

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

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<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/RDF/Regional-Development-Forum.aspx>

CONTRIBUTION BY EMPOWERING CHILDREN FOUNDATION / POLAND

TITLE: Digital Youth Forum – platform for developing desirable ICT skills among young people

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Europe Regional Initiative: EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development

Year(s) of implementation: 2019, 2020, 2021

Background

The Digital Youth Forum (DYF) is an event designed for youth, by youth and about youth. Hosted in Warsaw, Poland, it takes the form of a conference that focusses on online safety and creative and innovative uses of new technologies as an alternative to risky online behaviours. It is organised as a one-day event, consisting of three 90-minute sessions (each with five presentations), each followed by 50-minute breaks for exploring the exhibition area. Three editions have been already been organised by the Empowering Children Foundation in the framework of the Polish Safer Internet Centre (SIC) and together with International Telecommunication Union. In 2018 a total of 450 participants attended the event, 400 of which were teenagers aged 14–17.

The organisation of such an event helps to empower the participating youth by giving them an opportunity to meet with interesting new media influencers. It also allows them to meet with peers with an interest in similar topics. One of the main aims of the Digital Youth Forum is to inspire young people to create their own positive online initiatives.

The aims of Digital Youth Forum are:

- to promote creative use of new technologies and online safety.
- to foster creativity, innovation, and efficacy in the field of new technologies and the internet.
- to empower, inspire and motivate.
- to introduce role models and mentors.
- to provide an opportunity for collaboration and networking.
- to support youth activism that incorporates online tools and new technologies.



Proposal

Within the framework of cooperation with ITU, next editions of Digital Youth Forum are planned. The 2019 edition is going to take place in Copernicus Science Centre on 23rd May 2019. For the first time additional practical workshops for youth will be organised on a day before and day following the main conference. The workshops are organised in cooperation with internet industry partners: Google and Facebook.

