

UN Youth Envoy in Slovenia Launches Country's UN Youth Delegate Programme

Ljubljana, 11 March 2014 – Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, was on his first official visit to Slovenia on Monday where he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Karl Erjavec and the Minister of Education, Science and Sport, Mr Jernej Pikalo as well as youth representatives to launch the country's UN Youth Delegate Programme.



Mr Karl Erjavec: Minister of Foreign Affairs



Mr Jernej Pikalo: Minister of Education, Science and Sport

The discussions with the Slovenian Government representatives addressed some of the main challenges young Slovenians were facing: insufficient youth participation in decision making processes and unemployment.

Mr Ahmad Alhendawi also met with the UNESCO Heralds, a group of exceptional and proactive young individuals who were students from Slovenian secondary schools and responsible for promoting the values of UNESCO in their schools and districts.

The UN Envoy on Youth visited the Simbioza Intergenerational Centre of Ypsilon Institute. He learned about one of the most popular Slovenian volunteer projects, called "Simbioza". In this project basic computer skills are taught free of charge to the elderly community. Impressed by the initiative, he was pleased to praise the project: "This is a great example for how youth could be the engine for meaningful intergenerational solidarity, well done!"



Visit of the Simbioza project

In the afternoon the UN Envoy on Youth attended a working lunch in the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, hosted by Mrs Tamara Vonta who acts as State Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister. During this occasion Mr Ahmad Alhendawi had the opportunity to meet and engage with representatives of various youth organizations.



Working lunch in the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth

The main event of the day took place in form of a round table discussion on youth participation titled "Participation is not just a long word", organized by the National Youth Council of Slovenia. It was during the course of this event the UN Youth Delegate programme in Slovenia was launched.



Round table discussion on youth participation



Round table discussion on youth participation

Later Mr Ahmad Alhendawi attended a working dinner with representatives of the Young Bled Strategic Forum (YBSF). This forum brings together aspiring young professionals from diplomatic, academic and business spheres as well as think-tanks and students from all over the world. Here young leaders, thinkers and entrepreneurs exchange ideas on current affairs. It serves as a platform and opportunity to discuss possible solutions with the high-level participants of the Bled Strategic Forum.

On Tuesday, the UN Envoy on Youth was attending the Initiative on Mediation in the Mediterranean Region, organized by the Bled Strategic Forum, where he spoke at the conference titled "Promoting a Culture of Mediation and Prevention in the Mediterranean" on the topic "Promoting the value of mediation and peaceful coexistence through education, engaging youth and civil society".