



Erasmus+



METHODOLOGY OF EDUCATION OF MEMBERS OF YOUTH PARLIAMENTS AND YOUTH COUNCILS.

YC2 - YOUTHCOUNCILS YET COMING



**Fundacja Civis Polonus,
Warszawa 2021**

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YC2 - introduction

We invite you to get to know and use the ready and proven scenarios of workshops for youth councilors.

We have prepared this guide because we feel that Youth Councils are a very important mechanism for increasing young people's interest and involvement in public affairs at the local level.

A Youth Council is a rural and urban institution that enables young people to participate in the decision-making process on youth matters. Adult councilors and officials often need the opportunity to consult their ideas of solutions to various problems with young addressees of the planned activities.



YC2 – introduction

The activity of the Youth Council is very important as it contributes to, e.g.:



increasing young people's interest in local politics, building the ability to take actions for the benefit of the local community,



developing dialogue between representatives of executive and municipal authorities and young people,



increasing the understanding of the needs and problems of the youth by local authorities, increasing the effectiveness of activities addressed to young people and carried out by local authorities,



familiarizing young people with the principles of local government operation.

YC2 – introduction

A Youth Council will work the more effectively the more competent its members are. Young people starting their adventure with Youth Councils often do not have enough experience and knowledge to meet the expectations of both their peers and adults who work with them.

Therefore, we are convinced that the key to good functioning of Youth Councils is to prepare new members for action and to systematically improve their competences during their term of office.

This guide contains several dozen descriptions of training blocks that allow you to strengthen the most important skills needed by youth councilors. Descriptions of training blocks have been prepared in such a way that facilitators, youth council coordinators and coaches could use them in their daily work with Youth Councils.

The selection of key competences for youth is the result of research carried out in our project and many years of experience of partner organizations in supporting Youth Councils.



YC2 – introduction

The training blocks were prepared by experienced coaches and Youth Councils facilitators from the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia.

We also conducted a pilot of these workshops with an international group of youth councilors in June 2021 in Cieszyn. We included the conclusions from the pilot in the final version of the content of educational activities.

We encourage you to use the training materials creatively and good luck in supporting young people's active citizenship!



YC2 - introduction

Thanks to Youth Council activity, boys and girls develop key civic skills and gain confidence that local public affairs are important and worthy of their attention. **A well-functioning Youth Council thus lays the foundations for active citizenship in the municipality.**



Thanks to Youth Council, young residents learn:

- **Electing their representatives.** The YC elections can be an opportunity to practice the ability to reflect on common, local issues, define expectations towards representatives, and analyze the needs of the local community. Young inhabitants acquire not only the ability to vote, but also to recognize the interests of the community and to make informed choices in accordance with them. Understanding the importance of elections, voting skills and evaluating candidates' programs can become an important educational effect of a well-functioning YC. **We teach how to be a conscious voter.**
- **Co-deciding on matters of common interest.** Today's democracy gives citizens more and more opportunities to influence the decisions of authorities (from local to European). More and more social consultations, public debates and meetings with residents are organized. This is an important trend related to the changes in the role of citizens, whose task is no longer only to cast a vote on their representatives every four years, but also to actively participate between elections. **The local Youth Council is a great field for young people to exercise the decision-making process, participating in deciding on age-appropriate matters that are important to them.**



Thanks to Youth Council, young residents learn:

- **Being represented.** The YC's job is to teach young people what it means to be represented. So, it is important that the experience is positive. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure constant contact of youth councilors with their voters through, e.g.:
 - Duty hours of individual representatives
 - Regular, open meetings of the YC with students, concerning a specific issue, and at the same time may be an opportunity for young people to report their remarks and problems to the representatives.
 - Information boards in each school where all YC activities are clearly described and illustrated
 - and a fan page on Facebook.
- **Taking bottom-up action.** If we want our fellow citizens to take matters into their own hands in the future, to act for the benefit of their local, national and European community, young people must be taught how to act from the bottom up. YC can be a great place to practice being active, planning and executing your projects. To make it possible, it is necessary to teach cooperation, communication, taking responsibility for local events and activities for the benefit of the community.

