

Young Cities North Macedonia: Gostivar and Čair

Young Cities is an innovative programme that supports local youth-led approaches to hate, polarisation and extremism, in coordination with local government representatives

Young people have the insights, ability and creativity to address community challenges; however, they often lack the resources and opportunities to act. **Young Cities supports and amplifies these efforts through local research, capacity-building and funding, giving young people the skills and freedom to develop campaigns that respond to the needs of their communities.**

Simultaneously, Young Cities works with local government to support city-level youth collaboration and to develop policies that are responsive to the needs of their diverse youth populations. By working simultaneously with both groups – youth and local government – Young Cities fosters a shared understanding of local youth issues, creates new opportunities for cooperation, and ultimately enhances both groups' capacity to jointly tackle community-level challenges of hate and polarization.

Based out of its headquarters in London, Young Cities has been supporting young people globally since 2017 and currently has programmes running in Lebanon, Kenya and Senegal. To date, Young Cities has trained 236 young activists and enabled 31 youth-led campaigns, providing £90,000 in micro-grants directly to young activists. Young Cities has also trained municipal stakeholders in 8 municipalities and supported 4 City Grants, delivered through cooperation between municipal leaders and youth.

Young Cities North Macedonia

Young Cities is coming to Gostivar and Čair in 2020 and is looking for dedicated young people to take part in our campaign programmes. In each municipality, Young Cities will run a 6-month programme whereby it will train 20 young activists to develop innovative and strategic initiatives that address intolerance, polarisation, hate and violence. Young Cities will fund the delivery of up to 4 youth-led initiatives. Each programme will also engage municipal stakeholders to enhance their approaches to involving young people and facilitate opportunities for the city to support youth-led initiatives. This will allow youth to network with local government representatives and wider community stakeholders.

The project will kick off in October with a **4-day intensive campaign workshop** in each municipality where participants will learn how to develop and deliver strategic social change initiatives by working with international and local experts to develop a campaign of their own.

Young Cities works in close cooperation with local organisations and experts to ensure that each programme fits the needs of the community and its young people. **By joining Young Cities, participants will build a range of critical skills – including campaigning, public speaking, branding and marketing, budget management and proposal writing – network with policy makers and community stakeholders and gain hands-on experience in developing and managing their own initiative.**

If you are interested in applying for either programme, or you know someone who is, the application is open now!

Gostivar: 16-19 October 2020

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/wDV79s1BqqXk8vXL6>

Application deadline: 05 October

Čair: 23-26 October 2020

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/i5wwZ46XpiwVgH8G6>

Application deadline: 11 October

We can only select 4 teams per workshop. We will review applications on a rolling basis, so apply early!

- You must apply as a team of at least 4 people. Although teams may be as large as you want, a maximum of 6 people can take part in the workshop and additional training events
- You and the team must be committed to attending the workshop IN FULL and to implementing the campaign in the months that follow if you are successful in getting funding
- All team members must meet the following criteria:
 - Aged 18-29
 - Living in Gostivar or Čair long-term (depending on where you are applying)
 - Committed to attending the full training and delivering the team's campaign
 - Open to new ideas and willing to work with people from different backgrounds

Fill out the application form and describe the challenge that your team would like to focus on, and how you would address it with your campaign. Applications will be judged by how well they address the challenge and their creativity / originality. Initiatives may be brand-new or a new addition to an existing project.

While your campaigns can be done in any local language, the workshop will be delivered in English. Teams do not need to be fully fluent in English; however, the majority of the team should have at least intermediate proficiency in English and at least 2 members of the team should have advanced proficiency.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email us at rsvp@isdglobal.org