



UCLG
DAEJEON
10-14 OCT 2022



UCLG CONGRESS
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL LEADERS

Youth Participation in Finland

Example: Future Mentors

Programme

Minna Karhunen, CEO, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities

Future Mentors programme

Future Mentors' Dreams



Future Mentors' Fears



Comments from the young Future Mentors

- “By itself, dialogue between city administrations and young people is extremely hard, if not impossible, the programme has proven to be a very needed chance to promote this dialogue.”
- “I feel like whatever I say to the representatives they say they "listen" but they actually do not care because they know the current status quo.”
- “[The programme is] making sure that the people who have to live with the future older generations choose, at least have a chance to get their voices heard and ideally implemented into decision-making.”



Comments from the mentored decision makers

- “...the idea of setting up a dialogue between city representatives and representative of our youth is an effective way to give youngsters a voice in the decision making process.”
- “The dialogue was very positive and respectful. the most difficult part begins now with the mentors' expectations after this experience.”
- “The issues raised up by our future mentors were handled in the Management Board of the city, and will be further handled in the Management Boards of each city department. Regarding the points raised by the Future Mentors in the Eurocities Espoo AGM, the Management Board will in the future meet regularly with the Youth Council.”



Six key recommendations written by the Future Mentors on how to involve youth at the local level:

- Compulsory and non-tokenistic youth engagement in decisions which affect them and their futures
- Create a Eurocities youth department; young people should always be part of the Eurocities network – what about UCLG?
- An ongoing line of communication between city leaders and youth representatives. This should take place regularly, at least two times a year.
- Any engagement with young people must be accessible and inclusive. We should put extra care to involve those from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Enough resources – money and staff – to support youth-centred organisations
- After any engagement, feedback should be gathered: constant evaluation of youth participation processes.

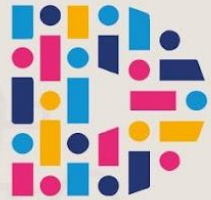
Future Mentor's Programme materials

<https://eurocities2022.eu/the-future-mentors-program/>

You can download the manual, step-by-step guide freely from conference website or by using the link or QR code attached to the slideshow



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