

Call for applications - young professionals on the road to ICPD30

We are pleased to announce a unique opportunity for young researchers to contribute to analysis on young people in the North America, Europe and Central Asia Region (as defined by UNECE¹) for the International Conference on Population and Development 30th anniversary (ICPD30) regional review. The review is hosted by the United Nations and brings together governments and civil society from across the region for a two day review of progress on the ICPD Programme of Action.

We are looking for young, unpublished researchers or other professionals who have recently conducted research into youth-related issues in the North America, Europe and Central Asia region to submit a paper presenting their research. Selected papers will feed into a synthesis report on key concerns of young people and be published as part of the ICPD30 background document package. The analysis will be developed for the Global ICPD30 dialogue in 2024, and up to three authors will be invited to participate in the regional ICPD30 review conference in Geneva in October 2023.

The initiative will give young professionals a voice and visibility at a regional conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD30) - entitled "Population and Development: Ensuring Rights and Choices" - to be held in Geneva on 19 and 20 October 2023. The initiative is supported by the Global and Sexual Health (GloSH) research group from the Karolinska Institute and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Overview:

The initiative aims to highlight a youth story that emerges from the research of young professionals undertaken between 2019 and 2023. The data analysis will build on submissions from interested candidates and will be used to develop a synthesis paper addressing the key concerns of young people in North America, Europe and Central Asia. The analysis will use existing data sources such as the [World Values Survey](#), the [European Values Survey](#) or similar relevant datasets to shed light on the most important concerns of young professionals.

We are looking for insights into topics reflected in the programme of action agreed upon during the [1994 International Conference on Population and Development](#), such as health, education, employment, sexuality, relationships, gender equality and issues that have become more prominent since 1994, such as ageing, intergenerational relationships, migration, work/life balance, family formation and desire for children. How adolescents and young people can develop their full potential and meaningfully contribute to the formulation and implementation of employment policies and programmes will also be of interest.

¹ Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, European Union (<https://unece.org/countries>)

Submissions from interested candidates will be reviewed by a panel of renowned researchers. Ten submissions will be selected to foster discussion on youth issues at the [ICPD30 Regional Conference](#).

This initiative offers an opportunity to young researchers to take part in a dialogue with policymakers from the UNECE Region on the future sustainable development agenda in North America, Europe and Central Asia and to contribute to the global discourse on youth.

Eligibility criteria for participants:

We are looking for young professionals who are passionate about the topics discussed at the ICPD and who have a strong interest in analysis, research and youth development. We are especially eager to receive submissions from graduate or post-graduate students, as well as those who have recently started a professional career. Applicants should have a background in a relevant field and possess excellent analytical skills.

Eligibility criteria for papers:

We are looking for unpublished researchers without an ISSN and/or DOI number. We can only consider submissions where the research has already been conducted. The research should only cover the period between 2019 and 2023 and must be related to topics within the scope of the ICPD. These are as follows:

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights including family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted infections
- Gender equality and empowerment
- Population dynamics (such as ageing, intergenerational relationship, etc.)
- Healthy lifestyles, comprehensive sexuality education, access to youth-friendly health services and social security coverage
- Education, transition from education to employment and work/life balance
- Migration, poverty eradication, economic development and social justice
- Sustainable development and climate change

Submission requirements:

- **Length:** The paper should not exceed 10 pages, excluding any images, tables, or figures.
- **Content:** The research must cover the period between 2019 and 2023 and can be from one or more countries.
- **Format:** Please use Calibri font size 11 throughout the paper and maintain a line spacing of 1.15. The document should be submitted as a PDF.
- **References:** Please include a list of references at the end of the paper using either APA or MLA citation style.

Incentives for participation:

- Your research will inform the dialogue on youth issues with UN Member States of North America, Europe and Central Asia.

- The selection process is organised in two phases:
 - Participants who pass the first phase of the screening process will be invited to attend three virtual workshops on how to use evidence for policy making, how to communicate research findings to influence your audience, the role of social norms and values for achieving gender equality. The workshops will be organised between December 2023 - March 2024.
 - Participants who successfully pass the second screening process will be invited to provide their submission for the development of a synthesis paper addressing the key concerns of young people. The paper will be utilised for the Global ICPD30 dialogue and UN SDG related events.
- Up to three candidates will be selected to attend both events in Geneva, Switzerland: youth dialogue segment on 17- 18 October and the ICPD30 regional conference on 19 and 20 October 2023.

Application process:

Please email your application to eeccaro@unfpa.org **before September 5, 2023** and include the following items:

- Use the subject line **"ICPD30 youth research"** in your email.
- Write a short and concise **motivation statement** in the body of the email. Clearly express your interest in the call and highlight why you are a suitable candidate.
- Attach your up-to-date **curriculum vitae** (CV) to the email.
- Attach **your abstract and your paper** following the submission requirements listed above.

Selection Process:

The first screening of applications and papers will be done by a selection committee from the Karolinska Institutet - Academic Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy Network (KI-ANSER) by 12 September. The second screening (to select the top 10 papers) will be conducted by a UNFPA selection committee before 18 September. The final selection will be made by both KI and UNFPA by 25 September.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or require further information about the project, please feel free to contact Gökçe Lara BODUR, **Coordinator of young professionals on the road to ICPD30**: g.larabodur@gmail.com.

We look forward to receiving your applications and working together to uncover valuable insights into the lives of young people in North America, Europe and Central Asia.