



CONNECT

Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 1 MARCH 2019



YALDA -UNECA Gala Dinner with H.E. Dr Hala El Said Minister of Planning, Egypt

UNECA SIDE EVENT

The Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) Side Event at the 52nd Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)'s Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Jointly organized by UNECA and YALDA

Youth Inclusiveness in Driving the Implementation Agenda of Fiscal Policy, Trade and Investment through Digital Innovation in Africa

Background

The recently signed AfCFTA portends numerous upsides in engendering trade whilst bridging regional integration across the continent. (Continued on page 6)

YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA NEWSLETTER

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YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Meet the inspirational young leaders who are helping reduce Africa's youth unemployment as part of the African Development Bank's Presidential Youth Advisory Group

With a youth population bigger than any other continent, Africa has huge potential and a strong competitive advantage. Equipped with education, skills and jobs, its youth are key drivers of economic growth in the continent and globally.

To harness youth potential, the African Development Bank launched an 8-member Presidential Youth Advisory Group (PYAG) in 2017, a unique council made up of young professionals working in Africa, advising the Bank on youth initiatives across all Bank activities.

The group also provides insights and innovative solutions for creating jobs for Africa's youth. Their individual contributions have had a major impact in their respective countries and fields. Collectively, their efforts stand to transform the development trajectory of Africa's youth.



Group Chair Ashish J. Thakkar
CEO of Mara Corporation



Mamadou Touré
Founder and CEO of Africa 2.0/Ubuntu Capital and Ubuntu Coin



Vanessa Mungar
Director for the Gender, Women, and Civil Society Department, African Development Bank



Jeremy Johnson
Co-Founder and CEO of Andela



Clarisse Iribagiza
CEO and Co-founder of DMM.HeHe



Ada Osakwe
CEO of Agrolay Ventures



Yana Kakar
Global Managing Partner of Dalberg Advisors



Uzodinma Iweala
CEO of The Africa Center in New York

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

YALDA - UNECA Side Event 2019 Marrakech Morocco

Bitania Berhanu on tackling youth unemployment in Africa



The 52nd Session of the United Nations Economic

Conference for Africa in Marrakech, Morocco dealt with the theme of fiscal policy, trade and private sectors in the digital era. With a variety of topics at the side events, youth involvement and unemployment took centre stage. CNBC Africa's Fifi Peters caught up with Bitania Berhanu, the International Branches Coordinator at Youth Alliance for Leadership Development in Africa. (Pictured Left)

YALDA Morocco at the YALDA-UNECA side event

The panel discussion theme 'Youth Inclusiveness in Driving the Implementation Agenda of Fiscal Policy, Trade and Investment through Digital Innovation in Africa' was well presented and by YALDA Morocco. (Pictured top right)

Orientation for new members

YALDA AAU is aligned with the beliefs and values of YALDA. It had an orientation for new members that joined earlier this year. The event was graced by Ms Bitania Lulu, founding chair of YALDA AAU and International Branches Coordinator of YALDA International and Ms. Natalie Mukundane, Regional Associate of YALDA International for Eastern African Countries. They led wonderful sessions with their energetic words that inspired the next future African leaders. (Continued on page 3) (Pictured bottom right)



(Continued from page 2) YALDA AAU held its Executive Board Elections on January 30th, 2019 at Addis Ababa University Main Campus, with a total of 31 voters, 13 contestants and 4 observers chaired by Ms. Bitania Lulu, Founding Executive Director of YALDA Ethiopia. A new team has now emerged to drive the leadership of the organisation forward. Congratulations to the newly elected board!



YALDA Botswana on Radio

With increasing support and expansion, YALDA Botswana continues to raise awareness about the information and goals of YALDA. This was shown through the report shared on Gabz FM, a research through her Citizens' Report

Initiative on how to monitor what Botswana government is doing with regards to the implementation of the SDGs. (Pictured above)

MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER

DAWIT ZEGEYE



Dawit, the Executive Director of YALDA-Addis Ababa University has been an active member of (YALDA-AAU) since 2014. He has also worked at the Amref International Health Africa youth Advisory Parliament since October 2018. In addition, he served in the African Union Youth Advisory Board in brief tenure that was characterised by team work and collaboration.

Dawit can be described as an intellectually curious person with an aptitude for service. He has Advanced Certificate in Diplomacy and Leadership and Management skills Development and can speak English, French, Amharic, Affan-Oromo, Ge'ez Italian (basic) and guraginga!

LOAGO MAKOSHA



Laogo, currently pursuing a BSc in Business Management is a member of YALDA Botho University. She involved in securing the speakers for branch events. She is also actively involved in sensitization and recruitment drives. Laogo is credited with passion and determination that has seen her rally YALDA members behind the mission and vision that seeks to empower and build the capacity of Africa's youth.

2019 YALDA Recognition on Pretoria Campus

Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria received official recognition through a letter from the Student Representative Council in charge of Student Governance and leadership Development. This has further confirmed YALDA as an official body in the school, hence, spreading its tentacles and achieving its aims.

KUDOS!

MOSES AKURUGU ADE-ENA



Moses, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing is the executive director of YALDA UHAS. He was nominated for student writer of the year and male

entrepreneur of the year at the UHAS NAMSA awards. Moses won the male entrepreneur of the year on 23 February, 2019 and was nominated for similar categories during the National Union of Ghana Students, NUGS excellence awards under the theme, "Awarding the Deserving Student". He was crowned male entrepreneur of the year. Moses' outstanding achievements serves as an inspiration to youth who want to make a difference within their fields.

WEBINAR TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Don't miss our monthly webinars this year. Our webinar series offers a great, easy way to learn more and have conversations about African development, related challenges and solutions. Each one features guest speakers to present on our topic of the month. To put our webinars together, we work closely with the YALDA US Harvard branch to recruit speakers, promote our webinars, and execute them virtually.

This year we are also introducing a new certificate programme that seeks to award regular participants with certificates! At the end of 2019, those of you who meet the criteria will be awarded. For more information and in order to be considered for the certificate, please fill out the following form here: <https://forms.gle/PLCmofzFjBqA9ZkcA>



MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICA LEADERS IN BUSINESS

Entrepreneurship is the most effective way to establish true prosperity. Entrepreneurial ventures can create sustainable wealth that results in thriving market, a healthy society and opportunities where they were previously non-existent.

To understand why this is so critical, consider this: By 2020, 122 million Africans will enter the labour force. The number of new jobs that must be created to accommodate this demographic explosion is enormous. Added to this are tens of millions currently unemployed or underemployed, making the human and economic consequences nearly too large to imagine if job creation is not seen as a priority.

This demographic expansion can spell an economic boom or doom for the continent. Traditional aid and extraction

focused investment cannot and will not provide employment for the millions of young Africans entering the job market every year. They can also not provide for the continent's massive needs for reliable power generation, housing, transportation and financial services infrastructure. Entrepreneur-led job creation is necessary to overcome these challenges.

This realisation represents a fundamental need for change. Africa is rich in entrepreneurial energy and talent. Many African entrepreneurs are already running home-grown businesses and have deep insights into local consumer demand; they can spot unique gaps in the market for specific products and services. These are the people who can fuel Africa's future, but who often lack the capital, training and support to

take their small businesses to a national or regional scale. In Nigeria alone, 95% of start-ups fail in the first year largely due to regulatory and infrastructure issues. However, many of these can succeed with a strong political will and a conducive environment. This deduction was made by Tony Elumelu, a Nigerian business man committed to the development of the African race through mentoring and support.

The above deduction indicates the essence of MENTORSHIP. Arguably, Africa's primary failure has been its leadership. The leadership crisis has gone on for so long that much ineffective leadership has become systemic in nearly every aspect of governance. For this reason, the seeming consensus among the enlightened public that the continent is

Some webinars so far..

YALDA Harvard March webinar on 'Why we Must be the Change'

The March webinar hosted by Carter Bell and Edison Masike was centred on challenging the status quo and breaking down stereotypes. It brought to light the challenge that change starts with you and bringing transformation to Africa begins by us creating the future we want.

YALDA Botswana webinar on "African Youth: Powering the Sustainable Development Goals"

The role of the youth in the Voluntary National Review process on the SDGs and High Level Political Forum was discussed via YouTube. YALDA Botswana was represented by Thabang Moiphisi who is a Youth Champion for Sustainable Development Goals among other informed speakers.

YALDA Harvard April webinar on 'Gender Equality: The Empowerment of Women and Girls'

In April, a group of YALDA Harvard students ran the webinar on gender equality. With a turn out of about 20 individuals, there was a lively discussion about how to combat gender roles and empower women and girls in local communities. It was noted that confident, educated girls were better suited to become leaders in their communities.

in dire need of reinvention which would require a revolution in order to bring it at par with other realities is incontrovertible. As we approach the third decade of the millennium, there is need to take a critical look at the readiness of the next generation of Africans especially as concerns leadership. How ready is the next generation? Is there a nexus between the present generation and the youths that could enable seamless political and economical leadership succession? Have the African youth been rightly mentored, primed and empowered for leadership responsibilities?

Mentoring produces leaders that ensure continuity and maintain the culture and

values of the institution because such leaders have not only been taught but also groomed and nurtured. They climb on the shoulders of giants and therefore are far more effective and visionary in administration. This fosters and enables an environment where experts are a vital resource for one group of entrepreneurs and startups helping them with guidance, advice and network. Mentorship can be achieved and operated with 3 different categories of mentors:

- Startup experts – Serial entrepreneurs with experience in multiple startups
- Industry experts – Individuals with a wealth of industry-specific experience
- Knowledge experts – Mentors with

experience in a business skill set (legal, accounting, finance, marketing, IT, operations, etc.)

Mentorship is a key solution to fostering success and professionalism in the world of emerging businesses through entrepreneurship, which demands appropriate skills and tools to navigate the vision and interest of the organization using modern approaches while learning from history or capable intellectuals. Mentorship is not magic or transfer of vision to the other party, but grooming based on character, professionalism, growth, posterity and excellence.

It's a call to make more leaders! We need a Sustainable Economy!

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Challenges

Political Instability

Some countries in the African continent are not politically established. For example, some still have racial intolerance which prevents formation of multinational companies or foreign businesses in their country. This indirectly affects local start-ups owing to hostile business contexts that dissuade international competition.

Bad Corporate Governance

Poor corporate governance disenfranchises local enterprise and threatens the sustainability of local economies. Bad corporate governance practices such as corruption; inside trading, maladministration or lack of transparency and lack of accountability, incorrect financial statement reporting, fraud, which taint their reputation and end up leading to bankruptcy and closure of enterprises drains any gains made in the growth of local businesses. Balancing the interests of the involved enterprise stakeholders such as management, investors, shareholders, customers, government, community, and suppliers it is critical for the success and survival of the business.

Absence of Social Responsibility Culture

Stakeholders place an important role in every business so there is no way an enterprises can be able to operate in sequestration to its stakeholders and survive in the social enterprise industry. Social investment or involvement significantly influences business sustainability and credibility.

Opportunities

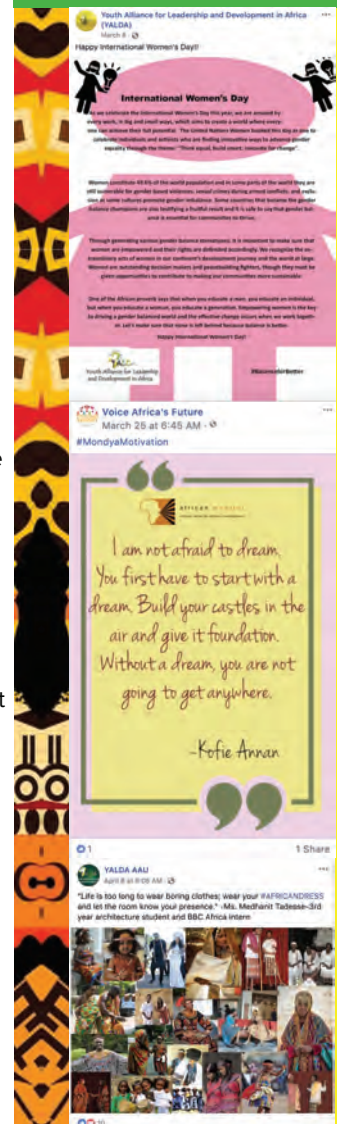
Accessibility of Resources

African countries still have natural resources such as wood, natural beautiful sceneries and access to land and government funding programs. The provision of enterprise development programmes that focus on stimulating growth by providing training, support, and access to business opportunities are beneficial support structures that social entrepreneurs could take advantage of to build their capacity and knowledge in managing and accelerating the growth of local businesses.

Global Market

Most of African countries give entrepreneurs opportunities to advance towards incorporation into the

BEST OF SOCIAL MEDIA



global economy, providing conducive economic reforms, instigating conducive private investment climate, liberalizing markets and widening the space for entrepreneurship to drive strong and inclusive growth. This encourages African businesses to interact with foreign partners and improve efficiency in business industry and overall productivity.

Conducive Business Environment

A conducive business environment can only be achieved through the establishment of regulations that encourage growth of SMEs and local cottage industries. Tax relieves, favourable lending, trade policies that encourages consumption of locally manufactured products and certain levels of protectionism must be established to protect local industries from unfavourable competition.

UNECA SIDE EVENT



(Continued from front page) Key implementation factors in AfCFTA's success will be the role of young people on the continent and leveraging the enormous innovation in digital technology. With Africa's 167 million internet users and predominant youth population, it is essential to

develop an inclusive implementation plan towards promoting intra-African trade and digital services. More so, growing internet penetration rate and reduction in the cost of internet-enabled mobile devices, has stimulated the growth in the number of youth-run digital businesses across various sectors of the African economy contributing to Africa's GDP and reduction in unemployment. To leverage the opportunities presented by AfCFTA and most importantly, understand the purport of regional expansion of youth-run businesses, it became pertinent to hold this side-event to discuss and explore prospects of collaboration among young business leaders on the continent in a bid to further promote Agenda 2063 through trade liberalization.

Objective

The main objective of the side event will be to offer a platform for various stakeholders to discuss the inherent opportunities for youth doing business across the continent by leveraging the potential in AfCFTA to expand into other African countries and through digital innovation. This would also include; Opportunity Spotting – spotting opportunities for collaboration and expansion of youth-run businesses on the continent; and Unveiling UNECA, African Union and various Government's Policy Statements on AfCFTA implementation to the private sector operators.

Expected outcomes

a The side event provided specific recommendation on AfCFTA's implementation through youth inclusiveness and improved enabling business environment;

- Demonstration of the potential of youth-run digital businesses and their potential contribute to economic development and reduce youth employment; and
- Advocated for stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the AfCFTA by UNECA and AU.



YALDA - UNECA Event attendees with Gambia Minister of Finance, H.E. Mambury Njie

UNECA SIDE EVENT SPEAKER/PANELISTS PROFILE

FOY ZUO BRUNO



Zuo Bruno is the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zuoix, an Offensive Information Security Company based in Limbe, Cameroon. Bruno is known for his innovation known as ZOOMED, which he created to secure cars, businesses and homes when the internet was disconnected in his region. His Innovation has grown into a new term in technology, known as SOT (SMS of Things) in which he uses SMS for interconnection of devices.

HAYAT ESSAKKATI



Hayat Essakkati is a Moroccan-Dutch entrepreneur based in Casablanca, Morocco. She spent 4 years in international development with the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank managing youth/ education programs in North Africa. After, Hayat founded Maroc4Invest, a consulting firm for foreign agencies doing business in Morocco where she worked on education, health, banking and renewable energy projects across Africa. She combines experience in international economic programs with entrepreneurship in Africa. Hayat has a BA in Public Administration from Leiden University in the Netherlands and a MA in International Economics from the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, USA.

SEYNABOU DIA



Seynabou Dia is CEO and Founder of Global Mind Consulting. As a specialist in Public Relations, she has deep knowledge of communication organizations. Thanks to her professional experience and marked by the ambition to value the actors of the economic transformation on the African continent, in 2011 she founded her first agency, Global Mind Consulting, based between Washington DC and Paris. In addition, Seynabou has been involved in various key initiatives internationally. For two years, she was responsible for the communication of a network of African executives and played an active role in organizing major events at the Information Office of the European Parliament and Science Po Paris. She also coordinated the launch gala of the “World Festival of Negro Arts” in France. At UNESCO, she was able to join the permanent delegation of Senegal, where she has worked for three editions during the organization of the Cultural Gala Africa.

DENIS O. MEZUI



Denis O. Mezui is the Managing Partner of HOD Consulting Gabon and Non-Executive Director, Board of Directors at United Bank of Africa in Gabon (UBA Gabon). As a Coach/trainer in Organization Development, Performance Improvement and Entrepreneurship, Denis works on performance improvement and organizational development. He is a coach / mentor in several entrepreneurship programs across the continent, is a consultant in strategic orientation within the HECI Business School / International University group among others. A graduate in business studies and business administration, he has worked in Africa and Switzerland, at the operational and strategic level for companies, including in marketing, innovation, distribution, sales and business development.

YALDA IEC RETREAT

YALDA IEC RETREAT 2019 MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

It was a sunny Friday morning, I woke up to the melodic whistling of birds at the majestic Casa Gyla, Marrakech, Morocco, where I had arrived the night before to prepare and receive all IEC members. One after the other members arrived and as usual it was so nice and exciting to see everybody again since good byes in Nairobi last year. As soon as we could talk, laugh and tell stories it was time for business. The beauty of the IEC is the blend of fun and WORK!

We started off day 1 with our YRA from central Africa presenting a campaign he conceived for YALDA and as expected it was thoroughly dissected by our very own Chairperson Mathew Mmopi in the smart and objective manner only he knows how. Ideas flooded in like lava flowing from Mt Fako then it was time for lunch. Reconvening after lunch was time for regional reports. We spared no efforts at exploiting technology at the IEC, so our members who could not join us physically had a chance to do a video presentation under the same microscopic analysis from the team. Standards are high around here and we expect nothing less. All were exhausted at the end of the day and could think of nothing more than dinner and sleep. Tomorrow was promising to be tougher.

If I didn't know better I would say the Casa Gyla is the most beautiful villa in Marrakech, I wasn't surprised when I woke up to others enjoying its wonderful compound. Breakfast was snappy and off we were to our newly recruited Achieng Ochieng's presentation. You can always expect an explosion of ideas each time the IEC sits and this was no different. She was brilliant! Lunch was at the Palmerie Golf resorts, Moroccan cuisine. I know what the west Africans would say about the food but I am skeptical about the Southern Africans although I'm sure they enjoyed it. In the end we all left with full stomachs.

One presentation after the other and then it was team building time. This time around were going to be shooting at



each other in a tightly contested game of laser tags somewhere at the outskirts of Marrakech. We split into two teams and hired some little Moroccan ninja's to join us. Adrenaline pumped up, the teams came up with battle songs that were chanted as we ran into the battle ground. No retreat, No surrender. After an hour of shooting and running Bukamu Hulela could hardly breath! We all suddenly had so much admiration and respect for the soldiers job, physically it was demanding. Our IEC princess Bitania Lulu who walked and spoke as though she wouldn't shoot a fly had deceived us all. She had the highest score. Appearances can be deceitful!

Exhausted! And in a search for food we found ourselves at the Medina square and there was Marrakech right before us. I had never seen so many people in one place before. Laughter! Music! Traders! Beggars! Love! Noise! Running kids! Horses! Tourist! Yet as I held on to Phatsimo's hand it was the food that kept me going. Little did we know that our host Jawad in our absence prepared a little party for us. With so much to drink and a full day of activities the next day, we were trapped. Thank God for multitasking.

The following day we hosted a side event at the UNECA conference and organized a gala dinner with dignitaries such as the Egyptian Finance minister! I couldn't have asked for more. Ghana here I come...

Poubom Rehbeh M.
International Secretary



EDUCATION CORNER

4 Ways to Approach Varsity Life

By Goitsemodimo Pholoa



1

Introspect yourself

University is a place where temptation is substantial. Everything seems so thrilling and enticing! The fact is that, as students in our quest to attain a degree or diploma, we will have to withstand those temptations; know what our truth is, what grounds us, what empowers us and where we are going and what we have to do to get there. What are our current desires? Having answers to these questions will help us to know our stand.

2

Lead yourself

At varsity, you will make new friends from different backgrounds with different experiences. They say birds of the same feather flock together; your likes and interests may ultimately change after you meet new friends because in most cases friends' interests and goals are alike and that creates the enduring bond of friendship. You will learn and experience new things from friends.

So somehow you may try to fit in and you might end up engaging in reckless acts such as misusing alcohol or drugs, dating people for wrong reasons and skipping classes, doing assignments at the last minute and spending a lot of time having fun. These will ultimately pile up and lead to consequences which might even put off your graduation. Learn to take control, prioritize and make decisions for yourself, saying no doesn't make you a bad friend or less worthy. Socializing is good but don't let it distract you from your main focus.

3

Budget your money

Student life, especially varsity life, is expensive because you will be away from home and you have to take care of your daily expenses and monthly costs like rent, grocery, toiletries, transport costs, costly textbooks and other incidental costs. You may also have the desire to fit in with the trendy lifestyles, buying expensive or excess clothes and snacks at times, and excess costs to keep your social life on the go. All these are expensive and at times the expenses exceed the monthly student living allowances. That's why you need to budget to economize your money. Also don't buy things you don't really need just because others do have that thing; buy what you can afford and be pleased of whatever you have.

4

Plan

Living without parents gives every student superfluous freedom. Hence, many students find it difficult to balance between their social and academic subsists. Some students easily get drawn to do social things, to the extent that even if they have a pile of school assignments they still find it difficult to turn down a cocktail or beach party or any socializing event invitation in order to complete school work first and as a result their academics suffer. Remember you can still have that party another time whereas assignments have strict deadlines. Time is very valuable in life. If you really want to hold onto your degree or diploma as a student, learn to plan, prioritize and manage your time in order to achieve your goals.

4 Ways to Set Off Your Day Strong

By Goitsemodimo Pholoa

1

Positive Thinking

Start every day with a good mindset, thinking it is going to be the best day of your life.

2

Articulate Your Mission

Try to map out your vision, goals and what you are doing to contribute to your goals.

3

Movement

Engage in some movement. Just move your body, to be active and keep your blood flowing. Do some workouts such as jogging, or squats.

4

Wash Up

Take a bath and eat a hearty breakfast every morning in order to achieve your goals.

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Investec Bursary Programme 2020 for Young South Africans. Deadline: September 30, 2019

<https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/investec-bursary-programme-2020-for-young-south-africans/>

YALDA Video Campaign 2019. Deadline: July 31, 2019

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScBV_5XR_HUChF6ZJL2JAmEV4Vg9HrZe3Q9CWGREzAu4xuamw/viewform

Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships Scheme 2020 for Students in Commonwealth Nations. Deadline: June 26, 2019

<https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/queen-elizabeth-commonwealth-scholarships-scheme-2020/>

United Nations Young Professionals Programme 2019 (Launch Your Career at the United Nations). Deadline: August 9, 2019

<https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/united-nations-young-professionals-programme-2019/>

Wellcome Trust Seeking Applicants for Public Engagement Fund 2019. Deadline: July 9, 2019

<https://www2.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/wellcome-trust-seeking-applications-for-public-engagement-fund-2019/>

Rhodes University Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in 2020 in South Africa. Deadline: July 31, 2019

<https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/rhodes-university-postdoctoral-research-fellowships-2020/>

U.S. Department of State 2019 Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Disability Employment. Deadline: June 9, 2019

<https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/2019-professional-fellows-program-on-inclusive-disability-employment/>

Netherlands Embassy in Budapest seeking applicants for Human Rights Fund & Democracy Funds. Deadline: June 24, 2019

<https://www2.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/netherlands-embassy-in-budapest-seeking-applications-for-human-rights-fund-democracy-fund-2019/>

Nordic Culture Fund's Grant Program to support arts and culture projects. Deadline: October 1, 2019

<https://www2.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/nordic-culture-funds-grant-program-to-support-arts-and-culture-projects/>