

## Description of youth participation project

*Youth participation is the active involvement of children and young people in public life (decision-making and social activities).*

Name of project: Youth council of the municipality of Næstved.

## Cities for Children contact person

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## Executive organisation

Name of organisation: Municipality of Næstved

Type of organisation: Municipal administration and Town council

Website: [www.naestved.dk](http://www.naestved.dk)

Additional information:

## Project description

The project provides a solution to the following question/problem: Here is a short description of the total project concerning establishing of a Youth Council of the Municipality of Næstved.

The purpose of the Youth Council :

- To support and advice young people who want to start new projects
- To display activities, to create ideas and to cooperate with others for developing new initiatives to the benefit for young people in Næstved
- To intercept and coordinate the interests of young people in Næstved and to bring them on to the Town Council
- To strengthen the cooperation between young people in Næstved
- To involve young people, youth organisations and clubs I the work of the Youth Council
- To cooperate with the Town Council including submitting reports in all cases of relevance to young people in Næstved
- To develop and promote international contacts as young representatives in the EU Charter

How many members are there in the Youth Council:

- All young people in the age between 13 and 24 who are living in the municipality can vote for and stand for election to the Youth Council.

- The Youth Council consists of 17 members - 8 are representatives from the different educational institutions in the municipality – 9 are elected in a direct mobile telephone messenger poll

Dialog with the Town Council:

- Once a month representatives from the Youth Council meet the Standing committee of Local Democracy in the Municipality of Næstved. The standing committee has 7 members – all of them members of the Town Council

Economics:

- For 2008 the Town Council has granted the Youth Council a budget of 35.000 Euro.

Starting up:

Two young “project-holders” aged 23 and 26 are in charge for the starting up – process:

- They have made introduction videos
- They are using You-tube, Facebook and other internet platforms where the target group is to be found
- They have created a direct mobile telephone messenger info. Service connected via the homepage of the municipality
- They have send out flyers, press release and giving TV interviews
- They have visited all educational institutions
- They have invited for workshops

To see one example you can see how the Mayor of the Municipality of Næstved is playing quite an untraditional role in the You-tube spot:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) using the keyword: Næstved Ungdomsråd (copy paste)

Project idea conceived by: The idea has slowly but steady developed through a period of 2-3 years through dialog between young people, politicians and administration.

Date started: Beginning of 2008