

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Decision on adopting the initiative and initiating the procedure of certifying Croatian cities for youth policies of 11 December 2020, the Committee for awarding the “City for Youth” certificate on its session held on 11 January 2022 adopted the following:

DECISION

on the quality standards of local youth policies and the awarding of the “City for Youth” certificate

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Decision shall lay down the quality standards of local youth policies, stipulate the method of awarding points to cities in the procedure of evaluation of local youth policies, and prescribe other activities of the Committee for awarding the “City for Youth” certificate (hereinafter the Certificate) in accordance with the Decision on adopting the initiative and initiating the procedure of certifying Croatian cities for youth policies brought by the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia.

II. THEMATIC AREAS

Pre-conditions for application

Article 2.

Pre-conditions for the application for obtaining the Certificate are:

- that a city has established a youth council or other institutional form of representing youth in decision-making processes
- that a city has adopted the European Charter on Local Youth Work
- that a mayor has appointed a coordinator who applies the city for the competition for obtaining the Certificate

The certification procedure shall be carried out through the evaluation of the quality standards of local policies in 8 thematic areas, respectively:

- Participation,
- Demographic incentives and measures,
- Employment,
- Mobility,
- Health and sport,
- Youth work and culture,
- Education and
- Informing.

1. Participation

Article 3

Youth participation or active participation of youth in society and politics is related to the mechanisms of instigating the activation of youth in the community and in decision-making processes. The focus of this thematic area is on the assessment of the level at which the city creates a stimulative environment for the active engagement of youth.

Quality standards of local youth policy in the thematic area Participation
There is a local programme for youth through which youth participation is instigated.
There is a formal structure through which youth actively participate in decision making. (e.g. formal inclusion of youth in working bodies of city councils, committee for awarding scholarships, committee for awarding City awards etc.) (note: the mere existence of youth council does not meet this criterium)
The city carries out participative budgeting. (note: participative budgeting is regarded in the context of this criterium as defined in the Glossary – document “Guidelines for Candidacy”)
The city supports youth volunteering. (e.g. keeping record on volunteer hours, award for the best young volunteer, additional scores for city scholarships etc.)
The city instigates active engagement of youth. (e.g. education on participation, award or acknowledgement for the most active young person in the community, starting initiatives etc.)
In the city there is a youth centre managed by the principle of co-management. (e.g. youth make a minimum of 50% of members of the managing/programme council etc.)
The city encourages and includes youth to participate in the planning of the city or settlement. (note: public consultations do not meet this criterium)
The city announces calls for non-formal youth initiatives. (note: non-formal youth initiatives are regarded in the context of this criterium as defined in the Glossary – document “Guidelines for Candidacy”)
The city instigates or carries out educational programmes with the aim of encouraging participation. (e.g. bringing closer the work of local self-government bodies and budgeting to youth etc.)
Other

2. Demographic incentives and measures

Article 4

Demographic incentives and measures are related to the activities of the local community aimed at encouraging youth to stay in the local community, stimulating birth rate and ensuring a high quality of life for young parents, children and youth.

Quality standards of local youth policy in the thematic area Demographic incentives and measures
<p>The capacity of early and preschool educational institutions is at least 95%¹ of the total number of applications for registration received in current school year.</p> <p>(note: public and private institutions are considered, and the option of the co-financing of enrolment in preschool institutions in neighbouring local self-government units)</p> <p>(note2: a certificate issued by a kindergarden on the number of applications and the number of enrolled children can serve as evidence, and/or a certified statement of the competent head of the local unit on these information)</p>
<p>The city ensures that there are programmes for kindergarden groups in early and preschool educational institutions.</p>
<p>The city carries out participative budgeting.</p> <p>(note: participative budgeting is regarded in the context of this criterium as defined in the Glossary – document “Guidelines for Candidacy”)</p>
<p>The city ensures that there are programmes for children in public institutions whose founder is the city (libraries, museums, theatres).</p> <p>(note: for the purpose of this Certificate, children are considered persons of up to 15 years of age)</p>
<p>The city ensures that there are parents’ benches (for baby changing).</p>
<p>The city ensures institutional support for employed young parents.</p> <p>(e.g. there is a second shift in early and preschool educational institutions, day-care in schools etc.)</p>
<p>The city co-finances or finances leisure-time activities of children outside of regular institutional programmes.</p> <p>(note: for the purpose of this Certificate, children are considered persons of up to 15 years of age)</p>
<p>The city ensures financial benefit or some other form of support for newborns.</p>
<p>The city co-finances or finances the solving of the housing issue for youth.</p> <p>(e.g. co-financing of buying construction land, co-financing of building material, co-financing of rentals, lower interest rates for the young who are buying their first real estate, awarding of apartments owned by cities, co-financing of building family houses)</p> <p>(note: the criterium is met only if youth are particularly highlighted as a priority target group)</p>
<p>The city has adopted a local programme of housing provision in which youth are the target group.</p>
<p>The city instigates financial benefits and compensations for young parents who are still in education (students, pupils) or are unemployed.</p>

¹ The percentage is determined based on the questionnaire survey conducted among the cities by the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia.

The city provides financial support to youth with fewer opportunities. (e.g. youth leaving the alternative care system, those of lower socio-economic status, families with more children, persons with disabilities etc.)
The city finances or co-finances textbooks, meals and other school supplies for children of elementary school age
The city has The City Friend of Children status
Other

3. Employment

Article 5

This thematic area assesses the efforts of the local community towards ensuring the conditions for quality employment of youth through the measures that encourage youth to develop their competencies, and through creating an institutional framework for easier employment of youth.

Quality standards and practices of local youth policy in the thematic area Employment
The city ensures financial support to youth employment measures. (e.g. co-financing of loans to young entrepreneurs, self-employment, first employment, competitions for subsidies for costs of enterprises whose founders or employees are young persons, reduction of communal utility contributions etc.)
The city carries out measures aimed at long-term unemployed youth. (e.g. additional educations, professional training, incentives to employers who employ long-term unemployed youth) (note: The city has to be the coordinator of the measure or the role of the city must be clear in a measure whose coordinator is another organization or institution)
The city (co)founds or instigates the establishment of entrepreneurial and startup incubators that will enable youth to develop entrepreneurship.
The city encourages traineeship and the implementation of work placement in public city institutions.
The city participates in connecting employers and youth. (e.g. participates in organizing direct contacts, job faires etc.)
The city encourages the implementation of programmes and projects of CSOs focused on the development of youth competencies for the labour market.
The city adapts and/or makes available for co-working the spaces over which it has ownership.
Other

4. Mobility

Article 6

In the context of this questionnaire mobility has a threefold meaning, in the sense of traffic connections, facilitation of the movement of (young) persons with moving disabilities, and international mobility with the purpose of studying and training. The thematic area of Mobility assesses city's efforts in all three dimensions.

Quality standards of local youth policy in the thematic area Mobility
<p>The city (co)finances public or other transport of youth.</p> <p>(e.g. preferential prices of monthly/yearly tickets, co-financing of unprofitable public transport lines etc.)</p>
<p>The city provides non-scheduled transport of youth to extra-curricular activities and leisure time activities.</p> <p>(e.g. transport to sports trainings, creative activities, transport on weekends etc.)</p>
<p>The city encourages sustainable forms of transportation.</p> <p>(e.g. there are systems of public bicycles or scooters, the city builds cycling infrastructure, and co-finances the purchase of the first bicycle etc.)</p>
<p>Enabled access to public city institutions for youth with disabilities.</p> <p>The city provides transport of youth with disabilities.</p> <p>(e.g. providing special vehicles for transporting persons with disabilities etc.)</p>
<p>The city includes youth as participants in collaboration programmes with other local self-government units.</p> <p>(e.g. participation of youth during official visits to other cities at home and abroad, intercity collaboration of youth councils etc.)</p>
<p>The city co-finances international mobility of youth with the purpose of education and professional training.</p> <p>(e.g. pre-financing of costs of international mobility, separate budget line for financing etc.)</p>
<p>The city values youth participation in international mobility programmes and projects.</p> <p>(e.g. additional scores in awarding scholarships, acknowledgement of the Youthpass certificate etc.)</p>
<p>The city creates a stimulating environment for the safe participation of youth in traffic.</p> <p>(e.g. forums, workshops, campaigns, purchase of helmets etc.)</p>
<p>Other</p>

5. Health and sport

Article 7.

Health is the condition of physical and psychological well-being, and as such goes beyond the understanding that it is just the absence of illness. With the aim of achieving a higher quality of life, developing healthy lifestyles of youth, encouraging sports activities and achieving a well-being of the community, this thematic area assesses the extent to which the city is committed to ensuring the activities that contribute to the mentioned aims, with a special emphasis on the availability of the activities to all social groups of youth.

Quality standards of local youth policy in the thematic area Health and sport
The city creates conditions for an above-standard in the health system. (e.g. salary supplements, co-financing of housing and transport, financing of expert teams etc. in the area of pediatric protection of children, gynaecological health, speech therapy etc.)
Support to the systematic implementation of youth mental health programmes. (e.g. founding of counselling services, financing, promotion etc.)
Support to the systematic implementation of programmes for youth reproductive health. (e.g. founding of counselling services, financing, promotion etc.)
The city works towards the prevention of violence, addiction and other undesirable behaviours.
The city encourages healthy lifestyles. (e.g. prevention programmes for preventing addictive behaviours, building of pedestrian and recreational pathways etc.)
The city continuously provides and maintains public sports and recreational infrastructure, which is accessible to all the interested youth. (e.g. trim trails, street workout facilities, skate parks, pools, spots for fast bicycle reparation etc.) (note: this criterium does not include children's playgrounds and parks)
The city encourages sports programmes for youth. (e.g. co-financing of programmes, fees etc.)
The city rewards special achievements in sports.
The city encourages healthy eating habits. (e.g. school fruit scheme, honey day, short supply chains with local products etc.)
Other

6. Youth work and culture

Article 8

Youth work is a characteristic form of interaction between youth and professionals aimed at developing personal and social competencies of youth, as a segment of contribution to solving some of the current societal problems, primarily reflecting in the structured ways of spending leisure time. The importance of culture in this thematic area is understood as Participation in culture and art activities. A limited access to these types of activities can result in reduced opportunities for the young to develop social connections, and knowledge and skills that contribute to their personal development. This thematic area assesses the extent to which the city provides a stimulating environment for the development of youth work, and cultural and artistic practices.

Quality standards of local youth policy in the thematic area Youth work and culture
<p>The city announces a call in which youth is a special category.</p> <p>(note: the call is considered in this sense only if youth are clearly distinguished in the text of the call)</p>
<p>The city is a partner to associations in projects aimed at youth.</p> <p>(note: only official documents clearly stating the role of the city shall be regarded as evidence – e.g. contracts, agreements etc.)</p>
<p>The city (co)finances formal or non-formal education of youth workers.</p> <p>(e.g. (co)financing of travel costs, tuition fees, fees etc.)</p> <p>(note: the term youth worker is regarded in the context of this criterium as defined in the Glossary – document “Guidelines for Candidacy”)</p>
<p>The city awards an award for extracurricular success.</p> <p>(note: within this criterium, awards for success in sports are not considered, and neither are awards for success in school competitions)</p>
<p>The city ensures accessibility of cultural activities for youth.</p> <p>(e.g. preferential ticket prices, free space provided, transport to activities etc.) (note: the criterium is met only if it is clear that youth are a privileged social group in this context)</p>
<p>The city co-finances youth leisure time activities.</p> <p>(e.g. tuition fee for a foreign language school, music school, transport etc.)</p> <p>(note: sports activities are not included in this criterium)</p>
<p>The city establishes or encourages the work of youth centres.</p> <p>In institutions over which the city has founding rights there are programmes especially intended for youth.</p> <p>(e.g. in libraries, museums, galleries, theatres etc.) (note: youth are regarded as persons between 15 and 30 years of age)</p>
<p>The city co-finances approved projects targeted at youth.</p> <p>(e.g. in the cases when initial financing does not cover the implementation of the project completely)</p>
<p>The city promotes and encourages young talents in all artistic areas.</p>

(e.g. young artists perform at events organized by the city, travel costs for performing elsewhere are covered etc.)

Other

7. Education

Article 9

Education is understood as formal and non-formal education. This thematic area assesses the extent to which access to education is provided to all social groups of youth in the city, and the extent to which the quality of education is instigated.

Quality standards of local youth policy in the thematic area Education
The city (co)finances formal and non-formal educational programmes aimed at youth. (e.g. debate clubs, music schools, school volunteer clubs etc.)
The city provides scholarships for secondary school pupils and students. (note: the quality of the scholarship awarding system shall be evaluated according to the submitted documentation, which must include the total share of scholarships in the budget, the amount of an individual scholarship and the total number of awarded scholarships)
The city awards financial support to students and pupils. (e.g. for going to competitions, exchanges, faires etc.)
The city gives an award for excellent achievements. (e.g. school success, success at competitions etc.) (note: this criterium does not include awards for sports achievements)
The city provides assistance in learning. (e.g. through NGOs, through the scholarship awardees helping other youth etc.)
The city has a support system for youth from the NEET group. (e.g. co-financing of retraining or additional training) (note: The term NEET group is understood as defined in the Glossary – document “Guidelines for Candidacy”)
The city encourages work with young talented innovators, scientists etc.
The city contributes to creating preconditions for implementing single-shift teaching.
The city creates preconditions for implementing the programme of civic education in schools or in the local community. (note: besides through the system of formal education, the implementation of civic education programme is acceptable if done through NGOs, city organizations etc.)

The city creates preconditions for the implementation of the programme of sustainable development in schools and in the local community.
The city creates preconditions for the implementation of the programme of digital and media literacy.
(e.g. equipping of classrooms)
Other

8. Informing

Article 10

Informing of youth is related to using adequate tools for conveying messages to youth, proactivity in communication, two-way communication and city's general targeting of youth as a special target group that needs to be communicated with in such a way that all characteristics of youth are considered.

Quality standards of local youth policy in the thematic area Informing
The city continuously provides the accessibility of information via social networks. (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Viber, WhatsApp etc.) (note: for meeting this criterium, there has to be at least one post intended for youth per month, in the last 6 months)
The internet website of the city has a special section for youth. (note: the mentioned section needs to be updated regularly)
The city provides media presence of youth and topics relevant to youth in the local media. (e.g. The city shares local media notifications on its channels, excerpts from the city newsletter etc.)
The city supports entities in charge of informing youth. (e.g. info centres, youth clubs etc.)
The city provides internet access in public areas and public spaces to the young who cannot afford it.
In the city there is an official in charge of local youth policies and responsible for making the information easily accessible to youth. (e.g. contact on the city website) (note: this has to be evident in the Rulebook on Internal Regulation and/or in the job description)
The city (co)organizes events with the aim of informing youth on the opportunities available to youth in the local community. (e.g. fair of NGOs, fair of scholarships, fair of secondary schools, fair of faculties etc.)
The city is committed to motivating schools for providing information on the opportunities available to youth in the local community.

(e.g. sending information to schools etc.)
Other

III. SCORING PROCEDURE

Method of evaluating measures

Article 11

All the proposed measures need to be in effect at least 6 months before applying for candidacy.

The Committee for awarding the Certificate reserves the right to assess the relevance of the practices specified within the thematic areas.

Every specified measure needs to be supported with adequate evidence of having been met by the applicant.

Coordinator of every suggested measure needs to be the city (financing, co-financing, providing space etc.).

The proposed measure can refer to citizens in general, not just youth, but youth need to have certain benefits within the proposed measure, in order for the measure to be considered in the scoring process.

Although youth are defined as a social group between 15 and 30 years of age, the proposed measures can also refer to a broader age group (e.g. up to 35 or 40 years), if this is stipulated by the general act.

If one measure consists of multiple elements (e.g. the system of awarding scholarships – consists of scholarships for deficitary occupations, values volunteer hours etc.), the same measure can be nominated in multiple areas, with a clear explanation.

After evaluation, the Committee can request additional evidence on the implemented measure, in order to assess the quality of the measure.

Inclusiveness is a criterium referring to all areas, albeit not being a measure itself. Without inclusiveness it is not possible to score 100% in a particular thematic area. Inclusiveness is in this context defined as the promotion of social inclusiveness by facilitating access to all the opportunities for youth with fewer opportunities. The youth with fewer opportunities are those in need of additional support regarding the fact that they are in an unfavourable position compared to their peers, due to the various obstacles such as disablement, health problems, educational difficulties, cultural differences or economic, social or geographic hindrances, including the youth from marginalized communities or in danger of facing discrimination based on any of the elements provided in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (<https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-3103/InclusionAndDiversityStrategy.pdf>).

Evaluation of measures

Article 12

Candidates are awarded a certain number of points (1-10) for every thematic unit.

Based on the results obtained from the questionnaire survey conducted among the cities by the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia, the following system of criteria for receiving the Certificate is established:

- cities of up to 10 thousand inhabitants – minimally a total of 60%,
- cities of between 10 and 35 thousand inhabitants – minimally a total of 70%,
- cities of more than 35 thousand inhabitants – minimally a total of 80% of reached standards of the local youth policy quality.

All cities must meet a minimum of 50% of the criteria set in each particular thematic area.

If a city has the “City Friend of Children” certificate, this will also be considered while scoring, however, this is not a criterium for obtaining the Certificate.

IV. DECISION ON AWARDING THE CERTIFICATE

Article 13

The Committee for awarding the “City for Youth” certificate shall reach a decision on awarding the “City for Youth” certificate.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 14

The only competent body for the interpretation of the provisions of this Decision is the Committee for awarding the “City for Youth” certificate.

Article 15

Upon the entry into force of this Decision, the Decision on the quality standards of local youth policies and the awarding of the City for Youth certificate of 18 January 2021 shall cease to be valid.

Article 16

This Decision shall enter into force on the first day following that of its publication on the Association's web-site: www.udruga-gradova.hr.

In Zagreb, 11 January 2022

Committee for awarding the "City for Youth" certificate

PRESIDENT

Nives Kopajtich Škrlec, dipl. lur.