**Previously used annexes Bid 2**
**Work in progress – Subject to change**

**These annexes were included in the previous application and have not yet been revised, as the third version of the bid book is still undergoing modifications.**

**Version: September 3rd 2025**

## ANNEX 1: PROOF OF INTEREST BY THE MUNICIPALITY

*Written proof of the town or city's interest in running for EYC 2028.*

Oldehoofsterkerkhof 2
Postbus 21000
8900 JA Leeuwarden
Telefoon 14 058

www.leeuwarden.nl
E-mail gemeente@leeuwarden.nl

KVK-nummer 59734817
BTW-nummer NL 0019.03.664.B01

Gemeente Leeuwarden

European Youth Forum
The Jury of European Youth Capital 2028
For the attention of Mr. I. Neirotti

| | |
|---|---|
| Onderwerp | Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 |
| Uw kenmerk | |
| Ons kenmerk | |
| Dienst | Concern |
| Sector | Concern |
| Contact | J. van der Weg, 0031643365411 |
| WhatsApp | |
| Bijlagen | |
| Datum | 4 februari 2025 |

Dear people at the European Youth Forum,

Leeuwarden is super keen to become the European Youth Capital in 2028. Many organizations working for and with young people in our city are working on this candidacy. Young people played a big role in filling out the EYC 2028 questionnaire: the text in the attachment was entirely conceived and written by them. From the first steps in Leeuwarden towards EYC 2028, young people have been at the centre of the process, with the help of several professional organizations.

Many Europeans live in areas like ours: a medium-sized city in a rural region. With our unique culture, clear identity, and mentality to try new things, we have a lot to offer to other cities and regions in Europe. We also eagerly seek collaboration with others in Europe to discover, learn, and be inspired, so our youth can develop into true Leeuwarders and Europeans.

Our bid for EYC 2028 aligns well with what is happening in Leeuwarden and what concerns the youth here. At the same time, it also addresses issues that are important throughout Europe. We look forward to showing what we are doing in the field of youth policy and youth participation, and trying out new things. We use our experience with working on a European scale and in large projects to build new collaborations for EYC. We encourage and support our youth to take the initiative and set up important projects for EYC, both in Leeuwarden and in Europe.

By putting Leeuwarden forward as a candidate for EYC in 2028, we see new energy and collaboration emerging between different organizations in the city. Such a grand goal and special year can only be achieved by working together with everyone. The (candidacy and preparation for) the EYC year offers plenty of opportunities to put young people at the helm, showing their talents, and building bridges: between young people and adults, young people from different backgrounds, and young people in Leeuwarden and in Europe.



Sjoch dizze stêd; sjoch wat der rûnom bart – It âlde spegelet him yn wat de takomst hat – Piter Terpstra

Even if Leeuwarden does not win the EYC 2028 title, it still brings a lot of benefits for youth, youth participation, and organizations working with young people in the municipality of Leeuwarden and the region.

In Leeuwarden, we are already working together with young people and professional organizations on the challenges, bottlenecks, and opportunities that young people see. We want to put in extra effort over the coming years, using the title of European Youth Capital 2028. We want to facilitate and strengthen the network so that young people take the reigns and influence their and our futures. We strive to incorporate this in all aspects of the preparation. We also want to continue this approach beyond EYC 2028: for us, the EYC-title is a catalyst for lasting change.

We hope that the energy and enthusiasm we feel among young people and organizations in Leeuwarden regarding our candidacy for European Youth Capital 2028 is reflected in our answers in the questionnaire. And we hope that these answers are clear and convincing enough for you to allow Leeuwarden to move on to the next round!

If you have any questions or if something is not clear, please do not hesitate to contact us via <email address> or <phone number>.

Mei freonlike groetnis út Ljouwert, met vriendelijke groet uit Leeuwarden, with kind regards from Leeuwarden,

[redacted]

mayor of Leeuwarden

children's mayor of Leeuwarden

## ANNEX 2: STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY TIENSKIP

*A signed and stamped statement of support by an independent local or regional youth council.*

Tienskip
doe er zelf wat aan

*Letter of Intent: Stichting Tienskip supporting Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028!*

7 february 2025, Leeuwarden

Dear Mayor of Leeuwarden,

As a board member of Stichting Tienskip, I am very happy to confirm our support for the bid of the city of Leeuwarden for the European Youth Capital 2028 award.

Stichting Tienskip is a foundation consisting of young people (mostly volunteers) and is dedicated to decreasing the gap between young people and local democracy & decision-making processes. Stichting Tienskip organizes events where young people (approximately between 15 and 21 years old) work on social issues or ideas they see in their own environment. At these events, they discuss with peers and local experts to come up with solutions. In this way, young people gain a better understanding of what local democracy is about and what their own role can be in the decision-making process. On a yearly basis, we host events for more than 2,000 young people in the city of Leeuwarden.

As an organization with its roots in the city of Leeuwarden, we are glad to endorse the bid of Leeuwarden to become the European Youth Capital of 2028. Despite the broad experience of the organization Tienskip and the strong working relationships with the municipality and local NGOs, it's still hard to translate input from young people at our events into practical legislation. We see the bid for European Youth Capital as an extra motivator for all decision-makers and NGOs to ensure that young people are taken into account when making decisions.

The bid for the title of European Youth Capital 2028 provides us with a great opportunity. Our goal for 2028 is for youth participation not to be incidental or accidental but to be considered throughout all decisions made about the future of Leeuwarden. That's why we work together with partners such as the municipality to lay the foundation in the coming years for youth participation, ensuring a sense of continuity in decision-making after 2028.

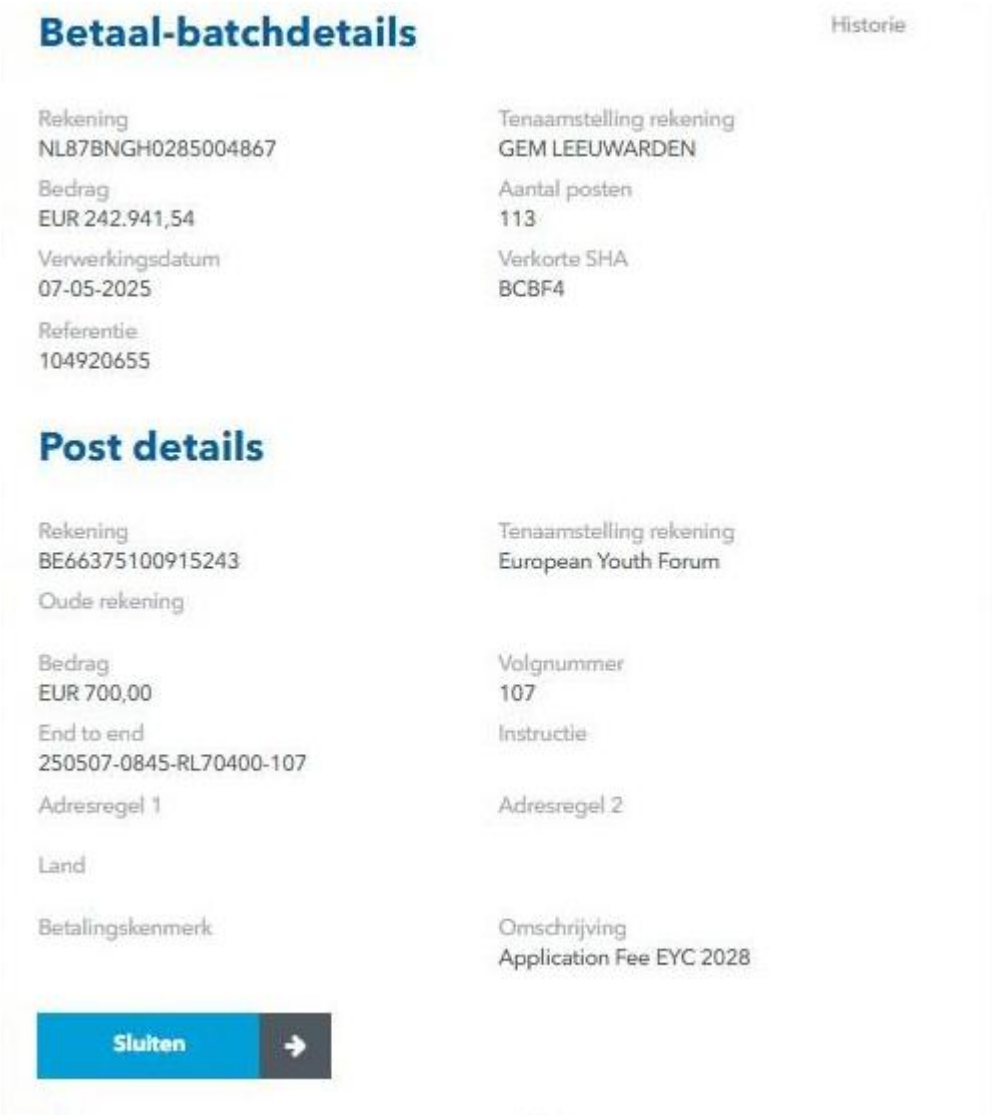
Based on our experiences and the goals mentioned above, we are pleased to recommend the bid of Leeuwarden to the honorable jury's attention.

Yours sincerely,



## ANNEX 3: PROOF OF BANK TRANSFER

*Proof of the bank transfer of the application fee of €700, to the Youth Forum.*



**Betaal-batchdetails**

Historie

Rekening
NL87BNGH0285004867

Tenaamstelling rekening
GEM LEEUWARDEN

Bedrag
EUR 242.941,54

Aantal posten
113

Verwerkingsdatum
07-05-2025

Verkorte SHA
BCBF4

Referentie
104920655

**Post details**

Rekening
BE66375100915243

Tenaamstelling rekening
European Youth Forum

Oude rekening

Bedrag
EUR 700,00

Volgnummer
107

End to end
250507-0845-RL70400-107

Instructie

Adresregel 1

Adresregel 2

Land

Betalingskenmerk

Omschrijving
Application Fee EYC 2028

Sluiten

bank van meerwaarde

# Rekeningafschrift

Retouradres: Postbus 30305, 2500 GH Den Haag

Het College van B&W van de
Gemeente Leeuwarden
Postbus 21000
8900 JA LEEUWARDEN

**IBAN Rekeningnummer**
NL87 BNGH 0285 0048 67
**Volg-/bladnummer**
87/011
**Vorig saldo**
06-05-2025
EUR [redacted]
**Nieuw saldo**
07-05-2025
EUR [redacted]

| Boek datum | Omschrijving | Valuta datum | Code | Betaald/debet | Ontvangen/credit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | | [redacted] |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | |
| 07-05 | EB BATCH:104920655<br>POSTEN:000113<br>SHA1: BCBF4<br>REF: BN250507084539833 | 07-05 | 028 | 242.941,54 | |
| [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | |

zie vervolgblad

## ANNEX 4: STATEMENT OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT

*Statement declaring external support requested to prepare the application.*

This document was composed by editor-in-chief Mihai Căsălean, a 20-year-old international student at NHL Stenden University in Leeuwarden. As the foundation for this second application, Mihai used the responses from the first round's questionnaire, which was created by a team of local young writers and editors following an open call for participation. Guided by the feedback from the European Youth Forum, he gathered additional information and data from professionals associated with the four core EYC partners: the municipality of Leeuwarden, Tienskip, Arcadia, and Keunstwurk, as well as from other organisations working with and for young people in Leeuwarden and Fryslân. Several chapters are based on the input, development, and review by young people, in line with the hourglass methodology for youth participation.

The Leeuwarden EYC2028 team maintained contact with the Dutch National Youth Council (NJR) in Utrecht to keep them informed about Leeuwarden's bid for which they expressed support (please find the support letter in ANNEX 8). The NJR also assisted us on several relevant topics by connecting us with information and projects managed by their organisation.

Additionally, the Leeuwarden EYC2028 team utilized the services of András Farkas from Comunitățile Viitorului SRL, a consultancy firm based in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He provided us with valuable insights and advice on EYC, particularly regarding the bidding process, the questionnaire, project management, and stakeholder engagement.

## ANNEX 5: GENERAL PRESENTATION

*General presentation of LWD for EYC 2028 and our proposals, to be published on the official website of the European Youth Forum.*

# Leeuwarden: Just. Be. Young.

Welcome to Leeuwarden, capital of Friesland, in the north of the Netherlands. It is a city full of character, creativity, and young energy. With around 50,000 young people between 12 and 27 years old, Leeuwarden is a place where youth are not just the future. They are the present. But Leeuwarden is more than just a city. It is the heart of a wider community that includes 35 surrounding villages, blending urban life and rural traditions. Frisian is the second official language of the Netherlands and the first for many young people in Friesland, shaping the region's unique identity. At the same time, around 95% of Dutch people speak English conversationally, meaning visitors can fully experience Frisian culture while easily communicating in English.



**"Leeuwarden feels like a very big village, where everybody knows everybody. Every day I walk or cycle through the city, I run into at least five colleagues or friends and end up having conversations with them."**

**- Mihai Căsălean, 20 years old international student from Romania.**

## Youth at the core

Immediately after Leeuwarden was the Capital of Culture in 2018, it was young people that said: 'Now it's our turn!' This was followed up by the municipality supporting them and starting in 2024 with preparations for the EYC process. From the start, ensuring youth voices led the process was essential. The programme was built on input from thousands of young people through surveys. Then refined in brainstorming and writing sessions where young people decided on both; the themes and our ethos.

After going through to the second round for EYC 2028 this continued. Over 1,000 young people from ages 10 to 27, actively participated in the making of the current questionnaire. And when we say actively, we mean it! We followed our hourglass method to shape our programme, ensuring young people played a central role at every stage. Broad input was gathered through school surveys, youth-led events, and a paid youth promoteam. A smaller group then refined ideas into concrete proposals, followed by a final check with a wider youth audience. In addition, we appointed a young editor-in-chief of 20 years old to write the entire second questionnaire. This role was given to Mihai, who shared his quote here above!

## Our ethos

This deceptively simple phrase, coined by a young participant, is more than a motto. It is a guiding ethos that affirms the right of youth to exist freely, without pressure and engaged at their own pace. It reflects Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasizing the fundamental right to rest, play, and participate in life. Each word in this ethos carries significance, shaping the foundation of Leeuwarden's European Youth Capital vision.

- → **Just.** represents **equity**, advocating for fairness, justice, and structural inclusion. It calls for eliminating barriers through equal access, policy reform, and deep engagement with social justice movements.
- → **Be.** symbolizes a **sense of belonging**, ensuring that young people feel connected to their identities and communities. It fosters participation in shared experiences, cultural expression, and collective creativity.
- → **Young.** embodies **vitality**, embracing health, resilience, and sustainability. It promotes mental and physical well-being while ensuring that youth grow in environments that nurture and support them.

This ethos is more than a slogan, it is our blueprint for transformation.

## Democratic renewal

The aim is to create accessible pathways for young people to engage in democratic activities, there by increasing youth involvement in local policy development and ultimately leading to better decision-making. We highlight two examples of how we are going to achieve this:

**Youth Platform →** The Youth Platform will be an advisory group within Leeuwarden's municipality, made up of young people who proactively and reactively provide input on youth participation in decision-making.

**Code Young →** This code is developed by Tienskip, the youth organisation that is a key partner in Leeuwarden's application. Code Young is both a guideline and a quality label. Ensuring that participation processes adhere to strong standards. Code Young is fully aligned with the Youth Test/Youth Check European assessment tool and the key principles for youth participation developed by the Dutch National Youth Council (NJR). This alignment underscores Leeuwarden's commitment to putting theory into practice at local level.

## Our programme

LWD for EYC 2028 is built around three distinct programmes designed to empower youth leadership and ensure meaningful participation in shaping their future.

1. The open programme: shaped entirely by young people; it gives them the lead in creating their own projects, setting the agenda, and driving themes. It supports them in creating projects through Project500, a micro-funding initiative providing €500 to youth-led ideas, enabling them to experiment, develop, and scale their initiatives. Additionally, those with larger ambitions can apply for Mid Projects (structured mentorship and funding) or Big Projects (high-impact initiatives aligned with LWD for EYC 2028 themes). Alongside this, the Skill Factory offers practical workshops that teach essential life skills often missing from formal education. Ranging from financial independence to sustainability and active citizenship. Helping young people gain confidence and independence in real-world contexts.
2. The partner programme: it empowers youth-focused organisations to collaborate, apply Code Young, and connect policy areas through projects selected by a youth-led commission. Partners benefit from increased visibility and access to LWD for EYC 2028 networks while contributing to a broader movement that amplifies youth voices in governance, policy, and creative industries.
3. The curated programme: highlights flagship initiatives built around the three core themes: Vitality, Sense of Belonging, and Equity. Notable events include Night Vision, a youth-led initiative reimagining nightlife policies to create safer, more inclusive spaces, and MOVE, an international exchange connecting Friesland's youth with peers across Europe to explore themes of rural vitality and intercultural collaboration.

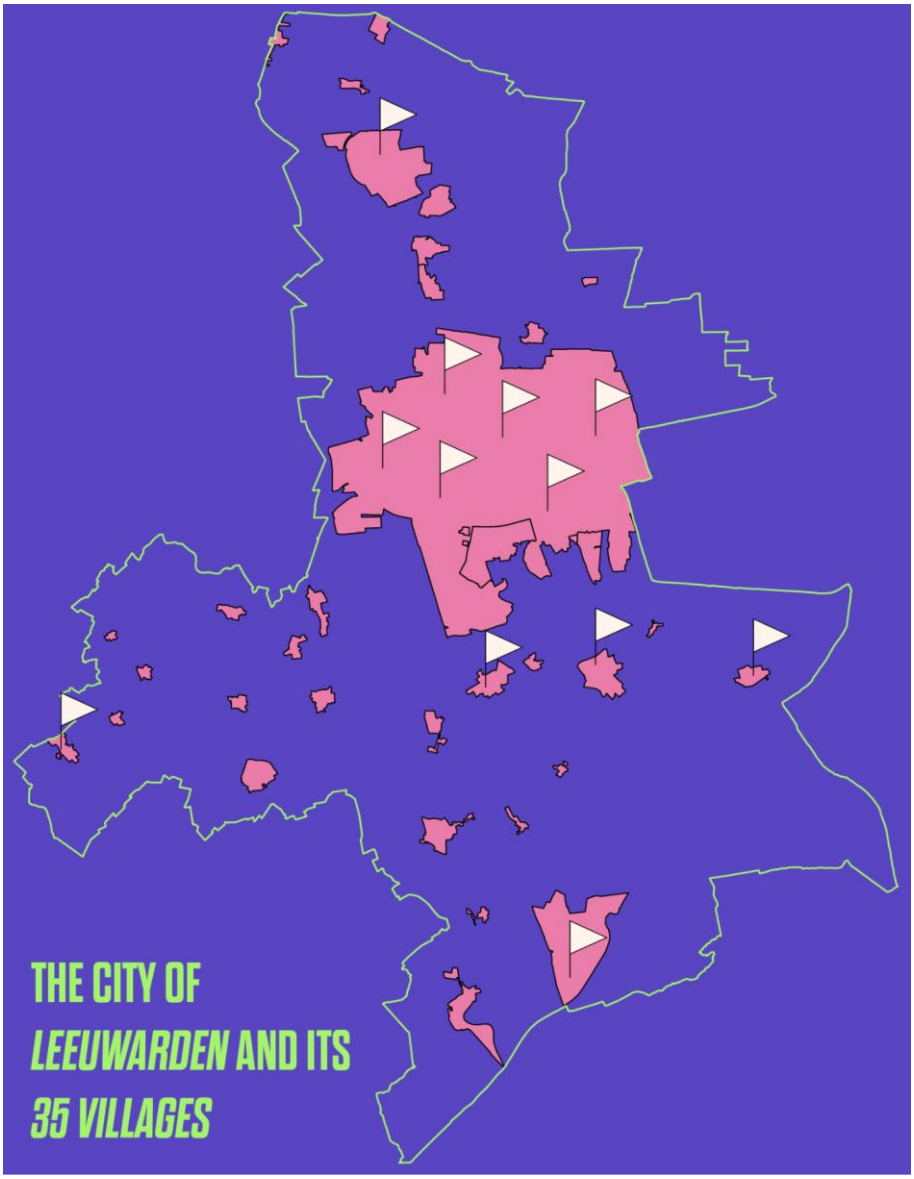
In summary: this isn't just about one year.
It is about building a city where young people lead lasting change.
A place that is inclusive, sustainable, and full of opportunity.
Leeuwarden is ready to show Europe what is possible when youth take the lead.



## ANNEX 6: CITY MAP

*Detailed city map indicating the main programme venues and sites involved in the European Youth Capital project.*

This map is under construction and will be more detailed in our final application.




**Likely programme venues in the city of Leeuwarden:**

- Schools (secondary & higher education)
- Community centers in almost all 27 city quarters and 35 villages
- Pop Venue Neushoorn
- Town squares Oldehoofsterkerkhof, Zaailand & Hofplein
- City park Prinsentuin
- City theatre De Harmonie
- City monastery Grote Kerk
- Cultural hub (former prison) Blokhuispoort and (former secondary school) Oude Ambachtschool
- Municipality building
- Town Hall
- WTC-event-venue for large-scale events

**Youth initiatives following Project500 in youth clubs in the villages:**

- Warten
- Wergea
- Wytgaard
- Grou

**Projectrelated participatory youth traject in the village:**

- Easterlittens

## ANNEX 7: HOSTING AND TRANSPORT OPTIONS

| **Leeuwarden Hotel List** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Name | # of rooms | Classification | Suitable for people with disabilities? | Price range per night (average standard room) |
| Fletcher Stadhouderlijk Hof | 78 | 4 | No | € 82 - € 119 |
| Grand Hotel Post-Plaza | 82 | 3 | Yes | € 108 - € 123 |
| Vie Via Hotel | 74 | 4 | Yes | € 107 - € 125 |
| Notiz Hotel | 36 | 4 | Yes | € 99 - € 120 |
| Van der Valk Hotel Leeuwarden* | 117 | 4 | Yes | € 111 - € 179 |
| Westcord Hotel Leeuwarden | 135 | 4 | Yes | € 91 - € 122 |
| Oranje Hotel Leeuwarden | 78 | 4 | Yes | € 83 - € 118 |
| Alibi Hostel | 26 beds | backpacker's | Yes | € 65 - € 75 |
| Hotel Cafe het Anker | 23 | 3 | Yes | € 57 - € 67 |
| Eurohotel | 45 | 3 | Yes | € 83 - € 107 |
| Bastion Hotel | 68 | 3 | No | € 78 - € 103 |

* Will expand with 100 more rooms and a luxurious pool

Travellers can also make use of platforms such as booking.com and airbnb.com to find rental properties managed by privates.

| **Transport cost overview** | |
|---|---|
| Bus | Approx. € 3.00 per ride |
| Taxi | Base fare: €8.00 during the day - Rate: € 2.40 per kilometre |
| Rental boats | € 40 – € 100 for 2 hours |
| Shared scooters | Unlock fee: €1 - Rate: € 0.25 per minute |
| Rental bicycles | € 5 - € 10 per 24 hours |
| Rental cars (excluding gas cost) | €13 - €32 per day - €175 - €385 per week |

In addition to these options, Leeuwarden's compact city centre allows residents and visitors to reach everything within a 15-minute walk. For slightly longer trips, all parts of the city are easily accessible by bike

within 15 minutes, making walking and cycling convenient, healthy, and sustainable choices. The surrounding villages, however, lie a bit further outside the city limits.

| **Cultural Venues** |
| --- |
| **Stadsschouwburg De Harmonie:** a grand theater with a total capacity of over 2,000 seats across seven different halls. In addition to the halls, it features two spacious foyers and a theater café. De Harmonie is fully equipped for performances, workshops, meetings, gatherings, and conferences. |
| **Poppodium Neushoorn:** a dynamic venue used by both the live music scene and the Firda vocational school, which offers programs related to culture and performing arts, such as sound and lighting technology, event organisation, and creative studies. The building houses multiple training and practice spaces, including a professional dance studio and a recording studio. The three halls can accommodate up to 1,150 visitors, and the venue includes a welcoming foyer. |
| **Integrated Urban Space (from 2027):** De Harmonie and Neushoorn are located across from each other in the city center. By 2027, the area between them will be redesigned to create a public space fostering interaction, festivals, and open-air performances. This will allow both venues to collaborate on large-scale events and create a hybrid facility capable of hosting simultaneous indoor and outdoor activities. |
| **Podium Explore:** a small, intimate flat-floor theater housed in a historic church, with a seating capacity of 150 in the main hall and 80 in the café. Located within walking distance of De Harmonie and Neushoorn. |
| **Tryater & Meeuw Theater School:** the professional Frisian-language theater company Tryater and the youth theater school Meeuw share a former school building. The facility includes multiple rooms for meetings, workshops, and performances, with a total capacity of approximately 400 people. |
| **Blokhuispoort:** a former monumental prison that has been repurposed into a multifunctional venue. It houses a library, a hostel (Alibi), educational spaces, a professional dance company (Ivgy & Greben), and restaurants. The two inner courtyards offer additional opportunities for events, while the library provides meeting rooms, a tech and gaming workshop, and a chapel for various gatherings. |
| **Kanselarij:** a historic building located on Turfmarkt. Originally constructed between 1566 and 1571, it served as the seat of the Hof van Friesland (Court of Friesland). Over the centuries, it has housed various institutions, including a hospital, a military barracks, and the Fries Museum. Today, the Kanselarij functions as a hub for government, entrepreneurship, and education, fostering collaboration between different sectors. |
| **Slieker Film:** Friesland's premier film house, featuring three movie theaters with a combined seating capacity of 182. Located in the grand Fries Museum at the scenic Wilhelminaplein, in the heart of the city. |
| **Pathé Leeuwarden:** The city's largest commercial cinema, boasting a total of 643 seats. |
| **DOAS:** De Oude Ambacht School (The old trade school). This place is a hotspot for artists, creative entrepreneurs and social initiatives. It offerst studio and practice spaces, rehearsal rooms, exhibition areas and hospitality. |
| **Westerkerk:** this is also the location where Podium Explore is housed and is a small, intimate flat-floor theater housed in a historic church, with a seating capacity of 150 in the main hall and 80 in the café. |

| Sports facilities |
| --- |
| **Cambuur Stadium**: The city's premier football stadium, offering 15,000 seats, plus room for an additional 15,000 standing attendees on the field. |
| **Ice Rink**: Located adjacent to Cambuur Stadium, offering skating opportunities year-round. |
| **WTC Expo Leeuwarden**: Northern Netherlands' largest event complex, featuring more than 40,000 m² of exhibition space, a 4-star hotel, a conference center, and high-end catering services through WTC Hospitality. |
| **Skatepark Huizum**: A modern outdoor skate park that is freely accessible, serving as a hub for young people to meet, socialize, and enjoy sports. |
| **Sportpark Kalverdijkje:** A swimming pool of 25 metres, 2 sporthalls, 8 soccer pitches, a korfball field, indoor korfball hall, 2 hockey fields and additional commercial facilities for padel, tennis en gymnastics) |
| **Swimming pool It Gryn Stiens:** 25 metres swimming pool with a recreational area, outdoor pool and 2 sporthalls. |
| **Swimming pool de Blauwe Golf:** A swimming pool with whirlpool and wavepool and also a recreational area and 25 metres pool. |
| **Rengershal:** Located next to the Blauwe Golf and has 1 sportshall, a Gymnasium and a climbing hall. |
| **Wiarda:** 5 artificial turf soccer pitches,1 natural grass pitch and 1 sportshall. |
| **Sports Grounds Meinga Grou:** There are 3 fields for soccer, korfball and Frisian handball (Kaatsen). Sportshall de Twine is a multifunctionall hall suitable for a variety of sports activities. |

Leeuwarden is home to one of the largest and oldest scouting groups in the Netherlands: **Burmania**. Activities take place at the clubhouse **"De Vesting"**, where scouts engage in adventurous outdoor experiences. In addition there are 2 other scouting groups in Leeuwarden as well called 'Scouting group De Esdoorn' and 'Luwt Stam' which is a student scouting group.

One key initiative is **LAB058**, operated by **Kunstkade**, the cultural education organisation for youth. LAB058 provides a **free** space for young people aged **13 to 18** to **explore their talents** in music, visual arts, stage performance, and urban culture.

| Young meeting spaces (locations within LAB058) |
| --- |
| **Music Lab** – Located at Breedstraat 48, in the former Zalen Schaaf theatre. |
| **Urban Lab** – Based at DOAS creative hub. |
| **Stage Lab** – Also hosted at DOAS. |
| **Visual Lab** – Situated at DOAS as well. |

Leeuwarden offers several venues for festivals and events. Many villages around Leeuwarden also have facilities for cultural activities such as local festivities and open-air theater productions. The largest event locations in the city include:

| **Outdoor event locations** |
| --- |
| **Wilhelminaplein** (capacity: 8,000 visitors) |
| **Oldehoofsterkerkhof & Groeneweg** (capacity: up to 15,000 visitors) |
| **Gouveneursplein & Hofplein** (capacity: up to 6,000 visitors) |
| **Indoor event location (other than the ones mentioned above): WTC-expo** (over 40.000 m2). |

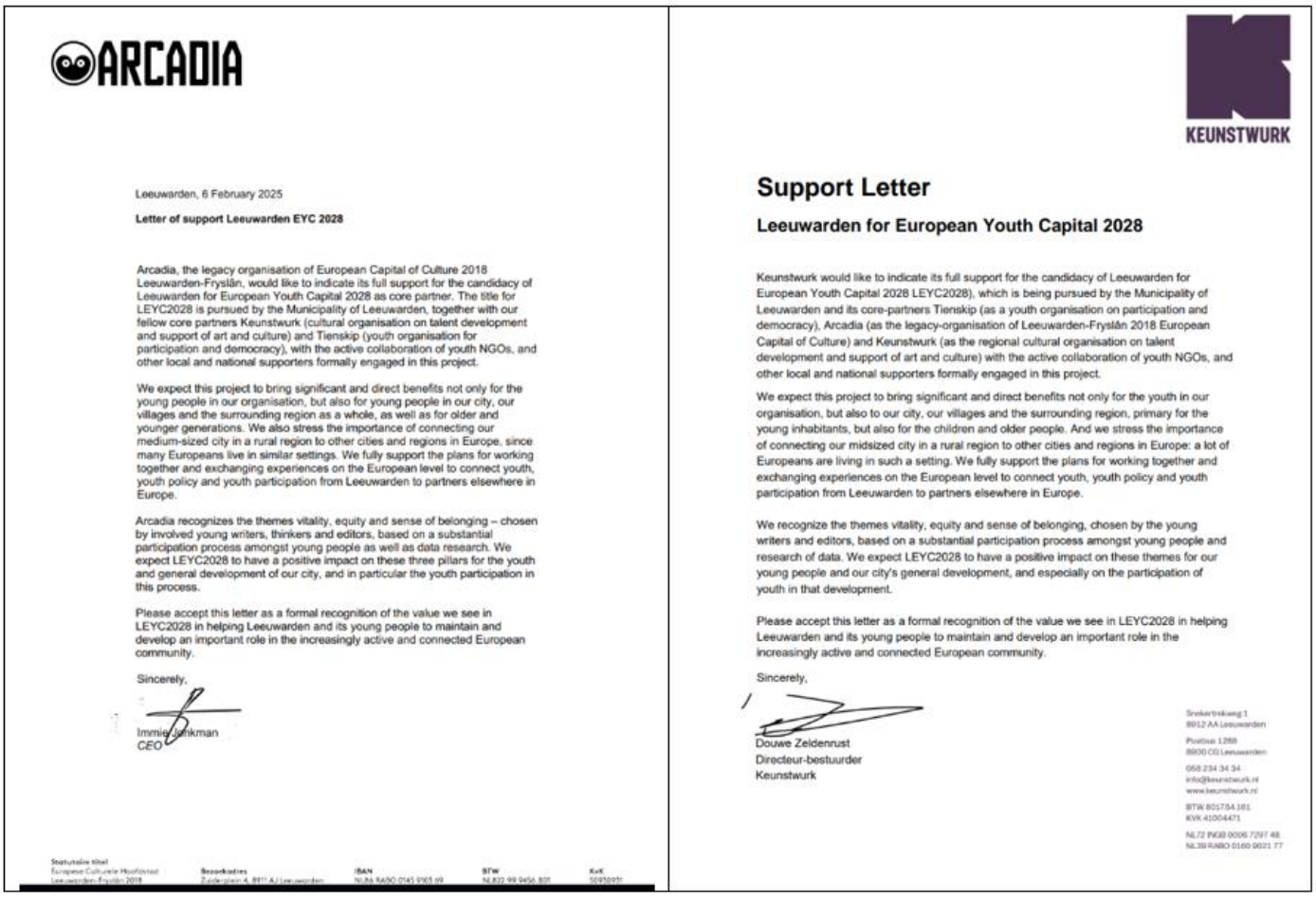
## ANNEX 8: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

*In this annex you find letters of support coming from youth organisations and organisations working with youth:*

| *Line of work* | *Organisation* | *Signed by* |
|---|---|---|
| **Core partners** | Arcadia | Immie Jonkman, CEO |
| | Keunstwurk | Douwe Zeldenrust, director |
| | Tienskip (youth organisation) | Jeppe Kok, director (annex II) |
| | | |
| **National** | Nederlandse Jeugd Raad (Dutch Youth Council) | Sabine van Ewijk, board member for International Participation |
| | Unicef, Childfriendly Cities Initiative | Esther Vreeburg, programme manager |
| **Business** | Stichting Binnenstads-management | Ellen Seerden, innercity-manager |
| | Innovatie Pact Fryslân, economic board of Fryslân | Hendrikus Venema, director |
| | JGM Serious Experiences | Jeffrey Meijer (owner), Carlo Kater (trainer/coach) |
| | Recruit a Student employment agency | Jantina Bleijinga |
| **Care** | @Ease, mental health care | Boudien van der Pol, location manager |
| | Amaryllis, home base of youth work | Sjoerd Tolsma, director |
| **Culture** | Dance Company Leeuwarden | |
| | De Lawei Drachten | Elly van der Goot, director |
| | Embrace Nederland | Margot Hoiting, director |
| | Friesland Pop | Peter Reen, managing director |
| | Harmonie, theatre | Siart Smit, director |
| | Jeugd Dansopleiding Fryslân | Tia van der Velde, financial director |
| | Kunstacademie Fryslân | Doet Boersma, director |
| | Kunstbende Nederland | Marjolein Rietveld, director |
| | LAB058/Kunstkade | Mark Wagenaar, coordinator |
| | Lake Woozoo, artist hub | Ico Balt |
| | Leeuwarden UNESCO city of literature | Ernst Bruinsma, director |
| | Pier 21 | Maaike Beckers, business director |
| | Popfabryk Leeuwarden | Paul Giesen, director |
| | Samenwerkende Muziekverenigingen Leeuwarden (cooperating music-associations) | Wessel de Vries, Tryntsje Hospes |
| | Tryater theatre company | Tatiana Pratley (artistic director) and Valentijn Fit (business director) |
| | Writer's Block Murals | Serge Hollander and Peter Reen, creative directors |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Education** | Campus Fryslân of the Rijks Universiteit Groningen | Tjalling Halbertsma, dean |
| | Leeuwarden Student City | Anton van der Sluis, director |
| | NHL-Stenden, University of Applied Sciences | Marc Otto, president of the executive board |
| | Stichting voor Openbaar Voortgezet Onderwijs Fryslân-Noord (secundary education) | Folkert Bangma, chairman of the executive board |
| | Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Minerva Art Academy, Popular Culture Leeuwarden | Dorothea van der Meulen, dean |
| | School's cool | Guydolph Dijkstra, projectleader |
| | Spark the Movement | Maximilian Eisenbart, programme manager |
| **History** | HCL, Historical Centre Leeuwarden | Meindert Seffinga. director |
| **Media** | Omrop Fryslân | |
| **Politics** | Jonge Democraten Fryslân | Yannick Pander, chairman |
| **Social & societal** | Doarpswurk, support-organisation for active villages | Thea Andreae, director |
| | Maatschappelijke Diensttijd Fryslân, empowering young people to take initiative and play an active role in their surroundings | Wietske de Koe (regional facilitator) and Priscilla Dens (process-facilitator) |
| | Planbureau Fryslân, research institute for the province of Friesland | Arjen Droog, executive director |
| | Romte, social and artistic | Douwe Zeldenrust, CEO |
| | Stadsklooster & ZinLab Grote Kerk, a new destination for the oldest monument in the city. | Jan-Jaap Stegeman, founder and programme manager |
| | Stichting Empowerment Collective, empowering (often vulnerable) young people | Gysbert Bergsma, director |
| | Stjoer, support organisation for vulnerable people | Erik Blank, CEO |
| **Sport** | Sport Fryslân | Anne-Jochum, CEO |
| **Sustainability/ circular** | Vereniging Circulair Fryslân | Evert Jan van Nijen, director |
| | Wetsus, European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology | Johannes Boonstra, executive board |
| **Other** | Club Diplomatique – Frisian network of decisionmakers in big businesses, government, education, sport and culture | Gerlof Reijneker, Chairman of the board |
| | DBieb, bibliotheken/libraries Midden Fryslân | Norbèrt van Halderen, director |
| | Jeugdfonds Sport en Cultuur | Lieuwe Krol, Board member |

Core partners of Leeuwarden European Youth Capital are the Municipality of Leeuwarden, Tienskip, Arcadia and Keunstwurk. The letters of the municipality and youth organisation Tienskip can be found in ANNEX I and II. The support letters of Arcadia and Keunstwurk:



ARCADIA

Leeuwarden, 6 February 2025

**Letter of support Leeuwarden EYC 2028**

Arcadia, the legacy organisation of European Capital of Culture 2018 Leeuwarden-Fryslân, would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 as core partner. The title for LEYC2028 is pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden, together with our fellow core partners Keunstwurk (cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) and Tienskip (youth organisation for participation and democracy), with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the young people in our organisation, but also for young people in our city, our villages and the surrounding region as a whole, as well as for older and younger generations. We also stress the importance of connecting our medium-sized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe, since many Europeans live in similar settings. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

Arcadia recognizes the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging – chosen by involved young writers, thinkers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people as well as data research. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these three pillars for the youth and general development of our city, and in particular the youth participation in this process.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Immie Sinkman
*CEO*

Statutaire titel: Bezoekadres: IBAN: BTW: KvK:

KEUNSTWURK

## Support Letter

### Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028

Keunstwurk would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Douwe Zeldenrust
Directeur-bestuurder
Keunstwurk

Sneekertrekweg 1
8912 AA Leeuwarden

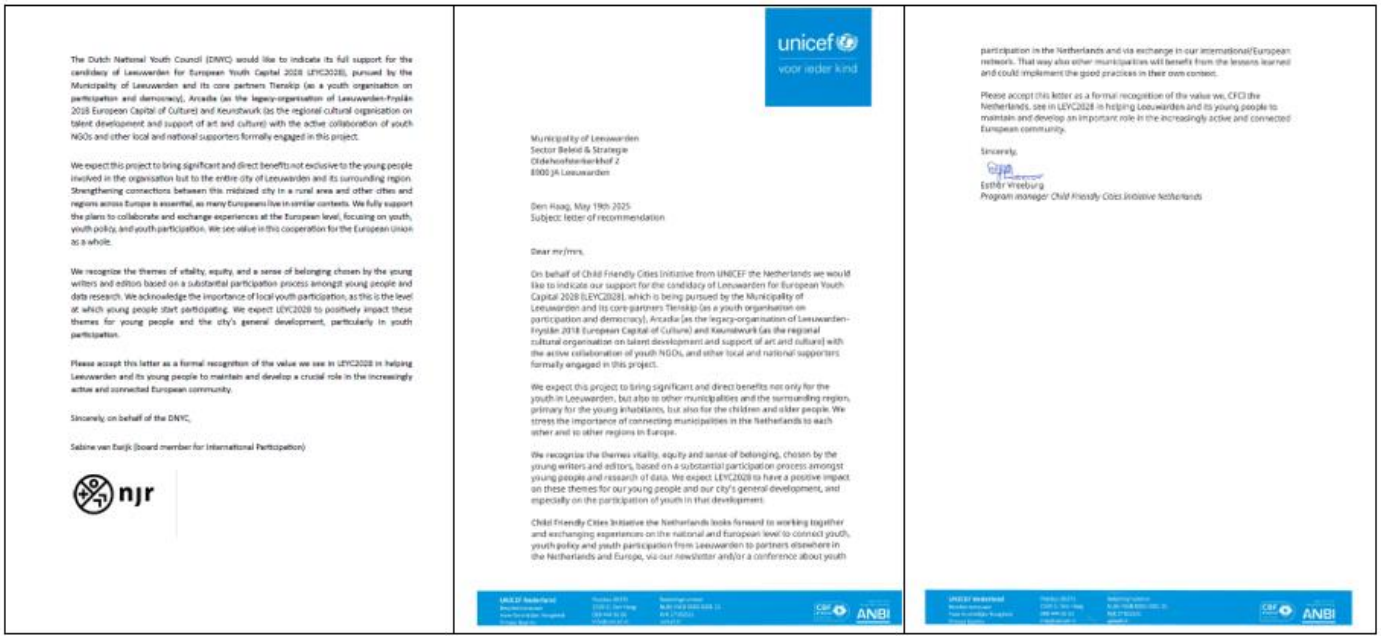
Postbus 1288
8900 CG Leeuwarden

058 234 34 34
info@keunstwurk.nl
www.keunstwurk.nl

BTW 8017.54.181
KVK 41004471

NL72 INGB 0006 7297 48
NL39 RABO 0160 9021 77

Support letters of organisations supporting Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital:



The Dutch National Youth Council (DNYC) would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not exclusive to the young people involved in the organisation but to the entire city of Leeuwarden and its surrounding region. Strengthening connections between this midsized city in a rural area and other cities and regions across Europe is essential, as many Europeans live in similar contexts. We fully support the plans to collaborate and exchange experiences at the European level, focusing on youth, youth policy, and youth participation. We see value in this cooperation for the European Union as a whole.

We recognize the themes of vitality, equity, and a sense of belonging chosen by the young writers and editors based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and data research. We acknowledge the importance of local youth participation, as this is the level at which young people start participating. We expect LEYC2028 to positively impact these themes for young people and the city's general development, particularly in youth participation.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop a crucial role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely, on behalf of the DNYC,

Sabine van Eurijk (board member for International Participation)

njr

unicef
voor ieder kind

Municipality of Leeuwarden
Sector Beleid & Strategie
Oldehoofsterkerkhof 2
8900 JA Leeuwarden

Den Haag, May 19th 2025
Subject: letter of recommendation

Dear mr/mrs,

On behalf of Child Friendly Cities Initiative from UNICEF the Netherlands we would like to indicate our support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in Leeuwarden, but also to other municipalities and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. We stress the importance of connecting municipalities in the Netherlands to each other and to other regions in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Child Friendly Cities Initiative the Netherlands looks forward to working together and exchanging experiences on the national and European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in the Netherlands and Europe, via our newsletter and/or a conference about youth

CBF ANBI

participation in the Netherlands and via exchange in our international/European network. That way also other municipalities will benefit from the lessons learned and could implement the good practices in their own context.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we, CFCI the Netherlands, see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Esther Vreeburg
*Program manager Child Friendly Cities Initiative Netherlands*

CBF ANBI



amaryllis

Leeuwarden, 27 januari 2025

Amaryllis would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Sjoerd Tolsma, director



wetsus

Gemeente Leeuwarden
College van Burgemeester en Wethouders
Postbus 21000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

Leeuwarden, April 30, 2025

Wetsus – European centre of Excellence for sustainable Water Technology, would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028, which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

To Wetsus, as European centre of excellence in the field of water technology, continent-wide human capital is of crucial importance to achieve our goals. Our students and PhD researchers share over 35 nationalities, and we serve as a talent hub in Europe. To us, the diversity and potential of the world's changemakers (to be) is invaluable. Each new person in our organisation brings home-grown knowledge and context to our shared platform and can aid the world with new solutions to water challenges after earning their master or PhD degree here. Enabling inspiring and positive experiences and sparking joy in our future leaders plays a key role in Wetsus strategy, therefore we fully support Leeuwarden's candidacy for European Youth Capital 2028.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.



PF

Planbureau Fryslân
Prins Hendrikstraat 8
8911 BK Leeuwarden
E: info@planbureaufryslan.nl
W: www.planbureaufryslan.nl
T: (058) 234 85 00
KvK: 41001037

Het college van Burgemeester en Wethouders
van de gemeente Leeuwarden
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

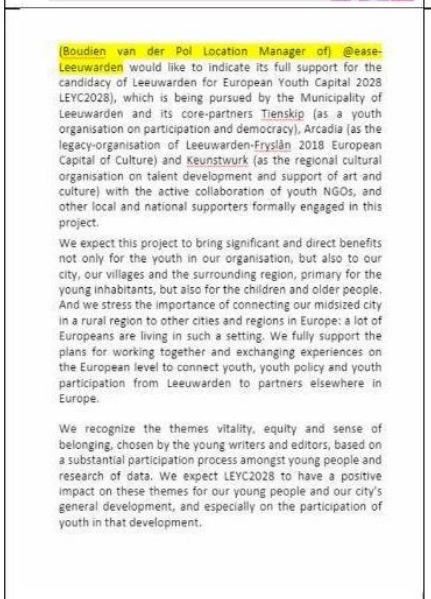
Leeuwarden, 28 februari 2025

Geachte leden van het College,

Planbureau Fryslân would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

Scientific research by Planbureau Fryslân and its partners show relevant trends in the demographic group of young people in Fryslân: a worrisome and steep increase in mental health related problems like stress, loneliness and risk of depressions. At the same time young people have a convincing drive to make a difference in the world and for many relevant topics the city of Leeuwarden and the province of Fryslân have opportunities to enable young people to shape the future. If the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 is granted, we will contribute to the activities and together with partners set up new research initiatives with our young inhabitants.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people.



(Boudien van der Pol Location Manager of) @ease-Leeuwarden would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.



Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Boudien vd Pol

05-02-2025



university of groningen / campus fryslân

Het college van Burgemeester en Wethouders
van de gemeente Leeuwarden
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

February 6, 2025

CF25.005/JOK

Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Campus Fryslân, the youngest faculty of the University of Groningen, I would like to indicate our full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation and for our students but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development. Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. dr. Tjalling Halbertsma
Dean Campus Fryslân/ University of Groningen



Leeuwarden, 4 februari 2025

Dear Mr. and Ms.

Stichting Binnenstadsmanagement would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Ellen Seerden



Circulair Friesland

Het college van Burgemeester en
Wethouders van de gemeente
Leeuwarden
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA LEEUWARDEN

Leeuwarden, 31 January 2025

**Vereniging Circulair Friesland** would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

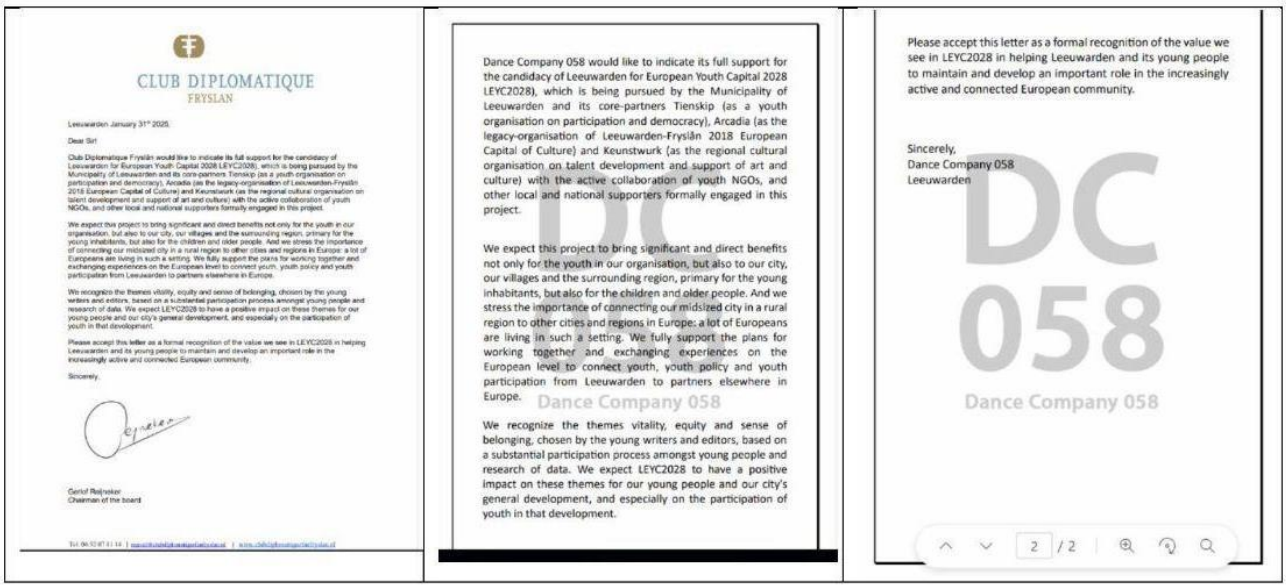


Circulair Friesland

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

E.C.J. van Nijen
Directeur



CLUB DIPLOMATIQUE
FRYSLAN

Leeuwarden January 31st 2025

Dear Sir/

Club Diplomatique Fryslân would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Gerlof Reijneker
Chairman of the board

Tel: 06 52 87 61 14 | [illegible]

Dance Company 058 would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

Dance Company 058

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,
Dance Company 058
Leeuwarden

DC 058
Dance Company 058

2 / 2

dbieb

European Youth Capital

Datum 5 februari 2025
Ons kenmerk

Dear reader,

Bibliotheken Midden-Fryslân (dbieb) would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Norbert van Halderen
Director Bibliotheken Midden-Fryslân

DE LAWEI
SCHOOLBAAN DRACHTEN

Support Letter

Drachten, February 4th 2025

Dear Sir, Madam,

Schouwburg De Lawei Drachten would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.
We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,
Schouwburg De Lawei

Elly van der Goot,
Director

*voorstellingen, concerten, evenementen, films, exposities, educatie*

STICHTING DOARPSWURK
Buorren 28
9012 DH Raerd
0566 – 62 50 10
info@doarpswurk.fri
www.doarpswurk.fri

idoarpswurk

**Raerd, 30 januari 2025**

Stichting Doarpswurk would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

1 / 2

STICHTING DOARPSWURK
Buorren 28
9012 DH Raerd
0566 – 62 50 10
info@doarpswurk.fri
www.doarpswurk.fri

idoarpswurk

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Theo Andreae
Directeur Stichting Doarpswurk

embrace
NEDERLAND

Embrace Nederland would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Margot Holting
Director of Embrace Nederland

**Stichting Embrace Nederland**

L.S.

Friesland Pop would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

POP

Friesland Pop
Achter de Hoven 21
8933 AG Leeuwarden

www.frieslandpop.nl
info@frieslandpop.nl

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Peter Reon
Managing director of Friesland Pop, provincial organisation for (pop cultural) talent development.

Harmonie

Stadsorkest Harmonie would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028, which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Sincerely,

Siard Smit
Director Stadsorkestvereniging De Harmonie

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HISTORISCH CENTRUM | LEEUWARDEN

The Historisch Centrum Leeuwarden would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Sincerely,

M.J. Seffinga

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INNOVATIEPACT FRYSLÂN

Municipality of Leeuwarden
Board of Mayor & Aldermen
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

Leeuwarden, 31-03-2025

Innovatiepact Fryslân - Economic Board of Fryslân would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community. Moreover, this support letter does not entail any financial or legal obligations Innovatiepact Fryslân - Economic Board regarding the participation of Leeuwarden in the election for and its possible implementations of the European Youth Capital project 2028. That remains the sole responsibility of the Municipality of Leeuwarden. Good luck with submitting the bid book.

Yours Sincerely,

drs. ing. H.J. (Hendrikus) Verkerk MSc BA
Director

INNOVATIEPACT FRYSLÂN | TURFMARKT 91 | 8911 KT | LEEUWARDEN | WWW.INNOVATIEPACT.NL

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Jeugd doet opleiding Fryslân

Leeuwarden, 3 februari 2025

Europese Jeugd Forum

Subject: Candidacy of Leeuwarden for LEYC2028

To whom it may concern,

De jeugd Doetopleiding Fryslân ( DOEF) would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Meijer (owner)
Carlo Kater (trainer / coach)
and colleagues

JGM serious experiences

KvK 76392945 Btw NL003079686B67 IBAN NL80 INGB 0006 3335 53

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Het college van Burgemeester en Wethouders van de gemeente Leeuwarden

Postbus 21.000

8900 JA Leeuwarden

Dear Sir/Madame,

JGM serious experiences would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Jeffrey Meijer (owner)
Carlo Kater (trainer / coach)
and colleagues

JGM serious experiences

KvK 76392945 Btw NL003079686B67 IBAN NL80 INGB 0006 3335 53

---

Jonge Democraten Friesland would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Yarnick Pander
Chairman Jonge Democraten Friesland

---

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Yarnick Pander
Chairman Jonge Democraten Friesland

---

Kunstacademie Friesland would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Doet Boersma, director.

kunst academie friesland



Stichting Kunstkade would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Sincerely,

**Mark Wagenaar**
Coordinator LAB058 – a project of Kunstkade



Lake Wobbegon

ARTIST HUB

Stichting Lake Wobbegon would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Sincerely,

Ice Bult
Lake Wobbegon



LEEUWARDEN STUDENT CITY

To whom it may concern,

Leeuwarden Student City would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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**Mission and Vision**

**Leeuwarden Student City** makes Leeuwarden the ultimate city for students; a place where students feel at home and where future students are eager to go.

Leeuwarden is the place where students choose their own path, find the peace to grow, seek out the hustle to express themselves, find company in diverse activities, and stay healthy by (together) engaging in sports. This is what **Leeuwarden Student City** stands for: it is what we represent, what we strive for, and what we are committed to achieving.

We do this by activating various parties and being the connecting link between students and the world beyond. Together, we ensure that students enjoy studying in Leeuwarden and perhaps even decide to stay and live here.

Leeuwarden Student City, Rengerslaan 1, 8917 DD Leeuwarden T 058-3033800, info@leeuwarden-studentcity.nl Kvk: 01086874



LEEUWARDEN STUDENT CITY

**Core values Leeuwarden Student City**

**CONNECTOR**
LSC is the connector, the driving force. We are the party that links all the organizations needed to make Leeuwarden the ultimate city for (future) students. This is the core focus of LSC.

**INDEPENDENT**
At LSC, the interests and well-being of the student come first. We can guarantee this because we are independent. We represent the students' interests, always with the goal of making (future) students feel at home in Leeuwarden. The image of the Lion symbolizes this independence, as well as the courage to stand for what LSC represents.

**KNOWLEDGE**
We are at the center of it all. We stay well-informed and listen closely to our network. This allows us to provide students and stakeholders with valuable information and knowledge about students and their world.

**TOGETHER**
Together, we can make Leeuwarden the student city where everyone feels welcome. We achieve this by collaborating with schools, entrepreneurs, the government, and all necessary stakeholders. Equally important is our cooperation with the students themselves. We work with, for, and especially alongside students.

**ENERGETIC**
We are active, organizing many events, and are highly visible. We gain energy from working with and for students. Let us handle it—we are the central hub, coordinating with all parties. This gives us energy, allowing us to deliver the best for students with genuine enthusiasm.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Anton van der Sluis
Director Leeuwarden Student City

Leeuwarden Student City, Rengerslaan 1, 8917 DD Leeuwarden T 058-3033800, info@leeuwarden-studentcity.nl Kvk: 01086874



Leeuwarden
UNESCO City of Literature

Leeuwarden, January 20th 2025

*Letter of support*

*Leeuwarden UNESCO City of Literature* would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in **LEYC2028** in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

With best regards,

Ernst Braksma

Postbus 23 | info@leeuwarden-cityofliterature.nl
8911 AB Leeuwarden | www.leeuwarden-cityofliterature.nl



JEUGD FONDS SPORT & CULTUUR

**Letter of support**

**Jeugdfonds Sport en Cultuur Fryslân** is a foundation that ensures that young people whose parents do not have enough income to participate in sports or culture, can still participate by paying their membership or tuition fees. Our foundation would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Sincerely,

Lieuwe Krol
Board member JSCF



Het college van Burgemeester en Wethouders van de gemeente Leeuwarden
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

Leeuwarden, Feb. 3rd 2025

Stadsklooster Leeuwarden would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

Stadsklooster Leeuwarden is the new destination of the Grote Kerk in Leeuwarden, the oldest monument of the city. It was founded in the 15th century by the monastic order of the Dominicans. Our aim is to let this old monastery be the spiritual heart of Leeuwarden. A place of inclusion, slowing down and meditation.

During the process, we cocreate the new monastery with students of all educational levels. Already more than 200 students have done research on our project.

The mutual enthusiasm has led to a more structural collaboration between our project and the educational institutions of Leeuwarden. We call this ZinLab - the Lab of Meaning. This initiative focuses on important themes such as general prosperity (brede welvaart), meaning, ethical leadership, and the Inner Development Goals (IDGs).

The ZinLab will be a multidisciplinary learning environment located in the Stadsklooster, a new educational space where, alongside teaching and student well-being, cultural and community projects will take place. With ZinLab we hope to have a positive impact on student-wellbeing in general, and in the development of a moral compass of students in particular.

As Stadsklooster & ZinLab we fully recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Stadsklooster-team.

Jan-Jaap Stayerman (founder & programmanager)



Aan: Het college van Burgemeester en Wethouders van de gemeente Leeuwarden
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

Dear Mr/Mrs,

Regionaal Samenwerkingsverband MDT Friesland would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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We recognize the themes vitality equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data.

MDT perfectly aligns with the ambitions of Leeuwarden as the European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028). MDT not only provides young people with the opportunity to discover their talents and make a social impact but also encourages them to actively contribute to an inclusive and connected community. This fits seamlessly with the themes of **vitality, equality, and sense of belonging,** which are central to the candidacy.
MDT empowers young people to take initiative and play an active role in their surroundings. Youth coaches play a crucial role in this process: they guide and motivate young people to make their voices heard and contribute meaningfully. This makes MDT not just a valuable learning experience but also a powerful tool for strengthening youth participation in a sustainable way.

Within LEYC2028, MDT can serve as a catalyst for engagement and collaboration, enabling young people to exchange experiences and ideas not only locally but also internationally. Together, we are building a future where young people have the space to grow, develop, and actively shape their city and region.

We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Wietske de Koe
Regiofacilitator MDT Friesland

Priscilla Dens
Procesbegeleider MDT Friesland

Regional Samenwerkingsverband MDT Friesland
www.mdt.fri
info@mdt.fri

Attachment: MDT projects in Leeuwarden

**Attachment: Some of the MDT projects in Leeuwarden**

**Leeuwarden, 5 februari 2025**

Wietske de Koe, projectleider Zoek het uit!

Jannie Janssens, projectcoördinator Stichting Present Leeuwarden

Titiaha Klomp,
namens/en/por/por Sacja Stagis: een samenwerking tussen Stichting Jong & Ondernemend Fryslân en Poppodium Neushoorn

Jeroen Sloets,
projectleider MDT Stichting Network Time to Connect

**SARI GOMIS**
**Advisor / Coach**

**06 57 34 07 68**
sari@swom.nl
*Absent on Monday and Friday*
SWOM • De Fabriek, James Wattstraat 4 | opende 9© • 8912 AR • Leeuwarden
**Checkout** swom.nl

Leeuwarden, 5 februari 2025

Caroline Doelman, projectleider Vriendschrend Noord-Nederland (in Friesland uitgevoerd door Solidair Friesland)

NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data. We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,
on behalf of NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences,

Ing. Hajo T. Otto MBA
President Executive Board

**nhlstenden.com**

Municipality of Leeuwarden
Board of Mayor & Alderman
Postbus 21000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

Good luck with submitting the bid book.

Your Sincerely,

Ing. Hajo T. Otto MBA
President Executive Board

**nhlstenden.com**

Stichting Omrop Fryslân would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Gemeente Leeuwarden
College van Burgemeester en Wethouders
Postbus 21000
8900 JA Leeuwarden
Email: xyc2028@leeuwarden.nl

**Subject: European Youth Capital 2028**

Leeuwarden, Februari 4, 2025

Dear College,

Stichting voor Openbaar Voortgezet Onderwijs Fryslân-Noord would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.
We recognize the themes vitality, equity and sense of belonging, chosen by the young writers and editors, based on a substantial participation process amongst young people and research of data.
We expect LEYC2028 to have a positive impact on these themes for our young people and our city's general development, and especially on the participation of youth in that development.
Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

drs. F.J. Bangma
chairman of the Executive Board

PierO would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Maaike Beliën
Zakelijk directeur PierO

WY MEITSJE TEATER OER ÛS TIID

PIER21.NL



Hanze

Academy Minerva

www.hanzegroningen.eu

Committee European Youth Capital 2028

Subject
Letter of support European Youth Capital 2028

Dear Committee,

Minerva Academy of Popular Culture (Minerva Art Academy, Hanze) would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for Europe on Youth Capitol 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Dorothee van der Meulen
Dean Minerva Art Academy/ Popular Culture Leeuwarden



POP FABRYK

Leeuwarden, January 29th

To whom it may concern

Dear Madam / Sir,

Popfabryk would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

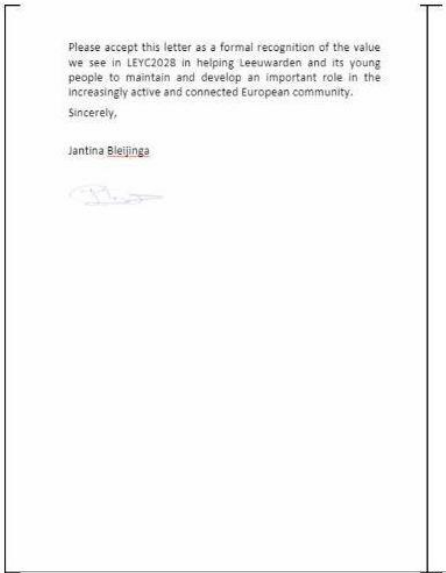
Paul Groen
Director



Jantina Bleijinga, Recruit a Student employment agency would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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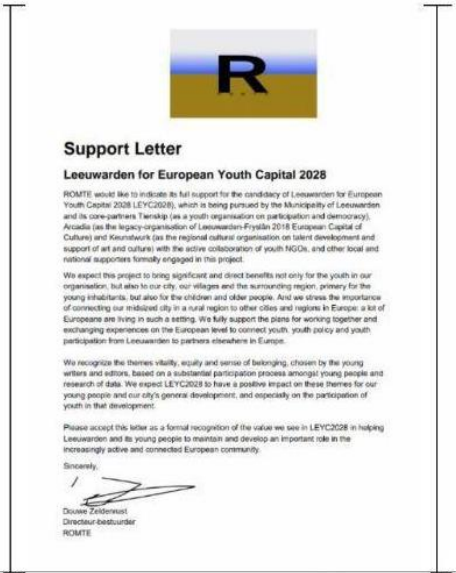
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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Jantina Bleijinga



R

## Support Letter

### Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028

ROMTE would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Douwe Zeldenrust
Directeur-bestuurder
ROMTE



SML

Dear sir/ma'dam,

Samenwerkende Muziekverenigingen Leeuwarden (SML), would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Wessel de Vries  Trintsje Hospes



SCHOOL'S COOL

Her college van Burgemeester en Wethouders van de gemeente Leeuwarden
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

School's Cool Friesland would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Quydolph Dijkstra, Project leader School's Cool Friesland



SPARK

SPARK the Movement
Turfmarkt 11
8911 KS LEEUWARDEN
info@sparkthemovement.nl

Her college van Burgemeester en
Wethouders van de gemeente
Leeuwarden
Postbus 21.000
8900 JA Leeuwarden

Leeuwarden, 03-02-2025

**SPARK the Movement** would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

At SPARK, we believe in the power of education and collaboration to create lasting change. As an educational program we work everyday to enable youth to shape their own world and future. We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in the schools we work with, but also to our city, surrounding villages, and the entire region, primary for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. And we stress the importance of connecting our midsized city in a rural region to other cities and regions in Europe: a lot of Europeans are living in such a setting. We fully support the plans working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

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SPARK

Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Maximilian Bramlage
Program Manager

Sport Fryslân would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Sincerely,

Anne Jochum de Vries

Directeur/Bestuurder (CEO)

Sport Fryslan

Het college van Burgemeester en Wethouders van de gemeente Leeuwarden

Postbus 21.000

8900 JA Leeuwarden

Dear Mr/Mrs,

Stichting Empowerment Collective would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

As an organisation focussing on empowering (often vulnerable) youth in discovering their talents and help them participate to their fullest, we see the importance of bringing youth of multiple backgrounds together to discover their sense of belonging. We would like to contribute through our programs aimed at building communities with youth in a leading position. Next to this we have a large network of both young people (400+) and role models (150+) that can contribute to making Leeuwarden European Youth Capital.

Sincerely,

Gysbert Bergsma

Director Stichting Empowerment Collective

www.empowermentcollective.nl

**Support Letter LEYC2028 - Stjoer**

Stjoer

**Stjoer** would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Erik Blank
Directeur-bestuurder Stjoer

TRYATER

Leeuwarden 30-1-2025

Tryater would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Prsteg
Artistic Director Tryater

Valentijn Fit
Managing Director Tryater

L.S.

Writer's Block would like to indicate its full support for the candidacy of Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028 (LEYC2028), which is being pursued by the Municipality of Leeuwarden and its core-partners Tienskip (as a youth organisation on participation and democracy), Arcadia (as the legacy-organisation of Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 European Capital of Culture) and Keunstwurk (as the regional cultural organisation on talent development and support of art and culture) with the active collaboration of youth NGOs, and other local and national supporters formally engaged in this project.

WRITER'S BLOCK

We expect this project to bring significant and direct benefits not only for the youth in our organisation, but also to our city, our villages and the surrounding region, primarily for the young inhabitants, but also for the children and older people. We fully support the plans for working together and exchanging experiences on the European level to connect youth, youth policy and youth participation from Leeuwarden to partners elsewhere in Europe.

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Please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value we see in LEYC2028 in helping Leeuwarden and its young people to maintain and develop an important role in the increasingly active and connected European community.

Sincerely,

Peter Reen and Serge Hollander
Creative directors of Writer's Block - street art organisation

## ANNEX 9 - RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS AND INITIATIVES

### List of youth organisations:

1. Tienskip (youth organisation)
2. Arcadia
3. Keunstwurk
4. Nederlandse Jeugd Raad (Dutch Youth Council)
5. Unicef, Childfriendly Cities Initiative
6. Stichting Binnenstads-management
7. Innovatie Pact Fryslân, economic board of Fryslân
8. JGM Serious Experiences
9. Recruit a Student employment agency
10. @Ease, mental health care
11. Amaryllis, home base of youth work
12. Dance Company Leeuwarden
13. De Lawei Drachten
14. Embrace Nederland
15. Friesland Pop
16. Harmonie, theatre
17. Jeugd Dansopleiding Fryslân
18. Kunstacademie Fryslân
19. Kunstbende Nederland
20. LAB058/Kunstkade
21. Lake Woozoo, artist hub
22. Leeuwarden UNESCO city of literature
23. Pier 21
24. Popfabryk Leeuwarden
25. Samenwerkende Muziekverenigingen Leeuwarden (cooperating music-associations)
26. Tryater theatre company
27. Writer's Block Murals
28. Campus Fryslân of the Rijks Universiteit Groningen
29. Leeuwarden Student City
30. NHL-Stenden, University of Applied Sciences
31. Stichting voor Openbaar Voortgezet Onderwijs Fryslân-Noord (secondary education)
32. Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Minerva Art Academy, Popular Culture Leeuwarden
33. School's cool
34. Spark the Movement
35. HCL, Historical Centre Leeuwarden
36. Omrop Fryslân
37. Jonge Democraten Fryslân
38. Doarpswurk, support organisation for active villages
39. Maatschappelijke Diensttijd Fryslân, empowering young people to take initiative and play an active role in their surroundings
40. Planbureau Fryslân, research institute for the province of Friesland
41. Romte, social and artistic
42. Stadsklooster & ZinLab Grote Kerk, a new destination for the oldest monument in the city
43. Stichting Empowerment Collective, empowering (often vulnerable) young people
44. Stjoer, support organisation for vulnerable people
45. Sport Fryslân
46. Vereniging Circulair Fryslân
47. Wetsus, European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology
48. Club Diplomatique – Frisian network of decision makers in big businesses, government, education, sport and culture
49. DBieb, bibliotheken/libraries Midden Fryslân
50. Jeugdfonds Sport en Cultuur

### Notable youth wellbeing initiatives

Notable initiatives include “School as a Key Location,” a successful evidence-based programme designed to prevent school dropout by offering early support to at-risk students. Through collaboration with schools, youth workers, school nurses, and care coordinators, the programme has expanded to nine schools. Research indicates that this approach not only reduces dropout rates but also decreases reliance on more intensive secondary care services.

Leeuwarden also implements other proven methodologies, such as the STORM method in secondary and vocational education, helping young people better understand their emotions and build resilience. @ease offers free and anonymous support—both online and in-person—for youth aged 12 to 25. Strategic partner Amaryllis provides basic support to youth and their parents. Youth workers engage with people aged 12–23 in schools, neighbourhoods, and public spaces, encouraging participation and educational engagement.

Creative and social meeting places such as Moody’s, LAB058, and Music Venue Neushoorn offer important outlets for youth expression. Programs such as Maatschappelijke Diensttijd (MDT) promote volunteering and civic participation, helping young people develop skills and become more engaged citizens. Additionally, neighbourhood sports coaches stimulate physical activity and promote sports among youth in all districts.

As of December 2024, there were 4,534 young people aged 12-29 who have followed an MDT project in Friesland, 1,199 of whom were residents of the city.

### Opgroeien in een Kansrijke Omgeving (OKO)

OKO is a data-driven, community-based prevention approach rooted in the Icelandic model, designed to promote healthy and happy youth by strengthening protective factors in environments such as home, school, peer groups and leisure time. Through OKO, municipalities like Leeuwarden collaborate with local partners to monitor youth well-being, discuss findings, co-develop policy and implement sustainable initiatives focused on prevention.

OKO operates across four key domains: family, school, peers, and leisure, identifying local risk and protective factors through biennial youth surveys. Based on the results, a community dialogue is held with schools, parents, youth workers and local organisations, and jointly they set priorities and select evidence-based interventions.

The municipality leads the effort, coordinating stakeholders through a continuous cycle of monitoring → dialogue → policy formulation → implementation, ensuring sustained investment and systemic change. By combining local data with a proven framework, OKO provides Leeuwarden with a structured, effective foundation for improving youth well-being and preventing substance use.

### European bodies and associations

Leeuwarden is an active member of several international networks, including Eurocities, ERRIN, the European Network of Living Labs, the European Capital of Culture (ECoC) family, and Energy Cities. These strategic partnerships not only keep the municipality informed about European policy developments, but—more importantly—enable Leeuwarden to learn from other European cities, share its experiences, and advocate for its interests at the European level.

Leeuwarden is also an experienced partner in EU-funded projects, participating in programs such as Horizon Europe, Interreg (Europe, NSR, NWE, and NL-DE), Erasmus+, and the European Urban Initiative (EUI). Previous Erasmus+ projects include Creative Ageing and Giggin’ Policy, the latter focusing on the position of youth in the gig economy. Through ECoC-SME (Interreg Europe), Leeuwarden explored how to leverage its European Capital of Culture legacy to foster a startup ecosystem, particularly by empowering young creatives.

As a vocal advocate for the role of small and medium-sized cities (SMCs) in European policy, Leeuwarden collaborates closely with the other three main cities in the Northern Netherlands. Together, they maintain a shared office in Brussels: the EU Office Cities Northern Netherlands. This office has taken the initiative to establish a dedicated European network of SMCs.

Each year, a networking and cooperation event is held in Brussels to strengthen ties between SMCs and key stakeholders, such as universities and SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) from these regions. This

platform will also be used to amplify the voice of youth in small and medium-sized cities across Europe, ensuring their needs and ambitions are better reflected in EU policies and programs.

## ANNEX 10: EYC PROCESS TIMELINE

### 2018

- **4th of June:** LF2018 (the ECoC organisation) organizes an event called *'No is de tiid'* (Now is the time). This meeting, attended by 300 participants from various sectors, focuses on the legacy of the European Capital of Culture. During this event, several young individuals brainstorm and declare: *'Now it's our turn'*. This leads to the proposition of possibly applying for European Youth Capital (EYC).
- **12th of December:** quartermaster Sjoerd Bootsma delivers a first memo to alderman Sjoerd Feitsma and deputy Sietske Poepjes, with concrete proposals regarding the legacy of the cultural capital. The memo advises consideration of a candidacy for European Youth Capital, as well as a bid for UNESCO City of Literature.

### 2019

- **Beginning of the year:** several brainstorming sessions are organized by the quartermaster for Legacy about concrete next steps for the LF2018 legacy. Attendees include Keunstwurk (Douwe Zeldenrust), Innovation Pact Fryslân, Klaas Sietse Spoelstra, Municipality of Lwd, Province of Fryslân, and others. Discussions revolve around possible *'follow-up titles'* for the city and province. The first decision is to apply for UNESCO City of Literature (which is not tied to a specific year, as it is a *'forever'* title). The title is successfully achieved in 2019. Additionally, it is discussed that an application for European Youth Capital should be pursued later (tentatively in five years).
- **June:** during a large meeting of secondary schools, many teachers express the desire for a *"Cultural Capital for Youth."*
- **25th of June:** Keunstwurk writes a first memo as input for the LF2018 legacy program, advocating for applying for European Youth Capital.

### 2022

- **Beginning of the year:** Keunstwurk engages in discussions with socio-cultural organisations and shares a proposal for an action plan for the EYC candidacy.
- **Summer:** Keunstwurk, together with Jan Willem van Kruysen, discusses the candidacy with the municipality of Leeuwarden.
- **Autumn:** internal municipal meeting is held with middle management in the social and physical domains regarding the candidacy. The project is put on hold due to lack of time and financial resources.

### 2023

- **Spring:** internal meetings at the municipality resume, and the memo about the candidacy is discussed within the Executive Team. The director of the social domain connects the initiative with the local youth agenda.
- **Summer:** green light! A project leader is recruited, and a team is assembled.
- **October:** the first steps in the preparatory phase for the candidacy are taken by the municipality.

### 2024

- **June:** the municipal council takes a separate positive decision regarding the plan to apply for EYC and the preparation budget.
- **2023/2024:** drafting of the youth agenda takes place, and in July 2024, it is approved with a focus on strengthening the influence of young people on policy and implementation. Twelve young people from diverse backgrounds provide input. Young people respond enthusiastically to the EYC candidacy. Two young individuals express this in a video message during an informative youth agenda meeting with the council.
- **First Half of the Year:** *gathering phase* of the bid book (collecting input from young people and desk research).

- **Second Half of the Year:** *story phase* (creating the bid book). Actions include brainstorming (concept), co-writing, and verification.

**2025**

- **3rd of February**: Tienskipdag – Gathering bid input from Firda students (16-20 years), 288 attendees.
- **3rd of February**: meet-up with organisations working with young people – Inspiration session on EYC, 10 attendees.
- **26th of February**: community celebration – Marking the submission of the first EYC application with the LWD Next community, 30 attendees.
- **10th of March**: meet-up with student associations – Inspiration session on EYC with student boards, 20 attendees.
- **20th of March**: sportcafé – Inspiration session on EYC with sports clubs, 26 clubs attended.
- **2nd of April**: Tienskipdag – Gathering bid input from Comenius Mariënburg students (16 years), 100 attendees.
- **7th of April**: meet-up with student associations – Gathering bid input from student boards.
- **7th of April**: meet-up with organisations working with young people – Connecting and brainstorming ideas for activities and the EYC program, 20 attendees.
- **17th of April**: Tienskipdag – Gathering bid input from Firda students (16-20 years), 420 attendees.
- **24th of April**: meeting with Nationale Jeugdraad – Exploratory talk on cooperation.
- **30th of April**: Girls Festival (Amaryllis) – Gathering bid input from 12-year-old girls, 44 attendees.
- **6th of May**: Tienskipdag – Gathering bid input from Aeres MBO students (16-20 years), 50 attendees.
- **12th of May**: meet-up with student associations – Gathering bid input from student boards.
- **13th of May**: launch of Project500 – Youth-led initiative for €500 microbudget funding, 7 attendees.
- **13th of May**: meet-up with organisations working with young people – European opportunities and collaborations, 30 attendees.
- **19th of May**: start of new editor – Enhancing Bid 1 with new input.
- **23rd of May**:guest lecture – Inspiration session on EYC and bid input gathering with students in public administration and European Studies, 15 attendees.
- **28th of May**: kick-off Promoteam LWD for EYC 2028 – Training young ambassadors (aged 14-22) to promote EYC, 4 attendees.
- **2nd of June**: informal city council meeting – Updating city council on Bid 2 progress.
- **3rd of June**: developing programme components – Co-creation session with young people (12-27 years), 10 attendees.
- **3rd of June**: meet-up with organisations working with young people – Focused session on youth participation in Leeuwarden, 20 attendees.
- **19th-21st of June**: youth visit to Parma (EYC2027) – Exchange programme on best practices, 2 young people under project guidance.
- **4th-7th of July**: youth visit to Lublin (EYC2023) – Exchange programme on youth involvement, 2 young people under project guidance.

## ANNEX 11: PEER LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

### Participation meetings Leeuwarden and Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI)

Municipalities can collaborate and learn from each other through peer learning projects and knowledge-sharing networks.

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) of UNICEF Netherlands regularly organises meetings and webinars to support municipalities in strengthening youth participation and promoting child-friendly policies. These events offer valuable insights, practical tools and inspiring examples for municipalities that want to actively work on the involvement of young people in policymaking. To strengthen and celebrate Leeuwarden as EYC, we are organizing a large participation meeting in collaboration with CFCI in the spring of 2026. The three themes of LEYC2028 are central to this. A valuable programme is being put together with various workshops and speakers on youth participation. Together with young people, our youth participation approach (such as Code Young and Project500) and experiences from Leeuwarden are shared. There is also plenty of room to share experiences from other municipalities. Towards the final bid we illustrate the ruther collaboration on peer learning and knowledge sharing with CFCI in 2028.

### CERV Child: Up to You(th)

The "City Next: Up to You(th)" project focuses on encouraging the active involvement of teenagers (12-15 years old) in the theme of "City of the Future," with an emphasis on inclusivity. This is achieved through focus groups, broad surveys, and participatory processes, where teenagers collaborate with policymakers in Ghent and Leeuwarden. The objectives include raising awareness, developing sustainable participation frameworks for this specific age group, engaging young people in democratic processes, and supporting vulnerable groups. The project follows an equity approach and runs for two years, with steps such as online seminars, participatory programs, and concrete action ideas. Partners include the City of Ghent (lead partner), the Municipality of Leeuwarden, DYPALL, and ECO-city, who work together on European exchange and research support. The project is awaiting approval for funding under the call for proposals on rights of the child and children’s participation (CERV-2025-CHILD).

## ANNEX 12: WORKSHOP THEMES AND SURVEY RESULTS

### About the Skill Factory

The Skill Factory is a youth-driven learning hub that equips young people with practical life skills beyond traditional education. By 2028, it will offer diverse workshops focused on independence, financial literacy, sustainability, creativity, and citizenship, using engaging methods like gamification and interactive showcases. Aligned with the European Skills Agenda, this initiative empowers young people to navigate adulthood with confidence. These themes are based on a questionnaire that was filled in by 178 young people ranging from 10 to 26 years old.

### Workshop themes

- **Life skills and sustainability:** workshops on everyday essentials like cooking—from beginner techniques to sustainable, budget-friendly meal planning—will foster connection across cultures in Leeuwarden. Additional sessions focus on DIY skills and upcycling, helping young people repair, reuse, and rethink consumption. Partnerships with vocational schools like *Firda* will provide valuable synergy.

- **Financial Independence:** these workshops cover practical financial knowledge: budgeting, saving, taxes, renting or buying property, and handling financial stress. In collaboration with the municipality's current financial aid campaigns, the sessions aim to build strong foundations for confident financial decision-making.

- **Navigating adulthood:** targeting youth as young as 16, these workshops prepare participants for the realities of adulthood: writing a CV, applying for jobs, understanding insurance, managing stress, setting boundaries, and developing soft skills. Collaborations with *JOF* and *Generation 2035* will support this and contribute to retaining young talent in Friesland.

- **Creativity and technology:** these workshops focus on creative expression and digital literacy—storytelling, drawing, video editing, music production, and content creation. Delivered in collaboration with *D'Drive*, the *Academy for Pop Culture*, and creative spaces like the public library, they support identity-building through art and tech.

- **Citizenship and participation:** workshops here will help young people understand how governance works—locally and at the EU level—and how to engage. Topics include policymaking, democratic participation, and programs like Erasmus+ and the European Youth Parliament. Partners include *Tienskip*, *NJR*, *RUN-EU*, and *Culture Next*.

### Results of the Questionnaire pertaining to the Open Programme May 2025

**Average age of respondents:** 17 years (age range between 10 and 26 years old)
**Total responses:** 177

### Distribution of locations

| Category | Count | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Leeuwarden (city centre) | 19 | 11.31% |
| Leeuwarden (districts) | 38 | 22.62% |
| Municipality of Leeuwarden (villages) | 22 | 13.10% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Outside the municipality of Leeuwarden but connected through for example work or school | 90 | 53.57% |

### Breakdown for Leeuwarden (districts)

| Location | Count |
|---|---|
| Westeinde | 7 |
| Bilgaard | 6 |
| Zuiderburen | 5 |
| Vrijheidswijk | 5 |
| Blitseard | 3 |
| Heechterp | 3 |
| Aldlan | 2 |
| Camminghaburen | 2 |
| Techum | 2 |
| Vogelwijk | 2 |
| Havankpark | 1 |
| Vossenparkwijk | 1 |
| Bilgaard/Camminghaburen | 1 |
| Transvaalwijk | 1 |
| Leeuwarden Camminghaburen | 1 |
| Zeehelden buurt | 1 |
| Binnenstad | 1 |
| Achter de Hoven | 1 |
| Oud-oost | 1 |
| Oud oost | 1 |
| Leeuwarden centrum | 1 |

### Breakdown for municipality of Leeuwarden (villages)

| Village | Count |
|---|---|
| Grou | 5 |
| Stiens | 4 |
| Hempens | 3 |
| Goutum | 2 |
| Wytgaard | 2 |
| Jirnsum | 1 |
| Wergea | 1 |
| Oudkerk | 1 |

### Connection to Leeuwarden

| Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Attend school in Leeuwarden | 149 | 88.69% |
| Live in Leeuwarden | 96 | 57.14% |
| Spend free time in Leeuwarden | 92 | 54.76% |
| Work in Leeuwarden | 46 | 27.38% |
| Belong to the municipality of Waadhoeke | 2 | 1.2% |
| Used to live in Leeuwarden | 1 | 0.6% |
| Volunteer work in Leeuwarden | 1 | 0.6% |

### What do you not learn at school but wish you could?

*Condensed version:*

| Value | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Cooking | 24 | 14.29% |
| Money matters, taxes, and financial issues | 16 | 9.52% |
| Practical subjects | 10 | 5.95% |
| Languages | 7 | 4.17% |
| Various sports, gym, and swimming | 5 | 2.98% |
| Entrepreneurship and work-life factors | 4 | 2.38% |
| Social skills, mental health, and behavioural issues | 4 | 2.38% |
| Politics, citizenship, and societal problems | 3 | 1.79% |
| Hacking, filmmaking, and learning how to execute plans | 3 | 1.79% |
| Driving a car | 2 | 1.19% |

### Where would you go to make an idea a reality?

| Category | Frequency |
|---|---|
| Municipality & Government | 42 |
| School & Education | 20 |
| Family & Personal Contacts | 9 |
| organisations & External Groups | 7 |
| Unsure or Unclear Responses | 13 |

### If you wanted to develop an initiative or an idea, what things would you definitely need?

**Play areas & recreation (15 responses - 8.93%)**

- More playgrounds with climbing equipment and monkey bars
- More play areas with gymnastics bars and climbing structures
- Amusement park, climbing forest, Sephora, and T Koekemannetje
- I would like a climbing forest
- More chill spots with benches and playground equipment

- There should be a toy store in Leeuwarden
- More swimming pools, including outdoor ones
- Leeuwarden needs more fun playgrounds
- I would like more fun chill spots in Leeuwarden and more play areas
- I want more chill spots, many playgrounds in my neighborhood have been removed
- More play areas for older children
- A swimming pool in Leeuwarden with slides, both outdoor and indoor
- More playgrounds for older children
- An amusement park in Leeuwarden
- More swimming pools with slides, outdoor swimming, and more concerts

**Stores & shopping (4 responses - 2.38%)**

- I want more stores like New Yorker, Zara, and Primark
- More stores in Leeuwarden, like TKMaxx and Primark
- Primark in Leeuwarden, enough stores otherwise
- More jewelry stores

**Funding & resources (6 responses - 3.57%)**

- Help, support, funding
- Money, good connections, and solid execution
- Money, volunteers, and location
- A company, an area, and a contact person
- Financial backing
- People with expertise, a pen, and a computer

**Planning & organisation (7 responses - 4.17%)**

- A team, an action plan, and a location
- Courage, inspiration (creativity), perseverance
- Goal—knowing what you want to achieve, space—a place to work, network—people who can help
- Unity, passion, time
- An audience, a stage/space that is publicly accessible, some materials
- Municipality, school, and other adults
- Nature management, volunteers, young people

**What have you always wanted to do but haven't been able to or dared to?**

**Extreme sports & adventure (20 responses - 11.90%)**

- Examples: Skydiving, doing a backflip, ice skating

**Travel & exploration (8 responses - 4.76%)**

- Examples: Traveling, seeing the world, especially nature in Europe, seeing a falling star

**Entrepreneurship & career (7 responses - 4.17%)**

- Examples: Starting a business, creating a project or initiative, stress-free living, knowing I can afford my needs

**Public speaking & social interaction (8 responses - 4.76%)**

- Examples: Pitching ideas, debating, publicly expressing my opinion, talking about mental health, being more social

**Creativity & arts (7 responses - 4.17%)**

- Examples: Acting in a film, painting and showcasing nature through art, organizing youth activities like street art, open mic, film nights, creating an exhibition about Dutch landscapes

**Education & personal growth (6 responses - 3.57%)**

- Examples: Learning a new language, studying climate change in school, meeting musicians and students with shared interests

**Uncertain or no answer (51 responses - 30.36%)**

Part of the young people that filled in this survey were already actively working on ideas during the Tienskip days. They were also asked to give a top 3 of what they need to make their project a success.

**What did you need today to ensure your project's success?**

**Funding & financial support (25 responses - 14.88%)**

- Money - Budget - Investment - Subsidy- Financial backing

**Government & institutional support (22 responses - 13.10%)**

- Municipality - Government - School administration - organisations supporting initiatives - Teachers and school leadership

**Planning & strategy (15 responses - 8.93%)**

- Action plan - Project execution - Strategic approach - Problem-solving methods - Approval process

**Collaboration & people (16 responses - 9.52%)**

- Volunteers - Support teams - Community engagement - People with knowledge of the subject - Networking and connections

**Resources & logistics (10 responses - 5.95%)**

- Locations for activities - Materials - Accessibility and infrastructure improvements - Tools needed for execution

**Creativity & inspiration (6 responses - 3.57%)**

- Passion and motivation - Innovative ideas - Artistic and creative input

**Uncertain or no answer (11 responses - 6.55%)**

## ANNEX 13: PROJECTS OF THE CURATED PROGRAMME

### The projects part of the Curated Programme (so far)

The LEYC2028 projects were co-created with young people from the start, using both survey data and in-depth dialogue during events like Tienskip Days and Arcadia sessions. These inputs shaped a longlist of ideas, most initiated or designed by youth and developed with experienced partners. Each idea includes its origin, youth involvement, and potential collaborators. Through multiple consultation rounds, the programme is refined to ensure it's inclusive, balanced, and built for long-term impact—rooted in shared ownership rather than top-down planning.

This list is divided in the three programme strands: Just, Belonging and Vitality. For each project we work with a shortened list of partners, in some cases these are still potential partners, in many cases the partnerships have been secured. For our third bid, all partnerships will be secured and all projects will have been developed further.

Flagship projects have not been selected yet. Even though we have a good sense which ones might get selected, we leave this to our summer development and youth consultations to pick the flagship projects.

### Just (Equity)

**Girls Make The City**

Girls Make The City is an initiative that empowers girls and young women to actively shape inclusive and safe public spaces. By placing their lived experiences at the centre, the project aims to make public areas more welcoming, accessible, and secure. Young people lead the co-creation process alongside urban planners, designers, and local authorities.
*(Potential) partners: Leeuwarden-Oost, Wetopia, ZIJkant, Molenbeek 2030 (Brussel), Open Design Afrika (Kaapstad)*

**Youth take the stage**

Youth Take the Stage is a city-wide initiative to open up cultural institutions to the voices, ideas and leadership of a new generation. Anchored by theatre De Harmonie, the project invites young people to co-shape programming, strategy and public engagement across multiple cultural organisations in Leeuwarden, making space for youth-led innovation at the heart of the city's cultural life.
***(Potential) partners:*** *De Harmonie, local cultural organisations.*

**LWD Next**

LWD Next is a large, ever-growing, and diverse WhatsApp-community of young people who actively shape the European Youth Capital programme by generating ideas, collaborating with partners, co-creating initiatives, offering advice on key issues, and voting on programme components. It is a central and collaborative community created during the EYC process, a place where young people converge, learn and amplify their collective voice into a formidable instrument for advice and decision-making. Participants will gain skills related to the democratic process, while also establishing a strong network that connects with the European youth to share best practices and promote cultural exchange.

**Quiet Young**

Quiet develops a youth-specific branch of the Quiet community, helping young people facing poverty access services, experiences, and community connections, for free.
*(Potential) partners: Quiet Leeuwarden*

**Expeditie NEXT**

Expeditie NEXT is a national science festival where children explore the world of science through playful and interactive experiences. The festival transforms Leeuwarden into an interactive scientific playground, offering children a chance to explore science through engaging activities, experiments, and mini-lectures.
*(Potential) partners: Nationale Wetenschapsagenda, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (Campus Fryslân), Wetsus*

**Fryslân Bloeit young**
Fryslân Bloeit young empowers young people in Frisian villages and neighborhoods to lead sustainable community projects, from biodiversity and health to local culture and energy. Active since 2023, the initiative will focus even more strongly from 2026–2028 on amplifying youth leadership and giving young voices real influence in shaping a sustainable future for their communities.
*(Potential) partners: Netwerk Duurzame Gemeenschappen, many villages and their communities.*

***Democracy by Design***
Democracy by Design brings together two playful tools for citizenship education: Samenleven, het spel (Living together, the game) and Dierocratie (Animal-ocracy). Co-created with young people, these interactive games help students of all ages explore democratic values, social understanding and active participation, from primary schools to vocational education. The project supports schools in embedding creative civic learning into the curriculum, encouraging a new generation to shape society with empathy and agency.
***(Potential) partners:*** *Arcadia, Firda, Keunstwurk, Leeuwarden's city council and registry office.*

**Generation 2035 Hackathons**
Generation Fryslân 2035 organizes youth-led hackathons to co-create innovative solutions for sustainable and livable futures in Friesland, driven entirely by young people.
*(Potential) partners:* Generation 2035, Vereniging Circulair Fryslân, Innovatiepact Fryslân, *local youth networks*

**Be (Sense of Belonging)**
**Stadsreporters (City reporters)**
Stadsreporters is an online community platform where young people create content about topics relevant to their lives and their city. The project empowers young content creators to voice their perspectives and engage actively in community storytelling. At the moment a pilot is running.
*(Potential) partners: dBieb (Leeuwarden library), MICA/Mediahuis Noord (media group, publisher), FIRDA (secondary vocational education) and NHL-Stenden (university of applied sciences), Arcadia.*

**Night Vision**
Night Vision is a collaboration of many young artistic collectives that offer cultural programs at night. Together they advocate for more inclusive nightlife policies in Leeuwarden, improving attractiveness and youth participation. In July 2025 a public night meeting will be held with the city council inviting them to start drafting a vision statement 'for the night' together.
*(Potential) partners: Leeuwarden night collective, Leeuwarden city council.*

**The Playgrounds**
Creativity is the core concept, with pop-up locations focused on self-expression and wellbeing. Under the ethos *Just. Be. Young.*, these safe spaces allow young people to share their talents through writing, music, theatre, dance, or other forms of expression. Arts and culture are used to explore themes like mental and physical health, as well as climate justice. As "playgrounds," these spaces carry no pressure to perform—only freedom to play and explore. Some locations will be new, while others will build on existing spaces in Leeuwarden.
*(Potential) partners: Leeuwarden cultural sector and neighbourhood community centres.*

**MOVE / SAVE**
International project that facilitates youth exchanges focusing on rural themes, promoting intercultural learning and rural vitality. Youth-led exchanges take place between our region and rural communities in Serbia, Lithuania, and Croatia. Project is running since 2022. Funded by Creative Europe and Erasmus+.
*(Potential) partners: Villages in Serbia, Lithuania, Croatia and Friesland.*

**Escher: New Perspectives**
Leeuwarden is the birthplace of world famous artist M.C. Escher. New Perspectives brings a fresh series of large murals to Leeuwarden, inviting young international and local artists under 28 to reimagine public spaces through street art inspired by Escher's innovative visions.
*(Potential) partners: Writers Block, local and international artists.*

**Creative Embassies**
Creative Embassies established an international network of youth-led creative hubs that foster talent exchange and artistic collaboration between Leeuwarden, Rijeka (Croatia), Salford (United Kingdom) and Faro (Portugal) and Kaunas (Lithuania). This project has been running since 2022.
*(Potential) partners: Glitch Collectief, Fluxus Labs!, Associação recreativa e cultural de músicos, Urbani separe, Walk the plank.*

**Youth Festival**
The Groene Ster (green star) is a natural and recreational area just outside Leeuwarden, long known as the home of legendary outdoor festivals led by young people. These events came to a halt in 2020 due to legal restrictions, but since 2025, those barriers have been lifted. In response to a clear call from local youth to reclaim this space, Festival Groene Ster is making a comeback: a vibrant, youth-organised cultural festival that celebrates creativity, community, and the power of young initiative.
*(Potential) partners: Local young cultural organisations, municipality of Leeuwarden, Arcadia*

**Lake Woozoo Artist Hub**
Artist Hub is a mobile, physical space nurturing urban cultural talents. Run by young creatives, it offers training and artistic development opportunities to emerging artists.
*(Potential) partners: Lake Woozoo, urban cultural collectives*

**Enter Summer School**
Enter Summer School offers an artistic summer school week, bringing together young talented creatives from Leeuwarden, Lviv, Nova Gorica, Chemnitz, and other EYC/ECoC cities.
*(Potential) partners: Lviv EYC 2025, Ghent EYC 2024, Nova Gorica ECoC 2025, Chemnitz ECoC 2025.*

**Mobile youth hangouts**
Many under-18s express a clear need for informal hangout spaces in both city and village. This project responds by co-creating mobile, creative meeting spots with young people, involving artists or designers, making space for youth visibility and belonging.
*(Potential) partners: Local youth, designers, municipal planning departments, cultural organisations.*

### Young (Vitality)

**Sidewalk All-Stars!**
*Sidewalk All-Stars!* is a dynamic street sports project where young people from villages and neighborhoods come together to form spontaneous, mixed teams. In open-air competitions across a range of sports and games, they play, connect and compete. The project promotes social inclusion through playful, accessible, and community-driven activities.
*(Potential) partners: Sport Fryslân, local youth and sports organisations.*

**Lift!**
A series of hitchhiking competitions across Europe (18+) and the region of Friesland (under 18), empowering young participants through adventurous experiences and fostering international connections.
*(Potential) partners: Stichting Doe maar!, European youth capitals and other partners in our European networks.*

**Over de Drempel young**
Over de Drempel initiates creative projects led by young makers, addressing loneliness through art and design, encouraging dialogue, and fostering community connections. This project started in 2021, for 2026-2028 it will focus on young people, makers and organizers.
*(Potential) partners: Over de Drempel, Municipality of Leeuwarden, Arcadia, many local cultural organisations.*

**Broei!**
Broei! supports young cultural talent (12-24) through an annual talent development programme, offering training, mentoring, and public exposure during a major 2028 edition.
*(Potential) partners: Stichting Romte, many regional cultural organisations.*

## ANNEX 14: ACTIVITIES OF THE PARTNER PROGRAMME

### Example of the Partner Programme

### Working together – speaking together in Fryslân

In the period November 2025 to July 2028 young newcomers receive an individual work placement of 12 to 20 weeks (always 60 working days) in which they are supported by a language coach and job coach. The project entails language courses within companies. It is a regional cooperation with other Frisian municipalities. 250 participants start a dual trajectory within sectors such as Retail, Cleaning, Hospitality, Security, Technology, Food Industry, Healthcare and Landscaping. Here they receive extra language guidance, job coaching and training and guidance aimed at cultural sensitivity for the employer and/or a language buddy from the employer's staff. The project focuses on at least 100 female participants and at least 100 participants younger than 28 years.

The approach of this project helps young people to gain a position to shape their own future (equity).

### Background information

**What is the activity or plan that is organized within the framework of EYC?**

During or in connection with their integration, young people with a migration background improve their practical language skills, language level, employee skills and relevant professional skills in the Dutch work culture in a period of 20 weeks.

The young people have expanded their network and participation opportunities. After their language internship with an employer in the region, they receive a certificate and an up-to-date CV and together with the supervisor and employer they complete a career orientation. This gives them an improved chance of a start on the labour market and participation in Dutch society.

Overarching results are:

- Employers have gained experience with the target group
- Connection between the municipal integration and participation policy

**How does the activity connect with the Leeuwarden EYC themes of Vitality, Sense of Belonging and Equity?**

With the language courses within companies approach, young people are given a central position to better shape their own future.

**To what extent have young people contributed to the plan?**

- The young people decide together with their supervisor with which employer they want to do a language internship. They are also involved in drawing up their own career orientations.
- The young people themselves indicate the need to acquire more practical language skills during their integration.

**Does the activity or plan involve collaboration with other organisations from Leeuwarden, Friesland or the Netherlands**

Yes

**If yes, with which organisations?**

More than 100 regional employers from small and medium-sized businesses are affiliated with this project.

## ANNEX 15: COMMUNICATION MILESTONES & STRATEGY

| Communication milestones overview | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Period** | **Key action/ moment** | **Level** |
| May 2025 | Project500 launch, youth input session | Local |
| Summer 2025 | Promo team campaign: “Youth on the Move” | Local/Regional |
| Sep 2025 | National storytelling campaign: “Why Leeuwarden?” | National/Europe |
| Nov 2025 | Final bid delivery – press, visual campaign | All levels |
| 2026–2027 | Youth-led lead-up campaigns, Europe-facing content | European |
| 2028 | EYC-year full activation: *Just. Be. Young.* | All levels |

### Communication strategy 2025

### Leeuwarden for European Youth Capital 2028

This marketing and communication strategy supports the positioning of Leeuwarden as a finalist for European Youth Capital 2028. The strategy focuses on the main target groups, with specific communication approaches that align with their needs, preferences, and behaviour.

**1. Sender**

The main sender of the communication is Leeuwarden European Youth Capital 2028 (LWD for EYC 2028). This is a project initiated by the municipality of Leeuwarden in collaboration with the core partners: Arcadia, Keunstwurk, and Tienskip. Depending on the target group, messages may also come from involved young people, municipal stakeholders, or European networks. In practice, the main sender, LWD for EYC 2028, will be clearly visible. Additionally, we use a sponsor bar with the logos of the core partners or a piece of text “this is a collaboration between …” at the bottom of our communications in which the core partners are mentioned.

**2. Our goals**

- Create awareness among all residents and organisations, with a focus on young people aged 12 to 27 within the municipality of Leeuwarden, about the candidacy of LWD for EYC 2028.
- Stimulate youth participation within the municipality of Leeuwarden in the process and programme.
- Increase support among local, national, and international stakeholders.
- Profile Leeuwarden as a progressive European city for and by young people.

**3. Target groups**

**Local target groups**

- **Young people in the municipality of Leeuwarden**

**Who are they?**

A diverse group between 12 and 27 years old, consisting of secondary school students, MBO, HBO, and university students, working youth, and young people without work/education. This group also includes young people from various cultural backgrounds, living both in the city of Leeuwarden and the 35 surrounding villages that belong to the municipality.

**Where do we find them?**

- Secondary schools in Leeuwarden, MBO schools Firda and Aeres, the HBOs NHL Stenden and Van Hall Larenstein, and Campus Fryslân (University of Groningen)
- Youth organisations such as Jimmy's, youth centres, sports clubs, student and study associations
- Online: TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, WhatsApp, Discord
- Physically: on the streets, in community centres, village halls, libraries, festivals, cafés, cinemas, parks, skateparks, etc.

**What drives them?**

- Recognition and being taken seriously
- Space to think along, co-decide, and create themselves
- Connection with other young people
- Development, fun, and opportunities in their own region
- Visibility and making an impact

**Message**

"You make LWD for EYC 2028! Your voice, your ideas, your city/village/municipality. Own your spot!"
**Effect:** Increasing engagement and participation.

- **Core partners**

**Who are they?**

Art and cultural institutions with specific roles in the program:

- Arcadia: Curated Programme and part of the Partner Programme
- Keunstwurk: Open Programme and part of the Partner Programme
- Tienskip: Youth Participation and Programme on Democratic renewal

**Where do we find them?**

- Project meetings
- Shared Slack/Teams channels
- Email
- Gatherings

**What drives them?**

- Artistic quality and social relevance
- Truly putting young people in the lead
- Code Young
- Strengthening the cultural infrastructure
- Long-term impact

**Message**

"Your expertise and initiatives form the backbone of this project. Together we strengthen the impact on young people in our municipality."
**Effect:** Active collaboration and synergy between programmes.

- **Partners (organisations working with young people)**

**Who are they?**

These are organisations that work with young people. Think of dBieb, Amaryllis/Jimmy's, VisitLeeuwarden, Leeuwarden Student City, Stadsklooster, educational institutions, MICA, sports clubs, venues, youth work, museums, local entrepreneurs.

**Where do you find them?**

- Local networks
- Email
- Collaborations
- Community platforms
- Gatherings (monthly meet-up)

**What drives them?**

- More engaged young people
- Strengthening the relevance of their organisation
- Visibility of activities
- Mutual cooperation and connection
- European opportunities

**Message**
"By collaborating with LWD for EYC 2028, you reach more young people and gain access to European networks and funding."
**Effect:** Expanding the network and strengthening initiatives.

- **Residents**

**Who are they?**
A broad and diverse group: from parents and grandparents to employers, neighbours, sports coaches, teachers, entrepreneurs, retirees, and village associations. They live spread across the city and the 35 villages in the municipality of Leeuwarden. Some are actively involved in their community, others are more distant. What they share: the importance they attach to a liveable, safe, and attractive environment; now and in the future.

**Where do we find them?**

- Local media: weekly newspapers (door-to-door), radio and TV (Omrop Fryslân, GrootSneek)
- Online: Instagram, Facebook, and the website of the municipality of Leeuwarden
- Physically: on the streets, in community centres, village halls, libraries, festivals, cafés, cinemas

**What drives them?**

- Seeing young people do well
- Local pride and connection with neighbourhood or village
- Interest in how the municipality develops
- Desire to be heard and involved (also indirectly)
- Need for transparency and trust in the process

**Message**
"Our young people are the future of the municipality. With 'Claim Your Spot' we give them a voice and a place in society. Will you help support, inspire, or connect them with opportunities?"
**Effect:** Increasing support for youth initiatives, stimulating intergenerational contact, and more visibility of the youth programme in the broader society.

## Regional target groups

- **Province**

**Who are they?**
The province is a policy-making body with various departments relevant to this youth program: culture, liveability, youth participation, innovation, education, work & income. Deputies, policy advisors, and communication advisors are key players. The province looks at what contributes to the future of Fryslân, with attention to distribution, inclusivity, and sustainable development.

**Where do we find them?**
- Administrative meetings and networks (e.g. Regio Deal, VNG Fryslân)
- Policy notes, memos, position papers
- Personal invitations to events
- Presentations during provincial committee meetings

**What drives them?**
- A strong and attractive image of Fryslân
- Stimulating youth participation and talent development
- Regional distribution and cooperation between municipalities
- Policy goals around liveability, innovation, culture & youth
- Broad prosperity: future perspective for Frisian youth
- Cooperation and profiling at national and European level

**Message**
“With ‘Own Your Spot’, young people in Leeuwarden – and eventually throughout Fryslân – claim a voice and ownership. Working together on the future of our province. Join in, think along, and help us strengthen this movement.”
**Effect:** (Co-)financing or policy support, potential scaling to other Frisian municipalities, and more opportunities for youth at the regional level.

## Internal (political) target groups

- **Municipal civil servants**

**Who are they?**
Employees of the municipality of Leeuwarden who are involved in policy, implementation, communication, and participation. They work in various domains such as youth, culture, communication, participation, education, social domain, physical domain, and Leeuwarden Oost.

**Where do we find them?**
- City and town hall
- Internal meetings/project groups
- Intranet
- Welp
- Mailings
- Staff meetings

**What drives them?**
- Reason for existence: good service to the residents of the municipality

- Coherence between policy and implementation
- Efficient communication and engagement
- Clear frameworks and concrete objectives

**Message**
“Young residents are the future of our city and villages. Your expertise helps to secure this title and create lasting impact.”
**Effect:** Creating support and active involvement within the municipality.

- **Municipal council**

**Who are they?**
Elected representatives of the municipality. Important: different political colours and interests, but shared responsibility for the well-being and development of the municipality of Leeuwarden.

**Where do you find them?**
- Council meetings
- Newsletters, council information letters
- Working visits
- Gatherings
- Local media
- Via the council clerk

**What drives them?**
- Representation of the people
- Results that are visible and measurable
- Equal opportunities for city and villages
- Participation of residents, especially young people
- Alignment with municipal tasks
- International profile of Leeuwarden

**Message**
“LWD for EYC 2028 builds on democratic renewal, so that the villages and city are also a good place for new generations. This is an opportunity to sustainably anchor youth participation and community development.”
**Effect:** Support for policy choices and funding.

- **Executive board (college)**

**Who are they?**
The executive board of mayor and aldermen governs the municipality of Leeuwarden and is responsible for daily administration. They represent various portfolios, such as youth, culture, education, welfare, economy, and European cooperation. The executive board, together with the municipal council, forms the political and administrative top of the municipality.

**Where do you find them?**
- During executive meetings, council gatherings, and communication consultations
- At administrative working visits, events, and official occasions
- Via internal communication channels of the municipality (memos, weekly reports)
- Via political networks, media appearances, and regional administrative meetings

**What drives them?**

- The administrative and social success of the municipality of Leeuwarden
- Equal opportunities for city and villages
- Visible impact and results for their policy area
- Innovation, liveability, and citizen engagement
- Positioning of Leeuwarden as a European model city (international profile)
- Broad support from society and the municipal council
- Positive publicity and opportunities for re-election or career advancement

**Message**

"With LWD for EYC 2028 we show that Leeuwarden takes young people seriously. We are building a sustainable youth structure, increasing the visibility of our municipality in Europe, and delivering social added value on a local scale. This is an investment in the future of Leeuwarden."

**Effect:** The executive board feels ownership and sees the project as an opportunity to connect policy and social impact.

**National target groups**

- **Dutch National Youth Council**

**Who are they?**

- National Youth Council (NJR)
- Coalition-Y
- NJR's youth panels and think tanks
- Diversity organisations, JongWijs, Diversion
- Student unions, MBO/HBO/WO councils with youth councils

**Where do you find them?**

- Youth gatherings, panels, congresses
- Social media (Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok)
- Networking events
- National campaigns

**What drives them?**

- Youth having a say about their future
- Strengthening the voice of young people in policy and society
- Inclusivity and diversity in youth programs
- Opportunities for collaboration, national visibility

**Message**

"Youth participation is central to us. Together we can show how young people can take control when it comes to the future of their living environment."

**Effect:** Strengthening national collaborations and recognition.

- **Ministries**

**Who are they?**

- Ministries
- Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
- Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG)

- Regional ambassadors of the national government
- National Programme for Liveability and Safety

**Where do we find them?**
- Policy conferences, networking events
- LinkedIn
- Newsletters
- Working visits
- Media
- Parliamentary questions
- Pilots and subsidies

**What drives them?**
- Innovative examples from the region
- Effective youth participation and empowerment
- Tackling youth poverty, equal opportunities, mental health
- Transferable methods (that can be used elsewhere)
- Synergy between local policy and national challenges

**Message**
"LWD for EYC 2028 aligns with policy goals around youth and participation. This is an opportunity to position the Netherlands internationally as a frontrunner in youth policy."
**Effect:** Political and financial support.

**<u>European target groups</u>**

- **Jury of the European Youth Capital Award**

**Who are they?**
- Jury of the European Youth Forum
- Cities that previously held the title (e.g. Tirana 2022)
- International youth platforms, EU networks

**Where do we find them?**
- Online, via EYC platforms, international conferences
- LinkedIn, websites, youth fora

**What drives them?**
- Innovation in youth policy
- European cooperation
- European values: inclusion, democracy, solidarity
- International exchange and best practices
- Visibility of the city at the European level

**Message**
"Leeuwarden is the city where young people shape the future. We offer an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable approach that truly puts young people at the centre."
**Effect:** Increasing the chance of being awarded the title.

- **European policymakers**

**Who are they?**

- EU institutions: European Commission (DG EAC), Erasmus+ agency
- Members of the European Parliament (NL and EU-wide)
- European urban policy (Urban Agenda for the EU)

**Where do we find them?**

- European meetings
- LinkedIn
- Policy notes
- Media
- Erasmus+ platforms and project portals

**What drives them?**

- Innovation in youth participation
- European values: inclusion, democracy, solidarity
- Good best practices that are scalable within the EU
- International visibility and diplomacy of cities

**Message**

“LWD for EYC 2028 is a platform for international cooperation and knowledge exchange. Join us and help build a European youth movement.”

**Effect:** Strengthening international collaborations.

**5. Media mix**

We use a mix of online and offline communication channels to effectively reach the target groups.

**Young people**

- Our website: LWDforEYC.nl
- Social media: TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn (for working youth)
- Ads
- Organic content
- Physical events and pop-up activations (e.g. on campus)
- Interactive workshops
- Participation moments
- Collaborations with influencers and role models
- Interactive platforms (e.g. Discord, community apps)
- Physical materials: posters, stickers, and buttons
- Narrowcasting in educational institutions and other (public) places where young people can be found
- Podcasts

**Municipal stakeholders**

- Intranet, De Welp, and internal narrowcasting
- Information meetings
- Policy notes
- Council meetings
- LinkedIn updates
- Newsletter

**Partners (national and European)**

- Our website: LWDforEYC.nl
- Networking events and conferences
- LinkedIn
- Press releases
- Reports
- Direct outreach and collaboration proposals
- Newsletter
- Direct mails
- Aldermen

**6. Objectives**

- **Young People**

**Objective:** Each year, reach at least 60% of young people (aged 12–27) within the municipality of Leeuwarden at one or more moments with communication about LWD for EYC 2028 via online, offline, or interpersonal channels.

**Effect:** Young people in the city and surrounding villages feel heard and actively involved in developments within the municipality.
The reach is monitored annually through a combination of social media statistics, participation in events, website visits, and distribution numbers of offline materials. This way, we continue to steer visibility in all villages and neighbourhoods.

- **Municipal stakeholders**

**Objective:** By 2028, all municipal projects use Code Young as the standard for youth participation.
**Effect:** Support within the municipality of Leeuwarden and integration into policy development.

- **Partners**

**Objective:** Each year, the number of (inter)national collaborations with organisations working with young people grows by 10–15%.
**Effect:** Sustainable cooperation and network expansion for young people now and in the future.

- **European level**

**Objective:** Positive evaluation by the jury of the European Youth Capital in November 2025.
**Effect:** Strengthened profiling of Leeuwarden as a youth city in Europe.

## ANNEX 16: EXAMPLES OF COMMUNICATION



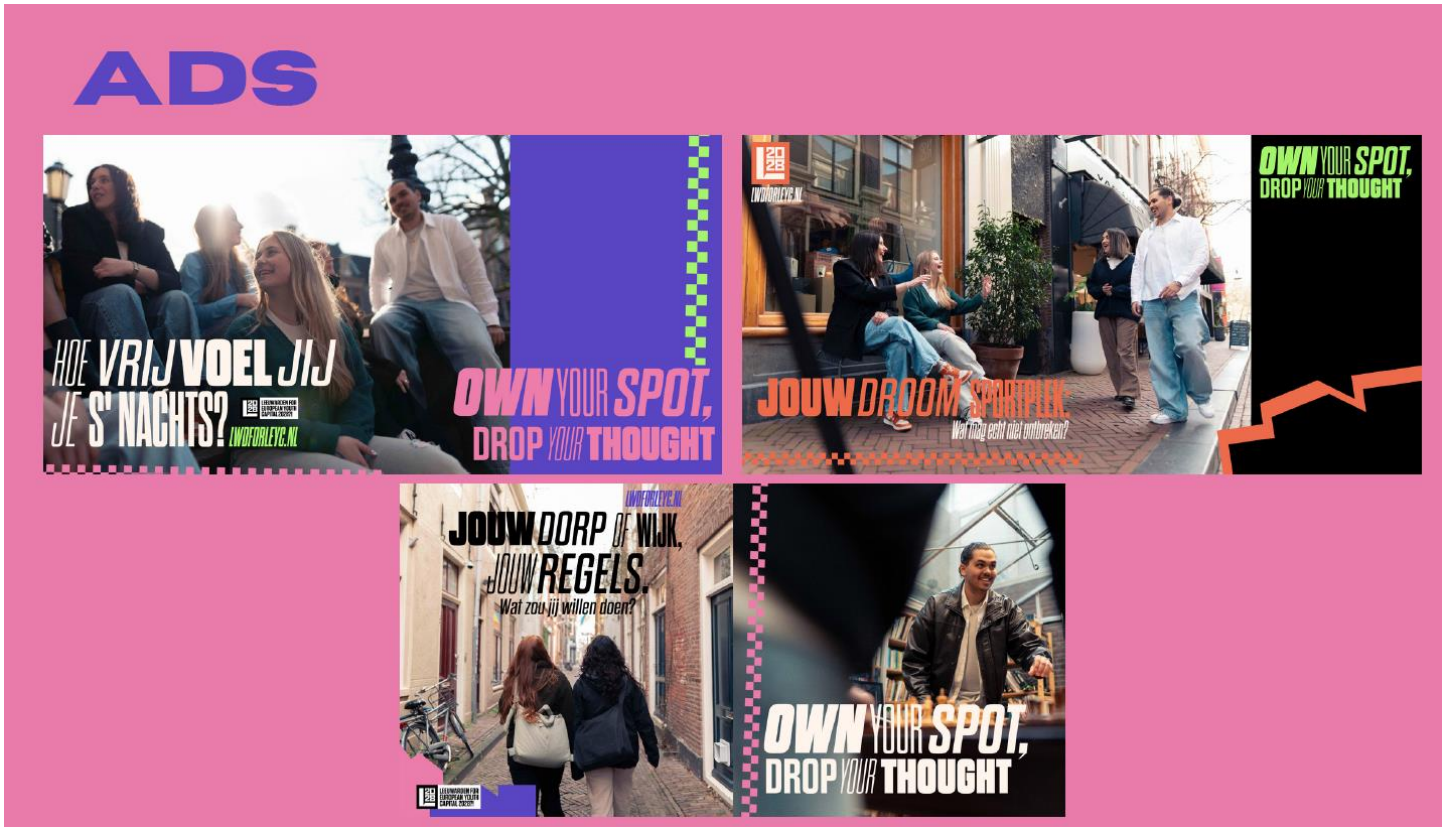

*In three languages: Frisian, English and Dutch*




*To make LWD for EYC 2028 more visible*




*To be displayed at for instance schools, where we reach a lot of young people*




*Social media adds to invite young people to share their ideas and participate*

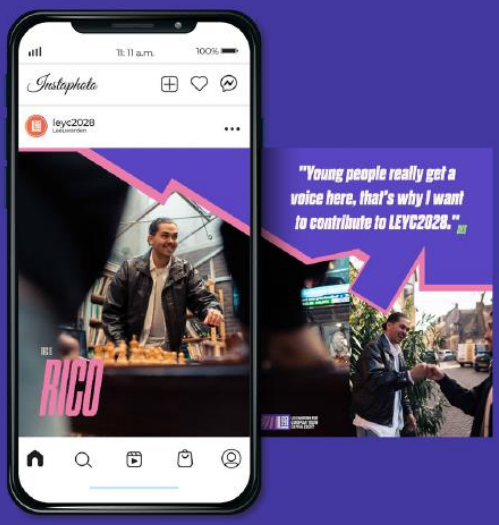



*Flyers and posters specifically for Project500, so organisations who work with young people can share this*




*Roll-up banners to be extra visible during events, such as the Tienskip days and festivals*

# SOCIAL MEDIA













*Social media posts to share stories of young people, keep them informed and engage to participate*

# FLYER






*Flyers for decision makers to support our bid*




*Photoshoot with young people who were very involved with LWD for EYC 2028*




*The website especially designed for LWD for EYC 2028 to build the community*

## ANNEX 17: BREAKDOWN OF THE LWD for EYC 2028 PREPARATION PHASES

| **Stages in the preparation process leading to the EYC** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Phase** | **Goal** | **Content** |
| Phase 1: Exploration ground – test, engage, and learn (Q1 – Q3 2026) | This phase focuses on experimenting and exploring new ideas and approaches for youth participation. We will test concepts and collaborate with young people to assess the effectiveness of various models and initiatives. | **Testing:** we start with pilot projects to test our Code Young in practice. [concrete project to be defined, most likely a former primary school that will be rebuild into apartments with the input from youth participation] |
| | | **Engaging:** young people are participants and active co-creators who contribute their ideas and feedback to shape the process according to our hourglass participation methodology (Code Young). |
| | | **Learning:** we learn from the results, what works and what doesn't. These insights will form the foundation for refining and improving the programme moving forward. |
| Phase 2: Activation & expansion – grow, involve, and showcase (Q4 2026 – Q1 2027) | Scaling and expanding the programme. It emphasizes growing youth engagement, involving more young people, and showcasing the results and successes of earlier pilots. | **Growing:** we scale successful initiatives that came to life with Project500 to new areas, communities, or target groups. The programme is introduced more broadly, and its structure begins to solidify. |
| | | **Involving:** we expand youth involvement and encourage young people to share their experiences and knowledge with others – even across borders. This can be done through events, workshops, or campaigns that attract new participants. We create room for young people to come up with their own ideas to share their experiences and knowledge. |
| | | **Showcasing:** we showcase the successes of the initiatives both internally and externally. The goal is to demonstrate that the experiments have produced valuable outcomes and are ready for broader application. |
| Phase 3: Integration & sustainability – embed, and formalise (Q2 – Q3 2027) | The programme becomes fully integrated into existing structures, and the focus shifts | **Embedding:** the programme becomes officially incorporated into policy structures, local communities, or other relevant systems. This means the optimized version of Code Young is embedded in daily practices and decision-making processes. |

| Stages in the preparation process leading to the EYC | | |
|---|---|---|
| | to ensuring its long-term sustainability. | **Formalizing:** the programme is transformed into standard practices and procedures that are not only confined to the initial context but can also be adopted elsewhere. Guidelines, training modules, and policy recommendations are developed to scale the model. |
| | | **Preparation:** all necessary logistical and technical steps will be taken to prepare the events that are part of the programme (based on the role division of the core partners  see chapter Management). Special attention will be given to logistics on travel and stay for (inter)national guests, events and projects. |
| Phase 4: Building expectations with the general public and last preparations (Q4 2027) | Almost everyone in Leeuwarden & Fryslân knows that the programme of Leeuwarden as EYC 2028 kicks off a terrific year full of events, aiming for structural changes for our young people. And quite a few people in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe are aware of the fact that Leeuwarden is EYC 2028. | A target group oriented communication- and marketing-campaign is implemented to build on name recognition for Leeuwarden EYC 2028. Initiatives by young people within the Open Programme, the Partner Programme and the Curated Programme are used for a story-telling-campaign. |
| | | 100 days for the opening event the EYC 2028-programme is launched in Leeuwarden and actively pushed in the communication- and marketing campaign in Europe. |
| | | Last preparations on programme and organisation are done to successfully kick off the year early 2028 and to safeguard that during the busy year 2028 itself the programme will run smoothly. |

| Key steps in kick-off and implementation plan of EYC | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Phase** | **Description** | |
| Phase 1: Exploration Ground — Test, Engage, and Learn (Q1 – Q3 2026) | **Broad intake & inspiration** | Invite young people into institutional processes early. |
| | | Recognise youth as co-owners in democratic development, not just stakeholders. |

| Key steps in kick-off and implementation plan of EYC | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Co-creation of prototypes** | Develop inclusive, less hierarchical governance models (e.g., youth assemblies, participatory budgeting). |
| | | Shift the mindset from consultation to shared power. |
| | **Pilot testing** | Launch pilots to surface institutional barriers (e.g. bureaucracy, tokenism, formal language). |
| | | Encourage institutions to share decision-making space with youth. |
| | **Feedback & learning** | Collect and analyse insights from pilots, both successes and points of friction. |
| | | Start adapting practices to address systemic exclusion of youth. |
| | | Keep the city council informed to ensure alignment with long-term strategic goals. |
| Activation & expansion – grow, involve, and showcase (Q4 2026 – Q1 2027) | **Refining the approach** | Apply learnings from pilots to update policies and engagement strategies (e.g., stipends, informal pathways). |
| | **Scaling & outreach** | Integrate youth participation into policy cycles and planning frameworks. |
| | | Share decision-making power on structural issues. |
| | **Capacity building**[1, 2] | Train not only the youth, but also the civil servants, politicians, and professionals in democratic innovation. |
| | | Organise meet-ups and community-building activities to amplify youth-led initiatives. |
| | **Showcasing & visibility** | Highlight success stories to build public trust and institutional motivation. |
| | | Use storytelling and media to generate momentum for broader change. |
| Integration & sustainability – embed, and formalise (Q2 – Q3 2027) | **Policy integration** | Embed youth participation into legal and policy frameworks. |
| | | Adapt governance structures for permanent youth representation. |

| Key steps in kick-off and implementation plan of EYC | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Institutional embedding** | Establish new roles and structures (e.g. youth ombudsperson, advisory councils). |
| | | Ensure mechanisms for accountability and responsiveness. |
| | **Knowledge sharing & legacy** | Institutionalise reflection, documentation, and iterative learning. |
| | | Promote ongoing critical engagement with power dynamics and inclusivity. |

## ANNEX 18: YOUTH PARTICIPATION BETWEEN APPLICATION 1 AND 2

| Subject | Topic | Target group | Date | Attendees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tienskipdag | Gathering input for bid | Firda student (16-20 years) | February 3rd | 288 |
| Meet-up organisations working with young people | Inspiration session on EYC | organisations working with young people | February 3rd | 10 |
| Celebration with the community | On sending in our first application | LWD Next community | February 26th | 30 |
| Meet-up with student associations | Inspiration session on EYC | Boards of student associations | March 10th | 20 |
| Sportcafé | Inspiration session on EYC | Sports clubs | March 20th | 26 |
| Tienskipdag | Gathering input for bid | Comenius Mariënburg students (16 years) | April 2nd | 100 |
| Meet-up with student associations | Gathering input for bid | Boards of student associations | April 7th | 24 |
| Meet-up organisations working with young people | Connecting and ideas for activities and EYC-program | organisations working with young people | April 7th | 20 |
| Tienskipdag | Gathering input for bid | Firda students (16-20 years) | April 17th | 420 |
| Meeting with Nationale Jeugdraad | Exploratory talk on cooperation | NJR | April 24th | 7 |
| Girls Festival (Amaryllis) | Gathering input for bid | 12 year old girls | April 30th | 44 |
| Tienskipdag | Gathering input for bid | Aeres mbo students (16-20 years) | May 6th | 50 |
| Launch Project500 | Share ideas and claim €500 microbudget | Young people | May 13th | 7 |
| Meet-up with student associations | Gathering input for bid | Boards of student associations | May 12th | 20 |
| Meet-up organisations working with young people | European opportunities and collaborations | organisations working with young people | May 13th | 30 |
| Start of the new editor | Enhancing bid 1 with new input | | May 19th | 1 |
| Guest lecture | Inspiration session on EYC + gathering input | Students public administration & European Studies | May 23rd | 15 |
| Kick-off promoteam LWD for EYC 2028 | Training to promote LWD for EYC 2028 to other youngsters | Promoteam (14 - 22 years old) | May 28th | 4 |
| Informal city council meeting | Updating city council on bid 2 so far | | June 2nd | 20 |
| Developing programme components | Co-creation session with young people | Young people (12 - 27) | June 3rd | 10 |
| Meet-up organisations working with young people | Leeuwarder youth participation | organisations working with young people | June 3rd | 20 |
| Checking programme components | Support base check with a larger group | Young people (during an organized moment and online) | June 10th | 20 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Youth visit to Parma (EYC2027) | Exchanging best practices on youth | Young people under guidance of a project employee | June 19 - 21th | 3 |
| Youth visit to Lublin (EYC2023) | Exchanging best practices on youth | Young people under guidance of a project employee | July 4th - 7th | 3 |