



# **Call for application for European Youth Capital 2011**

DEADLINE: 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009, 12.00 pm CET

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

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

The first and current European Youth Capital is Rotterdam, Netherlands ([www.reyc.nl](http://www.reyc.nl)). The European Youth Forum (YFJ) has already launched the call for the second European Youth Capital, EYC 2010. The jury, composed of several relevant European institutions, civil society organisations, Rotterdam city, the YFJ and the media, awarded the title to Torino (Italy). The YFJ is now launching the call for the third European Youth Capital, EYC 2011.

This call is being launched on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009, with an **application deadline of Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 (12.00 pm CET)**: applications received after this date will not be considered.

All applications should be sent by e-mail to [eyc2011applications@youthforum.org](mailto:eyc2011applications@youthforum.org) (original [hard-copy] documents may be requested later in the selection process, where necessary). Assessment of the applications received, and selection of the successful applicant will be made by a selection jury comprised of institutional and civil society youth policy experts, and representatives from the private sector, the media, and local and regional authorities.

If you have any questions relating to the application and selection processes, please contact Magdalena Kurz, at the European Youth Forum Secretariat, [magdalena.kurz@youthforum.org](mailto:magdalena.kurz@youthforum.org).

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

The title 'European Youth Capital' (EYC) may only be applicable when a European municipality distinguishes itself in a positive way and has an ambitious programme for empowering youth. The title is bestowed by a joint selection jury of European youth organisations and institutional partners<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

- Europe-wide: the EYC programme offers the chance to showcase cultural and professional youth issues. Public recognition is fostered by media and press coverage, which will also increase the reputation and popularity of the city in, for example, the tourist dimension.
- The regional impact will be visible in many respects: the EYC serves as a framework for new projects and ideas and stimulates stronger and more

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

- active cultural life throughout the municipality and its neighbouring areas.
- Acquiring additional public funding and new financial donors is made easier, in light of the motivating and encouraging project framework offered by the EYC.

### **3. Who can apply?**

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

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

### **4. How to apply?**

Anyone can suggest that a town or city runs to become an EYC. However, it is the local authority in question who has to submit itself the following documents:

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

The applicant municipality will have to submit an application by the given deadline – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 (12p.m. CET) - describing the goals and ambitions of the EYC time period; a roadmap to achieving these goals and ambitions; the foreseen budget; and the methods through which young people will be included.

The selection jury will review the applications and designate the European Youth Capital 2011 by 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The official announcement will take place on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2009, during the European Youth Forum Council of Members.

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

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

#### 1) Motivation: the applicant

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

#### 2) Activities: the applicant

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

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

### 3) Networking and participation: the applicant

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

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