

THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERVIEW – IMPACT4VALUES

CALL 1 – SMALL AND MEDIUM PROJECTS

SMALL PROJECTS

8. SUMA – ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: I4V - YOUTH4SDGs: YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF PODRAVINA

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Funding awarded	29.043,33 EUR
Project duration	16 months (01.10.2023-31.01.2025)

The aim of the project is to strengthen the advocacy and watchdog role of "SUMA - Association for Sustainable Development" through the activation of young people in the field of sustainable development, especially through stronger participation of young people in political and social activities. Project activities will take place in Podravina, a region that includes parts of three counties (Koprivnica-Križevačka county, Varaždin county and Virovitica-Podravina county). The level of participation of young people in Podravina in political and social activities is extremely low, which is indicated by a small number of youth associations for young people, inactive youth councils, a very low level of democracy in student councils and low interest of young people in participating in political processes. On the other hand, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are insufficiently addressed in the public policies of Podravina municipalities, cities and counties. Also, the effects of adopted policies in relation to the sustainable development of the community are not indicated, which can lead to inadequate public policies or even the absence of public policies. Therefore, this project seeks to solve both problems, low participation of young people and the lack of awareness of decision-makers about the goals of sustainable development, through the empowerment of young people for active involvement in advocacy and monitoring the fulfillment of the goals of sustainable development in their community.

Young people (15-30 years old) from the Podravina area will be included in the non-formal education program through lectures, workshops, a study visit and a hackathon. After the initial recruitment and empowerment, activities aimed at decision makers will follow. These activities include youth meetings with decision makers, participation in participatory budgeting, running for representative and advisory youth bodies, and using social networks to launch campaigns and raise social awareness in the community. A publication containing good practices and additional suggestions related to young people and their role in the process towards sustainable communities will be issued. The project will raise the awareness of young people about the importance of active participation and sustainable development of the community and will involve young people in the process of decision-making and supervision of their implementation, strengthen the responsibility of decision-makers and contribute to sustainable public policies in Podravina.

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Expected project results:

- **Strengthened advocacy role of SUMA**, which is visible through 3 local and regional policies and laws influenced by the association, 1 implemented awareness campaign, 10 media announcements about SUMA's advocacy activities, including official government gazettes.
- **The built capacity of the SUMA Association in the areas of work with young people and sustainable development** through the creation of 3 educational materials, 20 young people who participated in the educational activities of the project, 2 developed innovative practices for work with young people and SDGs, 10 established collaborations with CSOs these, schools, JLRPS and universities.
- **Strengthened activation of young people in social and political processes in the community** through 100 young people involved in community action activities such as advocacy, awareness campaign, volunteering and 12 community-oriented activities during the project in which young people participated
- **Raised awareness of the importance of including sustainable development goals (SDGs) in public policies among decision makers and the general public** through 10,000 people from the general public reached through an advocacy campaign and 9 decision makers reached through project activities.