



YOUTH FOR EUROPE WITHOUT BORDERS

project reports:

EUROPEAN CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH IN CROATIA

education program

November 2014

EUROPE EQUALS EQUALITY

cross-border cooperation program

February 2014 – February 2015

This brochure is a brief overview of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights' engagement during 2014 in the field of educating and connecting the youth toward a tolerant, peaceful and inclusive European society.

EUROPEAN CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH IN CROATIA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Croatia (YIHR) project *European Civic Awareness Among Youth in Croatia* was planned and developed with an aim of enhancing European civic awareness among younger generations in Croatia by raising their general understanding of the EU through learning of its cultural heritage and of the identity transformation it triggers.

Following the first round of activities arranged in 2013, a series of study visits of 50 secondary school pupils from Zagreb, Petrinja and Novska was organised during November 2014 with an invaluable contribution of ten foreign representation of EU states to the Republic of Croatia, and several relevant institutions: the European Commission Representation in the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs as well as the Institute for Development and International Relations.

Each study visit included a lecture or an interactive presentation, and was followed by a discussion with the representatives of the institution or embassy visited. The content presented during the visits was organised around the following main topics:

- pan-European identity;
- the modern imagination in Europe;
- Europe in the age of transitions: Central Europe after WW2;
- European political and economic institutions and processes;
- the EU as a global actor;
- work and study opportunities in the EU;
- Croatia's responsibilities toward the EU and toward the Western Balkan region.

The topics were assembled and proposed with an objective to offer the participants a comprehensive image of the European heritage, and with a belief that the elaboration of these topics will help understand the differences and recognise them as parts of a broader identity.

At the end of the series of study visits, students were asked to fill out an evaluation survey, that is to help the organisers improve the project and to present this complex matter in a convenient and attractive way.

Finally, this brochure is designed to share a vision of the emerging need for a contemporary, informed, and constructive understanding of EU politics and European societies, amongst young people in particular. It is intended to inform and help attract future participants turning this project into a long-term forum beneficial to pupils, embassy representatives, and teachers alike.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18TH

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Mr. Georg Diwald, Minister Counsellor, welcomed the students of the 1st Gymnasium in Zagreb in the Embassy. After giving a short insight in his main assignments as a Political Advisor, which include reporting on the political situation in Croatia to the Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs in Vienna, and sharing official standpoints of the Austrian government to Croatian politicians.

Further, Mr. Diwald reflected upon the underdeveloped economical and political situation in Croatia due to the lack of relevant political options and alternatives in the last few years and due to the low ratings of both governing and opposition political parties. He stressed that EU is based on the principle of solidarity and that great efforts are being put in empowering and stabilising its new members and its potential members. Even though EU membership bears responsibilities and not only benefits, most of the citizens of the new EU members have positive opinions according to the polls, he added. Comparing the last two decades of Austria's EU membership and lessons learnt, he noted that EU membership is important for each country's foreign policy agenda and that the members should take advantage of being in the EU by trying to push their own agenda toward the fulfilment of standards adopted in the EU.

He explained that among the priorities and expectations from Croatia's EU membership is being an active partner in creating the regional policies and fostering the integration process of other Western Balkan states. However, Mr. Diwald expressed his concerns regarding the reactions in Croatia to the recent happenings at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He concluded that Croatia will have to learn to make compromises which many countries made and which were hard for the citizens to accept, such as closing down shipyards and agreeing on excessive deficit procedure. Finally, Mr. Diwald spoke about the benefits of entering the Schengen Area while admitting that losing the CEFTA market was a hard blow for Croatia.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

The visiting pupils were received by Mr. Ville Andersson, First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission, who delivered a multimedia presentation about Finland and about the activities of its diplomatic mission in Zagreb. The pupils learned a lot of new information on Finland since only

few of them visited the country before. Nonetheless, students had a chance to learn more about learning opportunities in Finland and Lithuania and were encouraged to apply to Erasmus programmes.

As the meeting was held jointly with Mr. Andersson's Lithuanian counterpart, he explained that it is not a common practice in diplomacy as it involves high security measures and standards, but that there are similar examples of cooperation, at least among Nordic countries.

OFFICE OF THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Minister Counsellor and Head of the Office of the Lithuanian Embassy, Mr. Deividas Stankevičius, took the opportunity to present his home country and to present his job within the diplomatic mission, which partly consists in taking care of Lithuanian citizens on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, and enhancing economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

The two neighbouring countries, Lithuania and Finland, were contrasted based upon their geographical, demographic, political and social characteristics.

NOVEMBER 19TH

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

After a warm welcome and opening words by H. E. Mrs. Nancy Rossignol, the group of visiting pupils enjoyed an interactive multimedia presentation entitled *Behind Brussels: Belgium and EU*, delivered by Ms. Ivana Bertić, Political Attaché and Press Office, together with her assistant, Attaché Lien Desmet. Through the presentation followed by a quiz, the pupils learned about the history and present of EU's main institutions. Treaties, roles of relevant sides and actors, EU enlargement along with the Eurozone and the Schengen Area were discussed. Members of the winning team were rewarded with nice gifts. Then, Mrs. Vladislava Iordanova, First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission, introduced herself and shortly presented her tasks within the Embassy.

Finally, H. E. Mrs. Rossignol concluded the meeting with an inspirational speech on the importance of adopting a contemporary understanding of ourselves as EU citizens and raised the question whether an EU civic identity requires weakening or dismissal of national identities throughout Europe.

Before leaving the Embassy, the pupils were guided around and were explained the basic procedures and activities conducted on an average workday of Embassy's employees.

NOVEMBER 20TH

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Pupils coming from Zagreb, Petrinja and Novska had an opportunity to hear a comprehensive joint lecture as they were welcomed by H. E. Mr. Mladen Andrić, Director of the Diplomatic Academy and Head of Sector for Diplomatic and European Education and Training and Pre-assignment Training, Ms. Dubravka Smolić Vlaić, Second Secretary at Directorate-General for EU affairs, and Mr. Dubravko Žirovčić, Director of the Division for EU Training and Publishing.

In the first part of the lecture Mr. Andrić spoke about the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs – its formation, past and present. Further, Mr. Andrić presented in what way the priorities of Croatian diplomacy have changed over the past decades: during the first years of the newly established Republic of Croatia, in the early nineties, the top priority was to gain international support for Croatia's struggle for independence as well as obtaining recognition by foreign countries and relevant international organisations. Croatia's path of independence went through the accession to the Alps-Adriatic Working Community, CEFTA and other regional organisations, and was concluded by successful NATO and EU integration.

Asked to describe more closely the process of obtaining recognition of Croatia's sovereignty, Mr. Andrić said that the very beginnings were tough as the people engaged in Croatian diplomacy had to learn how to issue an official request for recognition and that they even had to rely on the help of influential Croats living abroad and advocating the Croatia's independence.

Then, Ms. Ana Puljić Žunić, Head of Service for Human Rights and Regional International Organisations and Initiatives, explained in detail how human rights are incorporated in the Foreign policy of Croatia and stated that Croatian institutions have applied to become a member of the UN Human Rights Council in 2017 and are actively engaged in cooperation with relevant Croatian NGOs to get their inputs for the Universal periodical review of Human Rights. Ms. Puljić Žunić stressed that being a member state of the EU has become an asset because good policies coming from Croatian institutions can become an EU policy, thus each member country can co-create EU policies.

Finally, Ms. Smolić Vlaić delivered a short overview of the Croatian path to the EU and underlined the most important changes concerning laws and regulations that Croatia adopted on its way of becoming an EU member state.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The visiting group of pupils, together with their professors, were received by Mark Christopher Armstrong, Head of Political Section, and Snježana Vukic, Political and Media Officer, accompanied with their colleagues Andrea Maretić and Intern Toni Silić. The pupils were introduced to the activities and mandates of each of the departments within the Embassy, through the hosts' joint presentation entitled *A Day in the Life of a UK Diplomat*.

During the questions and answers session, pupils were interested in some of the details and technical aspects of being a diplomat and representing the interests and attitudes of the United Kingdom while negotiating with Croatia's high officials.

HUNGARIAN INSTITUTE

Head of the Hungarian Embassy's EU Affairs Department, Dr. Veronika Barczy, welcomed the pupils in the premises of the Hungarian Institute, also known as the Balassi Institute. Dr. Barczy delivered a comprehensive lecture on *Croatia from a Neighbour's Perspective* which contrasted Hungary's experience of being a member state for ten years and Croatia's first year in the EU. Dr. Barczy reminded the audience about the strong cultural and historical connections between Croatia and Hungary. During the lecture, she pointed to the significance of the Hungarian Institute's recent establishment in Croatia, describing the mission of the Institute as bringing the two neighbouring countries even closer. Croatia and Hungary have some common political goals in the EU, she said, supporting her claim with various examples: Non-GMO Policy, transportation and energy policies.

Then, Dr. Barczy stressed that Croatia can learn from the Hungarian EU membership: how to improve economic and political stability as well as how to stimulate a good business environment. The lecture was concluded by presenting concrete cross-border cooperation projects funded by the EU, dealing with environmental issues, cooperative economy and technical assistance between the two countries.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN CROATIA

Ms. Andrea Horvat Kramarić, Head of Communication of the European Commission Representation met the participants and briefly informed them about the purpose and work of the European Commission Representation.

Then, Ms. Đana Petračija, Communication and Information Assistant, presented in details the history of the formation of the EU, relevant treaties and values of the EU concluded and adopted in Croatia. As the current priorities, Ms. Petračija described the *Europe 2020* strategy for economic recovery, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The pupils were listening to the lecture carefully as it was intertwined with edifying multimedia content about the EU institutions, climate changes and the labour market in the EU. Afterward, many questions concerning work and study possibilities in the EU were raised by the pupils.

Finally, Mr. Ivor Šutalo, Communication and Information Assistant talked to the students about his experience of studying abroad and his internship in the European Commission in Brussels. He encouraged the students to take advantage of the Erasmus programmes available to them. The visit took almost twice as long as expected due to the numerous questions and comments triggered by Mr. Šutalo's interesting presentation.

FRENCH INSTITUTE

H.E. Ms. Michèle Boccoz, French Ambassador to Croatia, along with Mr. Luc Lévy, Counsellor for Culture, received the group of pupils in the French Institute – a longstanding cultural institution in the very heart of Zagreb. After a warm welcome speech, Ms. Boccoz dedicate her talk to the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21 that will take place in Paris in December 2015. The Ambassador expressed her hopes that COP21 will result in viable and radical policies that will have impact on preventing climate change since the protection of the environment is a subject of a pan-European concern. Hosting the COP21 in France is a chance for French policy makers to lead the way on the international front to combat issues originating from climate changes. Preparations and preludes to the COP21 have already started, and the French Institute together with the French Embassy are putting significant efforts to promote COP21 in Croatia, said the Ambassador. For instance, the meeting of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will be held in Dubrovnik and the French diplomatic mission to Croatia is dedicating a significant part of its months-long festival in Croatia to climate change issues and are cordially inviting all interested actors, NGOs and governmental bodies to be a part of the debate as climate change is not just a question of the EU but concerns everybody in the entire world.

NOVEMBER 25TH

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

The participating pupils were warmly welcomed by Ambassador Mr. Poul Erik Dam Kristensen and left to the care of Thomas Peter Sørensen, Commercial Assistant, and Ema Radmilović from the Political and Economic Department. Ms. Radmilović and Mr. Sørensen explained their daily work in the Embassy and presented the recent projects supported by the Embassy such as Pedalafest and Jazz Festival and their biggest project in the past year, organising the Royal State visit to Croatia of the Queen Margrethe II and the Crown Prince Frederik. Pupils enjoyed an interesting and informative presentation named *The Little Country in the North*, that was focused on explaining and giving context to the four pillars of the Danish society: trust, involvement, solidarity and environment.

Further, pupils were told that the Danish society thrives on the basis of a tradition of division of parliament, courts and government, supported by the effort of the institutions to ensure the safety of all citizens of Denmark – a country that is among those few with the lowest level of crime and corruption in the world. Denmark is also known for its welfare state, low income inequality and equal opportunities as its education and health system are publicly financed. The pupils were surprised to hear that Denmark plans to cut fossil fuel consumption by year 2050, and they learnt about the developed bicycle culture in Denmark. After the presentation, pupils competed in a quiz about Denmark and the ones with the most right answers got rewarded with lovely presents.

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

The Spanish Ambassador, H. E. Mr. Eduardo Aznar Campos, received the visiting group and delivered a lecture in a form of a relaxed, almost informal conversation on the historical evolution of a *pan-European identity* and other collective identities throughout Europe that preceded it. The Ambassador also reflected upon the contemporary identity transformation processes in Europe, loaded with tensions between the national and the EU level of collective identification, where there is a growing need for empowering the latter. He illustrated these ideas with historical examples of how the idea of a united Europe came to be. He concluded that the existing processes, in this regard, can complement each other: supranational structures can exist while recognising and respecting relevant local or regional socio-cultural peculiarities Europe-wide. The Ambassador invited the visiting young participants to become active and engaged citizens and to take the responsibility for the political processes in their country but in the EU as well.

Finally, the Ambassador spoke about diplomacy in general terms naming several interesting details, such as the fact that Spain has the oldest Embassy in Europe, which is based in Vatican. He concluded that being a diplomat means constant self-development and being engaged in the cultural, political and social life of a country where the diplomatic mission is established.

NOVEMBER 28TH

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

On the last day of the study visits scheduled for this year, pupils were first welcomed in the Swedish Embassy by Mr. Dario Jović, Second Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission engaged in EU and Political Affairs, Ms. Karin Sedlaček, Press, Information and Culture Officer and Mr. Jurica Gagula, Trainee. Mr. Jović presented the Embassy's staff and their responsibilities, and guided the guests through the different periods of the Embassy's engagement in Croatia since its establishment in 1992. The Embassy was first involved in humanitarian work and conflict resolution in wartime Croatia. Once the war was over, Swedish diplomats provided assistance and monitored the EU accession process of Croatia. Since 2013, Sweden has an interest to find common ground with Croatia concerning EU policies. The Embassy also assists Swedish small and medium enterprises to enter the Croatian market.

Afterwards, Ms. Sedlaček described her daily work and pointed to some of the highlights of the last 23 years of her professional engagement in the Embassy. She singled out the visit of the Swedish Royal couple to Croatia in 2013 as the Embassy's biggest project and provided examples that helped the pupils understand the complexity and precision of their work in organisational and procedural matter. Among other projects, the exhibition *A Touch of Glass*, that took place in May 2014 as a result of joint effort of Nordic Embassies in the field of cultural exchange between them and Croatia. Mr. Gagula shared his experience of being a Trainee in the Embassy and encouraged the students to apply to internships and educational programmes abroad. Students had many questions concerning studying and working in Sweden followed by a quiz organised by the hosts.

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

At the last meeting organised pupils had an opportunity to learn about the work and role of the Institute for Development and International Relations. A systematic overview of the issues gathered under the title of the study visit, *European Perspectives on South-eastern Europe: The*

Role of The Republic of Croatia, was guaranteed by hosts as Dr. Sandro Knezović, Senior Research Fellow in the Department for International Economic and Political Relations, Krševan Antun Dujmović, Senior Associate in the Science System at the European Documentation Centre and Dr. Janko Bekić, Senior Research Assistant in the Department for Culture and Communication.

Dr. Knezović gave a keynote lecture on the institute's mission and described the changing priorities of the institute in its 50 years of existence. Further, he presented the Institutes' departments and focus on interdisciplinary research. Students learnt that the institute deals with EU integration, culture and communication, resource economy, environment protection and regional policies.

Then, Mr. Dujmović talked about the European Documentation Centre and presented Croatia's challenges as the newest EU member state. Dr. Bekić presented the most recent projects of the institute, some of which are investigating the impact of the innovation union, study of corruption in Moldavia and the study on post-conflict reconciliation in Croatia. At the end, Dr. Knezović touched upon the development of the political situation in Croatia and its neighbour countries since year 2000 and emphasized the importance of the accession processes to NATO and the EU.

Finally, the participants of the project *European Civic Awareness among Youth in Croatia* were handed formal certificates for their attendance and contribution to the project implementation.

PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATIONS

“We should be much more interested in cooperation with other European states; if for no other reason, then at least because we became a member of the EU.” – Participant, Evaluation survey #04

“We can recognise European civic identity in the context of the civil society that represents the sphere of public activity separate from the administrative and state framework, with an aim of resolving issues of public interest and exerting influence over political elites.” – Participant, Evaluation survey #15

“Of course there is a European civic identity, however it is relatively weak in our country. The proof for that is the extremely low voter turnout on the EU elections. Initiatives and educations such as this project can help develop that identity or raise awareness of it. That is why I decided to participate in this project.”. – Participant, Evaluation survey #23

“There is still no specific European civic identity, but it slowly started developing among us from the moment we entered the community of the EU” – Participant, Evaluation survey #36

“Although European civic identity exists, most of the people in Croatia are not aware of it at all. This is the case especially amongst older generation citizens. We, the younger generations, learn a lot about Europe and know a lot in theory. However, in practice, as we entered the EU, we are not sure what exactly is expected from us and what benefits became accessible to us. I believe that the majority of the people have insufficient knowledge on EU, but at the same time a lot of people are still consciously remain ignorant. That is why the altering of such an awareness is a duty of the young.” – Participant, Evaluation survey #52

CONTRIBUTORS' FEEDBACK

“The Austrian Embassy in Zagreb highly values your initiative. Indeed, the development of a European civic awareness is a highly important topic, and one in which many EU-member states have invested a lot of ideas.”

– Georg Diwald, Minister Councillor, Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Zagreb

“We discovered with great interest your project – the European Civic Awareness Among Youth in Croatia and would be pleased to participate and host a student visit in the Embassy of Belgium in Zagreb.”

– Nancy Rossignol, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Zagreb

“We have good experiences of YIHR and would be happy to participate in the program again.”

– Karin Anderman, Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden in Zagreb

PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

- INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN CROATIA
- EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
- EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
- EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK
- EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND
- FRENCH INSTITUTE
- HUNGARIAN INSTITUTE
- OFFICE OF THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
- EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN
- EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN
- EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND



THE PROJECT WAS CO-FINANCED BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE EMBASSY OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

EUROPE EQUALS EQUALITY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project of cross-border youth cooperation is a result of a close partnership between the Youth Initiative for Human Rights offices in Croatia and Serbia. It was funded through the European Union's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) allocations for Serbia and Croatia. The project activities were conducted between February 2014 and February 2015 in different cities throughout the two countries.

The main goal of the project was to promote constructive values within Croatian and Serbian societies in order to support sustainable progress toward EU accession of the candidate states in the Western Balkans. This goal was approached through the following means:

- raising awareness of the underpinning values of the 'European project' and the mechanisms and institutions that uphold them, focusing on achieving a full support of minority rights and regional cooperation;
- enhancing focused and informed public participation in debate on Croatia's and Serbia's current and future relationship with the EU in terms of minorities' integration and regional cooperation;
- building youth capacities to deliver the above objectives in target communities and to pursue autonomous grass roots activism beyond the active period of the campaign within a regionally coordinated network

In regard to the project's target groups, the primary criteria in selecting the participants was to recruit moderate and ambitious young people aged from 15 to 35. At its broadest level, the project targeted Croatian and Serbian societies as a whole; aiming to contribute to the development of progressive values that will support the two countries' future or present accession to the EU, especially targeting delicate issues as rights of minorities and establishing regional cooperation. Further, the project aimed to reach out to the broadest possible constituency of moderate citizens, through activism conducted by young people (the primary target group). The project aimed to reach, in some capacity, the majority of citizens in every target community. This was achieved through direct participation in the project activities or through a dialogue with participant activists.

Nonetheless, a significant impact was achieved through media coverage of the campaign or through contacts with persons who have been directly engaged by the campaign.

Activities were conducted in eight strategically important towns; four in Croatia: Pakrac (Požega-Slavonia County), Slavonski Brod (Brod-Posavina County), Osijek (Osijek-Baranja County) and Vukovar (Vukovar-Srijem County) and four in Serbia – Šid (Srem), Subotica (North Bačka), Bačka Palanka (South Bačka) and Apatin (West Bačka). The target group includes ethnically mixed communities and are positioned to support outreach to the broadest possible constituency (including satellite and smaller communities).

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project was implemented through its five phases:

PHASE 1: PRIMARY TRAINING FOR CORE PROJECT ACTIVISTS equipped the participants with the necessary tools (knowledge and know-how) to implement the project at a grassroots level (in target communities) and all together 24 locally recruited activists.

PHASE 2: EUROPE EQUALS EQUALITY CARAVAN established the public profile of the campaign and its agenda and mobilised young people to participate in the later phases of the campaign. The caravan visited 8 cities/towns in Croatia and Serbia, engaging local young people in a youth friendly – *cool* – environment. The caravan was accompanied by a regional campaign and intensive media engagement.

PHASE 3: SECONDARY TRAINING FOR LOCAL ACTIVISTS, following the agenda of the **PHASE 1** Primary training; delivered by participants from the **PHASE 1** Primary training, with YIHR Serbia's and YIHR Croatia's support.

PHASE 4: TIME FOR EUROPE – EUROPE EQUALS EQUALITY facilitated a focused and informed debate and provided opportunities for dialogue about Croatia's and Serbia's current and future relationship with the EU by raising awareness and levels of knowledge about the values of multiculturalism, minority rights, regional cooperation and the mechanisms that uphold them. This was done through a broad programme of activities such as exhibitions, film screenings, musical performances, lectures, testimony by victims of war crimes and human rights violations, public debates and roundtables.

PHASE 5: THE CAMPAIGN'S FINAL EVENT IN BELGRADE gathered all participants from the project to consolidate networking, and deliver the key campaign messages directly to domestic decision makers of both countries in the company of international policy makers. The event was planned and implemented by activists mobilised and trained during the campaign. The event itself comprised visits, debates and roundtables involving young people, experts, decision makers and pop culture icons and was rounded up with a hip hop concert involving all the participants.

CONCLUSIONS

The project produced many favourable results, among which most importantly, a number of non-formally educated activists and youth trainers residing in local communities that have suffered from the conflicts in the 90's. Here we mean the indirect consequences of the conflict, such as depopulation, ethnic/national/religious hiatus, economic decay and depreciation of real estate value. To have such young activists in the community represents an asset for the process of normalisation and European integration, as well as for the development and democratic education of citizens.

Opening a debate on unprecedented issues in certain communities is another precious addition to the results of this project, not to mention the fact that direct cooperation was established among young people from two countries that have earlier been involved in a devastating conflict. The mere fact of established channels of cooperation and the friendships and future activities to be developed provide a perspective of sustainability to the project and hugely marks its success. The role of youth work development in building healthier societies, especially in the context of post-conflict societies, is pivotal for the development of societies in the region.



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YIHR Croatia is a member of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights Regional Network with organizations also in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia