

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Call for proposal for CSO networks protecting EU values

Name of the organisation and project:	Croatian Youth Network: Youth Network for Youth Policies: A Stronger Sector – Better Policies
Contact:	Valentin Gambiroza, valentina@mmh.hr
Contribution to the I4V2.0 programme result:	Strengthened civil society watchdog/advocacy role
Approved funds:	60.000 EUR
Project duration:	24 months 01.10.2025. – 30.09.2027.

Project summary:

The project addresses a serious lack of institutional accountability and systematic monitoring of youth policies in Croatia. The National Youth Program was adopted late, without genuine involvement of young people and civil society organizations, and its implementation is neither monitored nor evaluated. The Government's Youth Council is inactive, local youth councils often exist only on paper, and communication between institutions and youth organizations is weak. This results in young people's distrust in democratic processes and the absence of effective policies that respond to their real needs.

The solution offered by the project is the establishment of an independent and participatory monitoring system for youth policies, led by the Croatian Youth Network (MMH). This gives youth organizations the tools and knowledge to monitor and evaluate policies and to advocate for change, creating bottom-up pressure for more transparent and effective public policies. It also ensures the genuine inclusion of young people in shaping these policies. The project further strengthens the role of MMH as the collective voice of the youth sector and a key actor in advocating for fair and high-quality policies, in line with European Union values. Through its activities, MMH aims to empower the entire youth sector, make it more connected and influential, and contribute to stronger democratic processes in Croatia.

Project objectives:

- Strengthen MMH as the organized voice of the youth sector and a key actor in monitoring and advocacy.
- Develop a sustainable watchdog system for national and local youth policies, with a focus on the National Youth Program 2023–2025.
- Build the capacity of youth organizations for policy analysis and evaluation.
- Produce an alternative report on the state of youth policies in Croatia.
- Launch a public and institutional campaign to ensure the inclusion of young people and their organizations in the development of the new National Youth Program and local youth programs.

Programme Impact4Values 2.0 in Croatia is co-financed by the Governmental Office for Cooperation with NGOs. The views expressed web page are the sole responsibility of Community Foundation Slagalica and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Key activities include:

- Strengthening the capacity of the MMH team to monitor and evaluate youth policies.
- Learning from European good practices through a study visit to the European Youth Forum.
- Developing a new methodology for participatory monitoring and advocacy of youth policies.
- Providing training and support to MMH members for applying the methodology locally.
- Producing an alternative report on youth policies as a basis for dialogue and reform.
- Running a public campaign to raise awareness, mobilize young people, and increase pressure on decision-makers.
- Developing and distributing the *Youth Policy Compass* — a practical guide with tools and examples of good practice for ongoing work.

Expected outcomes of the project are: stronger capacities of youth organizations, increased transparency and accountability of institutions, greater involvement of young people in decision-making processes, and the development of a stronger and more connected youth sector in Croatia.

Expected project results:

1. A functional and sustainable watchdog system for youth policies led by the sector: A participatory methodology developed and applied; continuous collection and sharing of data on the implementation of the National Youth Programme.
2. Youth CSOs systematically advocate for and influence local policies: Organizations use watchdog data and the *Compass* tool to initiate or improve local youth programmes.
3. The alternative report on youth policies triggers institutional responses: The alternative report is cited in public consultations and media, serving as a basis for redefining the National Youth Programme.
4. A public campaign creates pressure for the sector's inclusion in the new National Youth Programme: Young people and the wider public are mobilized through the campaign, creating pressure for genuine inclusion of the youth sector in developing the new National Youth Programme.

Target groups and final beneficiaries:

Primary target groups of the project are the member organizations of the Croatian Youth Network (77 youth and youth-focused associations across Croatia) and the young people these organizations represent and actively engage in their work. Secondary target groups include decision-makers at the national and local levels (such as the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, the Government of the Republic of Croatia, and local self-government units) as well as the media (as a channel for raising awareness and increasing the visibility of youth-related issues). The final beneficiaries of the project are all young people in Croatia, who will benefit from improved youth policies and a strengthened youth sector resulting from the project's activities, as well as the wider public.

Programme Impact4Values 2.0 in Croatia is co-financed by the Governmental Office for Cooperation with NGOs. The views expressed web page are the sole responsibility of Community Foundation Slagalica and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Programme Impact4Values 2.0 in Croatia is co-financed by the Governmental Office for Cooperation with NGOs. The views expressed web page are the sole responsibility of Community Foundation Slagalica and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Office for Cooperation with NGOs