



Tirana for EYC 2022 - Active∞ Youthth

Tirana is the sunny capital city of Albania, a candidate country for the EU membership, has undergone a rapid urban transformation becoming a lively and inclusive metropolis in the region. By applying to the EYC 2022 we aim to place the young people at the centre of the engine that will drive the sustainable development of Tirana and help us become a lighthouse city for Albania and the region.

- ◇ **Youthful city:** 48.5% of the population is under the age of 35 years old (that is around 390,000 young people)
- ◇ **Inclusive & tolerant city:** People from 4 different religious groups, diverse socio-economic backgrounds and more than 140 different nationalities live in continuous harmony
- ◇ **European city:** 93% of youth support EU membership
- ◇ **Economic engine:** Tirana accounts for more than 40% of Albania's GDP
- ◇ **Education city:** Home to 90 high schools, and 30 public and private universities
- ◇ **Student city:** Around 78,000 university students
- ◇ **Vibrant city:** Rich nightlife and cultural life with more than 3-5 events per day
- ◇ **Smart city:** Aspiring to become a tech and innovation hub in the region
- ◇ **Green city:** On-going effort to plant 2 million trees while promoting bicycles, recycling, green energy
- ◇ **Colourful city:** The dull communist style buildings have been painted over with bright colours with abstract patterns
- ◇ **Child-Friendly:** all urban projects are child/youth-centred
- ◇ **Lighthouse city:** It guides Albania and the entire Albanian factor in the Balkans towards the EU
- ◇ **Forward-looking:** It is empowering the youth so they can pursue what they are passionate about

The Active∞ program for 2022 aims to activate Tirana's youth into becoming more proactive on issues that concern them, on exploring existing opportunities, and on understanding their true power. It encourages positive activism by presenting 8 intertwined themes make up of dozen of projects and hundreds of activities:

YOUTH Make Creative Economy and Innovation: Challenges the imagination and creates innovative means for building capacities and generating employment. They support youth creativity and innovation in technology and design, arts in professional skills, the development of social businesses, assistance on business plan development and support through grant schemes for youth NGO's.

YOUTH Creates Culture: Explores and shares the beauty of countless differences and similarities of cultures in the age of globalization. The activities include music and film festivals, theatrical, folk and contemporary themed activities, mural & street arts and generally events promoting the urban culture, as an important culture of the 21st century generation.

YOUTH Develops Capacity: Builds capacities and soft skills among young people through means of non formal education. Some of the main activities include emotional intelligence building, promoting vocational training, EU project concept development, teamwork development, HORECA Training, promotion of new artistic talents, etc.

YOUTH Participates: Increases the engagement and interest of young people in community life, human rights, decision making and local governance, volunteering, constructive debating and expand the number of youngsters participating in the program either as volunteers, interns or just as curious spectators.

YOUTH Embraces Diversity: Attempts to overcome historical conflicts and current crises in Albania and in Europe such as migrants, gender, religion, ethnic, marginalised groups, etc. and encourages dialogues about diversity and tolerance. Groups from many nationalities, races, capacities, sexual orientations, religions, and backgrounds will have their voice heard with dedicated events promoting coexistence.

YOUTH are Europeans: Promotes European values and principles to youth through artistic and networking activities such as European film nights, Meetings with European Authors, Model of European Parliament, Youth Trail exchanges, and exhibitions on the EU history and Albania's path in the integration process, and many more.

YOUTH Eco-Health: Focuses on the wellbeing of youngsters and the promotion of a social, active and healthy lifestyle. Mental health issues will be also an important part of the agenda. Throughout the whole year there will be numerous sportive and outdoor events promoting an active lifestyle, including the differently-abled. Other outdoor activities such as tree planting, food growing, forest bathing etc., will promote stress relief for one of the most stressed generations of all times.

YOUTH Spaces: Adds new spatial resources and decentralised existing public spaces, promoting their values in enhancing youth connectivity through creative retouches, improved functionality and activities that make them more inviting to the younger generation.

The National Youth Congress, with the support of the Municipality of Tirana, and other youth CSO's have worked together for several months via an inclusive process to design this program. It is obvious and inevitable that the only driving force that shall push Tirana towards a prosperous and sustainable future is their energetic and aspiring youth working together.