THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERVIEW – IMPACT4VALUES

CALL 2 – ACTIONS FOR DEFENDING EU VALUES

7. CROATIAN YOUTH NETWORK, THE FUTURE WITHOUT A MILITARY SERVICE

Contact	sandra@mmh.hr
Funding awarded	9.940,00 EUR
Project duration	5 months (04.11.2024-04.04.2025)

Main Project Goals:

The goal of the project is to prevent the reintroduction of mandatory military service in Croatia and to protect the rights of young people to freedom of choice and conscientious objection. The project focuses on raising public awareness and exerting pressure on decision-makers to reject this initiative. Mandatory military service particularly affects young people who have not had the opportunity to participate in the political decision-making process, jeopardizes their autonomy, and may increase youth emigration. The proposal to penalize conscientious objection further violates fundamental European values, as the right to conscientious objection is a key aspect of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

Expected Project Results:

Campaign on Social Media and Public Actions: These activities aim to create a broad public discussion and raise awareness about the harmful consequences of military service for youth. The campaign will also promote the right to conscientious objection, inform about human rights, and debunk myths about military service. This includes 20 social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok) and 5 vox populi videos showcasing real stories from young people and their reasons for opposing mandatory military service, as well as 3 public actions to mobilize youth and raise the visibility of the military service issue in the public sphere.

Round Table in the Croatian Parliament: Organizing a round table with relevant experts (security, human rights, peacebuilding) and representatives of youth. This event aims to open a public discussion on mandatory military service and highlight the negative aspects of militarization. Through this format, we seek to ensure the presence of media, politicians, and relevant stakeholders to create additional political pressure.

Creation of Informational Materials on Conscientious Objection: Developing a digital handbook with detailed information about the right to conscientious objection, legislative frameworks, and the procedures for exercising that right, as well as a shorter digital leaflet intended for quick dissemination on social media. The goal is to educate young people about their rights and empower them to informedly oppose mandatory military service.

Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations: Connecting and collaborating with at least 10 civil society organizations in various regions of Croatia. The goal is to ensure broader geographic coverage of the campaign and reach young people from all parts of the country. Through this collaboration, we plan joint activities such as panels, workshops, and public debates to further empower young people to actively engage in political processes. This collaboration will also facilitate the creation of alliances with journalists, influencers, representatives of institutions, and politicians who support the initiative against mandatory military service, thereby strengthening the campaign's impact and increasing the likelihood of political pressure.