

World Rising Initiative 2016 : Rising Generation

Rising Generation : Youth, the future belongs to you !

This is the name of the event organized on **November 5th, 2016** by the National Association of Young Auditors (ANAJ-IHEDN), the High Council on Formation and Strategic Research (CSFRS), and The House of the Rising Stars Foundation. The objective was **both simple and ambitious** : demonstrate the ability of the youth to design a brighter future.

Nowadays, terrorism, social violence and environmental crises are sadly all too common. The omnipresence of catastrophes in the media creates a difficultly escapable atmosphere of fear and distrust. We tend to forget the world can be and is daily inspired by the youth, the central role of young people in **creating tomorrow's world**. We tend to forget the importance of an **intergenerational collaboration**, the necessity to **give the floor** to those at the center of contemporary issues.

Ingrid Lamri, *President of the ANAJ-IHEDN*

"According to seniors, our generation, the Millennials, is the mother of all troubles. It seems that we are a generation struggling to comply with established norms; a disloyal generation and a priori ineffective because incapable of focusing on a single topic for more than 5 minutes. I strongly oppose this statement, **I think that Millennials are far from being disengaged, disenchanting, disinterested by the world that surrounds them.**"

Pierre Dassas, *President of The House of the Rising Stars Foundation*

"We think that it is about time for the most brilliant minds of the new generation to arise, to commit themselves. It is time for them to think about the world they want to live in, and decide what to do to make it happen. **We need them, we need their stamina, we need their commitment.**"

To look at society from a fresh perspective, to generate an intergenerational dialogue and to come up with concrete solutions – were some of the objectives of this first edition of Rising Generation

The event was meant to put under the spotlight young individuals with a promising career path who seek to share with their peers a vision or a project, and to spread a spirit of challenge and innovation. The youth appears as an incubator of innovative solutions to a common future in which various opinions meet, although they all seem to put the same issues at the heart of the reflection : the desire to commit, the necessity to move towards ecology, social and participative models, and more generally towards living together in harmony.

Rising Generation presents an overview of the future as imagined by the youth, and opens new ways of thinking.

To imagine the future : visions of the world and innovative projects

The afternoon was organized into two parts. First, five candidates presented their vision of the world :

Pierre Dugué, a student from King's College London, asked the question "**The Modern State : towards normalization ?**" as a way to present a vision of international relations in which States are continuously in search of a status based on their own culture and symbols. Cedric Merle, who works at the Ministry of Economy and Finances, proposed to "**Uberise democracy**", describing citizenship as he imagines it in 2040 : committed and dynamic. In the same vein, Geoffroy Hinterlang, specialized in political strategy, used the example of Estonia as to promote an **new form of engagement for citizens** : an associative commitment for the salvation of France. However, how can we make those visions applicable ? While the current climate tends to make us adopt a stricter definition of identity, Nadia Biryukova, a Russian graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, questioned the "**acceptance of our differences**" within contemporary societies. Finally, Nina Fabrizi and Anne Lise Cornella defended **the importance of meditation** as a "force of action on the world" and introduced a few tricks to change our current reality.

After this first part, full of original statements and promising visions, the candidates with an innovative project came up on stage.

Edouard Lebrun, French entrepreneur who created Lucibel, a company fighting against security breaches, presented his flagship project, the Lifi, **an internet access through light**. Talking about new technologies, two students from ESSEC Business School, Quentin Merceron and Florian Robin, **praised the drone and the digital revolution** in general. They see it as a game-changing tool for humanitarian aid as it can help rescuers to fulfill their missions in uneasily accessible areas. Then, Amelie Naudascher defended the statement according to which "**being ecology-friendly and shopping in supermarkets is compatible !**" thanks to Ticketless, a startup meant to put an end to the paper receipt. Finally, Ivan Sand proposed a modern version of the military service as a way to **reinforce social cohesion** in France : "the mandatory public meeting".

The laureates were rewarded during a pleasant cocktail gathering the jury, guests and audience. Geoffroy Hinterlang, whose vision of France, strengthened by the involvement of its citizens one day per week, stroke a chord with the audience. Nadia Biryukova convinced the jury of the validity of her vision of integration, both very personal and shared by a great number of persons. Amelie Naudascher received both the jury and the audience awards in her category thanks to the relevance of her startup project aiming at abolishing paper receipts, disastrous for the planet and for human health. The laureates split up the 5000€ award offered by the CSFRS and our Foundation between themselves.

Dans les coulisses : before going on stage

Two weeks before the event the selected candidates gathered for a public speaking class given by David Arveiller. "**At first, the objectives of the day were not so clear to us**", admitted the future voices of Rising Generation. However, the coach's charisma and the first tries in front of the camera showed the importance of training : a good preparation allows to capture the audience's attention and strengthen one's ideas ! After watching their own performances, the candidates were able to identify their main strengths and weak spots, in order to **give the best of themselves before the audience of the Ecole Militaire the week after**.

Amelie Naudascher, Innovative Project selection :

I decided to apply to Rising Generation so I could test this idea that has been going round in my head for more than a year now. I had never had the occasion to face an audience as large as the Ecole Militaire's.

Nadia Biryukova, *Vision of the World selection* :

What was important to me was to present my perception, and to touch people. I spoke about my personal background and it was amazing to see people coming at me and say "Thank you, I feel exactly the same, I identify with what you say."