



LuminaCity

Youth Empowerment Forum

Youth participation events without mobilities - Slovenia

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www.luminacity.eu

www.youthability.gr



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INTRODUCTION

A Youth Empowerment Forum is a participatory event designed to provide young people with a platform to express their ideas, exchange experiences, and actively contribute to discussions about the future of their communities. It creates an inclusive environment where participants can engage in meaningful dialogue with peers, youth workers, educators, local authorities, and other stakeholders. By encouraging open communication and collaborative learning, youth forums strengthen democratic participation and help young people recognise that their opinions are valuable in shaping local, national, and European societies.

One of the primary objectives of a Youth Empowerment Forum is to promote active citizenship by encouraging young people to become informed, engaged, and responsible members of their communities. Through interactive discussions and collaborative activities, participants explore the rights and responsibilities associated with citizenship while developing a deeper understanding of democratic values, civic engagement, and social responsibility. The forum helps participants recognise that meaningful participation goes beyond voting and includes everyday actions that contribute to community development and social cohesion.



Youth Empowerment Forum



Youth forums also provide an opportunity for participants to identify and discuss the challenges affecting their communities. Topics such as youth participation, education, employment, sustainability, social inclusion, digital transformation, mental health, cultural diversity, and urban development often become central themes of discussion. By examining these issues collectively, young people develop a broader understanding of local needs while identifying opportunities for positive change. These discussions encourage participants to think critically about their surroundings and inspire them to become part of the solution.

Youth Empowerment Forum



An important feature of a Youth Empowerment Forum is the promotion of dialogue between young people and decision-makers. Inviting representatives from local authorities, public institutions, educational organisations, and civil society creates opportunities for direct communication and mutual learning. Young participants can present their concerns, propose innovative ideas, and ask questions about local policies, while stakeholders gain valuable insights into the expectations and priorities of younger generations. This dialogue helps strengthen trust between institutions and citizens while encouraging more participatory approaches to governance.

Youth Empowerment Forum

The forum also serves as a valuable space for developing personal and professional competences. Throughout the activities, participants strengthen communication, public speaking, teamwork, leadership, negotiation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. They learn how to express their opinions confidently, listen respectfully to different perspectives, and collaborate effectively with others. These competences are essential not only for civic engagement but also for education, employment, and lifelong personal development.



Youth Empowerment Forum



Interactive and non-formal educational methods play a central role in maintaining participants' engagement throughout the forum. Rather than relying solely on presentations or lectures, activities include group discussions, brainstorming sessions, world cafés, role-playing exercises, design thinking workshops, debates, and collaborative problem-solving tasks. These methods encourage active participation, create a dynamic learning environment, and ensure that every participant has an opportunity to contribute regardless of their previous experience or confidence level.

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A Youth Empowerment Forum also encourages participants to transform ideas into concrete actions. Following discussions and collaborative activities, young people are invited to develop recommendations, action plans, or community initiatives that address local challenges. These proposals often focus on improving public spaces, promoting sustainability, strengthening social inclusion, encouraging cultural participation, or increasing youth involvement in local decision-making. By moving from discussion to action, participants gain practical experience in project development and civic leadership.



Youth Empowerment Forum

Beyond the immediate learning outcomes, Youth Empowerment Forums contribute to building stronger and more resilient communities. They encourage a culture of participation, cooperation, and shared responsibility while demonstrating that sustainable community development depends on the active involvement of citizens of all ages. When young people are given opportunities to participate meaningfully, they develop a stronger sense of belonging, greater confidence in their abilities, and increased motivation to continue contributing to society long after the forum has concluded.



Within the LuminaCity – Illuminating Urban Identity project, the Youth Empowerment Forum represents a cornerstone activity that supports the project's objective of strengthening youth participation in city branding and urban development. By bringing together young people from different backgrounds to discuss local identity, civic engagement, and the future of their cities, the forum creates a space where innovative ideas can emerge and collaborative solutions can be developed. It demonstrates that empowering young people to participate in dialogue, decision-making, and community action is essential for building inclusive, democratic, and youth-friendly cities that reflect the aspirations and creativity of future generations.



LuminaCity

Round Table: The Importance of City Branding to Foster Youth Participation

Youth participation events without mobilities - Malta

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