

***OPEN CALL for GOOD PRACTICES***

 ***GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives***

***-Inclusion of Women and Youth in Local Government Affairs***

 ***in South East******Europe-***

*Enrich the SEE’ collection of experiences of gender & youth sucess stories…*

*Become part of this unique learning experience...*

*Become one of the rewarded municipalities in SEE…*

***The Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (NALAS) invites Local Governments (LGs) and Local Government Associations (LGAs) in South East Europe (SEE) to share good practices on Gender and Youth and nominate them for receiving the GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives Awards.***

***The local governments are invited to nominate their initiatives, experiences, successes and lessons learnt, specifically describing the good practices of inclusion of women and young people in their community. The nominations should include already applied activities, methodologies and tools that lead to achieving visible and tangible results.***

***Five (5) of the best of the collected practices will be awarded with GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives Awards. The winners will be acknowledged at an award ceremony, organized within NALAS General Assembly meeting in May 2015 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. This open call has a secondary goal to attract the attention of the donor community interested and willing to support the process of replication and scaling up of good local government practices in the field of gender and youth.***

***Who can participate?***

Good practices are welcomed and will be eligible from:

* Local Governments from SEE as individual applicants or in partnerships with other local governments
* Local Government Associations from SEE
* Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from SEE that have implemented a project focused on gender and youth issues, and have worked in partnership with municipalities. The CSOs can nominate the good practice on behalf of the local government they have worked with. If granted, the award will be given to the municipality.
* The eligible countries where the proposed good practice has been applied are the following: Slovenia, Serbia, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, Montenegro, Kosovo[[1]](#footnote-1), Turkey – Marmara region, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

***How do we define a good practice?***

A good practice is an implemented activity that has provided solutions in the field of gender and youth at the local level, in the decentralization context. It should include an innovative approach in its design, implementation, methodologies, tools, etc.

The nominated good practice needs to illustrate its positive results and to be possible to be recommended as a model for replication. The good practice is a successful experience, tested and validated in the “real life”. The good practice would deserve to be shared for future replication by LGs and LGAs.

***What should the good practice be about?***

1. **It’s about GENDER and/or YOUTH at local level**
2. **It has been implemented in any specific competence or thematic area in the life of the local community (for example: education, health, social services, water provision, local transport, environment, etc.)**
3. **The good practice would ideally have specific focused in one of these topics:**
4. **Advancing women/youth:**
- Inclusion of women and/or youth in local government affairs
- Promotion of participation of women and/or youth at local elections
5. **Gender/youth projects, special measures:**- Special activities for improving position of youth
- Special activities for improving position of women/men
6. **Raising awairnes on gender/youth issues:**-Strengthen gender and youth awareness and capacities among both, politicians and civil servants
-Creating awareness of women’s and youth’s rights
7. **Gender mainstreaming:**- Gender as horisontal issue
- Implementation of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life
- Gender sensitive budgeting
8. **The submitted good practices should not go back in time for more than 3 years.**

***What is the overall collection, selection and awarding process ?***

The following are the main steps of the process:

1. Collection of good practices ;
2. Assessment/Evaluation of the collected good practices (based on the set of criteria);
3. Compiling a publication “GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives - Menu of good practices” where all good practices that satisfy the selection criteria will be included;
4. Selection of 5 best practices to be awarded with GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives Award;
5. Promotion of the awarded municipalities;
6. Dissemination of the “GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives - Menu of good practices” to all LGs in SEE

***What are the evaluation criteria?***

The *submitted practices (application forms) will be reviewed, analyzed and assessed by an Evaluation/Selection Committee*, consisting of different stakeholders such as LGAs and LGs’ representatives as well as Gender and Youth Experts.

The applicants should present to their best extent which methods, tools, or approaches have been shown to be the “best” in a specific situation. The practices should refer to a validated and successful experience which has been implemented. The proposed practice should be an experience which can be promoted, disseminated and replicated elsewhere.

The Selection Committee will use the following criteria to assess the good practice:

* ***Effectiveness and significance***

The experience is considered as significant and relevant if it was adequately designed to context needs and has achieved a significant and measurable change in the community. The practice has proven its strategic relevance as an effective way in achieving a specific objective and has had a positive impact on individuals and/or communities.

* ***Efficiency and cost-effectiveness***

Human, financial, material resources and power and authority were used effectively and efficiently in the achievement of the results. The activity was effective in achieving its proposed results and there is a link between activities and results, actual or expected, in the lives of girls, women and youth or related to systems being strengthened.

* ***Sustainability***

It is about the sustainability of impacts and changes achieved which means that there are specific transfer mechanisms and capacity building in place to ensure continuation of learning and applicability. The experience is put into practice and works well.

* ***Innovation/creativity/originality***

It is about innovative experience and has unique approaches that can serve as examples or inspiration to other local actors. The fact something has been tried elsewhere does not mean it is not innovative or creative to try it in a particular context. The practice should be seen as a successful experience, which has been tested and validated, as well as has a portfolio of lessons learnt and recommended actions/models.

* ***Lessons learned***

The good practice should provide additional knowledge and skills that can inform broader thinking about gender or youth practices. It should talk about the lessons that are relevant for dissemination and transfer in other contexts, the conditions that facilitated success and potential constraints in moving forward.

* ***Potential for replication and/or scaling up***

The practice is replicable and adaptable. It should have the potential for replication and should therefore be adaptable to similar objectives in varying situations or the experience is a replication itself. The experience is recommended for replication, with some specific adaptations.

* ***Participation and partnership orientation***

The good practice demonstrates a broader participatory and collaborative approach, involving a range of actors (civil society, private sector, government, etc.). Participation and partnership were successfully implemented as core principles for successful learning and capacity development.

Please make sure that these elements are visible in the description of the good practice submitted.

***What are the benefits of the application and the awards?***

*GENiYOUTH* *Municipal Initiatives* *Awards* will be given to the best practices selected by the Selection Committee. The winners will be acknowledged at an award ceremony, organized within The NALAS General Assembly meeting to take place in Plovdiv Bulgaria in May 2015. The best practices will be a subject of discussion with the donor community, working in the field of gender and youth, to support the *replication and scaling-up process*.

NALAS will post the winning Good Practices online at NALAS website, [www.nalas.eu](http://www.nalas.eu). The *publication* “GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives - Menu of good practices” will be also available at the website.

Awards and benefits for the best practices selected:

* A certificate and a plaques for the award “GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives”
* Presentation of the municipality at the NALAS general Assembly Meeting to take place 15 May 2015 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, including covering the travel and accommodation costs for 2 municipal representatives;
* Promotion of the municipality within the NALAS communication and knowledge platform, including:
	+ Publication “GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives - Menu of good practices”;
	+ Nalas Newsletter, NALAS Digest, NALAS Newsletter and NALAS Knowledge Tree;
	+ The awarded practice will become a case study in the NALAS e-learning course on Promotion of Gender and Youth at Local Level
	+ Customized municipal poster GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives Award Winner
* Participation for one municipal representative at NALAS educational event for Gender and Youth within 2015.

***How to apply?***

The application form which has included guidelines for filling in can be downloaded from the News section of NALAS website, [www.nalas.eu](http://www.nalas.eu).

Applicants are not allowed to change or delete parts of the application form. Any visual material that could accompany the presented case is welcomed (videos, pictures, etc.) as an attachment to the obligatory application form.

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| *Notes:* * Applicants must submit their Applications in English language.
* Hand written Applications will not be accepted.
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Please submit your good practices in PDF format to the email address **geniyouth@nalas.eu**no later than **19 December, 2014.**

If you have any additional questions, please send them in English, only by email, to:

* Natasha Ilijeva Acevska, NALAS Programme Officer, acevska@nalas.eu
* Boran Ivanoski, NALAS Programme Officer, ivanoski@nalas.eu

***Termination of the open call***

If something unexpected happens, that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled, and the process can’t run as planned which will affect the integrity of this call, NALAS reserves the right to stop the process.

***About NALAS***

NALAS is a network of associations of local authorities of South East Europe, created in 2001. It brings together 16 Associations from SEE which represent roughly 9000 local authorities, directly elected by more than 80 million citizens of the region. The Network addresses the major challenges of decentralization and good governance, including the question of enhanced inclusion of young people and women in local government affairs in South East Europe. NALAS aims to provide services to local governments for the benefit of the citizens in the region and wishes to develop itself as the knowledge centre for local government development in SEE, recognised among all relevant stakeholders. For more information please visit: [www.nalas.eu](http://www.nalas.eu) .

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1. "This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence." [↑](#footnote-ref-1)