



Freedom for us is the highest measure of responsibility for oneself, one's community and environments, city, state and our Europe.

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# FREEDOM GUARDS

# BRAVERY



The city of Lviv is situated in the western part of Ukraine, in Eastern Europe. Lviv is a unique city where the traditions of Ukrainian and European values, the spirit of medieval and modern innovations, calmness of the old town and attractions of a variety of festivals are combined in an incredible way. The city is a wonderful mix of different eras, cultures and traditions while also being a centre of innovations and rapid development.

Currently, Lviv is also one of the key humanitarian points and a shelter for tens of thousands of internally displaced Ukrainians. Thus, it is difficult to provide the exact number of city's population. As of the beginning of September 2022, about 693 000 permanent residents live on the territory of Lviv. Youth accounts for 33% of the population and is an important and influential social group that needs to be researched, respected, and heard. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, young people are active and united on different fronts: at the battlefield, rear, they volunteering, work to support the economy, provide help to internally displaced Ukrainians, restore ruined infrastructure, donate, etc.

In fact, Lviv became

## THE 1ST UKRAINIAN YOUTH CAPITAL IN 2018

This title pushed the development of youth politics, youth work and youth research in the city. Consequently, the general situation for youth in Lviv was influenced in a positive way. In 2021, Lviv got the status of "Child and Youth Friendly Municipality" in terms of the cognominal initiative that was realised by UNICEF Ukraine team. This proves that the city has defined youth policy as one of its key priorities.

Preparation of the concept note for the European Youth Capital 2023 and 2024 has united young people and given a clear understanding of what needs to be improved in the youth sphere as well as in what direction to move in order to implement European values and ensure the European future for Ukraine. As a result, Ukraine is now at the forefront of protecting these values, European identity, freedom and democracy. So this time the application for the European Youth Capital 2025 is submitted on behalf of not only Lviv but whole Ukraine: every our village, town and city.

The slogan of the programme sounds as

MOLO MISSION NOW:  
WE ARE FREEDOMGUARDS

This reflects the crucial role of Ukraine in the ongoing world processes as well as emphasizes that Ukrainian future is in the European community. Ukrainian young people therefore, are not only living their life, studying, working, relaxing, etc. They are fighting for freedom, so often by sacrificing their health and lives.

The vision of the EYC 2025 is to form and strengthen youth capital and capital in youth in order to survive, live and develop in European Ukraine. The goals of the programme consist in the following:

- TO ENCOURAGE young people to feel, understand and act in Ukraine with a motive: "I want to stay in Ukraine";
- TO ENCOURAGE young people to return to Ukraine (for those who had to leave after 24 February and those who left Ukraine even before the full-scale war);
- TO ENCOURAGE European youth to try and feel the Ukrainian vibe.

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THE PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF 3 VECTORS AND IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT 3 LEVELS:

## MOLO INDIVIDUAL

here the focus is on every young person in order to ensure their needs to survive, live and develop. Conscious, strong and efficient individuals can build resilient and sustainable environments and communities and contribute to the general development of city and country;

## MOLO ENVIRONMENTS

focuses on the groups of individuals that include but are not limited to NGOs, youth initiatives, church communities, national minorities, street cultures, informal groups, etc.

## MOLO CITY/COUNTRY

Country concentrates on the creation and realisation of cooperation opportunities for youth and city as well as all the country.

THE VECTORS ARE:

**SURVIVE:** this is about the things that are key for survival and adaptation to the current conditions of the full-scale war.

**LIVE:** here the programme touches upon how to live, act and cooperate for the recovery of Ukraine.

**DEVELOP:** this is about the development of oneself, environments and bringing existing interactions to qualitatively new levels.

THE KEY VALUES OF THE EVC 2023 PROGRAMME ARE:

- democracy & participation
- economic self-realization
- inclusion & accessibility
- human integrity

7 flagship events will be organised throughout the title year while numerous activities and events will take place beginning from 2023. All the activities aim at improving the skills of the youth, creating conditions for networking and establishing cooperation between young people, youth organisations as well as the municipality. The programme strives to give an impetus for youth to develop, create and take responsibility for their future as well as the future of their local community, city and country in their own hands.

The programme also presupposes establishing 3 more youth centres which will complete the network of the youth spaces (which currently consists of 3 spaces), creating the separate municipal youth strategy, Youth Fund and Municipal Youth Council.

The results of the program will create a model for other European cities that will demonstrate the mechanisms for implementing European values and youth strategies at the local level. Thus, Lviv will become an example for other cities in Europe, which will contribute to the overall development of youth policy in Ukraine and accelerate the process of integration of our country into Europe.

The results of the programme will be a great case showing how youth can co-create policies, sustainable cities and be the driver of change. Such a case will be especially relevant for countries that have also gone through a crisis, revolutions or are in the state of war.

To sum up, the title of the European Youth Capital 2023 will empower Ukrainian young people and once again confirm the support of Ukraine by the European community.

