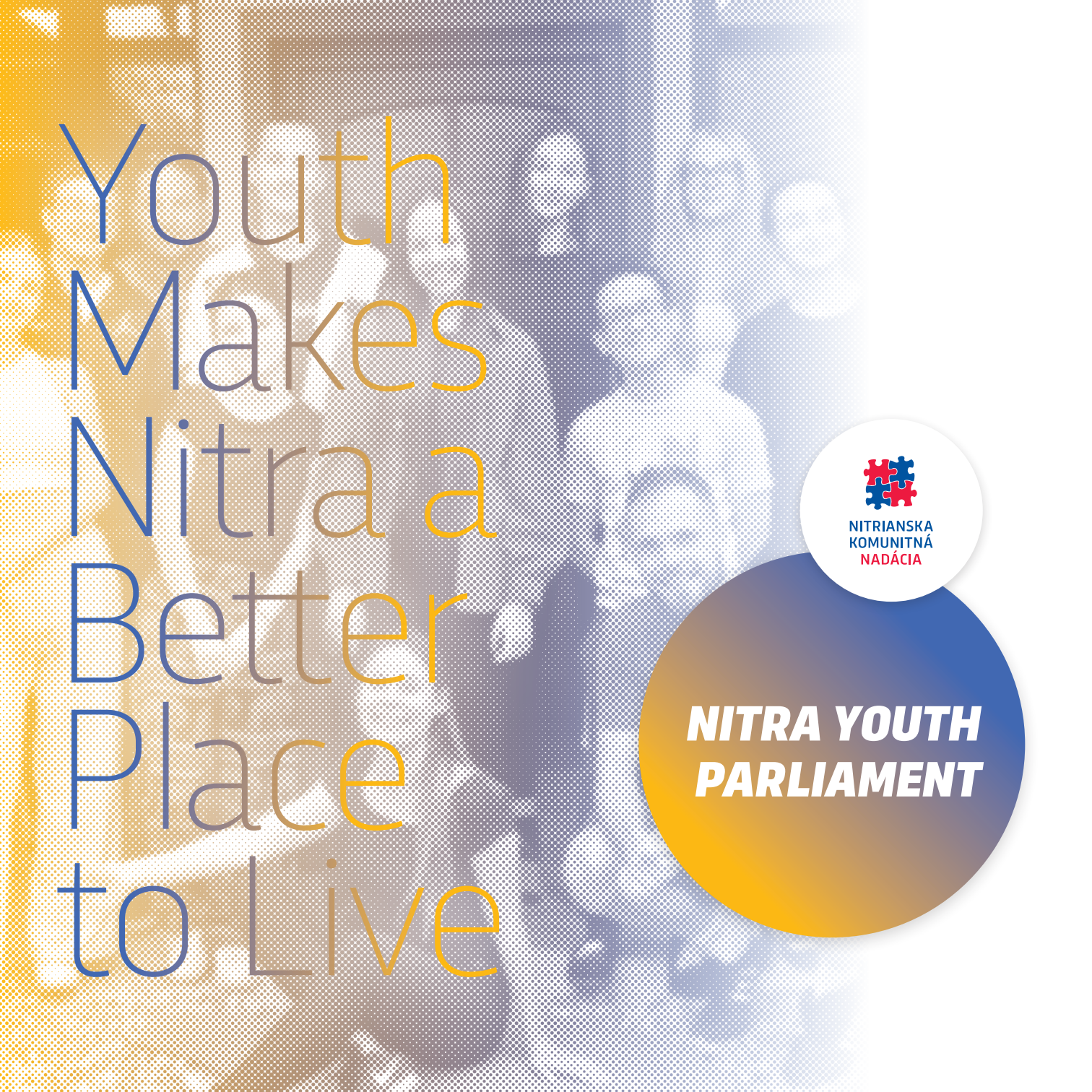
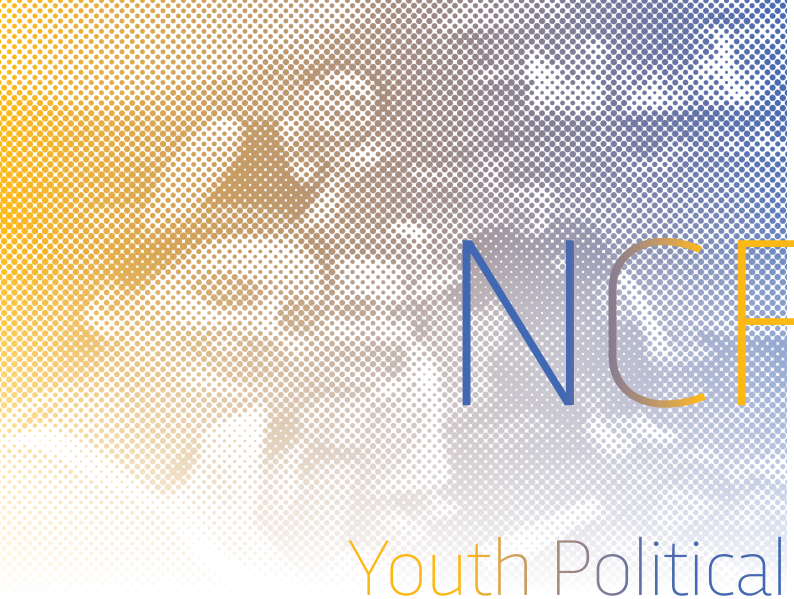


NITRIANSKA
KOMUNITNÁ
NADÁCIA

NITRA YOUTH PARLIAMENT



NCF

Nitra Community Foundation

Its mission is to improve the quality of life by promoting philanthropy and volunteering in the Nitra Region. The foundation's main activities are focused on implementing community grant programs that support projects with a high share of volunteer work. So far, NCF has supported 1,409 community projects with a total of more than €1.53 million. Its grant programs are not just about "giving money" but about building relationships with various stakeholders in the community. NCF is a one of the stable partners of the local government in the city of Nitra, corporate local donors, and individuals who want to support volunteer activities in the Nitra Region. More information about NCF:: **www.nkn.sk**

Youth Political Participation in the V4 Countries and the SDGs

In 2017, a representative research project titled "Political Participation of Youth in the V4 Countries" was conducted across the Visegrad Four countries. A total of 2,858 young people aged 15 to 24 participated in the study, including 714 from Slovakia. The project aimed to gather empirical data to better understand the attitudes, feelings, and behaviours of young people in the realm of politics and civic engagement. The findings revealed that young people are highly critical of the political and social situation in their respective countries. Many do not feel a sense of belonging in society and express low levels of trust in institutions. As many as 43% of respondents stated they do not feel any influence over the functioning of the state or its institutions. And how do young people in Slovakia feel? Alarmingly, as many as 29% of them expect to permanently move abroad within the next three years. These findings are truly concerning. The research also highlighted positive findings — young people are neither passive nor indifferent. They possess the potential to be active partners in addressing societal issues that directly affect them. They have the potential to actively engage in solving social problems that directly affect them. This underlines the importance of supporting youth participation, especially at the local level. Engaged and active youth is a natural part of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities.



Cooperation NCF & NYP

The activities of the Nitra Youth Parliament (NYP) were resumed in 2023. After a longer break, young active people* in Nitra once again began to engage in public life and participate in the city's municipal politics. Their activities contribute to public benefit initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life in the city. The Nitra Youth Parliament currently consists of 15 members, with each of them serving a two-year mandate.

Since 2024, the Nitra Community Foundation has established closer cooperation with the NYP, jointly implementing educational and research activities to strengthen youth participation in developing youth policy documents for the city of Nitra. Specific joint activities included the implementation of participatory research project and teambuilding training session for NYP members.



Cooperation of the Nitra Community Foundation with the Nitra Youth Parliament

Two-Day Teambuilding Training:

The two-day teambuilding training of the Nitra Youth Parliament (NYP) was aimed at developing team cooperation and personal growth of members. It was held over the weekend in Zaježová. The participants identified the Ecosystems activity as the strongest moment. The participants agreed that it was during this activity that they felt like a real team, capable of effective collaboration. "I realized how important it is to trust, accept differences and respect boundaries," said one of the participants. The participants agreed that the training brought them a unique opportunity, for which they expressed their gratitude to the Nitra Community Foundation.

1.

Participatory Research Using the "Photovoice" Method:

Participatory research using the "Photovoice" method is aimed to contribute to the improvement of youth policy in the city of Nitra. Young people captured the challenges and positive aspects of young people's lives through the photographs they created and discussed them in four thematically focused workshops, which were attended by 100 participants. The research results revealed key themes that will be incorporated into the upcoming „Concept of Youth Work in the City of Nitra." The conclusions also directly link to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities).

2.

Our Findings and Recommendations:

- Create opportunities for young people to engage in various areas — in schools, non-governmental organizations, and at the level of local government.
- Create opportunities for people to get involved in different areas – in schools, NGOs or at the local government level.
- Support them in recruiting and educating new members. Investments in developing young people's skills, knowledge, and teamwork always pay off.
- Support them in involving new members and educating them.

„The project is founded by C.S.Mott Foundation under the Global Challenges Local Solutions Program run by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland."

AKADEMIA ROZWOJU FILANTROPII W POLSCE

GCLS

Mesto Nitra

NITRIANSKA KOMUNITNÁ NADÁCIA



- Be patient. Give young people enough time and space to identify their needs and implement their own initiatives.
- Enable them to publicly present the results of their work and openly express critical opinions on issues that concern them.
- Take young people seriously. Help them shape and develop their ideas — even if they may seem unrealistic at first glance. Progress often begins where the comfort of the familiar ends.
- Young people always appreciate sincere support and collaboration. Even small gestures of trust can lead to big changes.