

To:
Mr Andrej Fištravec, PhD
Mayor of the Municipality of Maribor
Slovenia

Skopje, 07.04.2015

Ref: Announcement of the Winners of the GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives Awards - Inclusion of Women And Youth in Local Government Affairs in South East Europe

Dear Mayor Fištravec,

On behalf of the President of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (NALAS) and Mayor of Lukas, Mr Gjuro Bukvic, it is my great pleasure to inform you that the Municipality of Maribor is the winner of the GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives Awards presented by NALAS for the best initiatives for inclusion of women and youth in local government affairs in South East Europe.

The Evaluation Committee comprising of renewed regional experts in gender and youth gave its highest grades to the activity "Co-creation of social spaces - for youth with youth" and the Municipality of Maribor and concluded that *"the initiative helps associate young people with less desirable professions (carpentry, painting, masonry, electricity) for which there is demand in the labor market. Maribor also opened public spaces for youth and in this way supports their creativity and integration. The initiative improved the quality of life and fostered youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level, whereas contributing to a facilitated development of the local community based on the values of solidarity and non-discrimination. The actions shows that as active citizens, young people can cooperate in order to contribute to their local communities as well as empower themselves by gathering experiences and knowledge for the improvement of their employment situation. The primary part of the program helped increase employability and employment, encourage volunteerism, intercultural cooperation and active participation of young people."*¹

The full list of awarded initiatives declared by the Evaluation Committee is the following:

- "Gender Responsive Budgeting and Participatory Budgeting" implemented by the Municipality of Elbasan, Albania;
- "Youth Bank" implemented by the Municipality of Petrovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- "Co-creation of social spaces - for youth with youth" implemented by the Municipality of Maribor, Slovenia;

¹ Excerpt from the report of the Evaluation Committee

- “Gender Equality at Local Level in Serbia” implemented by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities – National Association of Local Authorities in Serbia, and
- “Local Youth Strategy of the Municipality of Ajdovščina” implemented by the Municipality of Ajdovščina, Slovenia;
- NALAS awarded Marmara Municipalities Union with a special recognition for achieving widest outreach for the GeniYouth municipal awards open call, also recognizing the municipality of Zeytinburnu as the most successful applicant from Marmara Municipalities Union, according to the results of the evaluation process.

I’d like to cordially thank you for participating in this activity and invite you to attend the Award Ceremony for the GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives that will take place on 18th May 2015 in the City of Plovdiv, Bulgaria within the Annual forum of Local Authorities of South East Europe co-organized by NALAS and the National Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB). Please find the overall agenda of the event enclosed to this letter.

At this ceremony, the activity will be presented before the Delegates of the NALAS General Assembly as well as representatives of the Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe and international organizations from South East Europe. As a Mayor of the municipality you will be awarded with a certificate, plaque and customized poster for winning the award “GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives”. Further on, the municipality will be promoted within the NALAS communication and knowledge platform, including the publication “GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives - Menu of good practices” as well as NALAS Newsletter, NALAS Digest, and NALAS Knowledge Tree. The activity will also become a case study in the NALAS e-learning course for Promotion of Gender and Youth at Local Level (under development). Further on, we will invite the participation for one municipal representative at one of the NALAS educational events for Gender and Youth within 2015/16.

The travel and accommodation costs for you and one more representative of the City of Elbasan will be covered by the GIZ Project Institutional Strengthening of NALAS. Ms Marija Joksimovska (marija.joksimovska@giz.de) will contact you shortly, in order to assist you with the organization of the trip.

Thank you once again for sharing this activity of the municipality of Maribor with your colleagues from all over South East Europe and I’m looking forward to seeing you very soon in Plovdiv.



Mr Kelmend Zajazi
Executive Director
NALAS

