



Call for application for European Youth Capital 2010

DEADLINE: 20th September 2008, 12.00 pm CET

The 'European Youth Capital' (EYC) is a title designated to a European city for a period of one year, during which it will be given the chance to showcase its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic life and development. The EYC initiative encourages the implementation of new ideas and innovative projects with regards to the active participation of young people in society, and seeks to present a role model for the further development of other European municipalities.

The 'European Youth Capital' event gives European cities the opportunity to present a multi-faceted programme lasting one year, which highlights the wealth, diversity and common characteristics of Europe's intergenerational approach, and the empowerment of young people throughout the continent.

The first European Youth Capital is Rotterdam, Netherlands (www.reyc.nl), which declared itself European youth Capital 2009 and asked for the support and the commitment of the European Youth Forum to ensure a continuity with a democratic and transparent process. As part of this process, the European Youth Forum is now launching the call for the second European Youth Capital, EYC 2010.

This call is being launched on 30th July with a **deadline of 20th September 2008 (12.00 pm CET)**: applications received after this date will not be considered.

All applications should be sent to eyc2010applications@youthforum.org (original [hard-copy] documents may be requested later in the selection process, where necessary). Assessment of the applications received, and selection of the successful applicant will be made by a selection jury comprised of institutional and civil society youth policy experts, and representatives from the private sector, the media, and local and regional authorities.

If you have any questions on the application and selection process, please contact Alix Masson, at the European Youth Forum Secretariat, alix.masson@youthforum.org.

1. How does a city become a European Youth Capital?

The title 'European Youth Capital' (EYC) may only be applicable when a European municipality distinguishes itself in a positive way and has an ambitious programme for empowering youth. The title is bestowed by a joint selection jury of European youth organisations and institutional partners¹.

2. Why should a city apply to become the next European Youth Capital?

Without doubt, there are a number of benefits for municipalities that consider applying for selection as a European Youth Capital.

- Europe-wide: the EYC programme offers the chance to showcase cultural and professional youth issues. Public recognition is fostered by media and press coverage, which will also increase the reputation and popularity of the city in, for example, a tourist dimension.
- The regional impact will be visible in many respects: the EYC serves as a framework for new projects and ideas and stimulates stronger and more active cultural life throughout the municipality and its neighbouring areas.
- Acquiring additional public funding and new financial donors is made easier,

¹ More information on the selection jury can be obtained upon request from the YFJ Secretariat.

in light of the motivating and encouraging project framework offered by the EYC.

3. Who can apply?

All local authorities in Member States of the European Union and of the Council of Europe are eligible for the title 'European Youth Capital'.

By local authorities, we understand municipalities or groupings of municipalities such as a metropolitan area.

4. How to apply?

Anyone can suggest that a town or city run to become an EYC, however, the authority in question has to submit the following documents:

- an application itself, comprising a draft programme for the proposed EYC period;
- written proof of the town or city's interest (to be signed by the head of executive of the applicant);
- a statement of support by an independent local or regional youth structure. If no local youth council exists, a relevant coalition of local youth NGOs should support the application of the municipality, in written.

The applicant municipality will have to submit an application by the given deadline – 20 September 2008 - describing the goals and ambitions of the EYC period; a roadmap to achieving these goals and ambitions; the foreseen budget; and the methods through which young people will be included.

The selection jury will review the applications and designate the European Youth Capital 2010 by the 1st of November. The official announcement will take place between the 13-15 November 2008, at the European Youth Forum General Assembly 2008.

5. What criteria does the jury use to evaluate the applications?

The proposed budget has to be coherent with the programme proposed by the applicant, and with the following criteria, which must be used by the applicant to develop its application:

1) Motivation: the applicant

- is willing to dedicate time, effort and the necessary resources throughout the course of the one-year period as the European Youth Capital;
- is willing to devote itself to youth-related projects and policies that are sustainable and last beyond the EYC year.

2) Activities: the applicant

- proposes to run at least one activity in each of the following areas:
 - the active participation of young people in society,
 - open space for youth culture,
 - space for informal learning and/or intergenerational dialogue,

- new or innovative approaches to youth employment,
- multiculturalism or ethnic integration,
- international youth co-operation;
- creates a programme specifically for the European Youth Capital year, highlighting the added European value in accordance with the other criteria mentioned here;
- nominates at least one specific contact person that will be employed during the preparation, running and evaluation of the EYC year;
- complements the programme with a specific focus on the culture of its region.

3) Networking and participation: the applicant

- offers possibilities to all young people of the municipality to participate in designing and implementing activities for the EYC year;
- involves or consults other relevant actors and the surrounding region in the planning of the activities in order to raise interest in and ownership of the programme year;
- encourages other actors of the municipality to contribute with their own projects and activities to the programme;
- has (or actively supports the establishment of) an independent structure for youth clubs and local/regional branches of youth associations (a youth council);
- cooperates with its independent youth structure(s) in a fruitful and mutually beneficial spirit;
- provides information about the activities through easily accessible channels, e.g. websites;
- is willing to draw conclusions from the EYC year to impart to its successor, and will similarly take into account the experiences of its predecessor as EYC.

If necessary, the jury may consider breaking these points down into further, more detailed criteria.