

Invitation for the mayors to join the Future Mentors programme

A reversed mentoring programme called Future Mentors is organized by City of Espoo and Eurocities in spring 2022. The city leaders will have the opportunity to be exposed to the bright thinking of young mentors from their own city. Would you like to be one of the mentees?

What and when?

In April-May 2022, you will meet with 3-4 young mentors from your city and learn about the young generation's way of thinking about the future of the city. The mentoring programme will be structured and guided. At Eurocities annual conference in Espoo 8-10 June 2022, we will see the highlights of the programme. One Future Mentor from each city is invited to join the delegation of their city to participate in the conference in Espoo.

The Future Mentors programme provides a platform for dialogue between the youth and the city leader about a sustainable future in cities, about what the youth think is important for them in their cities, about their hopes and dreams as well as their concerns for the future. During the spring the Future Mentors will meet the city leader two times. They will also ask other young people in their city for their views on the topics. A coordinator from each city will organize the program with help of a step-by-step guide, attend the meetings and act as a facilitator to organize the content of the meetings. The more specific topics discussed will be decided by the Future Mentors themselves.

How?

Your city coordinator will guide you all the way through the mentoring process and take care of the enrollment.

Why?

- Bridging the gap between the youth and the decision-makers
- Reversed mentoring brings new perspectives and gives a forum for the voice of the next generation
- Cities are closest to the youth. The decisions made in cities directly affect the young generations.
- Cities need the youth to stay and to feel invested in the city's future
- European Year of Youth 2022 – visibility and European interest for youth involvement
- Aligning with the 6th Eurocities Goal: Innovative City Governments: Citizen engagement
- A way for the cities to explore different ways of working with young people.

Who and what is required?

One city leader is chosen to be the mentee from each participating city. The mentee:

- Commits to being open to the dreams and expectations of the younger generation
- Takes part in 2-3 meetings with the mentors during the process and does a little pre-task
- Is in a leading position in the city (Mayor, deputy mayor, leading politician). Preferably part of the city's delegation to Eurocities annual conference in Espoo 8-10. June 2022.

We hope to have Your city join our programme to co-create a better future!

Warmest regards,

City of Espoo and Eurocities