

**WISE, an initiative of Qatar Foundation, has unveiled its Global Education Barometer:
Youth Perceptions on their Education and the Future in 2020**

**9 young adults out of 10 feel their generation has a responsibility to better
the world; yet, they don't feel prepared enough for it**

Paris, France - January 24, 2020. On the occasion of the International Day of Education, WISE has released an extensive study on the views of young people. Conducted by Ipsos, the survey was undertaken in 20 countries across the globe, in order to understand how the youth perceive their education and how prepared and confident they feel in their future. These results have been initially revealed at the "Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace" conference at UNESCO on January 24 to mark International Day of Education. Key findings will be included in the work conducted by UNESCO's Futures of Education and CRI's Learning Planet initiatives. The survey was conducted in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe with 9,509 young people aged 16 to 25 years old.

The survey found that 87% of young people believe their generation has a responsibility to better the planet. But are national education systems actually adapting to the aspirations of youth? It would not appear so, with only half of those surveyed saying they feel ready to take action to better the world, and less than half (48%) stating they feel ready to understand big societal issues and to take action in finding solutions to these issues (only 43%).

Providing young people with the right tools and mindsets to address societal challenges seems increasingly necessary as a way to help them address their concerns, as 85% of those surveyed express fears about the state of our planet. The WISE survey reveals that the youth are primarily worried about "poverty and social inequality", followed by "climate change and the environment" and "access to employment". However, only a minority of youth are already actively engaged around these issues (17%, 19% and 20% respectively).

The three most important reasons for attending school according to young people are to: #1 expand their knowledge and be ready for the future (89% consider these to be equally important), and #2 be able to find a job and secure income (87%). Meanwhile, learning about the world around them and being able to positively impact their community are only positioned, respectively, at #6 and #9.

Today, young people don't necessarily expect schools to make them more active and well-rounded citizens, but rather to be ready to face the future on a personal level. The latter is borne out by the results of the survey, with more than half of youth surveyed claiming to be sufficiently prepared for the following: taking care of themselves (64%); managing priorities (58%); taking care of others (58%); finding a career they love (54%, though only 37% in South Korea and 43% in Canada, despite being among the top performers in the PISA evaluation).

"Young people are aware of the challenges that our world is facing and acknowledge that they have a responsibility as adults to address these challenges. At the same time, they are pragmatic both about

their level of preparedness—they don't feel quite ready yet— and also about the need to be active participants in the economy. It's now up to policymakers to create the conditions for young people to both prosper and develop the solutions that will move our world forward” stated Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE.

The survey also reveals that young people really value their education with nearly 90% agreeing that education is more than learning for a career and is valuable in and of itself. Moreover, for 84% of them, learning outside of school is just as important as learning in school.

Interestingly, the survey also highlights that 80% of youth claim to be satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their education, although only 27% say they are “fully satisfied”. However, when probing further we discover two major areas for improvement that young people want to see in their education. First, a more individualized approach, with over 60% of young people saying they would like their teachers to give them more personal advice on their career orientation and on ways to learn and study adapted to their needs. Second, more space for 21st century skills, with half of young people claiming that their schooling gives too little space for new technologies (artificial intelligence, coding, etc.), for creativity and curiosity (44%) and for communication and organizational skills (41%).

In order for young people to be ready to face their future and the global challenges ahead, it is clear that wide-scale improvements to education systems across the board are needed. From providing them with the tools to understand and confront societal issues, to responding to their specific learning skills, the WISE survey gives us some indication as to what young people think is needed.

To download the executive summary, please visit: <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-global-education-barometer-2020>

Media contact:

Lina Lahlou media@wise.org.qa

About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

The World Innovation Summit for Education 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, evidence-based thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. Through the biennial summit, collaborative research and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. www.wise-qatar.org

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Methodology Note: Study carried out by Ipsos for WISE in September and October 2019 among 9,509 young people aged 16-25 y.o. in 20 countries: in the Middle East (Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey), Africa (Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa), Asia (China, India, Malaysia, South Korea), the Americas (Brazil, Canada, Mexico, USA) and Europe (Finland, France, Germany, UK and Russia). In each country, a representative sample (quota method) of the national population aged 16-25 was interviewed online.
