



SOLIDARNA FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023.

Zagreb, February 2024.

INTRODUCTION

The annual report on the work of SOLIDARNA - the Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity for the year 2023 was prepared by the entire executive team of the SOLIDARNA Foundation.

The annual report was discussed and adopted by the Foundation Board of the SOLIDARNA Foundation.

During 2023, the Foundation continued to operate through the existing funds: Croatian Women's Fund, Desa & Jerko Baković Fund, Solidarity with Ukraine s Fund, the Culture in the Community program, and through projects to work on the recovery of Bania, which was affected by the earthquake.

This year, the SOLIDARNA Foundation also operated in a Slovenian-Croatian consortium with **the Slagalica Foundation** from Osijek and **CNVOS** from Slovenia, as a fund manager for the **EEA/NG** (Active Citizens Fund), and from January 2023, in the same composition, it implements the **Impact4Values** program, as a beneficiary **CERV** program of the European Commission. Through these two programs, the SOLIDARNA Foundation provides financial support to small, medium and large CSOs, and provides overall support for CSO capacity building. As part of two projects, the SOLIDARNA Foundation continues its cooperation with **the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** (EBRD) on the projects of the Urban Regeneration of Petrinja after the earthquake and the Private Sector Initiative for the Integration of Refugees from Ukraine project, in which SOLIDARNA mentors women from Ukraine who started the association "Svoja" and helps Ukrainian refugees in Croatia.

Through numerous actions, campaigns, cooperation with companies, providing financial support to beneficiaries of funds, but also to civil society organizations through existing regranting programs, and advocacy activities, **SOLIDARNA continued to be a catalyst for change** and the voice of those whose voices are not heard in 2023.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN 2023.

From 2020 to the end of 2023, the SOLIDARNA Foundation focused its activities on four strategic goals: (1) providing effective and flexible support to active citizens and human rights defenders, (2) developing a culture of solidarity and philanthropy for human rights through cross-sectoral cooperation and citizen mobilization , (3) the stability and continuity of the organization's activities and (4) the increase of the

Foundation's resources. The strategic plan of the SOLIDARNA Foundation is formed in three-year cycles in accordance with the opportunities for action and current possibilities.

At the end of 2023, a new Strategic Work Plan for the next three years was adopted, which was announced in accordance with the purpose and goals on which the previous work of the SOLIDARNA Foundation is based. The new **Strategic Plan 2024 - 2026** is based on the following strategic goals: (1) support for active citizenship in the defense of human rights, (2) strengthening the culture of solidarity and philanthropy for human rights and (3) organizational development.

In the next strategic period, the **advocacy focus of the Solidarna Foundation will continue to be on the area of protection of civil liberties and development of civil society**, as well as protection of vulnerable groups and their rights (anti-discrimination, social inclusion, social care, healthcare, justice). Solidarna will use its own advocacy capacities in this area, as well as continue to support representatives of civil society in Croatia who work on these topics.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

Croatian Women's Fund

Since its establishment at the end of 2015, the SOLIDARNA – Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity set the protection of women's rights and the promotion of gender equality as one of the priorities. The vision of the **Croatian Women's Fund is to build a community where equality is our reality**, where even the most vulnerable members have their basic needs met and the opportunity to realize their potential. The Women's Fund continues the work of the previous #SaveMe Fund.



With the establishment of the Croatian Women's Fund, SOLIDARNA completes its previous work on the realization of every woman's right to a life without violence, the right to accessible health care, and the right to political, economic, and social equality. The Croatian Women's Fund operates through four program pillars of the fund: assistance to victims of domestic and sexual violence, reproductive health, economic empowerment, education and prevention, and advocacy.

In 2023, CWF **helped a total of 91 women and 120 children**. Of these, 70 women are victims of **gender-based violence**, and 21 women who **needed support and help in the field of reproductive health**. The largest amount of financial aid is related to help in meeting basic life needs (**35,82%**), housing costs (31,54%), protection of reproductive health (**18,55%**), legal costs (**11,00%**), costs of psychotherapy (**1,81%**), health costs for adults and children (0,76%) and education costs (**0,51%**). The highest financial support was paid to cover basic life needs (heating costs), in the amount of 1,899.3 EUR and the lowest in the amount of 125,00 EUR for legal costs.

In addition to financial support for women victims of gender-based violence, the Women's Fund has grown and focused its activities on supporting civil society organizations and activists working in the field of gender equality. The Solidarna Foundation provided funds for the regranting program of the Women's Fund for the three-year period 2023 - 2026, and at the end of 2023, the first phase of the three-year support program began.

Two types of grants are available within the Grant Program: program grants for civil society organizations and Actions in the community and flexible grants (travel, events, education and activities in the community) for civil society organizations. The Regranting program continues to be implemented in 2024.

Solidarity with Ukraine Fund

The Solidarity with Ukraine Fund was established with the aim of **providing support to Ukrainian refugees who chose Croatia as their new home**. In contrast to 2022, when the war had just begun and tens of thousands of refugees from Ukraine came to Croatia, during 2023 their arrivals decreased and the need for the Fund's active action is less than at the beginning of the war.

In the first quarter of 2023, the Fund continued to provide **financial support to ensure basic life needs**, and direct financial support was awarded to **23 people** in the total amount of EUR 9,176.40. Through the work of the "Solidarity with Ukraine" Fund, Croatian language courses proved to be a priority for Ukrainians, and we continued this activity in 2023. Knowledge of the language helps in integration, empowers them, makes them independent and provides access to the labor market. Thanks to donations and great professors, more than 300 people took language courses organized by the SOLIDARNA Foundation. One course consists of 50 hours, and the levels ranged from beginner A1 to B2, and the groups numbered up to 10 participants, and over 1000 hours of Croatian language learning were held.

Every bad age brings something good, and that's how we look at the arrival of great women from Ukraine who started the "Svoja" association in Zagreb, which means "ours" in Ukrainian. The association helps all refugees in Croatia, with a focus on employment, childcare, and coping with Croatian institutions. As part of the project "Private Sector Initiative for the Integration of Refugees from Ukraine" supported by TaiwanBusiness - EBRD Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Solidarna Foundation cooperates with the SVOJA association to provide opportunities for further skill development and employment of refugees from Ukraine in Croatia, and the SVOJA association provides mentoring support as a new organization in Croatia.

Due to the reduced interest of donors in the issue of Ukrainian refugees in Croatia, but also due to the positive examples and progress of the competent institutions regarding the integration of Ukrainian refugees into Croatian society, the SOLIDARNA Foundation did not continue collecting funds for this Fund.

Since the fall of 2023, the Solidarity with Ukraine Fund stopped with financial support to beneficiaries, and the remaining funds in the Fund were donated to the association "SVOJA" (EUR 2,600.00).



Recovery of Bania after the earthquake

Three full years after a series of devastating earthquakes hit the Sisak-Moslavina County, the SOLIDARNA Foundation is still not giving up on Banija. After a numerous bureaucratic entanglements at the end of 2023, through Fund 5.5, we moved a six-member family from Majske Poljane into their new house, built according to modern criteria of anti-seismic prefabricated construction, and we are in the process of completing 4 more of the same type house. Aware that reconstruction without recovery of the community does not provide a sustainable life, in cooperation with SNV we implemented the project Banija Awakes. It consisted of organizing the second **Regional Fair of Cooperation Culture Development** in Petrinja for local producers and associations, as well as a series of workshops for children called **The Secret Forest Society** run by the artist Ana Zubak. The artist **Agata Lučić** also conducted art workshops with the pupils of the Jabukovac elementary school, and the result of the joint work is a large mural on the front of the school in which the students themselves participated, while the motifs of the mural are combined of their artwork.



In the context of recovery, during 2023 we worked intensively on the implementation of the project **Urban Regeneration of Petrinja After the Earthquake**, run by the company for sustainable urban development and

spatial policies Urbanex (Croatia), the architectural and design company KCAP (Switzerland/Netherlands) and the SOLIDARNA Foundation. The partner in the implementation of the project is the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**. The project was fully financed by the funds of the Government of Japan through the Japan-EBRD Cooperation Fund (JECF) and was developed with the aim of supporting the City Administration of Petrinja in the implementation of reconstruction and rehabilitation measures after earthquake. The project developed a scenario for the urban regeneration of a selected location in the center of Petrinja, which aims to contribute to the recovery of the community, the quality of life and the restoration of public spaces after the earthquake.



The creation of the scenario was preceded by a series of activities with citizens, such as focus groups, design thinking workshops and public a discussion in the form of a citizen's hour, which was conducted by the SOLIDARNA Foundation in cooperation with the ZAMAH Foundation, and where thoughts and opinions were gathered about the current needs of the local community, the challenges of life in the city after the earthquake, and ideas about the preferred direction of Petrinja's development.

[The Desa & Jerko Baković Fund](#)

The Desa & JerkoJ Baković Fund was founded in 2018 based on an **HRK 600,000 donation** from **Desa Baković**. That year, we enrolled 29 students in the first "solidarity class". Of these 29, 23 will have graduated by 2023, while in school year 2022/2023 was currently six scholarship recipients of the fund. For this reason, the SOLIDARNA Foundation launched the campaign "ONE FOR ONE: Solidarity with a goal" in order to provide funds for scholarships for the new "solidarity class" in which, from the 2023/2024 school year, 30 new scholarship holders enrolled.



The selection of scholarship recipients was extremely difficult for the members and members of the Fund Council, **as 170 applications were received in a very short time**. Candidates for scholarships were applied for by schools, centers for social welfare, local associations, and homes for children without adequate parental care, guided by the development index of counties with a focus on the most underdeveloped areas of the country. Although it was extremely difficult, new scholarship recipients were selected. The SOLIDARNA Foundation entered the year 2024 with 34 scholarship recipients. The youngest scholarship recipient is 10 years old and attends the 4th grade of primary school, and the oldest scholarship recipient is 18 years old and attends the 4th grade of secondary school. Scholarship recipients of the Desa and Jerko Fund are children from the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia. The largest number of scholarship recipients is from the Sisak-Moslavina County and the Osijek-Baranja County, which are areas of the country with a lower development index. A certain number of scholarship holders come from the area of the cities of Rijeka and Zagreb, the north of Croatia, the coast and islands, and the surroundings of the city of Split.

With the beginning of the school year, in October, we organized the second top list of regionalists - a humanitarian evening of laughter. Visitors to the Top list of regionalists enjoyed a two-hour dose of humor led by Pedja Bajović.



Along with Peđa, **Tin Vodopivec**, a veteran of the Slovenian scene, took to the stage. **Hrvoje Krmelić** from Zagreb came out of his 4 walls in front of a happy audience, and **Ana Zlatanović** (Serbia) shared her business experiences with entertainers. **Semir Gicić**, although his name doesn't say so, came from Serbia to make us laugh and find out why he doesn't like call center operators. In the end, **Omer Hodžić** from Mostar shared how challenging the journey from Bosnia to the European Union can be.

Culture in community

Through the **Culture in the Community program**, the SOLIDARNA Foundation supports various media that engage in socially engaged artistic and discursive practices in their work. During 2023, SOLIDARNA financially supported a number of programs in implementation and preparation. As part of the accompanying program of the **21st Human Rights Film Festival** from December 4 to 9, 2023, we supported **three thematic events** that problematize the current challenges of human rights protection in the domestic and international context, where human rights are often relativized and systematically degraded.

SOLIDARNA and our Croatian Women's Fund opened the topic of **women's rights and mobilization of the electorate on the example of Poland**, which was discussed by Klementyina Suchanov, co-founder of the All-Polish Women's Strike and author of the book "This is war. Women, fundamentalists and the new Middle Ages". Another important topic we dealt with was the advocacy power of civil society in the context of elections, which was discussed on the panel by Sanja Sarnavka, Berto Šalaj, Marko Kovačić and Ante Šalinović. The panel was followed by an informative and educational workshop on techniques and tactics of public advocacy, with examples of good practice supported by the Fund for Active Citizenship, with a special focus on the electoral context.



In 2023, SOLIDARNA financially supported a workshop for young critics organized by **Kurziva - Platform for issues of culture, media and society**, which resulted in a series of mentored reviews and film critiques of the Human Rights Film Festival program, as well as support for the realization of the festival newspaper. This collaborative activity is a contribution to sensitizing young film and literary critics to human rights topics, as well as to the development of the audience and HRRF.

We also provided financial support to the artist **Arijana Fridrich Lekić**, who, with the support of the **Domino** association, creates a durational performance „Tiha misa“ (engl. Silent Mass) as a reaction and

counterpoint to a group of men kneeling in public squares and begging for the abolition of basic women's rights.



Photo: Udruga DOMINO @Facebook

At the end of 2023, the first **European Feminist Conference** was held under the title Women's Policies - The Future of Feminist Struggle with a rich discursive and artistic-activist program, and gathered more than 30 politicians, artists, activists from Croatia and Europe in Zagreb, and SOLIDARNA is one of the financial supporters of the conference.

Also, through Culture in the Community, SOLIDARNA supported the preparation of the short feature film **Apollon Club** by young director Kruna Trninić and producer Matea Bračko, which through the story of male friendships explores the negative impact of social networks on the mental health of adolescents, i.e. the increasing spread of extremist ideologies via the Internet. Through the prism of a group of best friends, Apollon Club examines the dangers of sexism, bigotry and homophobia in today's teenagers.

Implementation of the Impact4Values program

About the program

From January 1, 2023, the Slovenian-Croatian consortium consisting of the Center for Information, Cooperation and Development of non-governmental organizations - [CNVOS](#), [Slagalica - Foundation for Local Community Development](#) and Solidarna - Foundation for human rights and solidarity started implementing the Impact4values program. The program is implemented from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 within the framework of the EU program Citizens, Equality, Rights, Values ([CE RV](#)).

The total value of the Impact4values program is 4,250,000 euros, of which 2,350,000 euros will be allocated to non-governmental organizations through public tenders, while the other part will be used for capacity building of organizations (training, mentoring), networking, program management, etc.

The overall goal of the program is to improve the capacity of civil society organizations at the local level to have a significant impact on the community and society in implementing EU values. As part of

Impact4values, it is planned to conduct 3 public tenders with an accompanying capacity building program for civil society organizations. Each invitation will be published simultaneously in Slovenia and Croatia. The content of the calls will be the same, but they will differ in the amount of available funds.

The capacity building program combines different formats and methods, creating a dynamic cross-disciplinary and transnational learning environment. **Key activities include:** an introductory workshop focused on a shared understanding of EU values, a series of 12 webinars, a series of 3 thematic training sessions with experts from across the EU, a series of 4 transnational political debates, 45 mentoring packages, managing EU values, Virtual classroom and multilingual online knowledge platform for civic activists in the community and civil society organizations across the EU.

In the Ministry of Science and Education at the Info Days of the Office for Associations of the Republic of Croatia on March 30, 2023., the representative of the SOLIDARNA Foundation presented the Impact4Values program to the general public.

The general public can follow the work of the Impact4Values program through the subpages of the consortium member organizations and the program's Facebook and Instagram page.

Calls

The first call is aimed at impact-oriented projects of various sizes to enable the participation of local civil society organizations and civil society organizations in development. **The second call** focuses on grants to support ad-hoc projects with the aim of supporting organizations when urgent forms of immediate response are needed either to address challenges or to take advantage of advocacy opportunities. **The third call** will further encourage cross-border cooperation.

The Public call for small and medium projects was open from March 27, 2023 to May 29, 2023 at 12 pm. Total amount of available support: 2,000,000 euros, of which for Croatia: approximately 1,200,000 euros. Total amount for small projects (Group 1): 300,000 euros (10,000-30,000 euros per project) and for medium projects (Group 2): 900,000 euros (40,000-60,000 euros per project). Projects can last from 12-18 months. The call was presented **at the informative workshop held on April 11, 2023, and the program and the Call were presented to civil society organizations through additional 2 activities: mobile teams and individual consultations.**

The mobile teams visited 7 cities (Slavonski Brod, Split, Pula, Petrinja, Rijeka, Vukovar, Varaždin) and presented funding opportunities through the Impact4Values program for civil society organizations, especially current Call for small and medium projects. The team of the SOLIDARNA Foundation organized and held meetings with civil society organizations in 4 cities (Split, Pula, Petrinja, Rijeka) and 25 people from 19 civil society organizations participated in them.

Individual consultations with interested organizations for submitting projects to the Public call for small and medium projects as part of the Impact4Values program, were held from May 5 to 19, and the opportunity for individual support was used by 12 organizations that held meetings with representatives of the SOLIDARNA Foundation, while in the same period the CF Slagalica conducted 10 individual consultations.

In the period from March 27, 2023 to May 29, 2023, 129 applications were received for the Call for small and medium projects, of which 121 entered the evaluation process, and 27 applications received funding, 11 projects in Group 1, with a total value of 317,909.76 euros, and 15 projects in Group 2 with a total value of 883,951.59 euros.

The process of contracting financial support lasted from July to August 2023, and capacity assessments of organizations were carried out for the purpose of creating an action plan for each organization, and ultimately also planning a mentoring program.

Introductory training for beneficiaries through the Impact4Values program, organized by consortium members, CF Slagalica and Solidarna Foundation from Croatia and CNVOS from Slovenia, was held on September 4 and 5 in Slovenia, Metlika, at Hotel Bela Krajina. 42 people from applicant organizations or partner organizations participated. The introductory training for Slovenian and Croatian civil society organizations who implement projects through the Impact4Values program included capacity building activities, as well as activities related to strategic goals and key concepts related to the protection of EU

values. The guests of the round table were Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, Katarina Turković Gulin, Tatjana Vlašić and Nika Kovač, who presented their experience and practices in activism and work. The program included work in groups, discussions on the activities of organizations and training on organizational development. The training was conducted in Croatian and Slovenian with provided translation.

The Public Call for actions for the defense of European values was opened on November 2, 2023 with the aim of providing financial support to organizations in urgent advocacy, legal, communication and other actions planned as an immediate response to various challenges. Total amount of available support: 2,500,000 euros, of which for Croatia: approximately 1,500,000 euros (5,000-10,000 per project). The duration of the project is planned up to 6 months.

The call is presented **at the informative workshop held on September 20, 2023.**

In the period from November 2, 2023 to December 31, 2023, 7 applications were received.

Capacity building activities

From September to December 2023, extensive work was done to prepare the establishment of the **Virtual Classroom/ the E-learning platform** for teachers and civil society organizations. Internal training of the team took place on December 14 2023. Given the great interest of civil society organizations that implement projects as part of the Impact4Values program as partners, it was subsequently decided to give them access so that as many organizations as possible could use the resources that are regularly added to the platform. 2 webinars with specific, selected topics were published on the platform for the purpose of education and raising the capacity of civil society organizations.

In Zagreb, on November 29, 2023, the first Peer learning workshop was held for 46 organizations (Slovenia and Croatia), out of a total of 4, at the locations of Šesnaestica (Ozaljska ulica 16), Udruga RODA (Ul. Jurja Žerjavića 10), Human Rights House (Selska road 112C), Center for Women's Studies (Dolac 8), Center for War and Peace (Bosanska ulica 28). The purpose of the workshop is to network the users of the Call, depending on their field of activity (human rights, gender equality, social, democracy, environment), monitor their progress and present other activities of the capacity building program.

On November 27, 2023, **a call for mentors was published as part of the Impact4Values program** with the aim of finding mentors who will use their knowledge and experience to help civil society organizations implementing projects as part of the Impact4values program. By December 11, 2023, 32 mentor applications were received, of which 27 were selected. The selected mentors were assigned to organizations according to the topics and areas defined in their capacity building and mentor availability plans. Mentoring will begin **in January 2024 and will last until the end of 2025.**

ACF Croatia

In 2023, Solidarna Foundation, as part of ACF Croatia, actively engaged in **Regional Civil Society Initiatives** (RCSI) to enhance cross-border cooperation within the civil society sector. ACF Croatia, committed to the ACF Community of Action (CoA) collaborated on four key pillars: Internal Capacity Building, Advocacy/Support for Defending Civic Space, Network Cooperation and Exchange, and Interface for the ACF Programme. Throughout the year, ACF Croatia participated in eight online/live meetings, fostering collaboration and discussions on diverse topics such as progressive re-granting and the role of social service providers in protecting human rights.

ACF Croatia organized six joint RCSI events on topics like advocacy for women's human rights, policy brief development, leadership skills, humor as a human rights tool, digital sovereignty, and visual harvesting.

Additionally, Solidarna Foundation as part of ACF Croatia monitored ad-hoc action projects through intensive online and phone meetings and participated in an extensive capacity-building program. Advocacy coaching workshops were conducted, with 9 out of 12 held for more than 210 participants, focusing on peer exchange and learning to enhance public advocacy skills. Individual **coaching, mentoring, and counseling**

for **organizational development**, **community mobilizing**, and **advocacy** included 122 sessions for 56 project promoters on the ACF Croatia level, covering various topics such as project management, sustainability, financial diversification, networking, communication, community mobilization, and organizational development.

Overall, these capacity-building activities showcased a commitment to regional cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building within the civil society sector, with a focus on underserved areas and less experienced organizations.

Projects

"**Digiceda - the alphabet of digital literacy and employability**" is a project that the Croatian Association of Market Communication Societies (HURA) has been implementing for the past year and a half with partners Solidarna Foundation, Sirius Center, and IKS Association.



The core of the project consists of several cycles of workshops - for elementary school students, high school students young people and the unemployed - in the field of **digital literacy and mental health**, which aim to respond to low employability in the aspect of digital literacy and to interest and equip children and young people for innovative and digital jobs of the future. More than 10 topics and 20 workshops held in which around 400 participants took part during several months of the workshop

cycle helped children, young people and unemployed residents of the Sisak-Moslavina County to become familiar with numerous current topics with experienced workshop leaders through interactive lectures and exercises and constructive discussions that required active participation and reflection. The mental health of young people, prevention of electronic violence, employment in the digital sector, media literacy and social networks are just some of them.

As part of the project, the team of the SOLIDARNA Foundation held a workshop on fundraising for participants of the "Lovreki" student cooperative, where the students learned about fundraising models, the activities that accompany them and together decided on the way to implement the campaign, the goal, duration, main messages and channels through which they will be distributed. For the implementation of the digital campaign, the students participated in the creation of video materials in which they showed what they do as cooperative members: from making clay products, cyanotypes, to jewelry making and glass fusion. Part of the video material also includes the space of the student cooperative and a conversation with the participants about their needs as cooperative members.

The educational workshop and work on the campaign provided students with **a new set of skills and introduced them to tools that they can use in their further work** in order not only to improve the working conditions of the cooperative, but also to answer in the future some socially important questions that concern them and were prepared for organizing and implementing mini digital campaigns.

The Health Observatory

The Health Observatory, as an intersectoral collaborative network in Croatia, stems from the recognition of the need for long-term and structured collaboration in healthcare, especially within civil society and the academic community. The main goal of the network is to strengthen the voice of patients in decision-making processes about their health and the health care system, with a focus on the quality and availability of health care, the financing of health care, and the role of citizens. The network conducted scientific research on health needs in Croatia and, based on scientific evidence, drew on guidelines for the development of public policies. Activities include expert lectures, educational workshops, networking, and conducting policy analysis and research-based document development. Special emphasis is placed on the Health Traffic Light, a platform for collecting information on the accessibility and quality of health services. The network participated in public campaigns, round tables, and debates, and cooperated with decision-makers.

In 2023, Solidarna Foundation actively participated in the work of the Health Observatory, especially through **strategic planning, summarizing results, and knowledge-enhancing workshops**. Around 2023, Solidarna held a series of workshops with members of the network on citizen mobilization, self-financing, PR, crowdfunding, the use of social networks, and the creation of long-term fundraising plans. Strategic planning was carried out in July 2023, and Solidarna Foundation played a key role in leading it and presenting the results to the members of the Observatory.

[Leave a good mark](#)

The SOLIDARNA Foundation was a partner in the new edition of the "**Leave a Good Trace**" program, which is supported by **Erste Bank**, and was implemented in cooperation with partners: **Panda Communications** and **Social Prudence Consulting**. The goal of the program is to provide educational and mentoring support to non-profit organizations and help them achieve financial resilience and raise funds for their programs. The selected eleven participants of the 'Leave a good mark' program took part in an educational program where they will learn how to create or improve a social business model, how to create a fundraising strategy, tell their story and how to improve their presentation on digital channels. After the presentation of the fundraising campaigns, the expert jury chose the winner.

After the [eleven non-profit organizations selected](#) to participate in the "[Leave a Good Mark](#)" program went through an educational program and **presented their fundraising campaigns** in front of an expert jury, those with the best ideas were declared. The Association for Homeless and Socially Vulnerable Persons **Oaza from Rijeka** won with the proposal to provide free telephone professional psychological support for people in crises and won additional individual mentoring and organizational support from our partners **Panda Communications** and **Social Prudence Consulting** worth 10 thousand euros for implementation fundraising campaigns. Valuable awards were also won by the **Maštara Association from Zagreb** and the **Kas Association from Sisak**, while the audience award for the best presentation of their idea went to the "**Uz tebe sam**" counseling association from **Varaždin**.



Campaigns and actions

“ONE FOR ONE: Solidarity with a goal”

The SOLIDARNA Foundation launched the **Desa & Jerko Baković Fund’s donor campaign “ONE FOR ONE: Solidarity with a goal”** to collect funds for scholarships for underprivileged children for the entire period of their education, from elementary school to graduation.



The first phase of the campaigns started with a press conference on June 3rd and lasted until July 11th, and we are especially glad that this campaign was a “matching” campaign, thanks to the generous donor of the SOLIDARNA Foundation, who made it possible to double every euro donated, **all up to 40,000 euros**. The campaign was realized online and offline through external digital advertising and by organizing a public event “Graduation for All” at The Garden Brewery. From 03.06. 2023 until July 11, 2023, a total of EUR

37,314.82 was paid to the giro sub-account of the Desa & Jerko Baković Fund of the SOLIDARNA Foundation.

During the duration of the campaign, 475 individual donations were paid, of which 462 were payments by natural persons in the total amount of EUR 31,554.82 and 13 payments by legal entities for EUR 5,760.00.

The lowest individual donation by a natural person was EUR 0.1, and the lowest individual donation by a legal entity was EUR 5.00. The largest single donation by a natural person was EUR 1,000.00, while the largest single donation by a legal entity was EUR 2,500.00. The average donation amount of a natural person is EUR 68.31, while the average donation amount for legal entities is EUR 271.67.



The donation campaign “ONE FOR ONE: Solidarity with a goal” was realized thanks to several volunteers, as well as donors of the Desa & Jerko Baković Fund, who in addition to money, donated their time, creativity, and professional skills.

Women's safety is the responsibility of the state

In more than 20 cities across Croatia, **women's organizations and initiatives held the action "Women's safety is the responsibility of the state"**.

More than 40 different organizations and initiatives participated in the action, including the SOLIDARNA Foundation. A great contribution was made by women with their independent actions, standing at 4 pm for 15 minutes and going out into the streets to show solidarity with the victims of femicide and point out the problem of violence against women which the state does not have an adequate response. Women took to the streets for the first time with demands regarding the legal regulation of femicide back in the 12th month. Since then, we have continuously advocated for changes in legislation and practice regarding femicide. During the action in Zagreb, requests were submitted to the Ministry of Justice and Administration, which were received by the State Secretary.

Actions were held in Beli Manastir, Pakrac, Mali Lošinj, Trogir, Glina, Korčula, Vukovar, Virovitica, Križevci, Korenica, Šibenik, Karlovac, Bjelovar, Zadar, Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Rijeka, Osijek, Split, Zagreb and Brod na

Kupai, Prvić, Brijuni and other places where women found themselves and stood to express solidarity with victims of femicide and demand concrete measures from state institutions. The women once again loudly said that enough is enough of violence and that it is time for the state to take full responsibility for their safety!



Towards the end of the year, good news arrived. Significant changes to the Criminal Procedure Act, the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, the Courts Act and the Family Act have been announced. Stricter sentences, the specialization of judges, the introduction of femicide as a separate criminal offense, the ban on the use of the pseudo-scientific term "alienation from parents", which has caused a lot of harm to women and children who are victims and witnesses of violence, will, hopefully, significantly affect the prevention of gender-based violence against women.

[#ZaLovreke](#)

As part of the DIGICEDA project, a donor campaign was launched for the student cooperative "Lovreki", which operates at the elementary school "Mate Lovraka" from Petrinja. The aim of the campaign was to **collect funds for equipping and decorating the space of the student cooperative**, because the current space of the cooperative is an old teacher's apartment in which there are many problems: drains that do not work, floors that are falling apart, lack of equipment and necessary materials for the cooperative's work

The donor campaign called #ZaLovreke started on November 12 with the sending of a press release and the publication of the main video of the campaign on the social networks of the SOLIDARNA Foundation (Facebook, Instagram, X) and the social networks of the Student Cooperative "Lovreki" and partner organizations.



The campaign lasted until December 31 and a total of €1,611.00 was collected. The campaign was primarily aimed at the general public (natural persons) and the largest number of payments came from citizens - 23 of them in the total amount of €891.00, while 2 legal entities paid a total of €720.00. Through the Facebook and Instagram profiles of the SOLIDARNA Foundation, the campaign was advertised from November 22. until 6.12. and ads reached 101,580 unique people and a total of 483,044 times. Users achieved 1,544 clicks on ads. In terms of age, people 45-54 years old clicked the most, followed by the 35-44 year old group, women clicked a little more on the ads than men, but the difference is not big. The funds collected as part of the campaign will not be able to completely solve the problems with the inadequate space of the cooperative - but will provide them with small and necessary changes, such as additional equipment for work and procurement of materials.

Advocacy and support

Together with 36 other civil society organizations, the SOLIDARNA Foundation sent a **public letter of support to lawyer Lina Budak** for her courageous public appearance and presentation of her own, extremely unpleasant experience in the encounter with the Croatian health care system, and demanded a public apology and political responsibility of the minister and prime minister for essential changes in health care! The SOLIDARNA Foundation and the signatories of the statement asked Minister Beroš and Prime Minister Plenković to publicly apologize to Mrs. Lina Budak for the lack of support from the public health system of the Republic of Croatia, which caused a significant delay in the initiation of treatment for a serious illness, and for inappropriate statements by the minister himself. Ministers and prime ministers who are responsible and aware of their role are obliged to listen to their citizens - both patients and doctors and lawyers who point to a series of systemic problems and alarming situations, including the experience of Mrs. Lina Budak. Taking political responsibility is the first step towards substantial change. A step we are still waiting for.

The SOLIDARNA Foundation welcomed the proposed **concept of the Law on Reconstruction**, which responds to the evident problems in the management and organization of reconstruction, and which, just like our colleagues from the humanitarian coordination at SMŽ, we have repeatedly warned about based on our donor practice. Due to the extremely short deadline - as much as two-thirds shorter than that prescribed by the Law on the Right to Access to Information, in the aforementioned public consultation we expressed ourselves only at the level of principle, without going into the details of the legal provisions. Due to the great importance of this legal solution not only for the citizens who suffered but also for the strategic development of Croatia - namely, the state reconstruction from the third attempt must not fail.

And in 2023, we continued to **advocate for the opening of Mark's Square to citizens**. Together with 22 other civil society organizations, they joined GONG's appeal to the Government of the Republic of Croatia, Prime Minister Andrej Plenković and Minister of the Interior Davor Božinović to open Markov trg, the area where the key democratic institution's Parliament, the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Constitutional Court are located, to citizens. ...



The public has never received an adequate explanation of the extent and nature of the danger of new attacks on the Government, Parliament and Constitutional Court buildings from the SOA security assessment, although this is precisely the document that the authorities refer to when they forbid citizens from entering Markov Square. The public has every right to know all the facts about the level of danger, except for those that must remain secret, to really ensure that any restriction on the right to free assembly in front of the Government, the Parliament and the Constitutional Court is clearly explained and strictly limited.

It's time for St. Mark's Square to finally open to citizens. The security of the institutions of legislative and executive power should be organized in such a way that this space is simultaneously open for free assembly.

And in 2023, we were again on street 8.3. and participated in the **Women's March** organized by the collaborative organization fAktiv on the occasion of International Women's Day. SOLIDARNA was part of the Pride Parade in 2022 as well, standing in solidarity for the safety, freedom and pride of every person who makes up the wealth of the LGBTIQ+ community and our human race, on every street, every workplace, every school, and every home throughout Croatia and the world. We have participated in and supported several trainings and campaigns of cooperating organizations and contributed as guests, co-organizers, activists, or educators.

Organizational achievements in 2023.

In 2023, SOLIDARNA managed to secure a **predictable source of financial support for institutional development**, which covers the costs of operational costs and ongoing professional development. The past year was the second year in the mandate of manager Ivan Blažević, which ended with stable income and a strengthened team that contributes to the achievements of the foundation.

In the 10th month, the SOLIDARNA Foundation received reinforcements for direct work with beneficiaries in the form of the employment of a social worker, Martina Perić. The SOLIDARNA Foundation welcomed the end of the year with the signing of a private lease agreement, and the beginning of 2024 will begin in the new office.

After the SOLIDARNA Foundation entered 2023 with two awards, it ended the year with two new awards. Marina Škrabalo, program advisor of the Foundation, is the winner of T-portal's "Visionary of the Year" award in the society category, while director Ivan Blažević is the winner of the MBA Croatia Awards in the social contribution category.

Collaborative network and volunteers

In its work, SOLIDARNA continues to largely rely on the voluntary and material contribution of donors, citizens and companies, which is its long-term strategy of mobilizing the community to protect human rights and its own sustainability. The material, logistical and programmatic support of several organizations was also valuable: the Slagalica Foundation, the SMART Association, the #SPASIME initiative, the Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development, K-Zona, the Krijesnice Association, the Coalition of Healthcare Associations, Radio Yammāt, Balkans from Serbia and CNVOS from Slovenia.

In 2023, in addition to the constant volunteer engagement of Sanja Sarnavka, Mirjana Matešić, Boris Jokić, Zlata Pastar and Nebojsa Taraba as members of the Foundation Board, we especially thank the concrete volunteer and collaborative contribution of Assoc. Ph.D. Antonija Petričušić, Jelena Kovačić Solarić and Prof. Ph.D. Dean Ajduković, Jasenka Grujić, as members and members of the Foundation Council of the #SPASIME Fund, Zoran Pusić, Vesna Teršelič, Martina Horvat, Dorija Jukić as members and members of the Foundation Council of the Desa & Jerko Baković Fund. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the members of the Solidarity Fund with Ukraine: Aida Bagić, Zlata Pastar, Tajana Tadić and Antonija Šeperić. Thank you to the iZone agency for the support in the campaigns, to the designer Goga Golik, to the volunteer Zinka B. thank you to the European Center for War and Peace Studies for the year-long cooperation and to their great volunteers who come to visit us and complete our activities with their work.

Thanks also go to our occasional volunteers: Lana Bobić, Duje Prkut, Dejan Fišter, Davor Marenjak, and our founders who set aside their free time for volunteer engagement for SOLIDARNA Blaženka Sečkar, Mladen Majetić, Nives Miošić-Lisjak, Urša Raukar, Vilim Matula, Gordan Bosanac, Sara Lala. A big thank you goes to Nora Krstulović for all web changes and improvements to the SOLIDARNA website.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2023.

Even in the eighth year, SOLIDARNA continued the trend of income growth, which enables us to continue our work and gives us a wind behind our engagement with new initiatives, philanthropic programs, campaigns and active support for the most vulnerable groups of society and the protection of human rights. The SOLIDARNA Foundation revenue growth in the previous year is an indicator of SOLIDARNA's successful positioning as a reliable partner for the public and business sectors and citizens.

The financial report is available on the website of the SOLIDARNA Foundation:

<https://solidarna.hr/financijski-izvjestaj-za-2023-godinu/>

CONCLUSION

The eighth year of work, like the previous one, had its challenges, but we successfully overcame them. Compared to previous years, the year 2023 was calmer in terms of global crises (coronavirus, earthquake, war) and the work of the SOLIDARNA Foundation was more strategically focused. We are proud of the successful first year of the Women's Fund, which in addition to grants for beneficiaries now also has a regranting program for civil society organizations and activists working in the field of gender equality. We continued to work on the restoration of Bania, through the houses and the implementation of various cultural projects that restore the spirit of Bania and make everyday life easier. We have enrolled a new solidarity class, and another 30 scholarship holders of the Desa & Jerko Baković Fund will have individualized support until graduation. We do campaigns, cooperate with the business sector, educate, advocate, and we hope to justify the trust you place in us in the coming year.

SOLIDARNA FOUNDATION IN THE MEDIA IN 2023.

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