



Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport

Call for Applications

The Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) and the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) are launching the **Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport** programme.

Background

The recently published International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report shows that achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius requires unprecedented and far-reaching efforts. Transport is highlighted in three quarters of submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), but few countries can actually report about a decrease in transport emissions. Within the transport sector, the issue is clear and the global transport community is aware of what has to be done. However, there is still margin for the transport community to reach out to and engage more adequately with other sectors and new constituencies. Much more needs to be done to operationalise a robust knowledge-policy making-practice interface towards climate action and sustainability in transport. The community needs new ideas and fresh perspectives, perspectives that can be gained through the engagement of young professionals. Young people are recognised as the torchbearers of sustainable development and the vanguards in the struggle against climate change. By working directly with young leaders, the transport community will empower the generation who can help foster far-reaching and unprecedented change and build long-lasting bridges with other constituencies.

Overarching goals

In light of the importance of building bridges with young people, VREF and the SLoCaT Partnership seek to establish a program for engaging Young Leaders in knowledge generation, policy making and professional practice around sustainable, low carbon transport. The programme intends to explore new perspectives by creating an interface

between knowledge and policy. It will also raise the capacity of young people and provide them new skills in evidence-based policy analysis for sustainable transport.

Who qualifies for the Young Leaders programme?

The Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport will be recruited from a pool of high caliber young **researchers, practitioners, and policy makers** with a certain degree of professional experience and a track record around climate action and sustainable development. **Researchers** can be Master graduates or current PhD students. **Practitioners** are people who have recently begun to work in a relevant professional field, and young **policy-makers** can be any person who engages in policy-related work or advocacy (e.g. NGO, think tanks and similar or who are elected representatives).

Planned activities

The Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport will engage in research with a strong connection to policy advocacy from June to December 2019. The specific research topic will be chosen in consultation with VREF and the SLoCaT Secretariat. The research will center around the substance and themes of major milestones in both the sustainable development and climate change processes, like the **UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development** and the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process**. In the initial phase of the programme, the Young Leaders will examine specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their implications vis-a-vis sustainable transport. This activity will culminate in the Young Leaders' participation in the HLPF in New York City and will be followed up by exploring synergies between the SDG-research and the climate change/Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) process with a country-specific focus. The second phase will pivot around the Young Leaders' participation in the UNFCCC process, including engagement around Asia-Pacific Climate Week (APCW) in Bangkok or the 25th Conference of Parties (COP25) in Santiago, Chile and webinars.

Programme Offerings

The programme offers participants the opportunity to connect to other young, up and coming professionals working in the global policy space related to sustainable development and climate change. Young Leaders will engage in key milestones in wider intergovernmental processes, thus fostering a stronger professional network and developing highly beneficial skills related to knowledge-based policy making and advocacy.

Through this platform, Young Leaders will become thought leaders on sustainable, low-carbon transport as it relates to the realisation, implementation, follow-up, and review of global sustainability frameworks. Finally, Young Leaders will be strongly involved in determining the ultimate activities and outputs of the programme, further ensuring even greater benefits to professional and career development.

Criteria

Suitable candidates fulfill the following criteria:

- Recently graduated from a graduate school programme or between three (3) to five (5) years of work experience in an organisation working on global climate and sustainability agendas.
- Strong interest in knowledge-based policy-making.
- Educational background in sciences and/or humanities; efforts are to be made to recruit young leaders beyond transport-related fields.
- Fluency in English (oral and written).

Preference will be given to applicants from developing countries¹.

Candidates are to submit a CV and a cover letter (of not more than **600 words**) answering the question “Which sustainable transport challenges in your personal experience has inspired you to be a change maker in the struggle for sustainable, low carbon transport and what would you like to do as a change maker?”. The deadline for submissions is **20 May 2019**.

Please submit your application to Nikola Medimorec (nikola.medimorec@slocatpartnership.org). Interviews with candidates will be held between 27th and 31st May 2019.

¹

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/2014wesp_country_classification.pdf