



Future Mentors Follow-up Conference, Stuttgart, 27th – 28th November 2023

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Are you ready to join us and take up the dialogue about your city of future? Are you a young future mentor, a mentee, a youth (participation) coordinator in your city or an interested newcomer? If so, join us for this two-day conference in Stuttgart on 27 and 28 November 2023.

About the conference:

Starting in spring 2022 EUROCITIES member Espoo, Finland, initiated the Future Mentors Program resulting in a European conference within the Eurocities network in June 2022. Through this program all participants – city coordinators and politicians as well as the young people, the Future Mentors – profited from the exchange of ideas and perspectives. The young Future Mentors shared their views about the city of future: a city that is aligned with the needs of young people and that is flexible to adapt to future challenges.

This project and the format of participation is a successful and innovative step towards inclusive youth participation in decision-making processes. Therefore, the conference aims to take this concept a step further and continue the dialogue with last year's future mentors and decision makers, but also with any other young people, who are yet to discover the possibilities of participating in public policies and in local politics.

The conference is open to

- all interested young people and last year's Future Mentors,
- youth coordinators in municipal authorities,
- stakeholders in youth participation,
- city leaders, mayors and political city representatives,

We are looking forward to your [registrations](#) by **6 November 2023**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information at futurementors@stuttgart.de.

See you soon in Stuttgart!

Conference program

Sunday 26.11.2023

Arrival of participants – Informal get-together/dinner

Monday 27.11.2023

- 9:00 – 10:00 Welcome/Getting to know each other
Vanessa Fritz, Project Manager, Stuttgarter Jugendhausgesellschaft
- 10:00 – 10:15 Introduction: The idea behind the Future Mentors Program
Magnus Welkerling, Future Mentor, City of Frankfurt
- 10:15 – 12:00 Workshop 1: Exchange on the Status Quo
Future Mentor Group –
Moderator: Magnus Welkerling, Future Mentor, City of Frankfurt
City Coordinators and City Representatives Group –
Moderator: Vanessa Fritz, Stuttgarter Jugendhausgesellschaft
- 12:00 – 12:15 Good practice example: Continuation of the Future Mentors Program on city level
Speaker: Fiia Männikkö, Member of Espoo Youth Council
- 12:15 – 13:15 Lunch
- 13:15 – 14:30 Workshop 2 - How to continue the idea of the Future Mentors Program?
Moderators:
Vanessa Fritz, Project Manager, Stuttgarter Jugendhausgesellschaft
Lana Mayer, Manager, EUROPE DIRECT Stuttgart
- 14:30 – 15:30 Interactive Keynote and Discussion:
Democracy and New Ways of Youth Participation
Prof. Dr. André Bächtiger, Managing Director of the Institute, Vice Dean, Institute of
Social Sciences, Department of Political Theory and Empirical Democracy Research,
University of Stuttgart
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Panel discussion with city representatives and young mentors: How to integrate youth into political decision-making and how to benefit from the youth's perspective?

Moderator: Charlotta Eskilsson, Mayor of Inner District East, City of Stuttgart

Panel:

- Prof. Dr. André Bächtiger, Managing Director of the Institute, Vice Dean, Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Political Theory and Empirical Democracy Research, University of Stuttgart
- Isabel Fezer, Deputy Mayor for Education and Youth, City of Stuttgart
- Magnus Welkerling, Future Mentor, City of Frankfurt

18:00 Official Welcome

Isabel Fezer, Deputy Mayor for Education and Youth, City of Stuttgart

Reception at Stuttgart City Hall

Venue:

Panorama Window, 4th Floor, Stuttgart City Hall, Marktplatz 1,
70173 Stuttgart

Tuesday 28.11.2023

9:00 – 9:30 Input: European Year of Skills 2023 and EU Elections 2024

Dr. Renke Deckarm, Managing Director of the Regional Representation and Press Spokesperson, European Commission

9:30 – 10:30 Workshop 3: The EU & Me – Youth and Democracy in Europe
Moderator: Lana Mayer, Manager, EUROPE DIRECT Stuttgart

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – 11:45 Food for thought – good practice examples

- European Youth Capital 2024, NN, City of Ghent (tbc)
- Youth Council Stuttgart, Member of Stuttgart Youth Council
- European Capital of Culture 2024 and Youth Participation in Chemnitz, City of Chemnitz

11:45 – 13:15 Design workshop “Future Mentors Eindhoven style” Moderator:
Aya Bergkamp, City of Eindhoven (tbc)

13:15 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Conclusion

15:30 Optional Programme: Visit of the Medieval and Christmas Market in Esslingen

Conference Venue for both working days:

Das BÜRO, Theodor-Heuss-Straße 16, 70173 Stuttgart

Venue Official Welcome, Reception on Monday evening:

Panorama Window, 4th Floor, Stuttgart City Hall, Marktplatz 1, 70173 Stuttgart

Here is a couple of suggestions for accommodation:

1. [Novum Boulevard Hotel Stuttgart](#),
2. [Jugendherberge Stuttgart International](#), three ways of booking your bed:

book online: Please indicate **booking code # 256790**

write an email to jh@jugendherberge.de

call +49 711 6647470

Please note that this international hostel offers four-bed rooms with private bath. Single rooms with private bath may be available on demand. [Prices](#)

Conference venue: Das BÜRO, Theodor-Heuss-Straße 16, 70174 Stuttgart and the City Hall, Marktplatz 1, 70173 Stuttgart

