

PROJECT YOUR CITY E-BOOKLET

This e-booklet is a product of Erasmus+ youth exchange “Project Your City”, which took place in Lithuania (Kaunas city) on February 22 – March 01, 2017.

Project’s mission was to support youth involvement in urban development decision making process.

E-booklet on city-
planning for youth

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Project
Your City

Please note that the contents of this e-booklet represents only the views of its authors (see last section) and not those of the European Commission, Erasmus+ or related European bodies/institutions.

Inspiration

Globally, more and more people live in urban areas. The question we are facing is: whether modern cities are ready for increasing diversity and what they should do to become more friendly to youth and other sensible groups. Unfortunately urban planners and policy makers tend to implement changes without consultations with local communities even though youth are very creative and have brilliant ideas. We believe, that a connection between policy makers and youth needs to be strengthened and thus hosted project “project Your City” (PYC) in Lithuania.

Objectives of the Project

By providing youth with new skills/tools on how to effectively use their ideas to bring about changes we have contributed to supporting youth involvement when taking planning decisions. The following objectives were tried to be achieved: (1) to identify the modern city challenges and to learn about good practices in tackling these; (2) create new ideas for making city spaces more open-minded, and share those with the relevant decision makers; (3) to promote active citizenship between young people and encourage them to be more engaged in decision making; (4) to push for a change in policy, wherein youth would have to be consulted when planning public spaces; (5) to promote the project’s idea to wider audiences. The project also aimed to help the participants grow professionally, keep them active, involve them in multi-cultural discussions, develop a number of skills and competences and create new partnerships across Europe.

Participants

42 young people coming from 6 different countries (Sweden, Italy, Spain, Cyprus, France and Lithuania) gathered to discuss about youth involvement in urban development and searched for answers on how to effectively and successfully present youth ideas to policy makers. Most of the participants had previous knowledge and experience in volunteering and working with government institutions; thus, information sharing among them was easily facilitated. The participants were part of governmental institutions, volunteers in student organisations, studying sustainable development. Thus, the knowledge gained throughout the project might help in their future initiatives

E-booklet

The main intention of this e-booklet is to provide insights on how to organise projects for youth on social art in Europe. You will find numerous examples of social art projects created by the participants of “Art over Problems” that we hope will inspire you for further similar actions. You will also find new workshops and activities that would help you make a social art project on your own.

Project's Activities

In order to achieve the objectives mentioned above, a range of NFE methods developed by all the partner organisations were employed. The main activities identified the benefits of youth participation in decision making, created the means of spreading information about the idea to the public. Involvement, creativity and initiative of all the participants were encouraged throughout the activities, which included: 1) interactive workshops on using everyday materials to create a model of their idea; 2) presentations of best examples in the participating countries; 3) discussions in non-formal environment (World Cafe); 4) analyses of relevant video materials; 5) quizzes, 6) specialized group exercises, 7) creating ideas to revive specific Kaunas areas; 8) meeting policy makers to present given ideas. All of this ensured that the project would induce a positive effect on the participants, organisations and make an impact at the regional, national and international levels.

Some of the key activities' descriptions may be found below.

“Lego” city

During the project, participants in international teams had a chance to create their own part of the city. Full creativity was allowed to make a building, a park or whatever their imagination could think of. Afterwards their creations were combined to make a perfect city, which has everything everyone needs. We believe that toys, such as building blocks, is interesting and unique way to present the idea to the public.



At the end, all of their creations were combined to make one perfect city:



Creating ideas for renovating Kaunas

Kaunas has a couple of unpopular areas, which could be turned into tourist attractions, hubs for IT and entrepreneurs and much more. We divided participants into six groups with an area at hand, which they had to think of an idea to make it great again. Fluxus ministry became a hub for IT and entrepreneurs, Birštono st. underground passageway became Kaunas culture center and former Jewish hospital became non-formal education center. These are just a couple of ideas that participants came up with.

Here are the presentations of **ideas** they have created:

1. Daugirdas' amphitheatre;
2. Former jewish hospital;
3. Underground pathway;
4. "Steigiamojo seimo" square;
5. Fluxus ministry;
6. Owl Hill.

Meeting with policy makers

Participants had the opportunity to visit Kaunas municipality, where they got a chance to present the best examples of urban development in their countries. Panel discussion was held afterwards, where participants could speak out their concerns and suggestions for Kaunas city. At the end, participants got a chance to present their ideas for renovating specific Kaunas areas, which were evaluated and nominated by the policy makers.

Best examples of urban development from other countries.





3D model out of cardboard

After getting to know Kaunas and learning about the ways to of visualizing and sharing their ideas through social media, participants used cardboard and other everyday materials to create a part of the Kaunas city they thought could use some make-up. We believe, that giving people freedom to experiment with given spaces can liven up the city and introduce something unique and beautiful.





Other Activities

The participants also had a chance to hear from participating countries' policy makers about their experience and know-how when approaching government with ground-breaking idea. They also had to come up with evaluation system for urban areas, make open discussion on youth participation in urban development and key problems during "World Café" activity and more. Every evening participants had a chance to introduce their culture, history and traditional cuisine, as well as the best social art projects in their countries. They not only showed videos and photos, but also made dances, songs, games and quizzes to get every participant of the project involved.



Results

The organizers describe the project as a success in all senses. Both the informal learning process, as well as the sharing of participant experiences among each other worked really well. Knowledge assessments done by every participant on the first and the last day of the exchange have shown an **increase of almost 50%** on average in the knowledge of urban planning.

The policy makers, attending the meeting with the participants, described their ideas as innovative and appealing. After the evaluation of the ideas some of them were commented as realistic and possible to carry out in the near future. This shows, that there is a great interest in youth empowerment in policy making and we, as a society, need to push forward youth engagement in the urban development.

All in all, the project induced a positive effect on the participants, organisations and made an impact at the regional, national and international levels. Youth engagement in the policy

making of urban development has great potential and can make great impact on the society and the region. By increasing scale and the scope of such initiatives, youth could get the right visibility and more of them will be interested in participating in policy making. We have the confidence that the project participants and the ideas they've created will promote an interest of young people in policy making, and promote further similar projects in all of the European Union.

You can find more information about the project on the web:

<http://activeyouth.lt/project-your-city/>

Information about the Project on the Web:

Click the description to open

1. [Project photos on Facebook](#)
2. [Article about the project on our page](#)
3. [Aweseome project's participants photos](#)
4. [Photos from participants visit to Kaunas municipality](#)
5. [Article #1 from Cyprus about our project](#)
6. [Cyprus organisation about our project](#)
7. [Spanish organisation about our project](#)
8. [Article about the project in French media "Sud Ouest"](#)
9. [Article about visit to Kaunas municipality \(EN\) \(LT\)](#).
10. [Full research on youth and urban planning](#)
11. [Article about research on youth and urban planning \(EN\) \(LT\)](#)
12. [Kaunas online media about the project](#)

Project's Schedule, Activities & Material:

Click the description to open

1. [Schedule of the Youth Exchange](#).
2. [Info pack of the youth exchange](#) with all the information for project participants.
3. [Country workshop](#), that participants had to make interactive presentations for.
4. [Speed dating questions](#).
5. [Summary of the research](#) that was presented to the participants at the beginning of the project.
6. [Current knowledge assessment](#), which was done in the beginning of the project and the [summary of their answers](#).
7. [Brainstorming session](#) for urban problem solving.
8. [World Cafe Activity](#) – list of topics.
9. [List of videos](#), that were shown during movie afternoon.
10. [How to improve n-hoods workshop](#), where participants had to come up with ideas for improving cities.
11. [Workshop on how to evaluate cities](#).
12. [Interest groups](#) into which participants were divided for developing renovation ideas.
13. [Areas](#), for which participants had to come up with renovation ideas, description.
14. [Template](#) to help participants in creating their renovation ideas.
15. [Evaluation sheet](#) used by policy makers to judge participants ideas.
16. [Participants idea for renovating Dauqirdas' amphitheate](#);
17. [Participants idea for renovating former jewish hospital](#);
18. [Participants idea for renovating underground pathway](#);
19. [Participants idea for renovating "Steigiamojo seimo" square](#);
20. [Participants idea for renovating Fluxus ministry](#);
21. [Participants idea for renovating Owl Hill](#);
22. [Best examples of urban development from other countries](#).
23. [3D model creation workshop](#).

About Organisers

“Active Youth” Association (Asociacija “Aktyvus jaunimas”) is a non-profit organization based in Kaunas that unites young leaders from Lithuania willing to work on a voluntary basis to facilitate an intercultural dialogue and enhance competence of the European youth. We cooperate with organizations of similar profile from all over Europe (more than 50 partnerships) to organize events and trainings using non-formal education as a powerful instrument to encourage youth to take an active part in a society. By doing this we help young people to improve their skills and social awareness, share experiences and ideas, integrate them within the multinational environment of the EU, facilitate cooperation, create new joint initiatives, increase their social awareness, and promote healthy lifestyle. In particular, we concentrate on youth (18-30 years old) that have fewer opportunities and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Generally, our aims are to: (1) enhance entrepreneurial, social, leadership, communication skills, self-esteem, as well as multilingualism of youth through non-formal education; (2) help youth increase their social awareness, be tolerant towards others, be aware of the persisting social and environmental problems and help solve them; (3) educate youth workers and youth on how to join volunteering initiatives, cooperate with each other, and get employed more easily; (4) organize joint campaigns, projects and activities, where young people and youth workers can get involved in an intercultural dialogue, be a part of the decision making process, develop the spirit of volunteerism, facilitate youth cooperation and social values; (5) raise awareness about EU citizenship among young people, educate about social responsibility and work towards reducing youth unemployment in the EU; (6) organize youth seminars, exchanges, trainings for youth workers, conferences and discussions on relevant social topics, promote healthy, active, and ecologically friendly lifestyle in order to increase the well-being of youth. Inform about similar actions organized by others in Europe; (7) defend and promote human rights, universal values of tolerance, active citizenship, democracy, equal opportunities and work towards the elimination of discrimination in order to build a better integrated society; (8) organise Erasmus+ projects and spread information about the opportunities that lie behind it in order to further facilitate youth development.

Apart from other activities, we have also hosted Erasmus+ youth exchanges and youth worker mobility projects in Lithuania addressing key social topics for youth. Firstly, we organised a youth exchange on tolerance for minorities ("Let's Turn Discrimination into Tolerance"), where young people gathered to help the minorities across Europe integrate easier to the society and get better opportunities both in social and work life. Secondly, we have organised both youth worker mobility and a youth exchange on the topic of Social Entrepreneurship ("More than Money: Social Entrepreneurship Heroes"). Since then we have hosted 7 more Erasmus+ projects (as of July 2016).

More on us: <http://activeyouth.lt/en> or <https://facebook.com/activeyouthlt>



Active Youth

Erasmus+ projects