



#Let's get together!

youth in Lublin

Research on the activity of young people in Lublin



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lublin will be the first city in Poland to become the European Youth Capital in 2023. The proposed programme for actions, anchored in European values, inspiring the youth's participation in shaping the city's tomorrow, equality, accessibility, prevention of discrimination, turned out to be an attractive proposal that convinced the European Youth Forum to award this honourable title to our city.

Our working together to create a youth-friendly city is strictly in line with the main goals of our developmental strategy. Lublin needs a growing number of coherent and interdisciplinary projects for young people as it wants to continue as an open and friendly city, capable of responding to the changing needs and aspirations of the youth. We want to be a place that provides grounds for youth development, creates new opportunities and spaces for the realization of dreams and passions, and allows the youth's voice to be heard and appreciated.

We are already down to work on a comprehensive, attractive celebrations agenda, abundant with cultural, social, sports and educational events. We can do our best together to make the year 2023 a time of unique energy and astonishing ideas, and a source of inspiration both for the city residents and for all who choose to visit us at that time.

Lublin needs to grow on ideas expressed by young people since that will make it an even better city to live in. Please accept our wholehearted invitation to come to Lublin to cooperate in building the European Youth Capital 2023. Let's build the city of our dreams together.

Krzysztof Żuk, Ph.D.
Mayor of Lublin





Ladies and Gentlemen,

European Youth Forum acknowledged the fact that our city offers attractive spaces for diverse activities aimed at supporting and developing youth. Lublin has long been a meeting place for young people from all over Europe and the world; open and accessible to all; ready to support their ambitions, ideas and dreams.

Success in planning and realizing activities for young people crucially depends on knowing their needs and their ideas of what a friendly city is. That is why, as part of our efforts on the way to the European Youth Capital 2023, we conducted the #Let's Get to Know Each Other research action to collect answers to a set of questions about what young people in Lublin need and dream of.

The brochure in your hands is a report from the first research cycle, aimed at outlining a process framework based on specific resources and dreams of the young inhabitants of Lublin.

I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed their information, thoughts and ideas to make this publication come true. The young people's views of Lublin is a source of inspiration for us, and it creates an impulse for our further activities together.

Beata Stepaniuk-Kuśmierzak

Deputy Mayor of Lublin for Culture, Sports and Participation,
Mayor's Plenipotentiary for the European Youth Capital 2023



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#Let's get together!



research in figures



1555

completed
questionnaires

Привіт
hello!
28

foreign language
questionnaires completed

5

mobile interview
points

2

creative
workshops

10

in-depth
interviews

100+

pages of interview
transcripts

Lublin is preparing to celebrate the title of the European Youth Capital in 2023. Getting ready for the moment, the Lublin City Office decided to get to know the young people who are our city. That's how our research began, and it may be the case you have already taken part. Our research uses an online survey, conversations at so-called mobile points in different city spaces, interviews and creative workshops. A total of nearly 1,600 youth participated in the study. Now we are ready to show you a report that summarizes the key findings.

In our research, we explored views and opinions of young people aged 10 to 30: this is the age bracket for youth defined by the organizers of the European Youth Capital. Read the report to see the diversity of opinions and needs expressed by different representatives of this wide social group. At the same time, there emerged issues where all the respondents have a common viewpoint. Do all people in this age bracket feel to be youth? Not necessarily. It is secondary school students who feel by far the closest to that notion.



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Associations that the researched youth have with Lublin



What comes to your mind when you hear the name Lublin? What emotions, thoughts does Lublin evoke? Do the youth of Lublin see their city in a similar way? In response to this question, the researched youth tended to give short slogan-like answers, which we present below divided into a handful of categories. The number of these categories proves the complex nature of the imagery that the young people unveil about Lublin and pinpoints these images that stay in their memory for good.

Sentimental place

family home, family living in Lublin, acquaintances and friends, meeting a loved one, place of work or study, place of birth and memories from the time of youth

Home, I have always lived here, I grew up here, attended school, I study here, work here, have family and friends.



Student City

universities, students, student life, "Chatka Żaka" Academic Centre for Culture and Media at the Maria Curie Skłodowska University (UMCS).

When I think about Lublin, I think mainly about the universities, and especially two of them: KUL and UMCS. I study at one of them. Campuses, student life, student community in general.

Symbol of Lublin

onion bread (Cebularz), the Goat (city symbol), the black paw legend, trolleybus, the Union of Lublin, the Independence Mast

Lublin, in my opinion, is known for its onion bread. I really like that we have something of our own, a unique quality of our small town.



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Lublin's unique places

Old Town, Zemborzycki Reservoir (Lake), The Litewski (Lithuanian) Square (fountain show), The Saski Garden, the Lublin Open Air Village Museum, Brama Krakowska, Lech Kaczyński Square.

Lublin is a city rich in inspiring spaces for spending free time on foot like the Old Town, or in the green areas such as parks or the area around the Zemborzycki Reservoir.



Entertainment

night life of the city, clubs, restaurants as one of the meeting places for young people, ice cream shops, malls

In my mind, Lublin is about nice places where you can get delicious food, wonderful places where you can enjoy being together.

Culture

Carnaval Sztukmistrzów (Conjurer Carnival), the Night of Culture, the Jagiellonian Fair, Falkon, Kozienalia and Juwenalia, along with numerous other events where everyone finds something of interest, e.g.: Splat!FilmFest, Lublin Urban Games League; cultural venues, e.g. Chatka Żaka UMCS, Lublin Culture Centre, Centre for the Meeting of Cultures, Youth Culture Centre, cinemas

In my mind Lublin has always evoked a connection with culture. The city itself is a great cultural centre, and its map is full of institutions to confirm that status (...). The event calendar features a remarkably wide array of events held in the city (...), which sometimes makes it really hard for me to decide which one is my favourite.



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City of Inspirations

is the most frequently evoked notion associated with Lublin; this slogan is a catchphrase of its own, used without additional explanation or descriptive reference.

City atmosphere

green city with a unique atmosphere, cosy, peaceful, quiet Lublin, climatic places, spectacular sights and beauty spots

I really like the fact that there are many old buildings preserved in Lublin, instead of thousands of skyscrapers and super-modern buildings. The atmosphere of the city is amazing. I came to Lublin to study, and I fell in love with the city, the way it looks. The Litewski Square, which is surrounded by beautiful buildings, is a perfect place to take photos or just hang out and enjoy the view.

Sports

sports teams e.g. RKS Motor (football team), speedway (Motor Lublin), swimming pools e.g. Aqua Lublin, skate park, stadium e.g. Arena Lublin, Athletics Stadium, people practicing sports

It is impossible to ignore such facilities as Aqua Lublin, Arena Lublin, the Athletics Stadium, or not to be happy about the sports achievements of our athletes (including winning three medals at the latest Tokyo Olympics).



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A comfortable city

cosy, easy to get around, also on foot or by bike, with a lot to offer, with easy access to important places, where it is easy to meet other people

Big city combined with a kind of familiar peace and quiet; no rush or hustle - that's what Lublin is for me. A city that has several hundred thousand inhabitants, but there is an omnipresent calm, a space to hear one's own thoughts.



Problems

night public transport (crowded, poor timetable), low security, no jobs after graduation, lack of openness to other people, littering, smog, scarce green areas, traffic jams and limited parking area.

It's a city full of students, but suffering from a narrow job market due to poor industry, so I'm considering leaving the region.

Community involvement

commitment to the city, volunteering

This is where I was born and where I live. I try to get involved in various initiatives that affect the city. I identify Lublin as a city that has a lot of potential, and a lot of still unleashed. Nevertheless, I like the city because I have a lot of fond memories connected with it.



MOJE MIASTO, JA DECYDUJĘ

BUDŻET
OBYWATELSKI



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offer for the youth

Lublin offers a variety of options that include cultural and sports activities, meeting places, opportunities for recreation, integration or co-determination (collaborative decision-making) about the city. How is the offer assessed by the youth? On the graph, you can see bars that show the percentage of survey participants who rated this category high, medium or low. Most people gave high marks to the recreational offer, i.e. places for walks, cycle paths. Similar ratings were granted to the sports and the cultural offer - over half of the participants rated them very high. The opportunity for integration is rated lower, and the opportunity for co-determination was rated the lowest.

integration opportunities, e.g. meeting new people, students from other schools, neighbours and foreigners



meeting places for young people, e.g. for socialisation and other meetings



opportunities for collaborative decision-making about the city, e.g. participation in consultations, voting in the Civic Budget, engagement in the local government



leisure facilities, e.g. places for picnics, walking and cycle paths, tourist trails



sporting events, e.g. sports clubs and classes, amateur and professional sports, sports fans associations



cultural events, e.g. workshops, concerts, festivals, performances



High Medium Low

What is it like to be a young person in Lublin?

The city provides a lot of opportunities for young people, especially educational or cultural ones. There's hardly anyone who would fail to find something for themselves. Thanks to numerous festivals you can also search for new interests, including niche ones. But sometimes there is a need to change the place, to leave Lublin and find some inspiration somewhere else. And then come back, because the sensation that this city evokes, its cosiness, and its large youth population make being a young person in Lublin attractive. It is good to live in a city that is vibrant, especially in the summer. And is there a space for improvement? That's what the study participants think: If Lublin is more open and tolerant, accessible to people with disabilities, and if there is less distancing and greater trust between people of different ages.



It also seems to me that young people find Lublin quite a good place to live, that we have many universities, many events aimed at my age group, (...) many places where we can meet, many initiatives.



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the city of my dreams

Young people recognize that Lublin is developing rapidly, but they also disclose their dreams and desired trajectories that - in their opinion - the city should pursue. They pay particular attention to making the city safer. They want to have a much wider range of entertainment options, better opportunities to develop their interests, sports activities (including those for amateurs and available to the general public, not only to students). It is also important for Lublin to be ecological, clean and aesthetically pleasing. What other dreams do young people have about Lublin?

modern

accessible and open

with diversified cultural offer

a green city

a meeting place, in the city space and in buildings, in the centre and in the districts

unique atmosphere

diversified cultural offer

safe
clean

with professional and employability vistas for the youth



My dream Lublin is full of green. There are plenty of opportunities to attend some inexpensive cultural events. And the city also provides plenty of opportunities for self-development and helping others, such as volunteering initiatives. There are more trolleybuses and buses run-ning. There are plenty of opportunities to pursue your passions (e.g. at community centres) without spending too much money.



Lublin as a place where everyone can feel safe and can show who they really are without fear of finger-pointing. Green, with even more people active in the community, with places for young people to support development or simply enjoy being together.



Polish Silicon Valley, more workshops on start-ups, starting a business, new technologies, more TEDx, Fuckup Nights, places encouraging creative action, full of interesting and ambitious people, workshops, organization buildings, dedicated to meetings and helping to build connections between people with similar passions.

Ways of spending free time

How do young people spend their free time? What are their interests? These questions are difficult to answer in a straightforward way. And that's good! The multitude of responses, in-terests, passions, personalities shows how diverse youth are. Some like spending time at home or walking, others practice sports or develop talents. Some young people spend time with family or friends, others prefer their time alone. There are those whose interests reach beyond one precise topic, whose explorations cover a wide spectrum of issues. There are also those who devote themselves fully to one passion. And this is beautiful - a key asset of the Lublin youth is their diversity. Below we present a handful of examples of what young people in Lublin told us about their free time.



Media:

playing computer games, phone gaming apps; spending time browsing the internet, record-ing/creating pictures, videos, e.g. TikTok, chatting with friends, programming, creating graphics or being active in social media



Pursuing interests:

cooking (including plant-based cooking), baking, singing, reading, dancing, watching movies and TV series, drawing, painting, listening to music and podcasts, playing instruments, DIY, writing, photography, board games, gardening/plant care, theatre, handicrafts and crafts, e.g. candle making, crocheting, knitting, fashion design...



Meetings:

with acquaintances, with friends, girlfriend or boyfriend, family, meetings of interest groups, like BMW fans or scouting



I like tasting new food, so I am happy when new restaurants open in Lublin.



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Ways of spending free time



Sporting activities:

yoga, gym exercise, cycling, team games e.g. basketball, volleyball, football, handball, roller skating, sailing, swimming, playing pool, motorcycle, car, rollerblading, skating, sailing...



Entertainment:

going out to clubs, parties with friends, attending concerts, going out to restaurants and pubs



Taking care of yourself:

nail styling, clothing styling



Shopping:

shopping in malls, second-hand shops



Social activities:

organizing money collections, participation in actions organized by various organizations



Sightseeing and travel

trips outside Lublin, trips to bigger cities or quiet places, mini tours



Spiritual and personal development:

prayer, meditation, personal growth



Sleeping



Walks:

in the city, in the forest, with friends, alone, with dog (including care, play), watching interesting landscapes or backstreets of Lublin



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Where do the young people spend their free time?

The young people participating in our research claim that they most often spend their free time at home, and when they go out, they usually head for the Old Town, the Litewski Square or shopping malls. They also like spending time in their community area or in their own city district, but they are equally happy to visit the city centre. However, not everyone finds a good place for themselves. Some respondents notice that still Lublin has not enough places for young people.

Where are you likely to meet young people in Lublin? Below, we present information we gathered about places where young people spend their free time after school, studies, work or other duties.



places downtown:

Old Town, Krakowskie Przedmieście - promenade, Litewski Square, Plac Zamkowy (Castle Square), Brama Krakowska (Cracow Gate), Plac Dominikański (Dominican Square), Hempla Square, Hartwig St., Po Farze Square, Plac Katedralny (Cathedral Square) and L. Kaczyński Square near the Lublin Centre of Culture

places in their living area:

playgrounds, bridges, railway stations, abandoned places and buildings



I like riding the bike to the Zemborzycki Reservoir and back. I also happen to go out with friends to the Old Town, for example for ice creams, to McDonald's, for waffles with cream or just for a stroll.



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commercial facilities:

shopping malls, escape rooms, cafes, bars and pubs restaurants, clubs

places in green areas, recreational spaces:

ravines, the Old Grove forest and parks: Ludowy (Popular Park), Zawilcowa, Rury, John Paul II Park, Ogród Saski (Saski Garden); Górki Czechowskie (Czechów Hills), Ogród Botaniczny (Botanic Garden), Zalew Zemborzycki (Zemborzyce Reservoir), Las Dąbrowa (Dąbrowa Forest), rivers: Czerniejówka, Bystrzyca; housing estate areas and favourite benches.

places connected with sports:

playing fields, skate parks, climbing walls, ice rinks (Icemanía), stables, trampoline parks, bike paths, training halls, gyms, shooting galleries, stadiums, e.g. Arena, speedway stadium, bowling facilities

places connected with cultural events:

community centres, cinemas, churches, the Open-Air Village Museum, Centre for the Meeting of Cultures, Chatka Żaka (Academic Culture Centre at UMCS), libraries, the Centre of Culture, Galeria Labirynt (The Labyrinth Gallery)

own space:

at home, with friends

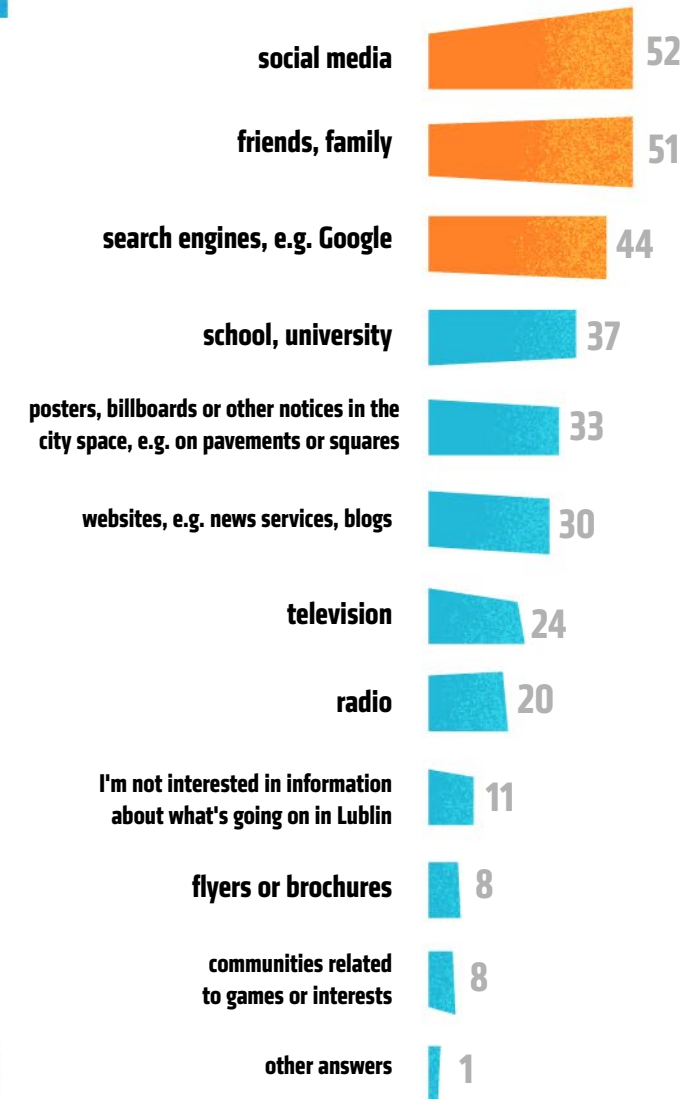
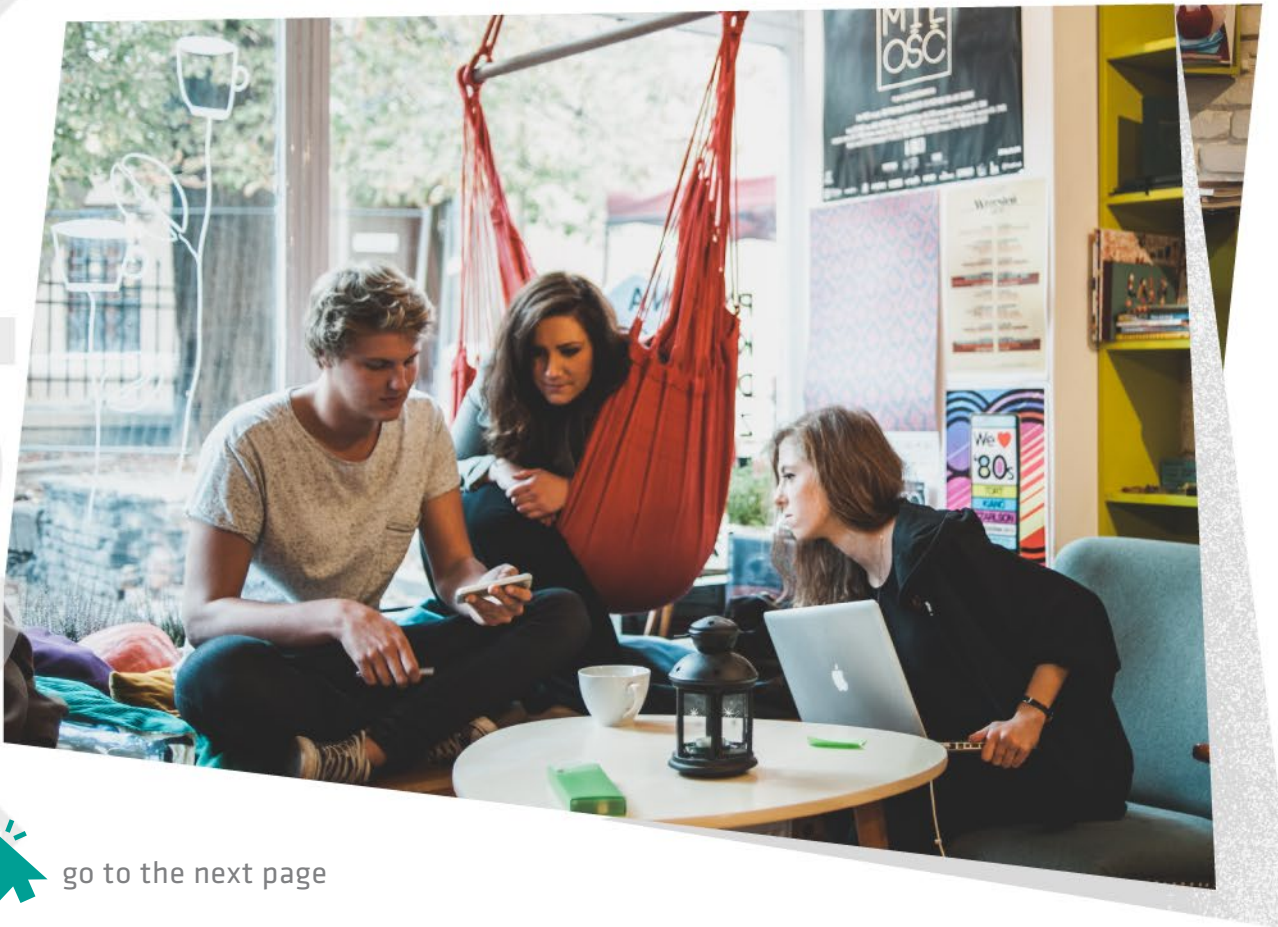


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How do young people learn about what is up in Lublin?

The most common sources of information about Lublin are social media, family/friends, search engines such as Google. The school or university also serves the role of the space where one gets information about what is happening in Lublin. Also useful are posters and billboards placed around the city spaces. Websites, portals or blogs are less likely to be visited for information, as are television, radio, leaflets or gaming and interest-based communities.



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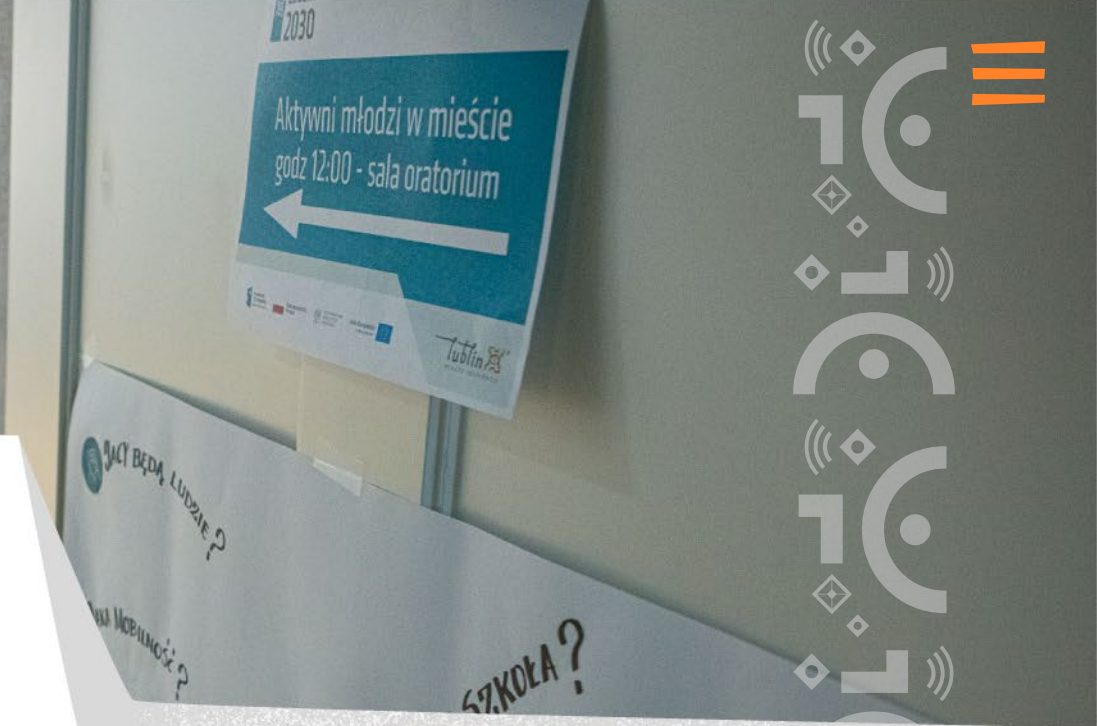


How does age influence information seeking behaviour?

Younger people (aged 10-14) are more likely to have heard about events in Lublin from someone else. Friends, family or teachers will give an occasional hint, provide information about an event, maybe encourage or directly suggest participating in an event together. Search engines, such as Google, are also a popular tool used in this age group. The older the respondents, the more actively their search for information, seeking it first within their interest zones. More often than not, the beginning of secondary school or university mark the moments when you start to get to know the city and the things it offers on your own. Secondary school and university students actively use information provided in various forms by their schools and universities.

People in their twenties are more likely to use social media, such as Facebook, Instagram. Less frequently used channels are TikTok or Twitter, websites, portals or blogs. As for Facebook, which is the most informative platform for young people, the difficulty is that in order to access current information, one must first observe and preferably add to favourites the relevant profiles and fan pages. Otherwise, the search for information is problematic.

All groups use posters and information available in the city or school spaces. Regardless of age, young people also use information provided by family or friends.



How to communicate effectively with young people?

- plan a big promotion action to reach people who do not follow your social media channel yet
- if you create one space for all your information, it must necessarily be a phone app
- implement an information campaign targeting parents
- ensure adequate coverage on various social media channels
- liaise with the school and university community providing information, including posters targeting secondary schools and universities



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How to support young people's activity?

**Do you want to support young people's activity?
We've got some guidelines for you extracted from
what the participants in our study told us:**

create

a school space for student initiatives,

provide

a sense of security so they can experiment without fear of failure, make mistakes, and sometimes... "disappear" from a lesson or two for the sake of the good cause,

motivate and support

when difficulties come, an unkind word hurts or something does not work,

provide information and knowledge

through youth development programmes, ensure participation in various actions and projects that engage young people, workshops, initiative support,

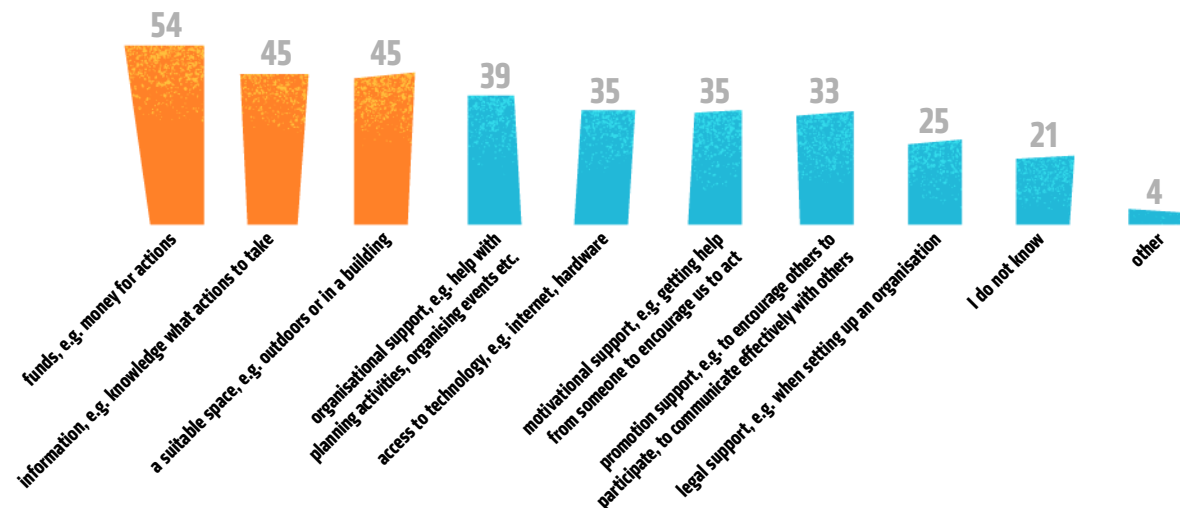
encourage

participation, spot people with potential and help them take their first steps!

Young people taking part in the research unveiled a lot about their activities. It is important for them that Lublin be a place where young people initiate events and put their ideas into practice. What does it take for young people to spread their wings? The biggest support in implementing own initiatives are funds, information, adequate space and organizational help, e.g. in planning activities, organizing events. The young people report their need to access technology, and they will benefit from the support of a motivating mentor. They also need a hand with organizing event promotion. The youth admit their least interest in getting legal support.

The older the participants, the more likely they are to admit their need for financial resources and promotional support to implement ideas. The youngest respondents were more likely to indicate that they did not know what was needed to make their ideas come true.

According to our research participants, it is the school, especially the secondary, that can be the first, natural environment for learning to be active. Conditions need to be created for young people to initiate their actions and get support from those who encourage them to act.



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A meeting place for young people

Young people very often talk about their need to have own places, where they can spend time and meet friends. What should these places be like?

COSY

soft sofas and poufs, colourful light, lots of plants, warmth (appropriate temperature), and all this to sit comfortably



It's warm and cosy (you can hide from the rain, wind, snow and cold, but also from heat), there are books that you can read without borrowing, there are board games, comfortable seats (e.g. poufs), some place to study, somewhere where you can observe the world around you (e.g. big windows), have a chat with friends.



likeable

aesthetically pleasing and fashionably furnished interiors, encouraging youth to spend more time inside, intriguing in their outlooks



The way a place looks like makes the first impression, and only then will someone find out what's there inside. There is a building which looks superb, interesting and is open to all, for example, you can normally go in there, someone will say "oh, interesting" and will go further in (...), and if the building is a squalid place, no one will go in there, so it has to attract with its appearance and make people stop to see what is happening there.



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safe

for secondary school and younger youth this is one of the basic preconditions for using a place. It is possible that safety can be ensured by the presence of an adult as a host, however the character of the space and the events held there must be decided on by the youth



Quiet, but with lots of people, a place where I feel safe, accessible to everyone (no matter what status, orientation etc.); a place with lots of people in my age group.



with an atmosphere

informal and making everyone feel welcome, giving a sense of shelter and cosiness.



Informal atmosphere. I think it's also a bit of a place that is not known to everyone, that is not widely recognized by the hosts of Lublin's population, but there is also a programme there that is oriented towards openness to everyone.



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multifunctional space

in the time span between classes or just after lessons you can come here to study or do a project together; you can wait for the bus, and in the afternoon and at weekends, you can take part in workshops or other events; at any time, you can just come in, sit down and have a good time, with your friends or alone



It's a big, colourful building with a bunch of skateparks (also under a roofing), a painting room, a paintball room, a nature reserve with pandas, a book room, a room with a climbing wall, a sports room (with sashes), a music room, and an aqua park. I'd like to be able to go in there whenever I want and do whatever I feel like doing.



no-drugs zone

comfort and feeling of safety are the most important, therefore the meeting place should be a space free from stimulants

snug

but accessible to all - it is important that this meeting place is not dedicated for crowds or mass meetings. Even if the space is larger, it should be easily divided in different zones or rooms so that you can sit with your friends in your own company only

accessible and open

tolerant to all and ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities and foreigners - one in which meetings will go together with integration



A quiet, peaceful place, friendly to people on the autism spectrum, where you can spend time in your own way without being judged by passers-by. Somewhere where you can fully be yourself.



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with coffee and a sandwich

no one can be hungry here, the place should ensure access to (cheap) coffee or tea, drinks and food; a kitchen space open to everyone will be a great solution as well



Such a place with sofas, cosy blankets, grandma's old carpets, books, but also coffee and water that costs almost nothing, but still makes such an atmosphere that someone left a kettle for me here, and I can make myself some Chinese soup while I'm waiting, and I don't have to explain myself to anyone why I come there, what for, how much I stayed.

in the city centre or in the city districts

for many young people the best location is the city centre, especially if they attend school there. Still others would prefer their meeting places in the city districts, close to their local schools. Thus, there should be more places to host their own small communities, so that everyone has access and feels welcome.

equipment

suitable for having great time: consoles, ping-pong tables, board games, wi-fi access, books



Places to listen to music and dance and a place to calm down with poufs, books, audiobooks; a place to take a siesta and some computers or laptops to do homework or browse the internet.



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outdoors or indoors - or both?

In warm seasons, the activities at the meeting place can be held in the open air. It is particularly important for the space to have a lot of greenery; the ideas submitted by the respondents include repetitive mentions of open-air cinemas, exhibitions; the open air also gives a greater sense of security in the context of pandemics, at the same time, in winter and on rainy days there is a need for indoor facilities, warm and welcoming

I guess good places would be, for example, in some parks or somewhere to hold bonfires. Young people like bonfires very much; even I love bonfires, just to sit around, for someone to bring a guitar, because my friends also play guitar, to sit around a bonfire, listen to music, play and have fun. It would be good if there were places like that and then the police wouldn't get involved: they won't make it easy any time.



How does respondent age influence the opinions?

The visions indicated above were primarily expressed by those aged 20 and under. Students and employed young adults are more likely to meet at home or go out to a bar, café, restaurant or pub. Students enjoy meeting outdoors - walks, bonfires, barbecues. In contrast to their younger colleagues, they would enjoy drinking beer at their meeting place in a peaceful and quiet manner.

When a student in Belgium, I saw lots of libraries and everyone could come and study in the library, but apart from the libraries there were so-called student clubs. You could come there, drink coffee, even buy a small beer - 0.3, play chess, some board games, study, chat, eat dinner. (...) In Belgium it was like this - you buy a coffee mug for 15 euros and every time you come with that mug to this student club, you can drink coffee for free. Who makes the coffee? Students for students, for free, volunteers do that.



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activity barriers

what prevents young people from doing what they would like to do?

The most common barriers that the youth experience in spending their time the way they like is the lack of city safety and problems with public transport. Some respondents pay attention to crowd and noise, as they consider it a hindrance to their activity. For many, the main barrier is the lack of time due to studying obligations, extra classes or workouts.

Barriers to activity:



Insecurity

people under the influence of alcohol, people who misbehave in public, people being accosted and solicited on the street, fear of people in homelessness crisis, vandalism, littering, swear-ing, playing loud music, physical and psychological fear of other people, pathological behav-iour



Personal barriers

fear of the crowd, shyness, too much noise, lack of company, lack of information about events

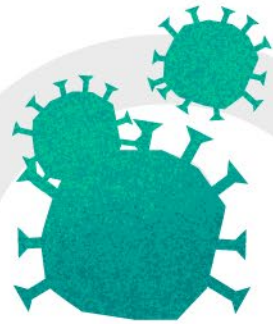


A weak or non-existent offer of activities

events or sports practicing: no free-of-charge offer, scarce cultural venues, limited access to specialists supporting development, no promotion and funding for e.g. less popular sports such as women's football



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The pandemic

isolation, face masks, fear of the Covid infection



Pollution

noise, air pollution (exhaust fumes, smog), land and water, rubbish strewn (no garbage cans), destroyed streets



Relationships

people's ignorance, hate, lack of tolerance, political pressures, lack of opportunities to meet new people outside of school, lack of people to spend time with



Lack of space

no nice benches to sit, no park infrastructure, no meeting places in the city districts, no skate parks, not enough places to rest from the city noise, small number of parking spaces in the vicinity of the Old Town



Public transport

lack of reliable public transport, poor timetables, high ticket prices, lack of cycle routes in some places, traffic jams, lack of buses or suburban trains at late hours



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Costs

lack of funds, inflation, high restaurant prices



Lack of access

to foreign language learning or activities dedicated to people with disabilities



Lack of information about events

poor event promotion, difficulty in finding relevant information



Lack of time

lots of school responsibilities, workload in academic studies, work (and studies), extra classes or private tuition.



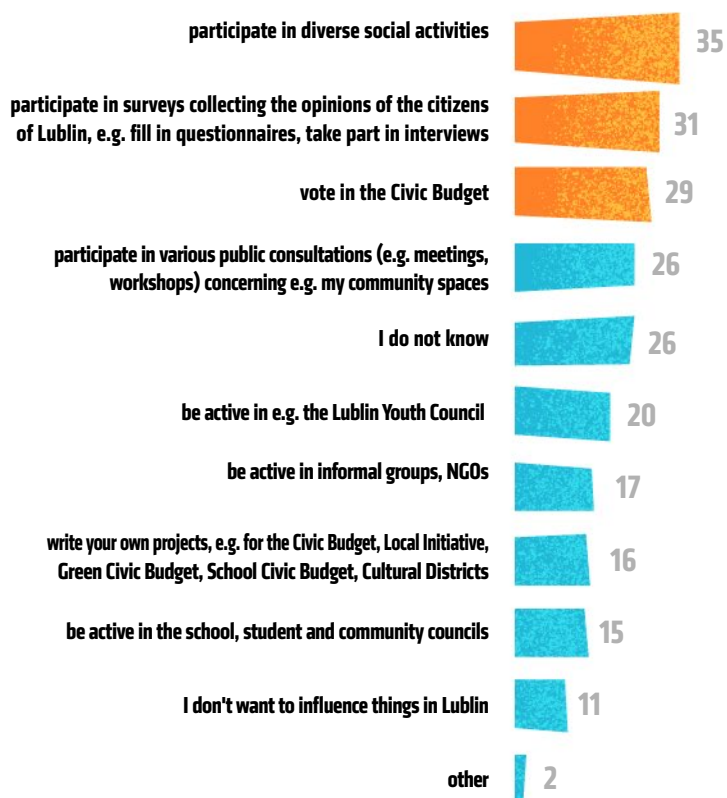
Weather

weather conditions: cold, rain, snow



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How do youth want to influence the life of the city?



Social participation is active participation of male and female residents of the city and supporting the authorities in making decisions about the city. In other words, it is a way for you to influence what happens in the city. According to the study participants, the most popular forms of participation are the Civic Budget, consultation meetings and questionnaires. Can anyone participate? Yes, there is no age limit.

In our research, we asked young people about preferred ways of influencing the life of the city. Out of many proposed forms, the participants of the survey indicated that they would most like to participate in various social actions, opinion surveys conducted with male and female inhabitants of Lublin, in questionnaires or interviews and in voting for the Civic Budget projects. The respondents admitted being less keen on participating in various public consultations (e.g. meetings, workshops) concerning e.g. community or district spaces. A considerable number of respondents do not know how they would like to influence what is happening in Lublin (mainly people under 19).

With the rising age of the respondents, the willingness to participate in various social actions and opinion polls for male and female residents of Lublin grew steadily. Older youth also show interest in being active in various informal groups, NGOs etc. People over 25 are most likely to participate in public consultations or author their own projects.



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I think the best conclusion (...) would be to take the opportunity that the young are so much in the limelight now (...) to finally start treating them as equal partners. Because, for example, I often find myself in a situation where adults say, what do you know, you are so young, and this is a topic where I think I have much more knowledge than they. I think that maybe this approach to life where we see people divided should finally go away, and we should live more equally; and let it not be so that the young are any better, that everything in the city will be done for them only.

What kind of participation is good for young people?

A basic prerequisite for influencing where the city is going is getting to know all the various ways of doing so. The experience of the persons participating in the in-depth interviews shows that, first of all, the environment - family or school - most often provides information and encourages young people to show initiative. Secondly, the effect of participatory activities is very important - two participants in the in-depth interviews told us how disappointed they were with the Civic Budget project because the winning project failed to be implemented. Both these participants withdrew

from their activity with the Civic Budget framework in its subsequent editions. A similarly important and formative role is played by the example set by school self-governments: the extent to which they are granted voice to wield actual influence on the school life, the extent to which they thrive as community guides. Participation and planning youth-related activities relies on the principle of partnership: treating young people as equals, not to decide for them, but to allow and encourage them to influence their city themselves, on an equal footing with others.



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What do young people know about the EYC?

Of those who took part in the survey, 45% knew that Lublin was awarded the title of European Youth Capital. How did they find out? Most often they pointed to Facebook, information on bus doors, posters and billboards, including the one hung on the City Hall. Schools are an important point of the map of information flow. Traditionally, family, friends and organizations that have been involved in winning the title from the very beginning: Sempre a Frente Foundation or the Youth City Council.

I found out that Lublin is to become the European Youth Capital from a notice hung on the building of the Lublin City Hall.

From posts on Facebook, information on Lublin's website, posters at the office, and above all from friends who are active in Lublin.

I found out by accident when I got an email at my student email address at KUL.

Youth - this is the most generally evoked connotation mentioned by the participants of the study. Further directions of associations move towards popular and mass events (concerts, festivals, trips, events, meetings). According to the participants in the survey, the EYC will be primarily an international event, with many people from abroad coming to visit Lublin. There will be a space for integration, a friendly atmosphere based on openness, inclusion and accessibility. The European Youth Capital is also associated with the creation of meeting places in the city and a typical offer of activities dedicated to young people. The youth will take the initiative to implement their ideas on their own. The respondents also expressed their claims that the EYC would mean a greater readiness to accept young people's influence on the developmental trajectories of the city, granting them a priority position. Therefore, when planning activities it is important to take into account the role of young people, their diverse needs (also related to accessibility), and the topics that are important for them, such as the environment or the labour market. According to the survey participants, the EYC offers a great opportunity to promote Lublin. The collected responses also voice concerns that the EYC will only be one big party time: crowds everywhere, alcohol and crowded public transport. Some respondents fear that the EYC will neither be youthful nor authentic; that it will only be a sham.

I think that's how they say take the floor, that the floor will be taken by the youth and this year 2023 will be very hot, there will be a lot of different events - I think - related to youth, but it will be sad if it is only about youth.

With young people from all over Europe - with enthusiasm, energy, youth, ambition, innovation and dynamism.

With a place where everyone is equal, where people don't tell us what to do now or then. With a place where everything is widely accessible.

How do you see this?

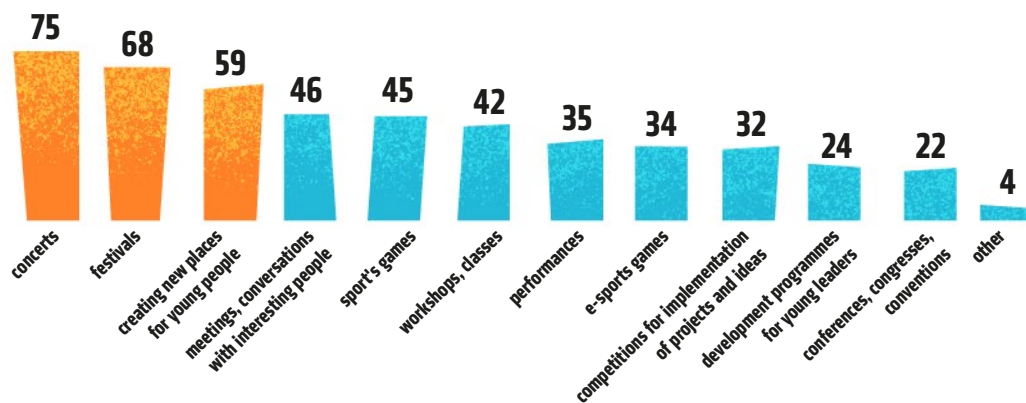
The visual promotion of the European Youth Capital catches the eye - as the survey participants observe. It is visually attractive and aesthetically pleasing. At the same time, these messages do not fully unveil what the title celebration will actually be, what it will be all about. The interviewees indicated that it would be good to use promotion photos created with Lublin youth, to give the promotion campaign a face of the young people working to create their Lublin. The following slogan is interpreted as questionable: Lublin is Youth. It is viewed as vague, difficult to pronounce.



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What program forms can be attractive to the youth?

What activities performed under the European Youth Capital project will the youth find attractive? Young people are, above all, to attend concerts and festivals. They will also benefit from new places created especially for them. Their interest will certainly be inspired by meetings or talks to interesting people, and they are very likely to come to both sports and e-sports tournaments. Survey participants between 15 and 19 are the least interested in workshops. The responses for older respondents reveal their growing interest in festivals, concerts, performances, meetings with interesting people, congresses, along with a strong inspiration and need to author their own projects. Conferences are the least interesting to people under 19.



“About these developmental programmes for young male and female leaders (...), I think it's a great idea, only that first of all, you would have to reach out to these secondary school students, to schools that allow this activity, because I think that students will be involved, but a little less, because they have less time and more responsibilities. Secondary school students can get a great drive for it, in leadership programs like this, and it will inspire further work-shops, performance festivals, because they will organize it and they will want to do it.”



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What is missing?

The interviewees and participants of creative workshops identified different formats and topics to keep in mind when developing the programme for EYC 2023:

- ▶ To make Lublin a truly youth-friendly city, the EYC should not only feature entertainment content, but also develop elements needed by young people in the context of entering the labour market: workshops on preparing a CV, job counselling, job fairs,
- ▶ There should be events aimed at integration between people from different environments, able-bodied people and people with disabilities, foreigners. It is not about separate events for individual groups, but about organizing joint events taking into account accessibility (sign interpreters, so-called language officers, adapted interiors co-designed with people with disabilities to cater for their needs, both architectural and those concerning lighting conditions etc.),
- ▶ Attention to accessibility should also concern access to information about events, organisational matters, as well as providing transportation for people from Lublin and vicinities, including people with disabilities and those who speak foreign languages,

What is missing?

- ▶ Attention should be paid to the needs of the older youth - young adults who lack opportunities (free or low cost) to practice amateur sports (and competitions) of various disciplines or to learn languages,
- ▶ Events to showcase talents, inspire each other,
- ▶ Activities that take into account the needs of both extroverted and introverted people or those who prefer small-size (chamber) events,
- ▶ Events designed to celebrate the year of youth, allowing for festive dress and preparation, e.g., prom, gala,
- ▶ Culinary zones - cooking together, cuisine workshops, meetings at the table,
- ▶ Opportunities to get to know other cultures, as well as to go on joint trips and get to know the Lublin area,
- ▶ The workshops for young leaders are an ideal form of, on the one hand, empowering people who want to be active and, on the other hand, expanding the EYC team with a number of new members and new ideas.

Choosing a topic is decisive!

” The key to implementing attractive activities is to build them on topics of interest to young people. It may then be that the forms of implementation of these activities will need adjustment or modification. Standard event formats can be run in different ways, but is always crucial for young people to give them informal touch and avoid excessive gravity.



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Maybe some tournaments, so that there are sports competitions. However, I miss something related to art, some exhibitions, but also cinema, cinematography, picture exhibitions, you can add to e-sports games, board games. It would also be nice to do some kind of show, because it's also very much about the youth, a stand-up show, a talent competition, a stand-up competition, to give them an opportunity to tell the audiences about themselves, to tell their story.



Create diversity and win-win opportunities!

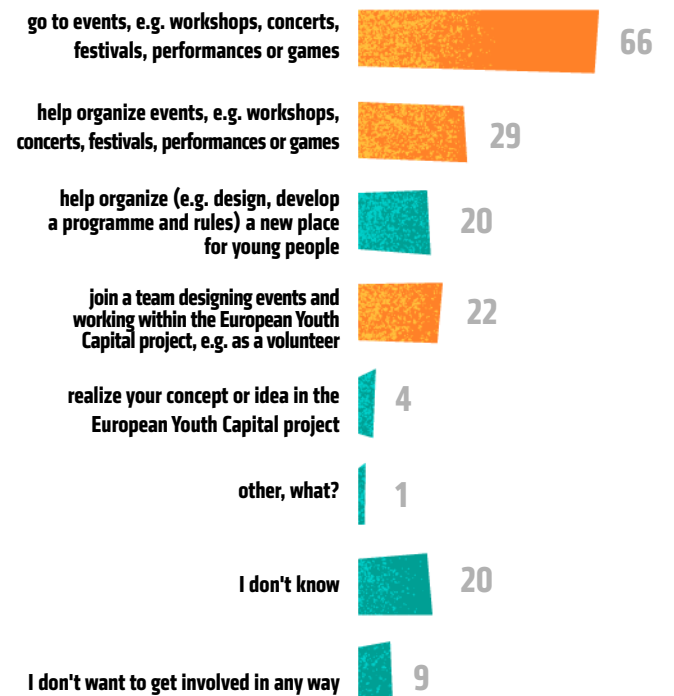
Young people are more likely to engage in cooperation and co-creation of the EYC offer when they can be involved in the organisation efforts concerning events that fall close to their interests or professional aspirations, or they represent forms of activity they enjoy. For many, an opportunity of doing student practice in cooperation with the EYC will be an asset: working for EYC is a great opportunity for students of foreign languages or cultural animation. Such opportunities will guarantee benefits for all the stakeholders. For all this to become a matter of fact, information resources available through various channels are needed telling the youth how to become involved in the design and development of the EYC framework.



How do young people want to get involved in the European Youth Capital project?

Our young respondents indicated various forms of participation in the events held within the framework of the European Youth Capital. They are most likely to participate in events such as workshops, concerts, festivals, performances or tournaments. Fewer people reported their eagerness to help organize an event. Only some youth are interested in joining a team that designs events within the European Youth Capital project, e.g. as volunteers. Not too many young respondents were ready to help create new places for the youth (e.g. to design them, develop programmes or regulations).

The older the respondents, the willingness to engage in EYC grows. A lot of the researched youth under the age of 14 do not yet have an opinion on how to get involved.



Join us!

One of the fundamental premises behind the activities carried out under the European Youth Capital Lublin 2023 is to enhance young people's participation levels, understood as active part in working out of the final format of the EYC Lublin 2023 programme and then its collaborative implementation. Research on the participation level of young people in Lublin is an early-stage action on the way to EYC Lublin 2023. Research results outline an image of the city of Lublin as seen through the eyes of young people. This type of overall assessment will continue between 2022 and 2024. It will allow us to determine how the initiatives under the EYC Lublin 2023 framework influence change in the city. At the same time, our assessment will provide the organizers with information about the needs of young people. They will yield insights to further advance cooperation between the youth and the city. All this is to empower co-developed solutions to make Lublin a city friendly to its youth. Thank you for participating in the research, for all the information, reflections and ideas. Thank you for your cooperation in promoting the questionnaires. The research report is intended to for all those who are interested in youth activities, initiatives with youth participation and for increasing active presence of the youth in our city. Feel free and invited use it!

If you like to share your opinions, ideas for future research, or other insights regarding the EYC Lublin 2023, please contact us:



Lublin is Youth

If you like to join the group of people working and co-organizing EYC 2023 or you are interested in becoming a volunteer please write to us



youth@lublin.eu

