CALL FOR CONTRIBUTE AND PARTICIPATION

The German Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with Bilgi University Istanbul and the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity are organising an International Forum of U40-Fellows from 21 to 24 October 2010 in Istanbul in the context of the international capacity building programme “U40 – Cultural Diversity 2030” as a follow up to the U40-World Forum (Paris, June 2009).

The objective of this international meeting is to contribute to implementing the international agenda of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) through transregional information exchange and data analysis for the promotion of diversity of cultural expressions, raising awareness in underrepresented regions and enhancing the visibility of the Convention among young experts.

The idea of the U40-programme is to give young experts – under 40 – academics, researcher, PhD-students, post-doc graduates and people active in the cultural field – the possibility to contribute to the international debate on cultural diversity and to the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

As part of the international U40-programme “Cultural Diversity 2030” the Istanbul meeting will be composed of up to 20 U40-Fellows (2009-2011) from all world regions as well as an additional group of 10 young cultural policy experts, excellent professionals, future decision makers and communicators from Turkey, the southern shore countries of the Mediterranean, West Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East and the Gulf States.

The German Commission for UNESCO, the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD) and the Istanbul Bilgi University are therefore seeking up to 10 young specialists (under 40 years old) from Turkey, the southern shore countries of the Mediterranean, West Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East and the Gulf States with proven competence and interest in the area of relevant aspects of the UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

They are invited to apply by submitting their CV and a short paper (max. 800 words) in English that shall answer the following questions:

- Did my country of origin (and/or current place of living) ratify the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and the Promotion for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions? If so, did the Government designate a national point of contact for the Convention (Art. 9) and/or did they assign some special (legal) structures for its implementation? You might want to contact this focal point, your National Commission for UNESCO or other relevant information sources.
- Does a Coalition for Cultural Diversity exist in my country? If so, who are the members? What are their activities? If not, which neighbouring country or other country in the target region does have a Coalition? What are their activities? Who are their members? If not, who could be adequate bodies / persons to group a Coalition?
- How can I contribute to improve the visibility and the understanding of the Convention in my country / region?
- Please describe your engagement for the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, your motivation for applying and a short description of what you intend to do as follow-up to the meeting.

Participants will be selected according to their engagement in cultural policy, in promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and cultural diversity, their involvement in relevant networks and hence their function as multipliers.

Working language: English

Submission of applications via e-mail by latest 20th August 2010 to Ms Anna Steinkamp, steinkamp@unesco.de, reference “U 40”.

Successful participants will be informed by 30th August 2010. Participants will be asked to source local support for their travel and accommodations. However, travel and accommodations can be provided to successful participants on request.

Background information on the U40-programme: http://www.unesco.de/2648.html?&L=1