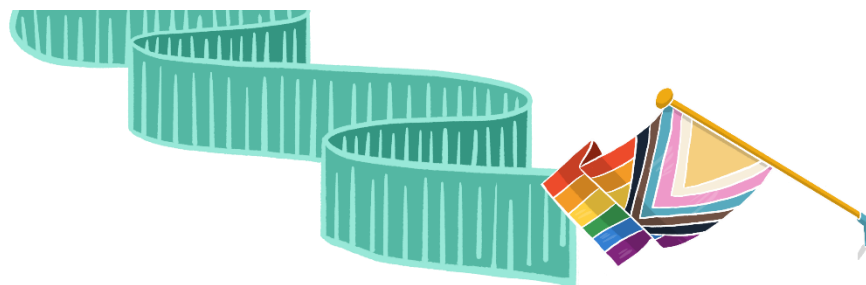




TRUE NORTH
TROMSØ 2026



1. APPLICANT	3
2. MUNICIPAL LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE	3
3. SUPPORTING YOUTH STRUCTURES	4
INTRODUCTION: TRUE NORTH – TROMSØ 2026	10
4. HOSTING INFRASTRUCTURE: VIBRANT, YOUNG AND INNOVATIVE CITY	11
5. INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT CITY:	
FROM YOUTH RIOTS TO EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL?	12
6. MOTIVATION: LIVE / WORK / CREATE	17
7. EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL PROGRAMME: 3 YEARS – AND BEYOND	19
8. MANAGEMENT: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND CROSS-OVER COOPERATION	22
9. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH: HONEST, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE	25
10. PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL: 2023-2027	28
11. EVALUATION: YOUTH-FRIENDLY, INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE	29
12. IMPACT AND LONG-TERM LEGACY: BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE	32
13. BUDGET INDICATIONS: A JOINT EFFORT WITH MANY CONTRIBUTORS	34
14. EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM EVENTS: SEE YOU IN 2026!	35
15. CONTINGENCY PLANNING: YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONTROL, SHARED SENSE OF URGENCY AND STRONG POLITICAL SUPPORT	36
16. LIST OF ANNEXES	40



1. APPLICANT

Municipality	Tromsø
Region	Troms
State	Norway
Total population	77.738 inhabitants (Q1 2022. Source: Kommunefakta Tromsø - SSB)
Population under 35 years old	37.243 (Q1 2022. Source: SSB-tabell 07459) (47,9% of the population) – the youngest city out of Norway's 356 municipalities!

2. MUNICIPAL LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Surname	Wilhelmsen		
First Name	Gunnar		
Position	Mayor		
Address	Street/number	Postal code	City
	Rådhuset, Postboks 6900	9299	Tromsø
Phone	+47 97045232		
E-mail	ordforer@tromso.kommune.no		
Municipal Service Coordinator			
Surname	Johnsen		
First Name	Stig Tore		
Position	Head of Administration		
Address	Street/number	Postal code	City
	Rådhuset, Postboks 6900	9299	Tromsø
Phone	+47 91306411		
E-mail	stig.t.johnsen@tromso.kommune.no		
Webpage	https://tromso.kommune.no/		
Contact person (if different than the two persons above)			
Surname	Vik		
First Name	Sif		
Position	Project manager		
Address	Street/number	Postal code	City
	Parkgata 27/29	9008	Tromsø
Phone	+47 952 06499		
E-mail	Sif.vik@tromso.kommune.no		

3. SUPPORTING YOUTH STRUCTURES¹

Name of Organisation	TROMSØ LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL		
Address of organisation	Street/number Rådhuset, Postboks 6900	Postal code 9299	City Tromsø
Phone	+47 776 97870		
E-mail	thale.myrbakk@tromso.kommune.no		
Web-page	https://tvibit.net/tur?rq=ungdomsr%C3%A5det		
Contact person			
Surname	Drecker		
First Name	Luna		
Position	Elected leader		
Address	Street/number Rådhuset, Postboks 6900	Postal code 9299	City Tromsø
Phone	+4794476703		
E-mail	lunadrecker@icloud.com		

From support letter Tromsø Local Youth Council:

The process to develop the application has been open and we have included a diverse group of young people, not only the local and regional youth councils, but also young people and young adults from various NGOs, independent groups, with different cultural or social backgrounds, as well as policy makers, city planners and other stakeholders. We have enjoyed the process so far and we are looking forward to the future!

Name of Organisation	TROMS COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL		
Address of organisation	Street/number Postboks 701	Postal code 9815	City Vadsø
Phone	+47 77755000		
E-mail	postmottak@tffk.no		
Web-page	https://www.tffk.no/politikk/rad-og-utvalg/ungdommens-fylkesrad/		
Contact person			
Surname	Parahini		
First Name	Paraban		
Position	Elected leader		
Address	Street/number Postboks 701	Postal code 9815	City Vadsø
Phone	+47 97043289		
E-mail	hilde.therese.normo@tffk.no		

From support letter Troms Regional Youth council:

The Regional Youth Council of Troms (UFR) is impressed by Tromsø's commitment and believes they are a pioneering municipality that represents both the county and the region in the best way. We see qualities with Tromsø that stand out and are in international class when it comes to focus on youth and the future.

¹ These are a few of the supporting youth structures – please see support letters in [Annex IIa, IIb, IIc, II d, IIe, II f, II g, II h, II i, II j, II k and II L](#).

Name of Organisation	STUDENT PARLIAMENT, THE ARCTIC UNIVERSITY OF NORWAY		
Address of organisation	Street/number Postboks 6050 Langnes	Postal code 9037	City Tromsø
Phone	+47 77 64 40 00		
E-mail	au@sp.uit.no		
Web-page	https://www.spuit.no/studentparlamentet		
Contact person			
Surname	Toft		
First Name	Jonas		
Position	President		
Address	Street/number Postboks 6050 Langnes	Postal code 9037	City Tromsø
Phone	+47 77 64 40 00		
E-mail	leder@sp.uit.no		

From support letter Student Parliament, Arctic University

The Student Parliament support the City of Tromsø's candidature for European Youth Capital and their ambitions to increase youth participation and young citizenship in the city and whole region.

Name of Organisation	SCHOOL STUDENT UNION OF NORWAY		
Address of organisation	Street/number Kolstadgata 1	Postal code 0652	City Oslo
Phone	+47 22 99 37 00		
E-mail	ssun@elev.no		
Web-page	www.elev.no		
Contact person			
Surname	Lona		
First Name	Petter Andreas		
Position	President		
Address	Street/number Kolstadgata 1	Postal code 0652	City Oslo
Phone	+47 451 16 363		
E-mail	petter@elev.no		

From support letter School Student Union Norway

Elevorganisasjonen is delighted with Tromsø Kommune's support for youth participation because it recognizes the importance of engaging young people in local decision-making processes. By actively involving the youth in community matters, Tromsø Kommune not only empowers the next generation but also benefits from diverse perspectives and innovative ideas.

Name of Organisation	QUEER YOUTH (NGO)		
Address of organisation	Street/number Mariboessgate 13	Postal code 0183	City Oslo
Phone	+ 47 47395011		
E-mail	post@skeivungdom.no		
Web-page	https://skeivungdom.no/lokallag/troms/		
Contact person			
Surname	Fagerheim Riise		
First Name	Theo-Alyxander		
Position	President		
Address	Street/number Parkgata 27/29	Postal code 9009	City Tromsø
Phone			
E-mail	troms@skeivungdom.no		

From support letter Queer Youth Norway

We support Tromsø's application to become European Youth Capital 2026 and we believe that this initiative will make Tromsø and the region a more inclusive and better place to live for LGBTQ+ youth in the future. We also believe that Tromsø's bid could be a positive contribution to raising awareness about LGBTQ+ rights on a European level as well.

Name of Organisation	NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF NORWAY / THE NORWEGIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH COUNCIL (LNU)		
Address of organisation	Street/number Kolstadgata 1	Postal code 0651	City Oslo
Phone	+47 23 31 06 00		
E-mail	lnu@lnu.no		
Web-page	https://www.lnu.no/english/		
Contact person			
Surname	Bjørge Katanasho		
First Name	Margrete		
Position	President		
Address	Street/number Kolstadgata 1	Postal code 0651	City Oslo
Phone	+47 995 60 054		
E-mail	margrete@lnu.no		

From support letter National Youth Council of Norway (LNU)

We support the ambitions of Tromsø to increase youth participation and inclusion in the municipality. Being a European Youth Capital should be used to further develop real and meaningful representation of youth in political processes and society.

Name of Organisation	SÁMI PARLIAMENT'S YOUTH COUNCIL (SUPU)		
Address of organisation	Street/number Postboks 3	Postal code 9735	City Karášjohka/Karasjok
Phone	+ 47 78 47 40 00		
E-mail	supu@samediggi.no		
Web-page	https://sametinget.no/		
Contact person			
Surname	Näkkäljärvi		
First Name	Elle Rávdná		
Position	Leader		
Address	Street/number Postboks 3	Postal code 9735	City Karášjohka/Karasjok
Phone	+ 47 78 47 40 00		
E-mail	elleravnak@gmail.com		

From support letter Sámi Parliament's Youth Council:

We see this as a positive initiative for young people in the Arctic, and it is also positive that the initiative includes indigenous youth. We have positive expectations that such an initiative will also contribute to strengthening the involvement and participation of Sámi youth in the local communities.

Name of Organisation	EUROPEAN YOUTH MOVEMENT NORWAY (NGO)		
Address of organisation	Street/number Prinsens gate 2	Postal code 0152	City Oslo
Phone	+47 958 08 951		
E-mail	Gensek@europeiskungdom.no		
Web-page	https://engelsk.europeiskungdom.no/		
Contact person			
Surname	Meek Stokke		
First Name	Kristine		
Position	President		
Address	Street/number Prinsens gate 2	Postal code 0152	City Oslo
Phone	+47 954 71 101		
E-mail	Kristine@europeiskungdom.no		

From support letter European Youth Movement Norway:

We commend Tromsø's dedication to empowering young individuals and their initiatives. Tromsø as the European Youth Capital in 2026 is an initiative that aligns with European Youth's vision and we fully support their candidacy.

Name of Organisation	YMCA-YWCA NORWAY		
Address of organisation	Street/number Grubbegata 4	Postal code 0179	City Oslo
Phone	+47 22 99 15 10		
E-mail	post@kfuk-kfum.no		
Web-page	www.kfuk-kfum.no		
Contact person			
Surname	Landmark		
First Name	Øivind Mehl		
Position	Secretary General		
Address	Street/number Grubbegata 4	Postal code 0179	City Oslo
Phone	+47 90555925		
E-mail	gs@kfuk-kfum.no		

From support letter YMCA-YWCA NORWAY:

We endorse the candidacy of Tromsø for the title of European Youth Capital and their aspirations to enhance youth engagement and foster youthful citizenship both within the city and throughout the entire region. In our experience Tromsø is an engaged and proficient candidate for this role and task. ... We commend Tromsø's dedication to empowering young individuals and their initiatives. We fully support their candidacy.

Name of Organisation	THE NORDIC YOUTH COUNCIL		
Address of organisation	Street/number Topeliuksenkatu 20	Postal code 00250	City Helsinki, Finland
Phone	+358 40 774 8107		
E-mail	unr@pohjola-norden.fi		
Web-page	www.unginorden.org		
Contact person			
Surname	Emborg		
First Name	Rasmus		
Position	President		
Address	Street/number Topeliuksenkatu 20	Postal code 00250	City Helsinki, Finland
Phone	+358 40 774 8107		
E-mail	rasmusemborg@gmail.com		

From support letter Nordic Youth Council:

The Nordic Youth Council commends Tromsø's dedication to empowering young individuals and creating inclusive spaces for their voices to be heard. (...) We are confident that Tromsø, with its strong commitment to youth participation and its innovative approach to youth development, will excel in hosting a series of impactful initiatives that will inspire young people throughout Europe.

Name of Organisation	EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT NORWAY		
Address of organisation	Street/number	Postal code	City
Phone	+47 95014942		
E-mail	eypnaa@eyp.no		
Web-page	www.eyp.no		
Contact person			
Surname	Undheim		
First Name	Henning		
Position	EYPNAA President		
Address	Street/number	Postal code	City
Phone	+47 95014942		
E-mail	tromso2023@eyp.no		

From support letter European Youth Parliament Norway:

As an organisation aimed at gathering youth from all over Europe to become active and engaged citizens, our collaboration with the City of Tromsø and its many organisations and institutions focused on youth empowerment and inclusion, has shown the city is able to welcome and host large-scale youth events connecting local and Arctic youth with youth from all over Europe.

Name of Organisation	THE ARCTIC YOUTH NETWORK (AYN)		
Address of organisation	Street/number	Postal code	City Kingston, Ontario
Phone	+1 (613) 531-4578		
E-mail	c.bonta@arcticyouthnetwork.org		
Web-page	https://arcticyouthnetwork.org/		
Contact person			
Surname	Bonta		
First Name	Carolyn		
Position	Program Director		
Address	Street/number	Postal code	City Kingston, Ontario
Phone	+1 (613) 531-4578		
E-mail	c.bonta@arcticyouthnetwork.org		

From support letter The Arctic Youth Network:

Since the inception of European Youth Capital in 2009, no Arctic municipality has yet been represented. While the human population in the Arctic is relatively small, youth in these regions are disproportionately affected by impacts of climate change and their voices are frequently overlooked by the dominant southern culture. We thus applaud Tromsø's ambition to increase youth participation and young citizenship in both the city and surrounding region.

INTRODUCTION: TRUE NORTH - TROMSØ 2026

Promoting sustainable economic growth and job creation in the north is in Norway's national interest. Building resilient communities in the Arctic and making the region an attractive place for young people to live and work are important priorities for Norway.

Further developing North Norway as a strong, dynamic and highly competent region is an effective way to safeguard Norwegian and European interests in the Arctic. I therefore give my full support to the city of Tromsø's candidature.

- **Anniken Huitfeldt**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tromsø's decision to apply for the title as European Youth Capital 2026 is based on a 50-year legacy of youth empowerment and participation - from youth riots in the city in the 1970s and-80s to the current situation where methods and initiatives from the region have influenced youth work and youth participation on a National and European level.

Tromsø's bid for EYC 2026 is a commitment to working towards a more youth friendly city and region, active and inclusive youth participation and strengthening and promoting European values.

The perspective of Europe changes when you see it from North of the Arctic Circle. The Arctic has several qualities, but also challenges that require special attention. Tromsø, as the biggest city and the biggest education hub in Arctic Europe, and the youngest city in Norway (!), has a responsibility to include all young people in the region and the High North.

The Arctic – and Arctic Youth - is of key strategic importance for the European Union.

In October 2021, The European Commission and the EU High Representative published a Joint Communication for a stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable, and prosperous Arctic.²

The initiative to become EYC 2026 is bigger than Tromsø itself and comes from a need to secure the youth perspective in the region in this transformative era of demographic development (center/periphery), climate change, new energy policy and changes in security policy, to name a few. The initiative is based on the desire to make the region a better place for young people to LIVE, WORK and CREATE. That is why our initiative includes young people in the central and rural areas of Northern Norway as well as partners from Greenland, the rest of Europe and the whole Arctic region.

By promoting creativity, experimentation, and cooperation, we hope to foster young people's active citizenship and strengthen our contribution to the development of society and policies overall. The next 10 years will be crucial to our success in reconstructing society to make it sustainable and resilient while adapting to the rapid changes around us. **We want to build a fair, sustainable, and inspiring future in the Arctic – and what happens in the Arctic will have an impact on the rest of the world.**

Tromsø being the northernmost European Youth Capital ever, with a strong focus on indigenous identity, sustainability, and innovation, **will showcase the diversity in Europe and emphasize the significance of ALL regions in a united and inclusive Europe.**

The title will not only have an immense positive impact on the city and the whole region, but for a young person from central Europe, Tromsø as EYC would be an eye-opening experience, offering both adventure and personal growth, and a broadened perspective on European and Arctic issues.

² (JOIN(2021) 27 final) - https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-communication-stronger-eu-engagement-peaceful-sustainable-and-prosperous-arctic-0_en

4. HOSTING INFRASTRUCTURE: **A VIBRANT, YOUNG AND INNOVATIVE CITY**

I was attracted to Tromsø by the easy access to the wilderness, and the combination of extreme nature and a liberal, bustling town – and I've never looked back!

- International student (25) at the University of Tromsø

a) **Transportation: Easy and well-connected Arctic hub**³

It is surprisingly easy to reach Tromsø. You can reach the city by plane through **many direct international flights** (currently direct flights from Frankfurt, Paris, Vienna, Gdansk, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Zürich, München, Berlin, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Helsinki, London and Milano) – and the airport is only 4,5 kilometers (10 min by bus) from the city centre! You can also reach Tromsø by over 20 daily flights from Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim with **easy international connections**. There is no railroad in the north (something many young people in the region advocate for), but it is possible to take the train from Oslo to Bodø or Narvik, then bus to Tromsø. You can also reach Tromsø by boat.

b) **Infrastructure: From camping to conference hotels**

Tromsø is a very popular destination for young tourists and students from all over the world. **In January 2023 The New York Times voted Tromsø nr.10 of Top 52 Places to visit in 2023**⁴! Pre-pandemic the city hosted over 200.000 tourists every year, many of them **young** tourists. Tromsø has many adventure opportunities - from chasing the northern lights to the midnight sun marathon and exploring the city's vibrant culture scene, Tromsø offers unparalleled adventures that is **vastly different from anywhere else in the world**. Norway is regarded as an expensive country, but there are ways it can be less expensive than you think⁵! **Tromsø has 5000 hotel beds from backpacker, budget, mid-range and above, and in addition hostels, campsites and cottages, and Airbnb**. The prices vary from 30 euros per night and up. There are 10 conference hotels/facilities in the city, where the biggest conference room can host 1000 people seated for a meeting or 1500 standing at an event. By 2026 there are plans to open 3 new hotels in the city center, and 1 more apartment hotel. **We are negotiating separate EYC-discounts in hostels and hotels during 2026 for young people up to 35 years old, and a special culture discount for young people is already planned in the city budget for 2026.**

c) **Getting around: Compact and easy**

Tromsø's city center is very compact, and most things are within walking distance. There is also a good network of affordable hybrid buses, and **all transportation is accessible for everyone** regardless of disabilities, which is mandatory in Norway. City transport costs 2 euro for young people up to 29 years old, and also 2 euros for all age groups outside rush hour⁶. **We are negotiating with the regional government to get free bus for all young people under 35 years old with ticket to EYC 2026-events on the day of the event.** The region is also developing new and better electric busses with the goal of further reducing energy consumption. You can rent bikes, and in the winter cross country skis, to explore Tromsø. The outer areas further away in the region are accessible by car (most people drive electric cars) or public hybrid busses or express electric ferries.

d) **Accessibility and sustainability: Mandatory by law and a prerequisite for all**

In Norway it is mandatory for all public buildings, transportation, infrastructure, and services to be accessible to **everybody** regardless of any disabilities, and all public and private enterprises are **required by law** to ensure universal design and accessibility for everyone. The requirements for sustainability in buildings are also very high; over 90% of Norwegian buildings are operated and heated with renewable energy/hydro power (ie not fossil fuels).

³ See also <https://www.tromsoeyc2026.no/travel-info/> (login: truenorth)

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/travel/52-places-travel-2023.html?searchResultPosition=1>

⁵ <https://www.heartmybackpack.com/blog/cheap-budget-travel/>

⁶ <https://fylkestrafikk.no/news/student-here-is-everything-you-need-to-know-about-public-transport-in-troms.2890.aspx?sprak=3>

e) **Youth centers and youth services in the city: new and upgraded facilities**

In Tromsø there are many different spaces that can be used for EYC-activities, from large concert and sports halls for 1.000-10.000 people, football stadium, conference facilities, 5-6 co-working spaces, the University campus, theatres, cultural houses, smaller venues, outdoor areas – and a large youth center in the city center and 4 youth clubs in the suburbs.

The Municipality has committed to enlarging the existing 3000m² youth center Tvibit in the city centre with extra 1500 m² and there are plans to remodel an old pool building in one of the suburbs into a large facility for self-governed youth activities. Our partners in NUUK are planning to open a new youth centre and new youth services across Greenland after the “Tvibit-model”, which will have a huge impact on the local community. The municipality has also committed to opening more open youth spaces in the suburbs and rural areas in cooperation with youth organisations and local volunteers. This will become some of the permanent infrastructure and long-term effects of the EYC-year.

f) **Infrastructure for local and international volunteers: Empower Change Through Action**

The EYC-year offers many volunteering opportunities for young people – both from the area and from abroad. Tvibit in the city center will serve as a hub for trainings and capacity building, logistics, staff members, offices, catering for staff and volunteers, and many of the EYC-events. There will also be other central dedicated communal spaces with workstations, meeting rooms, and storage facilities for supplies. The volunteers travelling to Tromsø to be a part of the EYC-year will be accommodated in student dormitories, which will both give them a safe place to stay and an opportunity to befriend local young people.

5. **INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT CITY: FROM YOUTH RIOTS TO EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL?**

There is a great deal of talk about the importance of making the region an attractive place to live. To make this happen, we need jobs, youth centres, sports halls, cultural centres, and innovative education possibilities. These are the kinds of things that will make us stay. When we are able to thrive, we do not feel a need to move away.

- **Young man (22) in youth panel for the White Paper on Arctic Policy in 2020**

a) **About Tromsø: The Capital of the Arctic and the youngest city in Norway**

Tromsø⁷ is the biggest city in the northern part of Norway and it is the largest city in Arctic Europe. Almost 80.000 people from 140 nationalities live in Tromsø and the surrounding areas - 37.000 of them are under 35 years old which is almost 50% of the inhabitants.

Tromsø is the youngest city/the city with the highest density of young people under 35 years old in Norway out of all the 356 municipalities in the country! We have the world's northernmost university, vulnerable natural resources and indigenous communities, almost 13.000 students from all over the world and a great commitment to empowerment and inclusion for all young people in the Arctic.

b) **History: 50 years of civic engagement, youth empowerment – and tragedy**⁸

In the early 1970s and '80s Tromsø was known as the “Hoodlum city” of Norway, as many young people, who felt alienated from the local government and the police, through riots and house occupation demanded a better youth policy in the city and a place to belong. This led to creative self-governed youth structures (heavily inspired by progressive youth culture initiatives in Europe), the birth of the local and regional youth council, the youth center Tvibit⁹ and the development of active participatory methods to empower young people in their local communities. These models and methods have since influenced youth work in Norway, in our twin cities Nuuk (Greenland) and Gaza (Palestine), and our other European partners.

⁷ <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troms%C3%B8>

⁸ Please see <https://www.tromsoeyc2026.no/timeline/> for a timeline of the history of youth participation in Tromsø (login: truenorth)

⁹ <https://tvibit.net/> + <https://youtu.be/Blf4vuYXB3o> - more information in Annex VIIIb Info about Tvibit Youth Centre

In 2026 it will be 15 years since the terrorist attack at Utøya on July 22nd 2011, where 69 politically active young people were killed, and many young people suffered permanent physical and psychological damage. Tromsø and Northern Norway lost several of our young activists and future political leaders that day, including members of our local and regional youth councils.

c) **Situation today: Declining young population, Center vs Periphery, Progress vs Sustainability, Innovative Youth Culture**

Northern Norway accounts for 35 % of Norway's mainland territory, but only 9 % of Norway's population lives north of the Arctic Circle. Although Tromsø still experiences population growth, the region of Northern Norway experiences a **decline in the young population** that is higher than the rest of Norway, and this trend is very significant in the rural municipalities¹⁰.

Many young people move south to get education and work. Inside Northern Norway, there is also a trend of **centralization around the cities**, where young people move from the rural municipalities to the city centers in the region. The classic reasons why young people move away are access to **work** and **education**; **15.000 young people in the region live in rural areas where they don't have access to schools that provide the last 3 years of Upper Secondary Education. Housing, transport, leisure and cultural facilities** are also very important for young adults' choice of where to live.

In the Arctic there are **many young people from indigenous backgrounds**, Sami and Inuit, in particular. Indigenous communities are already facing challenges that result from the impacts of climate change, but within the communities many young indigenous peoples struggle with mental health issues, abuse, stigma/racism and a conflict between tradition and new ways of life.

Tromsø has a **very vibrant youth culture scene** and is in the forefront of new innovative art expressions which combines genres, nature, international influence, and new ways of seeing the world. Check out Tromsø's Northern Expo at SXSW 2021; <https://youtu.be/VZbDYiPLxzs>

d) **Youth Policies: Commitment to experimentation with decision-making processes**

The Municipality of Tromsø has an **Overall Strategy for 2022-2025** that includes the city's main priorities and target areas linked with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG). The Local Youth Council participated in the development of the plan giving their input while the plan was being created and being a consultation body when the plan was adopted by the local government. In this 4-year plan there is a strong emphasis on young people and young adults in the region, including the goal to ***“Experiment with and develop new ways to involve young citizens in innovation and decision-making processes in the municipality”*** (p.115)¹¹.

Tromsø was also a finalist for EYC 2025. **The EYC-application process in 2022 challenged, inspired, and profoundly changed the municipal work with the overall municipal Action Plan for 2023-2026.** The Action Plan is the main priorities for the next four years and it is binding for the municipal bud get. In 2022 the city organised several open workshops with young people to get their input on the Action Plan, which influenced the 5 focus areas for the city's main priorities for the next 4 years, where the focus **“WE WILL PUT YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST”** is now 1 of the 5 main goals.

The municipality, however, **does not have a separate Youth Strategy.** The youth policy in the city is integrated in the overall Action Plan and in all the different departments and sectors in the city, **but one important aim of our EYC-initiative is to develop and implement a Co-Created Youth Strategy for the city.**

¹⁰ <https://www.kbnn.no/artikkel/ungdom-i-nord-status-og-utvikling> + model and more info in Annex VIIIc

¹¹ https://pub.framsikt.net/2022/tromso/bm-2022-handlingsprogram_2022-2025/#/

d) **Young people in formal decision-making structures: Local, regional and Indigenous**

The first **local youth council** was established in 1998, which means that Tromsø has a 25-year coherent history of youth participation in the management of the city! Also, the **regional youth council** has existed for approx. 20 years. The councils are composed of young people from 13-19 years old (both independent individuals and from NGOs) and there are strict rules to ensure diversity in the elected youth council regarding age, gender, cultural and economic background, disabilities, sexual orientation etc.

The Sámi Parliament's Youth Council (SUPU)¹² is a permanent body in the Sámi Parliament in Norway and the **The Arctic Youth Network**¹³ and **The Arctic Indigenous Youth Leadership**¹⁴ are also a very significant voices in the region, representing young people and indigenous youth in the whole Arctic.

Even though the local and regional youth councils and the NGOs work well and have a big impact on youth policies in the region, we strongly believe that real youth participation means giving all young people the methods, resources, and power to implement their own ideas and dreams in the way they see fit, not necessarily in a formal structure where young people are put in a decision-making position usually led and administrated by adults.

Young people are diverse and need diverse paths to empowerment and civic engagement. Having different ways, roles of representation, advocacy, and more action oriented and often practical projects, also serves different personalities, interests and forms of expression. So, what Tromsø is more famous for are our methods of **Project Based Participation**¹⁵ or **Participatory Democracy-models**, which focuses on giving all young people the opportunity to influence their own lives, their local community, and the structures around them through active citizenship and positive autonomous activities and projects. Project-based Participation focus on enabling youth driven projects. Based on trust, fields of interest and a wish to take part in creating an activity, young people get experience in articulating and visualizing projects, concepts and future dreams.

e) **Youth Services: A brief overview**

Tromsø has a wide range of youth support services, ranging from **general municipal services** that support children and young people, young families and youth organisations to very **specific help** for marginalized and disadvantaged groups, children and young people from **low-income families**, young people who have parents with illnesses or addictions etc.

The city runs 5 **youth clubs** in all the suburbs and larger district, 1 youth club for children and young people with severe disabilities, 3 youth centers/culture houses for young people, and 15,9% of children and young people attend the municipal culture school. The special **task force U16** focus on young people who have problems with the law. There are **childcare and family support centres**, special **health clinics** for young people with doctor, nurses and psychologists – free of charge, and **free condoms, tampons and pads** in schools.

Leisure time activities are run both by the city and by NGOs or professional actors, a wide variety of **sports organisations** cater for many different interests, there are **support organisations for homeless people**, homework tutoring, immigrant associations or interest groups for the many **different nationalities** living in Tromsø, **school councils, student councils and activities**, **NGOs** of all kinds etc. And so much more!

f) **European connections and identity: Tromsø as a hub for international cooperation**

Tromsø has a long history with international relations, dating back to international trade routes by sea hundreds of years ago to now being an innovative melting pot of 140

¹² Please see Annex II: Statement of support from Sámi Parliament's Youth Council

¹³ Please see Annex II: Statement of support from The Arctic Youth Network

¹⁴ Arctic Indigenous Youth Leadership: <https://arctic-council.org/news/youth-shaping-the-arctic/>

¹⁵ Please see Annex IXa: Method Project Based Youth Participation and Augmented Participation

nationalities. The city's university is a global leader in Arctic research, and hosts The Centre for Peace Studies, the only university-based peace centre in Norway. There is a long tradition of international cooperation within the youth field, and especially **projects through Erasmus +** and The Norwegian Peace Corps have increased young people's knowledge about Europe and European programs during the last 20 years.

Tromsø has very good connections and interesting youth cooperation projects with its twin-cities Nuuk (Greenland) and Gaza (Palestine). These cities are also included in our EYC-2026 concept. Norway is also committed to the Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030 with its priorities for the youth sector. And even though Norway is not a member of the European Union, the city of Tromsø has implemented the Youth Goals from the current EU Youth Strategy in its youth work. Also, Tvibit Youth Center is member of Eurodesk and ERYICA, and is obligated by the European Youth Information Charter. And our partners in Finland and Sweden are also members of EYCA.

g) **Identifying challenges for young people: many initiatives on many levels**

In chapter 6 we will elaborate on our motivation for applying for EYC 2026, but it is important for us to highlight that there have been many Deliberative Participation-processes to identify young people's challenges and recommendations for action in the region. There has been done extensive research on youth topics in the region in the last few years, which means that the needs and challenges of young people in the region is thoroughly researched and substantiated.

In 2019, a thorough cross-sectoral survey from the area called "**New Voices – from Words to Action**"¹⁶ which highlighted young people's life situation in Northern Norway was published. **100 young people from 18-34 years old** were in the panel, with a focus on variation in geography, age range and life situation. The panel gave their input through surveys with 13 points on the main challenges in the North, in-depth interviews with all the participants and 4 workshops.

More recently, The Norwegian Government presented a **White Paper on Arctic Policy** in November 2020. Parallel to the making of the White Paper, a **youth panel** was appointed to provide advice and insight to the Government through deliberative participatory processes. The youth panel consisted of a diverse group of **50 young people** from the counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark. Participants ranged from 16 to 28 years of age.

This resulted in a special – and unprecedented - **Annex to the White Paper called "An Arctic Policy for Young People"**¹⁷. The panel gave recommendations on:

- **Youth Participation in decision-making structures** (*we have good systems for youth councils and NGOs, but not equal representation in the city council and formal decision-making structures*)
- **International cooperation** (*overall well-developed international cooperation and possibilities, but we are worried about the shared border with Russia, we want to participate more in international cooperation, we want more solidarity projects with the rest of the world, and we want to cooperate more within the Arctic*)
- **Quality of life and mental health issues** (*many young people struggle with sexual and mental health issues, especially in rural or more remote areas, and we want more drop-in health clinics for young people*)
- **Identity, Pride, and Integration** (*we still have a way to go to fully integrate young migrants, LGBTQ+, indigenous youth and young people with disabilities*)
- **Education, Housing and Work** (*we need more innovative technical education in the north, it is expensive to settle down in Tromsø and there are not enough jobs for younger people*)

¹⁶ "New Voices – from Words to Action": https://www.kbnn.no/archive/kbspesial/Fra-Ord-til-handling_Minst.pdf

¹⁷ "An Arctic Policy for Young People": arctic_young.pdf (regjeringen.no)

- **Infrastructure and Innovation** (*infrastructure and transportation is not youth friendly, and we need more programs and funding for young entrepreneurs*)
- **Environmental Sustainability in the North** (*we want a more ambitious climate policy in the Arctic, the transformation of society must happen faster, we want more action and less talk, and the urban planning must be sustainable, inclusive and youth-friendly*)
- **Indigenous communities** (*we are proud of our indigenous identity and traditions, but youth health and mental health among indigenous youth must be prioritized and there is a need to focus on problems with violence and abuse in close relations*)
- **Culture, sports, and leisure activities** (*if you want us to stay in the Arctic we need more leisure time activities (without alcohol) and they should be affordable for everyone*)

And in November 2022 a **new thorough survey** on young people's opinions on their ties to the region, the environment and sustainability, where young people choose to live, the labour market and education, health and quality of life, volunteering, participation, political representation and discrimination was published: [Barometer 2022X English Edition -](#)

h) **Main challenges for young people and the city/Arctic region: A summary**

Tromsø has an important social responsibility as a regional hub. Even though Norway scores 95.8 on the **Youth Progress Index**¹⁸, there are many needs that must be addressed for the young population in the city and the region;

- **Declining young population:** Demographic changes are of great importance for both the current and future social structure in northern Norway and the Arctic, and the decline in the young population is more significant here than in other parts of the country.
- **Sustainability:** For the young population, Tromsø and the region has challenges regarding both environmental, social, and economic sustainability; the environment in the Arctic is extremely vulnerable, the costs of living and settling down in the city are too high, there are not enough jobs for younger people with less education, and social inclusion of vulnerable groups is not good enough.
- **Active citizenship and youth involvement in governing structures and policy making:** even though we have active local and regional youth councils, and a long tradition of youth participation and NGOs and self-governed youth structures, the general youth involvement in policy making is low and there is a lack of representation of young people and different cultural backgrounds in policy making, governing bodies and the city council.
- **Social stigma and challenges among the young indigenous population in the Arctic:** some young people of indigenous background face challenges regarding social stigma, racism, mental health, and struggles with their indigenous identity and expectations towards modern society.
- **Challenging life situation for young people in rural areas:** in the whole region there are 100.000 young people from 0-18 years old, of them 18.000 live in the city of Tromsø. Young people in rural areas have less access to jobs, school, open youth meeting places, activities, health services, and the transportation possibilities to bigger centers are not well developed.
- **Lack of education opportunities in rural areas:** Schools are centralized from secondary school and upwards, which means that many young people must leave their family at age 15 to move to where the schools are.
- **Housing:** Tromsø has the second highest price index on housing in Norway, just after the capital Oslo! We also need more student dorms and affordable housing for young people.
- **Northern Norway has the highest suicide rate in the country and mental health issues:** Many places in the Arctic are quite isolated, the winters are long and dark, young people are often lonely or lack leisure activities close to where they live. Also, the access to low-threshold health services for young people is not very well developed in the rural areas.
- **Not enough open youth spaces and activities in suburbs and rural areas:** most of the youth clubs and youth activities are found in the city centre of Tromsø. There is a high need for open youth spaces and activities in suburbs and rural areas, and better transportation options for rural young people to get to the city centre on evenings and weekends.

¹⁸ <https://youthprogressindex.org/>

- **Lack of young voices in urban planning:** young people in the city and in the region do not feel listened to when it comes to city development, infrastructure, and services. They request better, more inclusive city planning processes and more understanding of the needs and desires of young people.
- **No separate Youth Strategy in the municipality:** young people and youth policy is found in all areas of the Municipal Strategy and Action Plan, but there is no separate strategy or chapter for youth. We believe that a Youth Strategy is needed in the municipality to bring all things concerning young people up on a higher and more coherent level.

6. MOTIVATION: **LIVE / WORK / CREATE**

It is the young people in Northern Norway who are the region's future. There is a need for discussions about what it will take to make us want to stay here. We need more than just idle chatter and events. Young people in the north need things to look forward to, not just one-off events full of pomp and ceremony where everyone just leaves afterwards. Measures and activities must be of a more permanent nature. (...) Real youth participation is when our opinions are translated into practical policy. And the Norwegian Government must start to use 'we' and not 'you' when speaking about the north.

- Young woman (17) in youth panel for the White Paper on Arctic Policy in 2020

a) **What do we want to achieve?**

Our key aim in being EYC 2026 is to make Tromsø and the Arctic a better place for young people to LIVE, WORK AND CREATE – and to achieve that we must make Tromsø and the Arctic more SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE and CREATIVE.

b) **From local Action Plans to National White Paper on Youth in the Arctic**

The initiative to apply for the status as EYC 2026 came jointly from the **local youth council, the regional youth council and Tromsø's youth centre Tvibit**, but there are many different processes behind the initiative. In addition to the research we elaborated on in chapter 5, it is also important to mention that the municipality and the region organise yearly **youth conferences** where young people debate their most important issues and challenges. The results from all these conferences have been implemented in this application.

c) **Working group and the process behind this application**

When the youth councils made the decision to go forward with the application, we had meetings with the **Mayor and all the political committee leaders** in the Municipality, and the **Municipal Director and all the directors of the municipal departments**. In 2022, and again on January 17th 2023, the whole **Executive Committee of the Municipal Council of Tromsø** were presented the concept and they voted in favor of applying for the EYC-title. This means that the project has a **broad political backing** across all the different political parties in the local city council, as well as in the Administration.

A **differentiated working group** was set up through diverse recruiting processes (through youth councils, NGOs, schools, open call on social media, peer-to-peer initiatives, the youth centre and youth clubs, sports organisations etc) with participants from the local and regional youth councils, different NGOs for LGBTQ, Indigenous youth, young people with disabilities, young immigrants, student associations, NEETs, youth politicians, the Mayor, the Municipal Director, city planners, youth workers, public and mental health workers, and others – in total 32 people, but we have also included up to 30 new people in each of the workshops. The working group has had 9 joint workshops discussing the challenges and opportunities in the region, the key goals for the project, potential Programme and activities for EYC 2026, the expected outcome of the project and which goals the city should have beyond 2026.

Parallel input sessions have been held at **schools**, and the **Local Youth Council** has had workshops together with young people in the **School councils** in all the Junior High Schools and High Schools to get even more input on the project. We organised an input-workshop with 40 young people from Norway, Iceland, Finland and Canada to debate the Future in the

Region. Their input confirmed the results from “An Arctic Policy for Young People”. All these sessions have been organised and led by young people themselves.

In the research process we have gone through all the above-mentioned documents, and many more, and logged all the recommendations and insights from all those different workshops and publications.

Members of the youth council and young people from the working groups have presented the project for politicians and other stakeholders on different arenas like “The Arctic Frontiers”, “The High North Dialogue”, and on February 1st 2023 the youth council organised a debate meeting with the Norwegian Prime Minister, where 6 young speakers debated with the Prime Minister in front of an audience of 200 young people at the City Hall.

d) **What we want to achieve: A more Sustainable, Inclusive and Creative society**

The core values in the project are to make Tromsø and the Arctic more **SUSTAINABLE**, **INCLUSIVE** and **CREATIVE**. This includes a commitment to¹⁹:

- Make Tromsø and the Arctic more environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable through projects and initiatives that transcends the EYC-years
- Ensure young active citizenship and youth involvement in municipal governing structures and policy making, create and implement a separate Youth Strategy in the municipality, Youth Agents in all departments and Annual Youth Participation Audits in the municipality
- Create new and innovative methods for youth participation in city development and infrastructure to make the city and region more youth-centered
- Strengthen and promote European values through creative projects, international cooperation initiatives, Arctic Youth Dialogue and other parts in the EYC-programme
- Bring the Arctic to the EU and the EU to the Arctic through the EYC-year
- Open more youth spaces and activities in suburbs and rural areas
- Make youth activities and transportation affordable for all young people through grant schemes og discounts
- In cooperation with local, regional, and national government and private businesses work to develop better and more affordable housing opportunities for young people and young adults
- Develop new and innovative youth services in rural areas and in our twin-city in Greenland
- Promote democracy and human rights, educate engaged young citizens and teach new generations about the importance of preventing violent extremism.
- Work to ensure better inclusion of new young people in the region, indigenous young people, young immigrants and refugees, marginalized groups, and other.
- Create a more diverse and safer environment for expressions and identity
- Create more low threshold drop-in youth health services in rural areas in the Arctic
- Create better working conditions for NGOs and self-governed youth structures
- Encourage and support projects within the young indigenous population in the Arctic
- Challenge academia, research institutions and technology industries to develop innovative research methods on youth participation, establish more innovative technology education in the area, and to use technology to reach young people in the rural areas
- Develop new integration initiatives for young refugees by other young people – on their own terms – like Peer-to-Peer Mentorship initiative
- Increase European mobility for young people in the whole region through exchanges and other mobility projects
- Develop better infrastructure and funding for young entrepreneurs together with academia and private institutions
- Work with schools, youth clubs, sport activities and other organisations to tackle the increasing problem of mental health concerns among young people in the Arctic
- Support creative and innovative projects and activities by all young people

¹⁹ Please see Annex VIIIc: Project Matrix for info on Goals, Activities, Results, Impact, Legacy

SLOGAN	ARCTIC INFLUENCE: YOUTH SHAPING EUROPE'S FUTURE		
GOALS	SUSTAINABLE	INCLUSIVE	CREATIVE
OBJECTIVE	<i>We want to make Tromsø and the Arctic more environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable, and to serve as a model and a source of inspiration for other communities.</i>	<i>We want to motivate and provide young people with the tools to become engaged members of society, advocates for solidarity and positive change inspired by European values and identity.</i>	<i>We want to encourage young people to live creative and inspiring lives, to reach their potential and face future challenges together.</i>
FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Empower Arctic and European youth with knowledge, motivation, and opportunity to contribute to a sustainable Arctic. ○ Ensure young active citizenship and youth involvement in municipal governing structures and policy making ○ Imagine, research, design, and build a youth-friendly city of the future ○ Increase opportunities in funding, infrastructure, employability, and accessibility for young people ○ Exchange good practices and increase our international network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure better inclusion of young people in the region, young immigrants, marginalized groups, and other. ○ Create a more diverse environment for expressions and identity ○ Tackle the increasing problem of mental health concerns among young people ○ Develop an inclusive and peaceful society ○ Make youth activities affordable for all young people ○ Create space for young people to experience diversity and foster European identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give young people room and resources to experiment and break boundaries ○ Develop new and innovative youth services in the region ○ Develop better infrastructure and funding for young entrepreneurs ○ Open more youth spaces and activities in suburbs and rural areas. ○ Develop innovative and creative youth culture activities and festivals that will attract young people from all over Europe
IMPACT STATEMENTS	<i>Youth-led initiatives set a new standard for Europe's sustainable future and serve as a model for innovative and sustainable solutions.</i>	<i>All young people are heard, valued, and have equal opportunities to belong and contribute to shaping our shared future.</i>	<i>Young people are empowered through experimentation and innovation, expanding opportunities for entrepreneurship, community engagement, and cultural enrichment.</i>
CROSS-THEMATIC IMPACT	<i>Shared European values shape a future where youth lead, innovate, and unite all corners of Europe.</i>		

7. EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL PROGRAMME: 3 YEARS – AND BEYOND

In addition to the positive benefits that being European Youth Capital 2026 would bring to Tromsø, the prospect of connecting our young people through collaborative projects to celebrate the year is incredibly exciting. These activities would enable us to strengthen further our bonds as north-western European neighbours.

- Reid Aiton, Director / Young Scot (Charity)

a) Developing the programme: Youth participation at all levels

The project is youth-initiated and youth-driven, and the proposals for the EYC 2026-programme are made by young people, with young people, for young people through a variety of crowdsourcing methods. The process so far has aimed to include as many young people as possible, from as diverse backgrounds as possible (unorganized young people, local and international students, young adults, NGOs, ethnic and sexual minorities, disabled young people, NEETs, young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods and rural areas, indigenous young people, etc).

To get input on the programme, the youth council and Tvibit have organized open workshops with a total of 500 young people and adults together, digital surveys, meetings with youth NGOs, input from pupils in all the schools in the city, digital meetings with partners in the region and Nuuk, meetings with politicians, city administration, the university, and stakeholders, and also thoroughly mapping all the proposed activities and initiatives in the White Paper on Arctic Policy and other current research results.

Already from 2023 we are planning youth policy seminars, cross-sectoral workshops, debates, and other activities, to test out parts of the program and get new feedback and input, while at the same time including the different target groups of young people.

b) Events 2024-2026: 3 years of empowerment activities – and beyond

Through our EYC 2026-programme we aim to create a truly participative process that supports youth participation at all levels. This vision is firmly rooted in our commitment to ensuring that young people are not just beneficiaries of the programme, but active contributors and leaders. We are confident that this approach will not only make the EYC 2026 more relevant and impactful, but it will also foster a new generation of more empowered, skilled, and engaged young people.

We have categorized the activities and initiatives for 2026 in sub-divisions under our goals SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE and CREATIVE to try to get an easier overview of the different proposed actions. We have also designed an example of a program of events divided in 12 months of 2026: **[PLEASE SEE ANNEX VIIIa: DRAFT PROGRAMME EYC 2026, ANNEX VIIIb and https://www.tromsoeyc2026.no/program/](https://www.tromsoeyc2026.no/program/)** (login: truenorth)

c) The programme linked to European Youth Policies: Employability, inclusion, sustainability, youth participation and international opportunities for all

We have identified UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EU Youth Goals, the Priorities of the Council of Europe Youth Sector and the European Youth Forum policies in various parts of the application where it was relevant:

EU Youth Goals	Connecting EU with Youth; Equality of All Genders; Inclusive Societies; Information & Constructive Dialogue; Mental Health & Wellbeing; Moving Rural Youth Forward; Quality Employment for All; Quality Learning; Space and Participation for All; Sustainable Green Europe; Youth Organisations & European Programmes
European Youth Forum	Social and economic rights, inclusion and diversity, digitalisation, youth participation, inclusive democracy, co-management, sustainable development, formal and non-formal education: paid internships
UN SDG	G3: Good Health and Well-being; G4: Quality Education; G5: Gender Equality; G8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; G9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; G10: Reduced Inequality; G11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; G12: Responsible Consumption and Production; G13: Climate Action; G16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
CoE Priorities	Revitalising pluralistic democracy; Young people’s access to rights; Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies; Youth work

Please also see Annex VIIIc: Project Matrix for the different goals linked to the Challenges, EYC-Activities and the expected Results, Impact and Legacy.

d) European identity: ENGAGE / CONNECT / EMPOWER

Through EYC 2026, our goal is to serve as a **model and a source of motivation** for other European cities that aim to enhance their youth policies and view young people as active participants in the society. To achieve this, we plan to **strengthen our connections** with other European cities through both bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Additionally, we will continue to support youth organisations, youth workers and partners in organizing and taking part in **international exchanges** and empower local youth workers to take part in the **European Youth Work Agenda. By doing this, we hope to share our experiences and knowledge gained during the EYC year with cities across Europe.**

The European Commission has recently launched the **EU call “Arctic Youth Dialogue”**. The global objective of the call is to increase the contribution of young people to the implementation of the updated EU policy for the Arctic, **bringing the Arctic to the EU and the EU to the Arctic**. The specific objective of the call is to promote dialogues between the Arctic youth and the European youth to strengthen engagement, empowerment, and participation of young people in policy making processes addressing the challenges faced by the Arctic. Tromsø is participating in a consortium with the Arctic Programme of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), The Arctic Youth Network, APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists), Arctic Mayors Forum, The Sami Council and the European Youth Parliament in a 4 year project for this call (autumn 2023- spring 2027), where the aim is to **“Engage, empower and connect Arctic Youth in policy making, foster connections between the Arctic and European Youth, and promote European values amongst young people and beyond.” And the day before we sent our Final EYC-Application, we got the news that our consortium’s application was provisionally selected!**

One of the core activities is a “living” and dynamic “Arctic Youth Dialogue” which could become part of the annual EU Arctic Forum, and which could eventually also be the base for an Arctic Youth Forum. The Arctic Youth Dialogue aligns perfectly with our EYC-project, and Tromsø, as the biggest city in Arctic Europe, **will be a key partner in the future “Arctic Youth Dialogue”, and thereby also strengthening the European dimension of the EYC-project.**

We would also like to highlight some of the activities in EYC 2026 with focus on European dimension:

- **Arctic Youth Dialogue-activities 2023-2027**
- Apply for – and hopefully achieve - **Erasmus+ accreditation**
- **European Youth Exchanges** with different topics and partners
- **Erasmus+ KA2-initiatives**
 - o Cooperation projects with Denmark and Greenland in developing new methods of empowerment of young culturally active entrepreneurs
 - o **“CoDesignYouthFuture”** - a peer process between European cities that want to promote and develop Co-Created Youth Strategies and exchange knowledge and experiences in the development of Local Youth Policies.
 - o **Other KA2-initiatives**
- **Emphasis on Shared European Challenges and Values:** Addressing mutual European challenges such as mental health, youth participation, rural youth engagement, and sustainable urban planning
- **“Virtual hubs and physical meetings”** with partners from the Arctic and Europe
- **“Queering Arctic Youth Conference”** with participants and partners from Europe
- **“Snapshot Europe” – Diverse voices and stories from the whole of Europe;** documentary film project, 200 young filmmakers from 50 states with different socio-cultural backgrounds present their life as young Europeans in film, photo, and text.
- Activities by the **NA for ERASMUS+** programme in Norway with the aim to strengthen local democracy in Europe by building the capacity of youth policy stakeholders in re-defining, creating, and reforming youth participation in decision making (Strategic meetings, TCP-activities, “Democracy Reloading, European trainings and study visits)

- Plan for implementing the **European Youth Work Agenda** and empower local youth workers to take part in **the Bonn Process**
- Cooperation with former and future EYCs **Braga,/Cascais, Klaipeda, Lublin and Ghent**
- Cooperation with **Oulu – European Capital of Culture 2026**
- **EU Knowledge Seminars and Conferences**

Our aim is to establish Tromsø as an active partner within the European youth field, fostering a European dimension through the alignment with European goals, participation in European networks and events, and the promotion of shared European values.

e) Innovation: creating new methods that are transferable to other European realities

We believe that our idea of creating methods for **annual Youth Participation Audits** and **Youth Agents** in all the municipal departments are quite innovative. The methods will be experimental with a goal to find out how the different departments in the city work with youth participation, whether the initiatives have been followed through, how action plan processes have included young people from diverse background and whether the recommendations from young people have real and lasting impact. We also believe that the strong focus on **indigenous young people** and the **regional** and Arctic perspective in our project will bring an added value to the EYC-title and could inspire future candidates to think outside the box and outside their city territory.

And because of the work we have done with the EYC-project, the young people in the project team are now also a part of designing innovative youth participation processes in developing and revising national laws, which hopefully will lead to designing new methods and processes for youth participation in national legislative decision-making-processes in Norway. Which, hopefully, could have an impact on European level, as well²⁰.

f) Sustainability: Lasting impact and partnerships

All the feedback from the workshops, input and reports have been clear that we want lasting co-operations, infrastructure, activities and merchandise, not one-off events or a disposable mentality, so this is what we are aiming for in the programme. The relationships that are made through the co-operations will be the foundation for lasting partnerships. Also, on Sept 29th 2022 it was announced that Tromsø is one of 150 European cities or regions that is a part of the **EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change**, and will implement more sustainability activities that will have an effect on the EYC-programme.

g) Outreach: the whole Arctic is our playground

As you can see from the endorsement letters, we have many cooperating and supportive partners in a wide variety of fields and with a mayor outreach in Europe and the whole Arctic. We will focus on a variety of approaches towards different groups of young people to ensure inclusion and diversity in both the development of the programme, and as contributors and audience. The working group has a large outreach to different target groups, and we will also need the help from schools in the region, and our large network of NGOs, youth services, international partners etc. We will utilize youth culture, festivals, sport and cultural events as a tool for communication of social values and key aims.

8. MANAGEMENT: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND CROSS-OVER COOPERATION

Now that I see the positive feedback from the politicians and the other stakeholders, I truly believe that we can become a real Youth Capital!

- **Non-binary youth (21) on joint workshop in the working group**

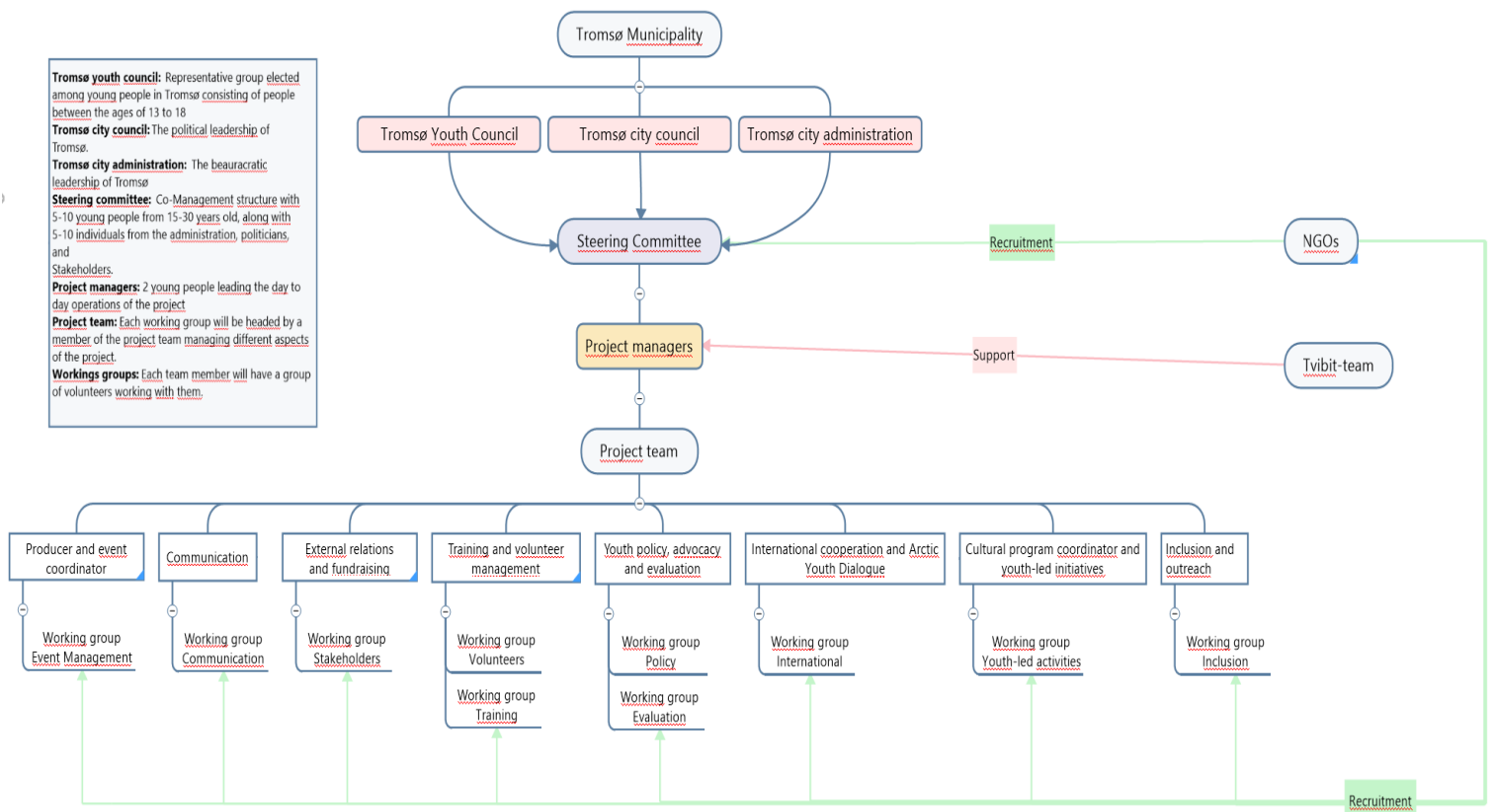
²⁰ [Youth want louder voice in EU legislative process – EURACTIV.com](https://euractiv.com/en/youth/youth-want-louder-voice-in-eu-legislative-process)

a) Youth participation: A factor on all levels, always

Tromsø EYC 2026 is a youth-led initiative, empowering young people to shape and manage the project organisation and the event programme. Young people are the primary decision-makers and project leaders, and will also serve as trainers and advocates for other young people during the EYC-year. Our capacity-building programme aims to develop skills in important areas as project-, logistics- and event management, as well as advocacy methods, empowering young people to be the key members in management, volunteering, and event groups. Young people will also engage in data analysis, monitoring, and evaluation.

The success of the implementation of the EYC depends on us being able to reach a large and diverse group of young people – and adults. We already collaborate with a large network of local and regional NGOs, youth services, sport clubs, stakeholders, the National and Nordic Youth Councils, and international partners, and will expand this cooperation further.

b) Proposed model: a large eco-system and diverse voices, but efficient organisation²¹



c) Decision-making: Co-Management and young people in charge

The city of Tromsø is the project applicant and the project owner. The municipality is also the employer of the Project Team and will handle all financial and contractual obligations. This ensures job security and stability for the young people employed in the EYC-Team.

The city administration will provide human and financial resources to support the project. Tvibit Youth Center will provide support for the operations of the project team and provide infrastructure and office space for the team and the volunteers.

The **Steering Committee** and the **Project Team** will have their own decision-making authority, with the Steering Committee focusing on **Strategic decisions** and the Project team handling **day-to-day tasks**. Recruitment of the Steering Committee and the Project Team will be done by the municipality.

²¹ More elaborate model in ANNEX VIII d- **Organisational Structure and Tasks**

Co-Management will be ensured through the Steering Committee. This committee will include up to 10 young people (independent individuals, youth council members, NGO members, and representatives from minority groups) between the ages of 15-35, and up to 10 individuals from the administration, politicians, and stakeholders.

- c) **Project management: career opportunities, trainees, freelancers and volunteers**
Shared responsibility - 2 Lead Project Managers: We are planning to share the main project management between two young lead project managers – in our experience with big complex projects, this method enhances project outcomes and team dynamics. A shared project management responsibility **will ensure diverse skill sets and expertise, extra resources and continuity, enhanced decision-making, improved communication and stakeholder management and increased flexibility and adaptability.**

The total EYC-project management team will consist of 10-15 employed young people up to 35 years old who will be responsible for the implementation of the different areas/work packages. They will work full time on the project. We want to recruit newly educated young people from the region or coming to the region, so that the project serves as a career opportunity for young people. They will all be responsible for various sub-working groups divided in different topics/areas of responsibilities.

The working groups and/or reference groups under each area are open to all and will consist of young people from 15-35 years old, volunteers and various stakeholders. This way, we ensure diversity and a wider range of perspectives and ideas, include new voices, reach all target groups, and ensure that the project addresses the current needs of all young people.

In implementing the programme, we intend to pay people organising activities or giving content to the programme to support young freelancers, artist, trainers, and other young people trying to establish themselves in the creative industry. We will also have trainees under education at the Kaospilot school for creative leadership in Aarhus, Denmark, young people through the European Solidarity Corps, and other volunteers. There will be a training- and capacity building programme for volunteers helping to implement the programme.

- d) **Partners, contributors and sponsors: A diverse and international cooperation**
In cooperation and coordination with the Norwegian National Youth Council, we have strong support from the Nordic-Baltic members in the European Youth Forum, and close connections with the Danish, Swedish and Finnish National Youth Council, in addition to the Nordic Youth Council. We intend to involve them further in the planning and execution of the EYC 2026-process.

We intend to cooperate with previous, current, and future EYCs to exchange good practices and experience through KA2-projects and study visits. Also, there will be a dedicated team member who is responsible for the contact with International Youth Organisations and coordination with EYF, including fulfilling the cooperation agreement, receive input on current European Youth Policy-themes important for EYF, organise meetings etc.

- e) **The Value of volunteering: a way to connect with society and learn new skills**
Even though one of our top priorities is to have paid positions and traineeship for young people in the making of the EYC-year, we also invite young people and NGOs to actively participate and volunteer in the activities. Tromsø is a regional centre and university city, and it is an interesting destination for young people from the region, Norway, Europe and the world. Being a volunteer is a great way for new residents to meet people, get new friends, achieve new knowledge and learn new skills. In other words, it is a great way to plug and play, to be part of the city, be an active participant and engage on many different levels. It creates opportunity to interact with the city, to influence, have a sense of belonging and purpose, and creates skills development useful for future careers or for life in general.

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH: **HONEST, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE**²²

We challenge a negatively charged understanding of living in the north. From negative descriptions of the north, such as the outskirts, marginalized and a place without a future for young people, to the idea of the High North as relevant, with environmentally friendly resources where it is possible for people to live sustainable lives in line with the UN's sustainability goals.

- Anonymous student in Tromsø to the research study «A world worth living in»²³

a) **Title of the EYC-campaign: TRUE NORTH - Tromsø 2026**

We have chosen the name "True North²⁴ - Tromsø 2026" as the main title of our campaign, not only because Tromsø will be the northernmost European Youth Capital ever, but also because we want to challenge the narrative about the north as marginalized, cold, and desolate without hope, but rather a magical place where creativity and imagination reigns.

b) **Overall planned communication message: Sustainable, Inclusive and Creative**

As the overall aim for our project is to make Tromsø and the Arctic more SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE and CREATIVE, these values are also in the core of our communication.

Our communication values are:

- **Honest** – *we will be honest and truthful in our communication and the stories we use will be authentic*
- **Inclusive** – *we will be a safe platform for different opinions and ensure that all voices and all groups of young people are heard*
- **Playful** – *we will communicate in a creative, playful, and youthful way, using channels, language and visual communication that are attractive to young people*
- **Sustainable** – *we will find sustainable solutions for our communication channels and merchandise*
- **Open source** - *we will openly share our thoughts, methods, resources, ideas, and values*

c) **Target groups and key messages: Youth Shaping Europe's Future**

WHO: All Young people 15-35 - pupils, students, organised and non-organised youth, NEETs, LGBTQ+, Indigenous youth, disabled youth, young immigrants and refugees, minorities, entrepreneurs

WHAT: *This is our year! Make the most of it and everybody is welcome! Dare to dream big, to explore new ideas and to create a positive change!*

WHO: Local, regional and national Youth NGOs

WHAT: *Get involved in the EYC-project and activities. Promote your own activities through the EYC-year. Help us with your knowledge and learn new skills. Together we can make a change!*

WHO: Stakeholders on local and regional level - politicians, administration, parents, businesses, the tourist industry, the community in general

WHAT: *Help us to make the Arctic a better place for young people to LIVE, WORK and CREATE. If you want the city and the Arctic communities to thrive, you need to transfer power to the young people in decision making structures, and in creating the city they want to live in.*

WHO: Media - local, regional, and national

WHAT: *Help us spread the message and communicate positive and diverse stories. Give young people a platform to be visible and make young voices heard.*

²² Please see Annex VIIIe for an Overview of the Communication Plan with Communication Objectives, Target Groups, Key Messages and Communication Channels/Tools

²³ [Stories about 'a world worth living in': About the green and the blue shift in youths' engagement in sustainability](#)- published 15.06.2022

²⁴ Definition: north that is calculated by using an imaginary line through the Earth rather than by using a compass : - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/True_north

WHO: Stakeholders on national level – the Parliament, the Government, Ministries, sponsors
WHAT: *Help us build a fair, sustainable and inspiring future in the Arctic. Put action behind your words and live up to the White Paper on Arctic Policy.*

WHO: Stakeholders on European level

WHAT: *What happens in the Arctic will have an impact on the rest of the world. We need to secure the youth perspective in this transformative era of demographic development, and changes in climate, energy and security policy.*

d) Communication tools: flexible, sustainable, and future oriented

As everything changes rapidly, we are sure that by 2026 there will be many new ways of communicating (especially for young people), so the channels and tools we use to reach the target groups will have to adapt to the realities at the time. We have analyzed the different target groups and highlighted the best communication tools to reach each target group.

We will use different approaches to different groups of young people to ensure inclusion and diversity, focusing on accessible communications for young people with disabilities, use different languages (Norwegian, English, Sami, Arabic, etc) to reach young immigrants etc. To be sustainable, we have favored digital and social media, over print media and flyers.

Social Media:

- Instagram: young people 15-35
- Snapchat: young people 15-25 years old
- Discord: Young people 15-25
- Tik Tok: young people 15-20
- (Whatsapp is not used much in Norway at the moment, but that might change until 2026)
- Facebook: parents, politicians, other stakeholders
- (positive) Influencers: young people 15-30

Website: www.tromsoeyc2026.no - all target groups (login password for the jury: **truenorth**)
The website is now being developed by young people – PLEASE HAVE A LOOK!

Digital media:

- Digital newspapers: stakeholders, politicians, parents etc
- Info screens on schools and university: young people 15-30
- Digital magazine/fanzine: young people 15-35 + international youth in other countries
- Podcasts: young people 15-35, blind and visually impaired young people
- Newsletters: stakeholders, politicians, parents, schools, universities, NGOs etc

Face2Face:

- Tours and events: young people 15-35, Youth NGOs
- Presentations: stakeholders, politicians etc
- Press conferences: media

Peer-to-peer Communication Campaigns²⁵: will involve creating authentic, relatable content targeting young people, and engaging participants through interactive and visual methods.

Merchandise: We will focus on sustainable merchandise that we as young people actually want to use, and that support local and regional producers and young artists, with a special focus on indigenous artists and crafts.

Mascot: Naia the Narwhal

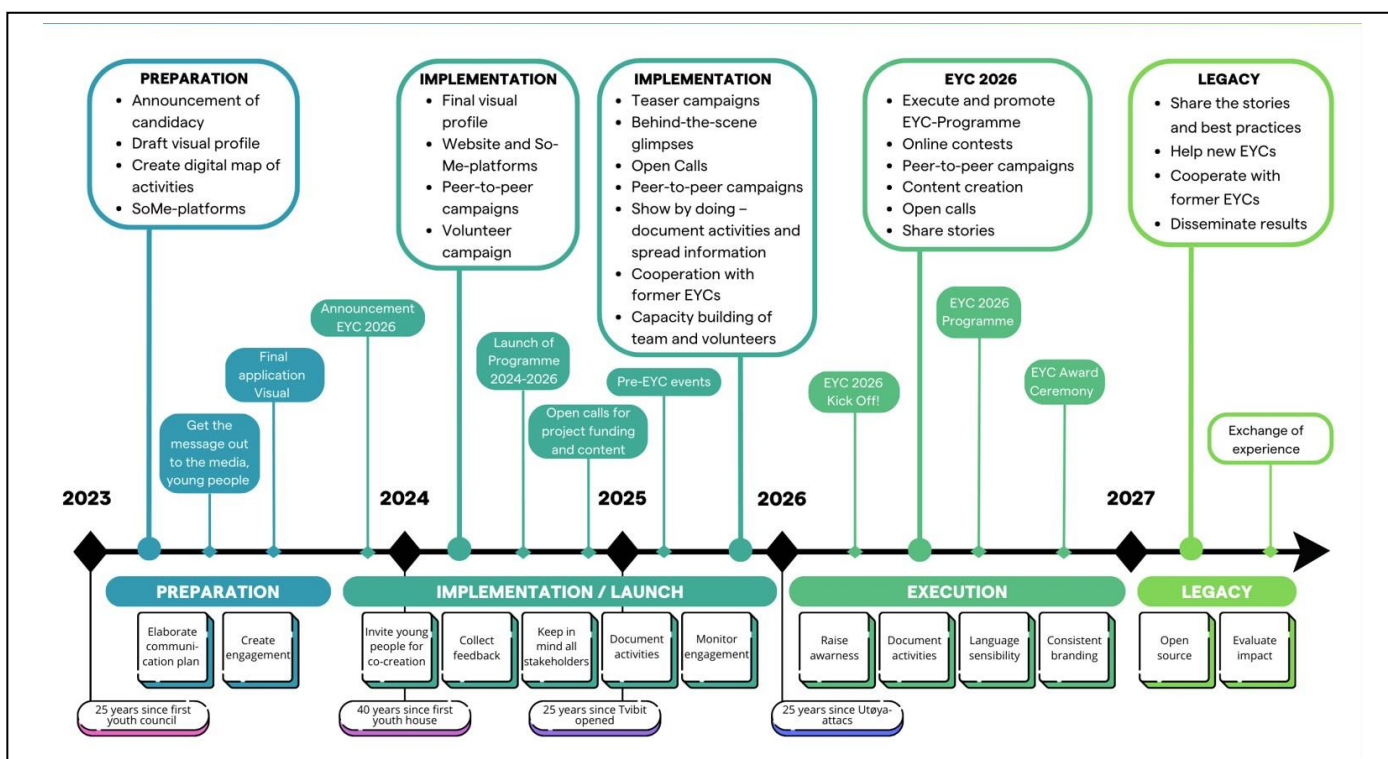
We have created “Naia the Narwhal” as a mascot for Tromsø EYC 2026. It started as a fun activity, but we quickly saw that creating a mascot for our bid gave us energy and fosters a

²⁵ Please see Annex VIII for an Elaboration of the Peer-to-Peer Communication Campaigns

sense of unity and identity. “Naia the Narwhal” will be a spokesperson for sustainability and can also articulate opinions that we as the official EYC-team cannot.

Visual branding: Urban Arctic: Parallel to the application process, a group of young artists have been working to develop the visual concept and branding for the project. The front page of the application has been made by a young indigenous artist from the northern region. Also, young filmmakers, photographers and 3D-artists have collaborated on making a video to present the project which will be presented on the pitch in Brussels. In addition to using the official EYC Logo, we will also have a separate logo for Tromsø EYC 2026.

e) Communication plan: an overview²⁶



f) Outreach strategy:

In addition to digital platforms, schools, face-to-face, media, peer-information, youth centres/clubs, sports organisations, cooperation with NGOs etc we acknowledge that outreach to rural areas, indigenous people and marginalized young people needs special attention. To reach indigenous young people we have a very good cooperation with the **Sámi Parliament's Youth Council (SUPU)** in Norway, The **Arctic Youth Network** (<https://arcticyouthnetwork.org/>) and the **Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat** in the Arctic Council which provides support to the 6 Arctic Indigenous organisations in the Arctic Council, including Arctic Athabaskan Council (Alaska&Canada), Inuit Circumpolar Council (Greenland, Alaska, Canada and Chukotka), and the Saami Council (Norway, Sweden, Finland).

And through our membership in ERYICA and Eurodesk we have a special focus and resources in Peer-to-Peer information and training²⁷, which is a good method to reach marginalized young people. The method of **peer educators** is based upon the belief that young people deliver a message to their peers that is often more credible and efficient than when it is delivered by authority figures. Therefore, it is a very valuable method to increase the **outreach, relevance, and quality of the information**. Through training ambassadors and selected young people from diverse backgrounds we aim to create, disseminate, and evaluate peer-to-peer information campaigns throughout the EYC preparation and execution phase.

²⁶ Please see Annex VIIIg for a larger version of the Communication Timeline Tromsø EYC 2026

²⁷ https://eurodesk.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Youth-Participation_YouthInfo_EN.pdf

10. PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL: 2023-2027²⁸

Tromsø contains unique structures for youth participation, and for collaboration between local and international youth. EYP Norway is excited to continue our close collaboration with the city, and to welcome many European young people to the European Youth Capital 2026.

- Henning Undheim / EYPNAA President - European Youth Parliament Norway

2023: APPLICATION AND CANDIDACY

- Engage young people, NGOs, the municipality, and Stakeholders
- The project team works closely with other city departments, youth organisations, and young people to prepare the candidacy for the European Youth Capital application
- Consult with young people on priorities and program content
- Conduct workshops, input processes, open spaces
- Research all material
- Develop communication plan
- Build the smaller project team and Working group
- Recruit young ambassadors
- Establish working groups
- Establish cooperation with external partners and funders
- Co-partner in consortium for EU-call “Arctic Youth Dialogue”
- Participate in European projects that strengthen the candidacy
- Study other European Youth Capitals and visit current EYC Lublin and next EYC Ghent
- Participate in European youth events

2024-2025: LAUNCH

- Secure the funding on local, regional, national and European level after winning the EYC-title
- Work with sponsors to get funds from private partners
- Recruit extended project team – young people under 35 years
- Further develop the working groups
- Establish Steering Committee (Co-Management) with monthly meetings
- Complete visual profile and communication plan
- Launch capacity building programs²⁹ for the extended EYC-team, NGOs, youth workers and civil servants in the municipality
- Capacity building workshops and meetings with NGOs and youth services
- Study and cooperate with former EYCs
- Set up an EYC project-office and infrastructure for staff and volunteers
- Further develop methods for evaluation of the EYC-year and individual projects
- Launch studies of the impact of the EYC-year (baseline)
- Start EYC-pre-programme activities and initiatives
- Participate in national and European projects that are relevant to the EYC-year
- Project activities in “Arctic Youth Dialogue”
- Launch open calls for youth-led projects
- Further develop the programme, cooperation-agreements and partner search
- Further develop methods for evaluation, Annual Youth Participation Audits and Youth Agents
- Communicate the EYC-programme and motivation
- Apply for Erasmus+ accreditation, facilitate international youth exchanges and promote European mobility possibilities
- Participate in conferences and seminars as the Arctic Futures Symposium (Brussels) and Arctic Frontiers to make the initiative internationally known
- Tromsø as EYC 2026 visible in the Norwegian Chairmanship of The Arctic Council

²⁸ Please see Annex VIIIh for Project Plan and VIIIi for an Elaboration of the Preparation Plan

²⁹ Please see Annex VIIIj for a more thorough plan for Capacity Building

2026: EXECUTION:

- **Implement the EYC 2026-Programme**
- Project activities in “Arctic Youth Dialogue”
- Implement international cooperation projects
- Develop and implement new Youth Policy and Youth Strategy in the municipality
- Organise the EYF Event and Award Ceremony
- Regular meetings with stakeholders, partners, working groups
- Cooperation and exchange of experience with former and future EYCs

2024-2027: MONITORING

- Identify risks, timeframes and modify actions
- Monitor progress and have regular meeting points with EYF
- Develop co-creative youth citizen science methods and engage students
- Mid-term evaluations and adjustments
- Youth participation in evaluation and dissemination
- Cooperation with universities and researchers

2027: CLOSURE

- Final evaluation and reports
- Implement permanent initiatives on local and regional level
- Follow up research projects
- Tromsø is a member of NEYCs and will keep spreading good practices in Europe
- Calls for new ambitious initiatives by young people in the Arctic
- Implement new digital tools and methods for urban development

11. EVALUATION: **YOUTH-FRIENDLY, INCLUSIVE, AND INNOVATIVE**

As our ongoing research shows Youth Participation is still a field filled with knowledge gaps and few structures for systematic and rigorous work, both in a Norwegian and Nordic context. Tromsø's visions and plans to strengthen youth participation work in the upcoming years will have ramifications not only in the region, but also on national and international level, as we believe it will open for a multitude of new stakeholders, institutions and engaged individuals to become partners in future research on the topic.

- **Aina Landsverk Hagen / Research Professor, Oslo Metropolitan University**

a) Evaluation methods: ensure young people's perspectives, needs and feedback

Together with our partner universities we want to create youth-friendly evaluation methods to assess the impact of Tromsø as the European Youth Capital in 2026. It is important for us to engage young people throughout the evaluation process to ensure their perspectives, needs, and feedback are considered, while at the same time ensuring that the process is youth-friendly and meaningful to the participants.

The evaluation process will include:

- ✓ **Involving Young People from the Start:** We will form a working group including local youth representatives. Their input will help shape the evaluation process from the start.
- ✓ **Co-create Evaluation Criteria:** Collaborate with young people to develop evaluation criteria that are relevant and meaningful to them.
- ✓ **Team member responsible for Evaluation:** The EYC-project team will have a dedicated team member responsible for Policy and Evaluation throughout 2024-2027 and a sub-working group with stakeholders and researchers involved in evaluation
- ✓ **Use the EU Youth Test as inspiration for Evaluation Methods:** adapt core principles of inclusivity, youth engagement, and impact measurement to the goals and context of our EYC-program.
- ✓ **Diverse Data Collection Methods:** Use a mix of data collection methods that appeal to different preferences and communication styles of young people.

- ✓ **Accessible Technology:** Ensure that the technology used for data collection and reporting is accessible and user-friendly, with consideration for various levels of digital literacy among young people.
- ✓ **Anonymity and Privacy:** Guarantee anonymity and privacy for participants to ensure honest feedback.
- ✓ **Inclusive Language:** Use inclusive and youth-friendly language in all communication materials and surveys
- ✓ **Community-Based Approaches:** Engage local youth NGOs, schools, etc to reach a diverse group and conduct evaluations in various settings to ensure inclusivity.
- ✓ **Youth-Managed Data Collection:** Empower young people to collect and analyze data themselves, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability.
- ✓ **Visual Representation:** Create visual reports and infographics to make the evaluation findings easily understandable and engaging for young people.
- ✓ **Feedback Loops:** Establish mechanisms for ongoing feedback and continuous improvement. Regularly update young people on the progress and outcomes
- ✓ **Incorporate Technology and social media:** Use social media platforms and digital tools to reach and engage young people where they are most active.
- ✓ **Youth Events and Workshops:** Discuss evaluation findings and encourage youth participation in various EYC-events
- ✓ **Capacity Building:** Provide training and resources to the EYC-team, NGOs and young people interested in participating in the evaluation process, helping them develop skills in data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- ✓ **Repeat and Improve:** Continuously seek feedback from young people on the evaluation process itself and use their input to refine and improve future evaluations.

b) Evaluation Objectives/Aims/Key Questions: Participation, Impact and Sustainability

Evaluation Objectives

- **Youth Engagement and Participation:** Evaluate the level of youth involvement, and participation in the events, activities, and decision-making processes throughout the year.
- **Skill Development and Learning:** Assess the opportunities provided and the impact of the EYC-year on the personal and professional development of young people including skill development, networking opportunities, and knowledge gained
- **Social Impact and Inclusivity:** Evaluate how the EYC-year fostered inclusivity, diversity and social cohesion among young people from various backgrounds both within the region and across European borders.
- **Sustainability and Legacy:** Assess the sustainability of the initiatives and projects initiated during the EYC- year and determine the potential long-term positive effects in youth empowerment and social inclusion.
- **Visibility and Outreach:** Evaluate the visibility of the EYC-year, both locally and internationally, and measure the effectiveness of communication and outreach strategies in promoting the objectives and values of the initiative.

Evaluation Aims:

Assessment of Youth Empowerment and Inclusion: Determine whether the EYC-year has empowered young people in decision-making, advocacy, and community involvement

Measure Social Impact and Well-being: Evaluate the impact of EYC-initiatives on the well-being and quality of life of young people in the city and region.

Evaluate Collaboration and Partnerships: Evaluate the effectiveness of partnerships and collaborations between the EYC-team, local authorities, NGOs, International partners, and other stakeholders.

Measure Promotion of European Values: Evaluate the extent to which the EYC has promoted European values, a sense of unity and diversity.

Determine Project Sustainability: Determine the sustainability of the projects and initiatives introduced during the EYC-year, identifying factors that contribute to their continuation and long-term impact.

Key Evaluation Questions (the list is not exhaustive):

1. *To what extent were young people engaged and involved in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the European Youth Capital year's activities and initiatives?*
2. *To what extent has the EYC contributed to the empowerment of young people, enabling them to take an active role in shaping the future of their community?*
3. *In what ways did the EYC-year contribute to new skills, knowledge, and personal development among the young people involved?*
4. *To what extent were the initiatives and projects initiated during the EYC-year sustainable and likely to have a lasting positive impact beyond 2026?*
5. *How efficiently were financial and human resources managed during the EYC year, and were they allocated to the most impactful projects and initiatives?*
6. *How did the initiatives impact social inclusion and integration of marginalized or underrepresented youth and youth from indigenous background within the region?*
7. *How successful was the EYC-year in promoting inclusivity and fostering dialogue between various youth groups on regional and European level, NGOs, international partners and other stakeholders?*
8. *How effective were the communication and outreach strategies in promoting the EYC-year's objectives, both within the local community and on a broader European and international scale? How can these strategies be improved for future initiatives?*
9. *What lasting connections, networks, or partnerships were established during the EYC-year, and how are they being sustained after 2026?*
10. *Are stakeholders, including young people, local authorities, sponsors, and the wider public, satisfied with the outcomes and impact of the European Youth Capital year, and what recommendations do they have for improvement in the future?*

c) Innovation: Youth-driven data collecting, Co-creative citizen scientists and youth focused impact assessment

In addition to ongoing and post-project evaluation processes, we would like to implement new innovative evaluation methods like Open Data Hub, citizen scientist-methods and data collection, all run by young people. We are actively involving young people in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme and sub-activities. Young people will be involved in deciding what to measure and how to measure it. This will not only make our measurements more relevant, but it will also develop their data-driven and analytical skills, enhancing their capacity to participate in similar initiatives in the future.

One of the projects we have included in the concept is ReGen North³⁰, an Open Data Hub and **youth-driven data collecting**-project that we participate in together with partners from Denmark and Greenland. ReGen North is an emerging platform for young people to create research, insights, and projects for their local communities.

The EYC-year and the evaluation of the whole EYC-process is perfect for involving young people as citizen scientists. We cooperate with the Oslo Metropolitan University to implement co-creative youth citizen social science methods and participatory research techniques so that young people themselves will be the researchers and produce new knowledge. We also have extensive cooperation with the University of Tromsø/The Arctic University of Norway to involve bachelor and master students in the project at levels that will fit with their education or thesis. And our ambition is that here will also be done PhD-theses on this subject!

We also have a cooperation with two Danish organisations to develop and integrate the young citizen science pilot **HeartFacts**³¹ method in our region. HeartFacts is a method to collect unique qualitative and quantitative data about young people by letting themselves define the questions and thereby having a real influence on the core of the findings.

³⁰ Video from the project in 2022 here: <https://youtu.be/g2Hk3EpEwWQ>

³¹ Please see Annex IXc for more information about HeartFacts

d) Experiment: How to use the EU Youth Test as inspiration for new models

We want to implement **Annual Youth Participation Audits** in the city administration to hold all the departments in the municipality accountable for the youth participation processes in the city. This will be a yearly survey starting already in 2023 to find out how the different departments work with youth participation, whether the initiatives have been followed through, how action plan processes have included young people from diverse background, and whether the recommendations from young people have a real and lasting impact.

The EU Youth Test could work as an inspiration for Annual Youth Participation Audits in the municipality and to assess the EYC-year in general. To use the EU Youth Test as inspiration for evaluating the EYC-year, we will first adapt its core principles of inclusivity, youth engagement, and impact measurement to the goals and context of our EYC-program. Second, we will incorporate the EU Youth Test's survey and feedback mechanisms to gather input from a diverse range of young people throughout the year, ensuring their voices are heard in shaping and assessing the initiatives. And, together with our partner universities, we hope to establish a transparent and accountable evaluation framework that tracks progress on key youth-centric objectives and uses the data to refine and improve our EYC-project.

e) Dissemination: youth participation in dissemination and research

Through our services in youth information and our network in ERYICA and Eurodesk, we have a long experience in disseminating information. As stated in part 9., we aim to implement youth participation and peer-to-peer information methods from the “**Guide on Youth Participation in Youth Information**” in our disseminating of results and information throughout the whole project.

12. IMPACT AND LONG-TERM LEGACY: BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

*The High North is Norway's most important peace project.
We now focus on “High North – Low Tension”*

- **Jonas Gahr-Støre, Norwegian Prime Minister, February 2022**

a) Immediate impact: a city where young people want to live, work and create³²

Already in the process of applying for EYC we experience a **very positive process towards more progressive youth policies and civic engagement**, but the status as EYC will help us **pivot the system** in a way we have not been able to – or been given the power to do – until now. We see the EYC-title as extremely important to lift the engagement to a higher level and to make everybody believe that it is possible to create a more youth friendly city and region!

Immediately after 2026 we believe we will see a more inclusive, sustainable, and creative city, and the foreseen effects will be (the list is not exhaustive):

- New youth policy in the city and a Local Youth Strategy developed and implemented.
- Better youth participation and representation in decision-making and policy development
- Co-Management structures implemented in the Municipality
- Increased and stable budget and more resources for youth in Tromsø and the region
- Youth policy and new youth services established in Nuuk/Greenland
- Youth Agents in the municipality implemented
- Annual Youth participation Audit implemented
- Fully paid trainee-programme launched by the Chamber of Commerce
- New housing strategy towards young people implemented
- New youth spaces opened in rural areas, the region and Nuuk
- Cheaper and subsidized youth activities and transportation in the region
- Low threshold youth clinics and drop-in mental health services established in rural areas and Greenland after the model in Tromsø

³² Please also see proposed Results, Impact and Legacy in Annex VIIIc Project Matrix

- More cross-sectoral and cross-regional cooperation in youth affairs
- New methods of including young people in city planning and urban development
- Participatory budgeting for youth implemented in schools
- Tromsø is a member of the Network of EYCs – and helping other cities to become more innovative and youth-friendly
- Stronger connections between youth organisations and the municipality
- Increased project management skills and experience among young people and NGOs
- Developed more jobs for young people
- Increased international – and regional – cooperation
- A larger commitment to inclusion and accessibility for all

b) A European legacy:

- Firm connections and good relationships between Arctic youth and various organisations, as well as other youth groups within the EU and across the Arctic region worldwide.
- Young people from the Arctic and EU have collaborated on shared concerns regarding regional and global issues, as well as advocating for policy changes.
- Sustainable networks of Arctic and European youth are strengthened and expanded.
- Increased knowledge of European values and opportunities among Arctic Youth
- Increased knowledge of the Arctic among young people in Europe
- New innovative methods of youth focused impact assessment, evaluation and monitoring methods have influenced how organisations and institutions in Europe are monitoring and evaluating youth participation in policy making, activities and projects
- Further cooperation with the Network of European Youth Capitals, to share practices around Europe, and inspire other municipalities to be more open and proactive towards their youth
- EU policy-making processes regarding the Arctic region are shaped by the voices of Arctic and European youth, fostering their cooperation in addressing challenges and concerns
- Lasting relationships between young people and future decision makers across the whole region and Europe

c) Legacy 2030 and beyond: Institute of the future

In longer terms, we are committed to our vision of creating a **more youthful city** and to help young people in the whole Arctic achieve their dreams. From 2030 and beyond, we will keep **experimenting to develop creative, sustainable, and inclusive environments** for young people, where they are always included as decision-makers and contributors.

This includes:

- A more attractive city and region for young people to LIVE, WORK & CREATE
- Wide recognition of the importance of sustainable living being accessible to all, regardless of place of residence and access to resources
- Investing further in processes that are created with, by, and for young people
- The whole Arctic is a more inclusive and equal place for ALL groups of young people where everyone has the chance to be supported, represented, and access opportunities
- Better inclusion of young immigrants and better systems in place to integrate young immigrants and migrants coming to the region - on their own terms
- Better and cheaper housing opportunities for young people and young adults
- More and better funding opportunities for young entrepreneurs
- Develop new interactive and more sustainable methods in city development, using new technology in a crossover between gamification and urban planning and visualize by using virtual and digital twin technologies
- Create better technical education and jobs to attract more young adults from the whole country and abroad
- A higher level of digital literacy and media competence among young people in the region
- Permanent infrastructure for youth activities in rural areas are in place

d) Long term impact: Development of peaceful and sustainable societies

The Norwegian Arctic is very much in the middle of the deteriorated security situation between Russia and Europe. How this will impact young people in the region is too early to tell, but that is why we focus on **peer-to-peer-cooperation** in the Arctic and Europe. We believe that strengthening the relationships and understanding between young people in the region will make an armed conflict less likely when they themselves become decision makers in the future.

The city of Tromsø has set very ambitious goals to become sustainable and climate neutral from 2030 – a goal which will not be possible to reach without including the young population in the decision-making processes and implementation of the strategies within that goal. The Arctic Council, where Norway holds the Chairmanship in 2023-2025, also stresses the **importance of raising awareness of Arctic climate change** on a global level, and to **integrate Arctic issues in global frameworks and conventions** – and we hope a status as European Youth Capital will help us to make this known on a European level.

13. BUDGET INDICATIONS: A JOINT EFFORT WITH MANY CONTRIBUTORS

Being the largest bank in the region SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge sees this as important for both the city and Nord-Norge as a region. We fully support the city of Tromsø's candidature for European Youth Capital.

- **Liv B. Ulriksen, CEO The Bank of Northern Norway in Memorandum of understanding for EYC 2026**

The municipality of Tromsø made the political decision in early February 2022 to apply for the EYC-title of 2025, and then again in January 2023 for EYC 2026. The municipality has funded all activities in the application phase, including activities, campaigns, salaries, offices etc. The municipality has committed to funding the initiative with extra funding outside the normal budget for youth activities and is currently implementing these additional costs in the proposed budgets for 2023-2026, should we win the title³³.

For the overall operating budget with activities over all 4 years (2024-2027), project management and facilities we calculate a budget of around 10 million euros for EYC 2026³⁴, not including new infrastructure in Tromsø, the region and Nuuk or initiatives that will become permanent because of the EYC-year.

Total EYC Budget (EUR)	2024	2025	2026	2027
10.115.000	2.055.000	2.105.000	4.805.000	1.150.000

We already have written commitment from the Municipality, the Region, the biggest private sponsor in the north SpareBank1 Nord-Norge, the National Agency, the Chamber of Commerce, the Sámi Parliament, and the National government³⁵!

The city of Tromsø will contribute with approx 30% of the operating budget in financial resources, personnel, and infrastructure, but will also guarantee for more should we not get all the proposed external funding. Out of the proposed EYC-budget of 10 mill euro, approx. 1,5 mill euro of this is from the recurring municipal budget and the rest would be an **increase/addition to youth activities in the years 2024-2027**. **From the recurring municipal budget after 2026 it is also foreseen an increase for youth services, participation activities and new initiatives that will become permanent after EYC.**

³³ Annex Ia: Signed confirmation from the Mayor of Tromsø and Annex Ib: Municipal Commitment to the EYC title

³⁴ Please see Annex XI: Preliminary Operating Budget Tromsø EYC 2026 (2024-2027)

³⁵ Please see Support Letters in Annexes Ib, Ilb, Xj, Xk, XL, Xb and Xa.

Sponsor Strategy: We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the largest sponsor and bank in Northern Norway, SpareBank1 Nord-Norge (SNN). They are obligated by law to give of their surplus to community activities (in 2021 they sponsored activities in Northern Norway with a total of 90 million euro), and their specific focus is young people in Northern Norway. SNN and the Chamber of Commerce (with its 600+ private companies as members) have also stated that we can use their name and endorsement in our sponsor strategy and that they will also help us find and reach out to other sponsors.

Total EYC budget (EUR)	From the public sector (EUR)	From the public sector (%)	From the private sector (EUR)	From the private sector (%)
10.115.000	7.110.500	70%	3.000.000	30%

The public sector EYC budget		EUR	%	
EU		650.000	9%	
National Government		2.500.000	35%	
Regional Government		1.000.000	14%	
Municipality		3.000.000	42%	
Other		-		
Programme budget (EUR and %)	Communications and Outreach budget (EUR and %)	Salaries, office, Administration budget (EUR and %)	Other budgetary chapters (EUR and%)	Total EYC budget
5.515.000 / 55%	600.000 / 6%	4.000.000 / 39%		10.115.000

Total EYC budget from the public sector to cover capital expenditure	EUR	%
Contribution from: EU		
Contribution from: National Government	1.000.000	20%
Contribution from: Regional Government	1.000.000	20%
Contribution from: Municipality	2.000.000	40%
Contribution from: Other		
Contribution from: Private sources	1.000.000	20%

14. EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM EVENTS: **SEE YOU IN 2026!**

*I never felt like this with somebody, I never thought I'd feel like I do
I never felt this close with somebody, Somebody, somebody but you*
- **Lyrics to "Somebody" by the artist Dagny from Tromsø**

The city of Tromsø has a **great capacity** to host the European Youth Capital Award Ceremony and a European Youth Forum event 2026 – and it would be an honour to do so!

The European Youth Parliament held their 98th International Session in Tromsø in March 2023, which gave us **valuable experience in hosting large international youth events** in the city, as well as insights to their **Code of Conduct** and **Safety Resources** that will also help us make the EYF-events safer and better. The EYC-team will have one team member who is responsible for the coordination with the European Youth Forum, and for the events and statutory meeting we will have an extra producer/project manager for it to run more smoothly. There are local youth organisations and volunteers available for the events, and LNU, the Norwegian member of EYF, will encourage their member organisations in the region to help with the events. Also, there are many young artists in the region that can contribute to the cultural programme, and many exciting places to visit should the delegates wish to explore the city and region further.

15. CONTINGENCY PLANNING: YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONTROL, SHARED SENSE OF URGENCY AND STRONG POLITICAL SUPPORT

The Arctic is of key strategic importance for the European Union, in view of climate change and environmental degradation, the potential for critical raw materials as well as geostrategic influence. The Joint Communication responds to these geopolitical, environmental, economic, security and societal challenges and opportunities. Young people are considered change-makers and essential partners for the EU in ensuring the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and in delivering the green and digital transitions. In this context, it is paramount to empower youth at political, social, and economic levels and to create opportunities for youth participation and meaningful engagement.

- **The European Commission and the High Representative Joint Communication (JOIN(2021) 27 final)**

We did a risk assessment of our EYC-project to identify the risks, weaknesses and the strengths in the project in order to implement the EYC-year more successfully:

Risk	Measures
The programme is not attractive for young people	<p><u>Inclusion of Diverse Youth:</u> Implement a strategy to involve young individuals from different demographics and backgrounds in the development of the program.</p> <p><u>Diversity in Project Management:</u> Require the project management team to actively prioritize diversity in both the program's content and communication efforts.</p> <p><u>Youth Engagement Strategy:</u> Develop and execute a plan that engages youth organisations and young individuals in all stages of the project, including planning, execution, and evaluation.</p>
EYC-activities do not reach or involve all young people	<p><u>Universal Accessibility:</u> Ensure that participation in the EYC-programme is open to all young individuals without any cost or as cheap as possible.</p> <p><u>Comprehensive Communication Strategy:</u> Formulate a detailed plan outlining how to effectively communicate information about the EYC 2026 activities and opportunities to all young people in the region.</p> <p><u>Diverse Communication Channels:</u> Use a wide range of communication channels such as social media, peer-to-peer networks, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), young ambassadors, youth clubs/groups, sports organisations, media outlets, and stakeholders to disseminate information effectively.</p>
Stakeholders do not feel involved or have ownership	<p><u>Inclusive Candidacy Process:</u> Implement a broad and transparent process for achieving EYC status, ensuring the active participation of a diverse range of stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Dedicated Stakeholder Liaison:</u> Establish a role within the management team specifically responsible for relationships with existing and prospective stakeholders, as well as managing external relations.</p>
Political support disappears after elections in 2023 (local) or 2025 (national)	<p><u>Getting Politicians Involved:</u> The project group will continue to identify and include politicians on all levels that are positive to the project.</p> <p><u>Youth Council Support:</u> The local, regional, and national youth councils will work politically to ensure continued support through the national elections in 2025 (see also "Strength")</p> <p><u>Ensure broad political support:</u> The local elections in Sept 2023 elected the same Mayor and political leadership as the previous years which already gave strong support for the EYC-candidacy. The management team must work to ensure that they stick to their promise after the elections.</p>
The project management is too "adult"	<p><u>Youth-Centric Project Management:</u> Form a project management team with young people up to 35 years with base at the Tvit youth center. This location will allow close interaction with young people, youth activities and youth NGOs.</p> <p><u>Balanced Co-Management Structure:</u> Establish a co-management decision-making group with equal representation – 50% young people and 50%</p>

	stakeholders. Ensure both groups have an equal say and influence in decision-making processes.
Not possible to raise all the external funding	<p>Diverse Funding Sources: Ensure that the project's financial support comes from a combination of local, regional, National and International funding sources as well as private sponsors.</p> <p>Confirmed Commitments: Secure confirmations of support from financial supporters, like the Norwegian Government, the National Agency, and private sponsors.</p> <p>Resource for External Funding: The project management team will include a designated member focused on seeking external funding and sponsorship opportunities.</p> <p>Revise the budget: If we do not get all the funds we need for the project, we must revise the budget and prioritize between the various activities in collaboration with our partners.</p>
Not sufficient outreach to rural areas/the whole region	<p>Strengthening Regional Collaboration: Ensure a strong partnership with organisations and youth services in both rural areas and across the entire planned activity region. Prioritize maintaining these relationships and identifying new partners in areas not yet covered.</p> <p>Incorporating Digital Solutions: Embrace modern digital technologies and initiatives to engage young people from the region, while also respecting young people's right to disconnect.</p>
Coordination with the European Youth Forum not satisfactory	<p>Close Collaboration with EYF: Our collaboration with EYF involves more than just hosting their events. We aim to maintain constant communication with EYF regarding matters like European youth policies, the EYC-network, and contributing insights to emerging youth strategies.</p> <p>Designated International Liaison: A specific team member will be assigned the role of coordinating with EYF and other international partners. This individual will be responsible for managing the connection and collaboration effectively.</p>

WEAKNESSES:

1. Impression of Tromsø as a «remote location»:

Even though Tromsø is easily accessible by plane and we ourselves feel very close to Europe, not being able to travel all the way by train might be considered a weakness.

- **MEASURES:** There is not much we can do about the railway now (even though this is something we advocate for all the time!), but information on how to get to Tromsø should be prioritized before and during the EYC-year. We have included "Travel information" on the website here: <https://www.tromsoeyc2026.no/travel-info/>

On the other hand, becoming the northernmost EYC ever should be communicated as a strength and as a possibility to showcase the importance of Europe's periphery and diversity, thereby reinforcing EYFs commitment to young people from all parts of Europe.

2. Problem articulating connection to other parts of Europe beyond the Arctic:

One possible weakness is to efficiently communicate the European dimension of our EYC bid and to communicate the relationship between the Arctic region and the rest of Europe, especially concerning regions that are not geographically close to the Arctic.

- **MEASURES:** We should emphasize how our candidacy reflects the diverse cultural, social, and political aspects of Europe and on shared European challenges and values. This can be achieved by collaborative initiatives, cross-border youth engagement, and highlighting our city's role as a hub for European youth interactions and exchanges.

3. Norway as an expensive country:

Norway is generally considered to be an expensive country.

- **MEASURES:** To make sure that all young people can participate in the EYC-year on equal terms we will work to make most of the EYC-activities and events free for young people

under 35 years old. There are also youth discounts on transportation, cultural activities and other relevant areas, we are negotiating free bus tickets for participants at events, and discounts on hostels and hotels. Volunteers traveling to Tromsø will be accommodated in student dorms and will get food catering at Tvibit youth centre.

4. Competing Priorities:

The effort and resources required to host EYC-events in Tromsø could divert attention and resources away from other important city initiatives and projects. There could also be public opposition or skepticism about the benefits of hosting the European Youth Capital title, particularly if inhabitants don't see the direct benefit for the local community.

- **MEASURES:** It will be important for us to include as many stakeholders and organisations as possible in the formal EYC-program so that the activities target real issues and make an impact on the current situation, while also communicating that the EYC-year does not solve all issues or existing problems relating to young people in the region.

5. Overestimation of European visitors:

The expectations to the number of young people from Europe traveling to a European Youth Capital might be too high.

- **MEASURES:** Even though Tromsø already hosts many international students and young workers, we need to learn from former EYCs, analyze how many European young people visited their city during the EYC-year, what were their most successful measures etc. and implement that into our plans.

6. Overestimation of Impact and Post-Event Sustainability:

There may be unrealistic expectations about the long-term impact of being a European Youth Capital, leading to potential disappointment if the expected benefits do not happen. After the EYC-year, there might also be challenges in maintaining the momentum and continue the positive changes that were made during the year.

- **MEASURES:** We need to develop a communication strategy that emphasizes transparency and manages expectations, and communicate a realistic understanding of the long-term impact. There will be less room for disappointment if we communicate realistic expectations from the start. We will make a plan that outlines how the positive changes and momentum generated during the year will be sustained and built upon after the term as EYC concludes. This plan should involve collaboration between local authorities, youth organisations, and other stakeholders. By having a clear roadmap for maintaining the positive changes, the risk of losing momentum after the EYC year can be minimized. And we need to implement a structured engagement and evaluation process that extends beyond the year as EYC 2026.

STRENGTHS:

- **Strong political and administrative support in the municipality and the region**
- Tromsø municipality is governed by the chairmanship model, where the municipal council is the highest decision-making body. The administration is headed by the municipal director, who has the ultimate responsibility for the ongoing operation of Tromsø municipality. The EYC-initiative has broad support on both sides and there is a massive commitment for the project within the municipality. The initiative also has solid backing from the regional government and administration, the National government and the Sámi Parliament.
- **Broad political support locally, regionally, and nationally - and elections coming up**
- There is currently a broad political support for the project on local, regional, and national level, and within political parties from the opposition and the ones who are in power. The recent local elections mid Sept 2023 ensured the same political leadership and Mayor as previously, with a strong political commitment to the EYC-candidacy, dedicating resources and funding to the initiative. At the moment, the political leadership in the municipality consists of the same political parties as the National government, which means a greater probability for the National government to commit to a broader support and financing for the

initiative (they have already given us a strong support letter). The national elections are not until autumn 2025, ensuring us a stable governmental backing for the whole period towards EYC 2026.

- **A shared understanding of the sense of urgency and how the title of EYC will improve the lives of young people in the Arctic**
 - There is an urgent need to ensure the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the Arctic communities, and this is broadly discussed and understood by researchers, politicians, governmental institutions, the EU Commission, private enterprises, and the society in general. **The EYC-title is seen as a key component in this process, having young people in the driver's seat and in the decision-making bodies, working together for a better and more sustainable life for future generations in the Arctic.**
- **Diversity of the young people who are involved in the project**
 - The initiative came from young people themselves which, for us, is important for the legitimacy to become EYC. The process so far has been open and inclusive, and has involved young people from many diverse backgrounds (youth councils, NGOs, unorganized youths, indigenous young people, NEETs, LGBTQ+, youth with disabilities, young immigrants, sports clubs etc) who have made the initiative and activities more attractive for all young people. The management of the project will also guarantee that the diversity of young people is looked after in all phases of the project.
- **The history and track record of the city for the last 50 years**
 - Tromsø has come a long way since the youth riots in the 1970s and 80s, and has also for the last 20 years influenced youth work in Norway in a very positive and innovative way. We feel a social responsibility for the whole region and we see the EYC-year as something even bigger and more important to reach for that will make the city and the region more youth-friendly – and we have the legitimacy and track record to succeed!
- **The white paper “An Arctic Policy for Young People” and all the research behind the needs of young people in the Arctic**
 - There has been done extensive research on youth topics in the region in the last few years, climaxing with the unprecedented youth addition to the National White Paper on Arctic Policy, which means that the needs and challenges of young people in the region is **thoroughly researched and substantiated.**
- **Long-lasting twin city cooperation and strong international partnerships**
 - Tromsø has a very solid twin-city cooperation with Nuuk, Greenland and Gaza, Palestine, in addition to many strong international partnerships with partners that we know and trust, which is a very important basis for cooperation and exploration. The partnerships are funded in bilateral agreements signed and endorsed by local and regional decision makers in all the partner cities/regions.
- **External funding opportunities and economical commitment from the municipality**
 - The EYC-initiative already has an economical commitment from the municipality, the region, the National Agency and the private sector, including the biggest bank in the region. There is also a positive dialogue with the national government, and as stated earlier, the local elections in 2023 will help to get a stronger commitment from the National government. The funding of the initiative, and the implementation of the activities will be a joint effort from the public and the private sector which will make the initiative even more stable.

16. LIST OF ANNEXES FINAL APPLICATION “TRUE NORTH - Tromsø 2026”

MANDATORY ANNEXES:

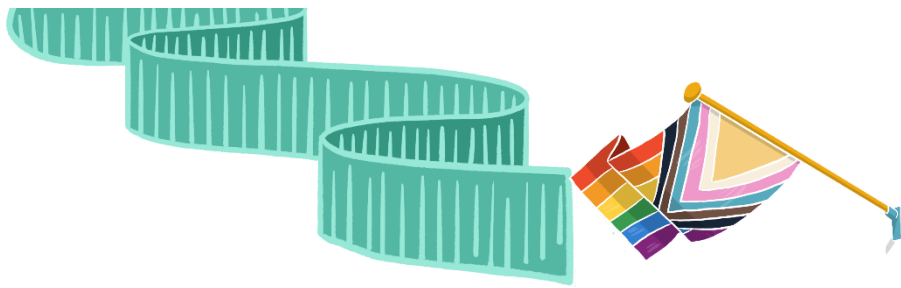
- Annex Ia: Signed confirmation from the Mayor of Tromsø
- Annex Ib: Municipal Commitment to the EYC title
- Annex IIa: Statement of support from the **local youth council of Tromsø**
- Annex IIb: Statement of support from the **regional youth council of Tromsø**
- Annex IIc: Statement of support from the **Student Parliament Arctic University**
- Annex IId: Statement of support from **School Student Union of Norway**
- Annex IIe: Statement of support from **Queer Youth Norway** (NGO)
- Annex IIIf: Statement of support from the **National Youth Council of Norway (LNU)**
- Annex IIg: Statement of support from the **Sámi Parliament’s Youth Council (SUPU)**
- Annex IIh: Statement of support from the **European Youth Movement Norway**
- Annex Ili: Statement of support from the **YMCA-YWCA Norway**
- Annex IIj: Statement of support from the **Nordic Youth Council**
- Annex IIk: Statement of support from **The European Youth Parliament – Norway**
- Annex III: Statement of support from **The Arctic Youth Network**
- Annex IV: A general presentation of “TRUE NORTH -Tromsø 2026”
- Annex V: Map of venues and sites for EYC 2026
- Annex VI: Changes made after the Jury-Feedback

ANNEXES ELABORATING ON THE CONTENT OF THE APPLICATION:

- Annex VIIIb: Info about Tvibit youth centre
- Annex VIIIc: Model declining young population in the northern region
- Annex VIIIa: Overview Draft Programme Tromsø EYC 2026
- Annex VIIIb: Designed 12-month Programme Tromsø EYC 2026
- Annex VIIIc: Project Matrix
- Annex VIIId: Organisational Structure and Tasks
- Annex VIIIe: Poster of Communication Plan Tromsø EYC 2026 with Target Groups, Key Messages and Communication Tools
- Annex VIIIIf: Elaboration on the Peer-to-peer Communication Campaigns
- Annex VIIIg: Poster Communication Timeline Tromsø EYC 2026
- Annex VIIIh: Project Plan
- Annex VIIIi: Elaboration on Preparation for the European Youth Capital 2026
- Annex VIIIj: Elaboration of Capacity Building Programme Tromsø 2026
- Annex IXa: Method Project Based Youth Participation and Augmented Participation
- Annex IXb: New Ways of Participation
- Annex IXc: HeartFacts
- Annex IXd_Migration Pilot Project

SUPPORT LETTERS:

- Annex Xa: Norwegian Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Annex Xb: Sami Parliament
- Annex Xc: County Governor
- Annex Xd: Youth Work Norway
- Annex Xe: WWF Global Arctic Programme
- Annex Xf: Arctic University of Norway
- Annex Xg: OsloMet University
- Annex Xh: Legislation Lab, Oslo University
- Annex Xi: The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
- Annex Xj: SNN - Memorandum of understanding
- Annex Xk: Erasmus + Youth National Agency Norway
- Annex XL: Chamber of Commerce
- Annex Xm: Tromsø Football Club
- Annex Xn: Arctic Frontiers
- Annex Xo: Cooperation Agreement Tromsø-Nuuk



BUDGET ANNEX:

- Annex XI: Preliminary Operating Budget Tromsø EYC 2026 (2024-2027)

PHOTOS:

- Annex XIIa: Photos of local venues and events
- Annex XIIb: Photos of regional venues and events
- Annex XIIc: Photos from EYC-workshops

The strong bonds that Tromsø has formed with pan-European youth organizations such as the European Youth Parliament will aid Europeans beyond the Nordic states to learn about the importance of the Arctic for biodiversity and climate, and can foster connections that can aid the implementation of the European Green deal.

Young people's stakes in the future are high, as they will be disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. We therefore applaud Tromsø's efforts to empower youth to shape the policies that impact them and are looking forward to the sustainability focus of Tromsø's European Youth Capital programme.

- **From letter of support from WWF Global Arctic Programme**





TRUE NORTH 2026
TRONHØ