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Call for projects – 2023

'Europe begins in your city!'

Towards a European generation at the local level

We find ourselves in an era full of challenges: The war in Ukraine and its impacts, environmental destruction and the climate emergency, the aftermath of the pandemic and rising right-wing extremism remind us all that the democratic and social accomplishments achieved to date are not a matter of course. A united, peaceful Europe is only possible on the basis of mutual understanding and cross-border cooperation.

Since 1963, the FGYO has been promoting youth exchanges and providing young people with key skills to help them find their way in an increasingly complex world. Anyone who takes part in an exchange is strengthened and motivated by it and gains an awareness of how to participate, as an active citizen, in the democratic life of the community, the region, the country and Europe. In the wake of the coronavirus crisis, it is more important than ever for young people to gain international experience again – to encounter and help shape Europe. This involves encouraging them in their political involvement. The opportunities to participate in local political processes need to be improved and developed further.

It was with this thought in mind that the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) and the German-Turkish Youth Bridge (Jugendbrücke) launched 'Europe begins in your city!'

What is 'Europe begins in your city!'

The aim of this initiative is to get young people to interact with the social and political authorities in their respective cities in an effort to bolster and consolidate their participation in public life. To this end, young people will join or institute 'youth forums' that in the long term will create a link to local political institutions and organise youth participation.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Élysée Treaty and the FGYO, and with a view to elections to the European Parliament in 2024, in 2023 the cornerstone will be laid for projects that strengthen youth involvement in politics while assisting with the creation of youth networks. This can help, for example, promote the involvement of young people who are under-represented, or who to date have been unrepresented, in existing processes of decision-making. They will also learn about the consequences of their votes, the functioning and importance of local governance, or how to establish new structures for the representation of all young people at the local level.

Exchange projects between young people and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the topic of youth participation are conceivable as well.

Young Europeans will meet one another in their respective home cities, where they can share ideas and learn how local youth participation is lived elsewhere. This can take place through participation in panel meetings, in com-

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mittees, in European Youth Parliament meetings and in network meetings; and in discussions with MEPs, associations, ombudspersons and citizens' representatives. With this in mind, young participants will organise workshops, develop ideas to strengthen local participation and discuss implementation of these ideas at events held with decision-makers, fellow young people or dedicated individuals from civil society.

Each project application must therefore help intensify relationships between youth organisations and local politicians. The development of networks between participating cities on the topic of 'youth participation' is fundamental to expanding cross-border democratic cooperation in Europe.

At the end of the initiative, an (online) event will be held for all of the projects selected and their participants. Project concepts and results will be presented at that event.

Who can apply?

Applications will be welcomed from public corporations, non-profit entities under private law (partnership committees, associations, youth associations, institutions and organisations) based in Germany or France in cooperation with a German or French partner organisation and a partner organisation from Turkey and/or another European partner country.

Applicants will form a consortium together with partner organisations from three or four cities. Young people will be involved in the application process as well as in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project. The FGYO and the Youth Bridge will conclude grant agreements with sponsors in Germany or France that can pass these grants along to their respective partner organisations.

Together, the FGYO and the Youth Bridge form a joint jury. Applications will be processed based on the composition of the consortium.

In 2023, the FGYO supports consortia consisting of a German, a French and another city from a Member State of the European Union (EU), from the Western Balkans or from other European countries.¹

A fourth city may be included in the project in exceptional cases that are justified by content and subject matter. Encounters for young people from four countries will thus require a regional-geographical and/or historical relationship between the two municipalities cooperating with the German and French cities.

Every municipality with more than 5,000 inhabitants is considered a city.

¹ Member States of the European Union, countries in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and countries of the Eastern Partnership.

For further information on trilateral projects and on priority countries and regions, go to: <https://www.fgyo.org/the-fgyo-s-trilateral-programmes.html>

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What kinds of things receive funding?

Funding will be provided for one joint meeting phase per participating city in 2023, with a total project duration of up to 19 days.

The maximum grant amount is calculated as follows:

- Organisational and programme costs of EUR 1,500 per participating city (e.g. room rents, workshop materials, catering, borrowing of technical materials)
- Per-diem allowances of EUR 41 for accommodations and meals per participant for up to 32 people and a maximum of 19 days
- Travel allowances of EUR 389 for Interrail tickets for up to 32 participants

Investment and structural costs (e.g. purchase of cameras, photo equipment, computers, printers, hard drives, projectors, flip charts, partitions, etc.) are not eligible.

Contributions of own funds towards the project are recommended, as are efforts to seek additional third-party funding.

Who can participate?

Adolescents and young adults, ages 11 through and including 30, are eligible to participate. Participants will be individuals who are actively involved in the affairs of their home cities and can represent the viewpoints of young people. These might be members of youth clubs, school spokespersons, representatives of youth parliaments and student representatives. Each group in each project should consist of 8 to 10 individuals per city. Care must be taken to strike a balance between the numbers of participants in the national groups.

Gender diversity, and the inclusion of young people with refugee experience or with disabilities, are very much welcomed.

Who designs the concepts for the encounter projects, and who implements them?

The measures of the individual encounter projects should, to the maximum possible extent, be designed and implemented independently by the young people participating in them. These participants will have the support of employees of the applicant institutions. The FGYO and the Youth Bridge will provide funding for this purpose and will advise the applicants.

What documents are required for the application?

- Completed and signed application form
 - Project description indicating how project objectives will be realised
 - Information on involving young people in the application process, project planning and implementation
 - A plan of costs and their financing

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- Information on public relations
- Preliminary programme for the various phases of encounters in the participating cities
- In the case of non-profit entities under private law, presentation of a copy of the certificate of tax exemption
- Association statutes (only for first-time applications by non-profit entities under private law)

What are the criteria according to which project applications will be selected?

Project applications will be evaluated with particular attention to the following criteria:

- Emphasis on community youth participation and the involvement of young people in processes of political decision-making
- Sustainability of the project in terms of long-term effects and follow-up projects
- Selection of at least one thematic focus with local political and social relevance, e.g.
 - European Parliament elections in 2024, local elections at the European level, relationships between municipalities and MEPs
 - Climate and environmental protection, renewable energies and sustainability
 - Culture, architecture and urban development
 - Flight, migration and integration
 - Diversity, inclusion and the protection of minorities
 - Political and civil rights
 - Protections and guarantees of the rights of children
 - Gender mainstreaming and equality
 - Democratic involvement
 - Future of historical reflection and remembrance
- Active participation of young people throughout the course of the project (including conceptual design, application and evaluation)
- Contribution towards strengthening local involvement and participation by young people with refugee experience and special needs
- Gender diversity
- Quality of the project design submitted, including ideas for innovative formats and methods
- High-visibility measures
- Climate neutrality of the project itself

What is the deadline for applications?

Project applications will be accepted until **January 31, 2023**. Applications will be processed by the end of February at the latest. Projects that have already begun will not be considered in the selection process.

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Please send the **online application form** for projects **with partners from Germany, France, EU Member States and/or another European country** to europastaedte@dfjw.org.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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