



European Capital
of Democracy



ECOD APPLICATION

Bratislava

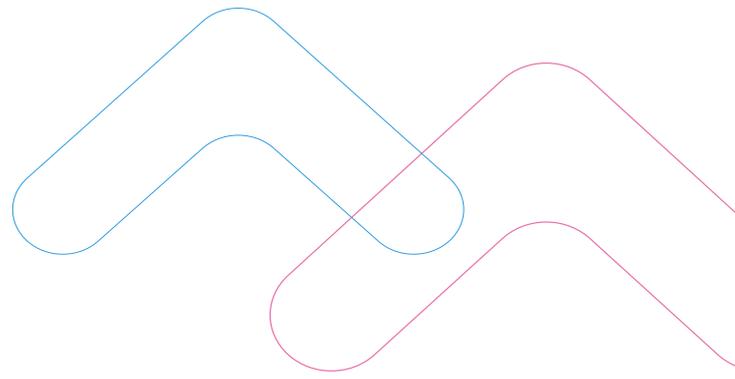
November 2023

Supporting Documents



- [ECoD Compliance Guidelines](#)
- [ECoD Confidentiality Agreement](#)
- [ECoD Data Processing Agreement](#)
- [ECoD Data Security Guidelines](#)
- [Council resolution for participation](#)

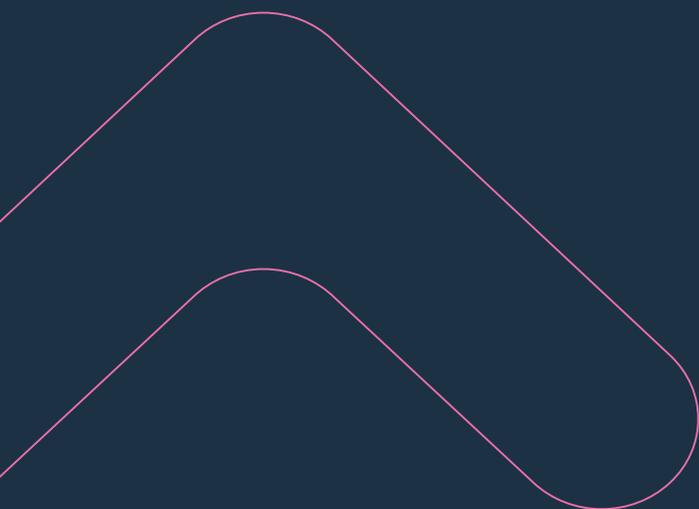
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ECOD APPLICATION BRATISLAVA

Mission Statement



Mission Statement

Bratislava, a trustworthy space for everyone

Teaser

Bratislava, one of the youngest capitals in Europe, actively promotes democratic resilience by translating democratic values into actionable public policies. As a facilitator for diverse societal issues, the city plays a crucial role in depolarizing and de-escalating pressing concerns. Through tangible actions, Bratislava reinforces trust and effectively integrates the principles of democracy into the daily lives of its citizens. The 'City for Children' project exemplifies this commitment.

Summary

Cities as safeguards of democracy Preserving democracy presents unique challenges in every country and region. While democracy has firmly taken root in Western Europe across generations, the fight for democratic values remains relevant and ongoing in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Alarming signal coming from the V4 region is the significant decline in public trust towards politicians, state and governmental institutions. The imperative to safeguard and nurture democracy in Slovakia has become increasingly urgent. The collapse of the Slovak government in December 2022, coupled with attempts by both domestic and foreign actors to undermine democracy through threats and misinformation, has resulted in alarmingly low levels of trust in the national government. According to Globsec Trends 2023, trust in the government hovers around a mere 18%. Despite declining trust levels, approximately 35.7% of respondents expressed trust in municipal institutions, according to a poll conducted by the akosamateslovensko.sk. Cities proved to be capable and trustworthy actors in tackling recent crises and vulnerabilities with dialogue and direct assistance to citizens. Combination of economic uncertainty, climate change risks and unprecedented violation of sovereignty on direct borders of the EU, threaten the stability of European democratic values. Based on recent experience and commitment to contribute to the mitigation of democratic threats, Bratislava aspires to become the European Capital of Democracy. In response to emerging undemocratic tendencies in the V4 region, Bratislava, along with other V4 Capitals, established the Pact of Free Cities alliance in 2019. This alliance aims to emphasize the crucial role of cities in maintaining democratic stability in the region. In challenging situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and profound societal tragedies, including attacks against various communities, Bratislava demonstrates leadership and plays a crucial role in depolarizing and de-escalating tensions in society. In 2024, at the 35th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution - an unprecedented political transition symbolizing the convergence of two nations towards democratic values - Bratislava aims to leverage this historical legacy and compelling narrative.

Mission Statement

Summary

This message holds significant potential as a driving force to unite the CEE region under the umbrella of democracy. The focus on Public Space as a physical manifestation of democratic values is a concept that Bratislava aims to further develop. Over the past 35 years, public spaces in post-communist countries have undergone significant transformation. From being spaces that were once considered „everyone’s and no one’s,” where expressing opinions was unsafe, they have now evolved into open areas for the free expression of political views. Bratislava actively reshapes public spaces through inclusive methods, co-creating a shared democratic realm with its residents.

Democratic Ambitions

Drawing from recent experiences and a steadfast commitment to addressing democratic challenges, Bratislava aspires to become the next European Capital of Democracy. One of Bratislava’s primary democratic ambitions is to contribute to the mitigation of democratic threats by translating democratic values into public policies and ensuring accessibility to public spaces, whether physical or virtual, for the general public. The communist era left a significant investment shortfall in public spaces and buildings in Slovakia. The Bratislava city administration is committed to gradually revitalizing and upgrading these public spaces, with a focus on closer interconnection with inhabitants, fostering civic engagement, citizen participation, and the exercise of democratic values. This ambition is embodied by the current Mayor of Bratislava, Mr. Matúš Vallo, who is originally a respected and award-winning architect and civil society activist. His team places emphasis on well-designed public spaces, climate change mitigation and adaptation, accessible public transport, social welfare, and support for vulnerable groups. The city continues to strengthen its trust-based relationship with its inhabitants. Active and open communication enables the municipality to address urban development issues and significantly reduce administrative time. By implementing a bottom-up approach and embracing social and digital innovation, Bratislava aims to encourage more active participation and greater engagement from younger generations. The Project Ideas section describes some strategies and approaches that can enhance the engagement of citizens in participative governance. Drawing inspiration from larger cities and e-government implementation projects worldwide, Bratislava brings innovation based on open-source technologies, developing digital platforms for online citizen participation (demonstrated by the currently implemented project called Bratislava Account). Bratislava is committed to preparing and implementing stable institutional tools and frameworks for future citizens. The city aims to address the needs of children and caregivers in urban environments by focusing on neighbourhood planning and urban health. With a growing reputation in urban design and planning, the city seeks to prioritize these target groups and improve their well-being. Whether or not Bratislava succeeds in becoming the second European City of Democracy, the ambition is to utilize all pre-allocated financial resources accumulated through various grant schemes and open calls for pro-

Mission Statement

Democratic Ambitions

jects to reinforce and empower democratic values. The City Foundation plays a crucial role in unifying all open calls under the umbrella message of democracy. Democracy, human rights, inclusion, sustainability, and citizen participation will become new subtitles for all grant schemes.

Achieved Successes

Bratislava leads as a democratic role model in Slovakia, supported by strategic documents and a municipal institutional framework for local governance. These initiatives demonstrate the city's commitment to embracing democratic values and fostering effective democratic practices: Bratislava 2030, a crucial document for local government management. It identifies challenges, defines goals, and establishes priorities for future development. This document provides a toolset that enables the local government to achieve its objectives. The strategy relies on the active participation of all municipal departments, organizations, and the city's expert capacities. It involves the general public, organized groups, and professionals through public meetings (Metropolitan Forums), surveys, workshops, and Working Group sessions. Bratislava 2030 also aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the international document, the 2030 Agenda. It incorporates a robust monitoring system with measurable indicators linked to the objectives. The establishment of the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava (MIB) marks a significant step in architecture, urban planning, participation, and strategic planning. MIB aims to promote quality architecture and functional solutions that address the evolving needs of Bratislava's inhabitants amidst social and environmental changes. Its flagship project, „The City for Children,“ prioritizes child-friendly planning and emphasizes the early adoption of participatory processes. Additionally, MIB plans to organize an international conference where city officials can discuss common issues, share experiences, and learn from experts. The first conference, scheduled for May 2024, aims to establish a respected annual platform for knowledge exchange. The Bratislava City Foundation plays a pivotal role in providing grants to support citizen initiatives. Established in 2020, the foundation operates under an innovative and transparent system that goes beyond supporting only civic associations and NGOs, extending its reach to individual community leaders as well. The Living Places programme represents a significant milestone in the deliberate revitalization of public spaces in the capital city. Led by the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava, this initiative revitalizes public spaces and addresses the long-standing need for their modernization. The Assistance Centre on Bottova Street, established in April 2022 following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, exemplifies the city's proactive role in crisis response and demonstrates the effectiveness of municipal structures, organizations, and citizen volunteers. Bratislava continually develops public policies in collaboration with experts and citizens, ensuring a functional participatory democracy. To address digitalization and citizen expectations, Bratislava has implemented measures to accelerate processes and meet evolving needs.

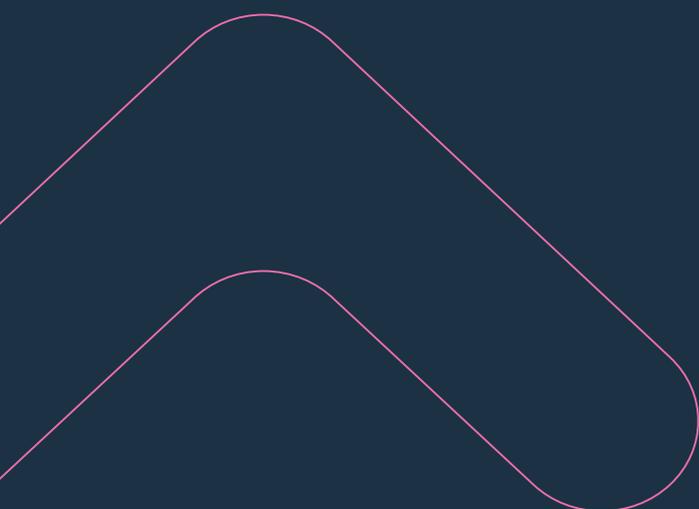
Mission Statement

Future Challenges

As Bratislava looks to the future, it faces several key challenges in upholding its democratic values. **Political Destabilization:** The vulnerability of Slovak democracy in light of the upcoming parliamentary elections in September 2023, and the city's pivotal role in reinforcing citizen trust in public institutions, are acknowledged. Addressing these challenges requires promoting democratic literacy, media fact-checking, and fostering civil discourse. By strengthening democratic institutions and encouraging open discussions, we can mitigate destabilization and ensure the continuity of stable democratic processes. **Youth Engagement:** Youth engagement is paramount as their participation in political processes and civic activities is vital for an inclusive and vibrant democracy. To achieve this, initiatives such as youth councils, educational programs, and platforms amplifying their voices in policymaking are promoted. **The Role of the Democratic Public Space:** The democratic public space plays a significant role in addressing the vulnerability of democracies and mitigating political destabilization. In Slovakia, the fight for democracy remains relevant, and public spaces serve as crucial battlegrounds in this enduring struggle. This fight extends beyond national borders, as the importance of democracy resonates across Europe and the world. Public spaces and monuments serve as tangible reminders of the country's history and democratic milestones, such as the Velvet Revolution. They embody the collective memory and aspirations of the people, serving as gathering points for protests, celebrations, and democratic discourse. Recognizing the significance of public spaces, Bratislava takes proactive steps to revitalize and enhance these areas, fostering a sense of ownership among its citizens. The democratic public space facilitates dialogue, mediation, and conflict resolution between different societal groups or conflicting interests. It also serves as a safeguard for fundamental rights and liberties, providing a platform for the protection of freedom of speech, assembly, and association, allowing individuals and civil society organizations to defend democratic principles. **Transparency in Governance:** The role of the city in reinforcing citizen trust is crucial. Bratislava prioritizes open governance and provides accessible channels for public participation through the „Bratislava Account.“ Building bridges between the government and the people through engagement initiatives and feedback mechanisms fosters trust and accountability. By embracing these challenges, Bratislava can pave the way for a stronger, more resilient, and participatory democracy, setting an example for other cities. Through collective efforts and a commitment to democratic values, Bratislava can navigate the future and shape a brighter democratic path for its citizens.

ECOD APPLICATION BRATISLAVA

Projects



Bratislava – Project 1

TOOL | PERMANENT

[URL1: HTTPS://MIB.SK/EN/ZIVE-MIESTA/](https://mib.sk/en/zive-miesta/)

Democratic Revival: Vivid Places of Bratislava

Brief description

Public spaces in the post-communist era were once considered anonymous and restricted. However, these neglected areas have long desired rejuvenation, providing residents with a welcoming and functional environment to foster community connections. To address the long-standing need for modernization, Bratislava introduces the „Vivid Places“ program, which marks a historic and systematic transformation of public spaces in the capital city. Implemented by the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava since 2021, this initiative encompasses various projects aimed at reconstructing public spaces. The flagship project of the Vivid Places program is the Plateau Staromestská, symbolizing a transformative change. This pedestrian platform will reconnect the divided city center, creating a new public space. Through this program, Bratislava aims to revitalize its urban landscape and create vibrant, inclusive environments for its residents.

Detailed description

Bratislava recognizes the importance of actively reshaping public spaces through participatory and inclusive approaches. Vivid Places (Živé miesta), represents a significant milestone in the deliberate revitalization of public spaces in the capital city. Led by the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava, this initiative aims to revitalize public spaces and address the long-standing need for their modernization. The Liberty Square The Liberty Square/Námestie Slobody stands as one of the most remarkable public space revitalization projects in Bratislava. After decades of neglect and underappreciation, the square has undergone a substantial reconstruction. The return of water to the „Družba“ fountain after 16 years has revitalized Liberty Square, infusing it with renewed energy and vibrancy. This restoration has had a profound impact on the democratic public space in Bratislava:

- the square has been reinvented by the citizens and transformed from a neglected and unsafe area into a vibrant and inclusive gathering place. The removal of the fountain pavement has made the fountain accessible, allowing people of all ages to play and enjoy the water.

Bratislava – Project 1

- the restoration project was conducted with great sensitivity, ensuring the preservation of the square's unique character and historical significance.
- this revitalization has breathed new life into Liberty Square, making it a welcoming and dynamic public space for the community to enjoy.

The Plateau Staromestská The most ambitious project of the Vivid Places programme is the Plateau Staromestská, a pedestrian platform spanning approximately 218 meters in length and 20 meters in width. This platform will be constructed above Staromestská Street, a scar of communist urban planning that devastated the compactness of the city centre and resulted in the loss of a dominant synagogue in the 1970s. By creating this new area, the project aims to revitalize the city and restore a much-needed public space. Moreover, the plateau's design includes green roofing, fostering biodiversity and providing a habitat for songbirds and pollinators, addressing the population decline of these species. Additionally, the project will contribute to noise reduction in the area, utilizing turf and acoustic tiles to significantly decrease noise levels. The architectural study has recently been completed, and the project documentation is being prepared. Based on this documentation, a more detailed work schedule can be determined.

Contribution

The Vivid Places project makes a significant contribution to the overall mission of creating vibrant and inclusive public spaces in Bratislava. By revitalizing neglected areas and transforming them into welcoming and functional environments, the project enhances the quality of life for residents and fosters a sense of community connection.

What distinguishes this project is its emphasis on participatory and inclusive approaches, involving citizens in the decision-making process and co-creating the public spaces they desire. The innovative aspect lies in the use of creative design elements, sustainable practices, and the integration of technology to enhance the overall experience. This project aligns perfectly with the goals of the ECoD Programme Year, as it showcases Bratislava's commitment to democratic principles, citizen engagement, and the creation of dynamic and inclusive urban spaces.

Target Group

The target groups of the Vivid Places project are the citizens of Bratislava in general. After the transformation, the revitalized public spaces will provide the residents with a pleasant and functional environment for leisure activities and community gatherings. The project aims to benefit all members of the community by creating inclusive and accessible public spaces that enhance their quality of life.

Bratislava – Project 1

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

The Vivid Places project employs a variety of communication channels to effectively engage with the community and stakeholders. The project website, located at <https://mib.sk/zive-miesta/>, serves as a central hub for information, updates, and resources related to the revitalization efforts. - the project leverages social media platforms, including the city's official channels and those of relevant organizations, to reach a wider audience and foster online engagement. - B2B negotiations with local architects, urbanists, developers, and suppliers play a crucial role in establishing collaborative partnerships and ensuring the successful implementation of the project. These channels collectively facilitate transparent communication, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder involvement, enabling the Vivid Places project to effectively communicate its vision, progress, and impact to all relevant parties.

Project Setup

The project team for Vivid Places comprises the expertise of multiple key stakeholders. The Metropolitan Institute leads the team, bringing their extensive knowledge and experience in urban development and planning. They are supported by the Urban Greenery Development Department, who contribute their expertise in creating and maintaining green spaces within urban environments. Additionally, the involvement of Bratislava Urban Forests adds specialized knowledge in managing and conserving green spaces. These external partners, including diverse NGOs and representatives from the commercial sector, play crucial roles in different aspects of the project, ensuring a comprehensive and well-rounded approach to its implementation. Their collective contributions and collaboration strengthen the project's effectiveness and enhance its impact on the revitalization of public spaces in Bratislava.

Description

N/A

Bratislava – Project 1

Budget

Planning Costs		500,000€
Operating Costs	Annual Personnel Costs 2023	500,000€
Operating Costs	Annual Capital Costs and Expenditures, approx. 2023	5,000,000€
Total Budget		6,000,000€

Funding

N/A

Programme Year Integration

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Participation

Bratislava – Project 2

EVENT | REGULAR | 18.04.2025–20.04.2025

URL1: [HTTPS://WWW.BKIS.SK/BRATISLAVSKE-MESTSKE-DNI/](https://www.bkis.sk/bratislavske-mestske-dni/)

Bratislava City Days: Celebrating an Open and Inclusive City for All

Brief Description

One of the serious threats to democracy that we are facing is lack of understanding, and the tendency to isolate ourselves within their „information bubble.“ This threat has emerged due to the digital era, wherein people have access to personalized information and social media platforms that offer opinions in alignment with their existing attitudes. Bratislava City Days (BCD), a city-wide festival involving all municipal organizations can create a space to support participation, dialogue, collaboration, and cultural diversity. These aspects are crucial for strengthening democratic values and building a democratic culture in the city. It spans across districts, involving all city organizations, and brings the city to life over a captivating spring weekend. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2023, BCD has evolved to embrace inclusion, diversity, and sustainability. The festival’s programme is translated into English and Ukrainian, showcasing Bratislava’s commitment to inclusivity.

Detailed Description

The Days of Open Doors, deeply rooted in Bratislava’s legacy, hold a special place in the city’s modern history. Every year in late April, the city follows a tradition that dates back to the time of King Ondrej III, as outlined in the charter that bestowed the city with its esteemed privileges. Throughout various historical epochs, this event has played a pivotal role in the democratic process, culminating in the election of the city’s mayor. It is a cherished tradition that has endured for generations, serving as a testament to Bratislava’s rich cultural heritage. During this time of celebration, the city comes together to honour its past and embrace a hopeful future. Bratislava City Days, a city-wide festival, has established itself as a highly anticipated and cherished event on Bratislava’s cultural calendar. It serves as a vibrant showcase of the city’s spirit, embodying its values of openness and inclusivity. Spanning across all city districts and involving numerous city organizations, the festival boasts an impressive line-up of over 200 events, infusing the city with energy and excitement during a captivating spring weekend in April. In 2023, Bratislava City Days celebrates its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of cultural celebration and community engagement.

Bratislava – Project 2

Detailed Description

Throughout its history, the festival has evolved to embrace the principles of inclusion, diversity, and sustainability. Aligned with these values, the festival ensures that the needs of all attendees are met. It offers amenities such as:

- access to clean drinking water,
- specially curated events catering to individuals with physical or visual impairments,
- sign language interpretation services,
- zero-waste gastro zone, promoting sustainable practices in food and waste management.

Recognizing the multicultural fabric of Bratislava, the Bratislava City Days Programme is not only translated into English but also into Ukrainian, exemplifying the city's commitment to inclusivity and catering to its diverse community. Bratislava City Days stands as a testament to the city's vibrant cultural scene, its unwavering dedication to inclusivity, and its celebration of diversity. It unites people, fosters a sense of community, and showcases Bratislava as a welcoming city for all.

Contribution

Inspired by the belief that art and culture provide insightful observations of past and present social processes, the Bratislava City Days festival serves as a powerful testament to the profound impact of culture on democratic values. Without the constraints of geography or language, artists possess a unique ability to keenly perceive and reflect upon the current state of affairs and the collective aspirations of society. The Art of Democracy, an integral part of the annual programs of the European Capitals of Democracy (ECoD), celebrates the intersection of contemporary fine art, participation, and society. In line with this idea, each edition of the Bratislava City Days festival presents an array of street shows, theatre performances, concerts, workshops, and captivating walk-in art installations. These dynamic elements create a space where art and society intertwine, fostering engagement, dialogue, and a deeper connection between artists and the community.

Target Group

Bratislava City Days, formerly known as Bratislava for Everybody, reflects the festival's inclusive spirit. The name itself speaks to the wide range of individuals it aims to attract and engage. By embracing inclusivity, the festival seeks to create an inviting and accessible environment for everyone.

Collaboration

N/A

Bratislava – Project 2

Communication

One of the most exciting aspects of BCD communication is the chance to visit unique places and see exhibits that are not usually open to the public. Special website www.bratislavskemestskedni.sk provides information in Slovak, Ukrainian, and English. The program is communicated through social media channels highlighting the city and the involvement of its institutions. Media communication includes online and offline channels, as well as a special program bulletin (online/print). The organizers also collect feedback from the audience through online and offline surveys to directly track satisfaction levels. One of the main findings is that the vast majority of BCD visitors (86%) rated the program as excellent or very good, and they attended the event with their families and children, with the children's program being particularly attractive. The most effective communication channels for reaching the audience are the social media channels of the City and the Organizer, BKIS.

Project Setup

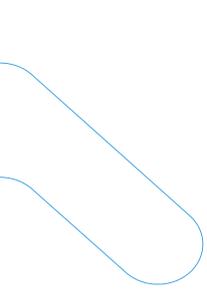
The project setup involved city employees and staff from public institutions. Remarkably, the program included the extraordinary opportunity to visit the mayor in his office. The mayor himself served as a guide for selected guided walks.

Participation of the Civil Society

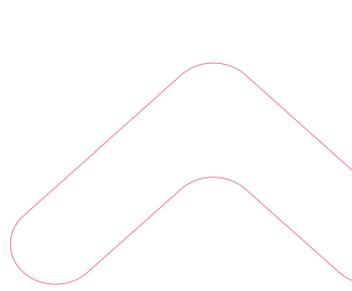
The project setup involved city employees and staff from public institutions. Remarkably, the program included the extraordinary opportunity to visit the mayor in his office. The mayor himself served as a guide for selected guided walks.

Budget

Communication Costs	Planning & implementation	2,000€
Operating Costs	Production and Event Management	50,000€
Planning Costs	In-kind manpower costs by The BKIS Team	0€
Extra Budget	Bratislava City Days 2025	60,000€
Total Budget		112,000€



Bratislava – Project 2



Funding

N/A

Programme Year
integration

N/A

Democracy
Dimension

Community

Bratislava – Project 3

BEST PRACTICE | PERMANENT

[URL1: HTTPS://BRATISLAVA.SK/EN/BRATISLAVA-FOR-UKRAINE/ASSISTANCE-CENTRE-OF-HELP-ON-BOTTOVA-STREET](https://bratislava.sk/en/bratislava-for-ukraine/assistance-centre-of-help-on-bottova-street)

Assistance Centre of Help on Bottova Street Large-capacity Centre for Ukrainian Refugees

Brief Description

In April 2022, Bratislava took prompt action in responding to the Ukrainian crisis by establishing a new, large-capacity assistance centre at Bottova Street's temporary bus station. This initiative demonstrates the city's commitment to addressing refugee needs and showcases immediate and effective collaboration between municipal structures, the state, international organizations, NGOs, volunteers, and the private sector. The centre included 25 Immigration Police offices, providing temporary refugee status and crucial services such as legal advice, psycho-social and health assistance, and regular medical treatment. Involvement of international organizations like The Red Cross, UNHCR, and UNICEF further enhance the project's impact. Operating 24/7, the centre offered primary support up to 2,500 individuals per day, establishing a sustainable foundation for long-term, high-quality assistance to Ukrainians in need.

Detailed Description

The Bottova Assistance Centre for Refugees and Displaced Persons from Ukraine serves as a crucial support hub for individuals in need. Its activities were formally initiated by the "Order to carry out rescue operations" by the Office of the District Chief on 24th March 2022, with its official opening taking place within unprecedented amount of time – in a couple of days. The centre provides a range of assistance services, including support from the Foreign Police, the Migration Office, accommodation mediation through the District Office, psychological, social, and legal counselling, as well as medical services and financial aid registration until recently. Additionally, the centre offers integration and community activities such as language courses, community initiatives for various age groups, and employment counselling. This initiative not only demonstrates the city's dedication to meeting the requirements of Ukrainian refugees but also showcases the successful cooperation among municipal structures, the state, international organizations, NGOs, citizen volunteers, and the private sector, emphasizing a bottom-up approach. International organizations as The Red Cross, UNHCR and UNICEF are also involved in the project, further enhancing its scope and impact. The Assistance Centre was designed to offer primary support up to up to 2,500 individuals per day, operating 24/7, particularly during the initial stages of the conflict.

Bratislava – Project 3

Detailed Description

This initiative established a systematic and sustainable foundation in Bratislava for delivering high-quality services to Ukrainians in need over the long term. Here are some facts and figures demonstrating the impact of the project:

- Maximum daily capacity of the center: 2,500 individuals.
- Peak numbers reached: 1,193 people in March 2022 and 910 people in September 2022.
- Total number of assistance services provided since the opening: 136,500.
- Temporary shelters issued in Bratislava: 31,000 (compared to 100,000 nationwide).
- Registered individuals availing services from January 1, 2023, to April 12, 2023: 25,229.
- Average daily registration: 360 individuals, including approximately 70 newcomers requesting temporary shelter.
- Additional activities and services participation: Average daily participation of 200 individuals.
- Monthly costs (excluding personnel expenses): Approximately 85,000 EUR covering operational costs, refreshments, rescue services, warehouse management, and registration.
- Financial coverage for counselling services, community activities, language courses, and mobile field team: Provided by international organizations such as UNICEF and UNHCR through bilateral partnership agreements and their own resources.
- Other expenses (personnel costs, volunteer management, production, and equipment): Covered by a large portfolio of private donors

The future of the Project: The Assistance Centre is undergoing a transformation into a Contact Point in 2024, catering to individuals of foreign origin residing or planning to reside in Bratislava. The revised primary objective of the centre is to act as a central hub for information and services.

Information providers will be responsible for supplying comprehensive details concerning local service arrangements, healthcare, and school enrolment for children. Planned services and activities, whether provided internally or externally, encompass legal counselling, psychosocial counselling, career counselling, language courses, socio-cultural orientation courses, community interpreters, mobile field team, educational activities, and initiatives fostering intercultural dialogue. All assistance services will be supervised by the state.

Contribution

The Assistance Centre on Bottova Street contributes to the Mission Statement values by promoting inclusivity, non-discrimination, and access to justice.

Bratislava – Project 3

Contribution

Through collaboration among municipal structures, the state, international organizations, NGOs, volunteers, and the private sector, it exemplifies democratic principles of cooperation, transparency, and accountability. The project engages citizens, upholds human rights, and protects vulnerable groups. By providing comprehensive support to individuals of foreign origin, it fosters civic engagement, solidarity, and active citizenship. Overall, the project exemplifies democratic practices and aligns with the values of Bratislava, Slovakia, and the European Union.

Target Group(s)

The main target group of this project are individuals of foreign origin, including refugees, who are living or coming to live in Bratislava. The project aims to address their needs and provide them with comprehensive support, promoting inclusivity, human rights, and democratic values in the city.

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

Assistance Centre of Help project utilizes various communication channels to ensure effective dissemination of information. The project was communicated via city's official website, providing comprehensive details about its objectives and services. Additionally, the city's social media channels play a crucial role in raising awareness and engaging with the public. Communication channels of partnering organizations further amplify the reach of the project, fostering collaboration and information sharing. Media relations and organic PR efforts contribute to spreading the message and generating public interest.

Project Setup

Besides engaging the employees of the City of Bratislava, the project showcases cooperation among various stakeholders, including municipal structures, state institutions, international organizations, NGOs, citizen volunteers, and the private sector. The City of Bratislava is actively involved in the project through various departments, including: The Department of Support for People of Foreign Origin, The Department of Communication and Marketing, The Social Affairs Section, The Office of the Mayor. External partners: NGOs: Slovak Red Cross, Bratislava Archdiocese Charity, Slovak Skouting, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Tenenet, Human Rights League, League for Mental Health, Mareena, and Voluntary Civil Protection. International organizations: UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM Other institutions: Foreign Police, Migration Office, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Event Medical Solutions, Fire and Rescue Service and various business partners.

Bratislava – Project 3

Participation of Civil Society

As stated in the Project setup, this initiative exemplifies the successful collaboration among municipal structures, the state, international organizations, NGOs, citizen volunteers, and the private sector. It underscores the importance of a bottom-up approach in addressing the challenges faced by refugees and promoting their well-being.

Budget

Planning Costs	Initial preparatory phase, venue adjustment and equipment	120,000€
Operating Cost	Yearly operational costs excl. manpower	768,000€
In-kind support	via the City Department of Communications	0€
Extra Budget	n/a, undergoing a transformation into a Contact Point in 2024	0€
Total Budget		888,000€

Funding

N/A

Programme Year Integration

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Empowerment

Bratislava – Project 4

EVENT | REGULAR | 26.20.2024 - 27.10.2024

URL: [HTTPS://INOVACIE.BRATISLAVA.SK/EN/CLIMATHON-EN/](https://inovacie.bratislava.sk/en/climathon-en/)

Climathon Bratislava: Addressing Climate Change Through Innovative Smart Solutions

Brief Description

The Climathon Bratislava project makes a significant contribution to addressing the pressing threats posed by climate change. By bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders, including the city, experts, private partners, and individuals, it fosters collaborative problem-solving and generates innovative solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The goal this 48-hour intense event is to design and validate proof of concept solutions tackling challenges prepared by the city and then test them out. Some of the ideas were transformed into city's Mobility as a Service app. Climathon Bratislava is a part of a global Climathon movement. It brings together experienced mentors, practice experts, business leaders, as well as climate change enthusiasts from all over Slovakia and abroad to address climate change in the region. Climathon worldwide initiative is powered by EIT Climate KIC implementing innovative green solutions across the globe.

Detailed Description

The City of Bratislava envisions itself as a resilient and sustainable city, committed to creating a livable urban space for its citizens. Through its participation in the Climathon, the city is actively addressing the efficient functioning of its infrastructure and developing services that enhance its climate resilience. Climathon Bratislava is an event organized by the city and the Department of Innovations and Digital Services of Bratislava. It is part of a global movement that includes over 140 cities from 56 countries worldwide. The event brings together experienced mentors, practice experts, technical and business leaders, and climate change enthusiasts from all over Slovakia. Its aim is to address climate change in the Central European region. This 48-hour hackathon-style event is centred around collaborative work aimed at developing ideas, projects, and initiatives that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In Climathon 2022, a total of 200 individuals actively participated, forming 29 teams. The teams dedicated a full 48 hours to their work within the modern premises of the coworking space located in Bratislava downtown. By the end of the weekend, they had prepared 23 innovative solutions. An exciting aspect of the event was the exclusive access granted to Climathon participants to live data from a premiere software engineering company.

Bratislava – Project 4

Detailed Description

This access allowed them to incorporate relevant and up-to-date information into their solutions, further enhancing their quality and applicability. Among the winning projects from the latest Climathon are solutions to the following problems:

- Optimization and improvement of the city's response time in the case of extreme weather issues such as rainstorms or floods.
- Optimization of road maintenance by identifying the most critical infrastructure.
- Effectiveness enhancement of public transport by evaluating the most frequent routes.
- The Climathon initiative is a global movement powered by EIT Climate KIC, implementing innovative green solutions across the globe.

Besides organizing the Climathon event series since 2020, the Department of Innovation and Digital Services of Bratislava co-designs digital services for residents, aiming to reinforce the digital literacy of the population and offer easy, simple and fast digital services. An example of this commitment to digitalization and e-government principles is the digital portal called „Bratislavské konto“ (Bratislava ID), which provides various digital services, including property tax payment. The service is accessible to all residents of Bratislava, where 24 000 of them used the service in 2023 and 90% were very satisfied with the service. Another task of the department is to digitally transform and modernise the city and its organisations, such as the Bratislava City Gallery, the City Library, City Funeral Home and the Bratislava City Foundation. The Department of Innovation also manages a unique platform called The City Laboratory, which serves as a testing ground for innovative solutions. This platform allows for the trial and verification of smart and innovative projects, often conducted in collaboration with external partners from the private, academic, and public sectors. These solutions are tested before they are procured, which saves public finances and targets efforts to relevant problems. The suggested dates for 2024 are tentative and subject to possible change.

Contribution

As stated in the Mission Statement Summary, Bratislava prioritizes democratic values, human rights, inclusion, sustainability, and citizen participation. These key principles are not only emphasized in strategic documents but also reflected in all grant schemes. Bratislava takes concrete actions to mitigate climate risks through urban development, the greener redesign of public spaces, child-friendly planning, and the digitalization of city services. Climathon is committed to bringing innovative and smart solutions to mitigate climate risks.

Bratislava – Project 4

Target Group

Bratislava Account aims to provide digital services that are accessible to all residents of Bratislava, regardless of their permanent residency status, age and social status. Climathon brings together experienced mentors, practice experts, technical and business leaders, students, academics, and climate change enthusiasts from all over Slovakia. In a broader sense, the target group of this initiative includes all residents.

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

Climathon is communicated through various channels. It maintains its own social media presence and utilizes the social networks of partners and the city. Additionally, an offline campaign utilizing city-lights is conducted. The main parts of the event are streamed on YouTube. Press releases are issued before and after the event, accompanied by TV and radio spots highlighting the winners. Pilot projects are also showcased online following the event.

Project Setup

The project is set up as a collaboration between the Department of Innovations and Digital Services of Bratislava, experts from the City Hall and Metropolitan Institute, as well as our private partners from consultancy firm Civitta and other business partners. Throughout the year, the team works together to shape the challenges proposed by the city, prepare the communication campaign, program, and side events for Climathon. They also follow up on the pilots with the winning teams, ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated effort.

Participation of the Civil Society

The Climathon project is enriched by the valuable volunteering and mentoring contributions of Civitta, a company specializing in strategic consulting and data analytics services for various entities, including large enterprises, startups, SMEs, governments, and nonprofit organizations. Their expertise and support play a crucial role in enhancing the project's success and impact.

Bratislava – Project 4

Budget

Planning Costs	In-kind support of Department of Innovations and Digital Services of Bratislava	0€
Communication Costs	Social media, digital/Outdoor City Lights	10,000€
Operating Costs	Event Costs	120,000€
Total Budget		130,000€

Funding

N/A

Programme Year integration

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Sustainability

Bratislava – Project 5

TOOL | PERMANENT

URL: [HTTPS://BRATISLAVA.SK/EN/CULTURE-AND-COMMUNITIES/CULTURAL-SERVICES/BRATISLAVA-CITY-FOUNDATION](https://bratislava.sk/en/culture-and-communities/cultural-services/bratislava-city-foundation)

Bratislava City Foundation Support of Cultural and Community Life

Brief Description

The Bratislava City Foundation plays a pivotal role in providing grants to support citizen initiatives. Established in 2020, the foundation operates under an innovative and transparent system that goes beyond supporting only civic associations and NGOs, extending its reach to individual community leaders as well. This pioneering approach, based on Slovak legislation, represents a legal innovation that serves as an inspiration for other cities. Operating under the „arm’s length“ principle, independent specialists evaluate the quality of projects. The foundation focuses on culture, community life, and overall development in Bratislava. To address pressing issues, the foundation launched a one-time Special Call for Proposals in 2022 specifically aimed at assisting refugees in Bratislava. By providing support and resources, the Bratislava City Foundation actively contributes to fostering inclusivity, integration, and social cohesion within the city.

Detailed Description

The Bratislava City Foundation, established in 2020, is a transparent and modern grant system that supports the city in implementing public policies. Operating on the „arm’s length“ principle, it relies on independent specialists to evaluate project quality. With a focus on cultural sustainability, community life, and overall development, the foundation has invested over 2M € in cultural and community projects. It has taken over the role of supporting cultural initiatives previously handled by the „Ars Bratislavensis“ grant program, which ended on January 1, 2019. Compared to the previous program, the Bratislava City Foundation offers several advantages:

- Increased budget: The grant program now has a higher budget allocation, allowing for more substantial support to cultural and community projects.
- Streamlined approval process: The foundation has implemented a more efficient and streamlined application approval process.
- Additionally, they have introduced an electronic system for submitting grant applications, making the process more convenient and accessible.

Bratislava – Project 5

Detailed Description

- Support for informal community initiatives and individuals: The foundation recognizes the importance of supporting not only formal organizations but also informal community initiatives and individual artists.
- The artistic scholarship program supports individuals, including professional artists, critics, theorists, and other experts working in the field of creative works, and research across all forms of arts and culture in Bratislava.

To date, the Bratislava City Foundation has attributed €2,157,202 to cultural and community projects in various neighbourhoods. They have received a total of 1,907 proposal applications and have supported 728 projects based on the specified criteria in each proposal. The resources of the Bratislava City Foundation are allocated through four different grant program schemes, ensuring comprehensive support for a range of cultural and community initiatives. Grant scheme Community Grant scheme Culture Scholarship programme Arts Special Grant call for projects supporting cooperation and intercultural dialogue Special funds addressing vulnerable communities: Ukrainian Refugees The one-time Special Call for Proposals addressed the pressing issue of refugees in the city, providing support for diverse cultural and community activities. It focused on engaging people from Ukraine, promoting cooperation, intercultural dialogue, and meeting the needs of incoming communities, amidst the critical situation in the region. The funds, totalling €100,000 annually, aimed to strengthen the capacities of organizations committed to working with foreign citizens. Eligible applicants included NGOs engaged in long-term work with foreign citizens, as well as organizations in culture, art, and communities, or the private sector. LGBTI+ Bratislava faces the challenge of addressing the increasing incidents of hate speech targeting the LGBTI+ community. In response, the City Foundation plays a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and advocating for equal rights. Through its grant programs, the Foundation supports a wide range of inclusive community initiatives. Additionally, NGOs focusing on LGBTI+ agenda are also successful in call proposals offering grants for strategic cultural events. Notable examples of that are events like „DramaQueer,“ The Bratislava Rainbow Pride,“ and the „Rainbow Families“ initiative. Furthermore, The Old City district of Bratislava took a proactive step by offering a non-commercial rental space for the establishment of a Community Centre by the NGO „Inakosť“. Recognizing the importance of revitalizing this space, Bratislava City showed its dedication by approving a special one-off grant from the city budget in upcoming year.

Contribution

The Bratislava City Foundation plays a key role in promoting citizen participation and co-creation of public spaces, culture, and education in the city. It focuses on specific topics outlined in the eligibility criteria for project funding.

Bratislava – Project 5

Contribution

The foundation's Culture and Community programs encompass nine different grant areas, including cultural events, authorship, cultural venues, organizational infrastructure development, community activities, community spaces, improved public spaces, and scholarship programs. In the event that Bratislava becomes the second European City of Democracy, the City Foundation will have a vital role in aligning all open calls with the overarching message of democracy. Prior to the Program Year, efforts will be made to effectively communicate the corresponding new subtitles of major grant schemes.

Target Groups

- Non-governmental/non-profit organizations involved in cultural activities (civic associations, foundations, non-profit organizations, etc.)
- Non-governmental/non-profit organizations operating community spaces in Bratislava (civic associations, foundations, non-profit organizations)
- Individuals who meet the specified grant criteria outlined in the grant call
- Private companies

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

The City Foundation disseminates its calls for proposals and announces the results through its website and social media channels. Supported projects are required to submit a final report that assesses the impact of the initiative. Mandatory monitoring of indicators and key performance indicators (KPIs) allows for reporting and sharing of data from all grant schemes.

Project Setup

The project team consists of various departments and employees dedicated to its successful implementation. The team of the Bratislava City Foundation plays a central role, overseeing the project's overall coordination and management. They collaborate closely with the team of The Metropolitan Institute, leveraging their expertise in urban development and planning. Additionally, the project benefits from the involvement of the Urban Greenery Development Department and Bratislava Urban Forests, whose teams contribute their specialized knowledge in green space management and conservation.

These external partners from diverse NGOs and the commercial segment play essential roles in various aspects of the project, ensuring a comprehensive and well-rounded approach to its implementation.

Bratislava – Project 5

Participation of the Civil Society

The primary focus of the project is the civil society, whether in the form of organized non-governmental organizations or individuals.

Budget

Operating Costs	Attributed funds to cultural and community projects to date	2,157,202€
Extra Budget	Anticipated Budget for 2024	850,000€
Total Budget		3,007,202€

Funding

N/A

Programme Year Integration

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Community

Bratislava – Project 6

EVENT | PERMANENT

URL: [HTTPS://MESTOPREDETI.SK/](https://mestopredeti.sk/)

Bratislava - The City for Children

Brief Description

„The City for Children“ initiative prioritizes children’s well-being in urban planning. This visionary project brings diverse stakeholders together to create a participatory and child-friendly environment in Bratislava. This initiative challenges the norm that excludes school children from decision-making. By actively involving them in matters that affect their well-being, such as safety and access to public spaces, children are empowered to express their needs and opinions. This helps them recognize the value of their opinions and highlights the importance of decision-makers considering their perspectives. „Play Streets“ has been a remarkable outcome, transforming car-centric spaces into inclusive, safe, and democratic public areas. In addition, the initiative seeks to establish an international conference where city officials from around the world can exchange ideas, tackle shared challenges, and learn from experts, practitioners, and researchers.

Detailed Description

Overall, a child-friendly urban planning agenda enhances democracy by promoting inclusivity, civic engagement, social equity, sustainability, and interdisciplinary collaboration. It empowers children as active participants in shaping their communities and lays the foundation for a more democratic and inclusive society. „The City for Children“ initiative is a groundbreaking collaboration that prioritizes the well-being of children and caregivers in urban planning. This visionary project, implemented by The Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava (MIB), brings together diverse stakeholders to create a child-friendly environment where participation is key. Typically excluded from decision-making processes, school children in Bratislava now have the opportunity to actively participate in shaping their surroundings through the „City for Children“ project. They learn about democratic processes, initiate change, and engage in community participation. Building relationships with public administration, the city, and their peers, the project fosters cohesion around shared themes such as child safety and space accessibility.

Bratislava – Project 6

Detailed Description

Play Streets – The Neighbourhood Festivals :

The implementation of „Play Streets“ has led to a remarkable transformation of car-centric spaces into inclusive, safe, and democratic public areas. The concept encourages active modes of transportation like walking and cycling while reducing vehicular traffic. By repurposing these areas for recreational activities, communities have witnessed positive impacts such as strengthened social connections, increased physical activity, and an overall improved quality of life.

The International Conference on Child-friendly Urban Plannin:

Additionally, the initiative aims to establish a leading international conference where city officials worldwide can discuss common challenges, share experiences, and learn from practitioners, researchers, consultants, and academics. The first year of the conference is already in the preparatory phase, with the organizational team set up and budgeting underway. The conference, planned for May 2024, aims to establish itself as a respected annual event platform for knowledge exchange in the field. The conference, titled „Building the Child-Friendly Urban Present,“ will leverage Bratislava’s growing reputation in urban design and planning for children and caregivers. It will bring together influential individuals and institutions in the fields of urban childhood health and innovative governance. The conference will facilitate regional coordination efforts in areas such as decarbonization, democracy-building, and urban health through collaborations with bodies like the Pact of Free Cities. By positioning neighbourhood planning and urban health as key strategic pillars, the conference aims to counter the destabilizing effects of climate change on politics. The convention will cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Neighborhood planning and proximity: promoting walking and biking to access services
- Mobility Justice: creating safe spaces and going beyond infrastructure
- Gender-inclusive spaces and building cities that prioritize care
- Local-level measures to protect children and caregivers from air pollution
- The role of play, childhood independence, and local democracy
- Exploring the connection between play, tradition, and design culture
- Global examples of child-friendly planning agendas led by children
- Scaling grassroots neighborhood initiatives and ensuring their long-term sustainability
- Early childhood development and the role of caregiving in the public realm
- Innovations in governance, including the establishment of positions like the Chief Heat Officer to address new challenges
- Success stories in countering disinformation
- Innovative approaches to financing pilot projects and reducing risk in cities’ experimentation efforts.

Bratislava – Project 6

Contribution

Overlapping key agendas such as climate change, public spaces, culture, inclusion (open city), and participation, „The City for Children“ initiative plays a pivotal role in fulfilling its mission statement by developing and implementing institutional tools and frameworks for future citizens. It introduces innovative governance approaches based on accurate data and global best practices, while adopting a bottom-up approach that initiates sustainable actions at the city level and extends them to the metropolitan area, expanding its influence nationally and potentially internationally. The „Building the Child-Friendly Urban Present“ convention aims to become one of the flagship events of the ECoD Programme Year 2024/2025, bringing together local and international policy-makers and experts.

Target Groups

The City for Children Initiative, developed by the MIB, serves as a comprehensive communication strategy. The primary target group of the initiative is the school children of Bratislava, along with their caregivers, and the surrounding communities. The conference specifically targets mayors, city officials, industry thought leaders, civil society representatives, expert practitioners, journalists, funders, as well as stakeholders such as school teachers or neighbourhood advocacy groups.

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

The City for Children Initiative, developed by the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava (MIB), is a comprehensive communication strategy that encompasses various activities. These include the Neighbourhood festivals known as Play Streets, revitalization projects called Streets for Kids, and an upcoming expert conference. The primary focus of the initiative is the school children of Bratislava, along with their parents, caregivers, and the surrounding communities. To facilitate communication, MIB has created a dedicated website called mestopredeti.sk and an Instagram account. These platforms serve as centralized sources of important information, while MIB also utilizes its own channels, as well as official city and mayor channels, to communicate key milestones. Additionally, the official destination marketing organization, Bratislava Tourist Board, acts as a communication partner for the initiative.

Project Setup

Departments involved: MIB, BKIS, the Mayor's Office, Department of Road Infrastructure Management, Department of Foreign Relations and Protocol, Department of Construction. NGOs: The project also collaborates with various NGOs that assist in the training and education of children.

Bratislava – Project 6

Project Setup

We also engage vulnerable Ukrainian communities through the City for Children project, with a particular focus on child safety in their new, although temporary, homes. The interaction between Slovak and Ukrainian children plays a significant role in integration, normalizing perceptions, and dispelling stereotypes, even among parents. Volunteers: The project team also works with caregivers and teachers within school communities who are concerned about the functionality of the school surroundings and the broader context of participatory processes in Bratislava.

Participation of the Civil Society

The initiative partners with diverse non-profit organizations that support the instruction and learning of youngsters. Furthermore, we involve vulnerable Ukrainian communities through the City for Children program, prioritizing the well-being of children in their transitional residences. The interaction between Slovak and Ukrainian youth plays a crucial part in fostering integration, promoting understanding, and challenging preconceptions, including among parents.

Budget

Planning Costs	Project evaluation	13,500€
Communication Costs		37,000€
Operating Costs	Participation & Behavioral Change	253,000€
Operating Costs	Implementation, Tactical Urbanism	294,000€
Operating Costs	Project Management	115,000€
Operating Costs	Play Streets Events by BKIS	70,000€
Planning Costs	Budget Approximation for 2,5 day event in May 2025	300,000€
Total Budget		1,382,500€

Bratislava – Project 6

Funding

N/A

Programme Year
Integration

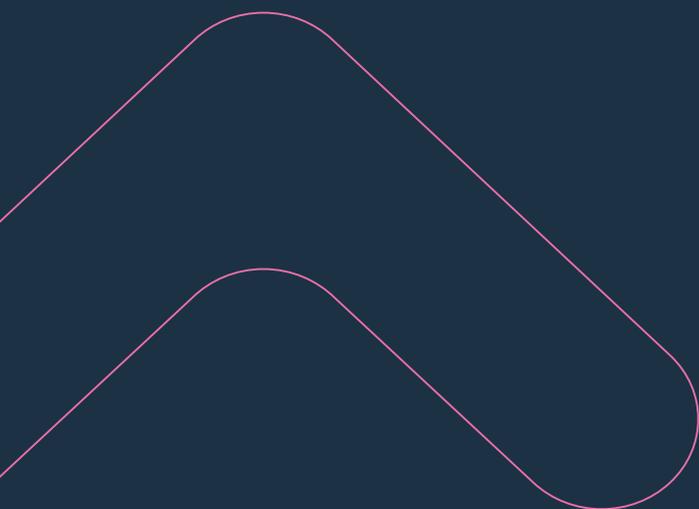
N/A

Democracy
Dimension

Participation

ECOD APPLICATION BRATISLAVA

Project Ideas



Bratislava - Project Idea 1

DEMOCRACY DIMENSION: PARTICIPATION

Empowering Bratislava's Youth Revitalizing the Bratislava Youth Parliament

Challenge

Bratislava faces several challenges in promoting youth engagement and democratic participation, including the current absence of an active Youth Parliament in the city. The legislative amendments necessary for the establishment of a Youth Parliament are pending, with the hopeful timeline of implementation in September 2023. The declining interest and trust in civic engagement among the youth pose a significant pain point, despite relatively higher trust in communal institutions. Moreover, the democratic trends in Slovakia require concerted efforts to foster active citizenship among the youth. However, the presence of the European Democracy Youth Network (EDYN) headquarters in Bratislava provides a positive opportunity for collaboration and support. The objective of the project is to (re-)establish and empower the Bratislava Youth Parliament, providing a platform for young citizens to actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute to the development of their communities. The Youth Parliament will serve as a representative body, advocating for the interests and concerns of young people, and bridging the gap between youth and local governance.

Solution

Bratislava Youth Parliament provides a dedicated forum for young citizens to actively engage in decision-making processes and shape the future of their communities. It offers a direct channel for youth voices to be heard, represented, and influential in local governance. For those who desire to be actively involved but are not organized within a youth parliamentary structure, the YOUTH HUB is being created as part of the Bratislava Youth Parliament initiative. It aims to provide a physical space where young people can participate in discussions, education, and various forms of active engagement. The YOUTH HUB will also offer support services through voluntary assistance and the expertise of psychology and pedagogy students, acting as an initial point of contact

Bratislava - Project Idea 1

Solution

for youth. Volunteering is another valuable way to establish a trustworthy relationship with the city. The project „Zapni sa pre Slovensko / Turn on for Slovakia“ offers a volunteering platform where citizens can participate in a wide range of activities and collaborate with their municipalities. By engaging in these projects, citizens contribute to community improvement while building trust with the city. The platform, created by an external provider, serves as a centralized hub for institutions to submit their volunteering projects. The overarching tagline of the project emphasizes the rewarding nature of active civic engagement: „We reward those who have turned themselves on.“

Impact

The Bratislava Youth Parliament aims to provide the next generations with a toolkit and skills for participative and collaborative governance. It aims to empower young citizens by offering them a platform where they can actively engage in decision-making processes and contribute to shaping the future of their communities. Citizens become part of the project when they realize that their voices matter and that they have the ability to make a meaningful impact on the issues that concern them. Volunteering plays a crucial role in this involving process, as it allows citizens to gain a deeper understanding of the democratic process and actively engage in decision-making. The lack of interest or apathy among young citizens can often be attributed to a lack of experience and trust in their ability to influence change. The Bratislava Youth Parliament addresses this by providing a structured platform that educates and empowers young people to actively participate in decision-making processes. By demonstrating the impact, they can have on local governance, the project aims to break down barriers and build trust, showing young citizens that their opinions and contributions are valued and can make a difference in their communities.

Implementation

N/A

Execution

The project will engage young citizens through schools and universities collaborating with their student parliaments or representative bodies. Through strategic partnerships with youth organizations and NGOs, the project maximizes its outreach to young citizens. Notably, the Bratislava Youth Parliament acknowledges the value of collaborating with esteemed organizations such as EDYN. This collaboration amplifies the project's influence and expands its reach to international levels.

Bratislava - Project Idea 1

Execution

In addition, the project explores the adoption of a rewarding system for volunteers. Taking inspiration from some employers in Slovakia, the city administration may consider recognizing and rewarding citizens who actively participate in volunteering activities. This approach can incentivize more individuals to engage in the project, further strengthening the bond between citizens and municipal bodies. The project will explore alternative funding sources, including grants and partnerships with businesses and philanthropic organizations. The immediate achievement is the establishment of an engaged Bratislava Youth Parliament, providing a platform for young individuals to shape policies and foster active citizenship. Despite the challenges posed by evolving legislation, the Youth Parliament will provide a platform for diverse young individuals to actively shape policies and cultivate a culture of active citizenship.

Support

If Bratislava succeeds in its potential candidacy for the European Capital of Democracy (ECOD), the (re-)establishment of a Youth Parliament will generate significant momentum for the city. It will serve as a prominent initiative, exemplifying Bratislava's dedication to empowering youth and fostering participatory democracy. The recognition and support received from ECOD will enhance the project's visibility, attract additional partners, and create opportunities for international knowledge exchange and collaboration. On the territory of the Bratislava Self-Governing Region (BSK), the Youth Parliament of BSK officially began its operations in March 2023. The Parliament consists of 20 members who have already received appointment decrees. It will function as a separate advisory, initiative, and coordinating body within the BSK Assembly, working closely with the Chairman of BSK on matters pertaining to youth. With the establishment of the Youth Parliament in Bratislava, there will be a valuable partnership in advocating for youth participation and shaping public policies. These combined factors will contribute to the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of the Bratislava Youth Parliament.

Video Link

N/A

Images

N/A

Bratislava - Project Idea 2

DEMOCRACY DIMENSION: PARTICIPATION

Envisioning Bratislava's Future: Participatory Strategies for Sustainable Development

Challenge

The city of Bratislava is committed to shaping its future through a series of comprehensive strategic documents that guide its development in various domains. From the visionary Bratislava 2030 plan, which sets the direction for overall city development, to the dedicated strategy for cultural advancement known as „A Decade for Culture,“ and the climate change strategy aimed at addressing environmental challenges, these documents reflect the city's participatory approach to planning. One of the key innovations in the upcoming urban and city development strategy is the inclusion of esteemed urbanists, architects, and the general public in working groups, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and expertise are considered. One of the primary challenges is ensuring that the strategic documents and plans reflect the aspirations and needs of the city's diverse population. The participatory nature of these strategies seeks to address this challenge by engaging citizens, experts, and stakeholders in the decision-making process. However, effectively involving various voices and perspectives requires overcoming barriers such as limited awareness, accessibility, and inclusivity. Additionally, aligning the strategic goals with practical implementation and securing the necessary resources pose further challenges. The ultimate goal is to create a shared vision and consensus for the future development of Bratislava that embraces sustainability, liveability, and inclusivity.

Solution

The idea sets out to ensure the active participation of citizens in shaping the city's future. Its uniqueness lies in its participatory and inclusive approach. By participating in the project, citizens will gain a sense of ownership, empowerment, and pride in their contributions, knowing that their voices are heard and valued. The project idea goes beyond a mere collection of citizen feedback by actively promoting a participatory

Bratislava - Project Idea 2

Solution

culture in the creation of public policies. It recognizes the significant difference between passive involvement, where citizens simply provide comments, and active participation, where citizens engage in the process of shaping and co-creating the strategic documents. Through workshops, forums, and interactive platforms, the project aims to educate citizens about the importance of active participation and empower them to take an active role in the strategic planning process. It emphasizes that participation involves more than just expressing opinions; it requires collaborative discussions, critical thinking, and a willingness to work together towards shared goals. By actively involving citizens in the creation of strategic documents, the project ensures that they gain a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in urban and city development. By highlighting this distinction and actively educating citizens about the value of active participation, the project aims to bridge the gap between passive involvement and true co-creation.

Impact

The project idea is meant to have a significant impact at both the city-wide and regional levels by promoting a participatory culture in strategic planning. At the city-wide scale, the project encourages widespread participation from residents, businesses, and organizations, ensuring that a diverse range of perspectives is considered in strategic planning initiatives. Furthermore, the project extends its impact beyond the city limits, reaching the regional level. By showcasing Bratislava as a role model in participatory initiatives, it inspires neighbouring communities to adopt similar approaches to strategic planning. This regional impact strengthens the collective voice of citizens in shaping the future development of the entire region. By creating a participatory culture in strategic planning, the project enriches the democratic fabric of Bratislava and sets a positive example for other cities and regions to follow.

Implementation

N/A

Execution

This project idea encompasses a comprehensive approach, spanning a wide range of areas such as culture, education, training, social affairs, energy, transport, environment, and waste. It actively engages various stakeholders, including government officials, experts, community organizations, and citizens. Working groups are established to foster collaborative discussions, generate ideas, and develop strategic documents. Through workshops, consultations, and online platforms, the project ensures the active participation of citizens in shaping the future development of Bratislava across multiple sectors. This inclusive approach guarantees that the strategic documents truly represent the diverse needs, aspirations, and ideas of the community, resulting in a comprehensive and well-rounded vision for the city's future.

Bratislava - Project Idea 2

Implementation

N/A

Support

To implement the project effectively, key requirements shall be met. This includes securing necessary resources and expertise in urban planning, policy development, and community engagement. Effective stakeholder engagement will involve workshops, consultations, and online platforms for feedback. This fosters a sense of shared responsibility and encourages active involvement. Sustainability relies on integrating the participatory approach into existing governance structures, regular review of strategic documents, and promoting citizen engagement. Building a solid foundation and fostering ownership ensures the project's long-term success in shaping Bratislava's future development.

Video Link

N/A

Images

N/A

Bratislava - Project Idea 3

DEMOCRACY DIMENSION: EMPOWERMENT

The Democratic Culture of Bratislava - Embracing the “Art of Democracy”

Challenge

The Democratic Culture of Bratislava project tackles the challenge of cultivating a deeper connection between democracy, culture, and art in the city. While the city is known for its vibrant cultural scene, there is a need to actively engage citizens in conversations about democracy and its significance. The upcoming 35th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution provides a unique opportunity to reflect on the democratic progress achieved since then and recognize its relevance in the present context. In Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), where the fight for democratic values continues, it is crucial to address the decline in public trust towards governmental institutions. The pain point in this context is the lack of sufficient avenues for public dialogue and reflection on democracy. This challenge stands as the most significant obstacle faced by citizens in the region. The project aims to bridge this gap by using Bratislava City Days as a centerpiece, leveraging its popularity and significance as a cultural event. By infusing art exhibitions, performances, workshops, and interactive installations into the festival, the project aims to create a democratic trend that encourages public participation, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of democratic values and principles. It seeks to shift the focus from mere entertainment to a meaningful exploration of democracy through the lens of art and culture.

Solution

„The Democratic Culture of Bratislava“ is unique due to its innovative approach to merging art, culture, and democracy. By collaborating with renowned institutions such as the Bratislava City Gallery, The Slovak National Gallery, and the Bratislava Cultural and Information Center, the project offers a multifaceted experience that goes beyond traditional art exhibitions.

Bratislava - Project Idea 3

Solution

One of the key benefits of the project is that citizens will have the opportunity to engage with thought-provoking artistic expressions that delve into the themes of democracy, freedom, and civic engagement. Through art exhibitions, performances, workshops, and interactive installations, participants will gain a deeper understanding of democratic values and their significance in society. Furthermore, the project provides a platform for citizens to actively participate in the democratic process. Workshops and interactive installations will encourage active engagement, empowering citizens to voice their opinions, share their experiences, and contribute to the collective understanding of democracy.

In addition, the project aims to foster a sense of pride and belonging among citizens. By showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Bratislava and highlighting its democratic values, the project will strengthen the city's identity and create a shared sense of ownership among its residents.

Impact

The project „The Democratic Culture of Bratislava“ will be implemented over a period of six months, from November to April, allowing for an extended engagement with the city-wide audience. This audience encompasses not only residents but also visitors and foreign non-residents who will have the opportunity to actively participate in the project. It offers a transformative experience with exhibitions, performances, workshops, and installations, fostering reflection and raising awareness. Participants actively contribute to the ongoing democratic dialogue, cultivating a sense of civic responsibility and empowering engagement.

Execution

The implementation of the project will involve a strategic distribution and communication plan to reach and engage citizens. The Bratislava Cultural and Information Center, in collaboration with the project partners, will organize a walk-in art installation, diverse art projects, performances, exhibitions, and participatory art initiatives. The project may utilize poster communication projects displayed in shop windows and public spaces to create awareness and generate interest. Educational projects and workshops may be conducted to facilitate learning and active participation. Additionally, collaborations with local and international art institutions will enrich the project and enhance its impact. In terms of financing, the project will seek to leverage existing budgets and resources within the Bratislava Cultural and Information Center and its partners. By utilizing available funding, sponsorships, and in-kind support, the project aims to implement its activities at the planned scale.

Bratislava - Project Idea 3

Implementation

N/A

Support

The implementation of the „The Democratic Culture of Bratislava“ project requires various forms of support. Consulting support in curatorial and artistic aspects may be sought to ensure the high quality and relevance of the exhibitions and performances. Financial support is crucial to cover the costs associated with venue rentals, production, marketing, and operational expenses. Partnerships with local and international organizations can enhance the project’s reach, expertise, and resources. Collaboration with municipal bodies and NGOs, cultural institutions, and sponsors will be sought to secure the necessary financing and logistical support. Partnerships with relevant stakeholders will foster collective ownership and support throughout the implementation process.

Video Link

N/A

Images

N/A

Bratislava - Project Idea 4

DEMOCRACY DIMENSION: EMPOWERMENT

The City For Children Conference - Building the Child-Friendly Urban Present

Challenge

Our future project idea is an integral part of The City for Children Initiative, developed by the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava (MIB). This initiative serves as a comprehensive communication strategy that encompasses various activities aimed at creating child-friendly cities. The challenge will aim to address through the conference and provide a dedicated platform for city officials and urbanism experts from around the world to come together and tackle common issues related to child-friendly urban planning.

By including the conference as a key component of the initiative, we ensure that the participants have an opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from experts, practitioners, and researchers in the field. The conference aligns with the democratic trend of participatory governance and inclusive decision-making processes. It promotes democratic values by fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and collective action among city officials, ultimately leading to more inclusive and child-friendly urban planning practices. Furthermore, the global scope of the conference allows city officials from different countries to exchange experiences and perspectives, encouraging cross-cultural learning and global cooperation in creating child-friendly cities.

Solution

The unique selling proposition of the City for Children Conference lies in its exclusive focus on child-friendly urban planning and its ability to bring together city officials, experts, practitioners, and researchers from around the world. The conference will be a dynamic three-day event that offers a rich and immersive experience for all participants. It will feature renowned keynote speakers who will provide valuable insights and inspire meaningful discussions.

Bratislava - Project Idea 4

Solution

The conference will host a series of interactive workshops and hands-on meetings, creating a collaborative environment where attendees can actively share their ideas, exchange knowledge, and engage in practical exercises. Furthermore, the conference will also include a celebratory party, bringing together both professionals and members of the general public who share a passion for creating child-friendly cities. This social gathering will provide an informal setting for networking beyond the formal sessions. Through the engagement of city officials and the general public, citizens will gain access to valuable insights, innovative ideas, and best practices shared by city officials, experts, practitioners, and researchers. By actively participating in the conference, citizens can play an integral role in shaping urban environments, leading to safer, more inclusive, and sustainable communities.

Impact

The demand for a dedicated conference focused on child-friendly urban planning is evident in the global movement towards creating inclusive, safe, and sustainable cities for children. With ambitious goals, the conference aims to attract approximately 200 professionals actively involved in shaping urban environments for children. It also seeks to engage a broader audience of around 300-400 attendees from the general public, including parents, caregivers, educators, and community members. The need for the City for Children Conference is supported by global initiatives like the Child-Friendly Cities Initiative, as well as research, best practices, and local assessments that highlight the positive impact of child-friendly urban planning. These trends and indicators, although specific data may vary, underscore the relevance of creating spaces for dialogue, sharing experiences, and promoting best practices in this field.

Execution

The City for Children Conference will be organized annually with a rollout strategy that emphasizes the creation of a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for participants to share their experiences and innovative ideas. A meticulously planned communication strategy will target both B2B and B2C audiences. The implementation of the conference can be facilitated through strategic partnerships between the city and business partners and non-governmental organizations that share a common vision of promoting child-friendly urban planning. Collaborating with relevant stakeholders, including municipal authorities, educational institutions, and urban planning associations, will provide financial support, expertise, and resources. To ensure the sustainability of the project, registration fees from participants will be utilized to cover operational costs. These fees will contribute to the successful execution of the conference and its long-term viability. The initial milestone for the City for Children Conference is to successfully organize its inaugural edition in May 2024. Building upon this foundation, the conference aims to establish itself as a leading platform in the field of child-friendly urban planning.

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Execution

Ultimately, the City for Children Conference aspires to become an influential and inspiring event that contributes to the creation of inclusive, safe, and sustainable urban environments for children worldwide.

Implementation

N/A

Support

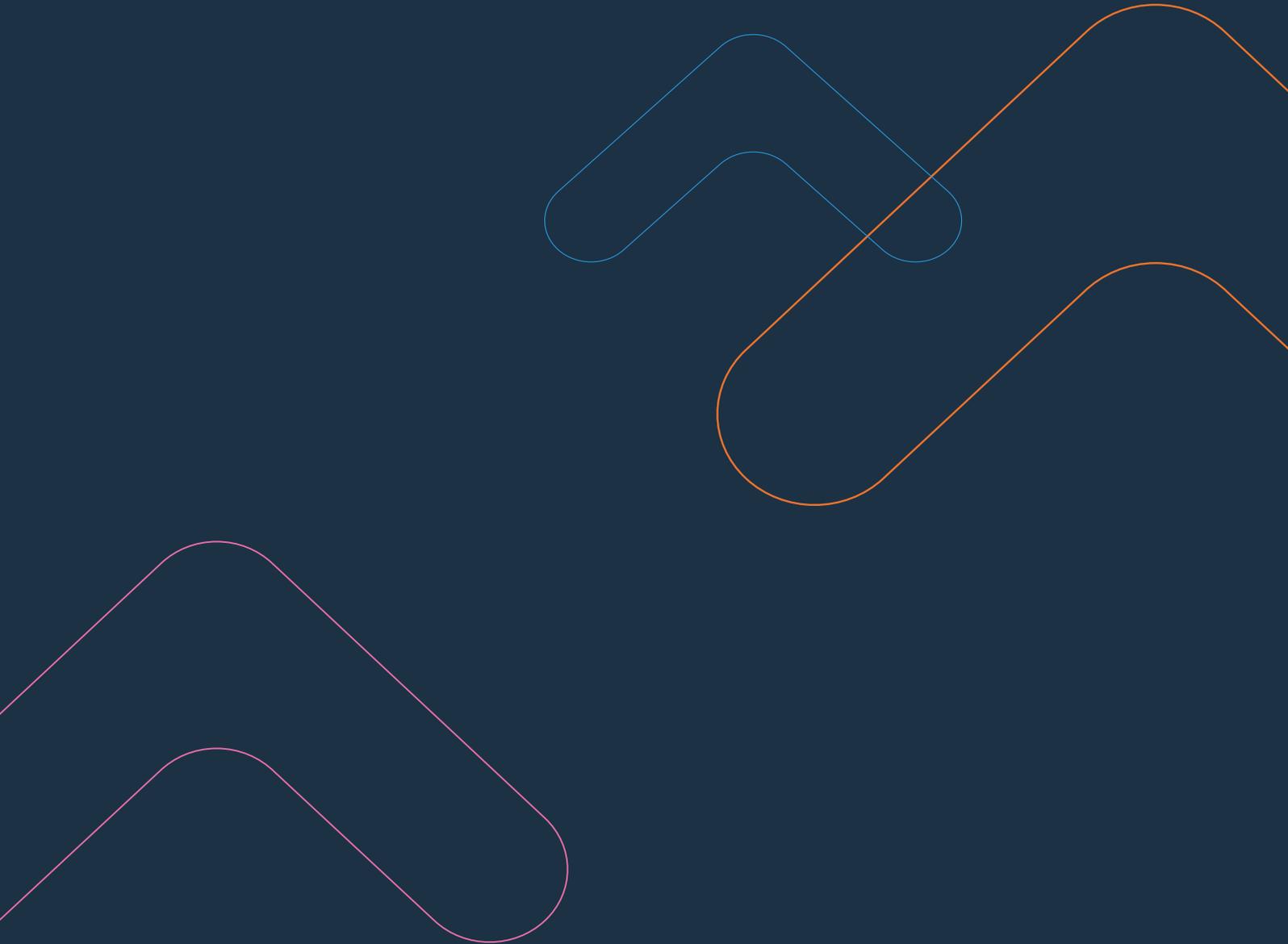
To ensure the successful implementation of the project, the City for Children Conference requires consulting support from professionals experienced in event planning and coordination, as well as experts in the field of child-friendly urban planning. Their guidance and expertise will contribute to the seamless execution of the conference and the delivery of high-quality content. Additionally, financial support is essential to cover the various costs associated with organizing the conference. This includes expenses such as venue rental, speaker fees, audiovisual equipment, marketing materials, and logistical arrangements. Securing funding through partnerships with municipal entities, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic organizations will help ensure the financial sustainability of the project. Establishing partnerships with international organizations, academic institutions, and NGOs working on child-friendly initiatives will be instrumental in creating a robust network of collaborators.

Video Link

N/A

Images

N/A



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