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NET MED YOUTH
NETWORKS OF MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH

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International Youth Day 2018: Safe Spaces for Youth



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Ramallah and Gaza City- 13-16 August 2018 – This week the International Youth Day was celebrated in Ramallah and Gaza, within the framework of the EU-funded project Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth). This year's theme *Safe Spaces for Youth* emphasizes the need for youth to come together, engage in activities related to their diverse needs and interests, participate in decision making processes and freely express themselves. More than 120 young men and women from different parts of the West Bank and Gaza had the opportunity to particpate in two events, discussing different ways to make spaces safe for all youth in Palestine.

In partnership with Sharek Youth Forum, a three-day summer camp took place at the youth village in Kafer Na'emh. 86 young men and women particpated in a variety of activities highlighting civic engagement, voluntary work and the role of youth in peacebuilding. In Gaza, in partnership with the Social Developmental Forum, 60 young men and women visited the archaeological cultural sites of Tell um Ammer/ Saint Hilarion Monastery, Maqam Al khader and The Byzantine Church. These activities created a safe space for youth to actively engage in their community, enhance social cohesion through cultural heritage and effectively contribute to development and peace.

The UNESCO\EU NET-MED Youth Project aims to contribute to an enabling environment for young women and men to develop their competencies, exercise their rights and meaningfully engage as active citizens, particularly in political, socio-economic, educational and cultural decision making processes. During the two events in the West Bank and Gaza, two orientation sessions were delivered on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on *Youth, Peace and Security* in order to make young men and women and youth organizations familiar with the key messages of the resolution and to further mainstream it into their plans and programmes.

The Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET MED Youth) project is implemented by UNESCO and funded by the European Union. It aims at mainstreaming youth issues and priorities across national decision-making and policy implementation in Eastern and Western Mediterranean countries by building the capacities of youth and youth organizations. Furthermore, the project aims to promote the active engagement of youth in the development and implementation of national policies and strategies, ensuring that youth issues are adequately covered by national and regional media and by improving the access of youth to employment.

For more information on NET-MED Youth, please visit en.unesco.org/netmedyouth and the Net-Med Facebook: Networks of Mediterranean Youth or follow #netmedyouth

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