



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM
“THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF STUDENT INSTITUTIONS IN
HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM”

DECEMBER 02- 06, 2016,
ARMENIA (YEREVAN AND AGHVERAN)

The aim and vision of the forum

In *May 2015*, European High Educational Area (EHEA) Ministerial Conference and Fourth Bologna Policy Forum took place in Yerevan, Armenia. The EHEA is based on the assumption that policies and goals agreed at European level will be implemented nationally. During the forum it was generally agreed that the full implementation of the common framework and tools in all participating countries should be one of the priorities for the years to come. At the same time, however, there is consensus on the need to move ahead and update the common vision by taking into account new challenges.

The mobility of students and staff facilitates exchange and creation of new knowledge and helps to build mutual trust and understanding. The rapid technological developments will impact on higher education and the way in which it will be reformed. The Forum Final Communique emphasized that participant Ministers will support and protect students in exercising their right to academic freedom and ensure their representation as **full partners** in the governance of autonomous higher education institutions.

Yerevan State University Student Council organizes “The role and impact of student institutions in higher education system” International Youth Forum with the above mentioned vision and aim to bring together the representatives of student organizations/institutions working in different countries and universities with common challenges of higher education systems.



The background information

“The role and impact of student institutions in higher education system” International Youth Forum will be already the 3rd Forum that is being organized by YSU Student Council.



In 2014 October 22-25 YSU Student Council, with cooperation of Yerevan State University administration, had organized Youth organization's forum named “Student self-government development and youth organization's new methods of works”. During the three days nearly 50 participants from different countries (Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Armenia and Nagorno Kharabakh) had official meetings with the Chair of Parliamentary Commission on science, education, sport and culture Mr. Artak Davtyan in National Assembly, the Minister of Education and Science Mr. Armen Ashotyan, the vice-rector of Yerevan State University Mr. Ruben Markosyan. They worked on the projects which, we hope, can develop the self-government system in universities. During hard working three days, participants also got acquainted with Armenian unique culture: they visited pagan temple Garni, Holy Ejmiatsin and, of course, Tsitsernakaberd (memorial of the victims of Genocide in 1915).



International Youth Forum “Youth participation in self-government system” took place on 18-24 November, 2015. The venue of the forum was Aghveran city in Kotayq region. Nearly 40 participants were involved in working on the topics such as “Student involvement



in youth levels”, “Youth participation spheres: political, economy, social, cultural”. The participants of the forum represented their student organizations they were involved in. Last year forum was not only a seminar course, but also an opportunity to exchange the participants’ experience and knowledge gained in the field. The cultural part of the program included the presentation of Armenian cuisine, dances and, of course, folk music. Out of hard working atmosphere members of the forum visited Matenadaran (Mashtots institute of ancient manuscripts), Holy Ejmiatsin and Tsitsernakaberd.

Description of the forum

We now have tangible evidence of the value and the role of student/youth organisations as quality education providers, and of their contribution to the development of relevant skills of young people.

During this forum participants will have an opportunity to go deeper into the issue of student/youth participation and impact of student institutions in quality assurance of education and university governance system. Discussions with the experts of higher education and youth participation will be organized.

These **breakout sessions** will provide an opportunity for showcasing the impact and results of Bologna system, discussing best practices in various relevant areas, and strengthening existing partnerships and fostering new partnerships.

The methodology

The forum is organized with the methodology of non-formal education and varied technologies of up skilling the participants in the encountered topics. Open discussions and freedom of speech is ensured.

During the forum the participants will have a visit to The Ministry of Education and Science of the RA and discussion with Ministry officials.

Forum working language: English.



The financial issues

The organizers cover all the expenses connected with local transportation, transfer from the airport, accommodation and food. The participants are supposed to arrange their flight to Yerevan and return to home for themselves (international travel costs cannot be reimbursed by organizers and should be paid by participant or his/her organization).

The Forum Venue



The venue of the forum (place where the majority of sessions will be

organized) is a picturesque corner in the mountains of Armenia-Aghveran Crystal Resort, Kotayk region (<http://crystalresort.am/>). The air is fresh there during the year, but it can be a little bit cold in December. The rating of the hotel is appropriate to high standards (7.8 from 10 according to the guests). The hotel is high equipped: there are large conference hall, restaurant, gym. The service of the personnel is in high quality.



Profile of participants

All interested people, studying in universities or working in youth field (Student organizations, Non-governmental organizations, Informal groups) are most welcome to apply. This will be a great opportunity to exchange their experiences, share good practices and for informal partnership building.

Application procedure, deadlines

All persons interested in participation should fill application form and send it to forum2016@ysu.am e-mail address. Selected applicants will receive invitation letter.

DEADLINE for application 15 November 2016.

Organizing committee Contact Details

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The Preliminary Agenda

Day 1 - 02.12.2016

- Opening ceremony in YSU (Yerevan)
- Transfer to Aghveran (Cristal Resort)
- Non-official opening/ Getting to know each other/ Ice breaking

Day 2 - 03. 12. 2016

- Introduction to the forum / Expectations
- Team-building
- Presentation of student institutions of the participants / Participants will represent their universities and the student self-governed institutions where they are involved.
- Breakout meeting: Youth participation levels

Day 3 - 04. 12. 2016

- Common higher educational Bologna system and its opportunities for student institutions
- World café
- Raising the awareness of student participation in university life

Day 4 - 05. 12. 2016

- Sightseeing in Armenia.
- An official meeting with the Education and Science Minister of the Republic of Armenia
- Armenian evening

Day 5 - 06. 12. 2016

- Networking and future cooperation
- Final evaluation / Closing ceremony
- Off to Yerevan