



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
COUNCIL GENERAL INTERNATIONAL
CULTURAL COMPETITION – “VINCENTIAN YOUTH: COMMITTED TO QUALITY
EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY”

International Competition

Vincentian Youth: committed to Quality Education to fight poverty

Registration from June 15
to September 6, 2022



Together in 2023
in the EIJV and
WYD



Notice on the website www.ssvpglobal.org
E-mail youth-contest@ssvpglobal.org

International Committee of Youth, Children and Adolescents
Council General International



NOTICE OF THE CULTURAL COMPETITION

VINCENTIAN YOUTH COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY (2022)



PRESENTATION

Paris, 14 June 2022.

During the World Youth Day, held in 2016 in Krakow (Poland), Pope Francis affirmed that young people are capable of great deeds, and His Holiness emphasises it as follows:

*“In my years in the episcopate I have learned one thing, I have learned many things, but there is one thing I want to share: **there is nothing more beautiful than to contemplate the aspirations, the commitment, the passion and the energy with which many young people embrace life. That is beautiful. And where does this beauty come from? When Jesus touches the heart of a young man or woman, they are able to do truly extraordinary things. It is exciting to hear them share their dreams, their questions and their desire to stand up to those who say things cannot change. Young people have the strength to stand up to them.***

It is convinced of this truth, that young people when committed to a greater purpose are capable of great and wonderful deeds, that the International Youth Committee of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul officially launches the **CULTURAL COMPETITION – VINCENTIAN YOUTH: COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY.**

The theme of Quality Education is present in Goal 4 of the Global Pact that defines the Sustainable Development Goals, proposed in 2015 by the United Nations (UN). This global pact proposes an agenda for sustainable development until 2030, with 17 major goals, and as reported above, Quality Education is included, with the following definition: **"To ensure access to inclusive, quality and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"**.

In recent years, the Vincentian Family has been discussing a lot about the theme of **Systemic Change, that is, a new way of looking at things that are effective and sustainable, capable of looking at poverty and, based on this action, acting on the elimination of the causes that lead to the different situations of poverty.** The Systemic Change Project, adopted by the Vincentian Family and one of the modules of the Universal Formation of our SSVP, is a practical tool to combat the causes that lead men and women into poverty.

The study of systemic change helps us to understand that we all live within an economic system whose elements interact with each other. If the system works well, it promotes individual development. If not, it hinders growth and accelerates deterioration. If, for example, I don't have a job, I don't earn money. If I don't earn money, I can't buy food for my family. If your child does not have enough to eat, he or she will be malnourished. If you suffer from malnutrition, **you will not be able to study well.** If you **don't study well**, you won't get a high school diploma. If you do not



graduate from school, you may not find a job. If you don't get a job, you won't earn money. And so the circle starts again.

According to **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), this generation of students risks to lose \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings in present value terms, or about 14% of current global GDP, as a consequence of school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report released on December 6, 2021 by the World Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF. The new projection reveals that the impact is more severe than previously expected and far exceeds the \$10 trillion estimates published in 2020...

In addition, *The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery* report shows that in low- and middle-income countries, the proportion of children living in Learning Poverty - already 53 per cent before the pandemic - could rise to 70 per cent, given the long periods of school closures and the ineffectiveness of distance learning to ensure full continuity of learning during these closure periods.

The report points out that to date less than 3% of governments' stimulus packages have been allocated to education. Much more funding will be needed for the immediate resumption of learning. The report also notes that while almost every country in the world offers distance learning opportunities to students, these initiatives vary in quality and scope - in most cases and at best, they are only a partial substitute for face-to-face education. More than 200 million students live in low- and lower-middle-income countries that are not prepared to implement distance education in the event of emergency school closures.

Finally, the report outlines some concrete actions to build more resilient long term education systems. Countries should consider the following actions:

- i. invest in an enabling environment to unlock the potential of digital learning opportunities for all students;
- ii. **strengthen the role of parents, families and communities in children's learning;**
- iii. ensure that teachers are supported and have access to high quality professional development opportunities; and
- iv. increase the share of education in the national budget allocation of incentive packages.

In point 3.3 of the Circular Letter from our dear 16th President General International, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, it is very clear what the SSVP could do, always and more, to enhance education and, through it, to help to lift out of poverty (material, moral, cultural and educational) the millions of poor people who are assisted by the Conferences and Councils. In the letter, the President lists several concrete examples of how the SSVP can collaborate in this field, especially in the area of digital exclusion and children education, through nurseries. He said:

“According to UNESCO, poverty on the planet would be halved if the young population had completed at least secondary education (the level before



university). This data indicates to us that the SSVP should be morally much more involved in educational projects to help humanity reduce such bad indicators. Any investment in education, from childhood to university, is worthy of this great effort for education that reduces poverty and social vulnerability. Congratulations to all the Councils and Conferences that maintain schools and nurseries, and promote some kind of vocational training or social project for the assisted people, as our predecessors wrote in the annex of the SSVP Manual of 1845".

The SSVP International Youth Committee is convinced that encouraging social projects aimed at quality education, and involving young Vincentians in this commitment, will significantly contribute to the fight against poverty.

This competition is a real concrete gesture of the Vincentian Youth who will actively participate in the International Youth Meeting of the Vincentian Family and in the World Youth Day in Lisbon 2023, together with the Holy Father Pope Francis. We hope that the various projects aimed at facilitating Quality Education especially for the poor assisted by the SSVP will be effective means of promoting real Systemic Change and will once again strengthen the Youth Protagonism, as were those seven young student friends from Paris when they founded the SSVP in 1833.

We invite all the Young Vincentians between the ages of 18 and 35 to participate in this competition and send in their Projects that focus on Quality Education as an effective means of fighting poverty. Together and animated by the Mission, we can be young entrepreneurs, promoters of Social Justice and materialize here and now the dream of Antoine Frédéric Ozanam "to embrace the world in a great network of charity".

Faternally,

Brother Willian Dimas da Silva Alves
International Vice President for
Youth, Children and Adolescents



REGULATIONS

1 – Objective

THE CULTURAL COMPETITION - VINCENTIAN YOUTH: COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY, promoted by the Council General International and organised by the International Vice-presidency for Youth, Children and Adolescents, aims to select social projects that can be implemented in the different countries of our Confederation with a focus on Quality Education as an effective way to fight poverty.

2 – Specific objectives

- 2.1 - To select Social Projects in Quality Education as an effective means of fighting poverty;
- 2.2 - Stimulate Vincentian Youth to be the protagonists of these projects;
- 2.3 - To prepare a booklet with all the projects that reach the organising committee, and to disseminate it to serve as a subsidy and ideas for other countries.

3 – Participants

- 3.1 - The author of the social project must be an active member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, participating in a SSVP conference.
- 3.2 - The author of the social project must be between 18 and 35 years old.
- 3.3 - There may be more than one author for the project. However, the prize will be awarded to only one (1) member of the group (by choice of the group itself), provided that it complies with point 3.2, i.e. the proposal of the social project can be made group, but only one member will receive the prize, if it is awarded.
- 3.4 - The registration form must include information on the Conference to which the member belongs, as well as the name and contact details of the Conference President.
- 3.5 - Persons holding positions of responsibility and service within the Council General International and officials of the Council General International may not enter this competition.
- 3.6 - Participants may come from any country belonging to the International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

4 – Content

- 4.1 - The project must contain a proposal for a Social Project on the theme "Quality Education as an effective means to fight poverty".



4.2 - The content of the Social Project must clearly and specifically answer certain questions that will guide its applicability and effectiveness to the proposed theme.

4.3 - The content must be original and not linked to any pre-existing or academic works published before this competition and/or in any other similar competition, either partially or totally.

4.4 - The Social Project proposal must be written using the standard model provided in the annex to these regulations.

4.5 - The Social Project proposal must be written in one of the four official languages of the SSVP: Portuguese, French, Spanish or English.

4.6 - To participate in the competition, the author must send the completed registration form and the Social Project proposal.

5 – Granting of Copyright

The author of the social project proposal who registers for this competition acknowledges that the proposal sent to the Council General International is his/her own, in its entirety and, likewise, automatically and freely assigns copyright to the Council General International of the SSVP for its publication and/or use in any country, in any media or communication platform and for an unlimited and indefinite period.

6 – The Technical Part

6.1 - The proposal must respect the minimum stages of a Social Project (see the annex to these regulations).

6.2 - The International Commission of the Vincentian Family for the promotion of Systemic Change has established some indispensable criteria that any project must have in order to be considered a Systemic Change project, such as:

- **Participation of the poor:** working with the poor and not for the poor. There is no radical change if the poor are not involved.
- **Social impact:** intervention of the different systems that interact on a certain problem, in this case *Quality Education*.

This is the main characteristic: the project contributes to changing the life situation of those we are trying to benefit. The projects must work together to have a long-term social impact. This impact will only be achieved through the intervention of the different systems that interact on a given problem.



- **Sustainability:** the projects must continue with a dynamic of their own, even if the leaders or promoters are no longer there. Projects must be self-sustaining by guaranteeing economic and human resources.

The project helps to create the social structures necessary for permanent change in the lives of the poor, such as employment, education, housing, access to clean water and sufficient food.

- **Multiplier effect:** can be replicated, adaptable to different contexts.

The project can be adapted to solve similar problems in other places. The philosophy or spirituality behind the project, the strategies it employs and the techniques it uses can be applied in different circumstances.

- **Innovation:** modification of traditional practices.

The project should produce significant social change by transforming traditional practices.

- **Co-responsibility and networking:** engaging others in the same vision and involving them in achieving a common goal.

6.3 - There must be a strong coherence between the proposal of the Social Project and the proposal and objectives set out in this competition notice.

6.4 - An original and unpublished production is one that is not plagiarized and has not been edited, started by others or presented in public until this competition.

7 – Organising Committee and Jury of the Cultural Competition

7.1 – The Organising Committee of this **CULTURAL COMPETITION "VINCENTIAN YOUTH: COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY"** was appointed directly by the 16th President International of the SSVP, Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, who delegated this responsibility to:

- Brother **Willian Alves** - International Vice President for Youth, Children and Adolescents and President of this Commission.
- The **Territorial Coordinators** for Youth, Children and Adolescents (members of the SSVP International Youth Committee), represented by Sister **Boipelo Mathodlana (Africa 2)** and Brother **Edgardo Fuentes (America 2)**
- To be defined by the President General: a member of CIAD and a member of the Social Projects area of the CGI.



7.2 - The jury of this Cultural Competition shall be responsible for the technical and qualitative evaluation of the social project proposals received, the declaration of the author and the winning proposals.

7.3 - The jury's decision is sovereign and indisputable, and is not subject to appeal.

7.4 - The Jury will be composed by the same members of the Organising Committee of this cultural competition, mentioned in point 7.1.

7.5 - The Jury, when circumstances so indicate, may be modified at any time at the discretion of the Board of the Council General and/or the President General.

7.6 - In the event of any tie in the Jury's analysis, the President General will cast the deciding vote, and will be final and without appeal.

8 – Deadline for Registration and Submission of Social Project Proposals

8.1 - The registration of Social Project Proposals for this Competition starts on **June 14, 2022** and ends on **September 6, 2022**.

8.2 - Registration and Social Project Proposals must be sent by **September 6, 2022** to the following email address: **youth-contest@ssvpglobal.org**
Participation in this competition will only be accepted through this email address.

8.3 - The result of this Cultural Competition will be published by the Council General International in its various media on **November 6, 2022**.

8.4 - The registration and proposal of the social project must be made according to the official models attached to these regulations.

9 – The prizes

9.1 - The Council General International shall award one (1) Young Participant (aged 18 to 35) from each of the 12 Territorial Regions, as follows:

- First place from the Americas Territorial Region 1
- First place from the Americas Territorial Region 2
- First place of the territorial region America 3
- First place of the territorial region Africa 1
- First place of the territorial region Africa 2
- First place of the territorial region Africa 3
- First place of the territorial region Europe 1
- First place of the territorial region Europe 2
- First place of the territorial region Asia 1



- First place for the territorial region Asia 2
- First place for the territorial region Middle East
- First place of the territorial region Oceania

9.2 - If there are several authors for the chosen Social Project, the prize will be awarded to one (1) member only (by choice of the project members, provided that the elected member is between 18 and 35 years of age and is an active member of the SSVP, as provided in these regulations).

9.3 - The prize will cover the travel expenses of the winner to attend the International Youth Meeting of the Vincentian Family in the city of Felgueiras, Portugal, on July 29, 30 and 31 and August 1, 2023, and the participation in the World Youth Day in the city of Lisbon, Portugal, from August 1 to 6, 2023.

9.4 – The following items are included in the expenses:

- Registration fees for both events (IWYF Felgueiras and WYD Lisbon 2023);
- A return air ticket between the country of the winner and Portugal;
- Meals during the travel days (29-31 July and 1-6 August 2023);
- Consular fees and visa collection procedures (if required);
- Transportation costs, if any, between the airport and the event venue in both cities: Felgueiras and Lisbon;
- Accommodation for the days that comprise the trip (to be defined by the IWYF and the WYD organisation);
- Life and travel insurance for the days of the trip (29 to 31 July and 1 to 6 August 2023).

9.5 - The costs and values of issuing travel passports are not included; these costs are to be borne by the prize winner.

9.6 - Under no circumstances may the prize be reversed, replaced, exchanged or changed for a cash value or any other form of bonus and/or reward, other than those already defined and established in points 9.3 and 9.4 of these regulations.

9.7 - In the event that the winner asks the organising team of this competition to award the prize to another person, this person will be evaluated and must meet the minimum requirement (to be awarded to a young Vincentian, an active member of the SSVP aged between 18 and 35). The decision of the organising team will be sovereign and may not be appealed against or contested. Procedures and guidelines will be given in due course if the application is made in time to acquire the elements needed to finance the prize.

9.8 - If any of the 12 territorial areas listed in point 9.1 does not have a winner, the Organising Committee may, according to the same criteria (young active Vincentian aged between 18 and 35), award the prize to another territorial area (2nd or 3rd place), if the social project is truly worthy of interest.



10 – General observations

10.1 - This Notice shall be published on the official website of the Council General International of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (www.ssvpglobal.org) and shall be available to all Vincentians of the SSVP throughout the world.

10.2 - Similarly, all Superior Councils in the different countries are requested to widely disseminate the notice containing the regulations of participation in the said competition, by the means and platforms of communication available, in order to ensure the widest possible diffusion.

10.3 - The submission of a Social Project proposal to be considered in this competition implies the full acceptance by the author and the other co-authors of this Notice and its Annexes in their entirety.

10.4 - Matters not covered by this Notice will be duly resolved by the Organising Committee and the Jury of this competition.

10.5 - Cases of omission (or possible modifications) of this Notice will be resolved by the Organising Committee, with the approval of the President.

10.6 - The winning social projects, in each of the 12 territorial areas, will not be sponsored by the Council General International, and only the idea of its conception will be rewarded. The costs and budget of the social project must be estimated, for additional information only.

11 – Annexes

- Annex 1 - Application form
- Annex 2 - Social Project Proposal form (the jury will receive projects in any available format, but suggests Annex 2 to facilitate the evaluation of all competitors on equal terms).



ANNEXE 1 – Application form

NAME OF THE PROJECT	
Lead author (responsible for submission)	Name: Date of birth: (yyyy/mm/dd) Telephone with country code: Email: Address:
Conference to which the lead author belongs	Conference : City: Country:
Details of the President of the Conference	Name: Telephone with country code: E-mail :
Other project members (if applicable)	Name: Date of birth: (yyyy/mm/dd) Conference: Name: Date of birth: (yyyy/mm/dd) Conference: Name: Date of birth: (yyyy/mm/dd) Conference:
National/Superior Council	
Remarks as appropriate	



ANNEX 2 - Social Project Proposal (the elements below are only a suggestion)

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION DATA

Name of the social project

Location

Persons responsible

2. JUSTIFICATION

This point must answer what will be developed and why there is a need for this project. It should explain the relevance of the project, for the users, for the SSVP and for all those involved.

3. OBJECTIVE(S)

This point should address the purpose for which the project will be carried out. It may contain only the general objective, or the general objective and specific objectives, always linked to the results the project intends to achieve. Describe it clearly and concisely.

4. THE BENEFICIARY PUBLIC

This point asks how many people and what characteristics will benefit from the project.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION OR METHODOLOGY

Describe clearly and concisely the necessary steps, which and how the activities will be developed to achieve the proposed objectives, including the allocation of human resources needed for the implementation of the proposal, allowing for an understanding of the project execution.

6. IMPACT

This point refers to the expected results and repercussion of the social project for the target audience, keeping coherence with the objectives and justification.

7. PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERFACES

This point identifies the external supports with which the social project will be executed.

By interfaces we mean public or governmental agencies that can provide their technical, human, administrative, financial and material structures to the project.

By partnerships we mean companies, service clubs, entities or community organisations that can support the project.

8. RESOURCES

8.1 Material



The description of material resources should include all materials needed to implement the project. If possible, estimate the budgetary costs of the social project in the different phases (implementation and maintenance).

8.2 Financial

The total value of the project and the amount to be financed by the organisation or through partnerships and interfaces (counterpart funding, if applicable) should be indicated under this heading.

8.3. Human

Here you should list the human resource requirements for the implementation and maintenance of the social project.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

For example, in case of acquisition of computer equipment: purchase, installation of equipment, adaptation of the physical space, hiring of an instructor, workshop, course, etc. Identify for each of these steps/activities the timeframe foreseen for its beginning and end.

10. EVALUATION

Establish the methodology for monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the objectives and expected results (impact). Appoint a manager or a person in charge of the social project.

11. Other information

In this part, the author of the project may indicate other relevant information about the social project, and add any other data that may be taken into account by the jury.

Note: images, figures, graphs, tables or photographs may be included in the social project proposal, even if they have a purely illustrative function.