

MAPPING BEST PRACTICES FOR YOUTH FRIENDLY CITIES

recommendations for municipalities
with a selection of positive examples and good practices



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PROJECT

Mapping best practices for youth friendly cities

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CONSORTIUM

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Educational Foundation Nausika was established to focus cooperation of the professional educators on developing high-quality learning agenda in non-formal education, as well as facilitate cooperation between NGOs, activists and public institutions in Kraków.

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DYPALL Network is a European platform of municipalities and civil society organizations working together to improve youth participation in decision making processes at local level. The network aims at enabling municipalities and regional authorities to address the needs and interests of youth, while contributing to engage young people as active actors of the solutions for their problems, increasing their level of ownership, commitment and engagement in our communities.

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The PONT Group is a Cluj, Transylvania-based expert group working on local and social innovation, creator of Cluj-Napoca 2015 European Youth Capital. Our non-profit organization is devoted to initiate, implement and promote projects with the aim of contributing to the economic and social development of Romania and its regions.

Institute for Youth Policy (Slovenia)

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Institute for Youth Policy is a non-profit private institution focused on the youth field in relation to social events with the aim of developing a friendlier environment for young people to live in and develop.

ARS for Progress of People (Belgium/Italy)

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ARS for Progress of People is a non-profit organization based in Brussels. ARS4Progress works for the promotion of economic, social and cultural development in all its facets, with special attention to issues related to education, youth policy and civil society.

Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) (North Macedonia)

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Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) is a non-governmental, non-profit youth-led organization that works on national level in North Macedonia. Our mission is to ensure sustainable community development by creating opportunities for quality engagement of civil society, advancing learning opportunities, and active involvement of young people and other citizens.

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1. Opening

This publication is directed to **municipalities, organizations and institutions working on local youth policies** as an overview of various practices that make cities more youth friendly.

Our Consortium proposes the original set of **dimensions**, in which cities can develop more youth-friendly approaches together with a list of **standards** as points of references, possible directions and a source of inspiration. We base our decisions on research over existing international and national labels for youth-friendly cities, a panel discussion with experts and practitioners (the workshop took place in Poland, Rabka-Zdrój in July 2021), as well as our experiences in the field.



We invite you to **explore various examples of standards for a youth-friendly city** and different ways of how they could be achieved! Acknowledging the diversity of conditions and legal frameworks existing in Europe, we present you a range of hands-on examples of how other cities have solved selected problems. At the end of the day you will find your own way to transform your city into a more youth-friendly place.

2. About Youth Work

Youth friendly cities topic belongs to the orbit of **youth work, youth policy and urban planning**. Before we arrive at the list of standards for youth friendly cities it is important to take a look at **definitions of quality** functioning in the field of youth at the European level.

A **key reference** to this publication is the document

["Quality Youth Work. A common framework for the further development of youth work"](#)

published by the European Commission in 2015.

The document provides a working definition of **youth work** and of the related concepts of **quality** in youth work and **indicators** as tools to measure and assess such quality.

Those definitions will be taken as pillars through which identify good practices for youth friendly cities: that is the ultimate aim of this document.

Starting from the concept of "youth work": according to the European Commission, *"youth work is a broad term covering a lot of different activities, programmes and initiatives (...)"* such diversity *"constitutes both richness and a problem (...)"* since: *"Examining youth work quality systems in such a context, without a clear and stringent definition of youth work and clear limitations of the area of activities to be covered would lead to a report that would be just as blurred and thus of very little use (...)"*.

In this sense it is essential to identify basic and essential characteristics of youth work that would provide clear limitations to such concepts. From the glossary developed by the youth partnership between the Commission and the Council of Europe **youth work** is defined as:

*"Actions directed **towards young people** regarding activities where they **take part voluntarily**, designed for supporting their **personal and social development** through **non-formal and informal learning**"*

Such definition embeds the following key concepts that are acknowledged in this publication:

- Young people must be seen and met as central stakeholders and co-creators in the design and implementation of youth work;
- To be considered as youth work an activity must attract young people on a voluntary basis, use non-formal education methods and aim at personal and social development. Even if they are carried out in the context of a formal education system;
- If young people are obliged to participate it is social work rather than youth work even if non-formal education methods are used.

In this sense the **core principles** of youth work as acknowledged by the European Commission are:

1. In order to be successful youth work should be **perceived as being attractive**, bringing added value or joy in life;
2. In order to be attractive youth work should:
 - respond to the different **needs, interests and experiences** of young people as perceived by themselves,
 - be actively **inclusive**; reach out to and welcome all groups of young people.
3. Youth work should have a **holistic perspective** and enhance young people's rights, personal and social development and autonomy,
4. Youth work should be **designed, delivered and evaluated together with young people**, as well as be based on non-formal and informal learning.

The European Commission defines on following the concept of “Quality” as “how well something fulfills its function”. According to the definition provided above, quality in youth work can be therefore defined as: **“how well it contributes to the personal and social development of young people”**. Or on the same line: *“how youth work must function in order to deliver good outcomes”*.

At this stage it is crucial to define the concept of “outcomes” in relation to “Youth work”. Still the European Commission divides outcomes in youth work in quantitative and qualitative and defines those as following:

- a. **Quantitative outputs** are the directly quantifiable amounts that have occurred as a result of youth work.
- b. **Qualitative effects** are what actually happens to young people, how they develop, as a result of their taking part in youth work.

In order to ensure that the actual outcomes of youth work is assessed: taking into full consideration specific pre-conditions and external factors affecting any specific work setting, a qualitative set of indicators must be identified and used *“in relation to which reality can be compared, analyzed and assessed”*. Such indicators must be *“set in relation to preconditions, processes and outcomes”*.

In conclusion: *“A **quality system** is here understood as: a set of tools designed for gathering knowledge on how different ways of organizing and conducting youth work corresponds with desired outcomes, combined with corresponding tools to manage this knowledge in a way that enables adequate support for the development of quality”*.

This also means that quality systems must be constructed as a quality circle – a periodic process of gathering knowledge, reflection, change, gathering knowledge - using well-defined methods for the assessment of preconditions, processes and outcomes of youth work in relation to indicators and to use the knowledge gathered as a basis for continuous improvement.

Equally important is the recognition that: *“Considering the different forms of youth work in combination with the many different settings where it takes place, **one single quality system that is applicable to all kinds of youth work activities neither exists nor can be constructed.** What can be done, and what would be useful for the youth work sector, is to illustrate the different tools that, put together in different combinations, would help to gather the knowledge needed to support the enhancement of youth work quality.”*

The **core principles** are that youth work should:

- Be perceived as being attractive, bringing added value or joy in life.
- Respond to the needs, interests and experiences of young people as perceived by themselves.
- Be actively inclusive; reach out to and welcome all groups of young people.
- Be based on young people’s voluntary and active participation, engagement and responsibility.
- Have a holistic perspective and meet young people as capable individuals and resources.
- Enhance young people’s rights, personal and social development and autonomy.
- Be designed, delivered and evaluated together with young people.
- Be based on non-formal and informal learning.
- Have a visible learning perspective and design its activities in accordance with clear learning objectives that are relevant to the young people participating.

In order to ensure that the **system for evaluation** is adequate it should:

- Relate to the core principles.
- Be designed in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.
- Be implemented in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.
- Be used regularly.
- Be continuously evaluated.
- Have young people participating in the evaluation process

Indicators of this should be:

- Young people are well informed about the background and purpose of the evaluation.
- Young people feel listened to during the process.
- The percentage of young people taking part in the evaluation.
- The degree to which young people’s opinions lead to change.

Measuring youth-friendly cities would be thereby of similar nature. Let us take up this chapter as a background and foundation for further exploration.

3. Youth-Friendly City Labels

Many municipalities, regions, organizations or even states in Europe developed **programs, policies, evaluation methodologies or schemes for activities based on which a city can be called youth friendly**. Youth friendly according to many definitions:

- providing young people opportunities to develop, educate, grow,
- enabling young people to participate and be active members of a local community,
- offering to young people space and freedom to discover, be themselves and fulfill their own potential,
- offering young people a high quality of life.

We can see a similarity of such functions with the essence of youth work (see previous chapter), and the purpose of youth policies, embracing all topics related to young people's lives from housing, to youth participation.

Needless to say, a universal label for a youth friendly city does not, not even can exist. Local conditions, legal frameworks, nature of societal needs, culture, history - diversity of all those factors should be taken into consideration. Therefore, a municipality, a region, or an organization developing a youth friendly programme should **base their decisions on local needs, dominant problems and their own systems**. This however does not mean that systems are unchangeable.

Inspiration that can come from an overview of existing labels and programs for youth friendly cities is priceless. Although, various practices we are presenting you should be analyzed together with their preconditions, there is an universal value lying behind them - great care about young people as:

- a group of people in transition, who need support and appropriate measures,
- an important asset in all communities enabling continuity of the societies,
- members of today`s societies, with equal rights and a say in their own matters.

Let us then **explore various labels for youth friendly cities existing in Europe**. Pay particular attention to definitions adopted and various ways how municipalities can approach this topic.

QUALITY LABEL

YOUTH FRIENDLY CITIES PROJECT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

"Youth Friendly City" is a youth project designed to provide young people with opportunities to assess how much their city is a friend to young people.

The "Youth Friendly City" project enables **young people and decision makers** at the local level to get together, with the mediation of youth workers, for effective evaluation and monitoring of local youth policies and services in their communities, promotion of participation and active involvement of young people in development of local policies and strategies, and support for the creation of youth-friendly cities.

The initiative started in 2017 with a pilot project and support from the **USAID Citizen Participation Project** (PGU) which included the municipalities of Krushevo, Struga and Centar. In 2019, the initiative continues to develop with the support of the US Embassy in Northern Macedonia, including the municipalities of Struga, Prilep, Karpos and Kratovo.

<https://www.facebook.com/mycityisyouthcity>



QUALITY LABEL

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVE

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) is a UNICEF-led initiative that **supports municipal governments in realizing the rights of children at the local level** using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as its foundation.



It is organized as a programme for municipalities to enroll, conduct research designed by UNICEF to determine the state of art regarding child's rights in the city and develop an action plan. The **main dimensions of this label** include the right to:

- Access to services at the highest possible level,
- Living in a safe environment,
- Protection against discrimination, violence and exploitation,
- Move around the city safely,
- Participation in cultural and sports life,
- Friendly places to have fun and meet friends,
- Participation in social life,
- Influencing decisions concerning their city and commune,
- Provide opinions on matters relating to them,
- To exercise their rights,
- Being a full citizen of a city.

The idea of child friendly cities includes **collaborative effort** of the whole community: municipality, social organizations, business, academic centers, media and children themselves to fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at a local level.

More information:

<https://childfriendlycities.org>



QUALITY LABEL

PORTUGUESE NATIONAL NETWORK OF YOUTH FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITIES



Portuguese National Network of Youth Friendly Municipalities (Rede Nacional de Municípios Amigos da Juventude) was founded based on the **National Plan for Local Youth Policies** launched in

2019 by the National Federation of Youth Organisations FNAJ. Municipalities willing to join the programme are committed to implementing and promoting youth-friendly policies that respond to the real interests and aspirations of young people in the municipalities, with them as the main protagonists.

Youth policies must be faced and triggered by the Municipality through a process of co-creation, co-production and co-management between young people and their organizations, and the autarchy, in a **balance that preserves the youth initiative and the determinations of political agents**.

There are some criteria to be fulfilled. The municipality has to fulfill **3 criteria** to become part of the knowledge hub and fulfill **5 criteria** to receive a “Youth Friendly Municipality Seal.”

The **advantages of joining the network** are:

- Access to a national network sharing good municipal practices in matters of youth policies;
- Network of synergies, contacts and sharing of privileged information in this restricted group;
- Priority participation and access to Seminars and Summits
- Access to the “Youth Friendly Municipality Seal”, personalized to each Municipality, symbol and a label that shows care about youth.

General link: <https://www.redemunicipiosjuventude.fnaj.pt/>

Criteria for awarding the seal:

<https://www.redemunicipiosjuventude.fnaj.pt/#tve-jump-174e9ea830c>

QUALITY LABEL

PROGRAM YOUTH-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

“The system of support, assistance and incentive for development of local youth policy”



CERTIFYING YOUTH-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Institute for Youth Policy, Ajdovščina developed and in the first half of 2012 conducted the first certification of local communities in Slovenia (there are 212 local communities in Slovenia), which by being active and by implementation of public policies, are establishing and maintaining a youth-friendly environment where young citizens have the possibility of achieving full autonomy and active participation in all spheres of public life.

The certifying of youth-friendly communities includes:

- certification system for the local communities in Slovenia: youth friendly municipality means that young citizens have the possibility of achieving full autonomy and active participation in all spheres of public life;
- systematic guidance, encouragement and evaluation of the development of quality local youth policy in Slovenian municipalities;
- the facilitation of transition of young people from childhood to adulthood, improving the quality of life in local communities and enabling better involvement of young people in decision-making processes at local levels, which can contribute to faster local development, based on the values of solidarity, inter-generational understanding and non-discrimination.

The beneficiaries of the certificate youth-friendly community

The certificate Youth-friendly community is awarded to those local self-government communities, which will showcase successful implementation of measures in the areas of vertical and horizontal youth policy in accordance with the specified conditions and criteria.

Criteria

When assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the measures, a special emphasis is placed on the areas of youth participation, the systematic engagement of the young, education, mobility, employment, housing policy, youth information and youth organization.



The target groups of the program

Local communities (administrative and political representatives), youth organizations, the young, media and the interested public.

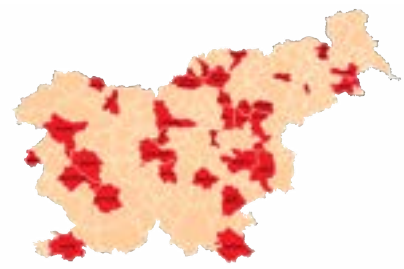


Figure 1: Youth-friendly communities (municipalities) in Slovenia (2012)

Figure 2: Youth-friendly communities (municipalities) in Slovenia (2014)

Figure 3: Youth-friendly communities (municipalities) in Slovenia (2020)

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES - EDUCATION, INFORMING, CONSULTING, DEVELOPMENT

The program Youth-friendly community provides ongoing professional support - education, information and counseling for local communities and young people.

The purpose of such activities is to provide municipalities with the knowledge and good practices and to establish and develop youth structures (youth centers, clubs, associations, councils, etc.).

The program has in the past few years experienced exceptionally positive reactions among target groups and has shown a strong potential in strengthening the systematic engagement with youth on a local level.

This is the first such certification in Europe!

We are looking for international partners for going worldwide with the program.

INŠTITUT ZA MLADINSKO POLITIKO (Institute for Youth Policy)

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Link to the webpage: <https://www.mladi-in-obcina.si/mladim-prijazne-obcine/>

QUALITY LABEL

100% YOUTH FRIENDLY CITY - QUALITY LABEL FOR YOUTH FRIENDLY CITIES

The 100% Youth City was a project developed under Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme led by the City of **Braga** in consortium with the City of **Riga, Valencia, Torino, Cluj, Ganja** and **Varna**, which are cities known for their good practices in the domain of Youth policies.



The **aim of the project** was to increase the efficiency of public expenditure and the investment in education, training and youth, promote high quality youth work and promote empowerment, participation and active citizenship of young people, through the development of a Quality Label "100% Youth City."

As the result of the project, the consortium has developed **a set of out of the box indicators**, that help municipalities to evaluate their youth-friendliness from 0 to 100%:

- Youth Sector Funding (Upload 25%): Drives to Youth Sector Funding and Investment.
- Youth Infrastructures and Youth Services (Upload 50%): Drives to better, optimized and new Infrastructures and Youth services.
- Participation and Co-management (Upload of 75%): Drives to Youth representatives on Local Councils and Co-management trust.
- Long-term Strategic Youth Plan (Upload - 100%): Drives to Youth Involvement on Cross-sectorial local governance and Long term Youth Strategy

Booklet:

<https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/download/7678/100YCB-book%20-%20DIGITAL00.pdf>

Short documentary:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qz_CPOucIP4

Erasmus+ Results platform:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/#project/2015-1-PT02-KA205-002322>

4. Dimensions of Youth-Friendly Cities

DIMENSION

1. YOUTH PARTICIPATION

This dimension explores how municipalities can support youth participation as a way of civic education, but also practice it for actual decision making. Because there is no true participation without information, young people should have full access to relevant information and participate in public communication and dialogue. This dimension points out **the right of young people to be equal participants in strategic and current decision making** as an equitable member of the local community.

Participation and active citizenship is about having the right, the means, the space and the opportunity and where necessary the support to participate in and influence decisions and engage in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society.



STANDARDS

1.1. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

- A city communicates with young people in places and through channels young people are familiar with and in a language they comprehend. For example:
 - ◆ A city runs responsive channels of communication: social media (Facebook, instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Snapchat), E-mail (newsletter) through which young people can contact relevant decision-makers and administration,
 - ◆ Language of the communication is adjusted to the needs of young people,
 - ◆ A city uses digital technologies to communicate with young people,
 - ◆ A city has a dedicated, regularly updated webpage for youth information,
 - ◆ A city uses youth spaces (youth centers, schools, other institutions where young people are) to communicate with young people,
 - ◆ A city actively reaches out to young people to communicate (speak and listen) through events, workshops, dedicated days,
 - ◆ Young people (e.g. through youth organizations, or councils) co-create municipal communication channels,
- A city participates in delivery of youth information services: relevant and reliable information about all spheres of life of young people. You can take up following criteria:
 - ◆ A city supports Eurodesk or youth info offices, for example in the youth spaces/ centers,
 - ◆ A city trains municipal officers to provide reliable information for young people,
 - ◆ A city is a member of international networks, quality systems for youth information (e.g. EYRICA, Eurodesk etc.),
- A city participates in distribution of information about opportunities on national and international trainings, youth exchanges and volunteering opportunities,
- A city provides an umbrella structure for youth organizations and youth structures for communication, networking, cooperation and coordination of youth activities in the city.

STANDARDS

1.2. STRATEGIC ORIENTATION ON YOUTH

- The city has a strategy of development that encompasses the youth dimension. It means that young people are present and recognised in the whole vision of the city. For example:
 - ◆ Youth is a “topic” mentioned in the strategy,
 - ◆ The city strategy has a youth component,
 - ◆ Youth strategy has a clear link to the general strategy of the city.

- Young people and/ or youth representation bodies are present in co-creation of the city strategies and policies,
- All municipal activities regarding young people, addressed to young people and affecting young people are cohesive, coordinated and their outcomes are monitored. You can take up examples of criteria:
 - ◆ There is an office of Youth Coordinator/ Plenipotentiary/ other function playing this role.
 - ◆ There is a document of Youth Strategy that refers to all important/ detected/ researched aspects of the lives of young people in that city that have allocated a budget for implementing the strategy.
- Young people are encouraged to be part of all important processes of the city. For example all events that are financed and supported by the local administration should have a volunteering component - that allows interested young people to join and contribute. Youth friendly cities will value and recognize the effort of young people that volunteer for community activities.
- The city should allow youth activities to “try/ experiment/ fail/ restart” in accordance with youth work essence and values.

STANDARDS

1.3. DIALOGUE AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

- Young people are treated by the local authorities as full-fledged and equal part of the community, in terms of public dialogue, participation and access to rights. For example:
 - ◆ A city recognises the concept of youth rights,
 - ◆ A city has a platform for young people to express their opinions, be heard and participate in city life, for example through local youth councils, youth advisory boards, platforms for youth e-participation
 - ◆ A youth-representation takes part in all youth-related policy making in all stages of their development,
 - ◆ A city provides appropriate (attractive, responsive, reaching to all young people) measures of public consultations with youth,
 - ◆ A city protects the rights of young people to have free time, access to leisure, culture and security.
- A city enables young people to participate in distribution of public finances. For example:
 - ◆ A city provides to young people access to municipal participatory budget,
 - ◆ A city provides youth participatory budget scheme,
 - ◆ A city allocates a separate category in the city budget for projects proposed, implemented and managed by youth and provides institutional support to young people in managing their projects.

STANDARDS

1.4. HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY

- The needs of all young people are addressed in public policies, especially in youth policies. For example:
 - ◆ In the researches (e.g. social diagnosis) all categories of young people are detected and addressed (incl. young people with disabilities, economic obstacles, from rural areas, of various origin, identity etc.),
 - ◆ All public services are accessible to all those categories,
 - ◆ Obstacles for access are diagnosed and addressed,
- The city is actively and effectively preventing social exclusion, marginalization, prejudices, especially xenophobia, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism etc. among the community. We encourage each city to design their own criteria for this standard that are adapted to their own realities depending on what are the problems at local level.
- The city is using the sensitive language in public communication and speaks out when it is violated. For example:
 - ◆ There is an institution/ office to monitor hate speech and prevent it,
 - ◆ Education actions or other preventive measures are foreseen by the municipality to erase hate speech from public sphere,
- The city infrastructure, public architecture, buildings of a public services are welcoming, accessible (in terms of access, but also atmosphere) and adapted to needs of all groups of young people,
- Young people in the situation of violence, discrimination and injustice have an institution to turn to (safe spaces, ombudsman, hot-line, emergency entity).
- The city acknowledges the youth/child's rights concepts and base youth policies on human rights approach (see more in [A toolkit on Quality Standards for Youth Policy](#), standard 1 - rights-based approach to youth policy).

STANDARDS

1.5. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PARTICIPATION

- A city is taking into account possible economic barriers of young people to access public goods, services, offers, including cultural life of the city. For example:
 - ◆ The city offers discounts/ free access to high culture, public transportation, various valuable cultural offers,
 - ◆ There is volunteering schemes in public festivals, encouraging youth to have an access to high quality cultural offer,
- A city provides structures and schemes for social participation and engagement in the life of the local community. For example:
 - ◆ organizes volunteering activities for and with the local community,
 - ◆ supports intergenerational integration.



GOOD PRACTICE

WINFO - AJDOVSCINA

<http://www.winfo.si/>

Winfo - Info platform for youth in Ajdovscina Municipality

Youth Council Ajdovscina established online platform WINFO to inform young people about all the events and opportunities, happening mostly in their Municipality, considering youth.

The Youth Council has an official agreement with major institutions from the Municipality (libraries, art galleries, schools, youth centers, Municipality of the city, Institute for employment ect.) to promote their events weekly.

The platform WINFO covers important news from other suitable organizations from the national and international level.

The WINFO platform covers eight important areas which are:

- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Young families
- Health
- Social security
- Free time activities
- Different open calls and proposals

As an individual you can apply for a weekly email newsletter choosing to follow only areas which interest you. In order to ensure constant up-to-dateness of all the events WINFO is also active on Instagram.



GOOD PRACTICE

GEOCITIZEN ATRI



The "GEOCITIZEN ATRI" project is an initiative promoted by the Municipality of Atri (Italy) in collaboration with **ARS for Progress of People** (Belgium) within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme - Key Action 3. The project was designed with the aim of encouraging the "**conscious participation**" of young citizens through the use of an innovative e-tool: the GeoCitizen platform.

The platform allowed young people to participate in an exercise of redevelopment, rethinking and promotion of the municipal territory: with particular focus on the spaces and opportunities it offers to young people.


Partners identified a total of 200 students aged 17 and 18 years to be involved in the project.

In the course of the meetings, the young people also devised and elaborated proposals for youth policies to be addressed to the municipal administration. A representation of local decision-makers took part in two rounds of meetings and established a first moment of dialogue and exchange with the young participants on the state of youth policy and on participation of young people in the political and social life of the municipality of Atri. These moments of confrontation resulted in the elaboration of 21 project proposals that were registered on the GeoCitizen Atri platform.

Starting from June 2021, the municipal administration of Atri consulted and analyzed the proposals put forward by young people in the platform, which were shared in the final event of the project held on 3 June 2021 and in which the administration has undertaken to open a youth center at the premises of the Atrian students' association, as well as to encourage the organization of cultural and socio-aggregative events.



Website: <http://www.geocitizenatri.it/>

Youtube presentation of the GeoCitizen project:  GeoCitizen

Map: <http://www.geocitizenatri.it/1290-2/>

GOOD PRACTICE

YOUTH ON BORA PROGRAM

Youth on Bora is an educational program of the Municipality of Ajdovščina/Slovenia and is addressing an active participation of children and young people.



Through various activities participants of Youth on Bora program are taking an active part in the community and develop a sense of responsibility towards themselves, others and the community, learn about professions and take care of their health and the environment. In this way they grow into responsible, solidary, inclusive individuals living in the environment they are helping to create.

The program is intended for children and youth between 3 and 21 years of age, operates on a voluntary basis and is divided into age groups.

The activities carried out by the participants are divided into four categories and pursue the following purposes:

MY COMMUNITY - engaging in society

MY FRIEND - solidarity with more vulnerable groups

MY OCCUPATION - competencies for entrepreneurship and chosen profession

MY HEALTH - a healthy lifestyle and environmental protection

Through the program year participants have to realize at least 3 simple activities in each category or 1 ambitious activity in each category. Opportunities for the involvement are created during classes and in the environment itself.

Participation in the program and the difficulty of the activities increase over the years through 5 levels of the program. All activities are noted in a special booklet - diary received by everyone who joins the program.

One programming year lasts from September 1 until May 30, when the participants of the program must submit their diaries to the class teacher, mentor or the implementing organization which then verifies the participant's successful realization and eligibility for the badge.

Our contact for further information:

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WEBSITE <https://www.mladostnaburji.si/>

FB SITE <https://www.facebook.com/mladostnaburji/>



GOOD PRACTICE

LGBT+ SHELTER IN SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA

The house was created for the LGBT+ people who are forced by their families to leave their home because of their sexual orientation, as well as those who have experienced any kind of violence from the community based on their sexual orientation. This **safe house** can be also used by victims of any type of violence.

When a person is in need of this shelter, they can call and ask for help and to be accepted in the safe house. The people who are in the shelter are receiving **psycho-social support and help**. The shelter can host a maximum of 7 people at a time. They can find there daily activities, meals and support.

The safe house is mainly supported by project activities of international organizations and local NGOs. The local and national institutions are also aware about these services.

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/safehousesk/about/?ref=page_internal



GOOD PRACTICE

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET OF VALONGO MUNICIPALITY

The Valongo Municipality is a Municipality that is well-known on a national and international level for its **Youth Participatory Budget**, which is a programme implemented in 2014. Its main goal is to promote social development on youth, to deepen the dialogue between the youth and the Municipality, to reinforce the quality of democracy and the transparency of its decisions, to bring generations closer, to encourage the youth to be more active in their communities and to contribute with an informed, active and responsible intervention.

Valongo has three different categories for the Youth Participatory Budget: “School”, “Extracurricular” and “Generations”. The “**School**” category is aimed for improving different aspects in schools, the “**Extracurricular**” category is for different infrastructures/ activities that are considered outside of the school and “**Generations**” is for projects that will bring the youth and elderly together. This last category has had a lot of projects recently, showing that the youth care to reconnect with the elderly and their roots. Every citizen has the chance to vote two times in each category. People as young as 6 years old and as old as 35 years old can participate and have their voices heard. What’s important, citizens can only vote if they are a registered member of the Municipal Libraries in Valongo, which encourages them to become active readers and use city infrastructure.

Although the programme was first implemented in 2014, it has had enormous growth since then. In the beginning, the Municipality only spared 10.000 euros for the implementation of the Youth Participatory Budgets, but that amount grew from year to year and in 2021 the budget was of 200.000 euros to implement 20 different projects in the Municipality. This growth is also justified by how the citizens became much more interested in the Youth Participatory Budget over the years. In 2014 there was only 11 people that wanted to share their ideas, but in 2015 it grew to 36 people, in 2016 to 53 people, in 2017 to 61 people, in 2018 to 105 people, in 2018/2019 to 120 people, in 2019/2020 to 140 people and finally, in 2021 to 153 people. It is also worth mentioning that there were big changes in the amount of votes. Between 2014 and 2016 it grew from 12.816 votes to 16.728 votes. However, in 2018 this number decreased again because of different rules that were implemented (libraries).

The Municipality of Valongo invests in the Youth Participation Budget hoping to encourage young people to be active in their community and to contribute with different and innovative ideas that can improve their Municipality.

GOOD PRACTICE

PLANO MUNICIPAL DE JUVENTUDE DE PORTIMÃO

Plano Municipal de Juventude de Portimão is one of the main tools of the local youth strategy of Portimão, aiming at the development of a new culture of youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level. The development of a culture of youth participation is possible through the creation of spaces for cooperation, dialogue and learning, involving the different actors in the field of youth, stimulating the development of partnerships, projects and collective strategies and participatory activities for young people in the municipality.



Plano Municipal de Juventude de Portimão is also the result of a process of consultation, developed between June 2018 and November 2019, facilitated by the DYPALL Network – Developing Youth Participation At the Local Level in partnership with the Municipality of Portimão, in close cooperation with its Sports and Youth Division.

The strategy was developed in a multistakeholder process, which had the following objectives:

- to create a strategic and action plan for youth, based on structured dialogue;
- to implement a consultation and debate process among local youth and other stakeholders;
- to develop and implement better public policies in the area of youth in the municipality.
- to provide the Local Youth Council with tools in order to support the development and monitoring of the implementation of this plan;
- to raise awareness of the young population to European Union issues, developing their European citizenship and participation in the European project.

During the process, it was created a consortium of different partners composed of youth associations and public and private entities with transversal action in the area youth. The cooperation between these local stakeholders allowed them to adjust the programmes and services designed for young people to their real needs and characteristics, but also increase the sense of belonging and ownership of the strategy developed and territory. This methodology also enabled closer communication and mutual knowledge of the actors in the different areas,



enhancing the most effective use of the different resources.

The consortium identified ten priority areas, which included policies that influence local youth, where axes and objectives were defined as well as the resources to be allocated, within a period of 10 years, namely 2020-2030.

Based on consultations among local youth, young leaders and youth workers and other relevant stakeholders, a total of 78 challenges and 89 proposals connected to these areas have been identified, prioritised and planned for the implementation under the local Youth Strategy.

This Plan also includes two dimensions, which focus on strategic and operational aspects. The strategic dimension of the Plan defines the general lines of action, where they identify the axes, objectives and strategic goals to be achieved by each area of intervention priority. The operational dimension of the Plan specifically defines the actions to be implemented this period of time to achieve the strategic objectives, as well as the operational, the method, resources to be used, and also how it is monitored/evaluated. Each proposal of action contemplates the identification of the entities that execute and the calendar for the implementation of these activities/actions.

Along with the strategic plan, it was created an action plan where 3 main areas were chosen to be implemented in 2021/2022, since they were considered more urgent and relevant:

- Associativism, Volunteering and Civic Participation
- Education, Training and School Dropout
- Employment, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Tourism



DIMENSION

2. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

This dimension describes the right of young people to health protection, full information, education and decision-making. It also tackles the right to live in a safe and healthy environment, as well as promotion of healthy habits.

The working definition of health shares WHO's view of health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity", "the extent to which an individual or group is able to realize aspirations and satisfy needs and to change or cope with the environment" and „a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living; it is a positive concept, emphasizing social and personal resources as well as physical capabilities".

STANDARDS:

- A city participates in monitoring the health-related situation of young people, reacts to it with relevant programs and participates in delivering healthcare to young people, for example through municipal healthcare institutions, health-services in schools or other, and engages in promotion of healthy habits and prevention of health risks, for example:
 - ◆ behavioral addictions,
 - ◆ mental health,
 - ◆ (ab)using substances,
 - ◆ eating disorders, nutrition,
 - ◆ sleep patterns,
 - ◆ violence, abuse,
 - ◆ juvenile pregnancies,
 - ◆ exercises, sports,
 - ◆ sexual health,
- A city addresses detected problems and needs of young people regarding health in supportive and non-stigmatising way,
- Young people have access to psychological support or information about where to access it in youth-facilities (schools, youth centers, other institutions) that provide anonymity, security and trust,
- A city promotes parental knowledge about youth rights regarding safety, secure home environment, and protection against domestic violence. For example through campaigns about the importance of personal space at home, access to minimum sanitary facilities, or impact of stress on child neurological system etc,

- A city enables young people to participate in health education, including mental health, physical health, sexual health and access to information and decision about own health.

GOOD PRACTICE

ŁAWA CHILD MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

In 2021, City of Ława (Poland) decided to create a local **educative and informative campaign about mental health** "Together against depression", with aimed to promote the information about the mental health among children, their parents and teachers, increase the awareness about depression in the local society and provide practical solutions to the existing issues. The campaign lasted between April and December 2021 and covered:

- set of articles (online, in the newspaper of 3 articles) about determinants and prevention of depression among children and adolescents;
- production and broadcasting of awareness rising spots about depression and parent contact in local radio;
- development and dissemination of posters and leaflets on the topic depression with the addresses of institutions where you can seek help;
- awareness rising exhibitions in local galleries, at bus stops, in the buses and in the local psychological center;
- a training for professionals about Child safety on the internet and expert meetings with parents, as well as awareness rising workshops in local schools;
- screenings of awareness rising film combined with a discussion with the participation of a psychologist, therapists and members of self-help groups;
- additional availability of the psychologists on topics connected to depression in the local psychological clinic (where children have free access to psychological support).



Read more:

[Posłuchaj apelu Twojego dziecka i „Nie bój się miłości. Nigdy!”](#)

GOOD PRACTICE

LEAP RESEARCH

LEAP (Interdisciplinary study on young people's needs and opportunities assessment in Cluj-Napoca) aimed to conduct a **comprehensive, multi- and inter-disciplinary assessment of the needs and opportunities for young people** in the Cluj metropolitan area, guided by an ecosystem view and oriented towards future initiatives stemming from the results of the assessment. The project delivered an evidence-informed, tech-enabled repository of data, actors and initiatives in the areas of health and well-being, and education and future of work in the Cluj metropolitan area, with a participatory and inclusive approach.



The LEAP quadrant became the core architecture for analysing the health and well-being of young people in the metropolitan area. The four main elements defined are: Health, Learning, Agency and Enabling Environment.

Regarding health, the research defined the following key areas:

- Individual and social determinants of health: Individual characteristics and stress; Home environment; Peer groups; Legislative issues; Community health
- Health promoting and health risk behaviours: Eating; Exercise; Sleep patterns; Substance use; Injuries and interpersonal violence; Sexual behaviour
- Health problems: Communicable and non-communicable diseases; Mental health; Sexual health

Regarding systemic gaps in providing health for young people, the research identified the following:

- Insufficient and Ineffective health Promotion, health Education and disease Prevention;
- Rudimentary collaboration between local actors of health promotion and health education;
- Inequalities in accessing health and health services.

Regarding policy recommendations, LEAP concluded the following:

- prioritize health inside the youth ecosystem;
- digital platform with science-based information for youth health;
- involve youths in designing information campaigns for prevention;
- healthy food system in schools;
- local partnerships to support, develop and adjust to real needs the publicly funded medical services in educational institutions;
- design dedicated health support mechanisms for vulnerable groups.

The LEAP research stands as the baseline for the 10-year strategic intervention in the field of youth called Clj for Youth 2030

FURTHER INFORMATION

Research website: leapcluj.ro (fully available in English)

Research report: leapcluj.ro/process/

Research data repository: leapcluj.ro/data-repository/

Research interactive data visualisation: leapcluj.ro/visualization/

(choose HEALTH to see health-related quantitative and qualitative data plus policy recommendations)

DIMENSION:**3. SUPPORT IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE**

Cities have a vested interest in supporting young people to be part of and contribute to the general economy of the city. Some towns' interest is to keep young people in town, prevent them from migrating, others` to attract young power to boost local economy.

This dimension tackles issues of creating nurturing conditions for adequate education, transition to the labor market, creating businesses, but also fulfilling the need of youth`s autonomy, independence, enabling young people to fully participate in social and cultural life, have bonds with local communities and develop a sense of responsibility and belonging.

STANDARDS**3.1. LABOR MARKET**

- A city supports the process of youth becoming economically independent, entering the labor market and being economically active,
- A city actively fights against unemployment among young people and support transition into labor market,
- A city protects the quality of employment of young people. For example:
 - ◆ Promotes quality employment standards,
 - ◆ Promotes/rewards enterprises providing quality job opportunities to youth,
 - ◆ Practices paid-internships.
- A city provides (legal) protection of young people on the labor market, and if relevant, quality control of their employment.

STANDARDS**3.2. YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

- A city supports institutionally and financially the sector of enterprises established by youth,
- A city promotes youth entrepreneurship.

STANDARDS

3.3. HOUSING SUPPORT

- A city supports purchase of housing properties on credit conditions that are affordable for young people
- A city provides housing for young people with economic difficulties

GOOD PRACTICE

YOUTH ORIENTED HOUSING PROJECTS IN SFÂNTU GHEORGHE, ROMANIA

With a population of just above 50,000 people, the city of Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania tackles its demographic challenges through a series of housing initiatives which aim attracting and retaining young people for the long term.

Through the rent subsidy program for young people, young people under 35 can get up to €50 a month as compensation for their rent.

The aim of the program is to support young people aged between 18 and 35 who live, study or work in Saint George, in order to reduce the outward migration of young people to other municipalities and encourage them to return to the city.

The Local Council of Saint George will provide a monthly subsidy of up to €50 for young people living in rented accommodation, up to a maximum of 25% of the monthly rent. Tenants must cover the difference from their own costs.

To be eligible for the subsidy, the applicant must be under 35 years old, have a residence in Saint George, have completed secondary school or technical school, be studying or working in Saint George; have a valid tenancy agreement registered at the Tax Administration Office for at least 4 months; have not owned more than half of an apartment in the last five years, not to be related to the landlord and have no tax arrears to the local budget.

Young people who are not students are eligible only if they have been resident in Saint George for at least 6 months at the time of application.

In 2009, the Municipality of Saint George decided to develop a program for young people (firstly who graduated college) who had left the city. The “Come Home” project encourage young people to settle in their hometown. Applications for free land-sites can be submitted on an on-going basis.

Those who have not reached the age of 35 by the time the application form is submitted are eligible to apply, and must apply for housing in their own name. The applicant and his/her spouse must not own any flat or plot of land in Sfântu Gheorghe or in any other municipality until the application is submitted and while the application

is being examined. Exceptions to this rule are persons who have acquired property by inheritance.

Applications are ranked on a points system: 10 points if the applicant is unmarried, 20 if married. If there is one child, 2 points will be awarded, if there are two children, 4 points will be awarded, and if there are 3 or more children, 8 points will be awarded. Non-qualified persons with secondary education are awarded 5 points, qualified persons 10 points, higher education graduates 20 points, master's degree holders 25 points and doctorate holders 30 points. Applicants must also show a bank statement as proof that they have 10 percent of the cost of building the house.

People will receive a free land-site and a choice of three construction plans to build. The cost of the plans will be covered by the local council, while the young people will pay for the building materials and other costs.



GOOD PRACTICE

JOB SHADOWING PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH POLICY

JOB SHADOWING IS A SPECIAL LEARNING METHOD that **enables young students to get acquainted with the specific profession**. They can get a whole insight into the working process and a decision which career to choose is easier.

THE PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL that are visiting 3rd grade of gymnasium or other courses that do not provide practical training during four years of formal education.

Secondary school Veno Pilon Ajdovscina has recognized the need of high school students, who did not have the opportunity of traineeships, getting to know their future working area etc., and decided to give them genuine contact with the job they were interested in.

The Institute for Youth Policy was invited to co-operate in the project as a partner with lots of established contacts and experiences, based on successfully implemented projects for young unemployed individuals, where they provided them with the possibility of practical training at companies/ institutions/ organizations.

Students attend special workshops where they learn about differences between knowledge and skills, training and competences, working places and profession. They receive information about the employment policy in the Municipality, vacancies and professions needed or planned in the City of Ajdovščina and in the Municipality.

Before entering the institution or company for job shadowing, students prepare a motivation letter for their mentors and learn about the code of conduct in a proper working environment. They prepare a list of questions to be answered by their mentors in order to get as much information as possible about the challenges, difficulties and benefits of the profession along with characteristics of the study and personal quality needed for the post in the future. Students present their findings to their schoolmates after participating in an evaluation study for students.

JOB SHADOWING PROGRAMME IS PERFORMED IN DISTINGUISHED AND SELECTED INSTITUTIONS under the mentoring of experts.

The institutions are selected in the public and private sector and their work in the programme is pro bono. They receive information about the programme, its performance in working institutions and steps to follow when working with students for one day. Mentors also present the organization, mission and vision of the institution, management of the working process and plans for future development. Institutions that are selected and invited to participate in the programme are located in the City or Municipality and broader regional level. Interested students are later during their university studies excellent candidates for practical vocational training and students summer jobs.



Job shadowing of profession Mayor,
mentor: Tadej Beočanin, Mayor of Ajdovščina
Municipality

Photo: T. Velikonja



Job shadowing of profession Archive manager,
mentor: Aleksandra Pavšič Milost, Regional
archive in Nova Gorica

Photo: A. P. Milost



Job shadowing of profession Pharmacist,
mentor: Urška Simčič,
Pharmaceutical laboratory Nova Gorica.

Photo: U. Simčič

LINK for further information: www.mladi-in-obcina.si

CONTACT: E: info@institut-imp.si; T: 00386 40 657 676

DIMENSION:

4. INFRASTRUCTURE

This dimension explores urban planning and infrastructure in relation to the youth needs. It considers the right of young people to have a healthy environment, sustainable and safe conditions of living. It highlights the importance of sustainable mobility options provided by the city that allow young people to develop their civic sense, and to improve their ability to move around freely respecting the environment. It also emphasizes the importance of spaces and facilities designated to young people that are co-created and co-managed with youth, which are inclusive and safe for all.

STANDARDS

4.1. URBAN PLANNING

- A city is investing in creation and revitalization of green areas considering the needs of young people and including them in the planning process,
- Urban planning aims at minimizing the negative impact on the climate,
- Urban mobility allows fast, comfortable and environmentally friendly access to all parts of the city,
- Urban infrastructure answers the needs of youth e.g.:
 - ◆ Housing is accessible and affordable for young people e.g. there is investment in affordable and decent living spaces for youth and young adults, or a municipal control over the housing prices (e.g. maximum fare for a rent, protection from exploitation),
 - ◆ Institutions of culture, public institutions and common spaces are accessible and approachable to young people,
 - ◆ There is an access to the Internet and charging electronic devices is free and public in common parts of the city,
 - ◆ A city is providing access to the Internet and devices for the purpose of online classes for those in need.
- Public transportation ought to be the backbone of sustainable mobility:
 - ◆ be widely available and efficient in order to accommodate the needs of young people,
 - ◆ be as cheap as possible or even free for young people in order to guarantee wide availability for younger generations,
 - ◆ be accessible for young people with reduced mobility in order to contribute to their independence,
 - ◆ provide access to all important locations for young people (schools, youth centers, institutions of culture, widely attended places),

- Parking lots ought to be on the outskirts of the city and close to public transportation and other means of sustainable mobility in order to make the concept of Park&Ride available to the local and visiting population,
- Cities ought to promote green transportation and limit polluting traffic as much as possible,
- Cycling and pedestrian paths ought to be secured and clearly marked to ensure safety of the users, while at the same time having a dense network of cycling paths,
- Walking and cycling ought to be promoted from a young age in order to secure future generations with the sense of sustainable mobility.

STANDARDS

4.2. YOUTH SPACES

- Cities ought to have youth centers (or a similar concept - open, free, youth-organized spaces) to accommodate social needs of the young population and their need for social interaction. Specifically:
 - ◆ Youth spaces ought to be widely accessible and safe, where young people can express themselves freely and without limitations,
 - ◆ Youth spaces, such as youth centers, ought to be co-designed and co-managed with young people, e.g. local youth councils or other formal and informal groups of young people,
 - ◆ Youth spaces need to be open for all young people regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, language, religion, mobility, socio-economic and cultural background,
 - ◆ Spaces for youth ought to be established in accordance with the needs of youth,
- Cities ought to promote intergenerational dialogue by boosting social interactions between different generations within youth spaces.

GOOD PRACTICE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE STANDARDS FOR YOUTH CENTERS

[The European Steering Committee on Youth](#) developed a project to promote the [European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe](#) as standard-setting instruments and examples of good practice for youth policy, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe welcomed the initiative for an initial pilot phase of three years, starting in 2010.

This project aims at knowledge sharing and networking among youth centres across Europe.

It consists of three main elements:

- a Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres, to be awarded to youth centres that meet a [set of quality criteria](#);
- an annual meeting of a [European Platform of Youth Centres](#) to ensure networking among centres recognised with the label and those aspiring to its acquisition;
- an [annual training course](#) for educational staff of youth centres.

More information:

[https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/quality-label-for-youth-centres#\[%224902490%22:\[0](https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/quality-label-for-youth-centres#[%224902490%22:[0)



GOOD PRACTICE

OUTDOOR SPACES DESIGNED BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN KRAKÓW DURING YOUTHKRAKHACK

One of the priorities of the Youth Programme of Kraków municipality “Young Kraków 2.0.” are spaces for youth, including outdoor, green spaces, where young people can spend their time, be active, socialize, but also work and learn.

In order to design such spaces Kraków municipality has invited young people to participate in a contest to come up with fresh ideas, innovative and adapted to young people's needs. The city dedicated a large green area of 4 300 m² to revitalize entirely for the needs of young people living and spending time around. Just next to this park the city has recently opened a youth center “Pracownia Młodych na Kozłówce”, in order to connect indoor and outdoor spaces into a youth zone of the city.

Young people were invited to design the area indicating important infrastructure, equipment, pointed out: leisure zone, sports zone, working zone, including sun-beds, game corner, tables with plug-ins, free and fast Wifi.

More info about the contest (in Polish):

<https://mlodziez.krakow.pl/2020/10/20/konkurs-zaprojektuj-teren-zielony-dla-mlodziezy/>



Fot. Poster of Pracownia na Kozłówce, Europe4Youth Association.

DIMENSION:**5. CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT -
EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK**

This dimension focuses on the self-development of young people as a whole and providing a proper system for education, informal and non formal learning, empowerment, support, as well as “reliable adults” as an important function in young people's lives.

STANDARDS:

- Supporting quality of learning and access to various offers. For example:
 - ◆ a city supports independent research and distribution of Quality Labels for youth-friendly public schools,
 - ◆ a city encourages the schools to share their infrastructure with NGOs, artists, street workers and informal groups,
 - ◆ a city facilitates networking of school student self-governments, school participatory budgeting schemes or volunteering activities,
- There is a municipal system for youth work (organization, structures, budget for activities based on strategic approach). Possible criteria:
 - ◆ a city employs youth workers in the youth department,
 - ◆ a city finances youth work initiatives in express procedure (minimize bureaucracy),
 - ◆ a city facilitates youth mobilities and exchanges with its partner-cities,
 - ◆ a city effectively communicates the european opportunities to the young people through youth work system,
 - ◆ a city provides benefits for performing volunteering activities for public good, also for underage people,
 - ◆ a city provides a gamified and youth-friendly system of recognizing the volunteering merits of its citizens,
- A city acknowledges youth workers and youth organizations that provide youth work services as an essential part of youth policy of the city. For example:
 - ◆ A city assures and recognises qualifications/ competences of youth workers according to national/ international systems,
 - ◆ A city facilitates cooperation among public, private and youth organizations.
- A city has developed a youth work ecosystem. Possible criteria:
 - ◆ There is a structure where dialogue and regular meetings between city and youth organizations take place,
 - ◆ There are study visits and mobilities for youth workers in order to get to know and exchange practices,

- ◆ A city is aware and acts according to the EU guidelines on youth work (e.g. acknowledging the definitions),
- A city supports youth initiatives (small youth projects) by offering a grant system dedicated to youth following the logic of flexibility, acceptance of failures and experimentation. Criteria:
 - ◆ The applications for grants and funds for young people that are provided by the city are straightforward and understandable,
 - ◆ A city enables easy access to facilities for young people and other resources that are available in the city,
- A city provides statistical data about young people (school drop outs, pupils with mental health problems etc.) to organizations and institutions working with youth to better detect needs and problems.
- A city provides the means and foster digital youth work,
- A city promotes `street` youth work,
- A city gives visibility to youth organizations, projects and youth led initiatives,
- A city has a direct channel for youth organizations to access municipal officials.



GOOD PRACTICE

BAVARIAN YOUTH WORK ECOSYSTEM

At the core of the youth work system in Bavaria there is a leading institution - Bayerischer Jugendring (the **Bavarian Youth Council** or BJR). It is the standing conference of youth leagues, youth organizations and youth initiatives in Bavaria. With 103 district and regional youth councils as members, BJR is represented across Bavaria. More than two-thirds of all Bavarian children and adolescents utilize and design the offers and facilities of youth work organizations. In this way **youth work activities are decentralized and delegated to young people** assembled in youth organizations! Under the umbrella of city youth councils (which are members of the Bavarian Youth Council) they are provided with structures, resources and spaces to work and organize activities.

The member organizations represent a broad spectrum of youth services. Among them you can find faith-based organizations (e.g. Catholic Youth Organisation, and so on), environmental and cultural organizations as well as sports clubs and scouting groups. There are organizations with long traditions and sophisticated structures, but also new youth organizations, youth informal groups which are easy to establish. Joining the ecosystem, they access adequate institutional support.

BJR's structure reflects the principle of **democratic participation and advocacy**. Elected delegates participate independently and democratically in the plenary assemblies of the 96 city and regional youth councils, in the committees of the seven district youth councils and at the federal level in the plenary assembly as well as in the state executive board. The Assembly of Representatives is also eligible to make binding decisions for the regional Ministry of Youth. In this way young people, assembled in the system have not only access to support of youth work, but also direct influence on decision making.

More about the system:

<https://shop.bjr.de/media/pdf/c0/f7/16/2014-Brosch-re-Image-BJR-englisch.pdf>

GOOD PRACTICE

FIX CLUJ - CLUJ INNOVATION AND EXPERIMENT FUND

The Cluj Innovation and Experiment Fund (FIX Cluj) aims to boost the role of young people in the social innovation processes happening in the city of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. It aims to involve young people in seeking for and defining problems and needs in the society and in providing innovative solutions to them.



During 2021, the City Hall of Cluj-Napoca, C-EDU Education Cluster involving all universities from the city and the Swiss Fondation Botnar launched FIX Cluj's first iteration dedicated to financing the entrepreneurial initiatives of young people in Cluj. FIX CLUJ is the result of a co-design process of the Cluj innovation ecosystem.

FIX's first iteration consists of a joint fund assembled from public, private and non-governmental sources with a total value of 650,000 euro. However, partners are committed to delivering an up to a 10-year process of social innovation.

FIX CLUJ is focused on building ecosystems that will support communities to rebuild, helping groups of young people in Cluj-Napoca to create innovative entrepreneurship initiatives that can have a significant impact.

Who can participate? People aged 16-26 from Cluj-Napoca, in teams of 2-5 persons. The programme is dedicated to the people that live, work or study in Cluj-Napoca.

What is the application process? Completion of the registration form and then participation in a pitching session.

Who gets selected? The programme supports young people with grants of up to 50,000 euros in three stages to experiment, test and develop their innovative ideas. The programme is aimed at young people aged 16-26, who live, work or study in Cluj-Napoca.

- 40 teams are selected for a prize of 3,000 euro in Stage 1 (prize awarded without the need to establish a company);
- 10 teams are selected for a prize of 12,000 euro in Stage 2 (after going through a mentoring process; prize awarded without the need to establish a company)
- 4 teams are selected for a funding of 35,000 euro in Stage 3 (after the registration of a new private entity).

FIX Cluj was developed through an open co-design process through which key actors of the social innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem were involved in providing an innovative process of supporting young people focusing on simplicity, combination of funding sources and on the learning experience of all those involved.

Project website fixcluj.eu

Social media: facebook.com/fixcluj

Instagram: @fixcluj

Email: fixcluj@c-edu.ro

5. Conclusion

1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES

We believe that implementing them on a local level is a **matter of mutual benefit**: cities becoming a better place to live for young people, who in return facilitate the cultural, demographic and economic growth of the city.

A youth-friendly city is a multidimensional and complex project, subject to diverse conditions of each City on their local level. The decision about the approach, a set of criteria and priorities to be applied, belongs to you and your local community.

We encourage you to explore the **set of Dimensions and Standards** proposed by our Consortium. In addition to them, please consider the following **horizontal recommendations** to be applied on all levels specified within the Publication:

- make sure you have all relevant stakeholders on board with the process - map them first in order to invite them all to co-create this process,
- remember it's a process and you need time, effort, resources, people to achieve your objectives and sustaining their lasting,
- make sure the solutions for youth-friendly cities are taking into account all diversity of young people, doesn't matter their level of (dis)ability, origin, socio-economic status, identities etc.,
- young people should be partners in this process - they are the ones the most competent to speak up about their needs and problems (don't assume them, don't subject them to passive research only, treat them as fully-fledged partners),
- be thorough and attentive towards young people, encourage them to share their minds and use appropriate measures for them to feel comfortable and willing to participate - the process of becoming youth-friendly should be youth-friendly itself!
- it may be difficult to measure to what extent have you achieved youth-friendliness, and measures will be of a qualitative matter, hence difficult to report and prove,
- you may want to involve external evaluators to be impartial in measuring chosen criteria of youth-friendliness,
- implementing low quality practices may be worse than not providing them at all (e.g. profound youth participation, instead of tokenism),
- despite achieving a large number of initiatives and extensive efforts, it is all about creating a youth-friendly atmosphere and conditions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The Consortium has gathered **good practices** from various European Municipalities and facilitated **discussion** between their stakeholders about the upcoming needs and challenges in the context of Youth.

We see this Project as an **opening** rather than a conclusion. The Partners have agreed on the need to facilitate a bigger-scale **research and collaboration**, including more actors and experts from a wider scope of European cities and countries.

This document therefore concludes as a need analysis and a token of will for the following **tasks** to be followed by future projects on the European level:

- Unification and expansion of **Quality Labels** as tools of recognition of the European Municipalities as youth-friendly entities.
- Introduction of long-term **Youth Policy** documents and strategies in more European Municipalities.
- Empowerment of **collaboration** between public and non-governmental institutions which aim at systematic development of Cities towards youth-friendly solutions.





PROJECT PUBLICATION

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CONSORTIUM

[Nausika Fundacja Edukacyjna](#) (Poland)

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