

# European Development Days 2018 – empowering women and girls to shape sustainable development

Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker**, who will open the EDDs tomorrow, said: *“There can be no sustainable development if half of the world’s population is left behind. We need equal participation and leadership of women and girls in all spheres of life – both in Europe and in the world. This is what we will focus on during these European Development Days.”*

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** emphasised: *“The EDDs gather the development community from all corners of the globe to learn from each other and to inspire new partnerships. Only if we act together, will we manage to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and empower them to truly be at the forefront of sustainable development”.*

From the European Commission, the President Jean-Claude **Juncker**, together with High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini**, First-Vice President of the European Commission Frans **Timmermans**, as well as Commissioners Cecilia **Malmström**, Neven **Mimica**, Christos **Stylianides**, Phil **Hogan** and Mariya **Gabriel**, will participate at the event.

The European Development Days will furthermore be joined by many high-level speakers and participants including: Her Majesty **Mathilde**, Queen of the Belgians; Her Majesty Queen **Letizia** of Spain; Her Royal Highness **Mary**, the Crown Princess of Denmark; President of Malta Marie-Louise **Coleiro Preca**; Prime Minister of Norway Erna **Solberg**; President of the European Parliament Antonio **Tajani**; President of Rwanda Paul **Kagamé**; President of Burkina Faso Roch Marc Christian **Kaboré**; President of Niger Mahamadou **Issoufou**; President of Liberia George **Weah**; Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina J. **Mohammed**, and many more.

Sixteen **Young Leaders** from around the world will join high-level panels to exchange ideas and experiences with policy-makers and world leaders. Participation and voices of young people will be additionally promoted this year by a large Youth Lounge that would facilitate youth organisations and activists’ gatherings and discussions on gender equality and other development issues.

The [Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2018](#) will be awarded to journalists for their outstanding reporting on sustainable development, with a special focus on the elimination of violence against women and girls.

Today, in the margins of the European Development Days, Commissioner **Mimica** will sign new support for Burkina Faso, together with President Kaboré. More information will be made available at 18:00 [here](#). On Wednesday, he will sign a new package of assistance for Liberia, together with Liberian President

George Weah.

A full [cultural programme](#) featuring international artists, musicians and film-makers will complement the event, while the [Global Village](#), a fair composed of 92 stands, will bring together international stakeholders to share projects or reports related to the EDDs' main themes and thread.

## **Background**

European Development Days were launched in 2006 as a way to gather the international development community and discuss the way forward to eradicate poverty.

Organised by the European Commission, the EDDs have become a kind of “Davos for development”, a strong reference point for the international development community to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire innovative solutions and new partnerships to face the world's most pressing challenges. Since 2006, 100 world leaders, 7 Nobel Prize laureates, 4500 organisations, and 42 000 participants from 154 countries have attended the EDDs.

At the EDDs, journalists will have the opportunity to speak to many participants, including political leaders, policy-makers, business leaders, key personalities of the women's rights movement, entrepreneurs, young people, as well as non-governmental organisations and academia. Specific media facilities and opportunities are offered to the international press such as TV and radio studios, press conference room, Facebook live corner (more information [here](#)).

The opening and closing sessions of the event, as well as several other highlights, will be broadcasted on the [European Development Days' website](#), as well as on [EbS](#).

## **For More Information**

[European Development Days 2018](#)

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