8TH ARAB-EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

14-19 October 2024

Youth City, Luxor, Egypt

Forum Report

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Abbreviations

CoE -Council of Europe

CMJ – Joint Council on Youth

H.E. His/Her excellency

LAS -League of Arab States

NFL- Non-formal learning

UN -United Nations

EU-CoE Youth Partnership -Partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of youth

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This report has been drafted by Dr. Mary Drosopoulos

All pictures included in this document have been taken by the rapporteur.

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe or of the League of Arab States.

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Executive Summary

The Council of Europe has supported dialogue between youth organisations and institutions concerned with youth policy practically since its inception. This support takes a particular focus on capacity-building for human rights education, intercultural dialogue and development of non-formal education. Co-operation with the League of Arab States has been an important part of this work, with a primary focus on the promotion of intercultural dialogue, youth participation and youth policy co-operation.

Arab-European youth cooperation remains a priority for both the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States youth sectors. The last joint activity co-organised by the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States, with their respective partners, was the 7th Euro-Arab Youth Forum, focused on *Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security,* held in Budapest in November 2019. This forum took place a few months before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which interrupted all shared activities.

The 8th Arab-European Youth Forum was an opportunity to resume this longstanding collaboration with a view to reset and re-launch the cooperation between young people and youth movements affiliated to the two organisations. This year's edition, themed *"Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,* was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Egypt from 14 to 19 October 2024 at the 'Youth City', located in the periphery of the historic city of Luxor, Egypt.

Home to some of the most impressive UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Egypt, Luxor is the modern city built on and around the site of the ancient city of Thebes – formerly the capital of Egypt during parts of the Middle Kingdom and the New Kingdom. This location, with its rich history, provided an excellent context for young people to exchange, learn and reassess their own role as agents of dialogue, innovation and change, as well as to consider their role as carriers and communicators of cultural heritage.

The Forum aimed to promote dialogue and cooperation among young people and organisations cooperating with the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States, by sharing expectations for intercultural dialogue and cooperation, and exchanging perspectives on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on young people within the broader Arab and European contexts.

The forum provided space for intercultural dialogue among young people from different backgrounds and geographies; allowed them to explore the role of history and ancient civilisations in shaping today's understanding of cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence; resulted in young people developing a common understanding of the potential benefits and risks that Artificial Intelligence represents for young people and intercultural dialogue; and enhanced mutual understanding about the priorities and working methods of the youth policy sectors of the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe.

The programme combined expert-led sessions with interactive workshops and cultural experiences, enabling participants to share insights and co-create solutions for sustaining dialogue and cooperation. Through workshops, participants exchanged views on the key contemporary issues and concerns affecting young people from the regions, including on environment protection and climate change, youth participation, and mutual perceptions and stereotypes. Visits to Luxor's historic landmarks, including the Karnak Temple and the Valley

of the Kings, enriched the forum by emphasising the lessons of ancient civilisations in shaping contemporary cultural diversity and coexistence.

AI, a driving force in today's global landscape, was a central topic throughout the forum. Plenary discussions and participatory workshops explored the risks and opportunities associated with AI on education, employment, and misinformation and media literacy. Participants examined how AI could be harnessed as a tool to bridge cultural divides, foster mutual understanding, and to address shared concerns and aspirations. These conversations underscored the necessity of equipping young people with the skills and knowledge to navigate AI's rapid advancements responsibly and ethically.

A major outcome of the forum was the *Luxor Declaration*, a collaboratively developed document that captures the shared vision of Arab and European youth for advancing ethical AI, bridging cultural divides, and addressing key global issues. The declaration outlines actionable commitments to strengthen cooperation and advance youth priorities.

By providing a collaborative space to address shared priorities, the 8th Arab-European Youth Forum reaffirmed the role of young people as catalysts for positive change in an increasingly interconnected and technologically driven world.

Reporting methodology

Physically present at the event, the rapporteur was uniquely positioned to capture the 8th Arab-European Youth forum's intricate dynamics through direct observation and interactive engagement.

Epistemologically speaking, a mix of qualitative and quantitative reporting methods were employed, such as ethnographic observation, note-taking, document collection, digital resources, focus groups and semi-structured interviews with participants, as well as analysis of insights shared through an online evaluation survey. The methodology was deliberately comprehensive, designed to capture not just the official proceedings, but the living, breathing dialogue of young people from diverse regions who are grappling with complex global challenges.

During parallel sessions, the rapporteur counted on the systematic collection of evaluation sheets from facilitators, which provided structured insights into each session's outcomes. The participants themselves became indispensable collaborators in the reporting process: They generously shared their perspectives, highlighting what they considered the most significant moments and insights of the forum.

The forum's group chat and the Moodle Platform proved to be unexpectedly powerful tools. Here, participants freely exchanged links, resources, and informal reflections that added depth to the official narratives. Posters displayed throughout the venue served as critical reference points, offering visual summaries and additional context to the discussions. Last but not least, informal interviews and impromptu focus groups allowed rich, contextual data to be gathered. Participants from different countries shared nuanced perspectives on AI's impact on intercultural communication, providing a multi-layered understanding that went far beyond formal presentations.

Overall, the aim has been to create a textured and multi-dimensional report that goes beyond traditional documentation approaches, and which captures the essence of the forum—its

tensions, hopes, and the intricate ways young people from different cultural backgrounds navigate the complex intersection of technology, communication, and cultural understanding.

Introduction

Setting the context: About the Forum

The “Arab-European Youth Forum” has been a cornerstone of intercultural dialogue and youth empowerment for over a decade. Emerging from the joint efforts of the Council of Europe and League of Arab States (LAS), this forum exemplifies the enduring commitment of these organisations to fostering understanding and cooperation among youth in both regions. Since its inception, the forum has tackled pressing issues such as peace, migration, and human rights, while adapting to the evolving needs of young people in a rapidly changing world.

The thematic topics of focus covered throughout the forum's history are reflective of its dynamic responsiveness to global events. From its early years, marked by activities addressing intercultural dialogue, to the poignant focus on youth resilience during the Arab Spring, the ongoing “refugee crises”, and the resurgence of populism and xenophobia, the forum has cultivated platforms for transformative engagement, heightening the relevance of youth-led dialogue. The forum’s significance has grown in the context of global and regional geopolitical developments. These challenges have reinforced the importance of shared efforts to combat hate speech, promote equality, and foster sustainable development. By connecting grassroots aspirations to institutional action, the forum has enabled young people to influence policy, contribute to peacebuilding, and address shared global concerns.

Most recently, the 7th edition of the Euro-Arab Youth Forum in Budapest (2019), organised in conjunction with the European Youth Forum, focused on the role of youth in promoting peace and security, aligning with global initiatives like the UN Security Council Resolution 2250.

The global disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic stalled in-person collaboration, the 2024 forum in Luxor, provided a crucial opportunity to relaunch and reaffirm commitment to Arab-European partnership.

The declarations written by young participants at each forum stand as enduring testaments to this mission, serving as roadmaps for collective follow-up action. These documents, rich with the voices and visions of youth, articulate collective goals and actionable strategies for tackling shared challenges. From the Fez Declaration on Youth, Peace and Inclusion (2017), which called for unity against extremism, to the Budapest declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2019), which emphasises youth participation in peacebuilding and Euro-Arab dialogue for inclusive societies, these statements have consistently demonstrated the power of youth in shaping policy and fostering meaningful democratic participation.

Luxor’s selection as the venue of this year’s edition is steeped in symbolism. Known as a historic meeting point of civilisations, Luxor embodies the shared heritage that underscores Arab-European dialogue. Reuniting after five years, the 2024 forum is not only a testament to resilience but also a reflection of a joint commitment to sustained intercultural dialogue and commitment to addressing contemporary challenges affecting young people.

Through its evolution, the forum has consistently emphasised the importance of dialogue as a tool for mutual understanding, learning, and action. This year’s focus on intercultural dialogue in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) reflects the forum’s forward-looking ethos,

exploring how AI can be harnessed to enhance intercultural dialogue while addressing its potential risks, such as misinformation and social inequalities.

Participants from 31 Arab and European countries participated in this edition, namely Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Palestine, Serbia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, as well as host country Egypt.

The event was hosted at the International Youth Hostel in Luxor, a complex situated in the Medina area, a quieter part of the city near the Nile's west bank. The hostel is part of the Egyptian Youth Hostel Association (EYHA), which links it to a broader network of youth-oriented spaces across the country, collectively aim to empower young people by promoting affordable travel, cultural immersion, and a sense of global citizenship.

Making links – The Work of the Council of Europe and League of Arab States

Both the Council of Europe and League of Arab States have undertaken extensive policy work on intercultural dialogue and AI. This section provides a short overview of the key initiatives of the lead institutions related to these topics.

Council of Europe initiatives relevant to the Forum's topic

Intercultural Dialogue

The Council of Europe extensively promotes intercultural dialogue as a mechanism to strengthen social cohesion and democracy. Publications and frameworks include:

- **White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue**: This foundational document outlines strategies to foster mutual understanding in diverse societies, emphasising education, cultural exchange, and participatory dialogue.
- **Intercultural cities programme:** This initiative is has resulted in the development of various reports and tools, that offer guidance on integrating cultural diversity as a resource for urban development.
- **Youth Initiatives**: Council of Europe publications in the youth sector highlight intercultural education as essential to combating stereotypes and enhancing dialogue. These publications often intersect with AI topics, emphasising how technology can support or hinder cultural understanding.
- **Reykjavík declaration** (2023): This declaration, adopted during the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe, highlights – among others – the importance of adapting to new technological developments, including AI, to safeguard human rights and democratic values. The declaration underscores the need for governance frameworks that address emerging technological challenges. AI is addressed within the broader context of technology's potential to either support or undermine democracy, emphasising the importance of ensuring transparency, accountability, and human dignity in all technological developments.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The Council of Europe has been at the forefront of shaping ethical frameworks and legal standards for Artificial Intelligence. The 2023 publication 'The Council of Europe & Artificial Intelligence', provides a comprehensive overview of the organisation's work on AI.

Key publications and initiatives include:

- **The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence**: This is the first legally binding international treaty aimed at ensuring AI systems align with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. It addresses ethical issues, regulatory needs, and the lifecycle of AI technologies.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Education report**: This critical analysis explores AI's growing role in education, emphasising its implications for privacy, agency, and

human dignity. It advocates for "AI literacy" and highlights the dual need to educate about AI and with AI tools.

- **Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence and Data Protection**: These guidelines assist stakeholders in ensuring AI applications respect data protection rights, addressing challenges arising from AI's use in sensitive domains.
- **Insights into artificial intelligence and its impact on young people**: This report is an outcome of a seminar organised by the Youth Partnership between the European Union and Council of Europe (EU-CoE) Youth Partnership. It gathers the main ideas, recommendations and conclusions brought by participants, experts and guests. The publication explores AI as both an enabler and a challenge, highlighting its potential for creative and productive applications in youth work, such as generating content for projects or creating new training curricula, as well as discussing the risks, such as misinformation, privacy concerns, and the potential for AI to perpetuate harmful content, including deepfakes.

These initiatives reflect the Council of Europe's commitment to ensuring that AI development and implementation are aligned with fundamental values of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, creating a framework for responsible AI use in society.

League of Arab States initiatives relevant to the Forum's topic

Prior to the Arab-European Youth Forum, the League of Arab States (LAS) engaged in various activities that linked Artificial Intelligence (AI) and intercultural dialogue, with a focus on youth and innovation. Here are some key initiatives among the various efforts:

Intercultural Dialogue and Youth Engagement

- **AI for Arab Cultural heritage:** LAS organised events and workshops focused on the role of digital tools and AI in preserving and promoting Arab cultural heritage. These included efforts to use AI for documenting intangible heritage and fostering intercultural understanding.
- **Youth Dialogue Platforms:** LAS actively supported youth forums and workshops on topics like media literacy, combating stereotypes, and fostering mutual understanding through digital tools.

AI in Education and Youth Empowerment

- **Strategies for Digital and AI Innovation:** LAS developed and promoted strategies to integrate AI into educational systems and youth-oriented programs across its member states. These initiatives aimed to enhance digital literacy, improve access to educational resources, and prepare young people for AI-driven job markets (UNESCO 2021; Business wire 2024; Mirage 2021).
- **Collaborations on Digital Literacy** and **Digital Inclusion Week:** LAS collaborated with regional organisations to provide training in AI and technology, particularly to youth, aiming to bridge the digital divide and empower marginalised communities

Publications and Policy Recommendations

- LAS worked on frameworks advocating for ethical AI use in intercultural dialogue. Their policies emphasised transparency, protection of privacy, and equitable access to AI technologies, with youth as central stakeholders.
- Reports and guidelines were shared among member states to ensure inclusivity and human rights compliance in AI deployment, particularly in sectors affecting young populations.

These efforts underscore the League of Arab States' commitment to combining technological advancement with cultural and social dialogue to empower youth and promote global understanding.

Programme

This section provides an overview of the forum programme, detailing the key discussions and insights from each day. The full programme can be found in Appendix 1.

Day 1: Monday 14 October – Welcome Evening

Get Together: Welcome evening

On the evening of 14 October, an introductory session brought together a diverse group of participants for a get-together event. The session was designed to break down barriers and create connections among attendees.

The evening began with a multilingual welcome, with facilitators speaking in both English and Arabic, setting a tone of inclusivity. The first segment of the evening focused on introducing the team and showcasing the collaborative spirit of the event. Participants were introduced to facilitators, rapporteurs, and volunteers, helping everyone understand the event's structure.

The facilitators introduced a series of ice-breaking activities that went far beyond typical introductions. A playful name game was followed by an energetic ball game where participants tossed a ball while calling out names, creating a dynamic and lively environment. The session then moved to more creative exercises, including a visual mapping of countries and sociometric activities that had participants lining up based on unique criteria like travel hours, birthdates, and previous event experiences.

The highlight of the evening was a "molecular speed dating" session, where participants explored personal connections to the forum's topics, shared imaginative thoughts about superpowers, recommended must-read books and movies, and even dreamed up potential projects to strengthen Euro-Arab youth cooperation.

By the end of the session, the initial strangers had already started deepening connections and relationships. The organisers concluded the evening with practical announcements and a tour of the venue, ensuring everyone felt comfortable and oriented for the upcoming days of the forum. On return to the Youth Centre, the group were greeted by a group of local musicians performing traditional music and song, resulting in a spontaneous outbreak of dancing that further developed connections amongst the participants.

This introductory session was more than just a meet-and-greet; a non-formal learning approach, designed as per intercultural education methods, sought to build community, foster understanding, and to create a foundation for productive dialogue and cooperation.

Day 2: Tuesday 15 October - The Context for Dialogue

The forum kicks off! (both informally and …formally)

Before describing the proceedings of the day, it might be worth clarifying the significance of having two openings on the same morning, an informal and a formal, or 'official' one.

Official openings play a crucial role in the overall impact of major events like the Arab-European Youth Fora. These ceremonies are far more than formalities; they set the tone for the event, establish its importance, and bring together key stakeholders, participants, and the audience in a shared sense of purpose. The official opening serves as a formal launch, providing a platform for dignitaries, officials, and prominent figures to underscore the event's importance and highlight its strategic goals. This also garners media attention, amplifying the event's reach and influence. Moreover, the ceremony per se usually serves as a platform for cultural expression and identity, which is particularly significant in a diverse gathering of this kind.

In contrast, the informal opening – dedicated to young participants and the immediate organising team – fosters a more relaxed and personal environment, promoting camaraderie, creativity, and a sense of ownership among those directly involved. It also provides a valuable space for the organising team to connect personally with participants - following their digital interaction through the Moodle platform, set a collaborative tone, and address logistical or programmatic details in a more approachable setting.

This dual structure is particularly meaningful in youth-focused events. Together, these complementary openings balance formality with inclusivity, ensuring that all stakeholders feel valued and aligned with the forum's mission from the very start.

Informal introduction

The informal opening of the 8th Arab-European Youth Forum set the stage for the entire event, providing participants an overview of the Forum's history, objectives, and potential impact.

Before the session kicks off, an energetic "speed meeting" exercise challenged participants to break out of their comfort zones. In just 15 minutes, attendees were tasked with meeting three new people, sharing their backgrounds, motivations, and personal experiences. The room buzzed with conversation as participants exchanged not just words, but a piece of their personal stories - sharing meaningful moments, discussing their involvement in intercultural dialogue, and even teaching each other phrases in their mother tongue languages.

Experiences and Expectations

This session, which started on the 2nd day and extended to the 3rd day, as participants continued providing input.

Participants were asked to share their expectations for the forum, their hopes for Arab-European dialogue and to share their experience with the forums topics.

"Experiences and Expectations"; a creative reflection exercise using colourful post-it notes.

Participants were invited to explore their experiences from multiple perspectives. Pink notes captured personal hopes, green notes focused on Forum expectations, orange notes mapped long-term aspirations for Arab-European dialogue, and yellow notes highlighted unique skills and experiences each individual brought to the table.
The facilitators sought balance, requesting eight volunteers - four from Arab countries and four from European countries - to help collate and synthesise the emerging ideas. As participants placed their notes around the room, the space transformed into a living mosaic of hopes, dreams, and potential, where participants found unexpected connections. In the final plenary session, the volunteer participants synthesised the collective insights, revealing the rich tapestry of expectations for the Forum. The session acknowledged that while participants came from diverse backgrounds, they are united by a common desire for meaningful dialogue, understanding, and collaborative potential.

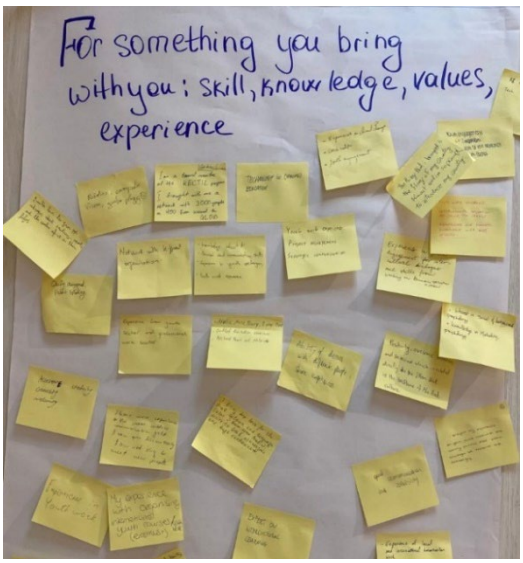
Participants' **expectations** of the Forum can be summarised as follows:

- Networking: Longstanding collaborations, new friendships, synergies and connections with other cultures.
- Exploring different approaches to youth: Understanding how youth work and youth policy functions in other regions.
- Understanding AI policies in different regions: Exploring potential and limitations, ethics, legislation, accreditation.
- Getting insights into AI's impact on young people: Links between AI dominance and learning ability; the future of education, mental health, labour market.

- Having fun!

Participants' **contributions** towards the Forum can be summarised as follows:

- Youth work insights
- Organisational skills
- Acceptance
- Generosity
- Good manners and etiquette in different cultures
- Technical skills, AI, robotics



After participants shared their experiences and expectations, representatives of the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe welcomed the participants and outlined the key aims and objectives of the forum, setting a tone of collaboration and shared purpose.

Speeches by Rui Gomes of the Council of Europe and Nourhan Saleh of the League of Arab States underscored the significance of the Forum amidst regional challenges.

Both speakers highlighted young people's pivotal role in fostering Arab-European cooperation and addressing AI's potential to both challenge and enhance cultural connections.

'We want you to feel part of the process; you are at the centre of the Forum', said Rui Gomes while addressing the young people at the plenary.

'Young people are agents of dialogue, that is why they should be empowered', said Nourhan Saleh.

They also commented on the symbolism of having the Forum in Luxor, a crossroads of civilisations, bridging the past with the present.

'Sometimes ancient Luxor is more visible than present Luxor. Nevertheless, we should not let the past blind us', said Rui Gomes.

The agenda introduced participants to the Forum's theme, *"Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence"*, and its broader context, tracing the history of co-operation between the organisations. Reference was made to prior forums in Jordan, Morocco, and Hungary, situating this gathering within a broader tradition of Arab-European dialogue.

A central focus was the drafting of the *Luxor Declaration*, envisioned as a framework for sustaining collaboration and intercultural engagement. An overview of the Luxor Declaration was provided, and participants were invited to lead this process throughout the week, as will be further explained in the following pages.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, allowing participants to clarify objectives and align expectations. This engagement reinforced the Forum's emphasis on active participation and prepared attendees to delve into its detailed agenda.

Highlights of the informal opening; connections with the entire programme

AI's vision of Arab-Euro youth and intercultural dialogue

When Rui Gomes asked ChatGPT to generate a picture illustrating the Arab-Euro Youth Forum in Luxor, he was surprised – not to say disappointed – by the result.

The AI tool created an image depicting a group of young people interacting in a circle which was located in a historic site combining the Karnak Temple, the Pyramids of Giza and a gigantic Pharaoh statue. What was surprising was not how all these historic landmarks ended up together occupying the same space, but rather the blatant homogeneity among the group: The depicted 'participants' looked mundanely similar; all white, all dressed in blue jeans and T-shirts, with some carrying backpacks.

'ChatGPT, you know nothing!', said the speaker humorously. 'Where is the inclusion, where is the intercultural dialogue?'

Consequently, he shared with the audience how he had asked ChatGPT to regenerate the picture and bring it closer to the Forum's values of respectful co-existence and unity in diversity.

This time, there was a certain level of diversity among the characters; some avatars wore glasses, while some others were in a headscarf. There were no backpacks this time, yet, the blue jeans remained (ChatGPT was adamant on this). In this version, participants were depicted sitting around a table, but glued to their phones and tablets. The question that sparked the discussion was:

"What can an AI-generated picture tell us about dominant social stereotypes?"

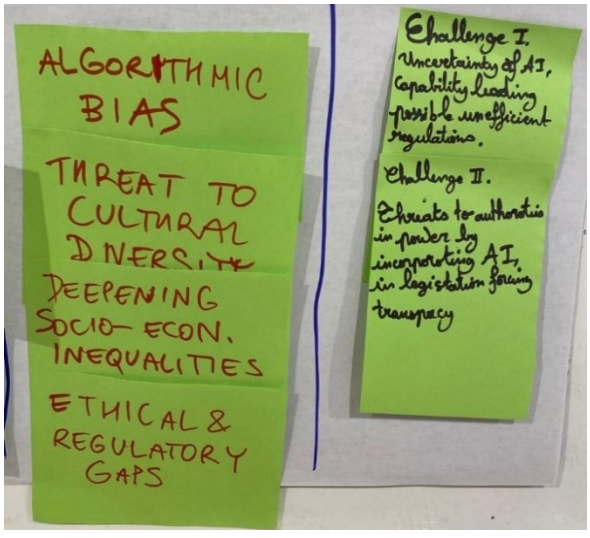
‘It’s Pattern Recognition, Not Inspiration’

The ambiguity of the AI-generated poster of the Forum presented in the morning session triggered vibrant discussions on the dynamics and ethics of AI-Generated Cultural Representations, both in the plenary, but also in informal channels among participants. These discussions continued and expanded throughout the Forum. The following research-based[1] analysis summarises the main ideas – and dilemmas – that participants explored.

When artificial intelligence creates representations of people, communities or cultures, its approach stems from the training data and algorithms that underpin its design. In theory, AI-generated images of people should demonstrate diversity, reflect cultural nuances, and operate within a framework of ethical considerations. In practice, however, this is not always the case. Research findings have shown the presence of bias in Generative AI Outputs: An analysis of AI-generated images of physicians revealed significant biases, with overrepresentation of white male figures and underrepresentation of minorities and women. These disparities stem from training datasets that fail to adequately reflect the demographic diversity of real-world populations. It is crucial to understand the philosophical underpinning of this process. AI does not "draw inspiration" as humans do. Instead, it identifies patterns and relationships within its data, re-combining them to create new outputs. The generated representations are a synthesis of probabilities, not the result of creative imagination.

Cultural and contextual cues influence AI's outputs. Prompts that suggest a specific cultural setting – such as referencing East Asian aesthetics or African heritage – lead the system to incorporate corresponding motifs, such as red and gold hues or earthy tones. These visual markers are drawn from the cultural elements the AI has learned from its training materials (Belenguer 2022: 771-787).

> *In essence, the process is rooted in translating text into visual patterns based on learned knowledge. The "philosophy" of these images is fundamentally shaped by the interplay between the user’s vision and the AI’s ability to synthesise meaningful, coherent visuals from the vast reservoir of patterns it has analysed.*
>
> *ChatGPT, asked how it produces content, 17.10.2024*



AI produces content based on the information that its users ‘feed’ it, or, what they ‘train’ it on. Given that it fundamentally relies on pattern recognition from its training data, if the data contains biases – whether demographic or cultural – these biases may manifest in the AI's outputs (Ratwani et. al 2024:1051-1052). In other words, AI-generated content is a reflection of dominant ideas in our societies.

All these parameters highlight the importance of improving dataset diversity to avoid reinforcing stereotypes and to support equity initiatives across fields. Ethics plays a significant role in how AI should generate cultural and ethnic

[1] Pieces of the research shared have been disseminated by participants either through post-it notes during workshops, or during interviews and focus groups with the rapporteur throughout the Forum.

representations. The quality and diversity of the training data influence the system's ability to create unbiased images. Each user has a responsibility to contribute to well-balanced datasets that ensure fair representation and avoid perpetuating stereotypes. Conversely, biased or limited datasets can result in skewed outputs, raising ethical concerns about inclusivity and representation.

Official opening

The ceremony commenced with a speech by Mr. Ashraf Mahmoud, President of the Arab Sports Culture Association. He eloquently highlighted the historical and cultural significance of the city of Luxor, reflecting on its rich heritage and civilisation. Mr. Mahmoud also emphasised the shared cultural and historical connections between Arab and European societies, underscoring their commonalities and mutual influences.

The distinguished guests were then welcomed, including H.E. the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Governor of Luxor, representatives from the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe, and other dignitaries, alongside the young participants of the forum. Mr. Mahmoud extended a warm welcome to the delegations, stressing the cultural and linguistic parallels between the Arab and European regions. He underlined Luxor's status as a vital part of Egypt's history, a city renowned as a cradle of ancient civilisations and a beacon of knowledge and statecraft.

In his speech, he elaborated on the life of the ancient Egyptians in Luxor and its unparalleled temples and monuments, which serve as enduring symbols of the ancient Egyptian renaissance. He further emphasised the role of intercultural dialogue in fostering closer connections between Arab and European youth, lauding the forum's themes, and expressing gratitude to all stakeholders for their contributions.

Speeches by Distinguished Dignitaries

H.E. Abdel-Mottaleb Mamdouh Emara, Governor of Luxor
H.E. the Governor welcomed participants and guests, expressing his heartfelt joy at hosting the forum in Luxor. He thanked H.E. the Minister of Youth and Sports for his unwavering support for youth empowerment and for enhancing youth engagement in society through the development of youth centres and sports facilities. He underscored the forum's role as a platform for fostering effective communication, problem-solving, and cultural exchange between Arab and European youth. He concluded by wishing the participants success in achieving the forum's objectives.

Ms. Nina Grmuša, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
Ms. Grmuša expressed her delight at attending the forum in Luxor and stressed the critical importance of cultural exchange between Arab and European youth. She highlighted that meaningful dialogue emerges through personal interactions among young people and noted the risks posed by a lack of such dialogue. 'Let us learn from each other and bring back to our communities', she said. Her speech emphasised the need for inclusivity, particularly for minorities and marginalised groups, while advocating against discrimination based on cultural or religious differences. She reiterated the importance of intercultural dialogue as a pathway to mutual understanding and societal progress.

Mr. Jorge Orlando Queiros, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth, Council of Europe
Mr. Queiros warmly welcomed the participants and praised the collaboration among all

stakeholders for the work undertaken to ensure this Forum to become reality in Luxor: 'Young people need institutions and leaders to work with them', he stressed. He provided an overview of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ), its mission, and its focus areas, emphasising youth involvement in addressing key issues. Mr. Queiros stressed the importance of sustaining partnerships with the League of Arab States and enhancing the continuity of such initiatives. He concluded by saying: 'Embrace this moment! You are part of a long-standing cooperation. Carry this torch!'.

H.E. Dr. Sultan Al-Niyadi, Minister of State for Youth of the UAE, Vice President of the Arab Youth Centre
H.E. Dr. Al-Niyadi congratulated Egypt on successfully hosting the forum and reaffirmed the UAE's commitment to fostering dialogue and bringing youth perspectives closer. He spoke about the UAE's innovative experiences in artificial intelligence and various other sectors, emphasising the role of youth in bridging divides and promoting peace. He reflected on the lessons of history and ancient civilisations in enriching cultural understanding and encouraged participants to draw inspiration from Egypt's legacy. He concluded by highlighting the transformative power of shared experiences in developing youth potential and fostering global unity.

Mr. Faisal Ali Ghassal, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Youth and Sport Department, League of Arab States
Mr. Ghassal extended greetings from H.E. the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and expressed gratitude to the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Governor of Luxor, and representatives of the Council of Europe. He emphasised the forum as a cornerstone of collaboration between the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe. Mr. Ghassal called for increased engagement on topics of mutual interest among Arab and European youth, particularly in light of global challenges. He highlighted the role of artificial intelligence in fostering constructive dialogue and understanding between cultures.

H.E. Dr. Ashraf Sobhi, Minister of Youth and Sport of Egypt
H.E. Dr. Sobhi extended a warm welcome on behalf of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Council of Arab Youth and Sports Ministers. He praised the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe for organising the forum. Dr. Sobhi emphasised the need for Arab and European youth to actively engage in dialogue and intercultural exchange. He highlighted the significance of Luxor as a host city, noting its cultural and historical importance as a gateway to understanding civilisation. His speech focused on the transformative potential of youth-led dialogue in addressing global challenges and fostering coexistence. He concluded by urging participants to harness modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, as tools for dialogue, cooperation, and sustainable development, reiterating the need for youth-driven initiatives to build bridges between Arab and European societies.

The opening ceremony featured a series of traditional artistic performances by folk groups, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, customs, and traditions of the participating regions. In particular, the following dances were presented:

From Upper Egypt (Saidi Dance)- *Raqs Al-Assaya* (Stick Dance)

This traditional dance originates from the *Saidi* region of Upper Egypt. It mimics a martial art called *Tahtib*, historically performed by men using wooden sticks (assaya). In its folkloric adaptation, women perform the dance with smaller, lighter sticks, incorporating playful and flirtatious movements. The dance is energetic, with powerful stamping, spins, and sharp hip movements, reflecting the strong and proud Saidi culture. It's accompanied by traditional Saidi music, often featuring the *mizmar* (a reed instrument) and the *tablah* drum.

Nubia (Nubian Dance)- *Nubian Group Dances* (No specific singular name; often community-driven)

Nubian dances are communal, reflecting themes of joy, celebration, and unity in Nubian life along the Nile River. Dancers often form lines or circles, moving in unison with smooth, flowing steps, swaying their bodies in harmony. Hand movements are graceful and delicate, emphasising storytelling or mimicking daily activities. The music is rhythmically complex, using clapping, drums, and string instruments like the *tamboura* (a lyre) or *oud*, along with melodic singing in Nubian languages. The dances are less theatrical and more connected to Nubian traditions of togetherness and the natural rhythm of life.

These dances represent the rich cultural heritages of their respective regions and highlight the diversity within Egyptian folkloric traditions.

Ancient Civilisations - which lessons for today?

An expert-led session with Mahmoud Al Tayeb, Researcher, Archaeologist, Tour guide

The workshop "Ancient Civilisations: Which Lessons for Today?" explored the influence of historical civilisations on contemporary society, focusing on the transmission of ideas, societal advancements, and interconnectivity between Arab and European cultural heritage.

The grandeur of ancient Egyptian civilisation remains unparalleled, a testament to the ingenuity, spiritual depth, and artistic brilliance of a culture that flourished for millennia along the banks of the Nile. Its symbolic emblems continue to capture the imagination, evoking a world rich with myth, innovation, and timeless wisdom. In his lecture, the speaker referred to some of the most emblematic figures of ancient Egyptian civilization, underscoring how the values that they stand for could be applied in contemporary societies.

Symbols of Majesty and Eternity

Among the most iconic symbols of ancient Egypt are its monumental pyramids, majestic structures built as eternal resting places for Pharaohs, the divine rulers of the land. These pyramids, particularly the Great Pyramid of Giza, stand as architectural marvels, reflecting

advanced engineering and profound reverence for the afterlife. Complementing the pyramids are the enigmatic Sphinx, a creature embodying strength and wisdom, and the intricate hieroglyphics, the written language of the Egyptians. Hieroglyphics, carved or painted with meticulous precision, combined art and communication, using symbols to convey religious texts, royal decrees, and historical accounts.

Queens of Grace and Power

Two queens stand out in the pantheon of ancient Egyptian royalty: Nefertiti and Nefertari. Nefertiti, whose name means "the beautiful one has come," was the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten and played a pivotal role during the Amarna Period. Known for her unparalleled beauty, epitomised by the iconic bust, housed in the ‘Neues Museum’ in Berlin, Nefertiti was more than a queen. She was a co-ruler and active participant in the radical religious reforms of her husband. Her influence is evident in her frequent depictions alongside Akhenaten, performing religious rituals as an equal.

Nefertari, whose name translates to "beautiful companion," was the beloved wife of Ramses II, one of Egypt’s most celebrated Pharaohs. She is immortalised in the stunningly decorated tomb in the Valley of the Queens, where vivid murals depict her journey to the afterlife. A figure of wisdom and grace, Nefertari was revered for her diplomatic acumen, particularly in fostering peace between Egypt and its neighbours. Both queens represent the nuanced roles of women in ancient Egypt, where queens could embody both aesthetic beauty and political power.

Comparable figures from the ancient world include Cleopatra VII, the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, whose intelligence and charisma left an indelible mark on history. Together, these queens reflect a civilisation where female leadership was celebrated and integrated into the broader cultural and spiritual narrative.

Ra: The Sun God

Central to Egyptian cosmology was Ra, the sun god and creator of the universe. Represented as a man with the head of a falcon crowned by a solar disk, Ra embodied light, life, and creation. He travelled across the sky by day in his solar barque and descended into the underworld at night to battle the forces of chaos, ensuring the rebirth of the sun each morning. Ra’s prominence in Egyptian mythology underscores the civilisation’s deep connection to the natural world and its cycles. Temples dedicated to Ra, such as Heliopolis, were centres of worship and intellectual activity, highlighting his enduring significance.

Hieroglyphics: The Sacred Script

Hieroglyphics, meaning "sacred carvings," were the visual script of ancient Egypt. This complex writing system comprised hundreds of symbols, each representing sounds, objects, or ideas. Used primarily for monumental inscriptions, hieroglyphics were considered a divine gift from Thoth, the god of wisdom and writing. The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, proved crucial in deciphering this enigmatic script, bridging the ancient and modern worlds by unlocking the secrets of Egyptian texts. Beyond their practical function, hieroglyphics illustrate the Egyptians’ belief in the power of words to shape reality and transcend time.

Connections with Other Civilisations

Ancient Egypt's influence did not exist in isolation; it resonated across other great ancient civilisations, including the Greeks, Romans, and Persians. The Greeks, for example, drew significant inspiration from Egyptian art, architecture, and religious thought. Greek philosophers, such as Pythagoras and Plato, studied in Egypt, where they absorbed knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, and metaphysics. Herodotus, the Greek historian, famously referred to Egypt as "the gift of the Nile," recognising its pivotal role in shaping the ancient Mediterranean world.

The Romans, too, were deeply influenced by Egyptian culture, particularly during the Ptolemaic period and after Egypt's annexation as a Roman province in 30 BCE. The worship of Egyptian deities such as Isis spread throughout the Roman Empire, and Egyptian obelisks were transported to Rome, symbolising power and connection to an ancient lineage.

The Persians, during their rule over Egypt in the 27th Dynasty, integrated Egyptian practices into their administration while respecting local traditions. This exchange fostered a synthesis of cultures, seen in art and governance. Such connections highlight the intercultural exchanges that shaped the ancient world, with Egypt often serving as a cultural and intellectual crossroads.

Lessons for Today

The legacy of ancient Egypt offers profound lessons for contemporary societies. Its emphasis on balance encourages harmony between humanity, nature, and the cosmos—a concept increasingly relevant in our ecologically fragile world. The Egyptians' innovative spirit, evident in their monumental architecture and intricate art, inspires creativity and problem-solving in the face of modern challenges.

Moreover, the role of women like Nefertiti and Nefertari highlights the importance of inclusivity and the potential of diverse leadership. Their ability to bridge cultural and political divides resonates in today's efforts to foster Arab-European intercultural dialogue. The shared heritage of ancient Egypt serves as a reminder of the deep historical connections between these regions, offering a platform for mutual understanding and collaboration.

In an age of rapid digitalisation, the enduring relevance of ancient Egyptian civilisation lies in its holistic worldview. By valuing the interconnectedness of life, the past offers a blueprint for navigating the complexities of the present and building a future grounded in wisdom and unity.

Ancient Civilisations – which lessons for today – Working Groups

After this plenary style input, the participants moved to three break-out groups, to discuss and reflect on the lessons of the past and their relevance to today's challenges. Participants engaged in paired discussions and group work. Key takeaways included the profound influence of civilisations such as Egyptian, Roman, Greek, and Persian, on cultural identity, architecture, religion, and daily practices like food and aesthetics. Group work envisioned future evaluations of Earth's civilisation, identifying achievements in technology and cooperation but critiquing unsustainable lifestyles, overconsumption, and conflicts.

The session incorporated a gap analysis exercise, prompting groups to identify current global challenges like pollution, inequality, and corruption, and propose desired future states such as sustainability, ethical technology use, and inclusive societies. Actionable steps emphasised building cultural awareness, fostering dialogue, and reforming institutions.

Despite time constraints, the workshop highlighted the importance of intergenerational knowledge and intercultural connections as tools for global development. Participants expressed that the session enriched their understanding of their cultural roots and inspired visions for a more sustainable and unified future.

City walks in Luxor

In the evening, participants had free time in Luxor. This was an opportunity to explore the city's historic landmarks, bustling markets, and serene Nile views. The experience strengthened relationships amongst the participants and enabled informal exchanges through an exploration of culture and history in a rich, inspiring setting.

Day 3: Wednesday 16 October – Aspirations and Concerns of Arab and European Youth

Means of Sustaining Dialogue and Establishing Cooperation among Arab and European Youth

The morning session, led by two experts, **Rui Gomes - Head of Division; Education, Training and Cooperation, Youth Department Council of Europe** and **Amr Abdel-Gayed - Head of International Relations of European / Erasmus Projects Jovensolides (Spain/Egypt)**, respectively, focused on challenges to cultural diversity and the prerequisites for successful communication among people and communities of different backgrounds. The session provided a platform to explore the current status of Arab-European youth cooperation and to identify pathways to enhance intercultural dialogue, by deepening participants' understanding of trust-building values, attitudes, and competencies essential for effective dialogue. Both speakers used different arguments and resources to speak about the power of narrative, be it in the form of engaging storytelling, a controversial illustration or even, a universal music melody that knows no geographical boundaries.

Who owns this song?

Rui Gomes played a recording of the first verses of an instrumental jazz melody to the plenary session. Stopping the music before the couplet, he asked young people how they felt when listening to this tune.

Happy and *relaxed,* they replied.

'Where do you think this song originates from?' the speaker asked.

The audience improvised: *Lisbon! Iran! Lebanon! New Orleans!,* were some of the spontaneous answers, pointing towards regions scattered on the global map.

No one guessed the true origin of the artist, Abdullah Ibrahim, born in Cape Town, South Africa. What was interesting, however, was that this music had a positive effect to everyone in the plenary, regardless of cultural or ethnic background.

The cross-cultural appreciation of music can be academically and scientifically explained through several interdisciplinary perspectives, nevertheless, the key message of this small experiment was the universality of certain experiences and our connection to cultural elements that might – at first – seem foreign to us. By going back to fundamentals – music – the speaker elaborated on the format of the Forum and how it could be revisited to discuss about something so advanced as AI:

‘Here we are, discussing AI using lectures and flipcharts, often with limited internet connection. Participants are ahead of us! It looks as if we are working in old-fashioned ways. But is it truly like this?’

The lively discussion that followed culminated with insights in the role of youth in shaping realities and policies in different cultural and geographical contexts. The session ended with a series of open-ended questions:

‘To which extent is youth participation welcome? Expected? Tolerated? Feared?’

Did somebody say ‘sugar’?

Sucre (French), *şeker* (Turkish), *ζάχαρη* [Zahari], *azúcar* (Spanish) are only a few of the translations that **Amr Abdel-Gayed** referred to -in perfect pronunciation- to stress that ‘sugar’, this extremely well-known product, popular in different cuisines all over the globe, originates from the Arabic word سكر (*sukar).*

The list of shared linguistic items was long, and each reference contained its own unique story of how it travelled from one region to the other. The speaker used these metaphors to share his own journey as a young activist who rode his bike from Egypt all over Spain to advocate for cultural co-existence, inclusion and youth participation.

From all the people he met and all the landscapes he visited, Amr Abdel-Gayed understood the significance of a narrative, which he contextualised as a way of finding one’s purpose by engaging mindfully with communities, promoting one’s values and ideals even in challenging situations and keeping your mind in your target, even when the road ahead seems long and difficult. In order for this journey to be successful, one needs to be aware of the target-culture they are addressing; From basic culture-specific items related to food and language, to more complex cultural nuances evolving around identity and ethos, understanding the ‘other’ is a prerequisite for dialogue to be reciprocal, meaningful and solid.

Shared Vocabulary through Historical Contact

During the Islamic Golden Age (History Skills 2024) (8th–15th centuries), Arabic culture significantly influenced European languages, particularly Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian, due to the Arab presence in the Iberian Peninsula.

Given that the Forum's focus is on AI, it might be worth mentioning a few popular AI-related words originating from Arabic: "algorithm" (from Arabic *al-Khwarizmi*, the mathematician) or *algebra* (from Arabic *al-jabr*, "reunion of broken parts") are some characteristic examples. Likewise, European colonisation and modern globalization introduced European terms into Arabic, especially in technical fields. For instance, "computer" (kumbiyūtir) and "telephone" (tilifūn) in Arabic derive from their European counterparts.

Conclusions: The power of the narrative

Narratives hold a transformative power to promote social change and foster intercultural dialogue by connecting deeply with our shared humanity. Through storytelling, visualisation, and music, narratives break through the barriers of language and culture, creating spaces for mutual understanding and empathy.

Stories, whether told orally or through written words, resonate universally because they tap into emotions and experiences common to all humans—love, struggle, joy, and resilience. A story about a migrant's journey, for instance, transcends its specific context to evoke empathy in people across the globe. By humanising issues, narratives make them relatable and urgent, inviting others to engage and act.

Visualisation, such as art, film, or photography, carries this power further. A single image or scene can encapsulate complex cultural and social themes in ways that words often cannot. Visual mediums speak directly to the heart, allowing audiences from diverse backgrounds to connect and understand without needing translation. They become bridges between cultures, offering a shared canvas of interpretation and dialogue.

Music, too, carries the storytelling thread, blending rhythm and melody to stir emotions and unite communities. From traditional folk songs to contemporary protest anthems, music often tells the stories of individuals and societies, making it a timeless tool for expressing identity, struggle, and hope. Its universal appeal transcends spoken language, connecting people on an emotional level that fosters solidarity and shared purpose.

Together, these forms of narrative serve as catalysts for social change. They are engaging and memorable, embedding ideas and values into the collective consciousness. By sharing narratives that celebrate diversity and highlight common ground, communities can reduce prejudice, inspire collaboration, and work toward a more inclusive and compassionate world.

Workshops on sharing experiences and aspirations

After this input participants were invited to join one of three workshops focussing on the following themes:

- Environment Protection and Climate Change
- Youth Participation, with a focus on Volunteerism
- Mutual perceptions and stereotypes

Workshop 1: Environment Protection and Climate Change

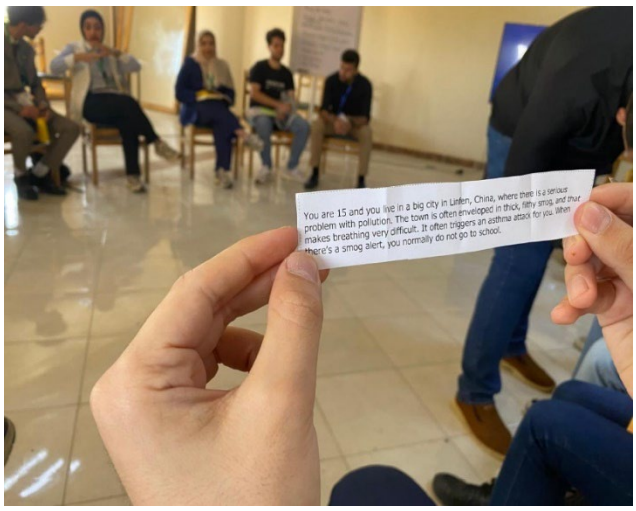
The session was held to foster dialogue and collaboration on shared environmental challenges between Arab and European youth. This two-hour session aimed to identify the impacts of environmental degradation and the climate crisis across regions, reflect on their disproportionate effects on different communities, and develop actionable recommendations for inclusion in the Luxor Declaration.

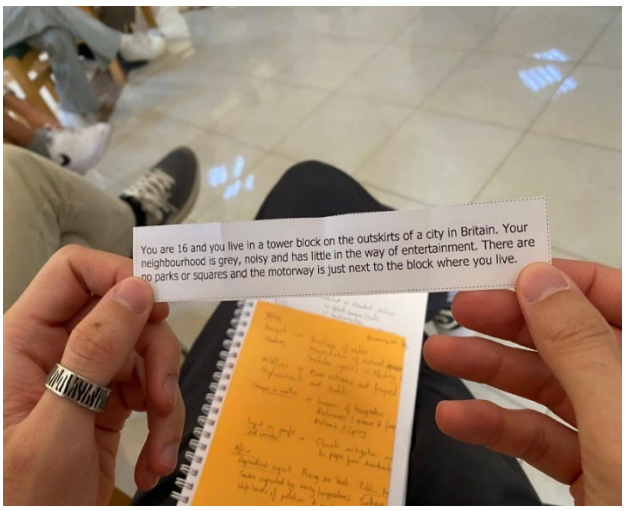
The objectives were to enable participants to describe environmental challenges in their own contexts, explore the concept of climate justice, and establish strategic responses to the crisis. A participatory methodology was employed, including personal reflections, paired discussions, mapping exercises.

To highlight disparities in environmental and social outcomes, facilitators introduced a review of the *2024 State of the Climate Report* (Ripple et. al 2024), asking for participants' reflections and feedback. Then, the group was invited to "Take a Step Forward", as in the homonymous exercise from the Compass: Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People.

The 2024 State of the Climate Report: Perilous Times on Planet Earth, highlights escalating climate crises, with record-breaking temperatures, increasing emissions, and accelerating ice melt. It emphasises the urgency of addressing feedback loops, tipping points, and global inequities exacerbated by climate change. The report warns of rising risks of societal collapse, underscoring the need for rapid action in renewable energy, conservation, and equitable policies. Solutions include phasing out fossil fuels, curbing methane emissions, and transformative socio-economic changes to prevent irreversible damage to Earth's systems.

The session also featured a World Café, where participants discussed themes such as biodiversity loss, disaster preparedness, food and water insecurity, and climate migration. Groups formulated recommendations addressing these challenges, considering the roles of individuals, civil society, and governments in both Arab and European contexts. The session concluded with each group sharing their insights and recommendations.





Conclusions

Key outcomes of the workshop included increased awareness of the interconnected impacts of environmental crises, a focus on climate justice, and collaborative strategies to mitigate these issues, fostering a stronger foundation for Arab-European youth cooperation on sustainability.

Participant quotes

Iraq is experiencing rising temperatures, contributing to water shortages and an increased demand for cooling systems, which further strains energy

The UAE is dealing with the psychological impacts of climate change on its population. Environmental changes intensify, influencing both the physical the mental well-being of communities,

While facing its own climate-related challenges, France's focus has been on disaster response to cope with various emergencies arising from climate change. The country is refining its approach to ensure better preparedness for natural disasters.

Faced with flooding, Germany is grappling with the environmental and infrastructural challenges that accompany heavy rainfall and river overflows. These floods are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change.

Workshop 2: Youth Participation, with a focus on Volunteerism

The Youth Participation Workshop, focusing on volunteerism, attracted 24 participants and maintained a notably high engagement level.

The workshop centred on youth participation awareness, helping participants recognise instances of non-participation masked as involvement, and understanding their motivations for engagement.

Activities included an interactive puzzle matching exercise related to the participation ladder (Hart 1992; Arnstein 1969: 216-224) and group analysis of various case studies.

Participants engaged in substantive discussions about the ladder of participation concept, highlighting the complexity in distinguishing between decoration and manipulation. Notable testimonials included experiences with tokenism, such as a Serbian participant's account of unfulfilled promises regarding disability advocacy.

The session explored multiple case studies addressing diverse social challenges:

- ✓ Elderly isolation in Copenhagen
- ✓ Ukrainian refugee integration in Sweden
- ✓ Academic advancement challenges for diverse youth in Madrid
- ✓ Graduate unemployment in Khartoum
- ✓ Refugee integration difficulties in Athens

🔍 Roger Hart's *Ladder of Participation* is a theoretical model developed in 1992 that describes different levels of young people's participation in projects and decision-making processes. The ladder consists of eight rungs, with the bottom three rungs (manipulation, decoration, and tokenism) representing non-participation, while the upper five rungs represent increasing degrees of genuine participation. The model has become a fundamental framework in youth work and community development, helping practitioners and organisations evaluate and improve their approaches to meaningful youth engagement. Hart adapted this concept from Sherry Arnstein's 1969 adult participation model, specifically tailoring it to understand children and youth participation in community development.

Each case study examination yielded specific challenge identifications and proposed youth-led solutions, often centred around community building, language support, and resource sharing initiatives.

Conclusions & follow-up plans

The workshop concluded with a structured debriefing using a botanical metaphor:

- "Fruits" represented key learnings, including enhanced understanding of altruism, social intelligence, and participation frameworks;
- "Leaves" captured improvement suggestions, such as increased resource sharing and extended case study discussion time
- "Fertilizer" outlined personal action commitments, including initiative creation and experience sharing.

Participants ultimately agreed to create a shared database of contacts and expertise as a concrete action step.

Workshop 3: Mutual perceptions and stereotypes

The session examined the fundamental causes of misunderstanding between European and Arab communities, tracing historical roots from the Crusades through colonialism to contemporary issues of economic competition, nationalism, conflicts, and migration. Media representation was identified as a significant contributor to misunderstanding, characterised by one-sided rhetoric and biased information dissemination, compounded by insufficient intercultural dialogue and educational exchange.

Participants first engaged in conceptual clarification, distinguishing between prejudice, defined as unfair judgment and acting on negative assumptions, and stereotypes, understood as preconceived notions and predetermined characteristics. The group then conducted an exercise where European and Arab participants documented prevalent stereotypes between their communities. Europeans were commonly perceived as racist, cold, wealthy, pretentious, and individualistic, while Arabs were stereotypically viewed as conservative, violent, primitive, though also hospitable.

A notable technological dimension emerged when comparing participant responses with ChatGPT outputs. The AI system reproduced these stereotypical perceptions without appropriate context or disclaimers, highlighting concerns about AI systems perpetuating biased narratives.

The discussion focused particularly on four key stereotypes: racism and liberalism (attributed to Europeans), and terrorism/violence and primitiveness/ignorance (attributed to Arabs). For each stereotype, participants analysed its origins, emotional impact, and potential solutions.

The "racist" label was traced to media portrayal and migration tensions, evoking feelings of sadness and helplessness among participants. Early childhood education was proposed as a primary intervention point. The "liberal" designation, stemming from current political discourse, was generally accepted if defined as non-judgmental acceptance of diverse perspectives.

> *"Given that AI's primary source of information is the internet, which predominantly features Western content, there is an inherent bias that solidifies certain stereotypes, particularly against Arabs. This bias arises due to the limited Arabic content available online, resulting in AI systems having insufficient diverse input."*
>
> Workshop participant

Regarding stereotypes about Arabs, the terrorist/violent label was linked to post-2000 events, particularly 9/11 and Middle Eastern conflicts, generating feelings of fear and anger. Personal storytelling was suggested as a counter-narrative strategy. The primitive/ignorant stereotype was attributed to colonial legacy, evoking feelings of disdain. Participants emphasised the importance of highlighting Arab contributions to global civilisation, both historical and contemporary.

This exploration of mutual perceptions concluded that overcoming stereotypes requires sustained effort in education, personal exchange, and recognition of diverse perspectives and achievements across both communities.

Recommendations

To address this issue, the group proposed the following actions:

- **Digital Literacy:** Enhance digital literacy among Arabs to empower them to create and share more content online.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Promote digital inclusion to ensure broader participation in the digital space.
- **Digital Empowerment:** Invest in digital infrastructure and internet connectivity to facilitate greater access and content creation.
- **Educational Integration:** Incorporate digital skills and awareness into school curriculums to prepare future generations for active digital participation.

By implementing these measures, AI systems will have a more balanced and diverse dataset, thereby reducing bias and mitigating stereotypes.

Debriefing of the Outcomes of the Workshops

This session was conducted to enable participants to reflect on their learning experiences, exchange insights, and articulate competencies gained from prior sessions. It served as a platform to explore diverse perspectives, share individual contributions, and identify potential gaps in learning.

Structured as an interactive and participatory activity, the session aimed to achieve several objectives, including fostering discussions, celebrating incremental achievements, and reinforcing a constructive learning environment. The methodologies employed were designed to encourage open communication, feedback exchange, and a sense of ownership among participants.

The programme commenced with a group activity, “Tree of AEYF,” wherein participants worked collaboratively to document outcomes on a flip chart designed as a tree. Using color-coded stickers—pink for key learnings, green for recommendations, and yellow for personal contributions—groups identified and shared their insights. Following this, each group presented their creative outputs to the plenary.

Subsequently, a feedback and feedforward segment encouraged participants to reflect on their experiences using a T-shaped chart. Feedback highlighted positive aspects of the workshops, while feedforward emphasised areas for improvement and additional needs.

The session concluded with a synthesis of outcomes, underscoring shared learning, and proposals for future actions. These insights will inform subsequent discussions and contribute to achieving the broader goals of the seminar.

A Visit to Luxor Temple and the Sound & Light Show at Karnak Temple

The group visit to Luxor Temple felt like stepping into a timeless realm where ancient Egypt’s grandeur comes alive. Situated along the Nile River, the temple boasts majestic colonnades, colossal statues of pharaohs, and intricate carvings that tell the story of a civilisation’s deep connection to its gods and rulers. As participants wandered through the vast complex, they

encountered the impressive avenue of sphinxes, remnants of an ancient ceremonial path that once linked Luxor to Karnak. The temple's architecture reflects the grandeur of Amenhotep III and Ramses II, with a mix of spirituality and imperial pride.

In the evening, the experience took a mystical turn at the **Sound and Light Show at Karnak Temple**. As darkness fell, the sprawling temple complex illuminated in dramatic hues, and an immersive narration unfolded. Walking through the ruins, visitors could hear stories of Karnak's construction, its religious significance, and the gods worshipped there.

Together, these sites offered a journey through the art, history, and spirituality of ancient Egypt, leaving the Forum's participants awe-struck by the enduring legacy of one of the world's greatest civilisations.

Day 4: Thursday 17 October – Youth, Ai and Intercultural Dialogue

Visit to the Valley of the Kings

The Valley of the Kings is a barren, rocky landscape of limestone hills near Luxor. The archaeological site reveals a series of excavated tombs cut deep into the mountainside, with narrow pathways leading to underground chambers. Inside the tombs, tourists walk carefully along dimly lit passages, observing faded but still discernible wall paintings and hieroglyphic inscriptions. Elaborate scenes depicting the pharaoh's journey through the afterlife cover every surface, with images of gods, symbolic animals, and complex religious rituals emerging from the limestone walls. The tombs provide unprecedented archaeological evidence about ancient Egyptian burial practices, religious beliefs, art, and royal culture during Egypt's most powerful historical era. Ongoing archaeological work continues to uncover new information about Egyptian history, making the site an active centre of historical and anthropological research.

Harnessing AI for a better intercultural understanding

DR. ALY FAHMY, Dean of the College of Artificial Intelligence – Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transportation

The presentation, *Harnessing AI to Achieve Better Understanding Between Cultures* by Dr. Aly Fahmy, explored how artificial intelligence (AI), particularly generative AI and large language models (LLMs), can foster cross-cultural understanding.

In an increasingly interconnected world, cultural differences frequently lead to misunderstandings, impacting international business, diplomacy, and social harmony. Dr. Aly Fahmy's presentation underscored the critical role AI can play in bridging these divides, enabling more effective communication, and fostering mutual respect.

The Challenges of Cross-Cultural Interactions

Globalisation has amplified interactions between diverse cultures, yet these encounters often result in miscommunication due to differences in language, values, customs, and behaviours. For instance, 70% of international business failures are attributed to cultural misunderstandings. Variations in communication styles, perceptions of time, gender roles,

and social norms exemplify these challenges. Such disparities can create obstacles in everyday contexts, such as dining, shopping, self-expression, and business interactions.

AI as a Tool for Cross-Cultural Understanding

Dr. Fahmy highlighted AI's transformative potential in addressing these challenges. Large language models (LLMs) like GPT-4 and Google's Gemini excel in understanding cultural nuances, going beyond translation to grasp values, customs, and sentiments. AI applications in areas such as sentiment analysis, predictive scheduling, and real-time translation foster smoother interactions and reduce cultural friction.

Specific AI-powered solutions include:

- **Dining Etiquette Guidance**: Tools that help navigate local dining customs, tipping norms, and appropriate behavior.
- **Shopping Assistance**: Apps that adapt to bargaining practices, personal space preferences, and customer service expectations across cultures.
- **Self-Expression Support**: AI providing recommendations on culturally appropriate attire and communication styles.
- **Business Interaction Enhancements**: Real-time cultural insights to navigate varying levels of formality, hierarchy, and decision-making norms.

Generative AI for Cultural Empathy and Preservation

Generative AI has immense potential to foster cultural empathy and preserve diversity. It can simulate cross-cultural scenarios, educate learners through immersive experiences, and personalise cultural sensitivity training. AI can also be used to support virtual exchanges, helping individuals appreciate diverse perspectives and customs.

Moreover, AI aids in storytelling and heritage preservation by creating culturally rich content, from documentaries to interactive virtual experiences. These efforts help dispel stereotypes and promote empathy, crucial for global coexistence.

Applications Across Sectors

The presentation illustrated real-world AI applications in diplomacy, marketing, tourism, and education. For example:

- **Diplomacy**: AI tools can refine diplomatic messaging, ensuring cultural sensitivity and defusing tensions during negotiations.
- **Tourism**: AI-powered travel assistants and translation tools can enhance the traveller’s experience by providing contextual cultural advice.
- **Marketing**: AI can help brands tailor campaigns to local cultural contexts, avoiding insensitivity and fostering authentic engagement.

Ethical Considerations

Dr. Fahmy stressed the importance of ethical AI development to avoid biases and cultural homogenisation. AI must respect cultural diversity while addressing privacy concerns and

ensuring human oversight. This requires international collaboration to establish guidelines and standards for responsible AI use.

Future Prospects

Looking ahead, AI promises to deepen cultural immersion through advanced technologies like virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). However, challenges related to accessibility, affordability, and ethical use must be addressed to ensure inclusive benefits.

Dr. Fahmy presented a compelling vision for leveraging AI to build bridges between cultures, emphasising both its transformative potential and the need for ethical safeguards. AI stands poised to become a powerful ally in fostering global harmony and mutual understanding.

Council of Europe Standards on AI, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

A short presentation delivered by John Muir, Educational Advisor – Council of Europe aimed to equip participants with a deeper understanding of the Council of Europe's standards and their relevance in shaping AI's future. The input was designed to emphasise the importance of aligning technological advancements with the values and norms, in particular the principles of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The purpose was to encourage young people to act as stewards of responsible AI, ensuring it serves as a tool for inclusion, democracy, and shared prosperity rather than a source of inequality or division. Below are some of the presentation's highlights:

Artificial Intelligence and the Council of Europe: A Call for Governance

The Council of Europe highlights the urgent need for a legal and ethical framework to ensure that the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) systems align with human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law. AI's unparalleled potential to advance these ideals is tempered by significant risks, making governance essential.

The Role of the Council of Europe

As a human rights organization representing 46 member states, the Council of Europe is committed to safeguarding dignity, equality, and democracy. It emphasises 'standard-setting' through legally binding treaties, recommendations, and charters. The proposed *Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights (2024)* aims to guide AI activities across their lifecycle, from planning through to retirement, ensuring adherence to ethical principles.

Opportunities and Risks of AI

AI offers immense opportunities to promote human rights and democratic values, such as enhanced transparency, accountability, and equitable decision-making. However, the presentation underscored serious risks, including:

- **Human Rights Violations**: Discrimination, loss of autonomy, and infringement on privacy.
- **Democratic Erosion**: AI's potential misuse in undermining democratic processes or amplifying inequalities.

- **Repressive Applications**: AI systems being exploited for surveillance and control.

These risks call for the development of trustworthy AI systems that prioritise transparency, fairness, and safety.

Key Principles for Ethical AI Governance

The Council of Europe identifies foundational principles for signatories of the framework convention, including:

- **Human Dignity and Autonomy**: Protecting individual freedoms and ensuring equitable treatment.
- **Transparency and Oversight**: Mandating clear processes for AI decision-making.
- **Accountability**: Establishing mechanisms for responsibility at all stages of AI development.
- **Privacy**: Safeguarding personal data and ensuring non-discrimination.
- **Innovation and Safety**: Encouraging ethical innovation while minimizing societal harm.

Empowering Youth in AI Governance

Recognising the transformative role of youth, the Council of Europe emphasises their involvement in shaping AI governance. Initiatives include:

- Capacity building through human rights education.
- Developing AI literacy via non-formal education and youth work.
- Facilitating youth participation in policy-making, encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration, and fostering engagement with technology companies.

Points for Reflection

The presentation concluded by prompting critical reflection: What risks does AI pose to civilisations, and how can its benefits be maximised to serve society? The Council of Europe's approach underscores the necessity of robust governance to ensure AI systems enhance, rather than undermine human dignity, democracy, and the rule of law.

Workshops on AI and young people

After this input participants were invited to join one of three workshops focussing on the following themes:

- Combating misinformation and media literacy
- AI and the job market, preparing for the future
- Empowering Education with AI

Workshop 1. Combating misinformation and media literacy

21 highly engaged participants attended this session which was focused on key AI-related terminology, including misinformation, disinformation, deepfakes, Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN), AI-boosted disinformation, malicious stakeholders, cognitive bias, and media literacy.

Participants shared personal encounters with misinformation through paired discussions. Notable examples included prejudices about Arab communities in London being dangerous (later disproven through direct experience), experiences with deepfake scams targeting vulnerable populations, and professional encounters with false claims during humanitarian work, such as fake photos of missing persons during conflict situations.

The workshop included a news analysis component where participants evaluated various articles covering topics such as COVID-19, youth representation, immigration, climate change, and AI data privacy. They identified patterns of bias, emotional manipulation, and political influence in media coverage. Participants particularly noted that there are cases of popular media producing misleading articles about youth; they also examined how right-wing funding sources influenced immigration coverage.

A significant portion of the workshop was dedicated to SWOT analysis of AI, with four groups examining different aspects. Common themes emerged across groups:

- Strengths: automation capabilities, time efficiency, and improved information access
- Weaknesses: algorithmic bias, data quality issues, and accessibility barriers
- Opportunities: potential for crime resolution, service optimisation, and enhanced media literacy
- Threats: job displacement, privacy concerns, and ethical considerations

Overall, this workshop provided practical skills in news evaluation and critical analysis of AI's role in information dissemination, while highlighting the complex interplay between technology, media literacy, and societal impact.

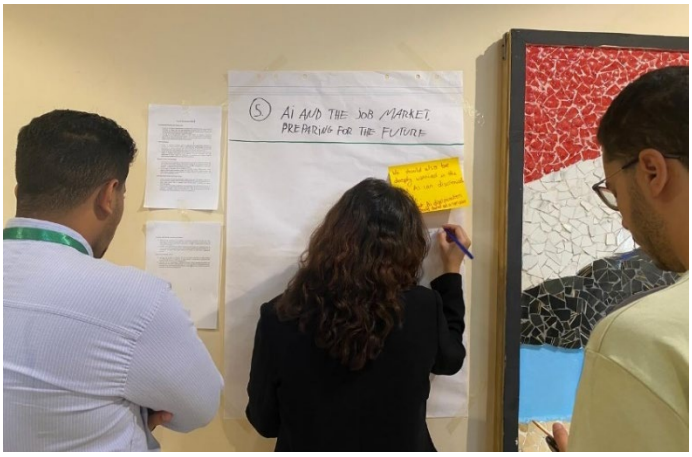
Workshop 2. AI and the job market, preparing for the future

The workshop's purpose was to explore the profound and varied effects of artificial intelligence on labour markets in Arab and European regions, while also addressing the ethical challenges this technology poses for policymakers. Framed by discussions from an earlier plenary session on harnessing AI for intercultural understanding, the workshop aimed to equip participants with a deeper understanding of AI's risks and opportunities and to develop recommendations for the Luxor Declaration.

The session began with an outline of the main goals. Participants were asked to reflect on their thoughts about AI, drawing connections to the themes discussed earlier in the forum. They were then divided into small groups to share their experiences with AI in their respective contexts. These conversations focused on how AI is currently being used in various industries, its implications for jobs, and the unique risks and opportunities it presents. The groups considered how these impacts vary across Arab and European settings, documenting their insights on post-it notes that were organised under "risks" and "opportunities" for later discussion.

The workshop then transitioned into a dynamic activity called "Take a Stance," where participants were invited to physically position themselves along an "agree" or "disagree" spectrum in response to provocative statements about AI and the labour market. Topics ranged from the ethics of prioritising AI efficiency over job security, to the role of governments in mitigating AI-driven inequality. This exercise sparked rich discussions as individuals explained their perspectives, debated, and even changed positions after hearing opposing

arguments. The activity concluded with a reflective debrief on the challenges of navigating such complex and emotionally charged issues.



To conclude, participants engaged in a "World Café" exercise, rotating through tables to tackle pressing themes such as job displacement, skills gaps, income inequality, AI surveillance, and regulation. Guided by specific questions, they identified local and global challenges, proposed strategies to address them, and refined ideas through collaborative feedback. By the end of the session, each group presented their final recommendations, emphasising the need for Arab-European cooperation in addressing AI's transformative impacts on labour markets.

The workshop ended with a brief reflection on the discussions and an invitation for participants to carry forward their insights to the afternoon's debriefing groups. It served as a platform for critical engagement, fostering dialogue across diverse perspectives, and offering actionable solutions to ensure that AI's integration into the labour market is both ethical and inclusive.

Workshop 3. Empowering Education with AI

The workshop examined the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on education. The session aimed to enhance understanding of AI's potential benefits and risks in learning environments and contribute to policy recommendations for the Luxor Declaration.

Participants engaged in critical discussions and debates, exploring topics such as the use of AI in fostering interactive learning, its potential to replace teachers, and concerns about the impact of AI on critical thinking skills. The methodology included sociometric debates and a world café approach, promoting dynamic engagement and collaborative idea-sharing.

Key activities included an introductory discussion on participants' experiences with AI in education, followed by a sociometric debate on provocative statements regarding AI's role. The world café sessions allowed groups to address critical questions, such as the policies required to moderate AI, strategies to mitigate risks, ways to empower education through AI, and concrete tools for enhancing learning.

Outcomes highlighted diverse perspectives on integrating AI in education. Participants proposed actionable policy recommendations, identified potential risks, such as reduced human connection, and emphasised the need for ethical frameworks and inclusive access to AI tools. The session concluded with a presentation of insights and a handout detailing AI tool to empower education.

The workshop underscored the importance of balancing innovation with critical thought and governance, equipping participants with knowledge and strategies to navigate AI's evolving role in education.

Debriefing of the outcomes of the Workshops

The debriefing session served as a platform for participants to reflect on and consolidate their learnings from the day's workshops. This session, conducted in the evening, aimed to foster a collaborative space where insights and outcomes from three workshops – *Combating Misinformation and Media Literacy, AI and the Job Market: Preparing for the Future, and Empowering Education with AI* – could be shared and explored.

The session opened with full-group reflections. Participants were prompted to discuss what had resonated with them throughout the day, including key learnings, surprising moments, and areas where they sought further understanding. This created a space for initial thoughts to be aired and set a reflective tone. The facilitator then introduced energising activities, designed to engage participants both physically and creatively, encouraging a shift in focus and revitalising group dynamics before diving into more detailed discussions.

The core of the session focused on sharing insights from the afternoon workshops. Participants were organised into groups based on the workshops they had attended, and each group was tasked with preparing a brief but engaging presentation for the others. Each group addressed the content of their workshop, the key learning outcomes, and any conclusions they had drawn, particularly as they related to the broader themes of the Luxor Declaration.

During these presentations, participants from other groups were invited to ask questions and provide feedback, fostering cross-group dialogue. These exchanges highlighted the diverse ways in which AI and media literacy are shaping education, labour markets, and societal dynamics, and illuminated the interconnections between these fields.

The session concluded with closing remarks, where participants shared their reflections on the discussions and outcomes. This collaborative and interactive debriefing session not only synthesised the day's activities but also strengthened the group's collective understanding and commitment to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by AI and media literacy.

Day 5: Friday 18 September - The Future of Dialogue with Arab and European Youth

Presentation and Consultation on the draft Luxor Declaration for Consultation

The drafting of the Euro-Arab Youth Declaration was a pivotal and inclusive process that unfolded throughout the week of the forum, culminating on Friday. The declaration aimed to reflect the collective aspirations, challenges, and recommendations of young participants from both regions, promoting future cooperation and youth leadership. It was framed as a

collaborative effort, emphasising consensus and broad engagement, with a focus on creating actionable outcomes.

The process began on the forum's opening day with an introduction to the declaration's purpose and significance. Participants were presented with examples of past youth declarations, such as those from Fez and Budapest, to illustrate their impact on policy and youth advocacy. This session set the tone for the collaborative journey ahead, emphasising that the declaration would be a product of shared effort and mutual understanding.

Throughout the forum, participants were actively involved in identifying the declaration’s key themes. This was achieved through discussions in various sessions, reflection activities, and tools like an online platform for contributions. These contributions were collected and synthesised daily to ensure that by Friday, clear themes and priorities had emerged.

On the final day, the focus shifted to defining concrete goals and recommendations for the declaration. This stage utilised a dynamic World Café methodology, where groups rotated through thematic stations to brainstorm actionable ideas. Facilitators at each station guided discussions, ensuring all voices were heard, and participants' inputs were organised into coherent goals and strategies.

Simultaneously, a drafting committee composed of diverse representatives consolidated these ideas into a preliminary declaration. The document was structured with a preamble outlining the vision, core themes addressing major challenges, and specific, actionable recommendations. Participants who were not on the committee, provided live feedback via online tools or written comments, ensuring transparency and collective ownership of the draft.

The finalised declaration was presented during a plenary session for endorsement. All participants had the opportunity to review the document, after which a symbolic sign-off ceremony underscored their collective commitment. This moment was celebrated with a photo opportunity and statements from youth representatives and facilitators, highlighting the significance of their shared achievement.

Finally, as we will see in the following paragraph, a dissemination plan was discussed to ensure the declaration's reach and impact. Participants brainstormed strategies for promoting the document through social media, governmental engagement, and NGO partnerships. They also considered follow-up actions, such as regional workshops, monitoring progress, and forming youth networks to sustain collaboration and advocacy.

The drafting process not only produced a meaningful declaration but also exemplified the power of youth-driven dialogue and cooperation, laying a foundation for continued cross-regional engagement and tangible impact.

Follow-Up Projects (in working groups)

The follow-up projects session, scheduled on the final day of the forum, aimed to empower participants to translate the intercultural dialogue and skills gained into impactful initiatives within their communities. The session focused on generating actionable project proposals, refining these ideas through feedback, and equipping participants with essential skills in project design, team building, and proposal drafting.

The methodology emphasised collaborative ideation and structured brainstorming. Participants were invited to propose a range of thematic topics, resulting in suggestions around social inclusion, conflict resolution, refugee integration, active citizenship, and cultural literacy. Participants were then invited to select a topic that they wanted to work on with other participants.

Participants joined working groups to develop proposals step-by-step, culminating in concise project pitches. Guided by facilitators, these groups drafted project proposals that aimed to be relevant, feasible, impactful, and sustainable. Facilitators provided ongoing mentorship, and participants were introduced to potential resources like grants, educational materials, and networks to support project implementation.

Participants shared in plenary the following ideas for follow-up projects:

- Creation of a network of alumni (that could organise activities via crowdfunding)
- Organisation of a euro-med intercultural exchange forum
- An Arab-European medical association
- A group that will continue to work on the implementation and dissemination of the Luxor Declaration
- An initiative on climate crisis by alumni, suggesting the planning of a side-event, part of the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (more commonly known as COP29) in Azerbaijan
- A conflict-prevention project, including a hackathon and a series of digital workshops and panel discussions.
- A toolkit including practices for inclusive peace in conflict-affected settings, aimed at institutions in Arab and European regions.

Closing session of the forum

A brief, interactive evaluation took place right before the official closing of the event in plenary, with participants sharing personal words and experiences. These are some of the highlights.

- Participants shared that they felt ‘empowered’, ‘inspired’, ‘included’ throughout the forum.
- They described the entire experience as ‘very interesting’, ‘fascinating’, ‘relevant’.

The quotes from participants of the 8th Arab-European Youth Forum reveal an impact that goes far beyond a typical international gathering. They capture the essence of a truly transformative intercultural experience, where young people from different backgrounds discovered more than just new perspectives—they found connections that transcended geographical and cultural boundaries.

At the heart of these reflections is a deep sense of personal and collective awakening. The emotional tone of the participants' farewell messages is striking. There's a palpable mixture of joy and gratitude. They speak of the forum not as a fleeting conference, but as a life-changing journey. The repeated emphasis on friendship, knowledge sharing, and future collaboration suggests that the organisers succeeded in creating more than just a dialogue—they facilitated the formation of a transnational youth network of alumni.

Overall, what emerges is a portrait of hope—young people from regions often characterised by division, finding common ground, mutual understanding, and a shared commitment to collaborative future. The forum appears to have been a microcosm of potential global understanding, powered by the energy, openness, and youth idealism.

At the end of the session, both the organising and facilitating team thanked participants for their active participation, and wished them good luck in their follow-up projects. Certificates were distributed by representatives of the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States. Official representatives of both organisations exchanged symbolic tokens of appreciation and acknowledgements to each other's contribution in the forum's success.

Participant quotes (selected)

I didn't have with whom to speak English back home. Now, I have the motivation to learn a foreign language because I want to communicate with you.

I am so sad the Forum is coming to an end, but I hope we will find a way to meet again!

As we wrap up this incredible journey at the 8th Arab-European Youth Forum, I just wanted to take a moment to say goodbye and express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Meeting such amazing people and sharing our ideas has truly been inspiring! A special thank you to the organisers for putting together this fantastic event and for creating an environment where we could connect and collaborate. Your hard work made this experience unforgettable! Let's keep this spirit alive and stay in touch!

We want to thank the organisers and our mentors for this amazing forum. We really had a great time; we made new friends and shared knowledge. Our visions are now formed in project plans. We will stay in contact and share our achievements!

Conclusions and Results of the forum

The 8th Arab-European Youth Forum, held at the 'Youth City' in Luxor, Egypt, concluded with impactful outcomes, encapsulating its mission to foster intercultural dialogue and youth-driven solutions for global challenges in an AI-powered world. Anchored by the theme "Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence," the forum successfully merged cultural exploration, hands-on workshops, and strategic collaboration to empower young leaders.

Key Outcomes

1. **The Luxor Declaration**:
   A central achievement of the forum was the collaboratively developed Luxor Declaration (Appendix 3), a document that captures the collective vision of Arab and European youth. It outlined actionable commitments to harness AI for ethical and inclusive purposes, address global challenges like misinformation and youth unemployment, and strengthen transnational partnerships. This declaration serves as a strategic roadmap for ongoing collaboration.

2. **Workshop Reflections and Collaborative Synthesis**:
   Interactive presentations fostered cross-group dialogue, highlighting the diverse applications of AI in education, employment, and media. Participants exchanged ideas on how AI could revolutionise these sectors while ensuring ethical and inclusive practices.
3. **Fostering Connections Through Cultural Heritage**:
   Beyond workshops, the programme included visits to Luxor's iconic landmarks, such as the Karnak Temple and the Valley of the Kings, which provided a powerful backdrop for reflecting on shared cultural heritage. These experiences underscored the enduring relevance of ancient civilisations in inspiring contemporary values of coexistence, diversity, and mutual respect.
4. **Empowering Youth as Catalysts for Change**:
   The forum provided a platform for young people to not only discuss but actively shape future-oriented solutions. By equipping participants with the tools and knowledge to navigate AI's complexities, it positioned them as leaders in fostering intercultural understanding and addressing shared challenges.

Concluding Reflections

The 8th Arab-European Youth Forum was not merely a series of discussions, it was a transformative journey. The programme's design encouraged participants to reflect deeply, engage actively, and contribute meaningfully to both individual growth and collective outcomes.

In conclusion, the forum demonstrated the power of youth-driven collaboration in addressing complex global challenges. By integrating AI's potential with intercultural dialogue, it laid the groundwork for a future where technological advancements serve as tools for inclusivity, innovation, and mutual understanding. The event reaffirmed the vital role of young people as architects of a more connected, equitable, and culturally enriched world.

Participant Evaluation

Survey Analysis- Key findings

The 8th Arab-European Youth Forum brought together participants from diverse backgrounds to foster intercultural dialogue and address global challenges. The evaluation, based on feedback from 45 participants, reflects an overwhelmingly positive reception of the forum's content, organisation, and impact, while also offering insights for future improvements.

Overall Experience and Expectations

Participants were highly satisfied with their experience, with 91% rating it as "satisfied" or "very satisfied." Additionally, 84% reported that the forum either met or exceeded their expectations. Key highlights included:

- **Networking and Cultural Exchange**: Participants valued the opportunity to connect across cultures, noting enriched perspectives and the correction of stereotypes.
- **Content Quality and Facilitation**: Sessions were praised for their relevance and professional facilitation, fostering an inclusive and engaging atmosphere.
- **Personal Growth**: The forum encouraged self-reflection, skill development, and motivation to address shared global challenges.

Suggestions for Improvement: Participants expressed a desire for more time to explore topics, particularly on AI, as well as extended durations to enhance collaboration.

Programme Content and Workshops

The forum's diverse activities, including guest speaker sessions, workshops, and cultural programs, were well-received:

- **Guest Speakers**: 79% rated presentations as "good" or "excellent," with particular appreciation for their expertise and interactive approach. However, some participants desired deeper dives into topics like AI and intercultural dialogue.
- **Workshops**: A remarkable 95% of participants found workshops "very good" or "excellent." Interactive formats and practical sessions on AI, media literacy, and climate change resonated strongly. However, time constraints limited deeper exploration of complex issues.

Participant Feedback: Attendees recommended incorporating more dialogic formats, including diverse perspectives, and adding follow-up activities for sustained impact.

Cultural and Physical Activity Programs

Cultural Program

The cultural program, rated as “excellent” by 80% of respondents and as very good by 18%, was a standout element:

- **Immersive Experiences**: Visits to Luxor’s historical sites, such as the Valley of the Kings, fostered deeper appreciation of Egyptian heritage.
- **Networking and Bonding**: Cultural nights and shared experiences strengthened connections among participants.

Areas for Improvement: Participants noted rushed schedules and recommended reallocating time to prioritise exploration over less impactful activities.

Physical Activity Program

Sports and yoga sessions were well-received, with 78% rating them as “good” or “excellent.” Activities provided a refreshing break and encouraged teamwork. However, early scheduling and logistical issues were identified as barriers for some participants.

Inclusivity and Learning Outcomes

The forum’s commitment to inclusivity was widely praised, with 83% rating the environment as “excellent.” Key themes included:

- **Welcoming Atmosphere**: Participants appreciated the diversity and kindness of organizers and peers, fostering mutual respect and collaboration.
- **Learning Achievements**: Nearly all participants (95%-100%) agreed that the forum enhanced their understanding of intercultural dialogue, AI’s societal impact, and Arab-European relations. The focus on breaking stereotypes and building youth capacities left a lasting impact.

Future Directions

Participants emphasized the importance of sustaining engagement through regular forums, networking opportunities, and practical initiatives. Suggested themes for future forums included:

1. **Technology and AI**: Exploring AI’s implications in education, privacy, and governance.
2. **Intercultural Dialogue and Peace-Building**: Addressing migration, conflict resolution, and youth empowerment.
3. **Sustainability and Climate Action**: Highlighting youth roles in tackling environmental crises.
4. **Mental Health and Wellbeing**: Integrating resilience-building and creative activities.

Conclusion

The 8th Arab-European Youth Forum was an impactful platform for fostering dialogue, learning, and collaboration. By addressing participant feedback and expanding its focus on critical issues, future editions can further strengthen the forum’s role in shaping informed, inclusive, and empowered youth leadership across regions.

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Electronic links

Compass: Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass

Council of Europe www.coe.int

Euro-Arab Youth Forums - Youth, Peace and Inclusion https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth-peace-dialogue/euro-arab-youth-forums

European Youth Forum https://www.youthforum.org/

Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/joint-council-on-youth

جامعة الدول العربية League of Arab States http://www.leagueofarabstates.net/ar/Pages/default.aspx

League of Arab States (LAS) and the EU https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/league-arab-states-las-and-eu_en

UN (United Nations) Resolution 2250 https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc12149.doc.htm

World Café https://theworldcafe.com/key-concepts-resources/world-cafe-method/

Appendix 1: The Luxor Declaration

LUXOR DECLARATION

on Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

We, the young participants at the 8th Arab-European Youth Forum, held in Luxor, Egypt, from 14 to 19 October 2024, brought together by the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States to foster intercultural dialogue by young people in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), recognise both the opportunities and challenges that AI presents.

Guided by the principles of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security – adopted following an initiative from HRH Crown Prince Hussein Bin Abdullah II, during the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's Chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council – and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16, and the standards and principles of Council of Europe and the League of Arab States, we are committed to harnessing AI ethically to promote peace, equity, and mutual understanding grounded on universal human rights. We are appalled by the destruction, human suffering and loss of lives of on-going armed conflicts in our regions, in stark contradiction to the aspirations for peace, dialogue and societies that are cohesive and embrace diversity.

Constituting more than half of the population of the Arab and European regions, youth are vital to shaping the future. We affirm our role in advancing ethical AI, bridging cultural divides, and addressing key global issues. Through collaboration and inclusive dialogue, we aim to ensure that AI fosters shared progress, empowers youth, and contributes to a more just and peaceful world.

Environmental protection and climate crisis

1. *Alarmed by* the lack of implementation of existing climate solutions and the ongoing delays in addressing the climate crisis, we urge stakeholders to prioritise action by holding polluters accountable, phasing out fossil fuels, and eliminating single-use plastics. We emphasise the importance of supporting sustainable businesses, alternative products, and transitioning to a circular economy that ensures every individual plays a role in mitigating environmental damage.
2. *Conscious of* the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, exacerbated by weak collaboration and corruption, we call upon governments, international bodies, and the private sector to foster increased collaboration. We emphasise the urgency of a just transition, where all sectors, including corporations, are held accountable for implementing transparent and equitable climate solutions. These solutions must address the root causes of climate change, while advancing net-zero emissions and fostering sustainable consumption practices.

3. *We recognise that* while artificial intelligence holds transformative potential in addressing the climate crisis through advanced environmental monitoring, resource optimisation, and predictive capabilities, it still also poses significant environmental risks if not carefully managed. The excessive energy consumption associated with AI technologies, such as data centres and cloud computing, contributes to a growing carbon footprint that can exacerbate environmental degradation.
4. *We urge* governments and institutions to establish the legal framework to utilise AI to promote sustainability and address global challenges, while carefully managing its potential environmental impacts. Failure to do so could undermine the very efforts AI is meant to support in combating the climate crisis, making this a critical area for immediate global attention and action.

Youth participation

5. *Noting with* regret the restrictions faced by youth with fewer opportunities, particularly in accessing local and governmental initiatives, which limits their full participation, we encourage governments to ease restrictions, commit to building the capacity of underrepresented youth through peer-to-peer engagement, equal access to decision-making processes related to AI, avoiding tokenistic youth participation, and delegating decision-making powers to youth.
6. Attentive to the lack of public funding and insufficient non-formal education opportunities for youth, leading to superficial participation in key initiatives, we invite governments and youth organisations to increase support for volunteerism and advocacy, to promote youth-led actions backed by public funding, strengthening cooperation with officials, and integrating youth participation and volunteerism in early-stage school subjects.

Mutual perceptions and stereotypes

7. *Deeply disturbed* by the persistence of stereotypes between Euro-Arab communities, which exacerbate prejudices, undermine a culture of universal human rights, and hinder authentic intercultural dialogue, we encourage governments and civil society to raise awareness through inclusive educational campaigns and grassroots initiatives. These should challenge stereotypes and prejudice, promote empathy, and provide emotional support systems for those affected by discrimination.
8. *We are concerned* about the intergenerational traumas caused by discrimination, which continues to regress mutual understanding. We advocate for the promotion of cross-cultural exchanges and peer-learning programmes, as they will foster shared goals among youth, heal historical wounds, and build lasting connections between communities.
9. *We are aware* of the media's role in reinforcing stereotypes and prejudice between nations. We request media outlets to implement ethical practices and media literacy programs, train journalists on cultural awareness and promote non-violent communication in order to facilitate balanced and respectful media representation of all people.
10. *Recognising the impact* of algorithmic bias in generative AI, we urge the passing of legislation to contribute to more accurate frameworks and reduce instances of systemic unfairness among AI products.

Combating misinformation and media literacy

11. *Deeply concerned* by the growing polarisation of public opinion due to the influence of fake news and misinformation amongst youth with different backgrounds, we suggest the implementation of simple media literacy tools to empower youth and the public to develop critical thinking skills and to identify and combat misinformation and disinformation.
12. *Alarmed* by the lack of adequate regulation of AI technologies, which contributes to the spread of misinformation and raises concerns on ethics and cultural biases, we appeal to governments and organisations to establish stronger ethical guidelines for AI usage and to promote AI as a tool for fact-checking and verifying information, ensuring its responsible use.
13. *We recognise* that misinformation and disinformation are often linked to issues of authority and governance, considering the World Press Freedom Index as a critical reference. We encourage governments to address these issues by creating a more pluralistic media environment through increased freedom of the press.
14. *We call for* increased accountability among social media platforms and urge them to take responsibility for reducing misinformation and disinformation by implementing effective measures to detect and prevent the spread of false information online.

AI and the job market, preparing for the future

15. *Worried by* the potential for AI to deepen socioeconomic inequalities and cause job losses, particularly in marginalised communities, we strongly advise governments and stakeholders to adopt policies that retrain displaced workers. This includes investing in capacity-building programs that enhance employees' AI skills, ensuring equal access to skill development opportunities, and providing tools to keep up with the rapid AI revolution. We also encourage the promotion of self-education and independent learning, empowering individuals to adapt to the changing demands of the job market.
16. *Mindful of* the potential erosion of cultural diversity in the job market due to algorithmic bias, we stress the importance of governments and industry leaders implementing ethical standards for AI development. This involves preventing different types of biases in AI systems to ensure equality and the quality of information. Establishing universal regulations is crucial to protect personal data and intellectual property, prioritising privacy, transparency, and the ethical use of collected data. We suggest the possibility of establishing an AI ethics committee to oversee these efforts and ensure compliance.
17. *We urge* stakeholders to build upon existing or create new regulations in employment, adapting to the evolving landscape shaped by AI technologies. This includes enforcing human-centric fact-checking policies to maintain fairness and accuracy in employment practices, ensuring that AI enhances rather than hinders job market equity.

Empowering education with AI

18. *Mindful of* the importance of ethical and effective use of AI in education, we urge stakeholders to promote the adoption of standardised AI guidelines across educational systems, ensuring that teachers and students can ethically and effectively benefit from it. Education on AI should include training for students, teachers, and parents to make AI literacy accessible for all, ensuring everyone is involved, understands how to benefit from AI, is aware of its shortcomings, and can work together to prevent misuse.

19. *Alarmed by* the potential widening of digital divides, we urge stakeholders to prioritise the development of open, accessible, and affordable AI-driven educational solutions that address diverse accessibility needs and resource disparities. By doing so, stakeholders can help ensuring equitable learning opportunities for all, regardless of their background, prior knowledge, or resources.
20. *Conscious of* the necessity to foster fair and equitable educational opportunities, we assert that it is essential to integrate data from diverse worldviews and cultural perspectives into AI systems. This approach ensures that AI outputs are balanced, enabling education that is inclusive and not tied to specific worldviews. By drawing on a variety of cultural contexts, AI can promote understanding and respect for different traditions, enhancing intercultural education and maintaining cultural integrity.
21. *Attentive to* the evolving roles of educators due to emerging technologies, we urge stakeholders to advocate for comprehensive AI literacy training programs that include parents, students, and teachers. This approach will enable all parties to effectively navigate and benefit from AI in education. Teachers, in particular, must be involved in discussions and policies regarding AI to ensure that AI serves as a complementary tool rather than a replacement, support should be provided to help educators balance traditional and AI-supported teaching methodologies.
22. *Worried by* potential imbalances in AI integration in education, we urge stakeholders to promote the adoption of standardised guidelines and best practices already available. The usage of AI should be promoted in a way that empowers students to seek guidance, encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving.
23. *Recognising the* importance of creating a cohesive learning environment, we urge stakeholders to work towards fostering a unified education system where AI enhances intercultural understanding, supporting inclusive and diverse educational environments while respecting human rights and cultural nuances and traditions.

Conclusion

This Declaration highlights the urgency of addressing misinformation and social inequalities in the era of AI, emphasising the importance of global collaboration, youth empowerment and regulating the usage of AI in education to tackle these challenges. By promoting localised solutions and advocating for equitable access to participation, and establishing ethical frameworks for the use of the AI, it call for an inclusive and sustainable approach. This call to action urges governments, organisations, private stakeholders, and civil societies to work together, adopting concrete measures that advance the usage of AI in promoting cultural diversity, capacity-building for the youth, and the development of a future-ready workforce.

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the participants of the forum and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe or the League of Arab States.

Appendix 2: List of Participants

DFD-YD/ETD (2024) 205 Strasbourg, 8 October 2024

8th Arab-European Youth Forum

Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

14-19 October 2024
Youth City, Luxor, Egypt

منتدى الشباب العربي الأوروبي الثامن
الأقصر - مصر ٢٠٢٤
8th Arab - Euro Youth Forum
Luxor- Egypt 2024

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Albania	
IRLA PIRRA	International Union of Socialist Youth
Algeria	
ELIAS TAS	
YOUNES BELAID	
Armenia	
GOHARIK GRIGORYAN	The Malmar Knowles Family Foundation - The Kectil program
SYUZI TADEVOSYAN	Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia
Azerbaijan	
FATMA ALLAHVERDIYEVA	Institute for Development and Diplomacy
Belgium	
DEA BAKASHVILI	International Falcon Movement-Socialist Education International (IFM-SEI)
LOMME VANDERHOYDONCK	AFS Lowlands
OSKAR BONTE	Flemish Youth Council
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
AJDIN KARIC	Youth for Peace
ANASTASIJA ĐORĐA BOSANČIĆ	WeBalkans - Young European Ambassadors
Bulgaria	
VIKTORIA GENCHEVA	Bulgarian Red cross
Czechia	
PETR PAVEL BANDA	Association of Roma youth
Egypt	
AHMED MOHAMED HASSAN SOUDY	Ministry of Youth and Sport
ALAA ABDEL-AKHER	
EYAD TAREK MOHAMED HEGAZY	Ministry of Youth and Sport
JUDY HAMZA	
KENZY HAITHAM ELSHEIKH	
MARIAM RABAH MAHMOUD HASSAN	
MARIAM WAEL	
France	
AMJAD EL HAFIDI	Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations
THOMAS CHARNOTET	Youth Council of Paris
Germany	

JONAS WIHL	JECI-MIEC Jeunesse Étudiante Catholique Internationale - Mouvement Internationale des Étudiants Catholiques"

Iraq

MILAAN ALI HUSSEIN	Ministry of Youth and Sport
NAGWAN SHAKIR MAHMOUD	Ministry of Youth and Sport

Italy

NADIN GHNINOU	European Law Students Association

Jordan

MOHAB ABDELBASET MOHAMMAD ALKHASONEH
YARA KHALID AHMAD HADDAD

Kuwait

FAWAZ SAAD ABDULMOHSEN

SHAHAD JABER MAHMOUD BOAREKI

INTESAR AHMED ALI TAQI

Luxembourg

MOHAMED LAMINE OUMAR BANGOURA	Association Luxembourgeoise pour le Dialogue Interculturel (ALDIC)

Malta

MICHAELA VASSALLO	National Youth Council of Malta

Morocco

AYA BEN MOHAMED	Asclepia Med, International University of Rabat
NABIL ADAOUI	

The Netherlands

ANOUK DE ROOY	Dutch National Youth Council and Utrecht Youth Network

Palestine

HANEEN M. ZOUROB
HEBATALLAH HASSAN SOLIMAN ZOUARAB
NESMA HASHIM YOUSEF ALHAJ
TAMER NADER ALKISHAWI

Serbia

MILOS PAVLOVIC	CONNECT International
NINA PORTOLAN	European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)

Somalia

ABUDLLAHI ADAN ISAK	Somali National University

AYAN ELMI ALIM

Spain

ANGEL PEREZ CONTRERAS	Spanish Youth Council
FRANCESC ALMENDROS VILADERRAMS	Mediterranean Youth Council

Sweden

KARL EDVIN JOHANNES PETTERSSON	Save the Children Lund

Switzerland

TEREZA NEUWIRTH	Youth Peace Initiative

Tunisia

MOHAMED YESSINE LABIDI
RAZANE SELMI
YASSINE BEN SLIMENE

Türkiye

REVSEN BERFIN COSKUN	Young Peacebuilders of Türkiye

United Arab Emirates

FATMA SALMAN AHMED SAEED ALMANSOORI

United Kingdom

SHOHAIL USMAN MOHAMMED ISMAIL	Sheffield Volunteering

Yemen

AHMED AMER EBRAHIM AHMED BA MADHAF

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

H.E DR. ASHRAF SOBHY	Minister of Youth and Sport in Egypt
H.E ABDEL-MOTTALEB MAMDOUH EMARA	Governor of Luxor
H.E. DR. SULTAN AL NEYDAI	Vice President of the Arab Youth Centre
MAHMOUD EL TAYEB	Researcher, Archaeologist, and a Tour Guide
AMR ABDEL-GAYED	Head of International Relations of European / Erasmus Projects Jovensolides Spain/Egypt
DR. ALY FAHMY	Dean of the College of Artificial Intelligence – Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transportation

CONSULTANTS

AHMED ALI GHORAB	Rapporteur (League of Arab States)
FAKHRI AL-TWAL	Facilitator (League of Arab States)
MARIE DROSOPOULOU	Rapporteur (Council of Europe)
MINNA FANGARÍ	Facilitator (League of Arab States)

NURANA MAMMADOVA	Facilitator (Council of Europe)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Joint Council on Youth

JORGE ORLANDO QUEIRÓS	Chair, European Steering Committee for Youth
NINA GRMUŠA	Chair of the Advisory Council of Youth
ROBERTA BOJANG	Advisory Council of Youth
YEVHENIIA FEDOTOROVA	Advisory Council of Youth

Secretariat of the Youth Department

RUI GOMES	Head of Division Education, Training and Cooperation
JOHN MUIR	Educational Advisor
KATALIN ORMOS	Administrative Assistant

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Department of Youth and Sport

FAISAL ALI GHASSAL	Director
NOURHAN SALEH	Programme Officer
TAMER GOMAA	Officer in charge of AEYF’s logistics

Appendix 3: Programme

DFD-YD/ETD (2024) 202 rev

Strasbourg, 8 October 2024

8TH ARAB-EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

14-19 October 2024
Youth City, Luxor, Egypt

منتدى الشباب العربي الأوروبي الثامن
الأقصر - مصر ٢٠٢٤

8th Arab - Euro Youth Forum
Luxor- Egypt 2024

PROGRAMME

Monday 14 October

Arrival of Participants and registrations

19:00 **Get Together**: Introductions and ice-breaking

20:00: Welcome Dinner

Tuesday 15 October – THE CONTEXT FOR DIALOGUE

07:00 Yoga Session (Optional)

08:00 Breakfast

09:15 **Informal Introduction** (Plenary Room – Ground Floor)

09:30 Experiences and expectations of participants

10:45 Introduction to the Forum's history, programme, objectives and expected results and practical information and the Context of the Forum in Luxor

The Luxor Declaration

11:30 Break

12:00 **Official opening** of the Forum, with: (Theatre)

- H.E ABDEL-MOTTALEB MAMDOUH EMARA, Governor of Luxor
- NINA GRUMUŠA, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth – Council of Europe
- JORGE ORLANDO QUEIRÓS, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth – Council of Europe
- FAISAL ALI GHASSAL, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of Department of Youth and Sport – League of Arab States
- H.E DR. ASHRAF SOBHY, Minister of Youth and Sport in Egypt
- H.E DR. SULTAN AL NEYDAI, Vice President of the Arab Youth Centre

13:15 Lunch

14:30 **Ancient civilizations, which lessons for today?** (Plenary – Ground Floor)

15:15 Ancient Civilizations – which lessons for today – Working Groups (Workshop Rooms)

17:00 City Walk in Luxor

20:00 Dinner

Wednesday 16 October - ASPIRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF ARAB AND EUROPEAN YOUTH

07:00 Pilates Session (Optional)

08:00 Breakfast

09:15 Opening, programme of the day (Plenary Room – Ground Floor)

09:30 **Means of sustaining dialogue and establishing cooperation among Arab and European youth**

- RUI GOMES - Head of Division – Education, Training and Cooperation, Youth Department Council of Europe
- AMR ABDEL-GAYED – Head of International Relations of European / Erasmus Projects Jovensolides Spain/Egypt

11:00 Break

11:30 Workshops on sharing experiences and aspirations

1: **Environment protection and climate crisis** (Workshop Room 1 – 4th Floor)

2: **Youth participation**, with a focus on Volunteerism (Workshop Room 2 – 4th Floor)

3: **Mutual perceptions and stereotypes** (Workshop Room 3 – Ground Floor)

13:30 Lunch

14:45 Workshops – Debriefing and Conclusions (Workshop Groups – in Workshop Rooms)

15:15 Presentation of the outcomes of the workshops (Plenary)

16:30 Visit to the Luxor Temple

17:30 Cruise on the Nile River

20:00 Sound and Light at Karnak Temple

21:00 Dinner

Thursday 17 October – YOUTH, AI AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

06:30 Meet and departure to and visit of the Valley of the Kings

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Opening and Programme of the Day (Plenary Room – Ground Floor)

14:15 **Harnessing AI for a better intercultural understanding**

- DR. ALY FAHMY, Dean of the College of Artificial Intelligence – Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transportation
- JOHN MUIR, Educational Advisor – Council of Europe – Council of Europe Standards on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

15:30 Break

15:45 Workshops on AI and young people

1: **Combating misinformation and media literacy** (Workshop Room 1 – 4th Floor)

2: **AI and the job market, preparing for the future** (Workshop Room 2 – 4th Floor)

3: **Empowering Education with AI** (Workshop Room 3 – Ground Floor)

17:45 Break

18:00 Workshops – Debriefing and Conclusions (Workshop Rooms)

18:30 Debriefing on the Outcomes of the Workshops (Plenary Room)

20:00 Dinner

Friday 18 September - THE FUTURE OF DIALOGUE WITH ARAB AND EUROPEAN YOUTH

07:00 Group Run/Walk (optional)

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Opening and programme of the day (Plenary Room – Ground Floor)

09:15 Presentation and Consultation on the draft Luxor Declaration for Consultation and Follow-Up Projects

12:00 Break and Lunch

14:30 Finalising the Luxor Declaration and Follow-Up Projects (Working groups in Workshop Rooms)

16:15 Break

16:45 Presentation of the **Luxor Declaration, Conclusions and Results of the forum** (Plenary Room)

18:30 **Closing session** of the forum

20:00 **Farewell Dinner** with cultural performance

Saturday 19 September

Departure of participants

ABOUT THE 8TH ARAB-EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The forum aims at promoting dialogue and cooperation among young people and organizations cooperating with the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe by sharing expectations for intercultural dialogue and cooperation and exchanging on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on Arab and European youth.

Objectives

- To relaunch Arab-European co-operation and dialogue in the field of youth, and to reaching shared ideas to enhance Arab-European cooperation in the field of youth;
- To discuss the conditions and needs for intercultural dialogue among young people;
- To explore the role of history and ancient civilizations in shaping today's understanding of cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence;
- To develop a common understanding of the potential benefits and risks that Artificial Intelligence represents for young people and intercultural dialogue in the two regions;
- To enhance mutual understanding about the priorities and working methods of the youth policy sectors of the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe;
- To support young people in engaging with future dialogue activities support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.