

# European Youth Capital



EUROPEAN  
**YOUTH**  
*CAPITAL*



european  
youth forum



Rita Jonusaite | Policy Officer



european  
youth forum

# European Youth Capital

Awarded by...



# European Youth Forum



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# European Youth Forum

“An independent, democratic,  
youth-led platform,  
representing more than  
100 National Youth Councils and  
International Youth Organisations  
from across Europe.

It is the voice of tens of millions of  
young people in Europe.



**EUROPEAN  
YOUTH**  
*CAPITAL*



# A European platform for youth organisations

Entirely run by young people and independently established by youth organisations.

The European Youth Forum is made up of over 100 National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, which are federations of youth organisations.

Brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe and represents their common interests, and fights for their rights.

# FOR YOUTH RIGHTS.

*“To be the voice of young people in Europe, where young people are equal citizens and are encouraged and supported to achieve their fullest potential as global citizens.”*







# An agenda-setter on youth affairs



# Our work...

Youth Participation

Strong Youth Organisations

Youth Autonomy and Inclusion



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# Working on...

Youth Rights

Strong Youth Organisations

Sustainable Development

Social and Economic Inclusion

Youth Participation



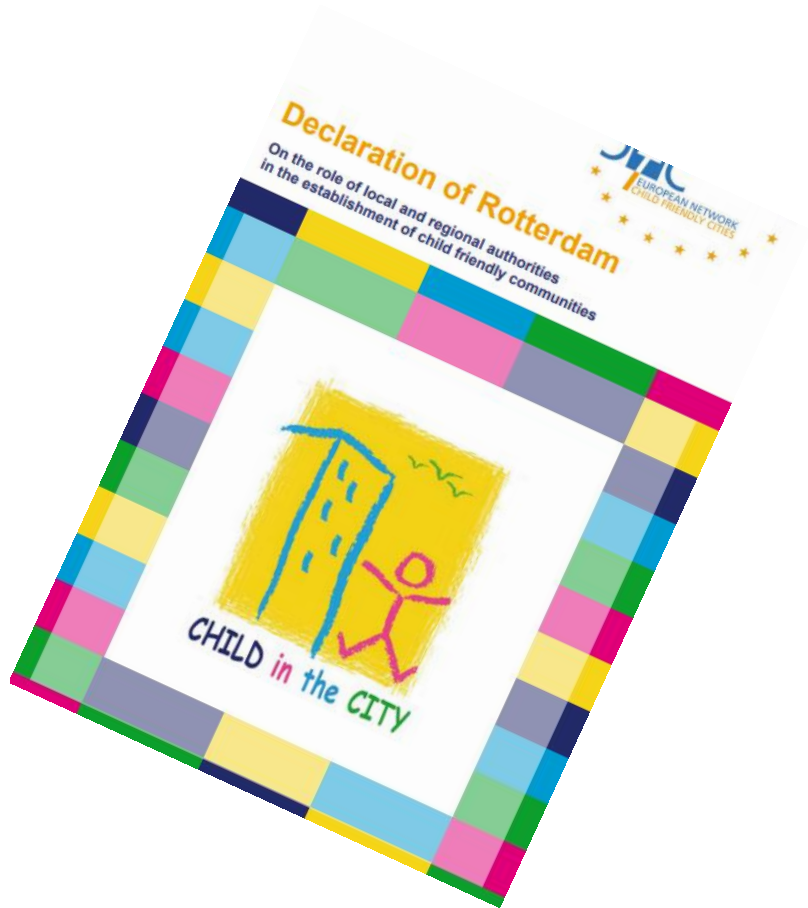
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YOUTH**  
*CAPITAL*



# European Youth Capital



# A bit of history...



2004



2007

# A bit of history...

<b>2009</b>	Rotterdam, Netherlands
<b>2010</b>	Torino, Italy
<b>2011</b>	Antwerp, Belgium
<b>2012</b>	Braga, Portugal
<b>2013</b>	Maribor, Slovenia
<b>2014</b>	Thessaloniki, Greece



Jan Mayen  
(Norway)

NORWEGIAN SEA

North Cape

Mezhdusharskiy I.

New

LAND  
it Nunaat  
mark)

Denmark Strait

ICELAND  
Vatnajökull  
2119  
REYKJAVIK  
Hvannadalshnukur

Faroe Islands  
(Denmark)  
Suduroy

Shetland Islands  
(UK)

Orkney Islands

Isle of Lewis

British Isles

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

IRELAND  
DUBLIN

UNITED KINGDOM  
ENGLAND  
LONDON

NETHERLANDS  
AMSTERDAM

FRANCE  
PARIS

SPAIN  
MADRID

PORTUGAL  
LISBON

TUNISIA  
ALGIERS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

NORWAY  
OSLO

DENMARK  
COPENHAGEN

GERMANY  
BERLIN

CZECH REP.  
PRAGUE

AUSTRIA  
VIENNA

SLOVAKIA  
BRATISLAVA

HUNGARY  
BUDAPEST

ROMANIA  
BUCHAREST

BULGARIA  
SOFIA

GREECE  
ATHENS

TURKEY  
ANKARA

ARMENIA  
YEREVAN

SYRIA  
DAMASCUS

SWEDEN  
STOCKHOLM

FINLAND  
HELSINKI

ESTONIA  
TALLINN

LATVIA  
RIGA

LITHUANIA  
VILNIUS

POLAND  
WARSAW

BELARUS  
MINSK

UKRAINE  
KIEV

MOLDOVA  
CHISINAU

GEORGIA  
TBILISI

ARMENIA  
YEREVAN

AZERBAIJAN  
BAKU

TURKMEENISTAN  
ASHGABAT

UZBEKISTAN  
TASHKENT

IRAN  
TEHRAN

Lapland

White Sea

Kola Peninsula

Gulf of Bothnia

Gulf of Finland

Baltic Sea

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Black Sea

Black Sea

Black Sea

Black Sea

Black Sea

Black Sea

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Black Sea

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Black Sea

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

MOSCOW

ST. PETERSBURG

Novosibirsk

Yekaterinburg

Omsk

Krasnoyarsk

Irkutsk

Chita

Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar

Arkhangel'sk

Vladimir

Ivanovo

Nizhny Novgorod

Cheboksary

Samara

Saratov

Ufa

Kazan

Tyumen

Yekaterinburg

Orenburg

Perm

Perm

Sykt'ykar

Vladikavkaz

Yekaterinburg

Novosibirsk

Chelyabinsk

Samara

Ufa

Kazan

Tyumen

Yekaterinburg

Orenburg

Perm

Perm

Perm





# A bit of history...

2015	Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2016	Ganja, Azerbaijan
2017	Varna, Bulgaria
2018	Cascais, Portugal
2019	Novi Sad, Serbia
2020	Amiens, France
2021	Klaipėda, Lithuania
2022	Tirana, Albania



# Who can apply?



All 47 members of the Council of Europe

# European Youth Capital

## The objectives

- Ensuring that young people are at the core of the decision-making processes: creating sustainable local level youth participation mechanisms and structures
- Building a good base for stronger youth civil society sector in Europe

# European Youth Capital

## The objectives

- Supporting youth rights
- Better connecting European and local policies for young people



European Youth Capital title

# The impact and advantages

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

- Opens up new opportunities
- Brings positive change
- Encourage active participation
- Promotes volunteering
- Fosters European identity
- Champions diversity and inclusion
- Strengthens youth organisations
- Boosts investment in youth
- Amplifies one's voice in Europe
- Turns one into an international meeting point
- Connects young people

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Strengthening **youth organisations**

- **The title gives a boost to youth work**
- Youth organisations reached out and engaged with more young people
- It brings youth organisations closer and helps them to learn about each other, collaborate and recognise each other's work



# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Setting up **youth participation structures**

- Joint decision making
- Young people take part in activities for their cities
- Working relations between the city and the young people were transformed
- Governance bodies in all Youth Capitals

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Setting up **youth participation structures**

- Started during the process
- Still continues today
- Adapted to the needs of the city and its young people

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Young people as **policy makers**

- Cross-sectoral: young people can co-decide in all municipal decision processes and decisions
- Ensures that municipal decisions are more connected with realities of young people
- Tailoring youth policies and youth work to the needs of young people

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Budgeting for youth

- Young people co-decide on the allocation of parts of the municipal budget
- “One of the most innovative mechanisms of youth participation.”
- Young people become more aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Developing **spaces for young people**

- Clearly understanding the needs of young people and developing spaces for and with young people
- Creating new (Novi Sad, Maribor) or renovating existing spaces (Torino, industrial spaces into youth spaces)

# Dora Park, Torino 2010



# Youth House, Varna 2017



www.shutterstock.com · 1120267718

# Creative Polis, Novi Sad 2019





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## The impact and advantages

### Promoting **youth volunteering**

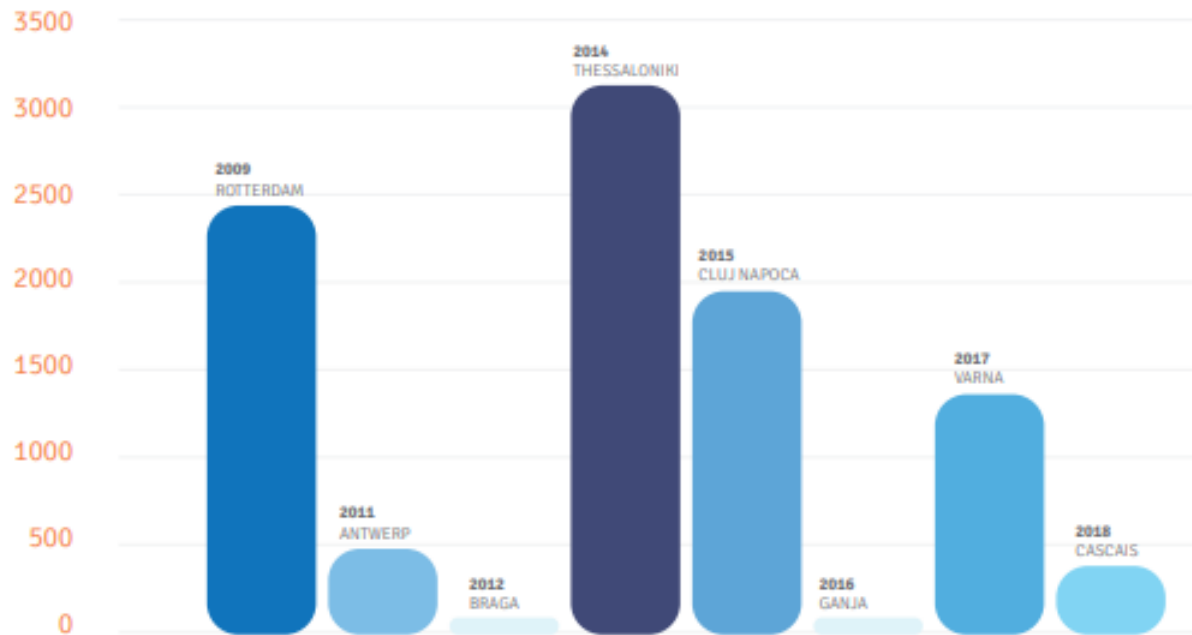
- It helps young people practice active citizenship
- More than 10,000 volunteers in various projects in the Capitals throughout the implementation year

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## The impact and advantages

Number of volunteers engaged in European Youth Capitals<sup>7</sup>

particip



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## The impact and advantages

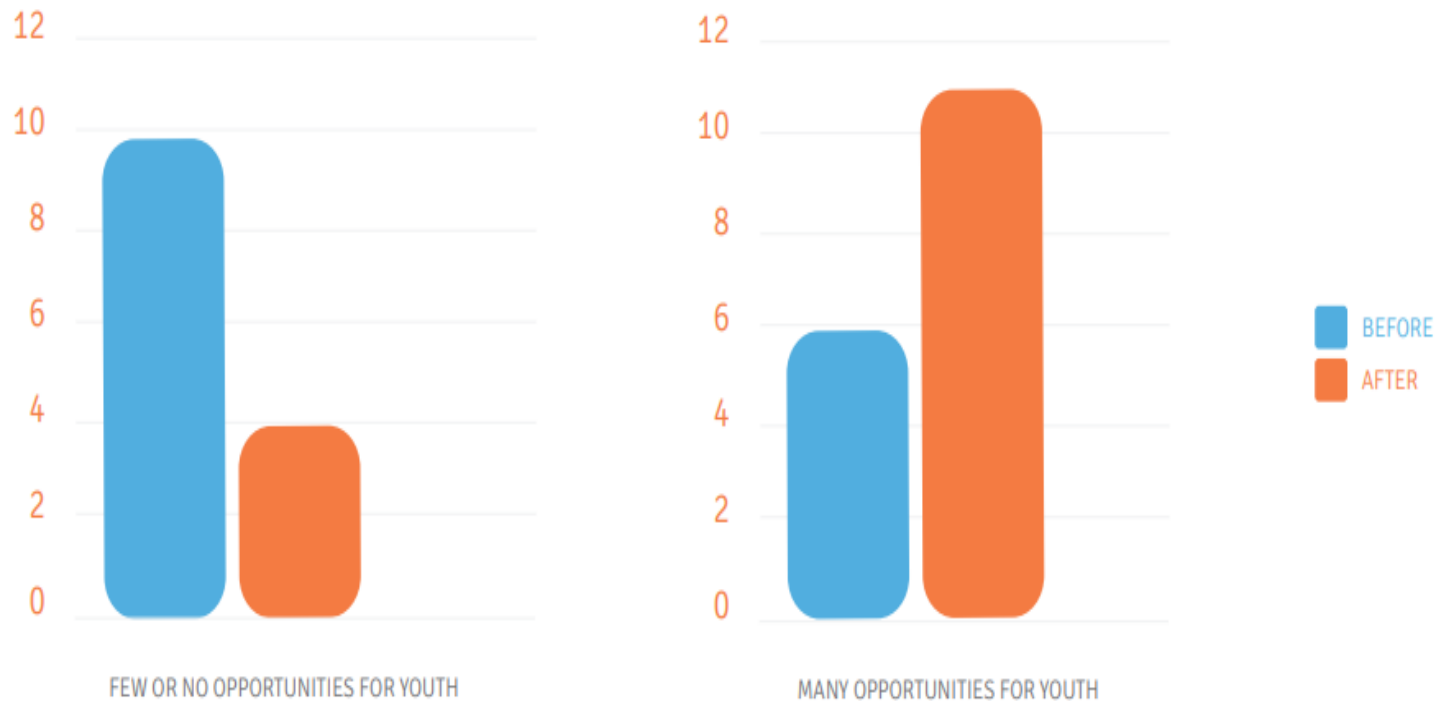
### Increased **funding** opportunities

- More than **50 million EUR** have been invested in youth in different capitals
- The perception of available opportunities, including financial **opportunities, doubled**
- **Investment** in youth in the Capitals is **bigger** after than before.

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

European Youth Capital survey<sup>14</sup>

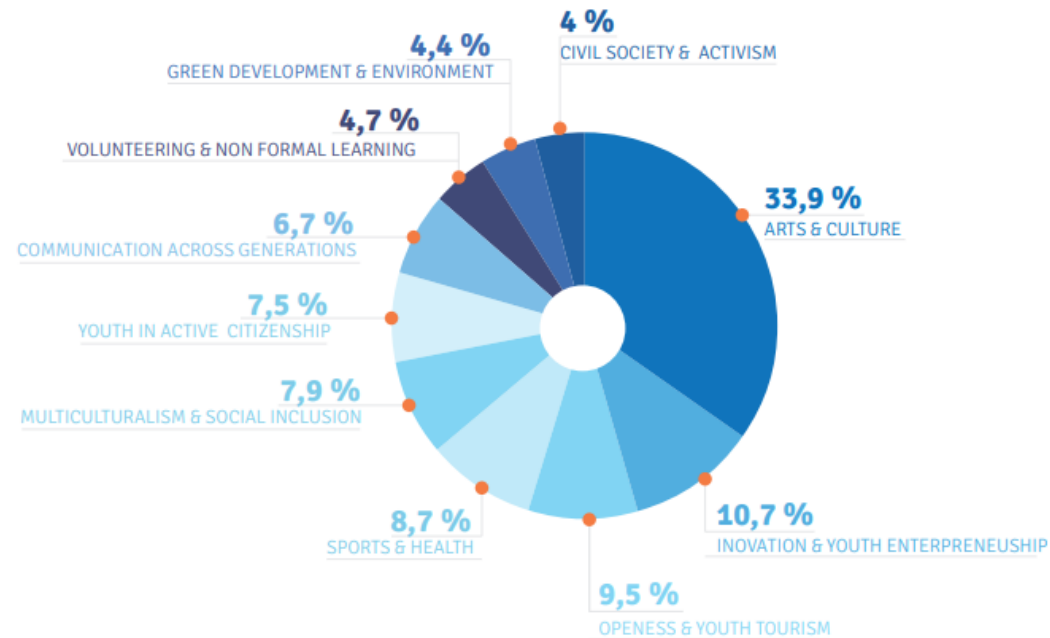


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## The impact and advantages

- Increased number of youth-oriented **activities**
  - More than **8,000 events** and activities

Events by thematic areas, Thessaloniki (2014)<sup>15</sup>



# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Developing **skills & knowledge**

- The capital is an important learning opportunity for young people
  - Policy making processes
  - The local administration
  - The European dimension of the title

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Developing **skills & knowledge**

- Use the acquired skills in their professional careers
- Cities recognise young people as valuable partners
- Young people become active citizens

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

### Strengthening **youth organisations**

- **The title gives a boost to youth work**
- Youth organisations reached out and engaged with more young people
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# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

- Encouraging **European identity**
  - Opportunities to meet with young people from other European countries
  - Bring Europe closer to the local context

# European Youth Capital

## The impact and advantages

- Championing **diversity and inclusion**
  - Build more inclusive societies
  - Become inspiring examples for the rest of Europe
    - **Cascais & Torino**: disadvantaged backgrounds & neighbourhoods
    - **Novi Sad**: LGBTQI
  - The start of addressing sensitive topics related to gender, equality, ethnic and sexual minorities

European Youth Capital

The next ten years...

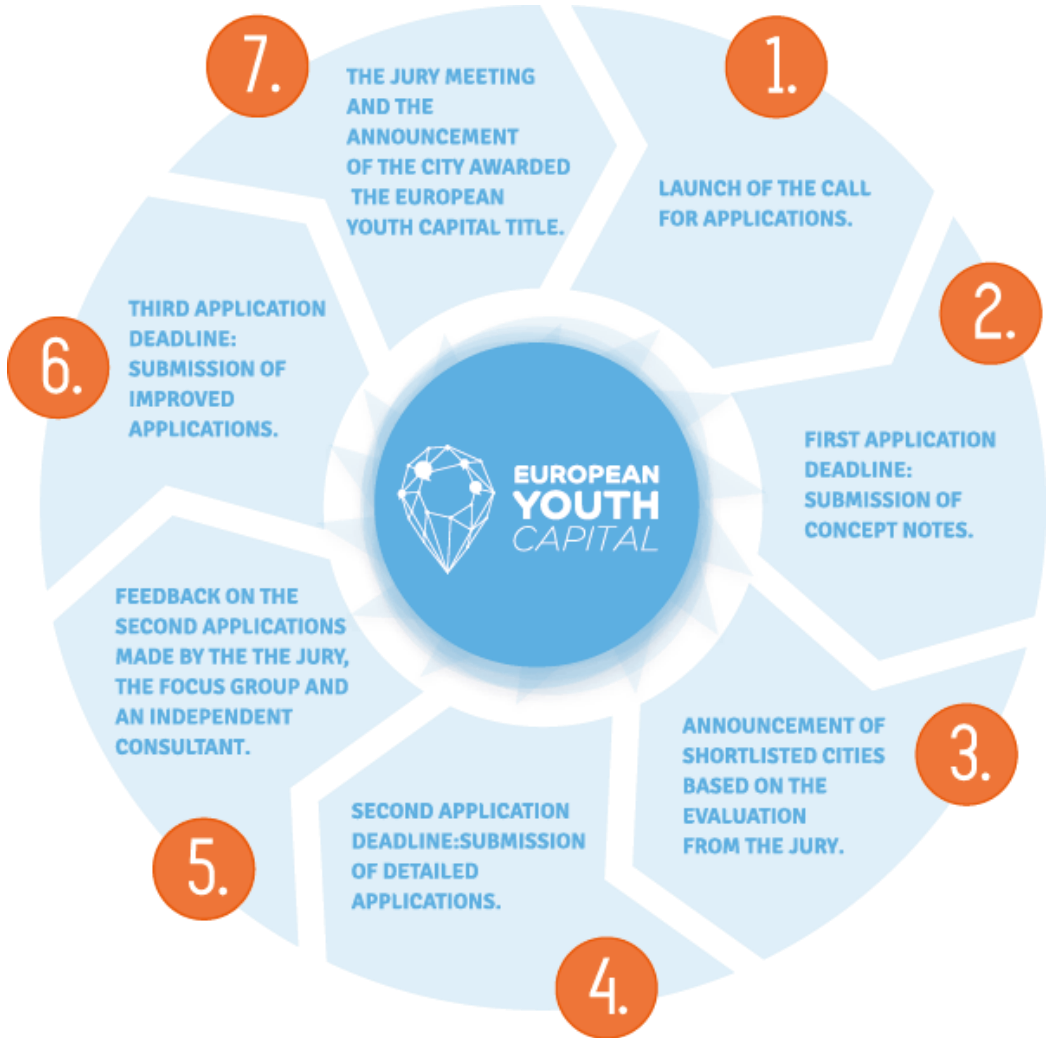


**Future European Youth Capitals  
will continue to be pioneers of  
change, serving as examples of  
visionary social transformation  
to the rest of Europe  
and beyond.**

# European Youth Capital

## Selection process

# THE SELECTION PROCESS AT GLANCE



# ANY QUESTIONS?



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# Keep in touch!

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Thank you!

And let's #youthup  
European cities together



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