% male, majority aged 18-24) in three years. 113 institutions acted as *Debate Hubs*, delivered through 558 clubs and online groups.

In 2020 alone, more than 3,500 hours of online debates and trainings were conducted, and more than 379 young people were given advanced training to become trained Peer or Master Facilitators. Over 225 policy motions were discussed during National Debate Forums and Policy Dialogues engaging over 1,900 young women and men and over 209 high-level policy-makers, global leaders, influencers and experts.

Between 2018 and 2021, the topics and recommendations that the young debaters focused on were related to the Sustainable Development Goals on areas such as quality education, decent work and economic growth, climate action and gender equality.



Visit the [Young Mediterranean Voices](#) website for further information.



Reflections and Recommendations

Next Generation Reports

The following recommendations were identified in the Next Generation reports analysed and are directed to policy-makers, youth practitioners and organisations:

- **Provide safe spaces and structures to support gender equality**, empower girls and young women to speak out, provide better support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and enacting policies to care for the children of abuse survivors.
- **In relation to climate security**, limit the use of plastics, provide enhanced communications and education on environmental issues, invest in clean energy and ensure enforcement of environmental regulations.
- **In support of financial security**, experiment with structures and representative bodies to provide youth entrepreneurs and informal and gig workers with a platform to shape more inclusive policy discussions around legal rights and privileges.
- **Provide greater transparency and public accountability to tackle corruption** and greater consequences for corrupt individuals, coupled with more public say in how government funds are spent.
- **Renew the “social contract”** between government and the people, and in alignment with the expectations of young people.
- **Bring inclusion and diversity into public life**, for example through media and broadcasting, education materials and practice and the world of work, for example through diversity training for managers.
- **Have a national conversation about immigration** in order to help ensure positive outcomes from immigrants and for the welcoming country.



Next Generation What We Know Local and Global Challenges event

The findings and recommendations from the Next Generation programme were discussed with 15 attendees on the 10th of March 2022 in an online event that involved policy-makers, youth practitioners and organisations and young people. The event was built around discussion groups based on a “trialogue” format, which is designed to bring together and provide an equal footing and voice for each of the three stakeholder groups. Equipping young people, youth practitioners and policy-makers with a safe space to propose, assert, reject or influence the discussion recognises each stakeholder group as an equal, so that no group’s voice has more sway or agency than the other.

The reflections and recommendations developed through the triologue discussions include:

- **Arts and culture could be used as safe spaces** to explore different views to address youth challenges of security, identity and discrimination.
- **Young people need to be informed how policy is made** and the complexities of the process in order to be able to influence it.
- **Policy-makers need to listen** to and act in response to young people and youth practitioners in order develop policies that reduce discrimination.
- **Youth capacity-building is crucial** – in leadership, in expression and in identifying fake news and disinformation.
- There is a need for policy to **address financial security** including in relation to reasonable rent, fair working conditions and decent salaries.

“

**Arts and culture
could be used as
safes spaces to
explore views.**



LSE Consulting

LSE Consulting is the consultancy arm of the London School of Economics (LSE). LSE is a specialist university with a global reach and an international intake of students and staff from over 148 countries across the globe. LSE has a long-standing, international reputation for the quality and depth of its research and teaching, which encompass the full breadth of the social sciences field: from economics, politics and law to sociology, anthropology, accounting and finance.

LSE Consulting forms a vital bridge between the academic experts at LSE and the wider world and it is one of the leading academic consultancies in the UK in the field of social and political research. It has over 25 years of experience in conducting projects for public and private companies worldwide. LSE Consulting has an outstanding track record of working with members of the School to deliver successful outcomes to clients, ranging from small-scale individual consultancy assignments to complex major projects involving large, interdisciplinary teams.



The British Council

The British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. We help young people to gain the skills, confidence and connections they are looking for to realise their potential and to participate in strong and inclusive communities. We support them to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications. Our work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

The **Next Generation series** is part of the British Council's commitment to exploring youth voice and choice. It aims to understand youth attitudes and aspirations, amplify youth voice and support better youth policy-making. The reports focus on young people in countries experiencing a period of significant change, to ensure that young people's voices are heard and their interests represented in decisions that will have lasting implications for their lives.

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