



YOUTH IN LATIN AMERICA

UNESCO MOST SCHOOL IN BRAZIL

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Abstract:

The main purpose of the MOST UNESCO School, which had its sixth edition held in 2013 in Brazil, was to advance the formulation, coordination and implementation of youth public policies as well as strengthen the theme of youth internationally. This article presents the guidelines and results of this effort, and also the related policies of the Brazilian National Youth Secretary.

Keywords: Unesco Most School - Brazilian National Youth Secretary – Youth

The sixth edition of the UNESCO MOST School was held in Brasilia, Brazil, from the 13th to the 18th of December 2013, with its objective being to discuss Youth Participation and Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Organized by the National Youth Secretary (SNJ/SG/PR), in partnership with the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLASCO), the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ), UNESCO International, and UNESCO Brazil, the Brazilian edition of the MOST UNESCO School had 80 participants of researchers, youth leaders and managers of Latin America and the Caribbean, researchers linked to youth studies from public universities in Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of Conjuve - National Youth Council of Brazil, and virtual participants. The selection of the participating re-

searchers and those coming from social movements was made by summons, and those selected for online participation had registered at the Participatory Youth Center website. In addition, the virtual workshop and the panels were broadcast in 17 countries and attended by 927 people who could also take part in the debates.

The Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST) is linked to the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO. It has a strong commitment to the promotion of international, interdisciplinary and politically relevant comparative research, aiming to reflect and deepen practical, theoretical and methodological knowledge on the relationship between social science research and public policy. Since its inception 27 years ago, the MOST Regional Schools have been consolidated



as a great experience for reflection and dissemination of knowledge between young researchers and young managers from different countries.

However, the main purpose of the MOST UNESCO School in Brazil was to advance the formulation, coordination and implementation of youth public policies as well as strengthen the theme of youth internationally. In order to contribute to the establishment of new networks of collaboration involving reference researchers in the theme of Youth, the National Youth Secretary innovated by including youth leaders of social movements and nonprofit organizations in the course.

The National Youth Secretary believes that sharing experiences and knowledge among Civil Society, Government and Academia enlarges, enriches and enhances the process of formulation, implementation and evaluation of youth public policies. Hence, coordinating and approaching those actors in a way to achieve better outcomes, when the process of development and evaluation are faced with the difficulties of those who access and use public policies, is essential. In this context, reconciliation among representatives of different sectors of society in charge of different functions and roles, which at the same time are complemen-

tary and interdependent, becomes fundamental for the exchange of perspectives that allow strengthening, development and improvements in the cycle of implementation and evaluation of the youth public policies process. According to the Brazilian experience, the participation of civil society is vital to the success of youth's policies and programs.

Representatives of 12 Latin America and the Caribbean countries participated in the course. Renowned specialists of Latin American youth discussed, in proposed panels, youth participation and social development, focusing on the main difficulties juveniles face and how these difficulties differ across Latin America. Participants reflected, contributed and discussed the three main themes, sharing experiences, debating about the concerns of their countries and the challenges of Latin American youth. It was emphasized, primarily, the difficulties young people of Latin America have entering the labor market and the problem of analyzing the condition of those young people who neither work nor study. On one hand, participants pondered the need to recognize youth as a very important stage of life for humans. On the other hand, they recognized the diversity of youth experiences and that the conditions of youths are influenced by the society they inhabit. Par-



ticipants also stressed the indispensability of more youth attentive political participation in the development of public policies and in the decision making on matters regarding youth. Moreover, youth exposure to violence, especially black youth was discussed emphatically as a major problem in Latin America.

Lastly, the young participants rated the importance of creating a network

among themselves to foster further discussion and facilitate the connection between social movements and civil society organizations, academia and youth managers. Furthermore, participants involved in the Brazilian edition of the MOST UNESCO School proved enthusiastic, confident, and willing to contribute more effectively in Latin American spaces that allow discussion and integration of youths in the region.

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