

LEARNING PLANET YOUTH DESIGN CHALLENGE



"I want to grow up faster, because I want to be heard."

- Respondent to Youth Voices Survey¹

Only 1 out of 50 decision-makers is under 30².

We have the largest generation of young people in history, with **half of the global population under 30²**. Despite their number and potential, young people are **too often ignored** in decision-making processes that affect their future. Even **education**, from policy all the way to curricula and methods, is designed without youth.

Learning Planet Institute is in a unique position to harness this **untapped potential** and ensure **youth voices are heard, particularly when it comes to education**.

OBJECTIVE

Empower youth to actively shape the future of education

The Learning Planet Institute launched the **Learning Planet Youth Design Challenge (LPYDC)**, inviting youth aged **15 to 26 from around the world** to pitch their innovative educational projects for real-world impact. Collaborating with the leaders of tomorrow, it is a launchpad for youth-led innovative learning.

The second edition garnered **1016 participants from 105 countries**, all passionate about creating flourishing, sustainable, and engaged universities.

 **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

 **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

 **TRANSFORMING EDUCATION**

¹Interparliamentary Union (2021). Parliaments are getting (slightly) younger according to latest IPU data. From <https://www.ipu.org/youth2021-PR>.

²Boynton, D. & Vasileva-Blazef (2023). Half of the world's population is under 30. Fortune.

³Save the Children International (2024). Young Voices: Find out what young people really think.

THE LEARNING PLANET INSTITUTE AND ITS UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS



Expertise in transforming education, in theory and practice

The Learning Planet Institute is spearheading a global movement aimed at pioneering a new era of education fit for today's rapidly changing society. Since its inception in 2006, the Institute has been rethinking learning across all generations, harnessing collective intelligence to foster sustainable and inclusive societies worldwide.

From its hub in Paris, the Institute achieves its goals through research and educational programs for K-12 and **graduate school** through to lifelong learning based on interdisciplinarity, diversity, and initiative.

International Alliance and Annual Festival with UNESCO



Since 2014, the Learning Planet Institute has proudly held a UNESCO Chair on Learning Sciences, working closely with UNESCO in identifying and tackling the challenges facing the education sector.

On the International Day of Education in 2019, the Learning Planet Institute and the UNESCO co-launched a global alliance of change-makers – NGOs, youth activists, but also institutions.

The 6th edition of the **Learning Planet Festival in 2025, hosted around the International Day of Education** garnered:

80,000+

individual visitors online

600+

hybrid events globally

400+

partners

Partnership with the United Nations University



In March 2025, UNU United Nations University (UNU) and the Institute signed an agreement to establish a "United Nations University Hub" on the "Future of Learning with Youth".

This new UNU Hub will focus on creating transformative learning experiences that inspire and empower youth to shape global peace and sustainability.



Learning Planet Institute Paris community and global youth fellows meeting the UNU Rector.



TSHILIDZI MARWALA Rector, United Nations University

On embracing an increasingly digital generation:

"Changes require adjustments also to our learning systems. What is required is a forward-thinking curriculum, that equips student to navigate the complexity of a technology-driven world."

UN SUPPORT

LEARNING PLANET YOUTH DESIGN CHALLENGE 2024-2025

In 2024-25, the LPYDC grew exponentially: 1,016 participants signed up – a 370% increase from the year prior.

An international jury, comprising **leaders from top universities**, global youth networks and social enterprises, selected **12 outstanding finalists**.

Finalists join an **6-month training** to develop their impactful education project. Their training includes Learning Design, problem framing, building **strategic partnerships**, **fundraising principles** and more. Each participant is paired with mentors from the LPI international community to accelerate their impact.

[Read more](#)

1016 participants
105 countries
55% female participation
270 final projects
20 average age



Geographical Distribution among the participants in the second Learning Planet Youth Design Challenge

JURY MEMBERS



Johnson Fong
Director
Peter Bennett Foundation



Victoria Fontan
Provost
American University of Afghanistan



Ana Gvritishvili
Steering Committee Member
Global Student Forum



Bianca Herzog
Programme Management Officer
United Nations Youth Office



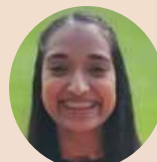
Randy Hunt
Head of Design
Notion



Radhika Iyenga
Associate Research Scholar
SDSN, Earth Institute at
Columbia University



Fredrik Lindencrona
Head of Research Co-Creation
Inner Development Goals



Pearl Perumal
Winner of the Learning Planet
Youth Design Challenge 2023-24
Kinspired



Peter Schlosser
Vice President & Vice Provost
Global Futures
Arizona State University

PHASES

1

Official launch

UN General Assembly

2

Submission period

Online

3

Selection

by the international jury

4

Finalist presentations

at the #LearningPlanet Festival

5

Incubator program

for finalists



YOUTH AND PROJECTS

from the LPYDC 2024-25



ARPITA BHANSALI India

"The challenge provides an opportunity to collaborate with like-minded individuals, refine my ideas, and contribute meaningfully to reimagining education for a more equitable future."



ARPITA'S PROJECT: **Colour me In**

A program to spark meaningful conversations about skin colour awareness among youth and educators.

LENNY RUO Kenya

"The Learning Planet Youth Design Challenge aligns perfectly with my commitment to creating solutions that bridge cultural and informational gaps"



LENNY'S PROJECT: **The Bridge Project**

To foster understanding and collaboration across cultures



DRIDHATA SILWAL Nepal

"Learning Planet's global network of young leaders and experienced mentors presents an invaluable opportunity to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and further strengthen our efforts".



DRIDHATA'S PROJECT: **Bunk with Kindness**

Helping youth and marginalized communities navigate online spaces safely and counter misinformation

All learning programs from the challenge are hosted on our own digital platform accessible to all, serving as a repository for educational innovation projects from youth worldwide.

Explore all

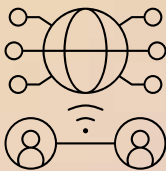
REACHING AN INTERNATIONAL STAGE

The LPYDC was presented on a global stage at the April 2024 **United Nations ECOSOC Youth Forum** in New York.



AMBITION

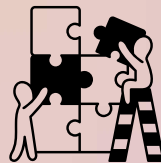
The goal is for the Learning Planet Youth Design Challenge to become a **global reference point for student-led educational innovation, with transformative impact** in the following areas:



Uniting a global
community of innovators



Shaping future policies
with youth



Transforming education
for a flourishing and
sustainable planet

2025-26 TIMELINE

Learning Planet Youth Design Challenge

OCTOBER - JANUARY

Submission period

FEBRUARY 2026

Shortlisting of 60 finalist
projects

JULY 2026

Jury selects 12
awardees to receive
\$1000 grant
towards their
project

23 SEPTEMBER 2025

Official launch during
UN General Assembly

JANUARY 2026

Application deadline on
International Day of
Education
Pre-selection by a
preliminary jury

MARCH - JUNE

Online training for 60
finalists, including
expert-led mentorship
and thematic training
on topics like scaling
projects, community
engagement, and
leveraging AI tools.

BECOME A PARTNER

« Thanks to the LPYDC, I've come to believe that we have the ability to assess and improve our education to make it more holistic and relevant to the current world.

Georgina Odera, Kenya

Finalist of the LPYDC 2023-24 for her project 'FIXERS', A knowledge-sharing platform for learning how to repair used machines in African countries. »



Join us in co-designing the future of learning with youth.

We invite you to be part of a groundbreaking journey together, putting youth at the center of transforming education worldwide. By partnering with us, you will provide young people with the platform and tools they need to reimagine and redesign their future.

CONTACT

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The Learning Planet Institute (under the French law of 1901) explores, experiments and shares new ways of learning and cooperating to meet the needs of young people and the planet.

Learn more: www.learningplanetInstitute.org

