



Apply to become a Young Expert 2026 – WEXFO Utøya Young Experts Seminar

Are you passionate about freedom of expression? Do you have experience as an activist, journalist, writer, human rights defender, innovator, or leader? Then WEXFO Utøya Young Experts 2026 might be spot on for you!

About the Young Experts Program

WEXFO Utøya Young Experts brings together up to 70 young voices from all over the world — people already working to promote freedom of expression and democracy at the local, national, or global level.

The program takes place in Norway, beginning on Utøya, a unique memorial and learning site dedicated to democracy and civic engagement. Here, participants engage in in-depth workshops and dialogues before traveling together to Lillehammer to actively take part in the World Expression Forum (WEXFO).

The seminar is not just about sharing experiences, but also about developing joint guidance for future action and strengthening intergenerational dialogue on today's challenges to freedom of expression.

WEXFO covers all travel, accommodation, and expenses related to participation in Norway.

Key objectives

- Increasing the understanding of the positive contributions young people bring to addressing challenges to freedom of expression worldwide
- Highlighting youth-led efforts to influence conversations and decision-making processes globally
- Creating space for meaningful dialogue between generations

Dates and location

- Utøya and Lillehammer, Norway, May 29 – June 3, 2026

Who can apply/be nominated?

- 18–35 years old
- Innovators, writers, journalists, human rights defenders, artists, activists, or leaders with relevant experience
- Clear commitment to freedom of expression, with proven achievements or results

What you gain as a Young Expert

- Connect with other young activists, practitioners, and experts from around the world
- Participate in workshops on democracy and freedom of expression, knowledge-sharing sessions, and intergenerational meetings with WEXFO speakers and attendees
- Share your perspectives on global challenges in areas such as politics, activism, art, culture, technology, and media



Wieses gate 2e,
2609 Lillehammer



+47 918 66 675



post@wexfo.no
wexfo.no

- After the seminar, you'll join the WEXFO Alumni community, which continues the exchange through digital gatherings and workshops

How to apply/be nominated?

- Nomination is required – either by self-nomination or by others. Please use this application form to apply: <https://forms.gle/5sKfojwAwU7icoy17>
- Be prepared to present your work, your engagement, and why you would like to contribute to and benefit from the Young Experts program.
- All applications will be considered by a nomination committee with broad representation. The committee will emphasize gender balance, geographical diversity, and commitment to freedom of expression. Previous Young Expert participants are not eligible to apply.

Deadline October 15, 2025.

For more information and questions, please contact project manager Hilde Fauskerud, hilde@wexfo.no