



Guide to the Global Youth Network for Quality and Excellence

Different Contexts... Shared Aspirations for Quality, Excellence, and Future Foresight

2026

First: Network Overview

The **Global Youth Network for Quality and Excellence** is a pioneering international initiative launched by the **UNESCO Regional Center for Quality and Excellence in Education (RCQE)**. It is designed as a sustainable, youth-led global platform that brings together young people, youth leaders, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and professionals from diverse countries, cultures, and contexts. The Network aims to empower them to contribute actively to promoting a culture of quality and excellence, exploring its future directions, generating knowledge, developing innovative initiatives and solutions, and participating in related policies and decision-making processes.

The Network is founded on the belief that young people are not merely beneficiaries of development programmes, but essential partners in shaping the future, a driving force in advancing societies and institutions, and leaders of innovation, transformation, and impact creation. Accordingly, the Network provides an international space for dialogue, mutual learning, knowledge and experience exchange, and collective action, enabling young people to transform their aspirations and ideas into actionable, measurable, and sustainable projects, initiatives, recommendations, and policies.

Although the Network's name broadly encompasses quality and excellence across different fields, **quality and excellence in education and foresight into the future of education** constitute a central focus of its work, in line with RCQE's mandate and mission. At the same time, the Network remains open to fields intersecting with education, including youth development, innovation, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, future skills, entrepreneurship, sustainability, global citizenship, education in emergencies, and peacebuilding.

Second: Guiding Principles

The Network is founded on the following key principles:

1. Young people are partners in shaping the present and anticipating the future, not merely beneficiaries of programmes and policies.
2. Quality and excellence are a culture and a sustainable practice, not merely standards or operational indicators.

3. Diversity in economic, social, cultural, and geographical contexts does not diminish young people's shared aspirations for a better and more equitable future.
4. Youth voices are essential to the development of policies, programmes, and institutional practices.
5. Digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and economic, climate, and demographic changes require the concepts of quality and excellence to be reimagined.
6. International cooperation and the exchange of expertise among young people and institutions contribute to developing more innovative and sustainable solutions.
7. Future foresight is essential to strengthening the readiness of young people and institutions to respond to rapid changes and emerging opportunities.
8. Investing in young people's capabilities is a fundamental pathway to achieving sustainable development and building peace and prosperity.
9. Meaningful youth participation requires clear institutional frameworks and genuine opportunities to contribute to decision-making.
10. Quality and excellence in education are fundamental to empowering young people, developing their capabilities, and enhancing their social and economic participation.

Third: Vision

To be a leading youth-led global platform that promotes a culture of quality and excellence, explores its future, advances meaningful youth engagement, and transforms young people's shared aspirations into knowledge, initiatives, policies, and sustainable impact.

Fourth: Mission

To empower young people from diverse countries, cultures, and contexts to connect, learn collectively, and innovate; participate in advancing the concepts of quality and excellence and anticipating their future transformations; build their capacities to generate knowledge, design initiatives and solutions, contribute to policies and decision-making, and establish international partnerships that achieve sustainable development impact.

Fifth: Slogan

Different Contexts... Shared Aspirations for Quality and Excellence

Youth Envision the Future of Quality and Excellence and Shape Its Impact

Sixth: Strategic Goal

The Network's strategic goal is to build an institutionalized and sustainable global youth movement that contributes to advancing the concepts and applications of quality and excellence and places youth voices, experiences, and innovations at the heart of development, foresight, and policymaking processes. It also seeks to provide channels that connect young people with decision-makers, experts, and international, regional, and national institutions.

Seventh: Governing Values

The Network is committed to the following values:

- Youth Leadership: Empowering young people to lead the Network's programmes and initiatives.
- Meaningful Participation: Moving beyond token participation towards active engagement in design, implementation, evaluation, and decision-making.
- Quality and Excellence: Adhering to the highest standards of efficiency, excellence in execution, and continuous improvement.
- Diversity and Inclusion: Respecting cultural, geographical, and intellectual differences and ensuring participation for all.
- Equity and Equal Opportunities: Providing equitable opportunities for young people, particularly underrepresented groups.
- Innovation: Encouraging new ideas, solutions, and models.
- Foresight: Preparing for the future and anticipating its transformations, opportunities, and risks.
- Sustainability: Designing initiatives with long-term and sustainable impact.
- Collaboration: Promoting collective action and the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

- Global Citizenship: Fostering shared responsibility and respect for universal human values.
- Integrity and Transparency: Adhering to ethical practices and good governance.
- Impact Creation: Linking programmes and initiatives to measurable and trackable results.

Eighth: Strategic Objectives

The Network aims to:

- Establish a sustainable international platform that brings together youth voices, ideas, and aspirations.
- Empower young people to contribute to promoting a culture of quality and excellence and advancing its concepts and applications.
- Strengthen the role of young people in advancing quality and excellence in education and exploring its future.
- Engage young people in designing policies, programmes, and initiatives related to quality and excellence.
- Build young people's capacities in leadership, innovation, research, foresight, and policymaking.
- Monitor emerging trends and transformations affecting the future of quality and excellence.
- Enable young people to develop future scenarios and formulate proactive policies and solutions.
- Support youth-led knowledge production through research, reports, surveys, and policy papers.
- Transform young people's ideas into actionable, scalable, and sustainable initiatives and projects.
- Identify young talent, leaders, and innovators and provide opportunities to develop their capabilities and enhance their visibility.
- Promote the exchange of expertise and outstanding practices among young people from different countries worldwide.
- Support digital innovation and the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

- Promote future skills, entrepreneurship, and the effective transition from learning to work.
- Support young people in contexts affected by crises, conflicts, and marginalization.
- Promote global citizenship, peace, sustainability, and shared responsibility.
- Build international partnerships among young people and governmental, educational, youth-focused, and research institutions.
- Provide regular communication channels between young people, decision-makers, experts, and international institutions.
- Contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education.
- Measure the impact of youth participation on the development of policies, practices, and initiatives.
- Build a sustainable global community of practice and learning in the fields of quality and excellence.

Ninth: Areas of Work

The Network operates across a set of interconnected areas, most notably:

1. Quality and Excellence in Education and Learning

- Reimagining educational quality from young people's perspectives.
- Improving learning experiences and environments.
- Promoting equity, inclusion, and equal opportunities.
- Enhancing the quality of curricula, teaching, and assessment.
- Exploring the future roles of teachers and learners.
- Advancing youth participation in education policymaking.

2. Foresight for the Future of Quality and Excellence

- Monitoring global trends and drivers of change.
- Identifying weak signals and emerging changes.
- Developing future scenarios.
- Analysing opportunities and risks.
- Developing forward-looking visions and proactive policies.
- Anticipating the future of standards, indicators, and institutional models.

3. Youth Leadership and Empowerment

- Developing youth leadership capacities.
- Participating in decision-making.
- Building influence and advocacy skills.
- Managing initiatives and projects.
- Promoting international dialogue and youth diplomacy.
- Building professional communities and networks.

4. Innovation, Research, and Knowledge Production

- Conducting youth-led research.
- Establishing innovation labs.
- Developing solutions and prototypes.
- Producing policy papers and knowledge briefs.
- Conducting comparative studies.
- Documenting experiences and outstanding practices.

5. Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence

- Promoting digital innovation in education and development.
- Supporting the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence.
- Advancing digital equity and inclusion.
- Protecting data and privacy.
- Developing future-oriented digital skills.
- Developing technology-based solutions with social impact.

6. Future Skills and Entrepreneurship

- Developing future skills.
- Supporting the transition from education to employment.
- Promoting social entrepreneurship.
- Engaging with the digital economy.
- Advancing professional and workplace innovation.
- Enhancing employability and decent work.

7. Sustainability and Global Citizenship

- Education for sustainable development.
- Climate action.
- Global citizenship.
- Shared human values.
- Social responsibility.
- Culture and dialogue among civilizations.

8. Education in Emergencies and Peacebuilding

- Ensuring the continuity of education during emergencies.
- Supporting young people in conflict-affected areas.
- Strengthening institutional and community resilience.
- Providing psychosocial support.
- Promoting education for peace.
- Protecting young people's right to learn and participate.

Tenth: Target Groups

The Network targets young people from countries worldwide, particularly:

- University and college students.
- Young researchers.
- Young teachers and professionals.
- Youth leaders.
- Innovators and inventors.
- Entrepreneurs.
- Young people working in technology and artificial intelligence.
- Members of youth councils and parliaments.
- Young people interested in quality, excellence, and foresight.
- Young people with disabilities.
- Young people from rural and remote communities.
- Young people affected by crises and conflicts.
- Young people from underrepresented groups.
- Members of youth organizations, associations, and initiatives.

- Young people working in sustainability, climate action, and peacebuilding.

The Network collaborates with:

- Ministries responsible for education and youth.
- Universities and educational and training institutions.
- International and regional organizations.
- National Commissions for UNESCO.
- Research and studies centres.
- Youth organizations.
- Civil society organizations.
- The private sector.
- Donor organizations.
- Business incubators and accelerators.
- Technology and media platforms.
- International professional and academic networks.

Eleventh: Organizational Structure and Governance

1. Founding and Supervisory Body

The UNESCO Regional Center for Quality and Excellence in Education provides institutional and strategic oversight of the Network and ensures that its work is aligned with the Center's mission and mandate and with international standards of practice.

2. High-Level Steering Committee

The Committee comprises representatives of the Center, experts, international partners, and youth representatives. Its responsibilities include:

- Approving the Network's strategic directions.
- Reviewing plans and programmes.
- Supporting international partnerships.

- Monitoring performance and impact.
- Ensuring sound governance and sustainability.
- Approving annual reports.

3. Global Youth Council

The Council serves as the Network's youth leadership body and comprises members from different regions of the world, taking into consideration:

- Geographical balance.
- Gender balance.
- Cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Representation of young people with disabilities.
- Representation of young people in crisis-affected contexts.
- Diversity of disciplines, backgrounds, and experience.

The Council is responsible for:

- Representing youth voices.
- Participating in the development of plans.
- Proposing initiatives.
- Leading dialogues.
- Following up on the work of thematic groups.
- Participating in the evaluation of the Network's programmes.
- Representing the Network at international events.

4. Youth General Assembly

The Assembly comprises all Network members and convenes annually to discuss:

- The Network's achievements.
- Youth priorities.
- The annual plan.
- Proposed initiatives.
- Reports of the working groups.
- Recommendations addressed to partners and decision-makers.

5. Technical Secretariat

The Center manages the Technical Secretariat, whose responsibilities include:

- Managing membership and the digital platform.
- Coordinating programmes and meetings.
- Supporting the Global Youth Council.
- Managing partnerships.
- Following up on the working groups.
- Preparing reports.
- Managing communications and media relations.
- Measuring performance and impact.
- Managing knowledge and resources.
- Ensuring compliance with policies and the Code of Conduct.

6. National Ambassadors and Coordinators

The Network appoints ambassadors or coordinators in countries, universities, and institutions to represent the Network, organize its activities, recruit members, and communicate young people's priorities.

7. Thematic Working Groups

The Network includes youth-led working groups in the following areas:

1. Quality and excellence in education and learning.
2. Foresight for the future of quality and excellence.
3. Digital transformation and artificial intelligence.
4. Future skills and entrepreneurship.
5. Sustainability and global citizenship.
6. Education in emergencies and peacebuilding.
7. Innovation, research, and policymaking.
8. Youth leadership, empowerment, and participation.

Twelfth: Network Membership

Membership Categories

- Youth Member: Participates in the Network's programmes, dialogues, and working groups.
- Founding Member: This status is granted to those who join during the initial launch phase.
- Network Ambassador: Represents the Network in their country, university, or institution.
- Global Youth Council Member: Participates in leading the Network and shaping its strategic directions.
- Expert or Mentor: Provides scientific, technical, and advisory support.
- Institutional Partner: A governmental, educational, youth-focused, research, international, or private-sector entity that supports the Network's objectives.

Membership Principles

- Core membership shall be free and accessible in accordance with clear criteria.
- Respect for diversity and cultural specificities.
- Commitment to the Network Charter and Code of Conduct.
- Positive and responsible participation.
- Protection of data and privacy.
- Prevention of discrimination and hate speech.
- Respect for intellectual property rights.
- Adherence to ethical standards in research, publishing, and voluntary work.
- Periodic assessment of members' activities and contributions.

Thirteenth: Programme Components

1. Global Digital Platform

The platform serves as the Network's primary operational infrastructure and includes:

- A multilingual information portal.
- A registration and membership management system.
- Member profiles.
- An interactive global map.
- Dedicated spaces for working groups.
- A digital library.
- A platform for showcasing initiatives.
- An events calendar.
- Training and volunteering opportunities.
- Discussion forums.

- Interactive surveys.
- A system for certificates and digital badges.
- A dashboard for measuring participation and impact.
- Data protection and access management tools.

2. Youth Voices Observatory

The Observatory collects, analyses, and disseminates young people's views and aspirations through:

- International surveys.
- Focus groups.
- Interviews.
- Dialogue sessions.
- Youth-led studies.
- Case studies.
- Inspiring stories and experiences.
- Comparative analyses.
- Policy papers.

The Observatory publishes the Annual Global Report on Youth Voices in Quality and Excellence.

3. Youth Innovation Lab

The Lab receives challenges and ideas and forms international teams to develop solutions and initiatives. It provides mentoring, training, incubation, and opportunities to showcase and present projects to institutions and partners.

4. Quality and Excellence Futures Lab

The Lab is responsible for:

- Monitoring future trends.
- Analysing drivers of change.

- Identifying weak signals.
- Developing future scenarios.
- Preparing opportunity and risk maps.
- Developing anticipatory policies.
- Organising youth foresight sessions.
- Producing futures reports and briefs.

Its key products include:

- Youth Envision the Future of Quality and Excellence Report.
- Quality and Excellence Scenarios 2035.
- Youth Future Aspirations Index.
- Emerging Trends Observatory.
- Foresight Policy Briefs.

5. Youth Academy for Quality and Excellence

The Academy offers training pathways in:

- Quality and excellence.
- Youth leadership.
- Strategic foresight.
- Innovation and design thinking.
- Research and data analysis.
- Policymaking.
- Communication and influence.
- Project management.
- Artificial intelligence.

- Sustainability.
- Impact measurement.
- International dialogue.

6. Global Youth Dialogues

The Network organises periodic dialogues that bring together young people, decision-makers, and experts to discuss key issues and future transformations. Each dialogue concludes with actionable messages and recommendations that can be monitored and followed up.

7. Global Youth Innovation Challenge

An annual competition to develop innovative initiatives and solutions in quality, excellence, education, technology, and sustainability. Outstanding initiatives receive mentoring, incubation, and opportunities for showcasing and partnership.

8. Quality and Excellence Ambassadors Programme

The Programme prepares young ambassadors to lead national and institutional activities, promote a culture of quality and excellence, organise dialogues, collect youth perspectives, and represent the Network.

9. Youth Research and Policy Programme

The Programme supports young people in preparing:

- Research papers.
- Policy briefs.
- Knowledge reviews.
- Case studies.
- Foresight analyses.
- Recommendations addressed to decision-makers.

10. Annual Network Forum

An annual international event that showcases the Network's achievements, youth initiatives, and the findings of the Observatory and Labs. It also brings together young people, decision-makers, experts, and partners.

11. Youth Club for Quality and Excellence

The Youth Club for Quality and Excellence serves as the Network's community engagement arm and provides a sustainable space where members can meet, connect, build professional and knowledge-based relationships, engage in peer learning, and strengthen their sense of belonging to a global youth community committed to a culture of quality and excellence.

The Club focuses on sustaining member engagement and activating the Network's internal community. It does not replace the Innovation and Futures Labs, the Academy, research programmes, or formal dialogues. Its role is to identify members' interests, ideas, and needs and connect them with the appropriate pathways and programmes within the Network.

Club Objectives

- Build an interconnected and multicultural international youth community.
- Strengthen members' sense of belonging and sustain their engagement within the Network.
- Facilitate networking and professional and knowledge exchange among members.
- Support informal learning and peer-to-peer exchange of experience.
- Identify talents, interests, and promising youth leaders.
- Promote intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity.
- Prepare members to participate in the Network's programmes and working groups.
- Identify members' needs and propose appropriate activities.
- Encourage collaboration and the formation of cross-border youth teams.
- Provide a safe and supportive environment for expression, interaction, and participation.

Club Activities

1. New Member Orientation: Introduces new members to the Network, its participation opportunities, and available pathways.
2. Periodic Members' Gathering: A social and knowledge-sharing event that strengthens communication and facilitates the exchange of updates.
3. Quality and Excellence Youth Café: An informal dialogue on members' experiences and interests.
4. Cultural Exchange Sessions: Introduce members to diverse contexts, cultures, and youth experiences.
5. "Meet a Member" Feature: Highlights members' talents, expertise, and personal and professional stories.
6. Shared Interest Groups: Informal communities connecting young people with similar interests.
7. Peer Connections: Connect members to exchange experience, support, and advice.
8. Community-Building Activities: Interactive events that strengthen trust, belonging, and teamwork.
9. Member Needs Surveys: Identify members' interests and improve their membership experience.
10. Opportunities Platform: Promotes the Network's opportunities, programmes, events, volunteering, and participation pathways.

Scope and Boundaries of the Club

The Club is not directly responsible for:

- Delivering specialised training programmes, which fall within the mandate of the Youth Academy.
- Developing and incubating projects, which fall within the mandate of the Youth Innovation Lab.
- Developing scenarios and futures studies, which fall within the mandate of the Quality and Excellence Futures Lab.
- Preparing studies and policy papers, which fall within the mandate of the Youth Research and Policy Programme.
-

- Organising formal international dialogues, which fall within the mandate of the Global Youth Dialogues.
- Managing branches and official representation, which fall within the mandate of the Ambassadors and Coordinators Programme.

However, the Club serves as a referral gateway and feeder mechanism for these components by identifying members, ideas, and needs and directing them to the appropriate programme.

Club Outputs

- An active and interconnected international youth community.
- A stronger sense of belonging among members and sustained participation.
- Cross-border youth relationships and collaborations.
- Identification of promising talent and youth leaders.
- Increased member participation in the Network's programmes.
- Periodic data on young people's interests and needs.
- The establishment of interest groups and communities of practice.
- An improved membership experience and stronger internal communication.

Fourteenth: Key Products and Outputs

- An annual global report on youth voices.
- A foresight report on the future of quality and excellence.
- Youth-led studies and policy papers.
- A Youth Aspirations Index.
- An international database of members, expertise, and initiatives.
- A global map of youth initiatives.
- A multilingual digital library.

- Scalable initiatives and projects.
- Training programmes and professional certificates.
- International dialogues and policy messages.
- Innovation and foresight labs.
- A network of national ambassadors and coordinators.
- Partnerships with international and regional institutions.
- Awards and certificates of recognition for outstanding initiatives and members.
- Recommendations presented at international events and conferences.

Fifteenth: International Partnerships

The Network seeks to establish strategic partnerships with:

- The United Nations system and its entities.
- International and regional organizations.
- Ministries responsible for education and youth.
- Universities and research centres.
- Youth organizations.
- City and lifelong learning networks.
- The private sector and technology companies.
- Donor organizations.
- Civil society organizations.
- Innovation and entrepreneurship platforms.
- Media organizations.

Areas of partnership include:

- Funding and sponsorship.
- Training and capacity-building.
- Research and knowledge production.
- Hosting events.
- Incubating initiatives.
- Providing experts and mentors.
- Geographical expansion.
- Developing the digital platform.
- Providing opportunities for international participation.
- Disseminating youth-led outputs and linking them with decision-makers.

Sixteenth: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Measurement

The Network adopts an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework that includes:

Reach Indicators

- Number of members.
- Number of countries and regions represented.
- Number of ambassadors and coordinators.
- Number of partners.
- Representation rate of underrepresented and hard-to-reach groups.

Participation Indicators

- Member activity rate.
- Number of participants in programmes.
- Number of contributions to working groups.

- Engagement rate on the digital platform.
- Member retention rate.

Knowledge Production Indicators

- Number of studies and reports.
- Number of policy papers.
- Number of surveys and responses.
- Number of multilingual knowledge resources.
- Extent to which the reports are used and referenced.

Innovation and Impact Indicators

- Number of initiatives submitted.
- Number of initiatives incubated and implemented.
- Number of beneficiaries.
- Number of projects scaled up.
- Scale of partnerships and resources mobilized.
- Measurable change resulting from the initiatives.

Policy Influence Indicators

- Number of recommendations submitted.
- Number of entities adopting the Network's outputs.
- Youth participation in official committees and dialogues.
- Integration of youth voices into policies and programmes.
- Citations of the Network's reports in international events and documents.

Nineteenth: Safeguarding and Ethics

The Network is committed to a clear ethical and safeguarding framework that includes:

- Age-appropriate safeguarding of children and young people.
- Data protection and privacy.
- Informed consent for participation and publication.
- Prevention of harassment, exploitation, and discrimination.
- Provision of a safe mechanism for complaints and reporting concerns.
- Respect for intellectual property rights.
- Ethical use of artificial intelligence.
- Integrity in research and surveys.
- Ensuring the safety of young people in crisis-affected contexts.
- Ensuring that the Network is not used for political or commercial purposes that conflict with its mission.

The Global Youth Network for Quality and Excellence is a leading, sustainable, youth-led international platform launched by the UNESCO Regional Center for Quality and Excellence in Education. It empowers young people from diverse countries, cultures, and contexts to promote a culture of quality and excellence, advance its concepts and practices, explore its future, generate knowledge, design innovative solutions and initiatives, participate in policies and decision-making, and build global partnerships that transform their shared aspirations into sustainable educational and development impact.