

European Award of Excellence

»City for Children«



2010

Call for submission

Informal Education



STUTTGART



Robert Bosch Stiftung

European Award of Excellence

Initiators

Dr. Wolfgang Schuster
Mayor, City of Stuttgart



Family policy and essentially the creation of a child-friendly framework need to be a focus of all political decision-making because the future of our cities depends upon our children.

Jeremy Smith
Secretary General, Council
of European Municipalities
and Regions



High quality education is the key that unlocks a positive future for our children, our cities and indeed for our European society. That is why it is so important to us, as city leaders and professionals, to find creative ways of helping everyone to learn and succeed – especially those who have to overcome tough social or other barriers to educational success.

Kristiina Järvelä
Deputy Mayor, Finland and
member of the European
Network Cities for Children



The "City for Children" Award 2010 gives us as municipalities the chance to gather innovative ideas on strengthening the municipality's role in Education and on how we can encourage communities in our urban societies to take responsibility for the education of all children and youth.

Dr. Gerhard Stahl
Secretary General,
Committee of the Regions



Europe's cities must be places where children and young people can discover and develop their talent and creativity. Investing in education will deliver the best possible return, not the least for the local economy.

Ian Micallef
President a.i. of the Congress of
Local and Regional Authorities
of the Council of Europe



Children's first experience of interacting with the community takes place in spaces managed by local authorities. Making our cities child-friendly and a living example of inclusion, participation, community spirit and respect is a way to ensure that this experience nurtures children's development and socialisation as future citizens.

Dr. Ingrid Hamm
Executive Director,
Robert Bosch Stiftung



Local authorities hold the key to demographic development: A child-friendly approach is reflected in everyday life. Local authorities come closest to touching the real lives of families, and can exert a strong impact on the immediate family environment.

Your city is invited to join: enter the competition with your best projects and make your innovative ideas for children and families known across Europe!

»City for Children« 2010

1. Aim

In view of the demographic transformation which is currently in progress, a sustainable paradigm shift is called for throughout European society: One which will place family policy and childfriendly framework conditions firmly at the focus of all political policy. Because it is only with children that our cities will be competitive and maintain their vitality in the future.

The fact that there are no easy answers or patent remedies to make our cities and our urban communities more child-friendly makes it all the more important that we exchange experience gained through political strategies and their practical implementation in the urban environment.

It was this thinking that prompted the launch of the European Award of Excellence "City for Children" in 2008. Every year, European cities will be honoured for the successful implementation of outstanding projects aimed at children and young people in different policy areas, ranging from education to health and safety issues, the design of outdoor play areas, the integration of young and old and to achieving a balance between work and family life. By directing the public spotlight at the issue of child- and family-friendly policy and attitudes throughout Europe, the aim is to pay tribute to successful, innovative and cost efficient initiatives and thereby encourage other cities to follow positive examples from practice.

2. Award Topic

For the 2010 Award, the following topic has been selected:

"Informal Education"

Municipalities play a significant role in education and socialisation of the children and young people in their cities, ranging from early childhood care to extracurricular activities for youth. Even though the competencies of European municipalities in the formal education system vary from one country to another, municipalities can work towards ensuring that all children and youth have equal chances at attaining a formal education. Activities can range from developing programmes outside of or complementary to the formal education system, to encouraging further social actors, such as foundations, associations, organisations or the business community, to take responsibility for the education of the children in their cities. Such programmes may address specific focal groups, such as children with migratory or disadvantaged backgrounds, highly gifted children, delinquent youth or an entire socially disadvantaged neighbourhood. A child-friendly city can be identified by the effort it undertakes to ensure that all children and youth have a fair chance at attaining a formal education.

3. Selection criteria

The submitted project must already have been implemented in your municipality.

- Innovation
- Expected yield
- Acceptance by users
- Degree of participation
- Transferability to other municipalities
- Publicity strategies
- Sustainability

4. Participants

European cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants are invited to apply, also in cooperation with organisations, associations, institutions, companies, churches and other partners who are involved in running or organizing the projects on the ground.

5. Jury

The selection process will be performed by a panel of experts and representatives of the initiators. The Network Cities for Children is represented by the City of Tampere, Finland.

The jury will decide whether site visits are necessary to further evaluate the submitted projects. The selected cities will be informed of the visit in advance. No costs will be incurred by the cities visited.

6. Award

The jury intends to present one award for this topic. In the case that projects are deemed to be of equal merit, several awards may be conferred. The flagship projects will be presented with the European Award of Excellence in the form of a sculptured trophy donated by the Trumpf Group and a certificate issued by the initiators at a festive evening event attended by prominent persons from politics, industry and society on 10th May 2010 in Stuttgart. The prize-winning cities will be invited to deliver a presentation of their successful projects as part of the 4th Annual Conference of the Network Cities for Children on 10th and 11th May 2010.

The European Award of Excellence is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Application Procedure

Every city may apply with one flagship project. The application form must be filled out completely and submitted by post to the Cities for Children Coordination Office. Incomplete application forms cannot be submitted to the Jury. In Parallel, the application form is to be sent via e-mail. Supplementary illustrative material such as photos, DVDs or plans should be sent by post only.

Applications must be submitted in English.

The application deadline is **7th December 2009**. The date of receipt stamped on the application by the Cities for Children Coordination Office is authoritative.

No right of legal recourse exists.

Application period: 10th September – 7th December 2009

Forms for download: www.citiesforchildren.eu

Contact:

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Commissioner for Children's Affairs: Roswitha Wenzl

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