



Eurocities Braga 2025 – Young City Shapers

Overview

The **Young City Shapers** programme is designed to empower young leaders from across Europe to take an active role in shaping the future of cities. As the voices of future generations, youth have a crucial role to play in developing sustainable, inclusive, and innovative urban solutions. This programme is an essential part of the Eurocities Annual Conference 2025, as it brings together young leaders who represent the diverse challenges and opportunities facing European cities today.

Why is it important for Eurocities to have youth representatives in Braga?

Eurocities, as the network of major European cities, is committed to creating a fairer and more sustainable future for all. In this context, it is essential that young people—who will inherit and shape the cities of tomorrow—are included in the decision-making process. The **Young City Shapers** programme provides an opportunity for youth to contribute their ideas, perspectives, and innovative solutions to the pressing issues facing urban areas. By involving young leaders in the conference, Eurocities ensures that the policies discussed and developed are reflective of the needs, aspirations, and vision of future generations.

The inclusion of youth also aligns with Eurocities' core values of **participatory governance**, **multilevel cooperation**, and **inclusivity**. The **Eurocities 2025 Braga** conference will benefit greatly from the insights and contributions of young leaders who are already actively shaping the policies and practices in their respective cities.

Selection Criteria and Profile of Participants

Each city will select **one young representative** to attend the **Young City Shapers** programme. This representative should be a **young leader between 18 and 29 years old** who is already involved in leading or contributing to key urban policies or initiatives. The selected youth will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, policy development, and direct interaction with city leaders, experts, and stakeholders during the conference.

The programme is open to individuals who are already making a significant impact in their fields and are motivated to bring new ideas to the table. Young leaders who are working within municipal governments, youth organisations, or other relevant sectors are encouraged to apply. The emphasis is on participants who have demonstrated a commitment to positive change and possess the leadership potential to help shape the future of their cities.

- **Age:** Participants must be between 18 and 29 years old.
- **Number:** Each city can bring one young delegate. A maximum of 50 young city shapers can participate in the programme – based on the best applications and respecting a gender-balanced and diverse group.
- **Involvement:** Applicants should demonstrate active engagement in local or European community initiatives, focusing on urban development, sustainability, or youth representation. They can be members of political parties, youth associations and trade unions as well.
- **Language:** Fluency in English is required to facilitate active participation.
- **Availability:** Participants must be able to attend all scheduled activities during the conference period (4-6 June 2025).

Gender balance and diversity

Eurocities is committed to ensuring **gender balance** and promoting **diversity** within the **Young City Shapers** programme. As part of the selection process, each city should aim to select a representative who not only meets the required leadership profile but also contributes to a balanced representation of genders and diverse backgrounds. This approach guarantees that the voices of both men and women, as well as those from underrepresented groups, are included in discussions and decision-making, ensuring a comprehensive perspective on urban challenges.

After the Young City Shapers have been selected, the City of Braga and Eurocities reserve the right to ask cities to change their candidate to preserve the gender balance of the group.

Registration and Participation

Each city is invited to send **one young representative** to participate in the **Young City Shapers** programme. The selected representative will benefit from a **reduced registration fee** to encourage broad participation.

Eurocities encourages **all cities** to participate in this important programme, as the active involvement of youth from across Europe is key to the success of the conference. Cities should ensure that their selection process is open, transparent, and inclusive, and that the chosen representative can contribute meaningfully to the discussions and activities during the conference.

Participating cities should send Eurocities the information of their chosen Young City Shaper by **Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 18.00 CET**

Travel and accommodation

- Each city will have to pay for the registration fees of the young participants.
- Each city will sponsor their delegate for travel and accommodation.

- Participants are responsible for coordinating travel plans in partnership with their city representatives.

Programme Overview

The **Young City Shapers** programme is an integral part of the Eurocities Annual Conference 2025, and it will run in parallel with the main conference activities. The programme will provide a platform for youth to engage with city leaders and experts, develop policy recommendations, and contribute to shaping the future of urban governance. It will include:

- **Keynote Sessions:** Inspiring talks and discussions on empowering cities for a fairer future, with a focus on youth leadership and involvement.
- **Thematic Working Groups:** Youth-led workshops focused on key urban challenges such as sustainability, social inclusion, mobility, and innovation. These groups will produce actionable policy proposals for mayors and city leaders.
- **Interactive Dialogue:** Opportunities for youth to present their proposals and interact with city leaders in a joint session.
- **City Visits:** Field trips to local urban projects in Braga to see firsthand how cities are implementing innovative solutions to urban challenges.
- **Plenary:** A closing session where youth participants can reflect on the conference and discuss how they will bring their newfound knowledge and proposals back to their cities.

Programme

The detailed programme is now available. Check it out [here](#)!