

International Youth Day, August 12th, 2013: Moving Development Forward



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International Youth Day is commemorated every year on 12 August. In 1999, in its Resolution 54/120, the UN General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8–12 August 1998) that 12 August will be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995 (Resolution 50/81).

International Youth Day was established by the United Nations as a means of raising awareness of issues affecting young people around the world. Every year, in commemoration of International Youth Day, the United Nations and other organizations, including youth organizations, organize public information activities to promote better awareness, especially among youth, of the World Programme of Action for Youth. In 2013, the theme

of the International Youth Day is Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward. Like every year, hundreds of youth organizations took action and organized numerous events across the globe.

Young people are recognized as one of the most mobile social groups in the context of migration – they form about 30 % of international migrants. In 2010, there were a staggering 27 million international migrants aged 15 to 24 in the world. Yet very little is known about the livelihood struggles and opportunities that migration presents for young migrants and other youth who are affected by migration.

For young people, the decision to migrate is often related to their transition to adulthood. Internal or international migration can have a positive impact on young people by opening up new opportunities, a path to participate in higher education, a decent job, a chance to gain professional experience or to pursue personal development.

The policies and measures needed to address these opportunities and challenges are often ill informed or lacking entirely. As such, awareness-raising concerning the situation of young migrants is needed so that good practices, policies and measures are used to adequately address the specific needs of young migrants.

More information:

United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2013): International Youth Day. Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/international-youth-day-2013/#.UhpR3-rNoJ>



The European economic crisis has put young people on the move, especially from Greece and Spain. Photo: <http://www.shutterstock.com>.