



## Inspiring Practices

Wini Echelpoels  
Stedelijke Jeugdendienst Antwerpen  
Belgium

### Impact of Antwerp Youth Work

The city of Antwerp is a city with 550,000 inhabitants, of which almost 180,000 are children and young people up to the age of 26. So one-third of the population is youth.

In 2023, the City of Antwerp allocated 5% of the total operating and investment budget to financial support. This means that the city gives 113 million euros to support policy out of a total urban budget of 2.36 billion euros.

The Vibrant City policy area (sports, culture, youth, events, heritage) allocated proportionally the largest share of the budget to associations and partners, 40 million euros, which amounts to 19% of the budget for the policy area.

Since 2019, mapping impact in youth work has been on the agenda. We did a lot of research from the Municipal Youth Service, which brought us into contact with the Ambrassade, UCLL, KBS, etc. Since 2020, we have organised a sounding board group in which seven youth activities subsidised by the city of Antwerp participated. They were able to experiment, develop and test methodologies and share experiences.

From 2024, impact in youth work will also be included in the agreement note of 40 subsidised organisations. All these organisations map out their impact through a diverse range of methodologies. The most commonly used methodologies are the logbook, survey, podcast and self-designed apps (e.g., Airtable).

The two biggest challenges were creating a common language around impact and not introducing the tool as an additional control tool. There was a lot of resistance from Antwerp youth work, but now, four years later, we notice that there is more common language, that activities find each other better and work together, that it is easier to talk about themes, that organizations look more critically at themselves and their offerings, which increases the quality of youth work.

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On May 8, 2025, the Ambrassade, the city of Antwerp, UCLL and the Aanstokerij are jointly organizing a theme day around impact. Here the impact framework will be outlined and good practices will be highlighted for illustration. Many lectures, workshops, experience sessions and practical tools will also be provided to inspire a youth worker, policy maker, local government or communications manager. A brief overview will also be given to the Antwerp youth work landscape about the impact they help to identify.



## EUROPEAN EGL EVENT 2025

25 - 27 March, Prague

Nikolaos Christofi  
Agros Youth Club  
Cyprus

### Young Cities

The Young Cities program is an innovative and highly participatory initiative that focuses on empowering and creatively engaging young people to address challenges in their local community. The slogan of the program is "Young people as ambassadors of positive change in their community" and focuses on young people aged 14-35.

The aim of the program is to create "Youth-Friendly" cities by developing and implementing strategies and proposals with a multiplier effect, aimed at improving the social framework for young people as well as for their fellow citizens. A key objective of the project is to cultivate modern skills among young people and promote a culture of active citizenship.

The implementation of the program is primarily based on the "Think and Do" methodology, characterized by the creation of a "Think Tank" with young participants to exchange ideas and identify challenges within local municipalities, as well as the development of "Actions" to bring these ideas to life through collaborations with local organizations and other stakeholders. At the same time, the program seeks to provide appropriate training in leadership, critical thinking, and negotiation skills, under the guidance of experienced trainers and youth facilitators.

Agros is a village of Limassol district, built among high mountains at an altitude of 1100 meters. Its population is 800 people and is one of the most interesting villages of Cyprus and the Pitsillia area. Historical and cultural sites are kept in a natural environment of extraordinary beauty with the village maintaining its customs and traditional character. The love for work and progressiveness characterize its citizens. Agros is likened to a city on the mountain as it provides all the basic needs like education, employment, and services.

The community places great importance on youth policy issues, as it is the most significant tool for the qualitative and sustainable development of the community, providing services that meet today's needs of young people.

The community hosts a Youth Multi-Center, which provides accurate and up-to-date information on youth-related issues through an experienced Youth Worker. At the same time, it organizes interactive workshops for the development of soft skills. Additionally, career guidance and mental health services are offered. The operating expenses are fully covered by the state.

The development of the local youth work policy involved a series of concrete actions that ensured a structured, inclusive, and sustainable approach to youth development. These actions included research and needs assessment, stakeholder engagement and collaboration, policy drafting and framework development, capacity building and training, implementation of programs and initiatives, and monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation.

Various stakeholders played a distinct role in shaping, implementing, and sustaining the policy, including young people and youth organizations, municipal authorities, youth workers, educational institutions, NGOs, civil society organizations, and the national government.



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The creation of a local youth work policy led to several short-term outputs and long-term outcomes that impacted young people, communities, and institutions. Key outputs included the development of youth clubs and programs, local youth strategies and action plans, training for youth workers and stakeholders, and the implementation of services related to employment, civic engagement, mental health, and digital inclusion. Long-term outcomes included increased youth participation in decision-making, improved education and employment prospects, stronger social inclusion, better mental health and well-being, stronger community engagement, and more efficient use of public resources.

The project is ongoing and expected to conclude at the end of 2026. Follow-up actions will be discussed by the organizing team upon completion.

The project has been supported by European tools such as the EU Youth Dialogue results and the EU Youth Goals, which help shape local youth work policies by providing a strategic framework aligned with broader European priorities. These tools contribute to shaping policies at various levels to ensure that young people can reach their full potential.



## EUROPEAN EGL EVENT 2025

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Kaisa Orunuk  
Education Department, City of Tallinn  
Estonia

### Developing Youth Center Services Based on Youth Personas

Tallinn is the capital and largest municipality of Estonia, with a population of 461,901. The city's youth work policy is an integral part of municipal policies and is outlined in the Tallinn 2035 Development Strategy, specifically in the Education and Youth Work chapter. In Estonia, youth work is a responsibility of local governments, and dedicated budgetary resources are allocated for its implementation.

In Tallinn, youth work is coordinated by the Youth Work Department of the Tallinn Education Department. The city ensures the provision of diverse youth services, including youth centers, hobby education, co-financing youth organizations, and various programs supporting young people's personal and social development.

The City of Tallinn aimed to upgrade the youth center service to a new level. To achieve this, we wanted to gain a clearer understanding of how young people find their way to youth centers and the role of youth workers in supporting them. As a result of the service design process, it was decided to develop the youth center service based on youth personas. All key stakeholders, including young people, were involved in the service design process.

As a result of the service design process, the service model of youth centers and its components were defined. The service model is available in English at the following link: [Tallinn Youth Centers Service Model](#).

This is an ongoing process, and Tallinn continuously develops its youth center services based on the defined model. We are happy to share our experience and have discovered that the personas of young people visiting youth centers are of great interest both in Estonia and in other countries.



Mika Pietilä, Heidi Pouttu

Youth services from City of Porvoo, City of Vaasa, Municipality of Muonio

Finland

## **Now I Know What Youth Work is About: Using Youth Work Curriculum to Communicate Youth Work**

The basic plan of youth work is a youth work curriculum model created in Finland. The aim is to clarify the content of youth work, making it easier to verbalize and demonstrate its effectiveness.

The development of the youth work curriculum in Finland has evolved over the last 10 years, facilitated by the Finnish Youth Research Society. The curriculum process in Finland is inclusive and democratic, typically taking 18 months to 3 years, depending on the organization's size.

Currently, close to 40 municipalities have created their own local curricula. This document presents results from three municipalities—Porvoo, Vaasa, and Muonio—each varying in size, youth work resources, and location across Finland.

The process starts with the working community and includes all aspects of youth services. Dialogue between employees, as well as between study and practice, is key. Local youths contribute their ideas, which are integrated into the youth work description.

Action research was conducted with the Finnish Youth Research Network, collecting extensive material. The curriculum process has proven effective in municipalities of all sizes, from small rural areas to the capital city.

The basic plan of youth work provides direction, policies, and boundaries for youth work implementation. It serves as a foundation for evaluation, operational planning, role descriptions, management structures, and staff development.

For the youth work community, both the process and the final document are important. The process strengthens the community and fosters dialogue, while the written document provides clarity for stakeholders. One local council member remarked after reading the document that the nature and value of youth work had become much clearer.

There are varying follow-up actions across Finnish municipalities. Some update their basic plans regularly, while others use them as ongoing development tools. Experienced mentors assist in curriculum creation, though no official roles exist yet. National structures support these efforts, and academic research continues to explore the curriculum's impact.



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Elisa Ciribuco - Ilaria Zocco

Comune di Oliveri (Messina) - Municipality of Oliveri (Messina - Sicily)

Italy

### **EGL Goes to Oliveri and Back**

Oliveri is an Italian municipality with 2,168 inhabitants in the province of Messina, Sicily. The town is known for its tuna fishery, the Laghetti di Marinello Nature Reserve, and the Arab-origin castle on Mount Tindari. The municipality has gained recognition for its strategic approach to combining territorial development, innovation, and youth participation.

The Youth Council plays a central role in organizing events and youth development initiatives. The municipality is currently constructing an auditorium of great artistic and cultural value. Through Europe Goes Local (EGL), Oliveri has become a hub for sustainable growth and social inclusion, leveraging European projects to create opportunities for young people.

Since 2017, the association Il Vergante has been part of the Italian EGL delegation, promoting EGL in rural territories through Erasmus+ projects. Education in Progress joined this effort in 2023 to address the underrepresentation of Southern Italy in EGL at the national level.

Study visits were conducted in Switzerland and Romania, facilitated by Swiss and Romanian EGL delegations. These visits helped Oliveri learn about youth work structures at the municipal level and inspired further initiatives.

In December 2024, Oliveri hosted a study visit, introducing EGL to local policymakers. The municipality engaged with EGL tools and practices, gaining insights into youth policies and European funding opportunities. As a result, Oliveri joined a KA154 project, "Rural Youth Goes European – South Edition," to organize a future study visit and promote best practices in rural youth engagement.

The collaboration with Education in Progress and Il Vergante has increased Oliveri's capacity in project management and youth work. The municipality now has a stronger network of partners and improved access to EU funding opportunities. The participation in EGL has enhanced youth involvement in local decision-making, promoting structured dialogue and long-term youth strategies.

This initiative demonstrates how EGL fosters local-to-European cooperation, bringing international best practices to small municipalities and ensuring youth work remains a priority in rural areas.



Jenny Haglund  
KEKS  
Sweden

## Knowledge-Based Youth Work Policy and Practice

KEKS was established 20 years ago when three municipal youth work departments in Sweden came together to cooperate on common goals, documentation, follow-up, and competence development. Today, KEKS includes approximately 80 member organizations across 10 countries.

The overarching aim of KEKS is to strengthen the quality and position of youth work at local, national, and European levels. A key tool in this effort is the KEKS system for quality assurance, which includes a common web-based system for documentation and follow-up, called The Logbook. This system has made KEKS a leader in developing knowledge-based policy and practice.

The KEKS system provides municipalities and youth work providers with a structured approach, including clear, measurable aims and tools for documentation and evaluation. The data collected helps municipalities reflect on their practices and demonstrate that youth work aligns with policy objectives.

The implementation of KEKS' system allows youth workers to gather statistics, analyze data, and improve practices based on measurable indicators related to youth participation, safety, and learning. The results from youth questionnaires provide insights into young people's experiences and inform policy decisions.

By using measurable indicators, KEKS has enhanced the credibility of youth work, attracting increased political interest and recognition. The system strengthens municipal governance by providing transparent, data-driven insights into youth work outcomes.

The first version of The Logbook was launched in 2009, with the current version developed in 2017 through an Erasmus+ strategic partnership with partners from Romania, Ireland, and Estonia. KEKS continuously revises and improves its system based on user feedback and new research in youth work.



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Kateřina Kuchtov  
Socionaut  
The Czech Republic

### **Beyond Words: Exploring Youth Perspectives through Creative Interactions**

In the workshop, we will look into various activities that can be used to help youth to deliver their points of view into discussion. After that we will exercise our aim to widen perspective on designing inclusive participation.

Young people are not accustomed to verbalizing their arguments in the formal language. Let's take this as an opportunity for creating ways of participation that suit them better, bring us great data and allow us to make real changes. As Denise Ferreira da Silva says, we are different but not separate. That is why we care for common space and structures, and in order to do that, we need to listen to each other carefully, without stereotypes and in context. This workshop will bring productive friction on the edge of sociology, anthropology and artistic methods. Though any previous involvement with these three disciplines is not necessary.

Socionaut is dedicated to participatory placemaking, applied research, and educational activities. We emphasize human approach, use qualitative methods, and amplify overlooked stories.

We want sociology to be understandable, regardless of your expertise, and outputs that will be beneficial and useful. Our goal is to link up each person with an interest in space where we spend our lives – sociologists, architects, municipalities and locals – and create opportunities for sharing and thus contribute to creating better places to live. We explore space and its meaning for local people and society. Our job involves qualitative and participative research. But we do not perceive methods as immutable and predetermined. We approach each project individually, design individual procedures and solutions and adapt it appropriately to the specific conditions to hand. We want interdisciplinary cooperation to become a regular part of planning processes. We believe that good places to live are ones that allow and encourage the involvement of all groups in planning. Only in this way can a long-term viable society emerge.

Together we will establish what ideas and expectations the inhabitants of your community have. What do they think about place where they live? What do they appreciate and what bothers them? Where can they see room for improvement? What would help you and them to live better together? Using qualitative techniques means that we also get residents involved who would not otherwise express their opinion. We create a safe space for open dialogue enabling us to gather meaningful, useful and applicable information for you.

Strategic planning, urban planning, round tables, participation, community development.





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Matteo Sisto  
Europiamo ETS  
Italy

## Rural Project Lab

The EGL Project Lab was implemented in Norma, a small rural town in central Italy with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants. It was part of the "Europe Goes Rural" initiative by Europiamo ETS, designed to strengthen youth participation and local engagement by bridging the gap between young people and municipalities in the Monti Lepini and Ausoni areas of the Lazio region.

The project involved a network of municipalities, a local youth organization, and Europiamo as a national network. It impacted twelve rural municipalities where youth participation structures were weak or non-existent.

In Italy, youth work lacks official recognition, and in this region, structured youth policies were absent. The project addressed the civic disengagement of young people by fostering their participation in local governance and European programs.

The EGL Project Lab was structured as a one-day event, bringing together young people and municipal decision-makers to identify local challenges and co-develop solutions. The methodology included:

- **Community SWOT Analysis:** Mapping local strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- **Introduction to EGL Best Practices & the European Charter on Local Youth Work:** Facilitators shared successful EGL projects to inspire participants.
- **Project Ideation and Development:** Small working groups co-designed project proposals tailored to local needs.
- **Presentation and Feedback Session:** Participants pitched their ideas to municipal representatives, receiving guidance on funding opportunities such as Erasmus+ and ESC.

The project involved young people, municipal leaders, facilitators, and EGL experts. It created a platform for structured youth-municipality dialogue, setting the foundation for future youth participation initiatives in the area.

Key outcomes included the development of three youth-led project proposals, increased municipal commitment to youth work, and greater awareness of EGL best practices. The project demonstrated how rural communities can integrate European methodologies to enhance youth participation.

Following the success of the EGL Project Lab in Norma, efforts are now underway to replicate this approach in other rural communities. Participants are receiving mentorship to refine their ideas and secure funding through Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps. Additional municipalities are being encouraged to adopt similar participatory frameworks to strengthen their youth policies.



Vidmantas Mitkus  
Vilnius City Municipality  
Lithuania

## **Vilnius Youth Policies: Shaping the Future with NGOs and Young People**

Vilnius, the capital and largest municipality of Lithuania, is home to over 600,000 residents and serves as the country's political, economic, and cultural hub. Youth work in Vilnius is embedded within broader municipal strategies, ensuring a cross-sectoral approach that integrates education, social services, health, and civic engagement.

The city prioritizes youth participation through initiatives such as the Vilnius Youth Council and the Vilnius Youth Affairs Council, ensuring young people have a voice in policy decisions. To strengthen youth work, Vilnius provides funding for youth organizations, municipal and NGO-run youth centers, and capacity-building for youth workers.

Before implementing the new youth policy framework, Vilnius' youth policy had remained largely unchanged for decades, making it outdated and disconnected from young people's evolving needs. The reform process involved comprehensive research in 2023, followed by a collaborative revision of the Youth Policy Concept to define clear municipal commitments to youth.

A working group, including young people, NGOs, policymakers, and service providers, was formed to develop the Vilnius Youth Policy Strategy 2024-2026. The strategy prioritizes education, health, social services, and civic engagement, ensuring youth participation in decision-making processes.

Key challenges included resistance from policymakers, the need for capacity building among youth organizations, and balancing diverse stakeholder interests. Success factors included an evidence-based approach, strong youth participation, cross-sector collaboration, and strategic long-term planning.

The initiative resulted in a modernized Vilnius Youth Policy Concept, an increased municipal budget for youth work, and the institutionalization of youth participation mechanisms. Young people now play a more active role in shaping municipal policies, improving coordination between youth organizations and the municipality.

To ensure successful implementation, Vilnius is committed to structured monitoring and evaluation, continued investment in youth infrastructure, and expanding youth participation structures. The city aligns its youth policy with the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027), reinforcing youth participation at all levels and ensuring sustainable, evidence-based youth policy development.



Marcin Gołębiowski  
Municipality of Starachowice  
Poland

## **From Idea to Realization: Involvement of the Youth City Council in the Green Participatory “Eco Budget” for Primary Schools**

Starachowice, a city in the Świętokrzyskie Province of Poland, has a population of approximately 50,000. The city is known for its industrial history and economic revitalization but faces challenges such as depopulation and aging demographics. The municipality prioritizes youth work as part of its broader development strategy, incorporating education, social welfare, and civic engagement initiatives.

The Youth City Council, established in 2007, plays a key role in engaging young people in decision-making. It was actively involved in designing and implementing the Green Participatory “Eco Budget” for Primary Schools, an initiative aimed at fostering civic engagement and environmental awareness among students.

The initiative involved eight primary schools in Starachowice. The Youth City Council participated in all stages, from idea development and promotion to project selection and implementation. Students submitted eco-friendly project ideas, which were voted on by their peers. The process was designed to teach students about civic responsibility and participatory budgeting.

The first edition of the Eco Budget ran from September 2023 to April 2024, resulting in the selection of 24 winning projects from 47 proposals. These projects included initiatives such as quiet rooms, green corridors, eco-gaming spaces, and bird-friendly school environments. Over 1,893 students participated in the voting process, with an impressive turnout of 89%.

Key outcomes included increased civic awareness among young people, higher engagement in Youth City Council elections, and practical improvements in school environments. The initiative strengthened youth participation structures, demonstrating the value of youth-led decision-making.

Funded by the "Direction Future – Starachowice Local Development Program" with support from Norwegian funds, the project was a success. In 2025, the municipality plans to expand the Eco Budget to include secondary schools and local institutions, further enhancing youth engagement in sustainability initiatives.



Gil Nunes  
Municipality of Gaia  
Portugal

## **Gaia Municipal Plan for All Youth(s) 2.0: Leaving No One Behind**

The Municipality of Gaia, recently elected National Capital of Youth by the Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth, is one of the largest in Portugal, with over 80,000 residents aged 13-30. Gaia is known for its urban and rural diversity, extensive riverbanks, and seashore.

The municipality has implemented several youth participation initiatives, including a participatory budget for youth (€240,000), municipal youth assemblies, anti-violence campaigns, talent scholarships, and youth-led cultural events. Gaia is also a key member of European initiatives such as Democracy Reloading, the Eurodesk Network, and the EGL Steering Committee.

In 2024, Gaia launched version 2.0 of the Municipal Plan for All Youth(s), a strategic document outlining youth policies until 2028. The plan was developed through an extensive consultation process called "More Voice to Youth(s)," gathering input from over 600 young people and stakeholders. This process ensured that vulnerable groups were considered, reinforcing the municipality's commitment to inclusivity.

The plan is structured around seven key areas: feeling, happiness, humanism, habitat, impact, freedom, and talent. It defines 34 axes of action, providing a comprehensive framework for local youth policies.

A significant outcome of the plan was the formation of the Gaia Youth Force, an empowered youth group actively involved in shaping municipal strategies. They play a key role in the implementation and oversight of the plan, ensuring continuous engagement.

The plan also supports the development of a new Youth Center, scheduled for launch in 2025, which was designed entirely based on youth input.

Funded through Erasmus+, the consultation process received recognition as a best practice by the Portuguese Erasmus+ Agency. The plan also aligns with the EGL Charter, emphasizing participation, digital skills, and outreach to young people in remote areas.

Future actions include translating the plan into English for broader dissemination and integrating it into national and European youth policy frameworks.



Oshy Liebech Schwartz  
Upplands-Bro Municipality  
Sweden

## **Upplands-Bro Municipality: European Charter on Local Youth Work for Developing Knowledge-Based Youth Work Policy**

Upplands-Bro Municipality, located in northern Stockholm, has a population of approximately 30,000 people. Historically, youth work in the municipality was underdeveloped, lacking clear political direction and integration with broader municipal goals. Before 2018, youth services were primarily focused on providing spaces for young people without a strategic vision.

Since 2021, the municipality has adopted the principles of the European Charter on Local Youth Work to transform its youth work approach. This process identified gaps in staff knowledge and introduced new methods to align services with the Charter's standards. A key milestone was the development of a local youth work policy reflecting both young people's needs and the municipality's strategic vision.

Youth services are primarily delivered in secondary schools, but additional venues and public spaces are utilized to reach a diverse range of young people, particularly those aged 16-19. The approach focuses on proactive engagement, relationship-building, and empowering young people to take ownership of activities.

The implementation process included self-assessment, needs analysis, and action planning. Several workshops were organized with young people and stakeholders to anchor the Charter's principles and develop a shared vision for youth work. Overcoming initial skepticism among staff and securing financial resources were key challenges.

Today, Upplands-Bro's youth work is centered on promoting well-being, active participation, and learning. The municipality has professionalized its youth work staff, enhanced integration with social services, and increased youth involvement in municipal decision-making.

More young people are now engaged in creating and leading activities, improving the status of youth spaces in the community. The municipality continues to expand its integration of the Charter's principles, making youth work a recognized and strategic component of local governance.



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Thomas Rogé  
City of Paris  
France

### **Youth Participation in Local Policies in Paris: An Ecosystem Rather Than a System**

The City of Paris, with 2.2 million inhabitants, experiences a daily influx of young people, doubling the youth population from 300,000 to 600,000. Youth work is not a dedicated municipal competence, and Paris lacks a centralized youth policy. Instead, youth participation is facilitated through various participatory measures, facilities, and initiatives.

Following the 2001 municipal elections, the City of Paris established a participatory ecosystem, creating multiple avenues for citizens—including young people—to contribute to local policy-making. These mechanisms include participatory budgeting, youth councils at the municipal and district levels, and citizen voting.

Over the past 25 years, Paris has institutionalized youth consultations on a range of issues. While young people's input is integrated into broader participatory frameworks rather than standalone youth-focused structures, certain youth participation mechanisms, such as District Youth Contracts, remain localized and tailored to specific communities.

The approach prioritizes collaboration between different participatory bodies, ensuring youth voices are included in the broader civic dialogue. However, Paris has yet to develop a fully integrated youth work policy.

To strengthen youth participation further, the city has engaged with Democracy Reloading to train and equip professionals supporting youth participation, particularly facilitators of the Paris Youth Council. This training aims to enhance youth engagement, ensuring that participatory governance continues to evolve and adapt to young people's needs.



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Martine Lødding and Sina Riz a Porta  
Tromsø Municipality; European Youth Forum  
Norway

### True North 2026 - European Youth Capital 2026

Tromsø, the largest city in Arctic Europe, has around 80,000 residents, with nearly 50% under 35 years old. It has a strong focus on youth work, influenced by its history of youth activism in the 1970s and '80s, which led to participatory youth structures like the Tvibit Youth Centre and regional youth councils. The municipality prioritizes youth empowerment, inclusion, and innovative cultural expression. It provides resources through self-governed youth initiatives, educational institutions, and community-driven programs. While Tromsø continues to grow, Northern Norway faces youth population decline, increasing the importance of municipal efforts in education, employment, and cultural development.

Tromsø's approach to youth involvement and the development of their European Youth Capital 2026 (EYC 2026) bid has been a multi-faceted process rooted in a 50-year history of youth engagement in the city.

Concrete actions included:

- **EYC Application Process:** A two-year application process involving youth councils, political engagement, and working group formation with participants from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTQ+ NGOs, Indigenous youth representatives, young immigrants, student associations, youth politicians, city officials, and youth workers.
- **Research and Documentation:** Reviewing existing research on youth in the region, including "New Voices – from Words to Action" and the White Paper on Arctic Policy and its youth annex. Insights from workshops and publications were logged.
- **Presentations and Advocacy:** Youth council members and working groups presented the project to politicians and stakeholders at events such as "The Arctic Frontiers" and "The High North Dialogue." A debate meeting was also organized with the Norwegian Prime Minister.
- **Developing Programme Proposals:** Programme proposals for EYC 2026 were created through crowdsourcing methods, including workshops, digital surveys, meetings with youth NGOs, and school input.
- **Focus on Youth First:** As a result of the EYC application process, "Youth First" became one of the five main goals in the Municipality's action program for 2023-2026.
- **Planning for EYC Year and Beyond:** Workshops, seminars, and input sessions aimed to create lasting methods, processes, and results, beyond just a single year of events.

Various stakeholders contributed, including Tromsø Municipality, local and regional youth councils, youth NGOs, policy makers, businesses, SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge, the Chamber of Commerce, the Norwegian government, the European Youth Forum, the Sámi Parliament's Youth Council (SUPU), and universities such as Oslo Metropolitan University and The Arctic University of Norway.



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### Effects and Outcomes:

Tromsø was awarded the title of European Youth Capital 2026. Early effects of the application process and title recognition include:

- A more inclusive, sustainable, and creative city and region.
- Development and implementation of a new youth policy and a Local Youth Strategy.
- Improved youth participation and representation in decision-making and policy development, including potential co-management structures.
- A broader goal to make Tromsø, Northern Norway, and the Arctic a better place to live, work, and create for young people.

### Follow-Up Actions:

The implementation of TRUE NORTH 2026 will shape the outcomes seen in 2026 and 2027, which will determine further follow-up actions.