



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

UNESCO Story Circles Train-the-Trainer Event

21 September, 10 am – 12 noon, New York University

Organized by: UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence at Stellenbosch University, World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence, New York University

Please save this document in PDF as: O15 UNESCO Story Circles

TWO PAGE MAXIMUM

Background on the event (one paragraph)

This highly interactive workshop served as a train-the-trainer event for future facilitators of UNESCO Story Circles, a highly successful and impactful intercultural methodology used around the world to develop and practice participants' key intercultural competencies such as listening for understanding (instead of response or judgment). Facilitated by the author of the open access Manual on Developing Intercultural Competencies: Story Circles (UNESCO/Routledge, 2020), the workshop was at capacity with 25 participants from 5 different countries. UNESCO Story Circles is a structured yet adaptable intercultural methodology that can be used in formal and nonformal learning settings and is not only used to develop participants' intercultural competence but also to bridge divides and create deeper human connection.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The great need to develop individuals' intercultural competence, which is a lifelong endeavor and must be intentionally addressed
- The need to bridge divides through focusing on our shared humanity
- There is power in listening, and in being seen and heard

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Invite the UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence to facilitate these UNESCO Story Circles Training Events as part of United Nations and UNESCO conferences, which is a scalable methodology that can be used with groups of up to several hundred participants
- Intentionally address intercultural competence development through methodologies such as UNESCO Story Circles
- Promote UNESCO Story Circles widely – see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUQcA-FKWqg>
- Partner with World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence (www.iccglobal.org) – a global nonprofit working to bring together practitioners, researchers, students, and policymakers across languages, cultures, disciplines, and contexts so that these groups can learn from and with each other around the praxis of intercultural and global competence around the world
- Provide UNESCO Story Circles trainings to youth around the globe so they are empowered and prepared to facilitate UNESCO Story Circles in their own contexts

Webpage to find more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUQcA-FKWqg> and also for the open access manual in 6+ languages from UNESCO: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000370336>