



institute for  
**YOUTH  
POLICY**  
AJDOVŠČINA  
SLOVENIA

# INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH POLICY

INŠTITUT ZA MLADINSKO POLITIKO

[nina.cargo@institut-imp.si](mailto:nina.cargo@institut-imp.si)

+386 40 475 677

# PROGRAM YOUTH-FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITY

**“A system of support, assistance and incentives for the development of local youth policy”**



## SLOVENIA (2020)

**2.107.126**

Population of Slovenia

**20.273**  
km<sup>2</sup>

Surface area (sq. km) of Slovenia

**212**

The number of municipalities in Slovenia

**310.000**

The number of young people (aged 15–29) in Slovenia

# Why the certificate?

## Youth in numbers (Slovenia, 2012)

349.782	The number of young people between 15 and 29 years of age.
30.801	The number of unemployed young people.
3.392	The number of young people who emigrated abroad
29,6 let	The average age of young women, when they become independent.
31,5 let	The average age of young men, when they become independent.
28,9 let	The average age of women at first childbirth.

- low level of youth participation in Slovenia
- increasing unemployment rate among the youth population, less steady jobs -> financial instability among youth.
- late emancipation of young people (housing problems)
- unequal opportunities for young people in employment, education, spending free time etc.
- ...

Institute for youth policy, Ajdovščina developed and in the first half of 2012 conducted the first certification of local communities in Slovenia, which by being active and by the implementation of public policies, are establishing and maintaining a youth-friendly environment where young citizens have the possibility of achieving full autonomy and active participation in all spheres of public life.

The certificate **Youth-friendly community** (with a validity of four years) is awarded to those local self-government communities, which in their application to **an annual** public call exhibit the successful implementation of measures in the areas of **vertical** and horizontal youth policy (included measures aimed at the integration of all generations of young people – individuals aged 15 to 29 years – in individual parts of life, especially in the encouragement of the independence of young people) by following the specified conditions and criteria.

# Measures

- measures are aimed at successful integration of each new generation of youth into all aspects of social life, and **especially at stimulating efficient and swift emancipation of young people**
- by evaluating the efficiency of measure implementation, special emphasis is given to the following fields: **participation, education, mobility, employment, housing, youth information and youth association**
- Implementation of at least one measure from each particular emphasis area.



# The measure performance review focuses specifically on the fields of:

- youth participation
- the systematic engaging of the young,
- education,
- mobility,
- employment,
- housing policy,
- youth information,
- youth organization.



# Youth participation

**Local community has at least one established and operating mechanism for youth participation** – which enables young people's participation in local policy decision-making, affecting the life and work of youth.

**Local community keeps an established regular cooperation between young people and the local government:** the local government seeks youth representatives' opinion on local youth policy measures and youth activities, and takes it into consideration when making decisions



# Systematic treatment of the youth field

local government adopted a document /strategy, regulating the field of youth policy within the local community:

- local youth act
- local youth strategy
- other legal acts, regulating the field of youth policy within the local community
- local development strategy with a special segment on youth

# Education policy

- local community co-finances youth training programmes
- local community provides scholarships for young people
- local community provides youth scholarships for local shortage occupations
- local community provides scholarships for the socially disadvantaged youth

# Mobility policy

- local community considers young people's needs in urban planning and development of public transport systems
- local community provides co-funding for youth transportation
- local community provides co-funding for projects and programmes, stimulating international mobility of young people
- local community implements other measures in the field of youth mobility

# Employment policy

- young people are accorded preferential treatment in calls for tenders stimulating entrepreneurship
- local community ensures tax exemption to young entrepreneurs
- local community co-funds programmes and projects, stimulating youth entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation
- local community holds a centre for stimulating competitiveness and innovation
- local community co-funds career orientation

# Housing policy

- young people are accorded preferential treatment in the process of granting non-profit rental housing by the local community
- local community assures lower interest rates on loans, taken up by young people for the purposes of settling their housing issue
- local community implements other measures in the field of youth housing

# Youth information

- local community holds public information points regarding education, training, mobility and employment opportunities for young people
- local community provides information regarding local housing opportunities and housing settlement counselling to young people
- local community informs young people about all local matters, directly or indirectly affecting the life and work of young people



# Youth organization

- local community provides financial support to youth organizations:
  - project-funding (opportunities for youth organizations to apply for co-funding of youth projects)
  - regular financial resources for operation of local youth organizations (within the municipal budget)
- local community provides infrastructure for youth organizations
- local community assures financial support to the local youth centre



## Legal basis – background

- The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth
- Act on the public interest in youth sector (ZJIMS):
  - *The public interest holders in the youth sector are the State and the self-governing local communities and the self-governing national communities in the areas where the autochthonous members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities live.*
  - *The bodies of the self-governing local community are responsible for implementing public interest in the youth sector at a local level.*

- Article 27:
  - means of implementation of public interest in the youth sector at the local level
  - *A self-governing local community implements the youth policy at a local level in accordance with its own interests, needs, capabilities and circumstances, such as the number and structure of inhabitants, its economic power, and spatial and personnel capacities in the youth sector.*
  - potential amendments to Local Self-government Act and Financing of Municipalities Act

## Supporting activities:

- Workshops and other training programs for youth and representatives of local authorities.
- Assistance in the development of local youth policies and the implementation of measures for young people.
- Creating and promoting youth structures.
- Various forums on a web platform.
- Web portal which allows addressing the youth issues directly to their own communities.

## Beneficiaries:

- Between 2012 and 2021, more than 35 municipalities received the certificate “Youth-Friendly Community” -> 14% of all Slovenian municipalities.
- Over 50 local communities benefited from being involved in the field of local youth policies and more than 1.000 young people were directly involved in the related activities.



# Certificate giving ceremony



# Municipalities





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN CONTACT US**

**[nina.cargo@institut-imp.si](mailto:nina.cargo@institut-imp.si)**

**+386 40 475 677**