



Klaipeda - the candidate city for European Youth Capital 2021

Klaipeda is the third largest city in Lithuania with approximately 150 000 residents distributed over the area of 98 of sq. km.

It is located in the western part of the country, stretching almost 20 kilometres along the shores of the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. Klaipeda is the only one Lithuania's sea gateway to the world and the capital of the west Lithuania. It is the oldest city in Lithuania (will celebrate 766 anniversary in 2018). It is the only seaport in Lithuania, which is the most northern Baltic seaport and the only year-round ice-free port in the eastern Baltics. It is a symbol of Lithuania as a maritime country. Klaipeda is developing as a port city with a high life quality, as well as an attractive natural environment. It is an industrial, business, educational, scientific, cultural, health, sports, and recreational administrative centre.

Klaipeda is compact and convenient due to its well-functioning public transport system. The city with its 98 km² area is very convenient to live, work and create in. 81 km of bicycle tracks connects the residential and recreational areas. The sections of the Seaside Cycle Route, which was the first officially marked bicycle route with signs in the country, is still able for the tourists and inhabitants.

Due to its unique nature and convenient public transport system, Klaipeda can be named as a city with clean air and sea breezes which is often bypassed by the routine. The versatile livelihood structure, selection of education, culture, and services, as well as the sea, forms a magnetic combination in Klaipeda.

The Curonian Spit - a unique corner with the highest sand dunes in northern Europe and picturesque resorts awaits those, who came for a longer visit in Klaipeda. This area is included in the UNESCO Heritage List. Palanga - the summer capital of Lithuania is located half an hour away from Klaipeda.

Besides picturesque location and rich heritage, Klaipeda is also characterized by thriving economy. With 11% percent of country's population, Klaipeda's region (county) contributes roughly to the same amount of national GDP (approx. 12%), with absolute majority of it generated in the region centre.

Culture

At all times culture was one of the most important priorities of Klaipeda. Economic prosperity of the city goes hand in hand with an active cultural life, which is sustained by multifunctional arena, 2 concert halls, 6 theatres, 7 museums, 15 art galleries and other cultural institutions and leisure destinations. Annually about 30 festivals are held in Klaipeda. The most notable of them are the Sea Festival, Klaipeda Castle Jazz Festival, Tall Ships Races. In 2017 Klaipeda was nominated as Lithuanian Capital of Culture. During the year of 2017, Klaipeda was pleased with the increased number of tourists, guests and faster pulse of the city.



Upcoming events, worth your attention:

Klaipeda CASTLE JAZZ Festival (7-9th June, 2018). International jazz festival with the slogan “Good Music for Good People “. An international event, organized since 1994, with stylistic diversity, which brings together the most prominent jazz music performers from all over the world.

International folklore festival “Parbūg laivelis 2018” (19-22th, July, 2018). During the festival guests from abroad present their national traditional songs, music, dances and the distinctiveness of their national clothing.

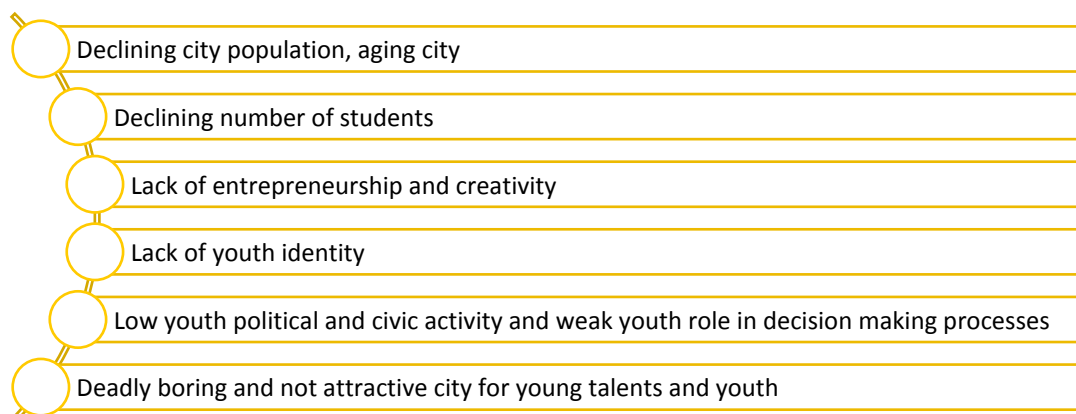
Sea festival (27-29th July, 2018). Being organized since 1934, this is the greatest festival of the year. More than half million of people attend this event every year. Processions, ceremonies, exhibitions concerts, fairs usually take place during the period.

Karkle 2018 Live Music Beach (17-19th, August). One of the most successful music projects in Lithuania. In addition to good music, special attention is paid to arts and entertainment.

Europeada 2020 (the exact date to be confirmed). The largest international festival of European folk culture is taking place every year in a different country. The festival rarely returns to the already visited city, thus it is an exceptional achievement of Klaipeda.

WHY WE AIM TO BECOME EYC2021?

Klaipeda and its youth are relatively far from bigger cities. The majority of people from Lithuania thinks that we (people from Klaipeda) are somehow different – more relaxed, not rushing when others are hurrying, most of the time lost in our thoughts. A city, full of “**philosophers**”, they say. Yes, we are different, but despite the Baltic Sea breeze, which crosses our minds, we are worrying about our city. The biggest challenges youth outlined on which we focus in EYC2021:



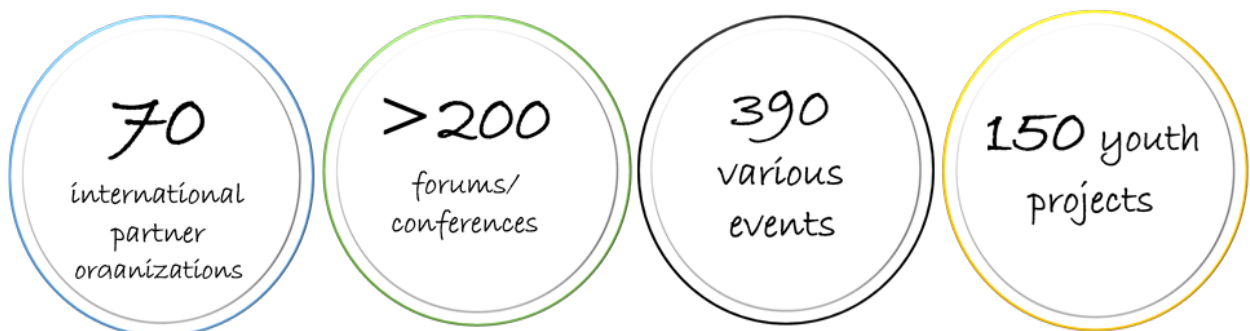
Klaipeda youth with the support local government and partners is looking for new ways to overcome them. We see EYC2021 as key opening new ways to solve existing challenges. With the help of the title Klaipeda's youth can be more visible not only for youth all across Europe, but also for politicians and prove that youth ideas, energy and vibe can contribute to city prosperity. With EYC2021 we are seeking to further encourage youth believe in their efforts, that they can be the leaders in youth policy and also work together for the welfare of young people in Klaipeda, Lithuania and all across world. The main things we would like to achieve: to become **open, e-solutions based city**, where co-working is the reality, to create **opportunities** for all youth **to grow**, live, work, share, implement ideas, exchange, **break the standards** and innovate.

We are seeking to:

- ∟ Create opportunities to **raise** youth **competences** through international experience
- ∟ Promote **internationalization** in youth policy field in Klaipeda
- ∟ Create favourable conditions for youth **entrepreneurship** and creativity encouragement
- ∟ Spread news that **Klaipeda** is a **great place** to chill, act, learn, work, and to live in
- ∟ Create **youth traditions** in Klaipeda
- ∟ Form Klaipeda youth **identity**
- ∟ Increase **funding** for youth policy implementation in Klaipeda
- ∟ **Raise** our **self-esteem** as we look to ourselves very critically
- ∟ **Strengthen** youth role in **political and civic** life of the city
- ∟ Increase **attractiveness** and openness of the city

We chose the possibility to become EYC2021 because it is a great opportunity to be involved in youth policy implementation in local and European levels. We are seeking to get the best practice from global partners, to share our own practice, to implement joint initiatives and to make difference in quality of youth life. **We are ready to take part and be the leading youth city of 2021 and the centre of excellence for youth policy implementation!**

Foreseen **quantitative indicators** of EYC2021:



1000
volunteers

1,500.000
guests

>60
initiated
international
projects

3 500 000
people
informed

Chooseklaipeda - to create your own story in the city of opportunities!