

# Project Specification – Ycity 08

## Short presentation of Ycity

Ycity is an international youth culture festival, which gathers a large group of young people one week in the summer. It's up to the participants to create a city with different workshops, concerts and other social events. It will start with a pilot project the 17. - 21. of July 2008 in Nykøbing Falster, Denmark. This will work as an introduction to the main project in 2009.

## Background and the thought of Ycity

Ycity is going to be populated by young people that have a desire to make a change in their local society. It is going to be a city that is founded in differentiability - where you meet people, that doesn't look like you and don't have the same opinion like you. Fundamentally *Ycity is going to make room for understanding different views of the good life and creating dialog about it.*

Ycity is about breaking boundaries, whether it is national, cultural or personal boundaries. The national boundaries are broken down by establishing contacts between countries. The cultural boundaries are broken down by making a clash between different youth cultures. The personal boundaries are broken down by removing all obstacles. There is not going to be anything that should stop you from completing your ideas. It is up to your self to define what Ycity is about, and what you're going to do with and in Ycity.

Ycity is going to be a city. We define a city as functions and people. So the first step is to create the functions, whether it is service functions as restaurants or laundry shops, communicational functions as newspapers or television or cultural functions as theatres and musical concerts, bars and karaoke pits. Ycity is going to gather young people in an urban community. The urban community is in contrast to the national defined by the complexity and not by the common cultural background.

An important aspect of Ycity, is that it has to be seen in context with a general effort to secure a sustainable development in a global context. A sustainable development is much more than climate and environment. It is about making conditions for the good life for all of us - including the present and future generations of people. A lot of the global problems with the climate and the environment have its roots in habits and lifestyle, and the sustainable development therefore has to be seen in a broader perspective. Sustainable development is about securing the social organizing and cultural identity. It is about creating a new intensified participatory democracy - where global problems are seen in a local context. Ycity is going to demonstrate this definition of sustainable development.

### *Ycity and »Netværket af Ungdomsråd«*

Ycity is started on initiative from »Netværket af Ungdomsråd« (NAU).<sup>1</sup> Through the last years NAU has developed from only being a classical organisation for youth councils, to also being a dynamical network with focus on creating different ways of connecting young people that are active in the local democracy. As a part of this process Ycity is going to work as a flagship event for the network. Ycity is going to be a joined project for the network and is going to make greater commitment and create multiple ways of connecting in the network. Furthermore Ycity is going to secure an international dimension in the network, which is needed at present time.

## **Description of the pilot project**

The pilot project is going to take place from the 17. - 21. of july 2008 in Kulturfabrikken, Nykøbing Falster, Denmark. The participants are young people, that are active in youth councils and youth centres, international partners and others, that wish to engage in the project. The pilot project is made in collaboration with Region Zealand that wishes to link the effort of sustainable development with youth democracy and youth culture.

Ycity 08 is going to be the first city, and furthermore has to work as a planning tool for the project in 2009. Ycity is starting from the participant's dreams and ideas. The program is made from the active participation. A big part of the program

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<sup>1</sup> Netværket af Ungdomsråd = The Network of Youth Concils in Denmark

focuses on the realisation of ideas and dreams, and will furthermore include some fix points: Introductory playing, cultural event and the planning of Ycity 09. Besides this there will be workshops concerning: Motivation, sustainable development and impact in the local society. We are engaging a lot of change agents within: Development of ideas, culture and project development. These persons will facilitate the processes during Ycity.

Ycity 08 is going to work as a start of the main project in 2009 by learning from the experiences that are gathered. Ycity will use them for the planning and implementation of Ycity 09. In addition Ycity is going to engage the participants for the 2009 project. Finally Ycity 08 is going to work as a seminar of planning. This is facilitated through different workshops, facilitated by one of the external change agents. This workshop is including: Establishing of partnerships, workgroups, time schedules and purposes of the project.

## **Financing**

Ycity 08 is funded by means from Region Zealand, the Danish Youth Council, the Network of Youth Councils in Denmark, and by a small participant fee.