

Youth Activities at the Dialogue Forum, Bibliotheca Alexandrina



**Youth Policy Cooperation
in the Broader Euro-Mediterranean Context
II International round-table**

European Youth Centre Budapest, 22 and 23 April 2009

*Dialogue Forum Coordinator,
Ms. Inas Abdelatif*

“We cannot always build the future for our **youth**, but we can build our **youth** for the future”.

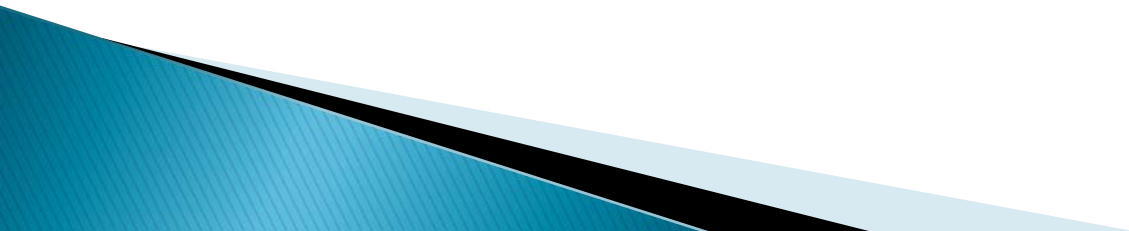
Franklin D. Roosevelt



Overview

- I. Youth in Egypt and the Arab Region
 - II. Attention given to youth at Bibliotheca Alexandrina and its Dialogue Forum
 - III. Main Youth Events: “Arab Youth Forum”
 - IV. Youth Activities in an International Context
- 

I. Youth in Egypt and the Arab Region



I. Youth in Egypt and the Arab Region

- ▶ **1.5 billion** people aged **12-24** in the world

- ▶ **1.3 billion** of them in developing countries

SOURCE: L. Ashford, D. Clifton, and T. Kaneda, The World's Youth 2006 (Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau, 2006).

- ▶ Youth population in the Arab Region exceeds **66 million**

SOURCE: Jad Shaaban, Executive Secretary of Un Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Feb. 2007

- ▶ **60%** of the Arab World's population is under the age of **25**

SOURCE: Donald J. Johnston, The Jordan Times, Feb. 2005.

- ▶ Egyptian Youth constitute around **30%** of its population

SOURCE: <http://www.prb.org/Countries/Egypt.aspx> (Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau, 2006)



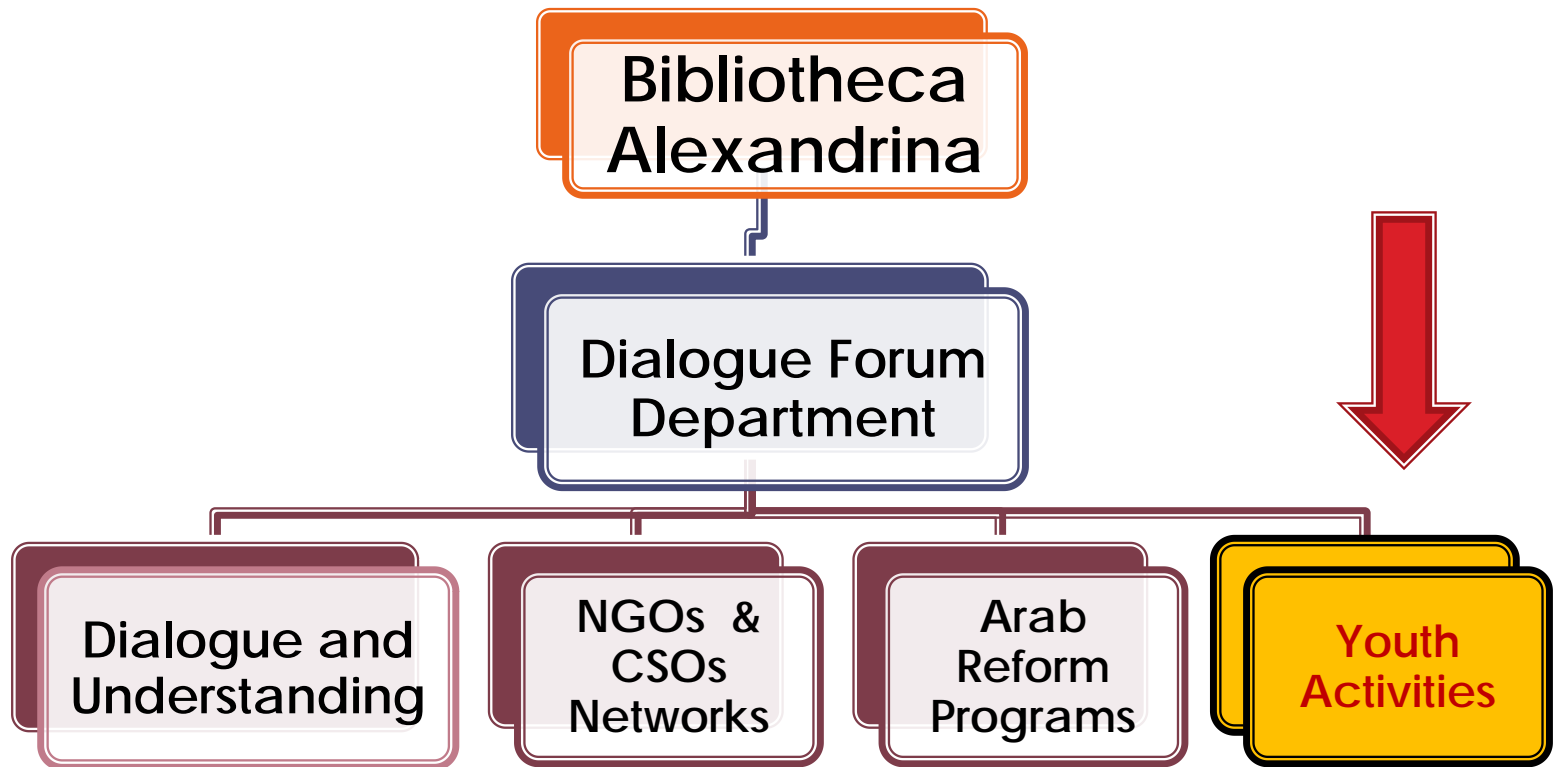
II. Attention given to Youth at BA and its Dialogue Forum

II. A- Attention given to Youth at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

- ▶ The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), the new Library of Alexandria is a youth-based organization.
- ▶ It has about 2000 staff members, remarkably young (29-30 years old on average) and gender-balanced (56% female excluding security and custodial staff).
- ▶ Approximately, only 50 staff members at the BA are over the age of 55.



II. B- Attention given to Youth at the Dialogue Forum through its Main Areas of Focus



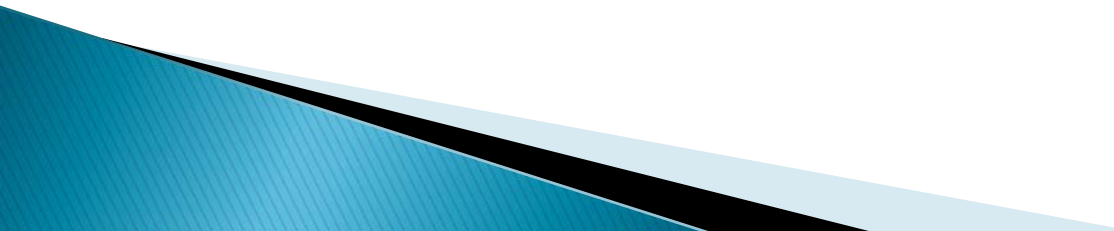
III. Main Youth Events: “Arab Youth Forum”

III. A- Arab Youth Forum

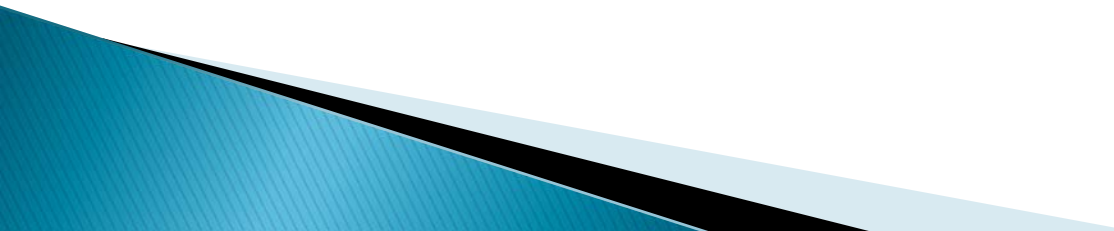
Since 2006, the Arab Reform Forum has been organizing an annual Arab Youth Forum, in cooperation with the Egyptian National Youth Council, which addresses vital issues related to the Arab Youth.



III. B- Arab Youth Forum Main Themes

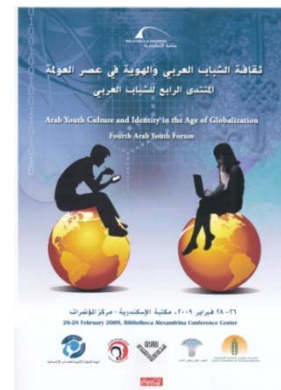
- ▶ Arab Youth Employment;
 - ▶ Arab Youth and Leadership;
 - ▶ Youth and their Future Visions;
 - ▶ Entrepreneurship Education;
- 

III. B- Arab Youth Forum Main Themes

- ▶ Youth Participation in Political, Economic and Social fields;
 - ▶ The Role of NGOs in Empowering Youth;
 - ▶ Freedom and Tolerance in Youth Culture;
 - ▶ The Culture of Peace and Democracy.
- 

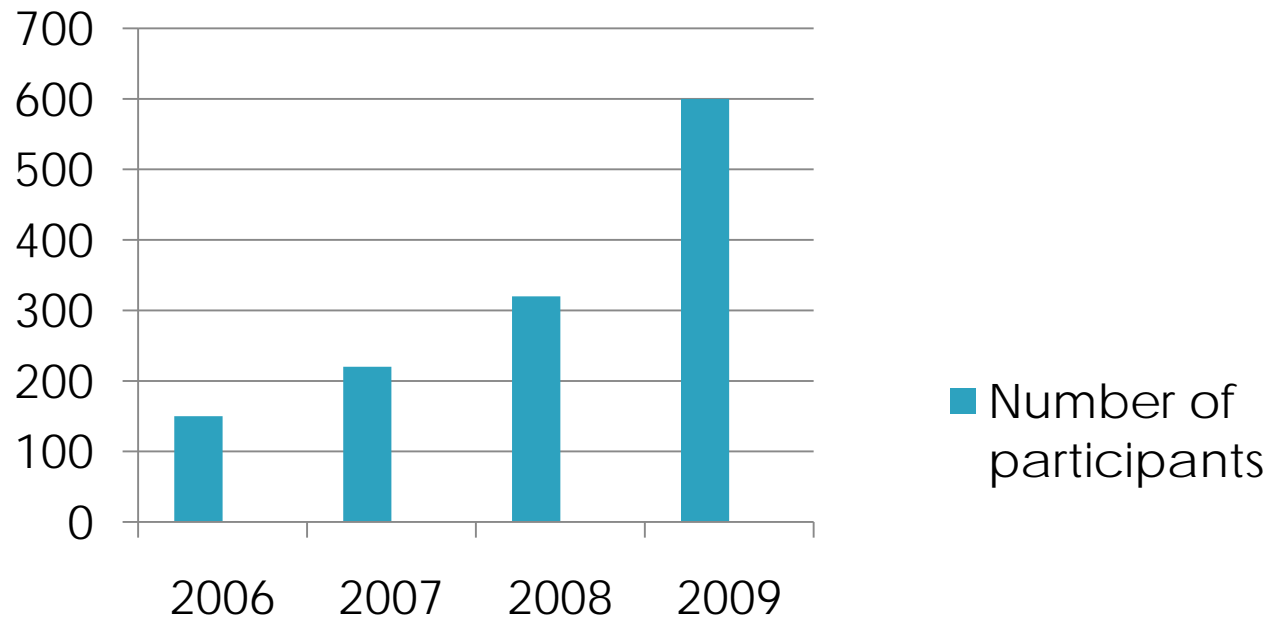
III. C- The Four Annual Arab Youth Forums

- ▶ Arab Youth Meeting for Reform and Thinking (Febraury-2006)
- ▶ The Second Arab Youth Forum: "The Culture of Youth and Reform" (February - 2007)
- ▶ The Third Arab Youth Forum: "Youth and the Role of Media in Establishing Culture of Peace, Security and Development" (February - 2008)
- ▶ The Fourth Arab Youth Forum: " Arab Youth Culture and Identity in the Era of Globalization" (February - 2009)



III. D- Arab Youth Forums Participation

- ▶ The number of participants range from 300 to 350 and it increases remarkably every year as indicated in the following graph.



III. D- Arab Youth Forums Participation

- ▶ The average age of the forum participants is from 20 to 30 years old.



- ▶ The Forum is based on the notion of exchanging experiences; therefore, about 20% of the participants are young people who participated effectively in previous Arab Youth forums.

III. D- Annual Arab Youth Forums Participation & the International presence



- ▶ The 4th Forum last Feb. gave an opportunity to International NGOs concerned about social services, especially Youth Empowerment, to exchange new ideas.

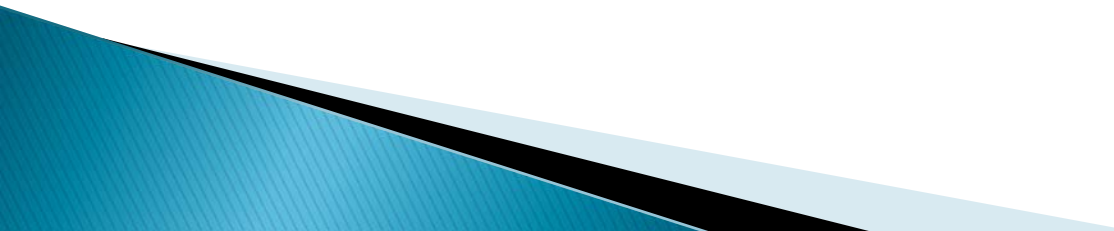
III. E- Annual Arab Youth Forums Publications

- ▶ The Role of Youth in Reform and Renovation.
- ▶ Youth Successful Stories.
- ▶ Youth and Culture of Reform.
- ▶ Youth and the Role of Media in Establishing Culture of Peace and Social Security.
- ▶ <http://www.bibalex.org/arf/ar/impdocs.htm>

IV. Youth Activities in an International Context



IV. Youth Activities in an International Context

- ▶ During the 1st Global Youth Employment Summit Campaign entitled “**YES Alexandria 2002**” at the BA, a *Decade Campaign of Action*” (2002-2012) was launched.
 - ▶ Dialogue Forum staff and other BA staff participated in organizing “**YES Azerbaijan 2008**”, the 4th Global Youth Employment Summit Campaign.
 - ▶ Dialogue Forum participated in the 4th World Youth Congress “**Regeneration 2008**”.
- 

Thank You

For further information:

www.bibalex.org/arf

inas.abdelatif@bibalex.org