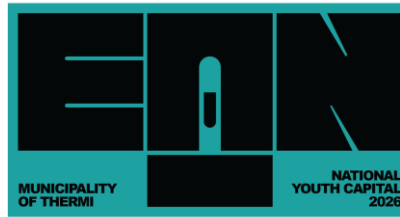


Municipality of Thermi

National Youth Capital of Greece 2026



**MUNICIPALITY
of THERMI**



Youth Council
of Thermi Municipality



About the Municipality of Thermi

- Around 55.000 population (2021 Census)
- One of the largest peri-urban municipalities in Greece
- Part of the Thessaloniki metropolitan area, 15km outside
- Hosts several educational and research institutions
- 14 local communities
- History dating back to around 5000 BC



Why a Youth Council?

- Need to strengthen youth participation at local level
- Gap between youth and local decision-making
- To familiarize youth with local governance and democratic participation
- To cultivate long-term bonds between young people and local society

Creation of the Youth Council

- Established in **2020** by the Municipality of Thermi
- Initiative launched through an open call to young people
- Inclusive structure, accessible to all interested young people
- Despite the lack of an updated legal framework, the municipality took initiative



Our Approach?

- Leaving the Youth Council to develop without structure ❌
- Creating a purely symbolic body without real impact ❌
- To collaborate with experienced youth workers ✔️

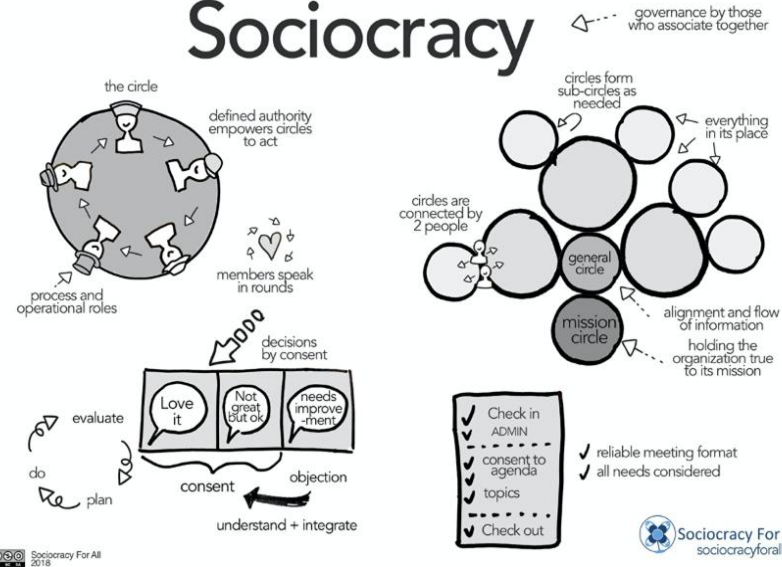


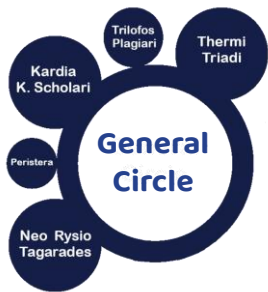
Structure of the Youth Council

Methodology of Sociocracy

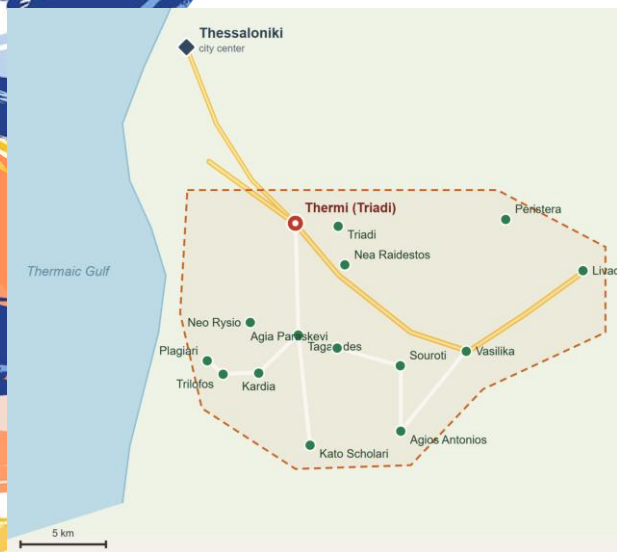
- Working in groups, 'Circles'
- Consent
- Double link
- Open Vote

Sociocracy





- Organization on local basis, 'communities' (villages)
- The structure can integrate a big quantity of young people
- Each community has its own local circle
- Every local circle sends two representative to the General Circle
- Ensures youth voice even in rural and remote areas



382.11 km² in total

Youth Participation Beyond Symbolic Representation

- Youth Council acts as advisory body to the Municipality
- Youth proposals are brought into local discussions
- Young people co-create local strategy
- 2 representatives on the Municipal Equality Commission
- Vote to reduce the tax on menstrual products In Greece
- Thermi's Youth Forum



Social Inclusion & European Projects

- SAYouth Project
- Inclusion of migrant youth
- Cities4Her
- JuniorXpress
- Many Erasmus+ / ESC involvement



Roles

- Secretary
- Responsible for Internal communication
- Responsible for External communication
- Social Media Manager



Thermi as National Youth Capital

The Municipality of Thermi was awarded the title of **National Youth Capital 2026**

Recognition of its strong commitment to youth participation and empowerment

The proposal was built around four key thematic pillars:

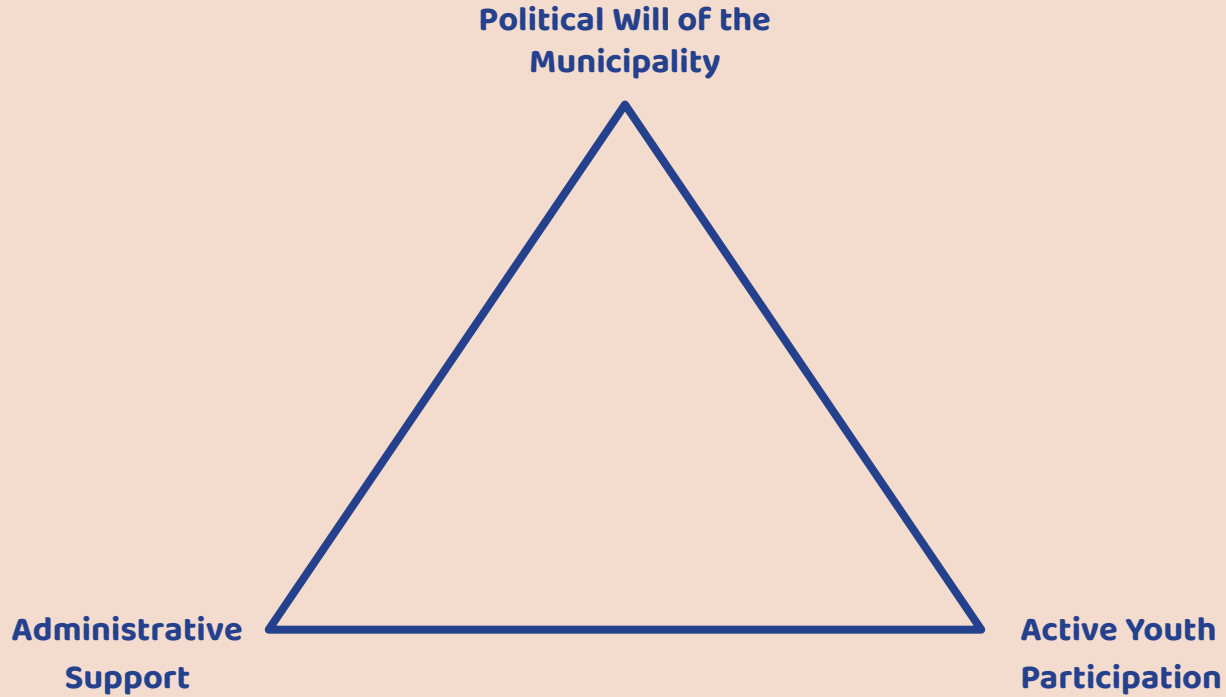
- Active Citizenship
- Culture
- Sports
- Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment

These pillars reflect the needs, interests, and potential of the younger generation

Highlighted the Youth Council as a key driver of this success



Key to success



Conclusions

Youth participation is essential for strong local communities

Local authorities can play a key role in empowering young people

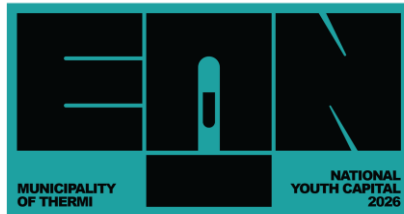
The Municipality of Thermi shows that initiative and collaboration
bring results

A model that can inspire and be replicated in other municipalities

Thank you for your attention!



**MUNICIPALITY
of THERMI**



**Youth Council
of Thermi Municipality**