

# Youth Council in Action

## Name of the organisation

Municipality

## Website of the organisation

<https://www.wloclawek.eu/>

## Location of the organisation

Zielony Rynek 11/13, 87-800 Włocławek, Poland, 87-800 Włocławek, Poland

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## Good practice aspect(s)/themes of youth work

- Participation of young people in decision making

## Good practice category

A practice of processes and methods

## Good practice aim & purpose

The Youth Council in Action initiative aimed to strengthen the participation of young people from rural areas in municipal decision-making and community life. Its main purpose was to create a formal platform where youth could express their opinions, share ideas, and influence local policies and activities that affect them.

Through the Youth Council, the municipality sought to empower young residents by developing their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills while increasing their understanding of democratic processes. The initiative also aimed to build stronger cooperation between young people and local authorities, ensuring that youth perspectives are considered in planning and implementing municipal initiatives.

Another key objective was to encourage active citizenship and a sense of responsibility among young people. By engaging youth in consultations, discussions, and small community projects, the initiative helped them better understand local governance and their role within it.

## **Good practice description**

The **Youth Council in Action** initiative is a municipal good practice aimed at strengthening youth participation in local decision-making while ensuring that young people from rural areas have equal opportunities to engage in civic life. The initiative established a Youth Council composed of young representatives from different parts of the municipality, including villages and smaller rural communities. The council acts as a platform where young people can share their ideas, discuss local challenges, and contribute to shaping policies and initiatives that affect their lives.

A key element of the practice is ensuring inclusive representation. Schools and youth groups from rural areas are actively invited to nominate members, ensuring that the voices of young people from smaller villages are included. This approach helps overcome the common challenge of rural youth being underrepresented in municipal processes. Regular meetings of the Youth Council are organized with the participation of municipal representatives, creating a direct channel of communication between young residents and local authorities.

To support meaningful participation, council members receive training and guidance in areas such as civic engagement, leadership, communication, and project planning. These capacity-building activities help young people better understand how local governance works and how they can actively contribute to community development. The initiative also promotes teamwork and peer learning, allowing young people from different rural areas to connect, exchange experiences, and work together.

Special attention is given to reducing barriers that rural youth may face when participating in such initiatives. Meetings are organized in accessible locations within the municipality, and transportation support is provided when needed. In addition, online tools and digital communication platforms are used to allow young people from more distant villages to join discussions and remain actively involved even when physical participation is difficult.

Another important aspect of the practice is youth-led community projects. Members of the Youth Council are encouraged to identify issues that are important to young people in their communities and to develop small initiatives that respond to these needs. These projects may focus on topics such as environmental protection, cultural and recreational activities, youth-friendly public spaces, or social inclusion. By planning and implementing these initiatives, young people gain practical experience in project management, collaboration, and problem-solving.

### **Good practice result & concrete effects**

The implementation of the **Youth Council in Action** initiative has produced several positive outcomes for both young people and the municipality. One of the most visible effects is the increased participation of young people—especially those from rural areas—in local decision-making processes. Youth now have a structured platform to express their opinions, propose ideas, and communicate directly with municipal representatives.

As a result, communication and cooperation between young residents and local authorities have improved significantly. Municipal leaders have gained a better understanding of the needs, challenges, and expectations of young people living in different parts of the municipality, including smaller villages.

The initiative has also strengthened young people's skills and confidence. Through meetings, trainings, and project implementation, participants have developed leadership, teamwork, and communication abilities, as well as a better understanding of democratic processes and civic responsibility.

Another concrete outcome is the implementation of youth-led initiatives and community activities, which have contributed to more youth-friendly local environments and increased social engagement among young residents.

Overall, the practice has fostered a stronger sense of belonging among young people and demonstrated that their ideas and contributions can have a real impact on their communities.

### **Good practice chapter of the European Charter on Local Youth Work**

Youth work policy