

Empowering Youth in Strasbourg

March 2025



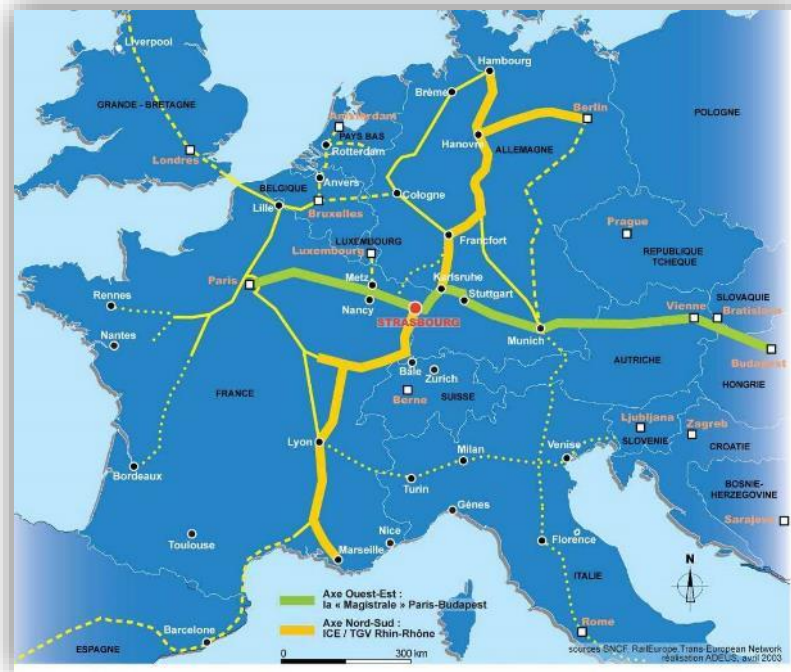
Guillaume Libsig,

Deputy mayor in charge of

- Community Life
- Youth Policy
- Popular Education
- Event Policy

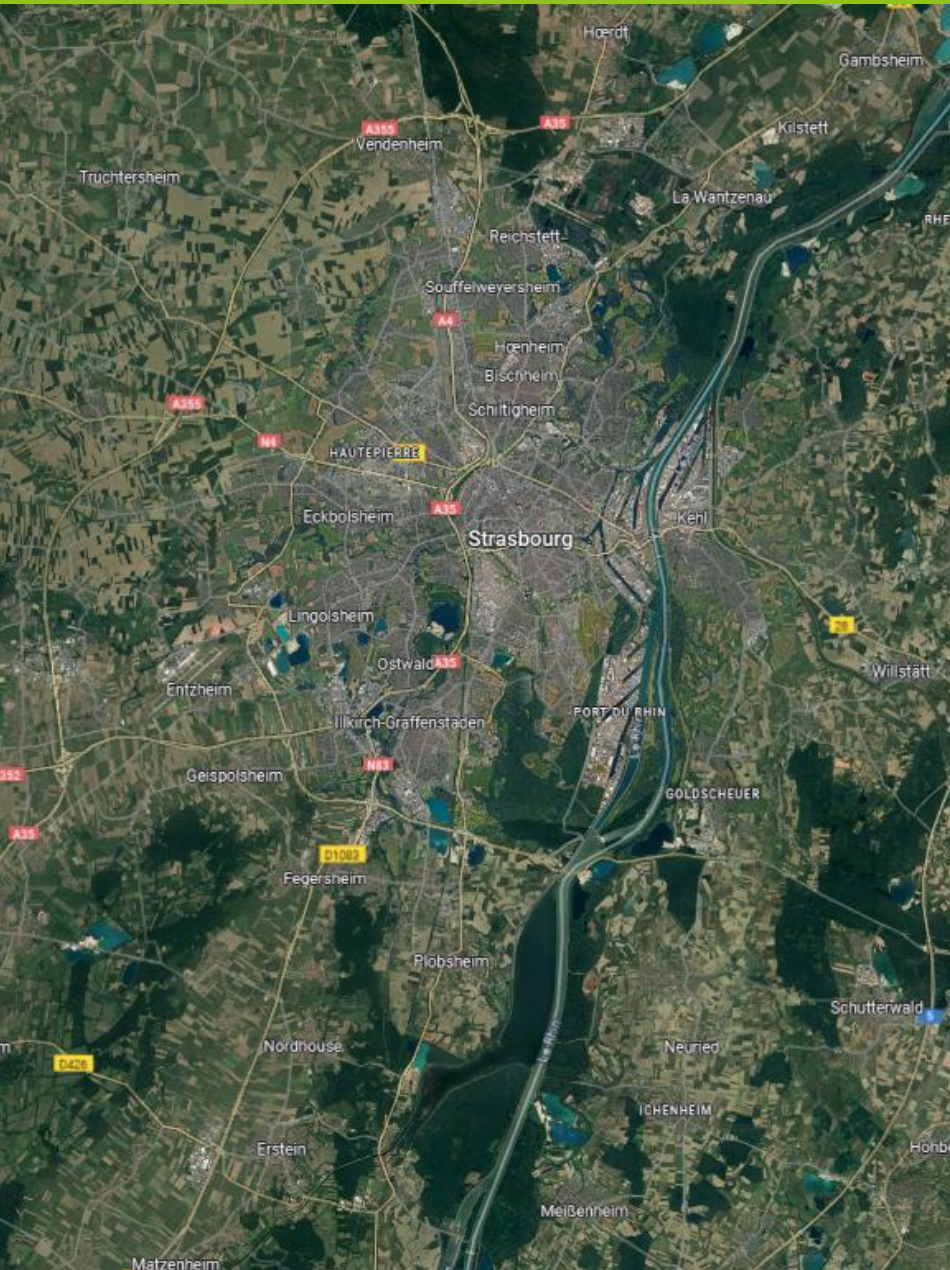
let's summarize by talking about ***societal links***

A crossroad
(Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Zurich,
Francfort, Stuttgart, Munich...)



2nd inner harbor of France





33 municipalities - 517,000 inhabitants

University in the metropolitan area:

- 75,000 students
- 11,000 international students
- 156 languages

The Seat
of the
Council
of Europe
since 1949



The Seat
of the
European
Parliament
since 1958



The Seat of
the European
Court of Human
Rights
since 1959





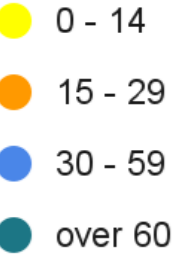
Strasbourg = 292,000 inhabitants

20.7% are single-parent families
(16.2% are single mothers)

26% of the population under the poverty line

0 to 14 years old represents 17%
15 to 29 years old represents 28%

**Youth represents 45% of the
population in Strasbourg**



2019/20 Situation

Faced with the flaws highlighted by COVID and the activism of the climate generation, many new municipal teams shared the same observations.

- 1- Youth policies are often consultation policies.**
- 2- Our concrete actions facilitate access (price reductions) but without consideration of specific needs.**
- 3- A strong tendency to ask for institutional mimicry.**
- 4- Our youth congress & forums have been asking the same questions for several years.**
- 5- Difficulty in stabilizing engagement due to schedules and high mobility based on age.**
- 6- The climate generation has not integrated the political platforms and organised civil society.**
- 7- Young people are not present in the governance of local organization.**

What can we do ?

- 1- Youth policies are often consultation policies. **We know roughly what is being said: "Things aren't going very well" (eco-anxiety - political anxiety - housing crisis - poverty). We should aim for co-construction**
- 2- Our concrete actions facilitate access (price reductions) but without consideration of specific needs.
- 3- A strong tendency to ask for institutional mimicry. **Young people should be able to act as young people**
- 4- Our youth congress & forums have been asking the same questions for several years.
- 5- Difficulty in stabilizing engagement due to schedules and high mobility based on age.
- 6- The climate generation has not integrated the political platforms and organised civil society.
- 7- Young people are not present in the governance of local organization.

Youth is a period of transition, of experimentation that leads to adulthood.

Being an adult means "being able to be responsible for anyone in the public space."

If we want to act in the interest of young people, we must create **process that gives them the freedom to be young.**

The right to make mistakes is an opportunity. It must be guaranteed.

Responsibility is a skill that must be learned. We must share and give responsibilities.

If youth is a journey of developing awareness, autonomy, and responsibility, then let's target those aged **8 to 30** as beneficiaries of youth policies.

1

Ages 8-11

Focus on developing cooperation skills and learning to manage frustration constructively.

2

Ages 12-16

Building initial responsibility through structured participation in decision-making processes.

3

Ages 16-20

Creating pathways to concrete responsibility through junior associations and thematic projects.

4

Ages 20-30

Supporting transition to full civic responsibility, institutional participation and professional insertion.

From counselors to ambassadors

Empowering engaged youth so they can reach isolated peers, call out the elected people and work with everyone.

It's not about what you say but about who you meet.

Thematic Journey Approach

4 topics as levers for building relationships with institutions, associations, and diverse peer groups.

And since 2021 public transports are FREE for all youngsters under 18 living in the Eurometropolis !!!

Concrete Responsibility Spaces

Incorporating young people in technical groups for genuine decision-making within institutions and public life.

Connected Council Structure

Establishing continuity between different youth councils to sustain long-term engagement despite transitions.



Public Domain Commission

Youth representatives
integrated into municipal
public space planning
committees with voting
rights.



Policy Advocacy

Direct correspondence with
national leadership,
positioning youth as policy
stakeholders.



BookTube Initiative

Youth-led digital literature
programme reaching new
audiences through
contemporary platforms.



Serious Game Development

Redesign of educational
tools addressing precarity
issues, created by and for
young people.



Youth inclusion in the City's administration

Welcoming youth at different stages of their path : as interns during their curriculum, as volunteers contributing to local public policies

Creating concrete opportunities for youth while fostering democracy

Thank you for your attention.