

Summit Overview

The 3rd International Youth to Youth Summit took place on 23rd-27th of April 2017 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and focused on the topic «Youth Creating Social Innovations and Building Sustainable Future by Means of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT's)». The event was co-organized by Youth to Youth Initiative, a Lithuanian based NGO and a local partner, GADHA Initiatives Group from Sharjah, the UAE. The 2017 edition gathered altogether 50 delegates from 33 countries, including the UAE with the aim of sharing views, practices and coming up with the solutions to one of the most pressing challenge of today's world- sustainable future.

Delegates and the organizers at the closing ceremony of the Summit



The Summits, planned on annual basis, encourage youth to come up with the solutions for the most pressing issues the world is facing via cross-disciplinary dialogue. International Youth to Youth Summit aims to provide a platform for youth as future leaders of the world that allows engaging in the discussion regarding the most pressing challenges that the world is facing.

The mission of the Summit is to bring together the brightest students, youth activists, leaders in the society, entrepreneurs, professors and businessman to start a dialogue on global challenges of today and tomorrow and to work together after the summit on actions which would create a more just, tolerant and sustainable society.

Each year the organizing team strives to select participants with varied professional and academic backgrounds. The participants are selected from a competitive pool based on their expertise with consideration of geographical and gender balance. The target group of the summit was between 18 and 35 years old, and mainly included students and young professionals from international relations, ICT's, politics, economic and business backgrounds, leaders of the communities, change makers, passionate to create positive social change.

Background

Youth to Youth Initiative (Y2Y Initiative) is an umbrella non-profit, started in 2015, which mission is to connect through intercultural dialogue and empower young leaders from all the world to build a just and sustainable society together.



Y2Y has a vision to make the youth community in the world stronger, more skillful and engaged in community activism. Y2Y aims to facilitate the dialogue across cultures, countries and various environments and bring a new edge to the debate on the contemporary challenges.

The main working topics of Y2Y Initiative:

- Non-formal education;
- Social entrepreneurship and social innovation;
- Intercultural dialogue;
- Human rights and migration;
- Environment and sustainability;
- Active citizenship;
- Sustainable development of communities;
- Transparency and anticorruption;
- Peacebuilding;

"Youth to Youth Summit" is an annual thematic event. Each year it presents six challenging for youth topics and facilitates panel discussions, networking, cultural activities and workshops that aim to inspire participants to cooperate on production of joint projects. The best projects, selected during the Summit, automatically receive a year-long unlimited support for development and implementation under the Youth to Youth Action Hub.

The Summit aimed at increasing understanding of the facets youth bring social innovations on our daily life. Summit's activities have been designed to create a multinational functional dialogue and to inspire the development of new tools and creative means to create a sustainable future. Besides, the event aimed at providing a number of networking sub-events including cultural activities and enhancement of the Y2Y Alumni Network, which serves as a space for strengthening unity between youth from different continents of the world, as well as bridging the gap among the countries.

More information is available here: www.y2yinitiative.org
<http://summit2017.y2yinitiative.org/> <http://summit2016.y2yinitiative.org/>
<http://summit2015.y2yinitiative.org/>

Summit's objectives

- to provide a platform for networking, discussions regarding the most pressing challenges facing our world, and cooperation for youth as future leaders of the world;
- To enhance the Y2Y Alumni Network, which serves as a space for strengthening unity between youth from different continents of the world, as well as bridging the gap among the countries.
- To find answers to the key questions, explore the topic from different perspectives, share knowledge, best practices and unique experience, connect active youth with practitioners and experts for building an integral atlas of opportunities and actions that will foster change and help to move forward to the sustainable tomorrow.
- To provide participants of the Summit with a unique set of skills, necessary for their development as leaders and professionals in the field for the creation of a pool of competitive activists with a great potential for fostering the change, bringing innovation to the next level, popularizing ICTs and innovative social technologies, generally influencing the regulatory environment, creating new infrastructure and usage for ICTs and changing paradigm of solving global changes of today.
- To select six specific projects, reflecting the topics, which will be implemented back in the home countries of the participants after the Summit;



Delegates and guests of the Summit during one of the panel discussion

Summit's activities

The program of the 3rd International Youth to Youth Summit has been diversified and has made use of a number of methods such as panel sessions, workshops, discussions and informal sessions. Effectively, the event has been divided into the content part where the theme of social innovations and innovative social technologies and its 6 sub-topics have been explored.

Workshop on hate speech led by Alexandra Pacalidou



Apart from dividing the topic into 6 panels described below, the Summit through workshops has also aimed to provide participants with unique skills which would help them to become stronger and more knowledgeable leaders. The event has also featured cultural activities such as opening informal event, traditional food tasting, city tour and tour and optional morning meditation, yoga and Zumba sessions.

Details in the Attachment I

Speakers

International Youth to Youth Summit was honored to host 17 prominent speakers and workshop facilitators from all around the world.

International Youth to Youth Summit organizing team appreciates the efforts of participants in their respective countries in relation to developing their communities and bringing social innovations to their countries. Therefore, on 26th of April, we have opened a space for a couple of them to present their projects and initiatives.

Several of the speakers:

- Alexandra Pascalidou – an award winning writer, journalist, TV and radio hostess, producer and a human rights activist (Greece/Sweden);
- Jeremy Lamri – Monkey tie (France);
- Hai Ho – Founder of Triip.me (Vietnam);
- Saad Hamid – Founder of School of Skills (Pakistan);
- Dr. Neva Helena Alexander - Founder of the NEVA Alliance Training Co. (New York, USA/Saudi Arabia);
- Linzi J Kemp - Associate Professor with the American University of Sharjah (UAE);
- Deepak Ramola - Founder & Artistic Director of Project FUEL (India);
- Sofana Dahlan - Founder of Tashkeil and the Vice Governor for Entrepreneurship Advancement at the Small and Medium Enterprises Authority of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia);
- Simona Andrijauskaite - Co-Founder of Interactio, top 10 technology at IBTM World, initiated by Reed Exhibitions (Lithuania);
- Asad Khan - King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (Saudi Arabia);
- Ivan Kayima – Founder of Spiela (UK);
- Mahmood Adel – President and CEO of UAE chapter of AISEC (UAE);



Panel discussion on ICTs transforming art and fostering intercultural dialogue

See full list of speakers and workshop facilitators in the Attachment II

Main topics

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) have a profound effect on society and the world. They fuel the knowledge economy and create possibilities, innovation and sustainable economic empowerment. We only advance as a society, as a planet, as businesses and as governments when all people can reap the full benefits of technologies as an enabling tool for democratic and sustainable development.

Over the last few decades, there has been a massive growth in technological development and opportunities that have continued to transform people's lives. The benefits of access to ICTs can be found across all major sectors. For young people, access to information means better access to education, capital, markets and training needed to pursue a career; increased participation in political processes, and recognition of youth as responsible citizens in today's and tomorrow's societies. Technologies—specifically ICTs—have played a central role in young people's rise to prominence on a global scale. Access to ICTs have helped them mobilize and collaborate and given them a voice where there was none before. It has brought them together in response to social concerns. It has connected them across vast geo-political barriers and challenged them by pioneering the use of ICTs in various fields. ICT has also created provisions for governments at all levels to increase the efficiency of government operations and services by means of the internet while helping them develop new channels of communication to engage youth in creative and meaningful ways. These benefits offered by ICTs are however directly impacted by our ability to create and advance the necessary capabilities for their successful adoption and utilization. As such, it is important to appreciate that working models of ICT adoption must be customized and adapted to local environment to harmonize such efforts with all necessary relevant factors, such as ICT readiness levels, ICT strategies, ICT master plans, ICT usage and ICT impact, to achieve sustainable and sufficient development. Our hope is to bring together the next generation of digital innovators to reflect, discuss and share the global challenges of today and tomorrow and how ICTs can play a role in addressing those challenges.

We have decided to host the Summit on ICTs and related social innovation in the Middle East for several reasons. First of all, 30% from all the population of the region is young people. Secondly, many countries of the region have already adopted action plans declaring universal and affordable access to telecommunications and ICTs as an essential precondition for the world's sustainable economic, social and cultural development, as well as transformation towards information society.

The 6 main topics that the Summit has been broken down are:

- Usage of digital tools for educational and learning activities
- The role of ICTs in achieving SDGs
- Using digital tools for community mobilization, youth and civil society empowerment
- Moving beyond digital literacy to digital society
- ICTs fostering intercultural cooperation and dialogue
- ICTs transforming mass media and creating new types of media

Problem Statement

The key questions we aimed to answer throughout the Summit:

What is the role of innovative technologies and ICTs in enabling youth participation?

What are the main determinants and characteristics of youth civic engagement through innovative technologies and ICTs?

What is the role of traditional innovation accelerators and incubators in an ICT connected world?

How ICTs and innovative technologies can be used to transform societies towards advanced sustainable future?

How can ICTs help with peer selection for global team development? How do we encourage and resource the "ICT Social Pioneer"?

What role does online collaboration play in Social Innovation Knowledge Sharing? Can a systemic approach be developed to accelerating social innovation using ICTs?

How can ICTs help build trust in the domain of social innovation and social entrepreneurship?

What are the basic building blocks of an ICT driven governance framework?

How do we bridge the ICT Gap?



Panel discussion «Moving beyond digital literacy to digital society»

Organizers

The third International Youth to Youth Summit 2017 was organized thanks to the support of GADHA Group Initiatives for Youth which is based in Sharjah, UAE.

The main Summit's coordinator – Saida Ibrahimava, Co-Founder of the Youth to Youth Initiative. Working sessions were moderated by 6 experienced and bright minded young people: Egle Vinauskaite (Lithuania); Tiago Ferreira Lopez (Portugal); Christina Sciabarra (USA); Manu Sharma (Canada); Maria Habanikova (Slovakia); Karolina Mazetyte (Lithuania);

23 volunteers from both Y2Y Initiative and Gadha team worked both online and offline during and before the Summit.



Organizers of the 3rd International Youth to Youth Summit 2017

Sponsors

The 3rd International Youth to Youth Summit would have not taken place without the support of the sponsors. At this point we would like to emphasize that we are extremely thankful to the following organizations and companies:

- Taiwan Foundation for Democracy;
- Swedish Institute;
- Ibis Styles Dragon Mart Hotel in Dubai;



TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY

財團臺灣民主基金會
法人

The CEO and the head of AISEC UAE Mahmood Adel at special session



Partners

The number of partners of the 3rd International Youth to Youth Summit has exceeded our expectations. At this point we would like to extend our massive thank you to our collaborators, media partners and partners. You have all surely contributed to the success of the 3rd International Youth to Youth Summit and we could not have been more thankful for this.



Sustainability

It is important to realize that none of the flagship programmes that fall under Y2Y Initiative are short-term and unsustainable. The founders of the Y2Y Initiative realize that in order to create change, the process needs to be sustainable and a strong commitment and investment from young leaders and youth organizations themselves is needed. Therefore, a simple sustainability model in which the roles of each of the aspects of the Y2Y Initiative take up in the entire process has been built. Developing, mentoring and implementing youth initiatives takes time and longer-term commitment that facilitate more strategic, sustainable programming as opposed to short-term, one-time events.

While the annual thematic International Summits create a starting point, provide food for thought and overall create an environment that encourages creativity and dialogue that allow to plant seeds for partnerships and produce joint projects, the Action Hub provides the tools and resources for projects implementation, capacity building and further grow of the positive impact of youth-led initiatives. Furthermore, Annual Summer School on Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Project Management which is starting in July 2017 in Sweden and other training courses which Y2Y organize throughout the year, equip youth with relevant skills to become even change makers in their local communities.

Unicity of the concept allows "Youth to Youth Initiative" to work on three different levels: with youth, during the annual thematic International Summit, designed as a platform for dialogue and networking; with projects under "Youth to Youth Action Hub", a highly responsive, community-driven online incubator for socially beneficial ideas, projects, initiatives, non-for-profit organizations and businesses created by youth and for youth; and with young leaders from all around the world through "Youth to Youth Young Leaders Network" who aims to maximize the impact of youth-led initiatives on international level, promote vision and mission of "Youth to Youth Initiative" and help to raise awareness about challenges concerning youth.



Presentation of delegate's projects at special session

Results of the Summit

The 3rd International Youth to Youth Summit gathered 50 participants and 20 volunteers from 36 countries over 4 days (23rd-27th April 2017) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The event featured 14 speakers from 8 countries and 12 workshop facilitators from 10 countries.

- 8 projects by participants were presented during the Summit which Y2Y Initiative is reviewing and announce the selection of projects in June 2017, which will be taken on board of "Youth to Youth Action Hub" an interactive online incubator for socially beneficial projects, initiatives, start-ups, etc. developed and/or led by youth. All selected projects during the year will be under the supervision and mentorship of Y2Y experts, and consultants. Together they will work towards sustainability of the projects/plans, its successful implementation and replication in other countries;

- The Board of International Youth to Youth Initiative announced the 1st regional Y2Y Summit which will take place in November 2017 in Pakistan and will be co-organized by the University of Management and Technology of Lahore;

- The Board of International Youth to Youth Initiative announced the launch of the Summer School on „Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Project Management" which will take place on 02-15th of July in Malmo, Sweden;

The Summit plays a critical role as a starting point for a yearlong online and offline discussions, it builds trust and creates a barrier-free environment for further international cooperation.

Successful implementation of selected projects will impact real communities and boost change in different regions of the world. With the system of monitoring after the implementation phase is over Y2Y ensures long-lasting positive effects and sustainable growth of youth led organizations and projects.

Besides of practical implementation of the best practices in selected for the Action Hub projects, this year's topic will be discussed throughout the year during frequent global meetings, organized by Y2Y Summit's alumni in their home countries under the auspices of Youth to Youth Branches. Such events have been designed to deepen the knowledge of the topic and embrace each other's experience in the field.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TO YOUTH SUMMIT 2017 SCHEDULE



Sunday, April 23rd		Monday, April 24th		Tuesday, April 25th		Wednesday, April 26th		Thursday, April 27th	
07:00 - 08:00	AI Registration for the Summit <i>(Hotel has program entry)</i>	Optional Morning yoga	Breakfast (07:00 - 09:15)	Optional Meditation and Mindfulness Session	Breakfast (07:00 - 09:15)	Optional Zurich Session	Breakfast (07:00 - 10:00)	All Day Departures	
08:00 - 09:00		Breakfast (07:00 - 09:15)	Departure to the venue at 09:15	Plenary Session: ICT's Driving Change in the UAE (10:00 - 11:45) Q&A session (11:45 - 12:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Fostering Intercultural Cooperation and Transforming Arts (10:00 - 11:45) Q&A session (11:45 - 12:00)				
09:00 - 10:00		Opening Session (16:00 - 11:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's and SDG's (10:00 - 11:45) Q&A session (11:45 - 12:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Empowering through ICT's Transformation: Community Empowerment through ICT's (12:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)				
10:00 - 11:00		NGO Fair - Networking session (Exhibiting space)	Lunch (12:00 - 13:00)	Lunch (12:00 - 13:00)	Lunch (12:00 - 13:00)				
11:00 - 12:00		Special session: ICT's Driving Change in the UAE (13:00 - 13:30)	Plenary Session: ICT's driven Social Transformation: Community Empowerment through ICT's (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)				
12:00 - 13:00		Plenary Session: Educational Solutions for Innovative Learning (12:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's driven Social Transformation: Community Empowerment through ICT's (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)				
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14:00 - 15:00		Optional Early Bird's Networking session	Plenary Session: ICT's driven Social Transformation: Community Empowerment through ICT's (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)				
15:00 - 16:00		Optional Dialogue Through Art session	Plenary Session: ICT's driven Social Transformation: Community Empowerment through ICT's (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)				
16:00 - 17:00		Optional Dialogue Through Art session	Plenary Session: ICT's driven Social Transformation: Community Empowerment through ICT's (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)	Plenary Session: ICT's Transforming Mass Media and Creating New Types of Media (13:00 - 14:45) Q&A session (14:45 - 15:00)				
17:00 - 18:00	Workshop I: Teach in Schools What Life Thought You (17:30 - 18:45) Solution oriented session (18:45 - 19:00)	Workshop II: Innovation through Design Thinking? (17:30 - 18:45) Solution oriented session (18:45 - 19:00)	Workshop I: How to Strengthen the Achievement of Online Campaigns? (15:30 - 16:45) Solution oriented session (16:45 - 17:00)	Workshop II: How can Youth boost the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by means of ICT's? (15:30 - 16:45) Solution oriented session (16:45 - 17:00)	Workshop I: How to Build Effective Communication for Underrepresented and Excluded? (15:30 - 16:45) Solution oriented session (16:45 - 17:00)	Workshop II: How to Use ICT's as Part of the Creative Process to Develop and Realize our Ideas? (15:30 - 16:45) Solution oriented session (16:45 - 17:00)			
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner (18:00 - 19:00)	Workshop III: Using Business Model Canvas (17:30 - 18:45) Solution oriented session (18:45 - 19:00)	Workshop IV: How to Make Big Data User Driven and Innovative? (15:30 - 16:45) Solution oriented session (16:45 - 17:00)	Workshop III: How to Use Digital Tools for Educational and Learning Perspectives? (15:30 - 16:45) Solution oriented session (16:45 - 17:00)	Workshop IV: How to Make Big Data User Driven and Innovative? (15:30 - 16:45) Solution oriented session (16:45 - 17:00)				
19:00 - 20:00	Departure to the venue at 19:00	Workshop IV: Channeling the potential of ICT's into Governance Solution oriented session (16:45 - 19:00)	Workshop V: City-tour Dubai (17:00 - 19:30)	Workshop V: City-tour Dubai (17:00 - 19:30)	Workshop V: City-tour Dubai (17:00 - 19:30)				
20:00 - 21:00	Opening ceremony (19:30 - 20:30)	Coffee break (19:00 - 19:30)	Dinner in the city (19:30 - 21:00)	Dinner in the city (19:30 - 21:00)	Dinner in the city (19:30 - 21:00)				
21:00 - 22:00	Reception with cultural performances (20:30 - 21:30)	Mediation and Mindfulness Session (19:30 - 20:30)	Networking session: Local Activists and ICT Pioneers	Networking session: Local Activists and ICT Pioneers	Networking session: Local Activists and ICT Pioneers				
		Dinner (20:00 - 21:00)	Dinner with Founders of IZY Initiative and GADHIA Group Initiatives (19:30 - 21:00)	Dinner with Founders of IZY Initiative and GADHIA Group Initiatives (19:30 - 21:00)	Dinner with Founders of IZY Initiative and GADHIA Group Initiatives (19:30 - 21:00)				
			Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party (21:00 - 23:00)	Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party (21:00 - 23:00)	Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party (21:00 - 23:00)				

Attachment II

Speakers:

1. Alexandra Pascalidou – an award winning writer, journalist, TV and radio hostess, producer and a human rights activist (Greece/Sweden);
2. Asad Khan - King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (Saudi Arabia);
3. Deepak Ramola - Founder & Artistic Director of Project FUEL (India);
4. Dr. Neva Helena Alexander - Founder of the NEVA Alliance Training Co. (New York, USA/Saudi Arabia);
5. Egle Vinauskaite - learning designer who creates digital learning products for Fortune 250 companies (Lithuania/UK);
6. Hai Ho – Founder of Triip.me (Vietnam);
7. Ivan Kayima – Founder of Spiela (UK);
8. Jeremy Lamri – Monkey tie (France);
9. Linzi J Kemp - Associate Professor with the American University of Sharjah (UAE);
10. Mahmood Adel – President and CEO of UAE chapter of AISEC (UAE);
11. Naseem Khan Achakzai - Social Development Specialist at University of Management and Technology and lead of Sustainable Development Initiative and also as Adviser to CDRS (US 501c (3) Non Profit) (Pakistan)
12. Saad Hamid – Founder of School of Skills (Pakistan);
13. Simona Andrijauskaite - Co-Founder of Interactio, top 10 technology at IBTM World, initiated by Reed Exhibitions (Lithuania);
14. Sofana Dahlan - Founder of Tashkeil and the Vice Governor for Entrepreneurship Advancement at the Small and Medium Enterprises Authority of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia);

Workshop facilitators:

1. Alexandra Pascalidou – an award winning writer, journalist, TV and radio hostess, producer and a human rights activist (Greece/Sweden);
2. Deepak Ramola - Founder & Artistic Director of Project FUEL (India);
3. Dr. Neva Helena Alexander - Founder of the NEVA Alliance Training Co. (New York, USA/Saudi Arabia);
4. Egle Vinauskaite - learning designer who creates digital learning products for Fortune 250 companies (Lithuania/UK);
5. Hai Ho – Founder of Triip.me (Vietnam);
6. Ivan Kayima – Founder of Spiela (UK);
7. Jeremy Lamri – Monkey tie (France);
8. Karolina Mazetyte – Co-founder & President of Y2Y Initiative and Founder of Malmo Meditation (Lithuania/Sweden);
9. Manu Sharma - technology entrepreneur by choice, and community activist at hear (Canada);
10. Maria Habanikova - global governance enthusiast, dedicated community organizer, and passionate storyteller (Slovakia);
11. Naseem Khan Achakzai - Social Development Specialist at University of Management and Technology and lead of Sustainable Development Initiative and also as Adviser to CDRS (US 501c (3) Non Profit) (Pakistan)
12. Saad Hamid – Founder of School of Skills (Pakistan);

