



OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY  
WORK RESEARCH INSTITUTE AFI

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Oslo, December 13, 2022

As long-term partners in collaborative research on youth participation and youth citizen social science, we will express our support for Tromsø municipality in their endeavors to become the European Youth Capital in 2026.

Researchers at the Work Research Institute (AFI) have together with fellow researchers at OsloMet conducted research on youth participation in Norwegian municipalities and cities for close to a decade. As our ongoing research shows this is still a field filled with knowledge gaps and few structures for systematic and rigorous work, both in a Norwegian and Nordic context. We would therefore like to stress the importance of Tromsø's visions and plans to strengthen youth participation work in the upcoming years. This will have ramifications not only in the region, but also on a national and international level, as we believe it will open for a multitude of new stakeholders, institutions and engaged individuals to become partners in future research on the topic.

The results from our current collaborative work on exploring how youth can become co-creators of research projects and co-researchers throughout all phases of a research process, from design to dissemination, in the EU funded project YouCount, <https://www.youcountproject.eu/> and in other similar research projects in the region, will have a better outreach and stronger impact with Tromsø being the European Youth Capitol of 2026. We therefore offer our support to Tromsø Municipality in this application process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aina L. Hagen".

**Aina Landsverk Hagen**

Research Professor

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