

SOLIDARITY BEGINS WITH ENCOUNTER



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Prepared by

**SOLIDARNA
FOUNDATION**



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Directors's foreword



IVAN BLAŽEVIĆ

Director

Dear Donors, Partners, and Friends,

we present the 2024 Annual Report, highlighting a year of impactful action toward reducing inequality and protecting human rights. Thanks to your support, we have achieved significant progress.

Philanthropy & Social Support: Collaborating with businesses, media, cultural institutions, and private donors, we expanded solidarity-driven initiatives, ensuring community-driven action for human rights.

Civil Society Development: We provided direct assistance to human rights defenders, civic initiatives, and victims of human rights violations through donations, ad hoc fundraising, education, and advocacy, strengthening civil society as a pillar of democracy.

Capacity Building: Investing in team development, infrastructure, and transparent governance, we enhanced our effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

None of this would be possible without our team, volunteers, and you—our donors and partners. Your support turns solidarity, justice, and equality from ideals into reality. Thank you for building a fairer society with us!

Foundation Overview

The SOLIDARNA Foundation has been a reliable partner to the community for nearly a decade, working towards building a fairer and more resilient society. Solidarna connects citizens, donors, and experts through our Funds and programs to create concrete solutions where the system falls short. Our approach is simple: we respond when needed and make a difference where it matters most.



Mission

The SOLIDARNA Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity creates new opportunities for all citizens to act in solidarity, in our collective effort to protect human rights, meet fundamental human needs, reduce inequalities, and expand freedoms in all spheres of society.

Strategic goals



Support for active citizenship in defending human rights



Strengthening the culture of solidarity and philanthropy for human rights



Organizational development

Fund's Highlights

In 2024, the SOLIDARNA Foundation, through its funds – the Women's Fund, the Desa and Jerko Baković Fund – continued to support vulnerable groups where institutions fail. SOLIDARNA provides essential assistance and resources in areas where no one else steps in, ensuring that those in need are not left behind.



Direct support to victims of gender-based violence (GBV)

In 2024, the Women's Fund provided financial support to:



104 women survivors of GBV and 151 children



85,341.08 EUR

Beyond financial support, the Fund prioritized mental health support:

- 28** beneficiaries received psychotherapy through 11 trainees from the Gestalt Psychotherapy Training Institute and Psihika EAPTI
- 10** beneficiaries participated in Wellbeing LAB breathing and relaxation sessions via Zoom

The primary areas of support included:

- **Housing costs: 35.95%**
- **Living expenses: 31.89%**
- **Legal fees: 24.52%**
- **Reproductive health: 5.88%**
- **Healthcare, education, and interpreter services: 1.77%**

Support was provided across all counties in Croatia, with the highest disbursements in Zagreb, Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Split-Dalmatia, and Osijek-Baranja Counties.

The Women's Fund continues to provide crucial support, empowering survivors of GBV and fostering resilience across Croatia.

Fund's Highlights



FOND
Desa & Jerko
BAKOVIĆ

In 2024, the Desa & Jerko Baković Fund **provided direct educational support to 34 underprivileged students**, with 32 continuing from mid-year, following two successful secondary school graduations.

Scholarship recipients came from different locations across Croatia, including **Vis, Donji Lapac, Ladimirevci, Rijeka, Glina, Vrgin Most, Tisno, Vojnić, Petrinjci, Strašnik, Globočec Ludbreški, Darda, and Zagreb.**



Key Achievements & Impact

Financial support:

€ 50,000+

allocated for scholarships and additional support

€ 50 gift vouchers

for each student, donated in partnership with "Hoću knjigu"

€ 500

in emergency housing support for one family

Furniture donations provided to scholarship recipient's families



Fundraising & Community Engagement

Charity Concert "Youth for the Future"

400+ attendees in collaboration with SO DO orchestra

Music Picnic "Youth for the Future"

50+ attendees

Fundraising Dinner

50+ attendees raised additional funds for student support

Through these initiatives, the Desa & Jerko Baković Fund not only provided financial aid but also fostered a supportive community, ensuring underprivileged students gain access to education, resources, and a brighter future.

CERV Highlights



In 2024, the Impact4Values program, implemented in partnership with the Slagalica Foundation and CNVOS (Slovenia), continued strengthening civil society in Croatia and Slovenia.

3 public calls were launched:

- Call 1 (Small and Medium Projects): 14 projects funded (11 from 2023 + 3 new in 2024)
- Call 2 (Actions to Defend European Values): 6 projects funded in 2024
- Call 3 (Cross-Border Cooperation Projects): 2 projects funded in 2024

Total funding across all calls reached €2,350,000, with Solidarna managing €705,000 and contracting projects worth €650,903.67 (€581,047.25 for Call 1, €59,881.00 for Call 2, €9,975.42 for Call 3).

To ensure quality implementation, Solidarna conducted **19 on-site** and **10 online** monitoring visits, **supporting 18 organizations** through direct consultations and daily availability via email, Zoom, and phone.



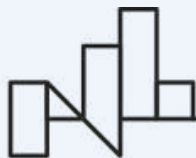
Capacity Building and Advocacy

The program provided comprehensive support through:

- 28** mentors/experts offering guidance on advocacy, financial stability, and organizational capacity
- 3** five-day Masterclasses, training 45+ organizations from Croatia and Slovenia
- 11** in-depth webinars and peer-learning meetings for knowledge exchange
- 1** transborder debates on EU governance with 65+ participants

The Impact4Values program continues to safeguard and promote EU rights and values by empowering smaller CSOs. Each funded project contributes to advocacy, watchdog initiatives, and increased support for vulnerable groups, fostering a more resilient, informed, and active civil society.

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway



Active citizens fund

ACF Highlights

In 2020, the SOLIDARNA Foundation, in collaboration with the Slagalica Foundation from Osijek, the SMART association from Rijeka, and the Slovenian umbrella organization CNVOS from Ljubljana, launched the Active Citizenship Fund in Croatia. The program concluded in 2024, after several years of dedicated effort to foster active citizenship and support related initiatives throughout the country.

The ACF program **delivered targeted financing** to bolster income diversification, enhance fundraising capabilities, and foster organizational development for lasting sustainability and societal impact. It also strengthened advocacy capacities and addressed structural weaknesses in democratic governance particularly in under-resourced regions, while promoting public participation and accountability.

The program also tackled urgent societal issues, including rising populism, hate speech, and discrimination against marginalized communities like the Roma and LGBTIQ+. ACF fostered inclusion and civic engagement by empowering human rights defenders and encouraging cross-cultural dialogue. Bilateral collaborations were strengthened with Croatian CSOs and international partners, facilitating sustainable cooperation through matchmaking events and incentives for donor engagement.

Key outcomes:



Strengthened Civil Society Watchdog Role

Amount incurred: € 578,780.78

55 projects contracted

94 evidence-based policy submissions influenced **29** national policies

67 CSOs conducted research

40 new alliances formed, enhancing monitoring capabilities



Increased Support for Human Rights & Governance

Amount incurred: €1,679,308.50

36 projects contracted

1,506 victims of human rights violations received support

Over 4 million reached through 80 awareness campaigns, increasing awareness of hate crime laws to 23%.



Enhanced Democratic Culture & Civic Engagement

Amount incurred: €2,074,091.24

50 projects contracted

52 CSOs in civic education, engaging 4,406 vulnerable individuals.

1,279 volunteers mobilized, fostering greater community involvement.



Boosted Capacity & Sustainability of Civil Society

Amount incurred: €1,096,469.44

162 CSOs participated in 429 learning initiatives.

90 partnerships formed to enhance collaboration and training for 158 staff members



Bilateral Collaboration Success

Amount incurred: €111,712.44

High trust and satisfaction scores (average 6.4/7) in partnerships.

226 participants involved in bilateral initiatives, reinforcing cooperation



Regional Initiatives Achievements

Amount incurred: €139,748.12

20 cross-border initiatives launched, with 169 CSOs participating and a lasting impact on engaged individuals.

The ACF program has significantly advanced civil society development in Croatia by improving organizational capacities, influencing public policies, and empowering marginalized communities. Despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the program's adaptability ensured the successful achievement of its objectives, with 75.9% of respondents acknowledging its contribution to the sustainable growth of CSOs.



Kultura u zajednici

Programs and projects overview

Culture in the community

Since its launch in 2016, the program has continuously funded socially engaged art focused on human rights and solidarity.

In 2024, the Culture in the Community program supported **7** artistic projects with a total of **€6,205.30**

Funded projects

- **I See the Forest, I Write the Pasture – addressing illegal construction (Metamedij)**
- **Women in the Shadows – contemporary circus on women's invisible labor (Bunike)**
- **Festival of Empathy – exploring loss through art & psychology (Creative Audiovisual Association)**
- **National Day for Combating Violence Against Women Program (Women's Film Festival)**
- **Room of Pleasures – visual-discursive program by cultural studies students**
- **From Patient to Programmer – digital skills empowerment**
- **Human Rights Film Festival – youth critic workshops (Multimedia Institute)**

By fostering artistic projects that raise social awareness, the program strengthens inclusion, exchange, and collective action in communities.





Leave a good mark

In 2024, the Leave a Good Mark program completed its second cycle and entered its third year, continuing into 2025. Organized by Erste Bank with partners SOLIDARNA Foundation, Social Prudence Consulting, and Panda Communications, and supported by Erste Foundation, the program strengthens the financial resilience and fundraising capacity of nonprofit organizations in Croatia.

Funded projects

POGLED – Association for Autism

BIOTEKA – Association for the promotion of biology and related sciences

PAN – Association for environmental and nature protection

Hands-on support:

- Workshops, training, and individual mentoring for tailored learning
- Campaign presentations before an expert jury
- The best-performing organization received additional mentoring and crowdfunding support

Key impacts

1

Social business model development

2

Fundraising strategy creation

3

Communication & digital presence improvement

The program equipped nonprofit organizations with essential financial sustainability skills through education and mentorship, enhancing their impact on communities and reinforcing their ability to create lasting positive change.

EBRD Projects

Private sector for Ukrainian refugee integration in Croatia

Over the past two years, the SOLIDARNA Foundation has played a pivotal role in supporting the SVOJA Association's efforts to integrate Ukrainian refugees into Croatian society through the ***EBRD Private Sector for Ukrainian Refugee Integration in Croatia project***.



Key impacts

As a local consultant, SOLIDARNA provided essential guidance to SVOJA, helping them navigate the complexities of Croatian legislation and establishing a strategic framework to ensure the organization's sustainability and growth.

SOLIDARNA facilitated partnerships between SVOJA and local businesses and civil society organizations, which were crucial for creating employment opportunities for displaced individuals. Additionally, SOLIDARNA assisted in streamlining internal processes within SVOJA to address bureaucratic challenges, ensuring smooth operations effectively. As a result of these efforts, **540 displaced people have secured employment in Croatia**, and SVOJA has become a vital resource for daily support to those in need.

SOLIDARNA's ongoing commitment is to continue empowering displaced people and building lasting partnerships that foster inclusive opportunities in Croatia.

Urban reconstruction of the City of Petrinja after the earthquake

As part of the project ***Urban Reconstruction of the City of Petrinja After the Earthquake***, the SOLIDARNA Foundation played a key role in facilitating the development and presentation of the urban renewal action plan. SOLIDARNA supported the inclusion of local community needs and ideas into the planning process, ensuring that the voices of Petrinja residents were heard and integrated into the scenario.



SOLIDARNA collaborated with experts to develop an action plan for Petrinja's post-earthquake recovery, focusing on resilience and sustainability. Key outcomes include actionable revitalization recommendations, community engagement guidelines, and publicly available resources to support other cities facing similar challenges.

Protection of women's rights and the promotion of gender equality

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.

Impact and progress

In 2024, the Women's Fund launched two funding streams—the **Program Support (PS)** for feminist CSOs and **Actions in the Community (AitC)** for grassroots initiatives—marking the first feminist-focused funding in Croatia since EU accession.

- 10** Organizations received from €9,00 to €14,000 grants, capacity-building support, and technical assistance to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and combat gender-based violence (GBV).
- 16** Grantee partners were supported through the Actions in Community rapid response stream, receiving grants ranging from €1,000 to €2,170 for community-based feminist initiatives.

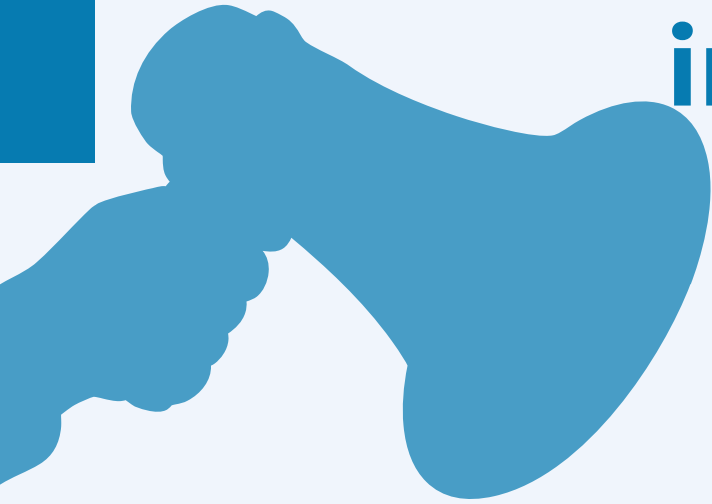
For equality as our reality.



Impact and progress

Through the **Abuse is Not Love** project with L'Oréal Adria/YSL, SOLIDARNA organized three training sessions at Zagreb's Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Law, and the Academy of Dramatic Arts. Experts, including Karla Pudar, Anica Tomić, Ana Pecotić, Lana Bobićand Dunja Bonacci Skenderović, trained **107** participants on **recognizing early signs of intimate partner violence**, coercive control, and the difference between healthy and abusive relationships.

Communication in numbers



New web
visitors

26.000

Web page
views

59.000

Media
coverege

85+

FB & IG
posts

800+

FB visits

45.800

increased 57%

IG visits

5.800

increased 80%



Campaigns

Life has a price

public donors campaign for the Women's Fund



In 2024, the SOLIDARNA Foundation launched the **Life Has a Price** campaign to support women and children who survived domestic and sexual violence. The campaign addressed financial dependence—one of the biggest barriers preventing survivors from leaving abusive relationships.



Over 90 days, the campaign strengthened the Women's Fund, which provides direct financial aid to GBV survivors, helping them rebuild their lives free from violence. **With 1 in 3 women in Croatia experiencing violence, and most cases going unreported, the campaign raised awareness, mobilized public support, and secured vital resources.**

Implemented with Agency 404 and volunteers, the campaign reinforced SOLIDARNA's commitment to combating gender-based violence and ensuring survivors have the support they need to achieve long-term safety and independence.

The campaign successfully raised €25.377,90 amount of funds and included two major public events: a Wine Evening and a Benefit Concert, ensuring continued financial assistance for survivors and empowering them to start anew.

Campaigns

More books, less worries

campaign for the Desa & Jerko Bakovic Fund



The SOLIDARNA Foundation started the autumn with the campaign **More Books, Fewer Worries**, aimed at raising funds to provide scholarships for children from low-income families through the Desa & Jerko Baković Fund.



The More Books, Fewer Worries campaign was both online and offline, and proved to be very successful, raising 10.218,83 euros to cover scholarships and additional expenses for 32 children from the Solidarity Class for one school year.

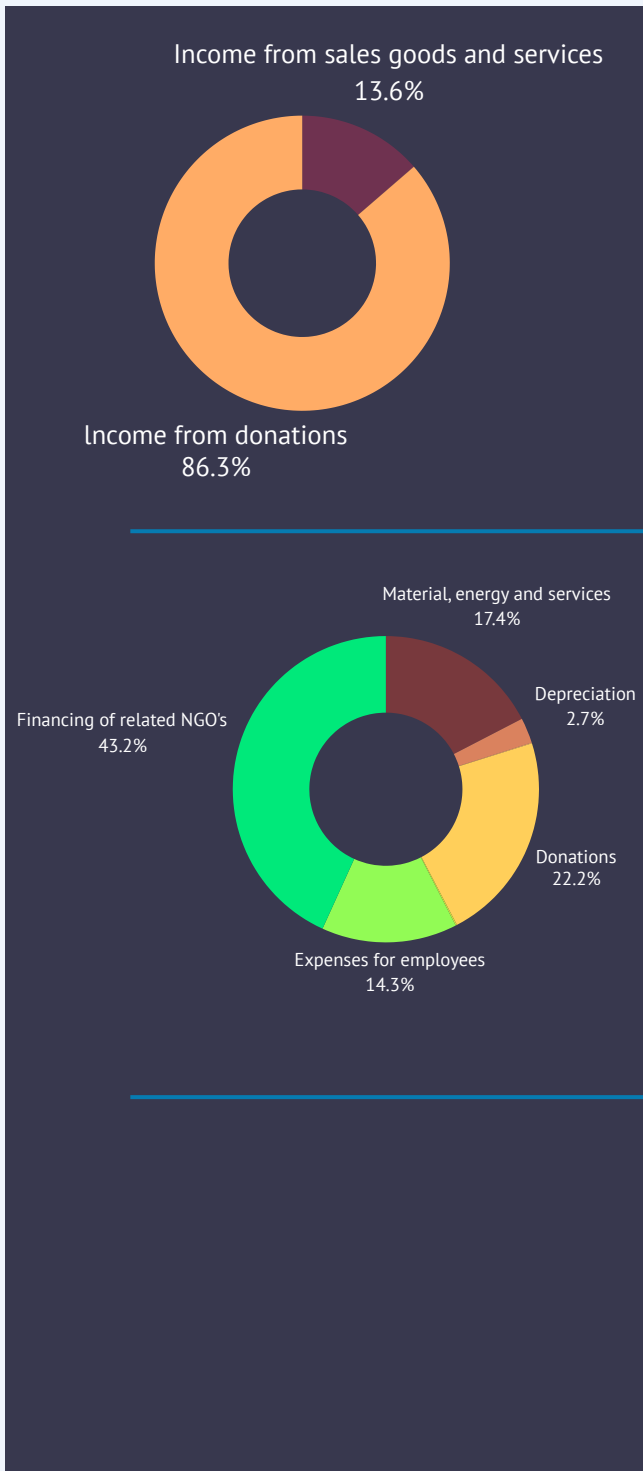
As part of the campaign, a "Youth for the Future" picnic, a donor dinner, and a charity concert were organized.





Financial performance

The SOLIDARNA Foundation can once again proudly highlight revenue growth in the past year, reflecting its successful positioning as a trusted partner to the public and business sectors, as well as to citizens.



€ 1.575.506

Total revenue

In 2024, total revenue saw a significant growth, increasing by 66.3% compared to 2023, from €948,627 to €1,575,506. This substantial rise reflects the company's strong performance and its ability to scale operations effectively, leading to a greater financial impact.

€ 1.553.144

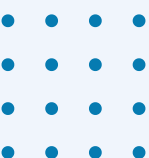
Total expenses

In 2024, total expenses were €1,553,144, with €671,082 directed to non-profit organizations. Still, the revenue growth reflects a stronger financial position, demonstrating the company's commitment to social responsibility and robust financial health.

€ 1.360.236

Income from donations

For the foundation, this consistent and robust funding is crucial as it enables us to expand our impact, strengthen our programs, and ensure long-term sustainability, allowing us to continue making a meaningful difference in the communities we serve.



Team achievements

In 2024, SOLIDARNA successfully secured a stable source of financial support for its institutional development, covering operational costs and ongoing professional growth. The year marked the third year of director Ivan Blažević's mandate, concluding with a steady income and a strengthened team that significantly contributed to the foundation's achievements.

In April, SOLIDARNA welcomed a new team member, Vilim Mance, who joined the foundation as a program assistant, focusing on program management.

Throughout the year, SOLIDARNA also placed a strong emphasis on team empowerment, fostering a collaborative and motivated work environment.

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