



FINAL REPORT

EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL

MARIBOR 2013

Maribor, June 2014



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1 INTRODUCTION OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL MARIBOR 2013

The 'European Youth Capital' (hereinafter referred to as: EYC) is a title awarded by the European Youth Forum to a European city for the period of one year, during which it is given the chance to showcase, through a multi-faceted program, its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic life and development.

The intention behind the **European Youth Capital** title is to stimulate the city to develop new ideas, prepare and implement innovative projects, with regard to active participation of young people in society, and through policies, measures and activities. Only these can prove to be positive examples of good practice in the area of active incorporation of young people, consequently implemented by other European municipalities in the near future.

As a university, cultural and sports city, Maribor has numerous opportunities for young people to offer, who can strengthen and develop competences and skills that young people need in their daily lives, whereas at the same time explore different opportunities on how to spend their leisure time and be entertained.

With the candidacy application for the European Youth Capital title, the city of Maribor pursued the following objectives:

- To create conditions for the development of an environment that will encourage and help young people to develop and achieve their own potentials, self-reliance and creativity;
- To enable the participation of young people in decision-making processes that will directly or indirectly affect lives of young people within the local community;
- To enable faster and higher quality of response of individuals and groups to individual, social and intergenerational needs.

In 2010, Maribor was awarded the European Youth Capital 2013 title by the European Youth Forum for the period of one year. Therefore, the Municipality of Maribor passed a 'youth-friendly city' strategic and developmental plan. The European Youth Capital 2013 title (hereinafter referred to as: EYC Maribor 2013) enabled a higher involvement of youth representatives and topics at the local,

regional, national and European level. New ideas and innovative projects for young people were supported and encouraged within the EYC Maribor 2013 framework.

The **main objective** was to improve the quality of life and to foster youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level, whereas contribute to a facilitated development of the local community based on the values of solidarity and non-discrimination.

In June 2012, a call for tenders had been published for the co-funding of new programs in the youth sector for the EYC 2013. The intention was to obtain a range of new programs within youth sectors for the EYC 2013, in accordance with the objectives and content areas covered by the city of Maribor and as stated in the application. Finally, **52 new programs** from different topic areas were selected.

The Municipality of Maribor **encouraged young people to actively participate** in the society and decision-making processes through the European Youth Capital 2013 program. By providing youth infrastructure, the Municipality of Maribor generated opportunities and possibilities for organizations to upgrade their existing programs and develop new ones, whose sustainability would contribute to the development of the entire youth sector.

Existing youth organizations were also empowered in order **to stimulate the development of the entire youth sector**. The EYC Maribor 2013 program was initially focusing on young people aged between 15 and 29, but the involvement of older people also proved essential in order to stimulate intergenerational cooperation.

The program was aimed towards **finding solutions for current problems young people are experiencing**: increasing unemployment and employability of young people, housing problems, but also encouraged voluntarism among young people, intercultural integration, youth mobility, greater recognition of non-formal education and the strengthening of structured dialog. Increased emphasis was also put on the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities and otherwise physically disabled individuals, the Roma population and the long-term unemployed young people. The EYC Maribor 2013 also aimed to grant young people access to regular

information and to foster their participation in society and the local community, thus helping to create new opportunities for themselves in a better future.

Volunteers proved to be an essential part of the EYC Maribor 2013 team, as they helped to create and spread awareness of their work on the acquisition of formal knowledge among young people. Furthermore, volunteering was promoted as an alternative in order to gain work experience in these difficult economic times. Employability and providing the possibility to gain work experience were two of the main priorities in the year 2013. Due to high average rents in the city, housing issues were also addressed, whereas structured dialog proved to be another important tool.

Throughout the year, the EYC Maribor 2013 hosted **numerous activities** prepared by more than **100 organizations, societies and institutions**. Interesting workshops, informative seminars, round tables, international conferences and festivals attracted specialists, influential individuals and young people from all around the world. For once, Maribor was the center of youth activities. **2013 symbolized youth**. It was a year of opportunities, innovative projects and creative thinking. The main objective was to let people participate in the activities of the EYC Maribor 2013 program and gain new skills and experiences, furthermore assist in the organization and volunteer.

2 OBJECTIVES

The European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 objectives were divided into three different categories: general objectives, strategic objectives with influences on youth organizations and strategic objectives with influences on the youth of Maribor. The quantitative objectives were set as well.

General objectives:

- Create conditions for the development of an environment that will encourage and help young people to develop and achieve their own potentials, self-reliance and creativity.
- Enable participation of young people in decision-making processes that will directly or indirectly affect the lives of young people within the local community.
- To enable faster and higher quality of responses of individuals and groups to individual, social and intergenerational needs.
- Improve the quality of life and foster youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level, whereas contribute to a facilitated development of the local community based on the values of solidarity and non-discrimination.

The strategic objectives of the program related to the development of the youth sector are as follows:

- Develop an encouraging environment to motivate young people and enable their development in order to achieve their full potentials.
- Strengthen and increase youth participation at both local and national levels through activities, enabling and facilitating youth participation in decision-making process, particularly with regard to young people with fewer opportunities and job seekers.
- Strengthen cross-sectorial administration of youth within the local community.
- Strengthen connections and participation within the youth sector.
- Enhance the sensitivity of the local community towards youth-related matters by providing information, promoting intergenerational cooperation and the recognition of competences and skills obtained through youth work (with local decision-makers, employers in the public and private sector, etc.).
- Strengthen and promote the European Youth Capital 'brand'.

- Ensure higher quality and quicker response of individuals and social groups to the needs of individuals, the society and intergenerational needs.

The strategic objectives of the program related to the empowerment of young people are as follows:

- Enable all active participants in the preparation and implementation of the European Youth Capital 2013 program and all, who will be involved in the shaping of the program, to strengthen or obtain new competences, skills and (learning) experiences.
- Develop personal potentials, self-confidence and creativity.
- Enhance the youth's skills in project idea implementation.
- Strengthen and expand youth social networks.
- Strengthen social inclusion of youth at the local, national and European level (promote European identity).

Quantitative objectives of the program are as follows:

- Active participation of at least 50–60 % of the youth aged between 15 and 29 in the preparation and implementation of the EYC 2013 program.
- Involvement of 80 % of young people as participants in one of the EYC Maribor 2013 program activities.
- Develop and establish 8 long-term youth programs to be implemented after 2013 in cooperation with young people, among them at least 2 in the fields of employment and housing policy for young people.
- Develop and establish at least 2 new international youth programs, which will be continued after 2013.
- Convince 2,000 young people from the European Union countries to visit Maribor during the preparation and implementation of the EYC 2013 program.
- Enable employment of 200 young people from the Municipality of Maribor on the basis of enhanced and acquired competences, skills and (learning) expertise.
- Strengthen the role of the Youth Council, which brings together 90 % of youth organizations within the Municipality of Maribor.
- Increase the number of youth organizations within the Municipality of Maribor by 50 % and increase their membership by 20 % in comparison to the year 2010.

- Improve the participation of young people and youth organizations in the Youth in Action program and the Europe for Citizens program by 300 % in comparison to the year 2009.
- Develop and establish the Youth-Friendly City 'brand'.

3 PROGRAM

3.1. PROGRAM – A CALL FOR TENDERS

In 2012, a call for tenders had been published for the co-funding of new programs in the youth sector for the EYC Maribor 2013 and a total of 52 new programs were selected for inclusion. The EYC Maribor 2013 program was initially focusing on young people aged between 15 and 29, but the involvement of older people also proved essential in order to stimulate intergenerational cooperation. The main topical issues for young people were aimed towards solving current problems of young people. The primary part of the program was designed to increase employability and employment, encourage volunteerism, intercultural cooperation and active participation of young people. Greater emphasis was placed on non-formal education, structured dialog, mobility, ecology, housing issues, cultural development and intergenerational cooperation, but also on the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities and otherwise physically disabled individuals, the Roma population and the long-term unemployed young people.

In May 2013 a call for tenders for the co-funding of regular youth activities was also published. The budget for this call was 137.500,00 EUR and totally 37 youth activities were selected.

The largest part of the EYC Maribor 2013 resources and energy went into the programs implemented by non-governmental organizations.

- **INCREASE OF EMPLOYABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE**

Increase of employability and employment and provide youngsters with the chance to gain experiences were one of the main priorities of the EYC Maribor 2013, therefore programs were developed that allowed and encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship among young people, and consequently contributed to greater employability and employment of young people.

Table 1: Programs for the Increase of Employability and Employment among Young People

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
Maribor Cycling Network – Society for the Promotion of Cycling and Sustainable Mobility	Social Entrepreneurship for the Youth – ‘From an Idea to New Social Enterprises’	<i>Young first job seekers acquired knowledge about the process of establishing a new social enterprise. They gained skills in social entrepreneurship, participated in the foundation (with their mentors) and acquired theoretical and practical knowledge. The program promoted innovativeness and entrepreneurship among young adults and enabled them to become aware of their own powers and potentials concerning employability.</i>
University of Maribor	From Idea through Realization to Employment	<i>This program fostered creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship among young people and young people with fewer opportunities. In various workshops young people were able to discover new, scientific ideas with the aim to broaden their minds, knowledge, skills and contribute to the growth of competitiveness.</i>
Institute PIP – Legal and Information Center Maribor	Successful Disbursement of EU Funds	<i>The program represented an entire mechanism for all young people and organizations in order to implement youth programs through successful disbursement of EU funds. Participants were able to carry out individual activities, gain new knowledge and strengthen their own competences, whereas take care of knowledge distribution to other individuals.</i>

<p>Frekvenca – Socio-Cultural Association of the Restless and Active</p>	<p>Employ Creative</p>	<p><i>Young Roma people were faced with their own obstacles, which they had to address and seek appropriate solutions to raise the employability chances of this target group. With the acquired competences gained through training and within the established 'place for creative ideas', the target group tried to remove their personal hurdles and search for appropriate solutions, which could benefit to their higher employability. The program offered professional support with the development of an individual or group solution concerning (un)employment.</i></p>
<p>Pekarna - Magdalenske mreže – Institute for the Support of Civil Society Initiatives and Multicultural Cooperation</p>	<p>Urbanize!</p>	<p><i>The program raised the value of occupation in shortage that is decreasing and, at the same time, encouraged young people to become more active in the local environment and, furthermore, foster teamwork. The youngsters were able to exchange their ideas and completed urban equipment was presented in public areas of the Pekarna Cultural Center.</i></p>
<p>Maribor Youth Cultural Center</p>	<p>Local Fund For the Youth With Ideas</p>	<p><i>The program ensured (smaller) financial resources for projects which supported development within the local community and were planned as well as carried out by young people. Activities of the local fund were suggested and carried out by the youth. The Maribor Youth Cultural Center took an advisory role, whereas also offered a qualitative educational process for young people within this fund in order to expand their knowledge and gain new competences for the implementation of their own ideas. This is how they ensured that the youth helped each other when searching for financial resources for the realization of projects for positive changes in the local community.</i></p>

<p>Institute PIP – Legal and Information Center Maribor</p>	<p>Knowledge + Experience + Enterprise ≠ No Perspective</p>	<p><i>The program helped young people in the search for their first job. Employability of young adults was increased through diverse non-formal education and training approaches, as well as proper support when starting their enterprise career. Within the program, they pursued their goals to improve information distribution about the position and opportunities of young people in the labor market, how to gain competences in order to compete in the labor market, support their enterprise, etc. Therefore, different trainings and services were offered to young people within the ‘Development Center for Non-Profit Organizations’, as well as career camps, thematic outdoor meetings, promotions for the employability of young adults, educational trainings for young entrepreneurs, etc.</i></p>
<p>IRDO – Institute for Social Responsibility</p>	<p>Model M – Pilot Model of Career Training and Guidance for a Higher Employability Rate Among Youth</p>	<p><i>This program focused on the preparation of a model that would enable the creation of individual career plans under the guidance of various experts, thus enabling the person, while assessing their individual cultural, social and psychosocial potentials, to independently search for business opportunities. This program empowered young people with the tools to present their knowledge and attained education qualifications in full to the labor market through several workshops.</i></p>
<p>Ypsilon – Institute of Intergenerational Cooperation</p>	<p>Mentored program: Learn from the Best</p>	<p><i>This program was aimed towards those in search of employment, young people who wanted to use the experience and wisdom of mentors in their work, ideas and potentials – thus, to learn from the best. Access to the best entrepreneurs, artists, athletes, academics, politicians and other public figures, who would eventually become their</i></p>

		<i>mentors, was offered through a web portal. The program provided an environment that encouraged the youth, enabled them to grow and realize their potentials. Fruitful cooperation between mentors and the participants was established and the response of young people has been very positive.</i>
Anton Martin Slomšek Association	Cloud of Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Youth, Maribor	<i>The program's main objective was to enable and encourage innovativeness within entrepreneurship among young people. That was a comprehensive approach in order to encourage young talents to activate themselves and become more conscious about their abilities, knowledge, capabilities, and moreover, use them to the fullest extent in order to find and create solutions. They participated in 7 rounds of activities, through which they implemented their formulated strategic and quantitative goals.</i>

- **ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

One of the general objectives of the EYC Maribor 2013 was to enable and encourage participation of young people in decision-making processes that would directly or indirectly affect the lives of young people within the local community. The purpose was to encourage and motivate young people to actively participate in all social processes. The objectives within this topic were decentralization activities for the youth, volunteering among young people, intercultural cooperation and mobility of young people.

Table 2: Programs for the Encouragement of Active Participation of Young People

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
II. Gimnazija Maribor Secondary School	The Rainbows of the World	<i>The main objective of this program was to develop intercultural dialog between pupils from Maribor and other European countries. The project consisted of different workshops that covered different areas: human rights, debates, literature, theatre, music, etc.</i>
Maribor Youth Aid Center Association	The 'Passions' Youth Fair	<i>Young people who engage in various extraordinary, attractive, interesting hobbies, possess certain knowledge, skills or 'passions', presented and shared those with other young people in The 'Passions' Youth Fair, which was held in Maribor for three days.</i>
Hiša! – Association for People and Places	Knowledge Polygon	<i>Creative participation and expression brought the empty location in the city center back to life, thus this program encouraged the participation of youth in the public life of the city, invigorated the depleted and sleepy image of the city center, and stimulated experience and knowledge exchange. Moreover, it helped to form models of good practice concerning the revitalization of urban environments and motivated initiatives and suggestions by the youth. Young people prepared and promoted selected suggestions, guidelines, experiences and conclusions of the program to a wider public.</i>

<p>IAESTE Maribor – The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience</p>	<p>2013 – Year of Opportunities</p>	<p><i>This program encouraged active participation of youth in non-profit organizations. The goal was for associations and interested youth to become more involved in voluntary work for these organizations. The youth was addressed in order to actively integrate into the society and participate in the community's development. This program enabled the youth to strengthen their competences and make the best use of their potentials. The youth was informed about the importance of acquiring different experiences already during their studies, and, furthermore, they participated in several workshops and roundtables.</i></p>
<p>ERASMUS Student Network</p>	<p>Social Erasmus</p>	<p><i>The Social Erasmus Project was aimed towards young people from Maribor and abroad. It connected young individuals, who are facing different types of social and economic obstacles or cultural differences. In seminars, the youth was educated about the environment and socially important factors: how to help the underprivileged youth, motivate their personal growth and acquire skills, and encourage informal education.</i></p>
<p>Etnika Association</p>	<p>Don't Gamble your Future Away</p>	<p><i>This program increased awareness about the pathologic consequences of gambling for individuals, their families, friends and the entire society. The program raised public awareness about the danger of such addictions by setting</i></p>

		<p><i>up a web page, publishing a video, and through public discussions and workshops outlining that the threat is as great as ever and that young people are the most vulnerable group. Therefore, young people were involved in the preparation and execution of the conducted research about gambling.</i></p>
<p>IndiJanez Cultural Society Youth Center</p>	<p>Hieroglyphs!</p>	<p><i>Through this program, writings, video recordings and photographs by young people from the local environment were collected. Additional attention was given to works, which were focusing on more than just everyday conversations, especially in relation to their content: a reflection of a specific culture of subculture. The program archived, promoted and encouraged public expression of youth.</i></p>
<p>IndiJanez Cultural Society Youth Center</p>	<p>Kikiriki!</p>	<p><i>This program included a selection of environmental, social, artistic and other interventions on different topics, all prepared in workshops with groups of young people. The majority of interventions took place without prior announcement to the public neither invitations, since the element of surprise is of crucial importance, thus such surprises are, in some way, an award for random passers-by and the performers. The main objective of this program was to flood the city streets with youthful playfulness, resourcefulness and innovative activities.</i></p>

<p>IndiJanez Cultural Society Youth Center</p>	<p>We Live Together!</p>	<p><i>Informative, media, educational and other activities: bus manners, dog walking, cleaning of the surrounding environment, green police, etc., encouraged young people to perceive their surroundings, set good examples and fostered active participation in society and their families. The program was carried out in specialized work groups, whereas at regular meetings the groups exchanged their knowledge, experiences and evaluated on their activities.</i></p>
<p>Maribor Students' Club</p>	<p>I take Europe!</p>	<p><i>The project mainly focused on informal education, which was implemented through voluntary participation of young people. Slovenian and foreign youth was offered a diverse, attractive and extraordinary set of activities about European countries (short educational excursions, Italian cuisine day, Portuguese language course, Serbian picnic, etc.).</i></p>
<p>OSMICA Youth Center Association</p>	<p>Get to know EYC</p>	<p><i>This program was aimed towards a wider range of young people. The main objective was to inform the youth about what will happen during the EYC, how to participate and join the activities as well as getting to know the organization. The project's central point was the publication of the EYC program with information about individual projects. Furthermore, the publication included a presentation of youth organizations in Maribor, information on</i></p>

		<i>how to participate and other useful information.</i>
Subkulturni azil – Institute for Art Production and Publishing	Youth Project Laboratory	<i>The program encouraged young people with fewer opportunities from educational institution in Maribor and its surroundings to develop their music, literary, organizational, working and artistic potentials in order to gain new references and, thus, increase their employment possibilities. Different educational workshops for the youth were organized within this program: workshop on the organization of events, audio and studio workshop, video recording workshop, etc.</i>
The Friends of Youth Association	The Young Shoemaker – An Inspiration	<i>The program enabled the involvement of the youth in various cultural activities and in the final production about the young shoemaker, while, at the same time, raised awareness about the city's cultural heritage among them. Within the program a comic book, photography and movie competition were carried out, but also art workshops and the 'Shoemaker Festival'. The second cornerstone of this program was the Convention on the Rights of Children, where young participants were encouraged to consider the exploitation of children for economic benefit and to think about solutions on how to resolve this matter.</i>

- **ENCOURAGE ACTIVE MOBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

The objective was to encourage and enable the mobility of young people. Mobility allows young people to form a better perception of different cultures, strengthen their understanding and acceptance towards diversity, what enhances their knowledge and experience and, above all, promotes learning and examples of good practice from elsewhere.

Table 3: Programs of Encouraging of Active Youth Mobility

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
Youth Network MaMa	Strengthening of International Youth Work	<i>The program ensured a structured discussion between young people, youth organizations, experts and others concerning the importance of international youth work and learning mobility for the development of young and local communities at local, regional as well as national level. The emphasis of this program lied on the promotion and support of international youth work and learning mobility projects in youth organizations for young people by creating networking opportunities and by continued support in the development of new international youth work programs and projects within the EYC Maribor 2013 organizations. An international three-day conference about international youth work was organized. Participants from EU and neighboring countries advised local participants on the preparation of learning mobility projects, etc.</i>

<p>Pekarna - Magdalenske mreže – Institute for the Support of Civil Society Initiatives and Multicultural Cooperation</p>	<p>The Footsteps of Maribor</p>	<p><i>The program revealed the diversity of life on the streets as well as in the parks, but also unveiled the extraordinary corners of the city to tourists and, to everyone’s surprise, to the majority of locals, all in cooperation with experts in the fields of architecture, urbanism, ethnology, anthropology, etc. Close attention was drawn to the fact that the city not only has a functional, but a social function as well. The program mainly focused on the young citizens of Maribor, travelers and other people who wanted to explore the city of Maribor from another perspective. Therefore, several themed guided walks around the city, lectures, workshops and round tables were organized.</i></p>
<p>MOBIN – Institute for Mobility and Information For Young People</p>	<p>Maribor for the Future of the Youth</p>	<p><i>Within this program, the Maribor European Youth Card was developed as a tool to alleviate the socio-economic situation of all young citizens from Maribor regardless of their status (not only for students and pupils). The card provides privileged access to informal education and cheaper transportation, culture, sports and other activities in Maribor. The card was incorporated into the international system of European Youth cards, thus young people can use it in other parts of Slovenia and Europe. Workshops on how to</i></p>

		<i>produce a video CV were also organized within the scope of this program.</i>
Maribor Students' Club	KMŠ AND EYC 2013	<i>This program included presentations of the EYC Maribor 2013 to local and foreign youth in Maribor, promotion of the EYC Maribor 2013 and KMŠ (Maribor Students' Club) through thematic international youth exchanges, and a farewell to the EYC Maribor 2013. A large number of Slovenian and foreign students stayed in Maribor during this program.</i>

- **STRUCTURED DIALOG**

The structured dialog in the field of youth is a tool for young people, youth organizations, youth councils and researches in the field of youth for active political dialog with those, responsible for youth policy. This dialog may take place at local, regional, national as well as European level. The purpose of this program section was to establish a permanent system of structured dialog, especially at local level, but also to encourage and enable structured dialog at national level. This is also a program section in which young people with fewer opportunities shall have structured dialog with local decision-makers.

Table 4: Structured Dialog Programs

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
<p>Institute PIP – Legal and Information Center Maribor</p>	<p>Municipal Parliament</p>	<p><i>The program promoted the participation of young people in democratic decision-making systems, whereas the program represented a framework within which as many decisions and activities as possible were left to the young. A simulation of the European Parliament, the Preschool of Politics, debates with MEPs and other innovative elements represented the basis of the program. Mobilization of young people in urban quarters, their active involvement in the preparation and implementation of the program, as well as an organized approach and the influence of the youth on decision-makers were important objectives of this program.</i></p>
<p>City Youth Council Maribor</p>	<p>Learning for Living</p>	<p><i>The purpose of the program was to carry out a series of events in the field of employment and employability of young people in connection with youth work. Therefore, presentations of projects for young employers, about youth work, but also round tables on youth work and employment, discussions on the entrepreneurship possibilities among young people, etc., were organized. Among other things, the Youth Council brought forward the benefits of being a member of youth organizations to the young.</i></p>
<p>City Youth Council Maribor</p>	<p>Structured Dialog: Housing Cooperatives</p>	<p><i>Independent living represents one of the key elements for an individual in order to gain independence. Therefore, the purpose of the</i></p>

		<p><i>program was to ascertain the young and other generations' perception in relation to the establishment of housing cooperatives in Maribor. The structured dialog provided potential solutions to the housing issues of young people, whereas all solutions and proposals were recorded in a brochure. The Youth Council prepared a simulation of an operating housing cooperative, thus moving from the theoretical to the practical level.</i></p>
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- **PART B**

This area of action contributed to the implementation of strategic and quantitative objectives set and written in the application for the EYC 2013 (see Chapter 2).

Table 5: Part B Programs

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
Maribor University Sports Association	M.bike	<p><i>The 'M.bike' program introduced a network of information points for cyclists, whereas young people could rent bicycles free-of-charge and explore the city. For this purpose, bicycles were provided by collecting old and discarded bicycles, but also voluntary contributions. Each bicycle was properly restored and uniformly painted.</i></p>
MARŠ – Institute Maribor Students' Radio	Recycling and Reflection	<p><i>The main idea of this program was to inform the public and to promote as well as provide a critical reflection on the events and activities organized within the EYC project.</i></p> <p>Due to non-compliance with obligations, cooperation was suspended in 2013.</p>

<p>Študent Maribor Cultural and Artistic Association</p>	<p>Dance and Sing with Me</p>	<p><i>Young folklorists organized different workshops for the younger and elderly population. The main focus of this program laid in the active participation and encouragement of creativity among unprivileged young people. The program tried to highlight the past times by introducing country life, rustic dances, songs and traditions that were preserved in some parts of Slovenia until today. Visits and workshops at the Department of Pediatrics, retirement homes and the Center for Hearing and Speech were also organized within this program.</i></p>
<p>Lendava Students' Club</p>	<p>Students' Bograč (Goulash) Festival 2013</p>	<p><i>The main objective of this program was to gather as many students from Lendava as possible, to present the Lendava Student's Club and the city of Lendava. Furthermore, Erasmus students cooperated within the event and formed their own cooking team. Consequently, the youth strengthened their competences, developed new potentials and was introduced to the cuisine and culture of the neighboring country Hungary.</i></p>
<p>IndiJanez Cultural Society Youth Center</p>	<p>Listen!</p>	<p><i>The program was aimed towards the unprivileged youth or hearing-impaired young individuals and was based on workshops in which knowledge could be acquired through practical learning. Furthermore, cultural, social, sports and educational events (sign language courses in Slovenian, etc.) were organized that equally incorporated the deaf, hearing-impaired and hearing youth.</i></p>

Association for the Development of Film Culture	We are filming!	<i>'We are filming!' was a cycle of film workshops: animated, documentary, live action and experimental ones.</i>
Scout Society Generation XI. SNOUB	Year of Scout Activities or Scouts in the European Youth Capital	<i>The scouts of the Scout Society Generation XI. SNOUB continued their activities throughout the EYC Maribor 2013. They published a brochure, presented their work and different contents aimed towards young people, but also organized city camps with workshops about scout activities.</i>

- **INTERCULTURAL COOPERATION**

The purpose within this area of action was to encourage and enable intercultural cooperation and intercultural dialog of youth, as well as foster the engagement of young people in various fields of arts.

Table 6: Intercultural Cooperation Program

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
Maribor Art Gallery	UGM Najst	<i>This program stimulated the youth towards active participation in the field of intercultural connection through direct contact with visual arts. Within the program several art workshops, also at schools, and exhibitions were organized.</i>

- **NON – FORMAL EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

Non-formal education is an organized, planned and structured learning process based on learning objectives. It gives the youth the opportunity to develop their competences, knowledge and skills. This area of action encouraged and promoted non-formal education of young people and those employed in youth organizations (youth workers), but also tried to increase the sensitivity of the local environment

concerning youth topics and the acknowledgement of competences and skills acquired through youth work and non-formal education.

Table 7: Non-Formal Education of Young People Programs

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
Maribor Youth Cultural Center	Market of Skills	<i>Market of skills was a form of peer socialization through which the youth exchanged knowledge, skills and abilities. Young people traded with their knowledge. The Maribor Youth Cultural Center also organized a four-day intensive training program with public speaking and improvisation workshops.</i>
OSMICA Youth Center Association	A Taste of Europe in Our Town	<i>The program meant to connect Maribor with other cities and countries, thus several European countries were presented through their language, culture, etc. A list of free, non-formal educational courses in different fields was also compiled.</i>
Maribor Youth Cultural Center	Litera(z)tura	<i>The program stimulated pupils to test themselves in literary creativity, whereas they gained new knowledge, experiences and potentials classical formal education does not offer. Therefore, literary workshops a competition for the best critical short story, appearances, etc., were organized.</i>
ŠOUM – Student Organization of the University of Maribor	Preschool of Politics	<i>The program was very dynamic as it offered several activities and active cooperation with the youth. The Student Organization of the University of Maribor equipped young people with knowledge in the fields of political system performance and political processes. Furthermore, participants were</i>

		<i>motivated towards active political participation, consequently taking responsibility of their own faith. Young instructors and activists of the Municipality of Maribor took the main role by selecting young activists, leading the educational training for young activists, preparing street actions and initiatives, etc.</i>
Association for the Development of Film Culture	European Photo Youth Capital	<i>Young people have acquired knowledge and competences in the field of photography (workshops in the field of digital and classic photography), specialized web-based communication, project management etc. An international exchange, online photography contest and a photography exhibition with the title 'Youth friendly city' were also organized.</i>
Pekarna - Magdalenske mreže – Institute for the Support of Civil Society Initiatives and Multicultural Cooperation	Reading with Aunt Rosa	<i>Through this program a library with a reading room, offering mainly socially engaged literature, was established. Socially transformative forms of education for the youth were implemented in order to enhance the awareness about the importance of creating a critical civilian the Municipality of Maribor that pursued social justice. Lectures and workshops in the field of social-transformative forms of youth education were also organized.</i>
European Cultural and Technological Center Maribor	Youth: Together We Can Create a Better Europe	<i>The main objective of the program was the development, introduction, implementation, promotion and encouragement of innovative and qualitative contents of an experimental nature (natural sciences, technology and culture/art) in the form of non-formal education. Also the underprivileged youth</i>

		<p>was integrated. Several open-air experimental workshops and demonstrations of experiments were conducted, but also new experiments for persons with special needs were developed.</p>
<p>Culture Association Dance Center</p>	<p>Hearing with Eyes</p>	<p>The program focused on the cultural activation of one of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups: the deaf and hearing-impaired. The main objectives were as follows: the detabooization of this underprivileged group in our society, to raise the importance of sign language, to improve cultural engagement of deaf individuals and to foster intercultural dialog. Therefore, Slovenian sign language workshops and numerous dance, drum and photography workshops were organized, followed by the Festival of Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Arts.</p>
<p>Pekarna - Magdalenske mreže – Institute for the Support of Civil Society Initiatives and Multicultural Cooperation</p>	<p>Blades of Grass – Encouraging Solidarity and Creativity</p>	<p>The program consisted of two parts. The first part offered a new learning aid approach and help through creative writing, whereas the second part consisted of workshops that offered solutions to current topical challenges young people encounter in everyday life. Topics, such as memory training, development of creativity, communication skills, conflict and problem resolution, etc., were presented in an entertaining and educational approach. The program encouraged young people to spontaneous and carefree cooperation with each other by supporting each other through learning, offering of learning aid and common resolution of different challenges.</p>

- **VOLUNTEERING**

The EYC Maribor 2013 determined the development and importance of volunteering as one of the key areas of the program. Youth volunteering is important in addition to education and employment, as it is a crucial mechanism of social inclusion. The EYC Maribor 2013 wanted to prove that volunteering does not consist only of unpaid work. Young people with their ideas and suggestions created projects, participated in the organization and implementation of programs, while gaining experience and references. The EYC Maribor 2013 volunteers helped to create and spread awareness of their work on the acquisition of formal knowledge among young people. Furthermore, volunteering was promoted as an alternative in order to gain work experience in these difficult economic times. Activities encouraging volunteering among the youth, the development of measures and activities that could help to increase the visibility and recognition of volunteering at the local level, the establishment of a systematic training approach for volunteers and their mentors, especially in programs where the target audience consists of young people with fewer opportunities, were promoted within this activity area.

Table 8: Volunteering Programs

Organization	Title of the program	The strongest points, achievements of the program
<p>Scientific and Research Association for Art, Cultural and Educational Programs and Technology EPEKA</p>	<p>Together into the EYC 2013</p>	<p><i>The program encouraged local youth to take the initiative and leading roles in the EYC Maribor 2013 projects through cooperation in the organization and implementation of international youth exchanges, trainings for coaches and the hosting of international volunteers, whereas raising awareness about the European citizenship in the perspective of active solidarity and understanding of cultural diversity. The main objective of the project was to raise awareness among young people with voluntary work in order to face and confront problems, conflicts, intolerance, hostility, discrimination and other issues.</i></p>
<p>ŠOUM – Student Organization of the University of Maribor</p>	<p>Active Spring</p>	<p><i>The program consisted of different activities for the youth, who discussed volunteering, humanitarian work and environmental issues. The work of the youth – the brigadiers included as follows: the maintenance of surroundings, tourist and historic trails, helping locals with different tasks (winter cleaning and garden works at the houses for elderly citizens), cleaning and renovation of buildings in the Municipality of Maribor, etc. The main objective was to offer selfless help to the inhabitants of the Municipality of Maribor, consequently foster the</i></p>

		<i>expansion of youth participation in voluntary activities in order to enforce positive perception and solidarity, but also to support fellow citizens.</i>
Slovenian Philanthropy Association for the Promotion of Volunteerism	Every Youngster Can be a Good Volunteer	<i>This program was aimed towards the promotion and development of volunteering amongst the youth from Maribor, especially the integration of a wide range of young people, but also the unprivileged youth. The program offered support and training for young volunteers and their mentors. The program activities consisted of information and consultations for interested volunteers, support for mentors in youth organizations and the promotion of youth voluntariness, but also introduced different possibilities of volunteering, which is not necessarily limited to the field of humanitarian activities.</i>
Maribor Youth Cultural Center	Active Youth	<i>The program focused on organized voluntary work that offered a possibility of effective free-time activities for the Maribor youth. Non-formal education with a qualitative process of training in the field of voluntary work, rights and obligations of volunteers was offered. A rhetoric course, photography workshop, general training for volunteer trainers, etc., were organized.</i>
Maribor Salesian Society Youth Center Association	Giants of Hope	<i>The program tried to establish a connection between one user (the 'small' one) and one of the volunteers (the 'big' one) in their local</i>

		<p><i>environment. The Giants of Hope offered support in the resolution of personal, social, learning, medical and other deficits through communication with the volunteer.</i></p>
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3.2. PROGRAM – PROJECT OFFICE OF THE EYC MARIBOR 2013

The EYC Maribor 2013 autumn program was primarily divided into [four thematic sections](#) (see Appendix 1):

MOBILITY

Local communities, facing the ever changing circumstances of a globalized society, have to invest great effort in order to retain young people and offer them opportunities in the domestic environment. However, they should be aware of the importance of informal youth mobility between different places within a country and across national borders.

EMPLOYMENT

With the implementation of a comprehensive set of activities a suitable environment for the employment and entrepreneurship is created, promoting employment at the local level and contributing to the performance of young people in the labor market.

EDUCATION

The options for the integration of young people in the educational process are crucial to their intellectual development. With the establishment of complementary relationships between formal and non-formal education, we promote life-long learning for young people and contribute to the development of their learning and research potential. The recognition of non-formal education focuses on four fields: formal and political recognition, which can be systemically regulated, and social and personal recognition, which is more oriented towards the identification of the effects of non-formal education. In the presentation the focus was on the formal and political level of non-formal education.

HOUSING ISSUES

As a result of the economic and social situation, young people have fewer opportunities for emancipation and an independent life. Housing issues have to be solved in an innovative way with measures and aids, thus ensuring the autonomy of young people and their social functioning in the local environment.

Throughout the discussion, the results of the analysis of the housing situation in Maribor and the poll results were presented, whereas highlighting the proposal of a 'pilot project cooperative building in Maribor'. In the second part of the discussion, examples of good practice from other cities were presented. The discussion was concluded with the opening of the visiting exhibition on housing cooperatives in Austria.

3.3. PROGRAM - VARIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Beside the primary part of the program, there was also a secondary part that consisted of various activities for young people, such as festivals, conferences, seminars, sports and other events.

- In November 2012, the Municipality of Maribor hosted the **General Assembly of the European Youth Forum** in cooperation with the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 office and the Office of Culture and Youth at the Municipality of Maribor. The European Youth Forum is the umbrella organization of European youth, which connects 99 international non-governmental youth organizations and national councils. 300 participants from all Europe attended the General Assembly. They accepted opinions on different subjects concerning the future of youth in Europe, such as the rights of young people, the quality of non-formal education, etc., and elected new leadership for the period between 2013 and 2014.

The hosting of the General Assembly was considered as an informal opening of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013.

- **Official opening of the European Youth Capital 2013 Maribor**

The center of Maribor, the Leon Štukelj square, hosted the best world skiers, excellent music and thousands of young people. With the closure of the 49th

Golden Fox Ski World Cup for Women on January 26, 2013, the official opening ceremony of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 took place.

➤ The opening of the **EYC Maribor 2013 Cultural Information Center (CIC)**

The official opening coincided with the exhibition of works by Matija Bobičič, a representative of the young generation of painters from Maribor. On the day of opening, April 9, 2013, activities for the youth were organized during the whole day.

The CIC provided young people with all information on youth organizations, youth actions, programs and projects of the EYC Maribor. Various workshops, seminars and activities by youth for the youth were organized in the CIC premises. Young creative artists also used it as an exhibition venue for their works of art.

➤ **Bring – Take Action**

The main purpose of this action was the exchange of useful items (clothes, footwear, accessories, school supplies, books, toys, etc.). People brought items from home and if they found something for themselves, they had to pay EUR 0.50 or more and contribute to the renovation of playground equipment. This action was developed and implemented by the EYC Maribor 2013 volunteers. The project took place during the Lent Festival, between June 21 and July 6, 2013. Due to the extraordinary demand, it was carried out again in November 2013.

➤ The EYC Maribor 2013 also raised the question of **urban subcultures in the city**. The Maribor urban community is expanding every year, connecting a large number of children, young persons and the elderly, who are involved in various urban activities such as skateboarding, skating, action sports photography, recording and the creation of short films, rap, etc. A temporary skate park was set up in the city center in September 2013, raising the discussion about the necessity of a skating park in Maribor.

○ **Discussion: Skating park in Maribor**

Shapers of the Maribor subculture along with the EYC Maribor 2013 and the civil initiative RE: FRESH presented to the mayor of Maribor and his staff the necessity of urban space regulation. The event happened on September 17, 2013.

○ **Graffiti in the City**

In 2013, Maribor in cooperation with the Austrian cities of Graz and Leoben carried out a project of cultural integration in the field of music and dance under the title Graffiti in the City. The project objectives were to promote the art and creativity of young people in partner regions, networking, integration of other cultures, exploration of other cultures and linking the interests of young people from both countries. 19 participants from Maribor, selected by non-governmental organizations within the EYC Maribor 2013 project, traveled to Leoben. Upon arriving home and on the basis of the generated ideas, 11 young graffiti artists were given the unique opportunity to furnish and breathe life into the Titova Street underpass with their art. Therefore, the Titova Street underpass walls were renovated and refreshed with graffiti, whereas proclaimed the first legal graffiti wall in the city. A lasting memory of the EYC Maribor was created.

➤ **Youth in Action**

The EYC Maribor 2013 was also a partner of the Youth in Action program which the European Union set up for young people. Its main objectives were to inspire the sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in the shaping of the Union's future. Not only mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialog were promoted, but also the employability and the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their education, social and cultural backgrounds were encouraged within this program. The permanent priorities of the Youth in Action program are as follows: European citizenship, participation of young people, cultural diversity and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. The EYC Maribor 2013 was funded through the Training and Cooperation Plan (TCP) of the Youth in Action program, granted directly by Slovenia's national agency for the Youth in Action Program.

1. Euro-Polis was a project supported and funded by the EU Youth in Action program. The Euro-Polis projects was developed by the EYC Braga in cooperation with the EYC Maribor 2013 and eight European partners from Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Spain and Lithuania. Each partner organized a seminar on youth related issues: European citizenship, unemployment, creativity and

entrepreneurship. The closing seminar, where the final document was written and presented to European decision-makers, was held in Braga. Within the scope of the project several debates with young people, lectures, seminars, discussions on various topics, sharing of experiences were organized, where participants gained new skills in teamwork and the generation of ideas. Events were held between:

- September 7 and 9, 2012;
- September 10 and October 29, 2012;
- October 25 and 31, 2012.

2. Youth exchange: 'Discover the Diversity and Excitement through Sport'

This youth exchange took place in Maribor between May 11 and 19, 2013. The topic of the project was related to sports, therefore groups of young people from Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Malta and Turkey engaged in activities such as slacklining, climbing, archery, orienteering and several others.

3. Connect Youth – Connect Europe

Between September 20 and 24, 2013, the training and networking project 'Connect Youth – Connect Europe' aimed towards individuals in the field youth work and youth organization was hosted and organized by the EYC Maribor 2013 under the Youth in Action program. This training connected youth leaders, EVS mentors and other participants, who are active in the field of youth work, from Slovenia, Romania, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Turkey and Spain. The central themes of the training were the integration young people with fewer opportunities, informal learning and the promotion of mobility throughout Europe.

4. FEXUGA

FEXUGA is an Association of Galician youth societies with extensive experience in the implementation of the Youth in Action program, not only in Europe but also in America. The main objective of the association is to ensure support to the members of the associations and assist in the development of activities, programs and projects. The FEXUGA association focuses on topics such as migration, discrimination, culture and the environment.

- 'The Creation of the European Youth Capital' (April 23 to 28, 2013): This seminar promoted by Fexuga, Xunta de Galicia, several non-governmental

organizations, former, future and candidate cities for the European Youth Capital title was based on the exchange of experiences between former European Youth Capitals with emphasis on topics such as the achievements of the EYC project, but also tools for encouragement of young people to participate and attainment of a European dimension. In order to ensure diversity of experience within the project, participants from Varna, Maribor, Rotterdam, Turin, Braga and La Coruña were invited. The project was supported by the EU Youth in Action program.

- **‘Young People with Opportunities, Young People with Future’** (September 6 to 11, 2013): This Youth in Action seminar was held and organized by the FEXUGA association in the city of La Coruña in Galicia, Spain.

Due to the precarious situation of young people nowadays as a consequence of the economic crisis, various organizations decided to join forces in order to address this reality with all possible means. They wanted to respond to the needs of young people by utilizing one of the most valuable tools: the human capital of technical youth workers, youth leaders and cultural leaders, thus all these people needed resources and strategies before their first approach towards young people which may lead to the implementation of an individual or group action plan for and with young people.

Since in many cases working with public institutions does not proceed smoothly, resources do not always reach their recipients. Two municipalities with extensive experience in the field of youth have been invited for participation: the Municipality of Maribor and the Municipality of La Coruña.

5. European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The EYC Maribor 2013 office obtained Youth in Action funding for the project ‘Co-create the EYC Maribor 2013’ through the Action 2 – European Voluntary Service. Maribor was one of the first municipalities to obtain an accreditation for EVS.

EVS is a program of the European Union in the field of European youth cooperation. The EYC Maribor 2013 hosted two EVS volunteers: Pedro from Portugal and Laura from Italy. Other organizations that participated in the EYC Maribor 2013 project also hosted EVS volunteers who helped to co-create the

EYC Maribor 2013: EPeKA hosted 2, KMŠ and EKTC 1 volunteer. Between EUR 8,000.00 and 15,000.00 were granted for these actions, through which European citizenship and active participation of the youth in the implementation of the EYC Maribor 2013 project were encouraged.

➤ **Europe for Citizens: From YU to EU**

In the framework of 'European Youth Capital 2013', which was hosted by the Municipality of Maribor in 2013, the project 'From YU to EU' was carried out under the 'Europe for Citizens' program. The main objective was to strengthen the bonds between Maribor's twinned towns and other former Yugoslavian republics through long-term and productive cooperation in the field of employment. 3 events were prepared within the scope of the project, whereas all took place in Maribor:

- September 30 to October 4, 2013 – [Employment in Europe and European Citizenship](#);
- December 1 to 5, 2014 – [Employment in Slovenia, the EU and partner countries](#);
- April 6 to 10, 2014 – [Project Conclusion and Future Strategies](#).

➤ **From Active Citizenship to EuroCitizenship**

The common project of the Community Foundation and the Municipality of Bardejov: 'From Active Citizenship to EuroCitizenship' was developed within the framework of the European Commission's 'Europe for Citizens' program. The main purpose of the project was to encourage citizens of towns to participate in the project, contribute to the shaping of a more interactive Europe, to develop the EU citizenship through exchange of experience and cultural diversity. One of the events was also held in Maribor:

- October 23 to 25, 2013 – [Workshop: Young people](#).

➤ **My Generation at work**

The Municipality of Maribor is a partner of the 'My Generation at work' project, which is carried out under the auspices of the European program URBACT for promotion of sustainable urban development. The project takes place in twelve partner cities from May 2012 to April 2015, whereas the city of Rotterdam is the project operator. The main objective of the project is to promote and foster youth

employability in a changing labor market. Special emphasis is devoted to the development of entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, approaches and views of youth in connection with companies, educational institutions, employment agencies and local authorities.

- **How to encourage cooperation in StartUp entrepreneurship projects in the university city of Maribor**

Within the framework of the project 'My Generation at Work' and the EYC Maribor 2013 project, solutions for entrepreneurship activation of young talents in Maribor were sought. Therefore, a public discussion on the development of an effective development environment for startup companies in Maribor was organized on October 14, 2013.

- **Housing Cooperative: Alternative solutions for housing issues**

Throughout the discussion, the results of the analysis of the housing situation in Maribor and the poll results were presented, whereas highlighting the proposal of a 'pilot project cooperative building in Maribor'. In the second part of the discussion, examples of good practice from other cities were presented. The discussion was concluded with the opening of the visiting exhibition on housing cooperatives from Austria. This event, which was part of the EYX Maribor 2013 program, was held on November 14, 2013, in the Cultural Information Center.

- **The contribution of municipalities towards the objectives of the National Program for Youth and the award of Youth Friendly Cities certificates for the period 2013–2017**

The Youth Council of Ajdovščina in cooperation with the Community of Municipalities of Slovenia and the EYC Maribor 2013, under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, awarded certificates to youth friendly cities. Such certification was awarded for the first time in Europe. The Municipality of Maribor is a crucial member of the strategic cooperation of municipalities for the certification of the youth friendly cities. On November 28, 2013, the Municipality of Maribor hosted the award ceremony for the certification of the youth friendly cities for the year 2013.

➤ **December 2013: Magical December**

In December, Maribor was once again overcome with festive spirits. Throughout the month of December, city squares and streets, invited people to have a look at more than thirty festive stands offering unique products. The biggest Slovenian square hosted a series of concerts and the city was adorned with numerous magical events that took place on fairy tale squares, streets and courtyards. Furthermore, [28 outdoor concerts](#) were organized.

The EYC Maribor 2013 proved to be an opportunity for young artists to exhibit and sell their own products at the [Christmas fair](#). Young artists could also showcase their skills, innovative and artistic spirit. Their unique products diversified the range of Christmas gifts offered on the streets of Maribor.

Within the framework of the Magical December, [Creative Workshops for the Production of Christmas Cards](#) were also organized. Random passers-by with the assistance of the EYC Maribor 2013 volunteers were encouraged to produce unique Christmas cards in a pleasant atmosphere, which were later distributed to random persons on the streets of Maribor.

In cooperation with [UNICEF](#), the EYC Maribor 2013 volunteers prepared and distributed packages with small treats at primary schools, which were given to children from socially deprived families.

With the conclusion of the EYC Maribor 2013 project, the exhibition [‘We have been Co-Creating Opportunities in the Year of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013’](#) was opened. Photos and different material about the EYC Maribor 2013 were selected with the help of the EYC Maribor 2013 organizations and volunteers, thus comparing the city of Maribor during the EYC 2013 and before that time.

The city of Maribor in 2013 counted more than [4800 overnight stays](#) related to different activities for young people in the European youth capital year.

4 RESULTS

The effectiveness and efficiency of the project are expressed through the achievement of the stated objectives. For the monitoring of the program results the following indicators were used:

Result indicators that reflect the level of involvement of young people and youth organizations:

- The number of young people from the Municipality of Maribor, who actively participated in the preparation and implementation of the activities,
- The number of young people from EU countries, who were actively involved in the preparation and implementation of the activities,
- The number of young people with fewer opportunities actively involved in the preparation and implementation of the activities,
- The number of projects that met the following criteria: joint development of the project, mutual preparation and implementation of the project, common staff (the term common refers to a young person and/or youth organizations and/or the Municipality of Maribor and/or other entities of the Municipality of Maribor),
- The number of successfully registered projects by youth organizations in the Youth in Action and Europe for Citizens programs,
- The number of projects that enhanced the cooperation between youth organizations at the local level,
- The number of project proposals submitted to tenders and appeals,
- The number of activities carried out by the local community Youth Council,
- The total number of participants in the activities.

Result indicators that reflect the success of cross-border cooperation:

- The number of projects carried out and prepared by at least two EU countries.

The results of the indicators that are reflected through the promotion of the program:

- The number of visitors on the program website,
- The number of responses on web networks,
- The amount of distributed promotional and informational material,
- The number of publications in the media,
- The number of international promotional events.

Result indicators that reflect the sustainability of the program:

- The number of new jobs in the youth sector after 2013,
- The number of new jobs due to the implementation of the ideas of young people,
- The number of newly established ways of participation for young people in the local environment,
- The number of public and private organizations that recognize the competences and skills acquired through youth work,
- The number of new youth programs to be implemented after 2013,
- The number of new memberships to youth organizations,
- The amount of implemented ideas of young people,
- The amount of financial resources in the Local Fund for youth.

In 2008, *the Office of Culture and Youth of the Municipality of Maribor* was established which covers the area of youth in the local community, thereby providing regulatory and other conditions for the development of proper content and fostering involvement of young people in policy-shaping processes. Furthermore, it encourages the active participation of young people, ensures co-financing of projects, programs and youth organizations and invests in youth infrastructure.

Acts adopted by the Municipality of Maribor: Ordinance on Youth in the Municipality of Maribor, Regulations on Co-Financing Youth Activities and the Commission for Youth Affairs. Their purpose lies in targeted and systematic work in the field of youth, while *ensuring the participation of young people* and their representatives within the local community.

The *budget approved for 2013 amounted to EUR 728,661.00* of which EUR 450,000.00 were allocated to the public tender for co-financing of new programs in the youth sector for the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013. Due to the limited budget, youth organizations were compelled to streamlining of the program. Nevertheless, only slight modifications to project content were made, whereas the majority of the organizations limited their budget for promotion and publications. Therefore, all selected programs were implemented and successfully carried out. Only one program had to be withdrawn from the call for tenders due to insufficient financial resources.

Moreover, the municipality recognized the importance of sustainable programs of the EYC Maribor 2013, therefore a budget of EUR 150,000.00 was approved for sustainable programs in 2014.

Within the EYC Maribor 2013, cooperation with numerous **twinned cities** was intensified. Consequently, 50 young people from **Kraljevo (Serbia)** visited Maribor on a study visit in order to gain knowledge about youth organizations, youth workers and the youth in rural areas, whereas Slovenian comic artists attended an art exhibition in **Osijek (Croatia)**. Young people from Maribor attended a four-day workshop with the title 'Graffiti in the City', which was organized in cooperation with the twinned town of **Graz (Austria)**. The project enabled young people to artistically express themselves through the hip-hop culture.

The EYC Maribor 2013 also cooperated with other cities, especially cities that hosted or will be hosting the EYC, such as the cities of Rotterdam, Turin, Antwerp, Braga, Thessaloniki and Cluj-Napoca, whose representatives attended the '**European Youth Capital and its Link to EU Policy**' seminar. Maribor also participated in the project **EuroPolis** together with the city of Braga and other cities. Braga, Turin, Cluj-Napoca and other city partners also participated, together with Maribor, in the project '**Connect Youth, Connect Europe**'. Among other cities, Thessaloniki and Cluj-Napoca cooperated in the project '**Discover the Diversity and Excitement through Sport**'. One of the organizations financed through the call for tenders for the EYC Maribor 2013, the Association for the Development of Film Culture, cooperated, among other, with Thessaloniki on the '**European Photo Youth Capital**' project.

The EYC Maribor 2013 had 12 programs dedicated specifically to the topic of **active participation of the youth**. One of the programs in another category, the **Municipal Youth Parliament**, was aimed towards the promotion of participation of young people in democratic decision-making systems, whereas the program represented a framework within which as many decisions and activities as possible were left to the young.

The EYC Maribor 2013 encompassed 9 programs dedicated to **non-formal education** (Market of Skills, A Taste of Europe in Our Town, Litera(z)tura, School of Politics,

European Photo Youth Capital, Reading with Aunt Rosa, Youth: Together We Can Create a Better Europe, Hearing with Eyes, Blades of Grass) and 4 programs that incorporated **intergenerational dialog** into their activities (Recycling and Reflection, Dance and Sing with Me, We are Filming!, Year of Scout Activities/Scouts in the European Youth Capital).

The EYC Maribor 2013 had 11 programs dedicated to the **increasing of employability and employment among the youth**. These programs were successfully carried out, as they were well perceived and the attendance of young people was really high.

Besides these programs, the EYC Maribor 2013 was part of the **URBACT 'My Generation at Work'** project with the main objective to promote and foster the employability of young people in a changing labor market, with special focus on enterprising skills and attitudes.

Several programs integrated multicultural aspects into their activities, among them: I Take Europe!, The Footsteps of Maribor, Strengthening of International Youth Work and The Rainbows of the World. The **Youth in Action program 'Connect Youth – Connect Europe'** was dedicated towards the social inclusion of youngsters with fewer opportunities. The Roma society Romano Pralipe Maribor was actively involved in this project. The **'Resolution on Creating Better Conditions for the Inclusion and Participation of Young People with Fewer Opportunities'** was written as a result of this project (see Appendix 2).

Within the Youth in Action program, **two EVS volunteers from Portugal and Italy participated in the EYC**. Additionally, 2 volunteers from France also participated with the help of the ZNI Institute for New Age Education.

Maribor hosted the **General Assembly of the European Youth Forum** and the **ESN General Assembly**. Cooperation with twinned cities and future and former European Youth Capitals should also be mentioned.

Young people, who wanted to shape the EYC Maribor 2013, could **become volunteers**. Young people were especially keen on implementing their ideas, for

example: presentation of the EYC Maribor 2013 program, art exhibitions, and workshops on time management and about project organization, Christmas card workshops.

Two members officially represented the EYC Maribor 2013 in the **No-Hate Speech Movement** national committee. The No-Hate Speech Movement is an online youth campaign promoting human rights, which is run by the Council of Europe's youth sector from 2012 to 2015. It aims to combat online racism and discrimination by equipping young people and youth organizations with the competences necessary to recognize and act against such human rights violations. The movement follows the Council of Europe tradition of youth campaigns, notably the 'All Different – All Equal' campaign.

Additional information about the EYC Maribor 2013 activities was provided through the following:

- Website: <http://www.mb2013.si/>,
- Facebook page: <https://sl-si.facebook.com/mb2013si>,
- Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/Maribor2013EPM>.

Several EYC Maribor 2013 activities and programs were also mentioned in the local **Večer newspaper**, on the **Radios** and on the **TV Maribor** broadcasting station.

The Table 9 represents the target quantitative objectives in comparison to the achieved quantitative objectives. Some of the objectives were difficult to measure.

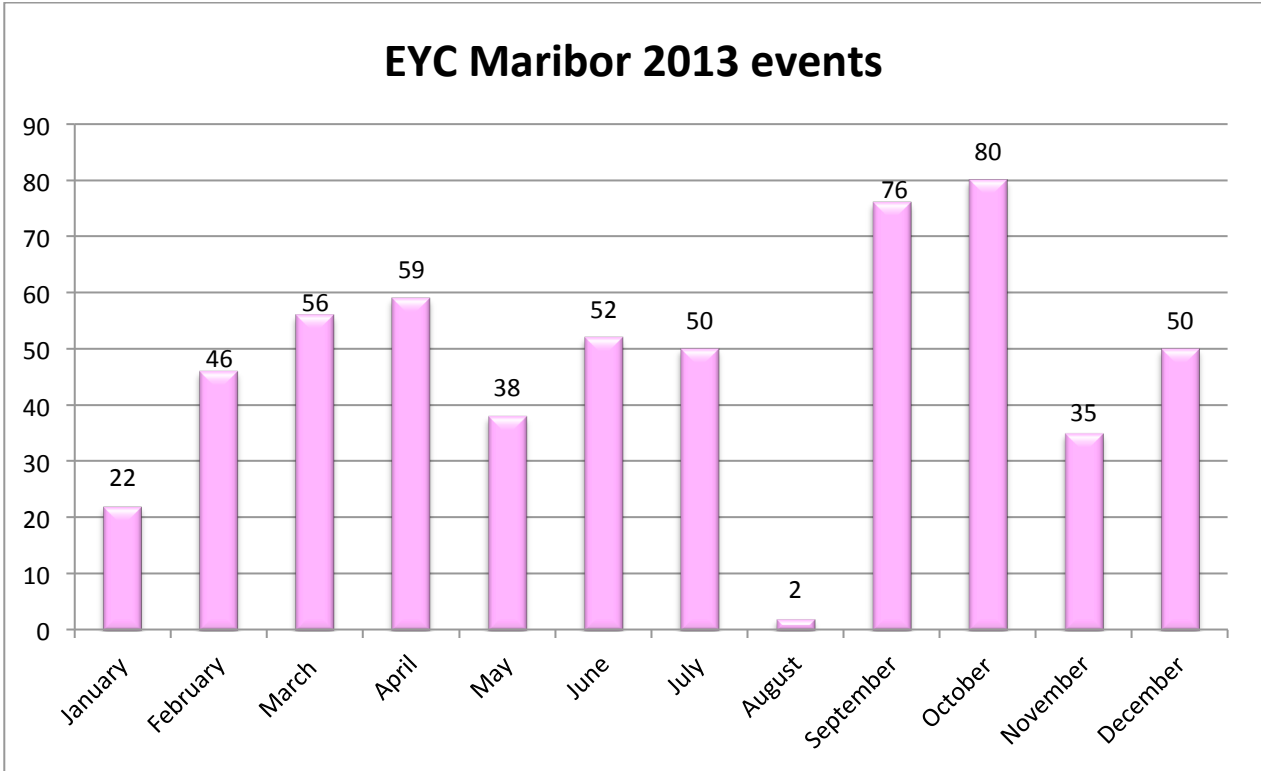
Table 9: Target and Achieved Quantitative Objectives

Target quantitative objectives	Achieved quantitative objectives
Active participation of at least 50–60 % of the youth aged between 15 and 29 in the preparation and implementation of the EYC 2013 program.	About 1,100 young people actively participated in the preparation and implementation of the EYC Maribor 2013 program.
Involvement of 80 % of young people as participants in one of the EYC Maribor 2013 program activities.	The presence of young people was monitored and recorded at specific events, but not at mass events.
Develop and establish 8 long-term youth programs to be implemented after 2013 in cooperation with young people, among them at least 2 in the fields of employment and housing policy for young people.	28 organizations will continue their programs after 2013.
Develop and establish at least 2 new international youth programs, which will be continued after 2013.	11 organizations will continue their programs after 2013.
Convince 2,000 young people from the European Union countries to visit Maribor during the preparation and implementation of the EYC 2013 program.	More than 2,600 young people from all around Europe visited Maribor.
Enable employment of 200 young people from the Municipality of Maribor on the basis of enhanced and acquired competences, skills and (learning) expertise.	22 young people were employed by the organizations in which they participated. 14 startups, 1 NGO and self-employments were established in the field of employability. On the basis of enhanced and acquired competences, at least 5 young people were employed in the public or private sector as well as NGOs.
Strengthen the role of the Youth Council, which brings together 90 % of youth organizations within	Increase of financial assets from EUR 12,000.00 to 15,000.00 .

the Municipality of Maribor.	
Increase the number of youth organizations within the Municipality of Maribor by 50 % and increase their membership by 20 % in comparison to the year 2010.	This objective was not reached, thus membership in youth organizations increased for about 5 % .
Improve the participation of young people and youth organizations in the Youth in Action program and the Europe for Citizens program by 300 % in comparison to the year 2009.	The participation in the Youth in Action program and the Europe for citizens program has increased, but we cannot provide exact numbers.
Develop and establish the <i>Youth-Friendly City</i> 'brand'.	The Municipality of Maribor was awarded the Youth-Friendly City certificate in 2012 as one only 13 municipalities . Furthermore, the Municipality of Maribor hosted the award ceremony for the certification of the youth friendly cities for the year 2013.

The Chart 1 represents the timeline of the events during the EYC Maribor 2013. Around **600 events** were organized throughout that year. Due to the national summer holidays and the ongoing preparations for autumn activities, only a few events took place in August.

Chart 1: Timeline of Events of the EYC Maribor 2013



5 EVALUATION BY LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations with their programs have had an important role in the shaping of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 project. Therefore, participating organizations were invited to contribute to the evaluation processes of the project assessment and to present their proposals for improvements in the preparation and implementation of similar projects in the future.

The EYC Maribor 2013 evaluation questionnaire was composed in electronic form and sent to 35 organizations via e-mail. 29 organizations completed the questionnaire amounting to 82.86 % of the total sample.

The EYC Maribor 2013 evaluation questionnaire consisted of 4 sets of questions, namely: the first set accumulated general information about the organization and contribution of the organization's programs to the city of Maribor during the EYC Maribor 2013; the second part questioned the satisfaction with communication and supply of information between the Municipality of Maribor and the organizations during the preparation and implementation process of the EYC Maribor 2013 project; the third set of questions was related to the attainment of the stated EYC Maribor 2013 objectives; the fourth part assessed the overall satisfaction with the project and the possibilities of further cooperation. Open- and closed-type questions were used in the questionnaire, whereas the data was analyzed with the help of Microsoft Excel. For the list of participating organizations in the evaluation process and the evaluation questionnaire see Appendix 3 and 4.

As mentioned above, 29 organizations working in the field of youth in the Municipality of Maribor and at the state level have contributed to the evaluation. In the first set of questions organizations referred to general information about the organization and presented their contribution to the EYC 2013.

The programs and activities prepared by organizations for the EYC Maribor 2013 provided the city of Maribor with a touch of youthfulness and liveliness. Therefore, the organizations promoted intergenerational cooperation and intercultural integration, spread awareness about the environmental conservation and a healthy lifestyle. A significant number of young people, who were participating in the EYC Maribor 2013 project, attained significant experience enforcing independent lifestyle.

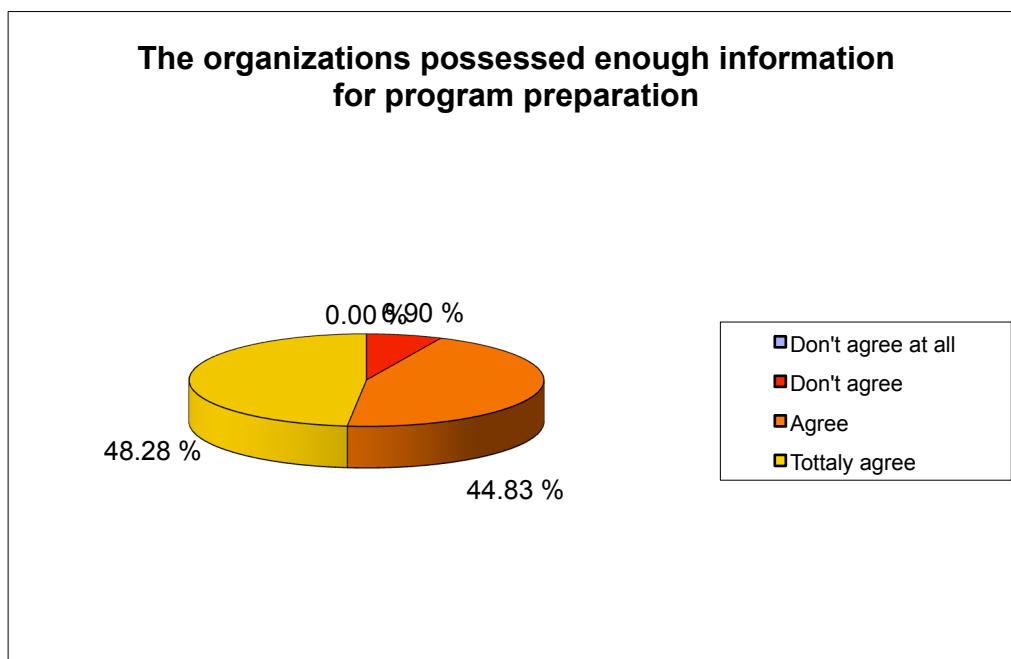
With the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities and by spreading the awareness of young people about the situation of young people with fewer opportunities, their struggle for greater independence and self-esteem enhancement was supported. A **new generation of young photographers** has emerged in the city, whereas their photos took the beauty of the city to other places in Slovenia, but also abroad. Young people were enabled to spread their social networks and become more susceptible to events in local, national and European environments.

All programs by organizations were prepared in cooperation with young people who participated in voluntary activities and in such a way promoted **the importance of volunteering among young people**.

The second set of questions referred to the communication between organizations and the Municipality of Maribor during the preparation of the EYC Maribor 2013 project.

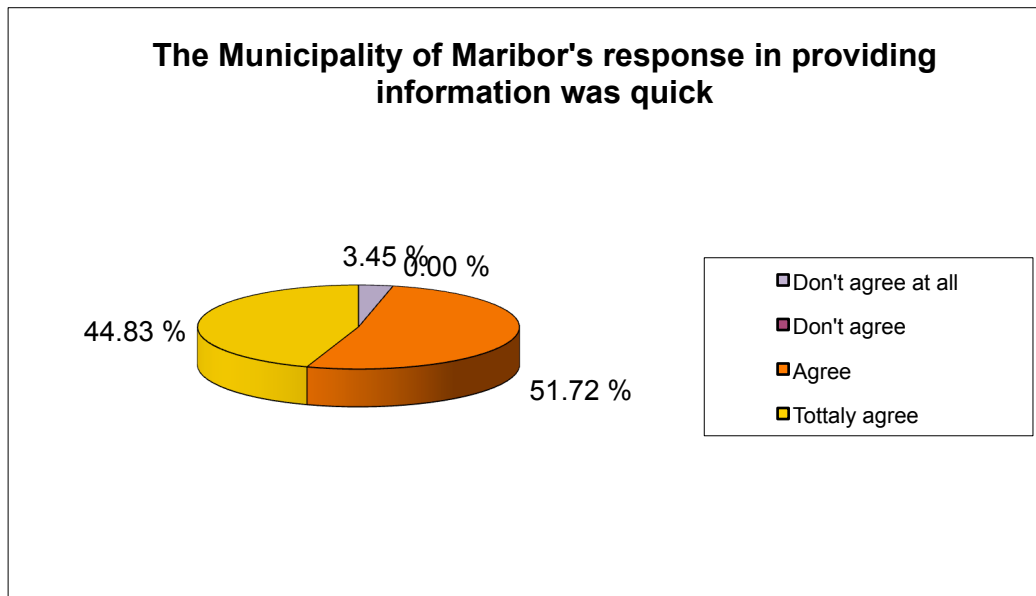
The Chart 2 showcases that 6.90 % of organizations did not possess enough information for program preparation, while 93.10 % of them had enough information in order to prepare their programs.

Chart 2: The Amount of Information for Program Preparation



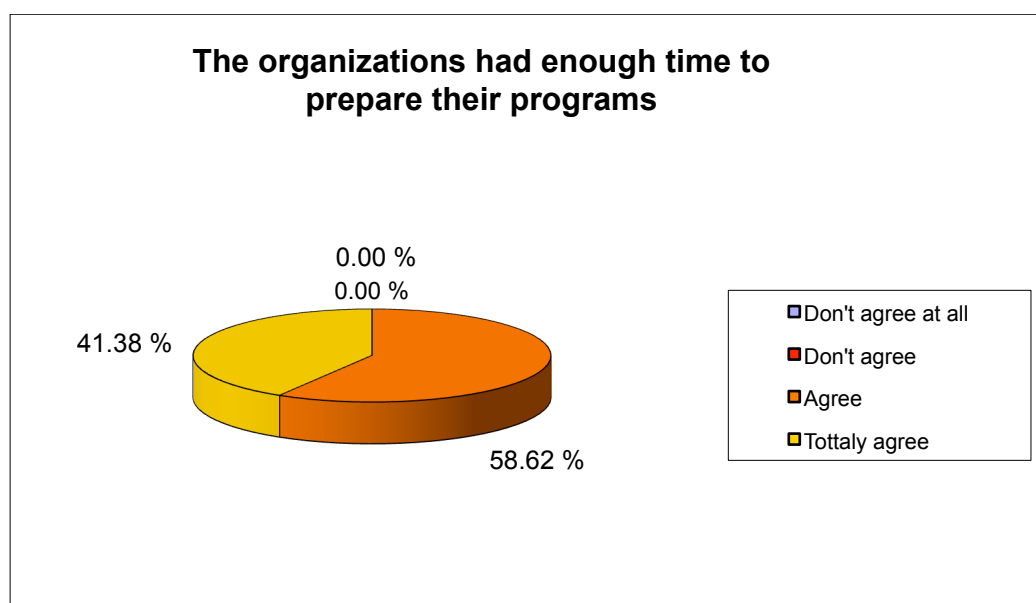
The Chart 3 represents that organizations agree that the Municipality of Maribor's response in providing information was quick, whereas only 3.45 % of the organizations do not agree with such a statement.

Chart 3: The Municipality of Maribor's response in providing information



It is evident from the Chart 4 that organizations were given enough time to prepare their programs. 58.62 % of the organizations agreed with this statement, whereas 41.38 % completely agreed that they had enough time to prepare their programs.

Chart 4: The Amount of Time for Program Preparation



The third set of questions was related to the **attainment of the stated EYC Maribor 2013 objectives**.

More than **1,100 young people** aged between 15 and 29 were involved in the preparation and implementation of the EYC Maribor 2013 project.

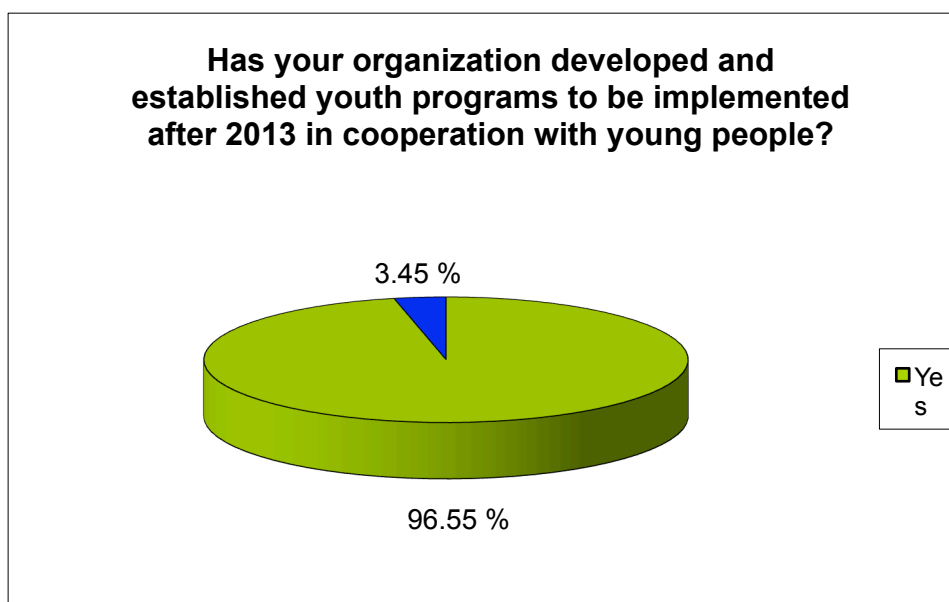
The **total number of members** in organizations in 2013 compared to 2010 increased by about **500**. Unfortunately, the exact number cannot be determined, because organizations did not forward sufficient data.

During the preparation and implementation of the EYC Maribor 2013 programs more than **2.600 young people** from **all over Europe** visited the city of Maribor, whereas about 500 attended the International Students' Conference.

22 young people were employed within 13 organizations on the basis of the acquired competences, skills and knowledge within the framework of individual organizations. In most cases, they received community work placements, whereas others through different forms of employment, thus, unfortunately, not exactly defined by the organizations.

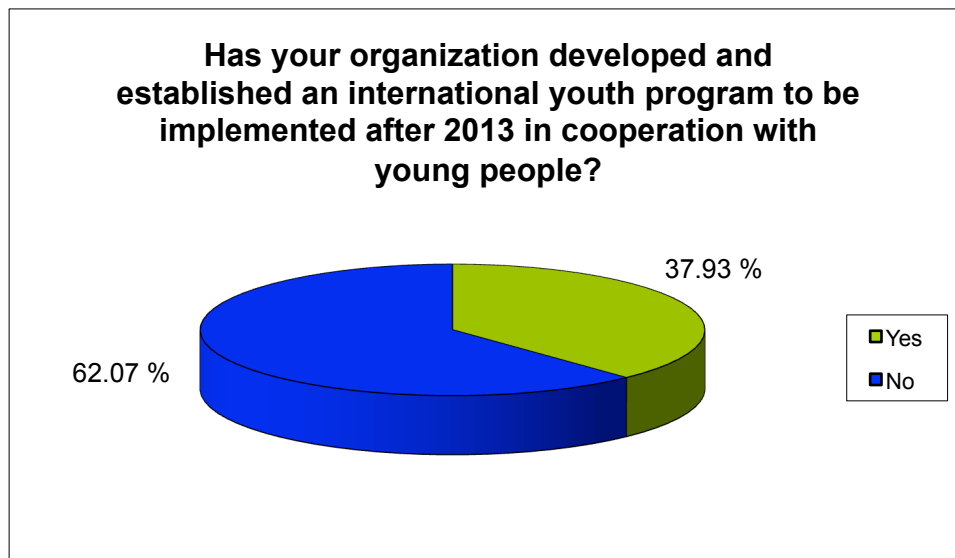
The Chart 5 showcases the proportion of organizations that developed and established youth programs to be implemented after 2013 in cooperation with young people. 96.55 % of youth organizations will continue their programs after 2013.

Chart 5: Development of a Youth Program



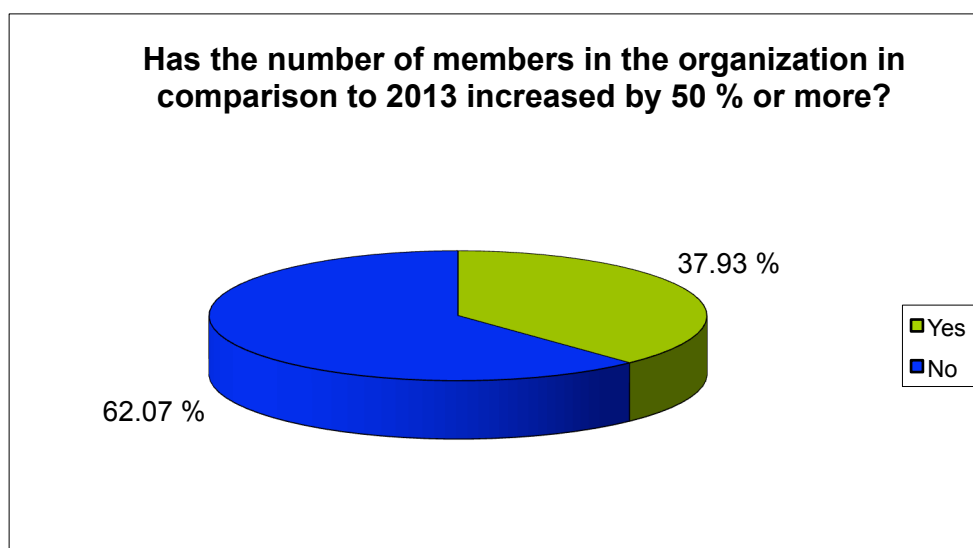
The Chart 6 illustrates the proportion of organizations that developed and established an international youth program to be implemented after 2013 in cooperation with young people. 37.93 % of the organizations have developed and established such programs, whereas 62.07 % did not develop such programs.

Chart 6: Development of an International Youth Program



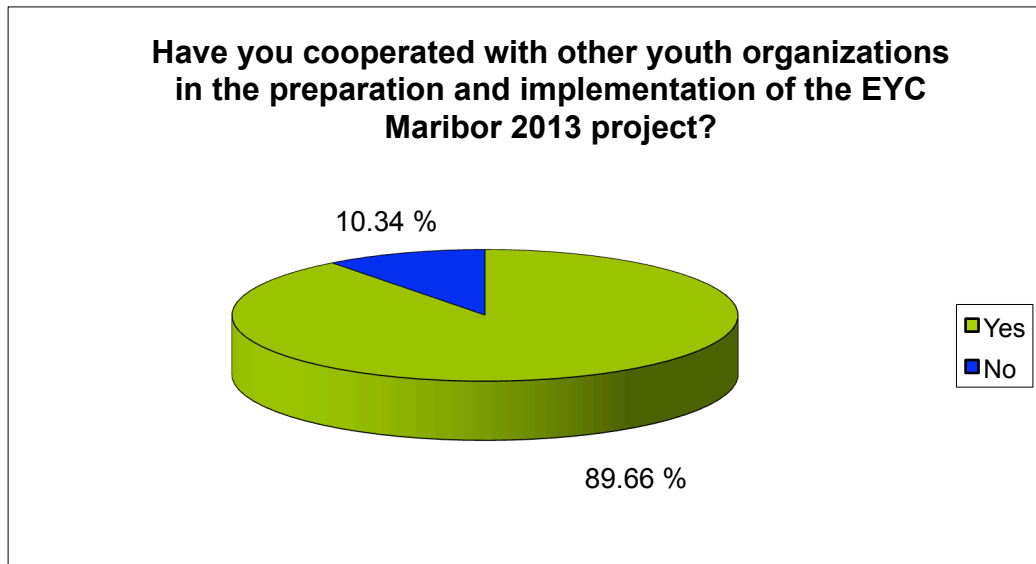
The answer whether the number of members in the organization in comparison to 2010 has increased by 50 % or more is displayed in the Chart 7. The number of members increased by 50 % or more in 62.07 % of the organizations, whereas 37.93 % of the organizations did not reach that objective. Furthermore, it has to be stated that some organizations do not avail in a classical form of membership.

Chart 7: Increasing Number of Members



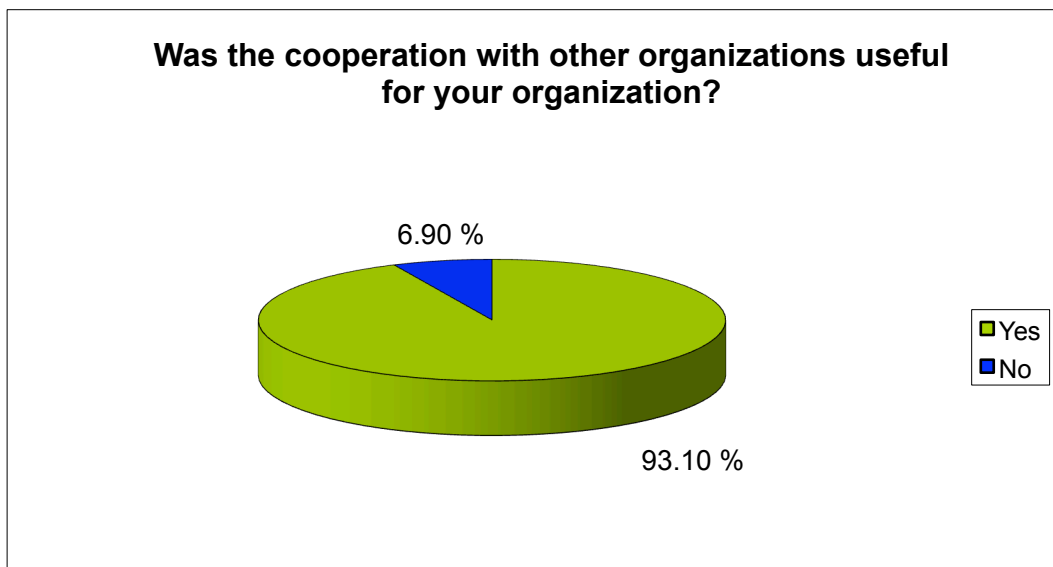
89.66 % of the organizations cooperated with other organizations in the preparation and implementation of the EYC Maribor 2013 project. The Chart 8 showcases that only 10.34 % of the organizations did not cooperate with other organizations in the preparation and implementation of the project.

Chart 8: Cooperation with Other Organizations



The Chart 9 illustrates whether the cooperation with other organizations was worthy, meaningful or useful. 93.10 % of the organizations consider the cooperation and networking with other organizations as important, while 6.90 % of the organizations think that such cooperation was not useful or significant.

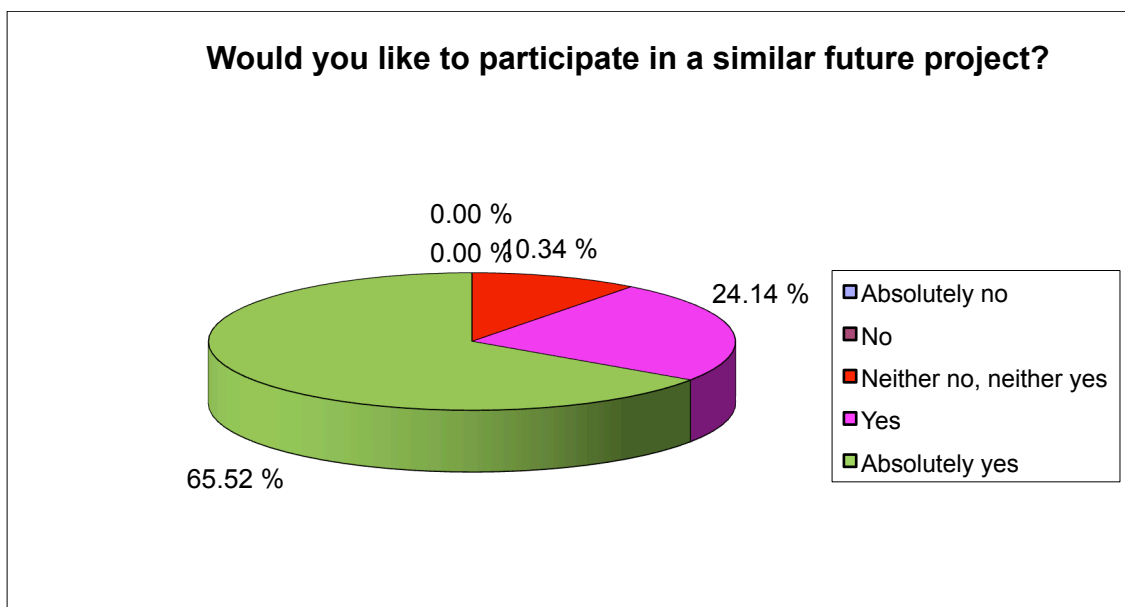
Chart 9: Importance of Cooperation between Organizations



The fourth set of questions attained the **overall satisfaction with the EYC Maribor 2013 project** among organizations and the opportunities for future cooperation in similar projects. At the end of the questionnaire, organizations could share their suggestions and proposals for improvements in the preparation and implementation of similar projects. The organizations were also asked about their opinion on the contribution to the EYC Maribor 2013 project concerning the functioning of the youth sector in Maribor.

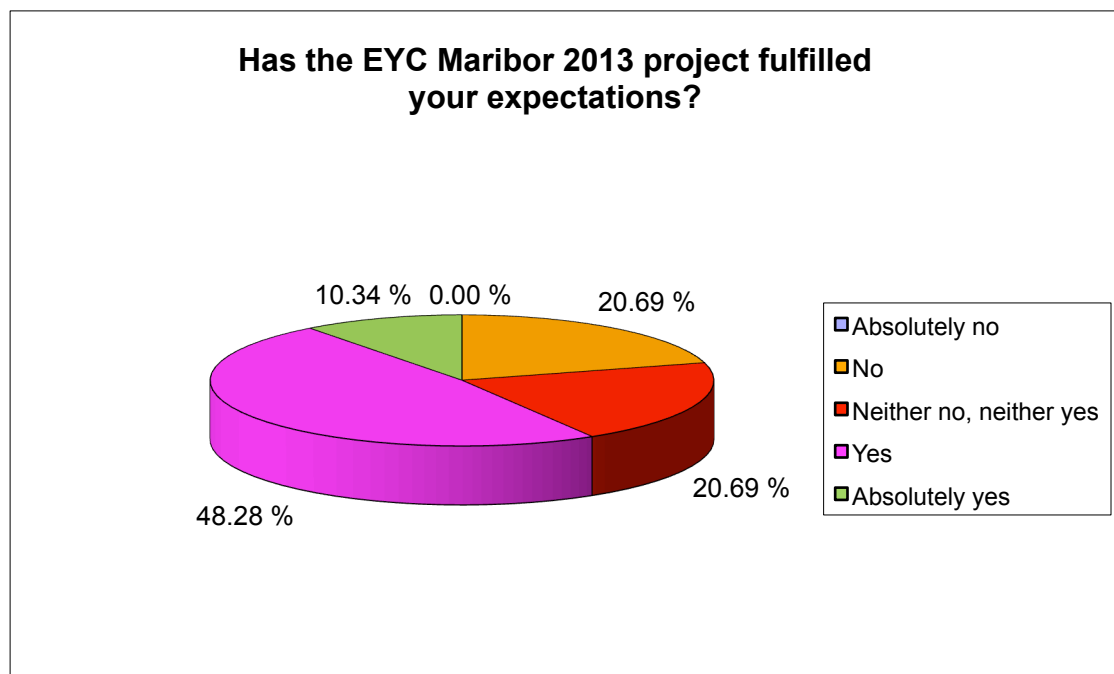
The Chart 10 showcases the proportion of organizations that wish to participate in similar future projects. 89.66 % of the organizations would participate in such projects, whereas 10.34 % would have to consider it.

Chart 10: Participation in a Similar Future Project



The EYC Maribor 2013 completely fulfilled the expectations of 10.34 % of the organizations, 48.28 % of the organizations agreed that the project met their expectations, whereas 20.69 % of the organizations could not decide. Nevertheless, the project did not fulfil the expectations of 20.69 % of the organizations. This proportion can be seen in the Chart 11.

Chart 11: Fulfillment of the Expectations for the EYC Maribor 2013 Project



In the last set of questions the organizations had to decide whether the EYC Maribor 2013 project contributed to the functioning of the youth field in Maribor. Their opinions are summarized in the following paragraph.

Most organizations agreed that the EYC Maribor 2013 project contributed to the functioning of the youth field in Maribor, thus there are still plenty of opportunities for improvement and better utilization of such projects.

Positive effects, indicated by the organizations:

- Cooperation and networking between organizations,
- Preparation and implementation of new projects, the realization of new ideas from the youth and active participation of young people,
- Increased involvement of young people with fewer opportunities,
- Young people gained new skills, knowledge and competences,
- The needs of young people were shifted to the center of activities,
- Better recognition of youth organizations.

Negative effects, according to the organizations:

- Reduced quality and quantity of programs due to the financial and temporal uncertainty of the project,

- Incompetent project management during the first half of the year,
- Political changes in the city,
- A lot of bureaucratic work.

Suggestions for improvements

Suggestions for improvements were collected at the end of the evaluation questionnaires. The suggestions were summarized in the following points:

- Stability of project funding in the youth field,
- Competent leadership of the project,
- More projects in the fields of natural science and integration of such areas into the industry,
- Improved perception of the needs of young people in the city and the implementation of strategies in the field of youth,
- Promotion of international youth work,
- Employment of young people in youth organizations,
- Call for tenders for the upcoming year should already be published throughout the current year,
- Inclusion of a number of interested organizations and young people in the shaping of youth policies,
- Promotion and introduction of innovative and high-quality content and methods of youth work,
- Establishment of a youth center for young people between the ages of 15 and 18,
- More effective promotion,
- Unique information system,
- Development of sustainable projects.

The results of the evaluation questionnaire have been presented to the organizations in April 2014. The representatives of organizations were given the opportunity to present their general overview on the EYC Maribor 2013 project, to point out important issues and discuss them with other organizations.

6 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

In the upcoming five-year period (2014–2019) the Municipality of Maribor will tackle the issues that were particularly highlighted during the EYC Maribor 2013. Therefore, the Municipality of Maribor has approved a budget of EUR 150,000.00 EUR for sustainable programs in 2014. A call for tenders for these programs was published in March 2014 and is still open for applications.

After concluding the report for the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013, the Municipality of Maribor will start working on the local youth program.

6.1 PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH POLICIES

Substantive guidelines for the second local youth program of the Municipality of Maribor will consist of four priority areas for the implementation of youth policies: employment, housing issues, education and mobility of youth.

Employment

Youth employment proved to be one of the key challenges. Employment allows young people to pursue their life and career goals as well as social and financial security, thus ultimately achieving autonomy. Especially the transition from educational institutions to employment is difficult for young people, what is reflected in the high unemployment rate and precarious forms of employment. The labor market is confronted with a mismatch between supply and demand, which is strongly connected with the process of entering educational programs. In order to overcome the obstacles of transition from education institutions to employment, the issue of low employment among young people has to be addressed through direct policy planning in the local community, whereas the development of competences of young people has to be promoted in accordance with the needs of the local labor market, the networking between economic and education institution strengthened in the form of mentoring and internships. Furthermore, entrepreneurship has to be encouraged, a friendly business environment for young people created, whereas incentives for employment in (non-)economic activities provided in order to utilize the full potential of young people in the local environment.

Housing issues

Moving away from parents is one of the important steps in the liberation process of young people. Measures in the field of housing policy initiated by the local community can facilitate young people's access to the first apartment and enable ownership and emancipation, hence stop the emigration of young people out of the local environment. If we want to keep track of young people, it is vital to implement new, innovative and flexible forms of housing solutions. In the conversation with representatives of the local community, young people have expressed the opportunity of call for tenders for the allocation of non-profit rental housing, which could be carried out under the auspices of the public common housing fund at the Municipality of Maribor, with the establishment of housing cooperatives in Maribor, housing by larger companies or consortia-building ownership with the ultimate objective of lower rents for housing and additional encouragements or bonuses for lessors.

Education

The obtained educational level and high-quality interdisciplinary skills are closely connected with the employment opportunities for young people and, consequently, with their socio-economic situation. Education can be roughly divided into the formal, which takes place within the formal education system and ensures generally recognized education and qualifications, and the informal, which takes place outside the formal scope of education and does not award recognizable education, although it is an important complement of the formal system. Non-formal education is to the greatest extent provided by non-governmental organizations, which are more flexible and more responsive to the needs of the environment, private institutions, employers and other contractors. Linking these two pillars of education should be of primary interest in order to form comprehensive education for young people.

Mobility of youth

Young people were asked to forward their suggestions and challenges on the mobility of young people. Especially, the transfer of good practice from abroad to the local environment, building of high-quality mobile infrastructure and raising awareness about the possibilities of social mobility were highlighted by them. Furthermore, connections and strong partnerships between youth structures and

other organizations in twinning towns, all with the purpose to develop individuals as well as the local community, were highlighted. Mobility enables the local population to perceive different cultures and strengthen their intercultural understanding, acceptance of diversity, furthermore, to enhance their knowledge and experience, and, above all, promote and establish a wide range of examples of good practice from elsewhere within the local environment.

The **Local Youth Program** in cooperation with NGOs will examine the work and the results of the youth sector until that point. With the renewal of the sector more young people will be activated, thus leading to better results.

6.2 MladiMaribor (YoungMaribor)

Since 2008, targeted actions of the city of Maribor facilitated a more active presentation of youth problems to the local, regional, national and European public. After the conclusion of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013, we were given the chance to present an example of good practice in the field of active involvement of young people to other European cities. Therefore, we want to reshape our city into a cosmopolitan city for young people. With all the acquired knowledge and experience from previous years, we have finally reached the point of being able to proudly open our city and our quality programs to not only young people from Maribor, but also to young people from other parts of Slovenia, Europe and the world.

With the conclusion of the EYC Maribor 2013, the idea for the **YoungMaribor festival** arose through which the city of Maribor in the future could develop as a cosmopolitan city for the young and the young at heart. The festival, which took place from May 18 to 31, 2014, offered young people a variety of activities and events. The main objective of the festival, which was held under the auspices of the Office of Culture and Youth of the Municipality of Maribor and co-organized by the Maribor Youth Cultural Center, was to strengthen the youth field of the city. The purpose of the festival was **to raise the quality of life in the city, promote active participation of young people, intergenerational integration and to promote the city of Maribor**. The festival underlined the sustainable impact of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 and is one of the steps towards the long-term erection of Maribor as a place for young people.

Several quality events are organized in Maribor, as this festival was created on the basis of cooperation and integration. Youth organizations, primary, secondary schools and colleges, museums, galleries and others, who are active in the field of youth, cooperated within the festival. **More than 50 organizations** and other individuals helped with the organization of the festival.

The first YoungMaribor festival connected young people at **25 different venues** and at **more than 70 events**. It gave them the opportunity to capture the pulse of the Municipality of Maribor, experience the city and thoroughly explore the city in theory and practice. They were encouraged to do a lot for themselves and their personal development, for the life of the city and in the city. This objective was reached through urban culture, sports, concerts, exhibitions, travel lectures, local cuisine workshops, theater, intercultural integration and intergenerational integration.

For more see our new web page www.mladinmaribor.si

6.3 Network of EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITALS

Between May 28 and 31, 2014, during the 1.festival Mladi Maribor, Maribor hosted an **official meeting of the European Youth Capital** cities. Representatives of the following cities participated in this event: Turin - 2011 (Italy), Braga - 2012 (Portugal), Maribor - 2013 (Slovenia), Thessaloniki - 2014 (Greece), Cluj-Napoca - 2015 (Romania) and Ganja - 2016 (Azerbaijan).

The following topics were discussed during the meeting: resolving open issues of the EYC network, the statute and visual identity of the EYC network, open tasks in different fields of work of the EYC network and the future operational plan. Local youth organizations, who participated in the EYC Maribor 2013 project, presented themselves during the meeting.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT - 2013

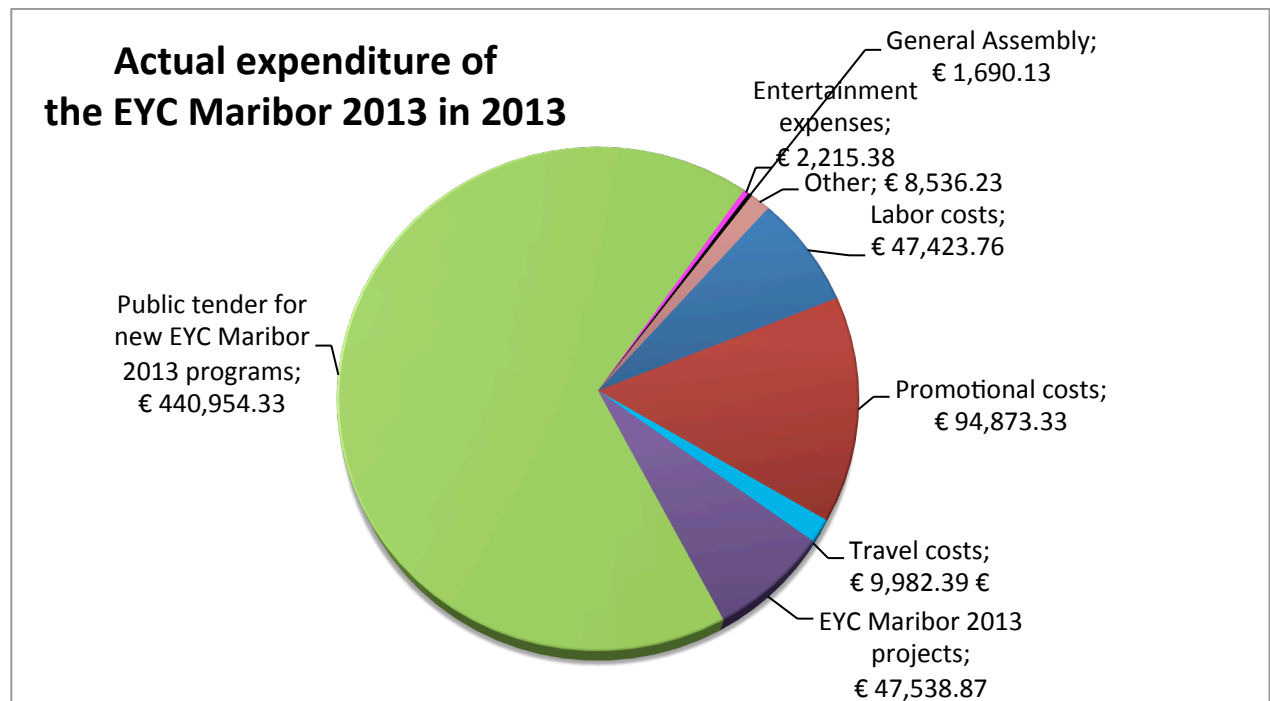
The **approved budget for 2013** amounted to **EUR 728,661.00**, whereas EUR 450,000.00 were allocated to the public tender for co-financing of new programs in the youth sector for the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013, EUR 104,225.00 for the EYC Maribor 2013 projects (EVS, Infopoint, From YU to EU, FEXUGA, Youth in Action 1.1 and Youth in Action 4.3) and EUR 174,436.00 for the rest of the program. The total actual expenditure in 2013 was EUR 653,214.42, thus the largest part of the expenditure was spent on the public tender for the EYC Maribor 2013, namely EUR 440,954.33. EUR 47,538.87 was spent on the EYC Maribor 2013 projects and EUR 164,721.22 on the rest. One of the biggest, but classified expenditures consists of the EYC Maribor 2013 promotional costs, namely EUR 94,873.33. Labor costs amounted to EUR 47,423.76, travel costs to EUR 9,982.39 and the entertainment expenses to EUR 2,215.38.

As before mentioned, the approved budget for 2013 amounted to EUR 728,661.00 of which **EUR 450,000.00** was allocated **to the public tender for co-financing of new programs** in the youth sector for the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013. All selected programs were implemented and successfully carried out. Only one program had to be withdrawn from the call for tenders due to insufficient financial resources.

For the presentation of the actual expenditures and revenues of the EYC Maribor 2013 see Appendix 5.

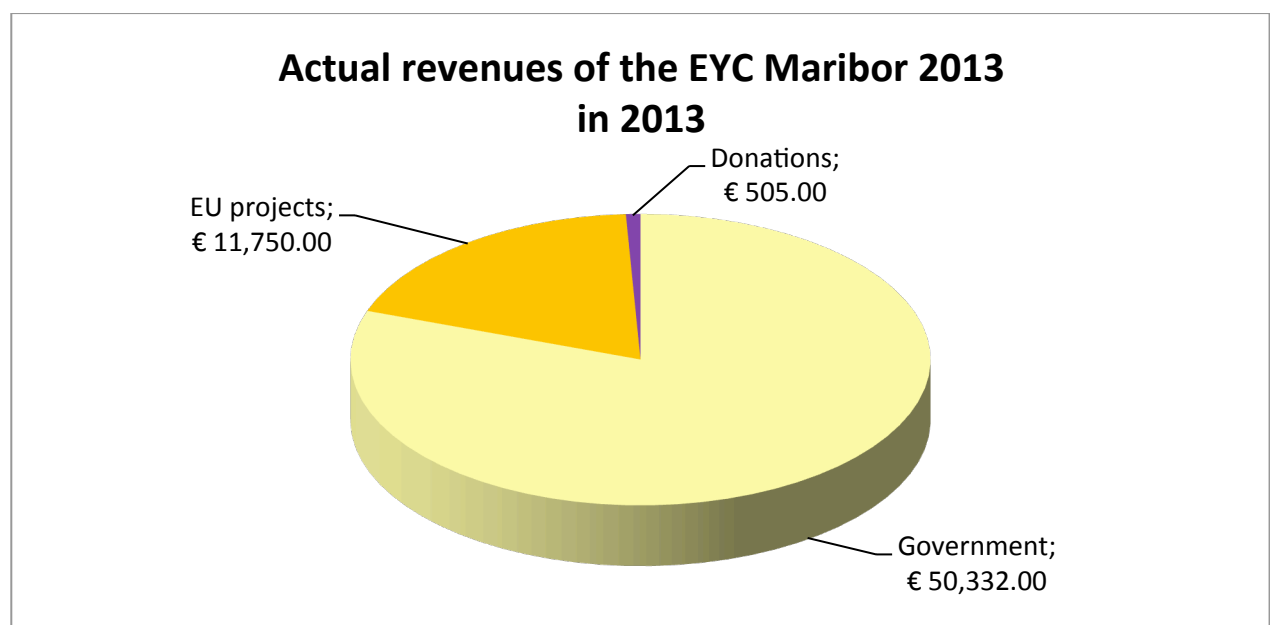
The Chart 12 represents the **actual expenditures of the EYC Maribor 2013** in 2013. The total actual expenditure in 2013 was **EUR 653,214.42**. The public tender for co-financing of new programs of the EYC Maribor 2013 represents 67.51 % of the total expenditures. Moreover, promotional costs represent 14.52 % and labor costs 7.26 % of expenditures. 7.28 % were spent for the EYC Maribor 2013 projects, 1.53 % for travel costs, and 1.31 % for other costs. Less than 1 % was spent for the General Assembly and entertainment expenses.

Chart 12: Actual Expenditures of the EYC Maribor 2013 in 2013



The Chart 13 represents **the actual revenues of the EYC Maribor 2013** in 2013. The biggest financial support was granted by the government and represents 80.42 % of all revenues, whereas 18.77 % of the revenues were awarded through EU projects and less than 1 % from donations.

Chart 13: Actual Revenues of the EYC Maribor 2013 in 2013



8 CONCLUSION

The beginnings of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 date back to the year 2010, when the city of Maribor submitted the application for the acquisition of the European Youth Capital 2013 title to the European Youth Forum. With the application, Maribor embarked the city and its local authorities to strategically develop the city in the direction of a youth friendly city. Therefore, the Municipality of Maribor committed itself to create conditions for the development of an environment in which young people could evolve and implement their ideas, to provide adequate infrastructure for the implementation of a wide range of youth activities, to facilitate young people's participation in decision-making processes, which are strongly connected with the life of young people in local communities, and to encourage young people to create programs for the European Youth Capital 2013.

The European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 enabled the youth to be regularly informed, actively involved in the society or in the local community and to create new opportunities for a better future. The project embarked several positive qualities: the improvement of the everyday life of young people ranking among the most important aspects not only during the EYC 2013 activities, but also later.

General objectives were pursued with the implementation of the European Youth Capital 2013 program: the strengthening of youth to evolve into proactive participants in the shaping and development of the society. In addition to the general objectives, also other strategic objectives were sought, related to the development of the youth sector and the strategic objectives related to the strengthening of the youth.

The program has been designed in two parts. The primary part focused on the improvement of employability, encouragement of voluntarism, multicultural cooperation and active participation of young people. Great emphasis was also devoted to the integration of young people with fewer opportunities, Roma population and the long-term unemployed young people. The secondary part of the program focused on the implementation of free-time activities, such as concerts, festivals, exhibitions, etc.

The majority of energy, time, and work were spent on programs that were implemented by non-governmental organizations in cooperation with volunteers.

The monitoring of the progress towards the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 objectives was carried out throughout the year or, respectively, after the completion of the activities of individual programs. The goals were more or less achieved, thus in certain segments, even exceeded. Nevertheless, there were also some areas where the objectives were not achieved, which shall be defined as possibilities for future improvements.

Following the invitation by the Municipality of Maribor, the organizations that participated in the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 project contributed to the assessment of the project. Their view on the implementation of the project is extremely important, because they expressed satisfaction with the cooperation, highlighted the positive and negative effects of the project and presented suggestions for improvements in the evaluation process.

The aim of the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 was to improve the quality of life of young people in the city and to foster the participation of youth in decision-making processes at the local level. The Municipality will continue to (financially) support good programs of youth organizations, especially those carried out in the most critical areas of youth in the city: employability, housing issues, youth mobility and education.

The city of Maribor as the European Youth Capital Maribor 2013 was visited by numerous young people. Freshness and liveliness were conveyed through the energy of young people, therefore one of the most important future tasks is to store and develop such an image.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Leaflet four thematic sections

Appendix 2: Resolution on Creating Better Conditions for the Inclusion and Participation of Young People with Fewer Opportunities

Appendix 3: List of participating organizations in the evaluation process

Appendix 4: Evaluation questionnaire

Appendix 5: Presentation of the actual expenditures and revenues of the EYC Maribor 2013

Appendix 6: Total expenditures and revenues of the EYC Maribor 2013 (2010 - 2013)

Appendix 7: Press Releases + special edition of local newspaper Večer

Appendix 8: Pictures of events of EYC Maribor 2013