

# Young movers and shakers

By AGUSTÍN BATTO

CHAIR OF YOUTH 20 (Y20)



AGUSTÍN BATTO was selected by the Presidency of Argentina to Chair the Youth 20 in the framework of the G20 Chief of State summit. He also serves as the Regional Focal Point on SDG 8 and the Future Of Work for Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth. He is also the Founder & CEO of Eidos Global, an NGO. Previously he worked as a coordinator in various functions with the Ministry of Education in Argentina and Mercosur, the South American trade bloc.

Young people are usually seen as “adults in-the-making.” Neuroscience and developmental psychology show that by the age of 15 young people have reached most of the intellectual markers of adulthood. Furthermore, puberty to 25 years has been identified as a period of heightened neuroplasticity – a feature that is connected with great potential for learning, more risk taking and status quo challenging attitudes. With the right environment and support, this breeding ground for creativity can become the passport for humanity to solve our biggest challenges. The UNDP has demonstrated that “young people’s exclusion from substantive discussions and decisions over SDG, can significantly slow development progress, damage social trust, challenge the representativeness of governance institutions and ultimately jeopardise peace.”

Before becoming the Y20 chairs, EIDOS Global and AIESEC Argentina designed learning experiences to foster the skills needed for their development. When gathering G20 young people’s visions and recommendations we did not doubt the potential: Y20 2018 would become a platform to showcase the challenges that matter to young people and the solutions they are developing. As a result, the Y20 focus on “Future of Work”, one the central axis of the G20 agenda, with four issues that have implications on all G20 discussions: Sustainability for Development, Education and Skills for the 21st Century, Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment, and the Future of Work, with a gender dimension.

## Meaningful proposals for G20 Leaders

The Y20 summit gathered young social innovators and delegates, inviting both to work side by side. By the end of it, they were able to show that this generation can create relevant policy recommendations. The Y20 have outlined recommendations for setting a path towards a safe, resilient, inclusive, equitable and sustainable future for all.

The Y20 urges G20 leaders to move beyond the current concept of “growth” and incorporate circular economic performance into periodic national and corporate reporting through standardised indicators. In order to promote workforce skills development with joint commitments from companies and government, the Y20 recommended to establish a progressive

scheme for companies’ expenditures dedicated to re-skilling programmes.

The Y20 also recommends incorporating cross-cultural and diverse identity education, including social and interpersonal skills in the national curricula which promotes innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

## The extra mile: the Social Innovation Warehouse

A young man using 3D to print prosthesis for children in Argentina. On the other side of the world Ryan founded an enterprise that builds an ecosystem for People with Disabilities to become leaders. Then there’s Wadi, aged 21, founder of a non-profit focused on access to education for children and specially girls victims of insurgency in Nigeria. What do they have in common? All of them were under 30 years old when they embarked on the adventure of solving challenges and improving lives of millions.

The main legacy of the 2018 Y20 Summit is the creation of the Social Innovation Warehouse, a digital platform which gather projects that have been implemented by youth, which are tested and can be scaled and replicated by governments and civil society worldwide. The main aim is to share global best practices and give an actual tool for governments in order for each state to be able to implement -already proven successful projects- to tackle the main social issues and achieve the commitments made in the G20 process.

## Y20 Summit Argentina 2018

With a focus set on creating an inclusive, disruptive and impactful experience that leaves a legacy, this years Y20 was a 5 days Summit from August 13th-18th, held in Córdoba, Argentina, which included an Advocacy Session with the Chairs of the Employment and Development Working Groups working together for the development of recommendations.

The 2018 Y20 Summit gathered over 75 young leaders. The official delegates, chosen carefully by each of the G20 countries, were joined by young special guests who were selected based on their outstanding profiles and experience in the fields of social innovation. The participants of the 2018 Y20 Summit are not only “thinkers” but rather “doers”; young leaders that are already creating positive impact in their own communities. We are a generation who is shaking the present and building the future. **E**