



**UCLG CONGRESS  
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL  
AND REGIONAL LEADERS**

**New Generation  
of Universal Local  
Public Services**

**Tangier  
Local4Action**

# Youth engagement in urban governance

## Roundtable / Dialogue / Lab / Launch

**Date and time: Thursday, 25 June 2026, 10:00–11:30**

**Duration: 90 minutes**

**Lead organizer (Julian Walker, Development Planning Unit/ UCL; Camila Cociña, International Institute for Environment and Development)**

**Co-organizers: Catalytic Action, University of Sheffield**

### Background

Young people's active role in the governance of their cities has been increasingly pursued through efforts to include youth in deliberative fora, using mechanisms such as municipal youth councils. However, strengthening young urban citizens' impact through such structures requires measures to: build their capacity as youth leaders; represent their diverse constituencies of young people; recognise and support ongoing efforts of self-mobilisation and data collection; and support them in agenda setting in urban policy. To this end, this session will explore the role of co-produced research and mobilisation of networks with young people as strategies to build their capacity to contribute to the governance of their cities.

The dialogue session will draw insights from two urban research initiatives with young people, that are part of the Fondation Botnar Technology, Youth Participation (TYP) Cities program. The first is the YUP (Youth Inclusive Digital Urban Governance) Project which has been working with 16 youth citizen scientists to understand young people's urban activism processes and priorities in 4 cities across Lebanon and Indonesia. The second is YCIV (Youth Civic Media), led by the University of Sheffield and working in Nepal and India, in which IIED has led a series of exchanges with young people from informal settlements across countries, reflecting on their strategies for engaging with urban governance, and their media use.

The lessons drawn from these cases will build into a dialogue eliciting: other cases of urban research and mobilisation with youth as an inclusive urban governance strategy; and reflection on entry points which would allow urban research with youth to be institutionalised in urban governance processes.

### Objectives / Expected outcomes



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- (Max 100 words total)
- To share the experience and findings of the two case studies projects
- To explore the value of co-produced knowledge with young people for building youth-inclusive urban governance.
- To identify entry points for local and regional governments to engage young people in urban governance structures and processes.

## Agenda

1. Presentation of YUP project citizen science initiative in El Mina and bar Elias (Lebanon) (20 mins)
  - Julian Walker (Professor of Inclusive Social Policy, Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London)
  - Dr Hady Naal (Senior Researcher, Catalytic Action)
  - Sara El Sayed (YUP Project Youth Citizen scientists, El Mina, Lebanon)Q&A (10 mins)
2. Presentation of YCIV civic media exchanges with youth from informal settlements (20 mins)
  - Camila Cociña (Senior Researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development)
  - Alexandre Apsan Frediani (Principal Researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development)
  - Antoine Agossou (President HaZoBiT, Benin)Q&A (10 mins)
3. Dialogue session: Institutionalizing youth research in urban governance: Entry points? (30 mins)
  - Mamounata Ouedraogo Kiemtore (3e Vice-présidente Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso)
  - Darren Harry Baine (Youth leader, entrepreneur, and changemaker)
  - Shen Hong (Chairwoman of Zhengzhou Women's Federation)
  - Open floor