

WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR EDUCATION CONCLUDES FIRST RESIDENTIAL SESSION OF LEARNERS' VOICE PROGRAM 2016-17

Session Included Practical and Theoretical Immersion into Global Forced Migration and Refugee Crisis

Doha, Qatar, April 09, 2017 – The World Innovation Summit for Education's (WISE) Learners' Voice Program has concluded its first residential session for the 2016-17 year.

Taking place in Athens, Greece, for the first time since its inception in 2010, the intensive workshops brought together 25 young people to explore the global forced migration and refugee crisis.

Designed to impart both practical and theoretical knowledge, the group spent the days supporting the work of organizations working with both urban and camp refugee communities in Athens, including: Khora Community Centre, METAdrasi, Orange House, Project Elea, and Organization Earth. The practical component was complemented by evening sessions delivered by expert faculty from the University of Oxford, Harvard University, University of Bologna, and Save the Children, among others.

Dina Pasic, Head of Programs, WISE, said: "After visiting the Katsikas refugee camp last April, it became clear that if we are to seriously explore social issues, we must immerse ourselves and learn from those directly affected by them. The Learners' Voice Program challenges its participants to develop feasible, actionable and educational solutions to such challenges. The setting of a thematic focus was in response to the immediate and ongoing needs of refugees, and the addition of the field component was to enable deeper awareness, to support the work of those on the ground, and to understand the role that the education sector can play in alleviating the symptoms of displacement."

The sessions came to a close following the presentation of five group projects to a panel of education experts, including Mr. Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO of WISE; and Dr. Stefanos Gialamas, President of the American Community School of Athens; as well as representatives from Project Elea, METAdrasi, and Organization Earth. The residential sessions of the program are designed to support the participants as they research and develop a variety of innovative educational projects throughout the year.

The Learners will continue to develop projects that aim to support the needs of displaced individuals and their host communities through educational interventions. Successful projects will be pitched at the 2017 WISE Summit and the best project will have the opportunity to present at the 2017 Falling Wall Labs Conference in Berlin, Germany.

WISE, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), established the Learners' Voice Program to engage the perspectives and creative energies of young people in discourse around important education issues and social challenges. This year's participants, aged 18-25, were chosen from over 1,000 applications and collectively represent 21 countries. They will benefit from the expertise of the WISE team and global education specialists including faculty from Yale University, Harvard University, University of Oxford, and Babson College.

The Learners' Voice Program is supported by its partners Banco Santander through its Universities Global Division and the American Community Schools of Athens. For more information on the 2016-2017 program, please visit: <http://www.wise-qatar.org/learners-voice-7>

Image Captions

Image 1: The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) concludes the first residential session of its 2016-17 Learners' Voice Program.

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About the World Innovation Summit for Education:

WISE was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate, and purposeful action. WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. As a testament to QF's commitment to a knowledge economy, WISE is promoting a range of on-going programs toward building the future of education through collaboration.

About Santander Universities Global Division:

Banco Santander, through its Santander Universities Global Division, maintains more than 1100 collaborative agreements with universities and research centers worldwide. Since 1996, Santander Universities has been the focus of the bank's social action with an investment of over 1 billion Euros in various initiatives and university projects. Further information is available at www.santander.com/universidades

About Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential:

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to

knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>