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### ✓ BOSTWANA: STANBIC ENCOURAGES YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS TO LOOK GLOBAL

**Gaborone, 7 December 2016** - HEAD of enterprise banking at Stanbic Bank, Onkabetse Morapedi has said there should be hunger among young entrepreneurs to grow their business beyond borders.

Morapedi was talking to Mmegi Business on the sidelines of the Seedstars World competitions for youth entrepreneurs held at the University of Botswana (UB) recently.

Seedstars is a global seed-stage start-up competition for emerging markets and fast-growing start-up scenes aimed at scouting for the best entrepreneurs in technology.

Morapedi said with the right focus and support from both the government and the private sector, youth entrepreneurs could grow their businesses to other countries.

He said this could be more possible if a culture of entrepreneurship is

entrenched among the youth in the country at an early stage of their lives. He added that as a bank, Stanbic is well positioned to assists businesses to grow.

Morapedi said their partnership with Seedstars cements their commitment as a bank to develop entrepreneurship in the country.

“This is creation of employment at its foundation stage. We want to be there as they start and assist them to grow,” said Morapedi about the Seedstars initiative participants.

He said the presentations from the youth entrepreneurs were “quite refreshing”.

“These young entrepreneurs can take the country forward though there is also a need for a lot of molding of their business ideas,” Morapedi said.

Nine start up companies from Botswana pitched at

this year’s Seedstars.

In line with its mission to place the spotlight on entrepreneurs from emerging markets, Seedstars World is travelling to more than 65 countries this year to identify the best seed-stage entrepreneurs and provide them with an opportunity to win up to \$1 million (P10.5 million), with the main prize being a \$500,000 equity investment.

For her part, the Botswana Life chief executive officer, Bilkiss Moorad said young people should understand that gone are the days when one can only rely on a job as a source of means.

Botswana Life is also partners in the Seedstars initiative.

Moorad told Mmegi Business that there should be a lot of empowerment towards young entrepreneurs.

And this should be done with the right business

tools, she said.

“There is need for a proper framework to assist these young entrepreneurs. They are a new growth engines for the country’s business community,” said Moorad who added that she started being involved in business at a tender age, herself.

She added that the youth entrepreneurs have also shown a lot of interest in the insurance industry. “When their businesses flourish, we also flourish as a company,” said Moorad about their partnership with the business community.

The turn-up for the initiative was impressive with different players in the business community in attendance.

Apart from Stanbic and Botswana Life, other partners in the initiative include the UB, Microsoft, and Intel, Botswana Innovation Hub, VC4 Africa, amongst others.

*[Mmegi Online]*

### ✓ MALAWI: FOCUS, FOCUSING ON MALAWIAN YOUTH

**Lilongwe 2 December 2016** - FOUNDATION for Community Support Services (FOCUS) has taken a huge step forward on a quest to combat the spread of HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI’s) and teenage pregnancies among the youth.

The Karonga district based organisation, is making it a point to empower the youth in the district with reproductive health messages.

They are aimed at helping them in refraining from engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse.

As part of the World Aids Day commemorations, FOCUS organised a football and netball bonanza that saw one thousand young people receiving condoms through their Reaching Mother and Child for Health project.

The project’s coordinator emphasised that the

distribution of the condoms is not meant to encourage the youth to indulge in casual sex but to protect them from contracting HIV, STI’s including teen pregnancies.

Griffin Nyirongo told Capital FM the on the other hand, they are encouraging them to abstain from sex and remain faithful to their partners.

According to Nyirongo it is now a fact that the country’s teens are engaging in

unprotected sex which is putting them at a higher risk of contracting STI’s and getting pregnant while in school.

The condoms we have distributed are for those who are unable to abstain. “Many young people are shy to go out and buy condoms in a shop because it is misinterpreted as a sign of promiscuity”, Nyirongo said.



Focus used the sporting activities bonanza as a bait to hook as many young people as they could into listening to facts about their reproductive health.

It is anticipated that young people in the district will get into a culture of not only

using condoms but using them consistently.

This is the second exercise of such nature to be conducted in the district.

Three months ago, the Ministry of Health through Karonga District Hospital

also distributed condoms.

The 2015 to 2016 health report indicates that in the northern region, Karonga has a highest HIV prevalence rate with about 9% within the age groups of 15 to 35.

And it has high pregnancy rates seconded by Nkhata Bay district which is mainly due to harmful cultural practices.

[Capital Radio Malawi]

### ✓ NAMIBIA: YOUTH URGED TO FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

**Windhoek, 6 December 2016** - THE Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service, Jerry Ekandjo, has appealed to the youth in Omusati Region to join hands and assist the government in fighting poverty and youth unemployment.

He said youth should join the mainstream by participating in youth expos as this will mitigate their lack of economic empowerment.

Ekandjo said this on Saturday at Ruacana where he officially opened the first

ever youth expo in the town. The expo was held from Friday to Sunday.

He said the youth expo is a great opportunity for the youth to meet with industry partners and customers, to study the activities of rivals and examine market trends and opportunities.

“The whole event was made feasible by three dedicated Ruacana Youth Forum members who faced some challenges during the preparation of the youth expo’s gala dinner and the expo itself, since the forum was in financial

constraints,” stated the youth minister.

He said the Ruacana Youth Forum seeks to empower fellow youth and tackle the scourge of youth unemployment.

It also aims to showcase the hidden talents of the youth towards social progress, socio-economic development and poverty eradication.

Ekandjo used the opportunity to thank institutions that responded to the request of the youth to help economically

empower them.

“I am therefore challenging other private and government institutions to come on board.

They should emulate the good example set by the sponsors, render support to youth economic empowerment and plough back into the community for the benefit of the youth,” he said.

[New Era]

### ✓ RWANDA: YOUTH URGED TO ADHERE TO HIV PREVENTION MEASURES

**Kigali, 6 December 2016** - YOUTH in the country have been urged to seek voluntary HIV testing to know their status while adhering to preventive tools to reverse the trend of high HIV prevalence among young people.

According to Rwanda Biomedical center (RBC), youth understanding of HIV and reproductive health is critical, as it affects their attitude to prevention mechanisms.

It is in this context that the RBC wants to put more

effort in sensitisation to make sure the youth get the right information to prevent HIV.

“We are reminding people, especially young people, that HIV/ AIDS is still a silent killer. Young people should be ahead of others in

preventing new infections because if they get the infection the country loses its future,” said Dr Placidie Mugwaneza, the director of HIV prevention Unit/RBC in an interview last week.

[The New Times]

### ✓ ZAMBIA: WWF ZAMBIA LAUNCHES A YOUTH CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

**Lusaka, 16 November 2016** - THE World Wide Fund in Zambia (WWF Zambia) has announced the launch of a youth-led initiative aimed at conserving the environment for generations to come.

In a brief statement, WWF Zambia is calling on young

people aged between 18 and 29 years of age to participate in its first ever youth engagement platform dubbed The Young Conservation Trailblazers Initiative (YCT).

The event will be held this Friday, November 18 from 09:30 to 12:30 at the Global

Platform in Lusaka.

“YCT is a unique WWF Zambia initiative aimed at raising awareness, enhancing advocacy and catalyzing youth action on conservation issues. WWF recognizes the power of the youth as opinion shapers

and drivers of change in society,” the statement read.

To participate in this event, young people are being advised to simply sign up by emailing the name, age, gender, and mobile number before midnight of Thursday, November 17.



WWF Zambia, formerly World Wildlife Fund Zambia was established in 1962 to support conservation of natural resources in Zambia.

Since 1962, WWF has been involved in various conservation activities to conserve Zambia's biodiversity upon which the nation's economy and livelihoods largely depend.

*[Lusaka Times]*

WWF



### ✓ BERMUDA: YOUTH PREMIER TO DELIVER YOUTH THRONE SPEECH

**Hamilton, 14 December 2016 - WARWICK**

Academy student Theo Wolffe is set to deliver his first Throne Speech as the new Youth Premier for Bermuda.

Youth Parliament Bermuda is an organization that trains young people in Parliamentary procedures whilst also promoting active citizenship.

Youth Parliamentarians gain exposure to the

functions of Government, parliamentary debate and are given the opportunity to interact with the Members of Parliament, Government officials and other persons from the wider community.

The Youth Parliament is made up of about 30 students, and they meet every Wednesday from 4pm -6pm at the House of Assembly where they discuss issues and ideas as they pertain to the youth of Bermuda.

They have formal debates, which are a culmination of their discussions each week.

They prepare and come up with the motions, prepare the speeches and invite guests in to discuss and share information that will help them get a better understanding of the youth issues.

Theo is serving his third term in the Youth Parliament was nominated this year to be put on the

Ballot to run as the Youth Premier.

Everyone that was nominated had to do an impromptu speech as to why they should be elected and what they would do as Premier, and on November 23rd was elected by his peers to serve as the Youth Premier.

[Bernews]

### ✓ CANADA: CAMPAIGN AIMS TO EDUCATE YOUTH ABOUT CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

**Ottawa, 5 December 2016 - WITH** potentially thousands of high-paying jobs going unfilled in Canada, Prime Minister Just Trudeau lent his voice Monday to a campaign aimed at encouraging young people to study computer science.

Trudeau joined the co-founders of Canada Learning Code and Code.org to mark the launch of Computer Science Education Week at an event called Hour of Code.

Founded four years ago by Seattle-based Hadi Partovi, the Hour of Code aims to ensure that every student in the developed world has an opportunity to, at the very least, learn the basic building blocks of computer coding.

"Kids at this age, in eighth grade, ninth grade, should be exposed to the basics of computer science," says Partovi.

But it doesn't mean that every student needs to be a software programmer, Trudeau told several dozen students gathered around

small tables at e-commerce firm Shopify's downtown Ottawa headquarters.

"Every job we're going to do in the future will rely on technology and be benefited if you are powerful users of the technology that surrounds us," Trudeau said.

While nearly all youth in Canada are tech consumers, they aren't given enough opportunities to actually build the technology they use, said Melissa Sariffodeen, who heads Ladies Learning Code.

A report released in March projected that Canada's economy will create at least 218,000 tech jobs between now and 2020.

But the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC) says there aren't enough people to fill them.

That's a concern for Trudeau, whose Liberal government campaigned during the last election on a platform grounded in building Canada's future

economy.

"This is part of making sure we have a great resource in terms of young people who understand how to code and understand how important it is," the prime minister said as he sat and watched young students navigate simple coding projects on small blue notebooks.

The not-for-profit ICTC has called for reforms to education and economic policies, including starting computer science education in kindergarten and offering tax credits to small businesses to hire IT people.

With so many jobs becoming tenuous as a result of changing technology, it's important that schools expose students to high-tech opportunities that could lead to more stable employment, Sariffodeen said.

Businesses are falling behind in adopting new technologies, she said, adding that more needs to be done to encourage women, aboriginals, immigrants and people with

disabilities to fill the country's high-tech gap.

"Parts, if not all, of our work will be transformed by technology," said Sariffodeen.

"So it's not just about creating (software) developers for the future, but it's about up-scaling Canadians as well to have enough understanding of technology that, as their jobs changes, they can keep up with them."

[TV News]



## ✓ DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: BUILDING A FUTURE FOR DOMINICAN YOUTH

**Santo Domingo, 14 December 2016** - NEARLY half of the population in the Dominican Republic is under the age of twenty-five and more than 30% of this youth population is unemployed.

For many young people in the Dominican Republic it is very difficult to get a first job and become independent.

For youth who were abandoned, orphaned or severely neglected as children, transitioning to independent adults can be an insurmountable challenge.

Thanks to the generous support of the Transat family of companies and its employees, vulnerable Dominican youth will have the opportunity to participate in the Construyendo Future (Building a Future) program.

This SOS program will help youth from SOS Children's Villages develop into healthy, resilient and independent adults who can contribute back to their communities.

The program provides youth with the skills of quality employment, tools to help

them find their first job, as well as training on how to manage their finance, to cook and stay healthy.

A total of 134 SOS youth across the Dominican Republic will benefit from this program.

"This Construyendo Futuro program is an incredible opportunity for growth and positive transformation for the youth living in the SOS Villages here.

Thanks to it, the SOS youth will be more focused and better oriented towards a brighter future.

This will be a future on which they will have control and be the main protagonists.

This program will give them the capacity to create their own path in life. Thank you Transat for making this a reality" shares Ms. Raquel Santos de Jesus, National Program Development Advisor at SOS Children's Village Dominican Republic.

*[Dominican Today]*

## ✓ JAMAICA: GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT LEGS PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

**Kingston, 11 December 2016** - THE Government will, early next year, commence implementation of a Work to Learn, Earn, Give and Save (LEGS) programme for youth, which will incorporate training, volunteerism and saving.

Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, said the initiative will be done through collaboration with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF).

Giving the keynote address at the 2016 National Volunteer Awards Banquet of the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS) at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in Kingston on December 8, he said the LEGS programme will be a formal way for the State to have all unattached youth in a programme where they are preparing to earn, while also giving back to society and learning to save.

"There will be a special programme of bringing in vulnerable, unattached young people where they will be getting a skill, a stipend and also giving service in critical national areas, and a part of that stipend (will go) to a compulsory-saving programme," the Prime Minister noted.

Mr. Holness explained that LEGS is in line with a policy direction on work by the Government, which dictates that all Jamaicans must be engaged in a meaningful, rewarding activity.

"They will have that for two years, and when they are finished and graduate from the programme, they can leave with something that they can use to really start out in life; to further their education or start a business," he said.

Mr. Holness said the

Government has also started the development of a Jamaican peace corps, which will engage Jamaicans born overseas and other members of the diaspora to serve in a structured voluntary programme.

"There are many Jamaicans born overseas who want to get to know or associate with Jamaica. I think that programme would bring the diaspora closer to us, create an understanding and, indeed, preserve the link between Jamaicans at home and Jamaicans abroad," he said.

The Prime Minister also announced that the Government is designing a programme that will utilise the services of retired persons for voluntary activities in a structured way.

*[Jamaica Information Service]*



### ✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: YOUTHS REMINDED OF IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

**Port of Spain, 2 December 2016** - THERE is simply no room in this whole wide world, for an uneducated little boy or girl.”

That was the reminder given to the students in attendance at the Esimaje’s Foundation’s launch of its Cradle to Career Pipeline Initiative by Senator Michael Coppin.

Coppin recalled the song of calypsonian Slinger “The Mighty Sparrow” Francisco, “Education” to emphasise to the young people present the importance of taking their education seriously, and taking advantage, specifically of the Cradle to Career Initiative started by the Esimaje Foundation, which aims to ensure a successful future for as many young people as possible.

Coppin told them, “When I was asked to say a few words today, what came to mind was a few words from the Mighty Sparrow who spoke about, and allow me to paraphrase, education, education gives you the right foundation.

“Our rising population needs sound education to be recognised anywhere you go/you must have your certificate to show. There is simply no room in this whole wide world for an uneducated little boy or girl. I think we can all agree that the problem of youth delinquency and youths not having a clear purpose in life, perhaps being the fundamental problem...”

Coppin also commended the Esimaje Foundation on its efforts to assist the youth of

the nation, saying that their philosophy is in line with the philosophy of the current Government’s, which is, involving volunteer organisations like Esimaje to help address the social problems afflicting the State.

He reminded attendees of Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley’s statement that the people of Trinidad and Tobago have to get rid of the “dependency syndrome,” that the State must always provide, and said that what he believed the PM meant to say that there should be a joint effort between the state and volunteer organisations to efficiently address the social ills facing the nation.

The programme in question aims to identify schools in high need communities, in order to improve existing educational resources.

*[Trinidad News]*

NEWS



### ✓ BANGLADESH: YOUTH SHOULD BE READY TO LEAD THE NATION

**Dhaka, 3 December 2016** - THE new generation should prepare themselves to turn the country into a developed one by taking lessons from the country's glorious past, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

The inaugural session of the fourth New Generations Seminar-2016 organised by the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga took place at Nabab Nawab Ali

Chowdhury Senate Bhaban at Dhaka University.

Around 600 Rotarians and students participated in the event.

The government will be able to reach its goal of establishing Bangladesh as a developed country by 2041 if the youth come to the front to lead the nation, State Minister for Youth and Sports Biren Sikder

said at the event.

The young generation should remember the sacrifice of the 30 lakh martyrs of the Liberation War and come forward to lead the country, said Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University.

MA Karim, president of Rotary Club Dhaka Buriganga and former

principal secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, and Rubina Husain, chairman of the seminar organising committee and vice president of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, also spoke.

*[The Daily Star]*

### ✓ INDIA: CHIEF MINISTER FELICITATES YOUNG TALENT IN YOUTH CONCLAVE

**Raipur, 7 December 2016** - RAIPUR district administration organized 'Youth Conclave and Civil Services' workshop to motivate ambitious youth to attain their passion and felicitated 13 talented youths of diverse arenas who brought laurels to Chhattisgarh.

The event was conducted at the local indoor stadium on Wednesday, wherein Chief Minister Raman Singh honored 13 youngsters, who contributed in the fields of agriculture, information technology, art and others with their innovative ideas.

In the conclave, 27 students from various remote areas of Chhattisgarh who

cracked competitive entrance exams and bagged admissions in IITs, NITs and medical colleges all over the country were also honored. Bureaucrats addressed students to inspire them to attempt for civil services.

While addressing the gathering of thousands of youth, Chief Minister Raman Singh said, "The youth of any nation is the biggest asset and they should be determined to achieve their targets in lives.

It is a matter of great pride that the youth from remotest parts of Chhattisgarh are also bringing name and fame at national and international arena.

Hence, for the holist and empowered future of the state and nation the ambitious youth should try to achieve their passion for the betterment of the society."

Raman Singh called upon the youth to make use of modern technology for their better future and were called upon to take pledge to make Chattisgarh 'Swachh'and Digital.

Agricultural Minister Brijmohan Agrawal called upon the youth to take pledge to make Chhattisgarh most progressive state in the country by 2020.

The youth were also encouraged to train their

parents and others in society to take up cashless transactions.

The dignitaries who motivated the youth included agriculture minister Brijmohan Agrawal, sports and youth development minister Bhaiyyalal Rajwade, MLAs Screechy Sundrani and Naveen Markandaya, State Agriculture and Seeds' Development Corporation chairman Shyam Bais, MARKFED chairman Radhakrishna Gupta and state child rights commission chairperson Shatabdi Pande were present.

*[Times of India]*

### ✓ KUWAIT: KUWAITI VOLUNTEERING LEADER URGES YOUTH TO ENGAGE

**Kuwait City, 5 December 2016** - IT is imperative for Kuwaiti youth to be involved in voluntary work for it is a realm where they can enhance their potentials and bolster national belonging, Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirmed.

Sheikh Amthal,

Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Voluntary Work Center, in a statement Monday, on the International Volunteer Day (IVD), assured the young citizens "that gates for such engagement is open for all and in various sectors."

She lauded vital role of government and private volunteering institutions,

namely the center, for promoting such action that helps in cementing Kuwait's ties with other nations.

Charitable and voluntary works have been proceeding well in the country, largely due to the continuing support by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

*[Kuwait News Agency]*



### ✓ THAILAND: MICROSOFT TEACHING DISABLED YOUTHS COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Bangkok, 9 December 2016** - MICROSOFT Corp is again giving disabled Thai youth educational and employment opportunities through the learning of computer science to boost both their families and the country's fortunes.

Siriporn Patcharawat of Microsoft (Thailand) Co. announced the fifth iteration of Microsoft's YouthSpark program in Thailand Nov 25 with Father Ray

Foundation Vice President Rev. Michael Picharn Jaiseri, Somsak Khaosuwan, deputy permanent secretary for the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, and executives from Charge Fusion.

The Microsoft Philanthropies project is a global initiative to increase access for all youth to learn computer science, empowering them to

achieve more for themselves, their families and their communities.

The company said on its website it has created educational, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for more than 300 million youths around the world.

This year's project in Thailand aims to educate 7,000 youths 6,000 in rural areas and 1,000 disabled

students to help them be better prepared for the digital economy.

*[Pattaya Mail]*

### ✓ OMAN: BP OMAN AND YOUTH VISION RENEW FINANCIAL LITERACY INITIATIVE

**Muscat, 5 December 2016** - AFTER receiving immensely positive feedback and requests for ongoing engagement, BP Oman's Social Investment Programme (SIP) has reaffirmed its commitment to Youth Vision's Baisa Programme.

The partnership continues its journey across the nation nurturing young nationals with critical knowledge on money management, financial literacy, planning and investments.

Guiding youth towards more secure financial futures, the relaunched initiative goes beyond its original scope of college students and now welcomes jobseekers and those new to employment.

"We realise the importance of the youth's understanding of the fundamentals of finance in order to make sound monetary decisions, thus we are furthering our mission to instill greater financial awareness and inspire productive future decisions.

Lead by our 'Implementing

Partner INJAZ Oman, the Baisa Programme has evolved and will cover high level topics and opportunities, in addition to the basics of savings and financial resources," said Shamsa Al Rawahi, Social Investment Programme Office at BP Oman.

"In partnership with Youth Vision, we held engagement session to seek feedback from students, leaders in the Finance field including the BP Oman finance team, and some SMEs experts to develop this programme further," he added.

The initiative delivers the tools and resources needed to enhance the capability of young Omanis to make sound monetary decisions, enabling them to become greater economic citizens in a nation of rapid emergence.

Financial literacy amongst young adults remains an area of continued focus in Oman to ensure increased competencies bolster the nation's socio-economic growth.

The renewal of BP Oman's partnership with Youth

Vision under its Social Investment Programme has empowered over 750 Omanis to date in Muscat, Al Buraimi, Nizwa, Ibri, Sur, Sohar, Salalah and Al Rustaq.

*[Times of Oman]*





### ✓ AZERBAIJAN: YOUNG ECOLOGISTS PROJECT IMPLEMENTED AT BHOS

**Baku, 18 December 2016** - YOUNG Ecologists project has been successfully implemented at Baku Higher Oil School (BHOS).

The project author is Mustafa Asgarov, a fifth-year Petroleum Engineering student from BHOS who became a winner of 8th contest for grants of the Youth Foundation under the

President of the Azerbaijan Republic.

During the project implementation, 140 students from various universities of Azerbaijan participated in meetings with environmental specialists and discussed topics related to environment protection issues, ecological problems and the problems solutions.

On the final day of the project, a poster-drawing contest was held among project participants divided into teams. Each team was presented with a certain environmental issue and assigned to design a poster reflecting the issue and possible ways to address it.

Based on the contest results, members of the winning

teams received diplomas. The Young Ecologists Project was implemented with financial support from the Youth Foundation under the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, while the Student Senate of Baku Higher Oil School provided organizational support to the project.

[AZERTAC News]

### ✓ CROATIA: PRIVATE SECTOR YOUTH INITIATIVE CREATES 500 INTERNSHIPS IN CROATIA

**Zagreb, 12 December 2016** - THE Private Sector Youth Initiative launched in October by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Croatian Employers' Association (HUP) has mobilised more than 500 internships to date, the EBRD said on Monday.

Since launching, 110 companies and 21 academic institutions have joined the initiative this response has exceeded all our expectations," Davor Majetic, HUP director general, is quoted as saying in an EBRD statement issued following the annual meeting of the Croatian Employers' Association in

Zagreb.

The goal of the initiative is to address the skills mismatch of young people and barriers of progression for young women.

To achieve these goals, the EBRD and HUP are working closely with private sector companies, professional women associations and academic institutions.

This is a big and very encouraging success but it is just the beginning," added Vedrana Jelusic Kasic, EBRD director, regional head of Croatia, Hungary, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The registration process is still open and we expect many more opportunities to be available once the online promotion has started. Croatia has the third highest youth unemployment rate in the European Union, currently sitting at 43%.

This persistently high figure is leading many young people to search for jobs and opportunities abroad.

This represents not only a loss of talent and skills within Croatia but it will also have an impact on the country's long-term growth", the EBRD explained.

The next steps for the

Private Sector Youth Initiative will be the registration of companies and academic institutions, posting employers' advertisements online and enrolling students from partner academic institutions in December 2016 and January 2017.

This will be followed by the training of mentors, the start of the first internships and four regional events in Zagreb, Osijek, Split and Rijeka - to present the initiative to employers and educational institutions.

[SeeNews]

### ✓ MALTA: NYC CALLS FOR FURTHER INCLUSION IN POLICY MAKING

**Valletta, 13 December 2016** - THE Maltese National Youth Council together with the European Youth Forum have sent a letter to Prime Minister Joseph Muscat ahead of his European Council Meeting, where they called for further involvement of youth throughout policy making.

By involving today's youth

and citizens at large in the EU policy-making process, this would provide a real chance to achieve societal change, they wrote.

They also called for further youth programmes, saying this would be a step further from providing jobs for youths.

These highly contribute to bringing us together and to

developing a common sense of belonging.

Youth programmes also support youth organisations that create space for young people to learn and organise.

[The Malta Independent]



### ✓ ROMANIA: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN ROMANIA, STILL AT A HIGH LEVEL

**Bucharest, 4 December 2016** - ROMANIAN youth unemployment remained at a high level last year with a rate of 21.7%.

By comparison, the unemployment among young people at EU level amounted to 20.3% on average, according to data published by Eurostat.

Despite the fact that the unemployment rate among the young people of Romania dropped from 23.7% in 2013 to 21.7% in 2015, it remains at a worrying level.

The lowest young unemployment rate was recorded in Germany, with 7.2%.

The highest rates were seen in Greece, where almost 50% of the young people that can work don't have a job, and Spain, where the unemployment rate among young people amounted to 48.3%.

The general unemployment rate totalled 5.8% in Romania in October.

The lowest rate was recorded in the Czech Republic (3.8%) whereas the highest one was seen in Greece (23.4%). The EU average reached 8.3%.

*[Romania-Insider.com]*

### ✓ SLOVAKIA: MOST SLOVAK YOUTHS SUPPORT EXTREMISTS

**Bratislava, 8 December 2016** - THE passivity of the younger generation against hateful actions corresponds to the total passive approach to civic engagement in the online environment, analysts say.

Up to 84 percent of young people in Slovakia have had an experience with hateful behaviour on the internet, according to the study *Young People in Cyberspace Opportunities and Risks for Democracy* by the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), the TASR newswire reported.

Although 68 percent of younger people consider hateful social site statuses, notes, comments and videos a serious social problem, three quarters (76 percent) of them demonstrate passive behaviour towards the haters.

The largest proportion of passive youth (33 percent) maintains their passivity as they deem the actions of the haters a manifestation of free will, said the author of the study and IVO analyst Marián Velšic.

“Another 28 percent does nothing because according to them such reactions do

not make sense and 15 percent do not neglect the importance of reactions,” said Velšic, as quoted by TASR.

Respondents to the survey indicated that they most frequently encounter the attitudes of hate on social network (69 percent) and in discussions about common internet media articles (45 percent).

Velšic pointed out that 10 percent of respondents actively fight against hate speech and intolerance at least by warning the administrators of the sites.

“Only 1 percent declared that they would alert state authorities in the case of such expressions and possible violations of the law,” said Velšic.

Analysts reported similar findings in the so-called internet trolling, the provocation of participants in discussions and the disruption of objective discussions.

Despite the fact that up to 94 percent of respondents declared that they encounter the actions, their reactions are again passive, according to Velšic.

Velšic pointed out that the situation corresponds to the total passive approach of the younger generation to civic engagement in the online environment.

Most young people read posts and opinions within discussions, give likes to statuses or read blogs, he said.

“However, only 6 to 9 percent use expressions of engagement via their own blogs, the organisation of petitions or the establishment of their own websites,” said Velšic, as cited by TASR.

IVO conducted data collection for the survey in cooperation with the Focus agency and with the support of the ESET Foundation in September 2016.

The survey consisted of 1,083 respondents aged 18 to 39 years, TASR wrote.

*[The Slovak Spectator]*





### ✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH BELIEVE MENTAL HEALTH IS THE ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY

**Canberra, 5 December 2016** - YOUNG people have put the spotlight on mental health in a new survey, naming it as one of the top three issues facing Australia.

Mission Australia's Youth Survey this year found concerns about mental health across the country have doubled since 2011.

About 22,000 young people aged 15 to 19 took part in the survey and more than 20 per cent cited mental health as among their top national issues.

Alcohol and drugs was cited as their top concern, followed by equity and discrimination.

Mission Australia chief

executive Catherine Yeomans said concerns about mental health were at their highest level in the survey's 15-year history.

"If young people are telling us that they think this is one of the top three concerns facing the nation, then we should sit up and pay attention and we should think about whether we've

got the right responses in place," she said.

"Let's look at the issues that [we] are facing right across the country and put in programs that are going to support young people."

[ABC]

### ✓ FIJI: "WALKING OUT CORRUPTION" CAMPAIGN BEGINS

**Suva, 7 December 2016** - YOUTH Integrity volunteers and Community Representatives walk from Tailevu to Suva over a five day period

The "Walking out Corruption" Campaign will see youth integrity volunteers and community representatives walking from Tailevu to Suva over a five day period.

"We intend to educate the public on the importance of integrity and anti corruption," said Transparency Fiji's walk

out corruption organiser, Jofiliti Veikoso.

Mr Veikoso said they would stop over in selected villages such as Nayavu, Nasautoka, and Dakuivuna among others in the evenings and have informal talanoa sessions on integrity.

"Corruption could be one of the biggest tragedies of mankind for the simple reason that it is ongoing and difficult to combat," he said.

The organisation would like

to work closely with Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption (FICAC) and civil society organisations to ensure that those who are victims or witnesses to corruption can come forward and report it.

Executive director of Transparency International, Koila Kabu said the campaign was a lead-up to the International Anti-Corruption Day that was celebrated globally on December 9.

"Our Walk Out Corruption programme will bring us

back to Suva on Friday where we will have a special event highlighting the need to inculcate integrity values and the importance of working with anti corruption agencies like FICAC," said Ms Kabu.

Ms Kabu thanked all corporate donors and the community for their generous donation of resources that would be used in the Campaign and the International Anti-Corruption Day event this Friday.

[Fiji Sun Online]

### ✓ SAMOA: A REAL CONCERN FOR THE YOUTH OF SAMOA

**Apia, 2 December 2016** - THE negative behaviour of the youth has been a constant problem for Samoa and the fact that people see it as a norm is a real worry.

That's the view of Ioane Iatimo, from the village of Tufuiopa, and he says it is time for change. He explains that the problem isn't anything new in Samoa and that's why there's a need for change.

Walking around town, Ioane says he has noticed young people smoking, drinking and getting up to

all sorts of trouble.

"I have grown more and more concerned with the youth of today," he told the Village Voice.

"Just walk around and you will see some young people smoking; some hide and drink. Their behaviour is unacceptable and I am sure that it is the cause of so many problems in this nation.

"Sometimes I just can't believe it; youth aged 15 and under are smoking. There are those youth who

can't find jobs and resort to theft to make a living.

"If you look properly around town, you will find these types of youth."

Asked about his thoughts on the recent beating of a youth at the village of Talimatau, he says there are many similar cases.

"There are many cases like that," he said.

"Many village kids come and muck around town and cause a lot of trouble. They try and force people to give

them what they want, they beat people up, and they just cause so many problems for everyone.

"It's nothing new and that needs to change."

He says the solution lies with the government, village and families of the youth.

One solution I know for problems like this is for the government to get their police officers on track," Ioane said.



“When things like this happen and the police are contacted, they arrive when everything is over and everyone has left. They are often late to the scene.

“Another solution for this issue is for the village heads to be serious about their punishment. This is the work for everyone; it takes a village to raise the youth.

“But at the end of the day,

it’s the duty of the parents to keep their children in line.”

Aside from issues with the youth, Ioane says that there are many people struggling in Samoa.

“We see it all over Samoa; there are a lot of families, who struggle,” he said.

“There are some families who can’t afford to put their

children through school because they barely make enough money to survive.

“There are many people who are doing well with life but there are also many who don’t.”

And to make matter worse, Ioane says that the high cost of living is hitting everyone hard.

“On top of all the struggling

families in Samoa, we have a really high cost of living in this country,” he said.

“Items in the shops are getting more and more expensive. Some basic items that every family needs in life are becoming unaffordable.”

*[Samoa Observer]*

### ✓ TONGA: YOUTH URGE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE WITH POWERFUL MESSAGE

**Nuku’alofa, 5 December 2016** - ON a little stage in Nuku’alofa, a powerful resonating message has emerged from a small group of young performers who, in raising awareness of

climate change, are urging everyone to take heed of the imminent danger.

*[Matangi Tonga Online]*

### ✓ TUVALU: SOUTH CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME SEES YOUTHS RECEIVE SOS TRAINING

**Funafuti, 10 December 2016** - FORTY-FIVE Tuvaluan youths were beneficiaries of the first Tuvalu Seeds of Success (SOS) empowerment training programme held in Funafuti, Tuvalu.

Tuvalu’s youth on the 12 Seeds of Success to increase youth self-esteem, confidence, abilities, self-worth and qualities to enhance their capacity to explore identified opportunities.

training, five officials from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Civil Service facilitated the programme on the island.

*[Fiji Sun Online]*

The training was made possible through the South-South Co-operation programme (SSCP) under the Ministry of Civil Service and funded by the Japan International Co-operation Agency.

As an outcome of the training, participating youths were expected to identify social issues and challenges they face daily as well as to recognize skills and talents that could be used to address these challenges.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports provided its training expertise to deliver the SOS content to the young Tuvaluans, four of whom were persons with special needs.

In addition, Tuvaluan youths were motivated and encouraged to change their mind set and to contribute to their community’s interests.

The week-long training, which was held from November 21 to 25, was conducted to empower

The SOS training in Tuvalu was in line with the Government’s commitment to support its neighboring countries in the Pacific region and as part of the



✓ WAY: SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM WAY



Malacca, 23 December 2016 - DEAR esteem Members and Colleagues,

Season's greetings from all of us at the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) Headquarters in Melaka, Malaysia!

Our utmost gratitude goes out to our members, sponsors, partners, volunteers, speakers and numerous affiliates for their collaboration and support rendered the past year.

We would like to wish all of you a happy holiday season, and extend our best regards on behalf of the WAY Executive Committee and Secretariat.

We trust that 2017 will be a great year to tackle and address even more challenging youth issues and look forward to another fruitful year ahead.

Our doors will always remain open to the youth of the world.

Merry Christmas 2016 and Happy New Year 2017!

Best wishes and regards,

WAY Secretariat



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