



Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of Energy, Mining
and Mineral Resources



14th International Forum on
**ENERGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
28–30 October 2025, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia



United
Nations



From goals to ACTION: Powering the FUTURE with **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

CONCEPT NOTE

Youth in Energy

Organizers: ECLAC, ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE, Government of North Macedonia,
UNDP

Date: 30 October 2025

Time: 09:00 – 12:00

Venue: Holiday Inn, Skopje, North Macedonia

Overview

Achieving a just and sustainable global energy transition requires the active engagement of young people, who bring innovation, digital fluency, and new perspectives to the sector. They are set to be the future workforce, particularly in the renewable energy sector. Yet youth face significant barriers to participation, including limited access to quality education and training, insufficient representation in decision-making, and scarce funding for youth-led initiatives.

This session at IFESD 2025 will spotlight the role of youth as change agents in shaping the energy transition towards a just, resilient and decarbonized future. Building on global and regional experiences, including insights from ESCWA's recent [report](#) on the topic, UNECE's Resource Management Young Member Group's (RMYMG) [white paper on advancing intergenerational equity and demand-side measures in resource management](#), ESCAP's recent publication *Youth as Partners in Achieving SDG7: A Guide for Youth Engagement in Asia-Pacific's Just Energy Transition*, the discussion will address the challenges youth face in contributing to energy transformation and explore policies, partnerships, and investments that can empower them.

The session will provide a platform for young energy leaders, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange transformative ideas, showcase innovative solutions, and propose concrete actions to harness youth potential in advancing sustainable energy and climate goals.

Objectives

- To assess the current state of youth participation in the energy sector across regions.
- To identify the key educational, institutional, and financial barriers that limit youth engagement.

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ESCAP



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- To highlight success stories and scalable initiatives led by young innovators and entrepreneurs.
- To explore policy and programmatic actions to meaningfully integrate youth into the energy workforce and multilevel governance structures.
- To foster regional and international cooperation to amplify youth voices in shaping sustainable energy systems.

Agenda

Timing	Agenda Item	Speakers
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome	Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy, ESCWA
	Keynote	Jitsai Santaputra, SDG7 Global Youth Ambassador
09:15 – 10:15	Panel Discussion <i>This panel will examine the systemic barriers that young people face in entering and advancing within the sustainable energy sector. It will highlight issues such as limited access to education and training, insufficient financing for youth-led initiatives, and the lack of meaningful representation in policy and decision-making processes.</i>	Moderator: Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy, ESCWA Guiding questions: • What are the main systemic barriers preventing young people from entering and advancing in the sustainable energy sector globally? • How do gaps in education and skills training, especially in emerging technologies, limit youth readiness for energy-related careers? • How is the current labour market failing to absorb qualified youth in energy-related jobs, and how does this vary across regions? • What prevents young entrepreneurs from launching or scaling clean energy initiatives, particularly in terms of access to finance and mentorship? • What challenges do young people face when trying to influence energy and climate policy processes at the national or regional level? Panelists: 1. Sarra Mansour, YEE and Refugees Program Officer, Schneider Electric and MENA Regional Focal Point for SDG7 Youth Constituency 2. Johanne Hobel, Co-Chair, Resource Management Young (RMYMG) of the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management 3. Casper Edmonds, Head, Extractives, Energy and Manufacturing Unit, ILO



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		4. Samah Abdullah, CEO & Founder, Water Money Saver 5. Chiara Maillart, Engineering Student specialized in environment at ISARA Lyon and Sustainable Development Intern, ESCWA
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee Break	





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10:45 – 11:45	Panel Discussion (continued) <i>This panel will shift the focus to opportunities and solutions, showcasing innovative youth-led initiatives and exploring policy and programmatic measures that can empower youth engagement. It will emphasize regional and international cooperation, investment in skills and entrepreneurship, and pathways for integrating youth perspectives into the energy transition.</i>	Moderator: Celeste Ostin, Coordinator, UNECE Youth Group on Resilient Energy Systems Guiding questions: • What promising models of youth-led initiatives in sustainable energy have demonstrated impact, and how can these be scaled or replicated across regions? • What role can mentorship, digital skills training, and innovation funding play in empowering young energy leaders? • How can policies and regulations create pathways for youth participation in the energy workforce and decision-making? • What mechanisms can strengthen youth engagement in regional and global energy governance? • How can integrating youth perspectives into high-level energy discussions enhance decision-making and accelerate the transition to a sustainable future? • Looking ahead, what concrete actions should be prioritised by governments, industry, and civil society to ensure youth are not only beneficiaries but co-creators of a just and sustainable energy transition? Panelists: 1. Vladimir Gjorgievski, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies – Skopje, North Macedonia 2. George Kanty, Mastercard Foundation Scholar, Sciences Po 3. Ankica Sokolic, Kolektiv Z, North Macedonia 4. Vadim Kuznetsov, Director for Sustainability and Climate Initiatives, BRICS Youth Energy Agency 5. Ignacio Nancupil, Energy Specialist & Research Assistant, UNECLAC
11:45 – 12:00	Q&A and Wrap-up	Riad Meddeb, Director, UNDP Sustainable Energy Hub

