

THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERVIEW – IMPACT4VALUES

CALL 1 – SMALL AND MEDIUM PROJECTS

SMALL PROJECTS

1. CROATIAN VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE: V4V - VOLUNTEERING FOR VALUES

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Funding awarded	29.995,79 EUR
Project duration	18 months (1.9.2023 – 28.2.2025)

In Croatia, volunteering has long been developing spontaneously and without a strategic approach.

There is a noticeable lack of interest among decision-makers, limited communication with the ministry responsible for volunteering, and the absence of key national strategic documents for the development of volunteering and civil society. Citizens who volunteer often do not see the connection between volunteering and civic engagement, as well as fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law, freedom, and respect for human dignity and human rights. Discussions about this topic often create an idealized image of volunteers and volunteering, which diminishes the seriousness of volunteering and fosters an unrealistic perception in the public. Volunteering is frequently reduced solely to humanitarian work, losing its broader significance and diversity.

Through the project “Volunteering for Values,” we aim to showcase the diversity of volunteer engagement and demonstrate the social impact of volunteering on achieving European Union values. The project will develop recommendations for new policies in the field of volunteering, aiming to unlock the full potential of volunteering in Croatia to strengthen democracy, civic engagement, European values, and the achievement of sustainable development goals, as well as to enhance crisis response, recovery, and resilience processes.

Expected Project Results:

- Conduct an analysis of volunteering research in Croatia, serving as the basis for the preparation of an advocacy report with recommendations for decision-makers (ministries, the National Committee for the Development of Volunteering, the Office for Associations, the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes, etc.).
- Analyze reports from at least 20 volunteering centers and develop recommendations and plans to improve their work. Focus on linking volunteering with active citizenship, solidarity, inclusiveness, and EU values in practice.
- Conduct a survey among volunteering centers and volunteer organizers (minimum of 100 questionnaires) and create recommendations to improve the accessibility of volunteering and the diversity of volunteer programs.
- Engage in dialogue with at least 10 decision-makers to present report findings and define priorities for the development of volunteering.

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- Develop a policy proposal and audiovisual presentation to promote the importance of volunteering and disseminate these materials to at least 40 decision-makers and 100 representatives of volunteering centers and organizers.
- Influence one national policy (National Program for the Development of Volunteering).
- Highlight the importance of volunteering in creating EU values through a campaign involving at least 30 volunteering centers, 120 volunteer organizers, and 2,000 citizens.
- Conduct a two-day training for 20 volunteering center employees on developing local volunteering plans/strategies.
- Organize three discussions to create guidelines for local volunteering strategies in cooperation with three volunteering centers and engage 60 representatives of associations, institutions, local authorities, and citizens in these discussions.
- Develop guidelines for local volunteering strategies in collaboration with volunteering centers.
- Target three local government units to provide concrete recommendations for developing volunteering at the local level, while also addressing the broader public in local communities.