

### The Association IMAGINE:

The Association for the promotion of quality education of youth with disabilities "Imagine" was founded in 2005. The Association headquarters are in Zagreb, Marin Držić Avenue 71A, and operates across the whole of Croatia. The association founded on the following aims:

- encouraging young people with disabilities to participate in the education system - providing youth information and counseling - informing and advising people with disabilities - Involving young people in activities related to active participation in the society, mobility, employment, education, social protection, health care, culture, sport and leisure - Including persons with disabilities in activities related to life in community; family, education, health care, social welfare and pension systems, housing, mobility and accessibility, vocational rehabilitation, employment and work, raising awareness, participation in cultural, political and public life, recreation, leisure and sport - Providing assistance to young people with disabilities in everyday life - Collaborating with teachers and educational institutions - developing international cooperation - Improving quality of life and education for young people with disabilities in Croatia Our vision is young people with disabilities involved in the education system with the necessary technical and material support.

### Through our work we are developing two centers:

1. **Support Center for Persons with Disabilities**, this is based on the technical assistance programs for high school students and university students with disabilities. This is part of a three-year program which is being implemented, the Center for Small Mobile Services of Assistance for People with Disabilities Zagreb and program Support Center for Students with Disabilities.

2. **Youth Information Centre**, which is based on the activities of the Regional Youth Info Center Zagreb and Counseling for Young People with Disabilities.

After defining the aims, vision and mission of the Association, we started to develop programs and projects. In 2005, with the financial support of the Ministry of Family, War Veterans and

Intergenerational Solidarity (today's Ministry of Social politics and Youth), we launched a project Office for Young People with Disabilities which was implemented up to 31.12.2010. Helping members began in 2005 through the adaptation of literature for the blind and visually impaired students. Marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the 3rd December 2005 we organized a movie screening accessible for blind people, and thus initiate the program of adjustment of the drama arts for blind people called "I listen, therefore I see". Since 2006, we have provided specially adapted vans which are used for organized transportation for students and young people in education with reduced mobility. That year we bought a Braille printer which allowed us to print certain materials in Braille. In 2007 under the impression of international cooperation and international literature on students with disabilities we created and published on the web site a brochure: Approach Students with Disabilities. Activities based on organized support are part of the activities run by the Centre of Support for Students with Disabilities. The Centre is responsible for developing the program Center for Small Mobile Services to help People with Disabilities Zagreb. In 2008 we suggested to the Ministry that by including the Centre for Small Mobile Services to Help People with Disabilities in our cooperation for implementing the National Strategy of Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. We also included in the program the allocation of assistants to students with disabilities. Since 2010 we have run Counseling services, where we secured the help of psychologists and social workers, as well as colleagues with experience. In addition to the Clinic and within the same year we launched a support for deaf students through the service of a typist that types everything that is said. Every year, we put forward a call for new users who can apply for organized transportation, literature adjustment, support by an assistant for students with disabilities or a typists. We have included expert support through supervision. Since 2011 we have conducted motivational workshops for high school seniors where they are encouraged to enroll into university. In the same year we launched workshop which focused on preparing participants for the labor market. Since 2012 we have launched activities as part of the Orientation Week for Freshmen with Disabilities in Zagreb through which we simulate the first week of classes and freshmen with disabilities are introduced to everyday student life and commitments, with particular emphasis on the support opportunities of the Association.

Association work is public.

The Association leading body is the Assembly (consisting of 12 persons).

The Association president and two members of the Assembly are authorized representatives.

The Association "Imagine" is a member of the Association of Community ICM in Croatia, through which it is a member of the European Youth and Counseling Agency - ERYICA and

Croatian Association of Youth and Students with Disabilities - SUMSI through which it is involved in the work of the European Disability Forum.

## **National and International activities**

2006th, Partnership with the Association of students with disability Slovenia on the implementation of the youth exchange "**Creative Disability**"

2008th Partnership with the Lithuanian National Union of Students in the project, "**Empowerment and participation of people with disabilities: inclusion in higher education and employment**"  
, Vilnius, Lithuania

2010th Host organization for trilateral youth exchange "**Intercultural Diversity**" , Krk , Croatia

2010th Participants on the seminar "**Young people and mobility, a luxury?**" , Namur , Belgium  
**Intercultural Diversity "**

2010th Partnership with the Lithuanian National Union of Students on the project "**Fighting Discrimination in Higher Education: Easy on Paper, Hard On The Ground**"  
, Vilnius , Lithuania

2011th Partnership with the Society of students with disability of Slovenia on the implementation of the youth exchange entitled "**Meet the neighbors**", venue: Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Austria

## Udruga ZAMISLI - The Association IMAGINE:

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2012th Youth in Action: Partners in the youth exchange "**Back to the nature**" with Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, the venue of Gmunden , Austria

2012th Youth in Action: The national meeting of young people and those responsible for youth policy, "**Motivation and action upon information**", a meeting was held on the hill Sljeme near Zagreb

2012th Youth in Action: Implementing a youth exchange project "**Learn and have fun!**" In partnership with Italy, Belgium and Hungary, youth exchange was held in Pirovac

2012th Youth in Action: Implementing training program "**Training of public appearances**" in partnership with Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Training was held in Zadar.

IPA INFO 2011th: Partnership with PRONI Centre for Social Education who is the coordinator of the project **28th Star**, project duration is from 01.01.2013 to 03.31.2014.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: Objective of this project is to increase level of understanding and acceptance of EU values and standards among young people and wider public in Croatia, by raising awareness and contributing to public discussion. Specific objective is to motivate youth participation, create interest and dissipate prejudices about EU through designing and implementing creative and interactive methodology of education, information and promotion of benefits within EU.

2013th Project Youth in Action: Dialog of young people and policy makers: National meeting of young people with those responsible for youth policy "**All socially involved young**" (SUMA)

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: Project „All social involved young“ included young people aimed to elaborate measures of the social policies of the National program for youth that is applied from period of 2009th to 2013th year. Project participants are active youth and young adults at risk (those in the welfare system, the unemployed and young people with disabilities) aged 15-30 years. Three local public discussions involved 15 young people from around the community with three areas of North Croatian (Zagreb city, Koprivničko-križevačka country and

Lepoglava city) and 10 experts, persons relevant to the planning and implementation of social policy towards youth. After the public discussions in September, in October in Zagreb was held regional discussion to upgrade local public debate. The project was implemented in partnership with the Centers for Social Welfare, Department of Social Policy and young people from the area of Zagreb, Lepoglava and Koprivničko-križevačka country. The selected group of young people, that are critical but often neglected population, are encouraged to think about existing measures of social policy in general and the social inclusion of young people in the social life. The conclusions of the discussion were submitted to the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth confronting the new National Program for Youth for the next five years. Project duration was from 01.08.2013 to 01.03.2014.

2013th Project Youth in Action: Dialog of young people and policy makers: National meeting of young people with those responsible for youth policy „**Challenge and Learning**“

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: The main activity of project „Challenge and learning“ National meeting of young people and those responsible for youth policies, was held in mountain chalet Crveni kriz Sljeme, between 16 to 18 October 2013. Meeting focused on education and information technology. The meeting was attended by 20 young people from the area of Northwestern region, age group 15-19 years and 10 experts, decision-makers. The aim of this project was to discuss the subject that was one of the areas of the National Program for Youth 2009 – 2013. The selected age groups 15 – 19 years old with a view actively engage high school students in order to encourage them to reflect on legislation that directly affect their lives and the possibility of influencing and communicating with those responsible for youth policy. The conclusions of the meeting were delivered to the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth which has the task to plan a new National Program for Youth for the next five years. Duration of the project „Challenge and learning“ is from 1.08.2013. to 01.03.2014.

2013th Project Youth in Action: Dialog of young people and policy makers: National meeting of young people with those responsible for youth policy: **Life of youth with disabilities in community "MOST"**

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: The subject of Project MOST aimed to encourage discussion on the possibilities and needs of young people with disabilities (aged 15-30 years) in public and social life. In the first phase was organized national conferences and open different chapters related to youth with disabilities. In the second phase activities were put down to the regional level and young people with disabilities to enable them to interact with people who work with them, and decision-makers to speak about the attitudes and needs. In the third phase was organized a seminar to empower young people with an active life in the community and public

affairs.

2013th Host organization of the training **"We are Europe, we are the future"** with partners from Slovakia , Slovenia, Austria , Romania:

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: We are Europe, we are the future!" is a training course which included youth workers and youth leaders with and without disabilities from 6 program countries: Austria, Croatia, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. Training course took place in Zadar, Croatia from November 12th- 19th 2013. This training course aimed to support the professional development of youth workers, leaders and trainers and to raise the quality of their work and projects concerning topics connected with European Union. This project had aim to answer on questions about rights and obligations of EU citizens and where we can find out more about this topic as also about European values that European Union promotes.

2013th Host organization of youth exchange project **"Sport and Science are fun"** with partners from Spain and Turkey

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: Project "Sport and science are fun!" was a trilateral youth exchange which included young people with and without disabilities from three countries: Croatia, Spain and Turkey. It took place in Zagreb, Croatia. Activities lasted for 10 days, from September 21st to 30th. This project aimed to show connection between science and sport in very interesting way. Also, National Agency for EU projects evaluated this project with highest score.

2013th Host organization of youth exchange project: **"Show them you can do it"** with partners from Austria, Bulgaria and Slovenia

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: Project „Show them that you can do it!“ was a multilateral youth exchange which included young people with and without disabilities from Austria, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, and Turkey. It took place in Zagreb, Croatia. Activities took 8 days, from August 24th – 31th 2013. Intention of this project was to show that people with disabilities could be independent in many things and situations and those can lead normal life like majority of population. Of course, on the other hand in some situations they need help. This project had purpose to point out both good sides and bad sides of life with disability.

2013th Project of youth initiatives **"ZeGeZIN magazine for young people"**

**SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT:** This project aims on giving young people the opportunity to create their own magazine for other young people. It's goal is to rise the quality of information young people receive about youth policies, EU processes, volunteer work, values of civil society and all other information relevant for youth. Through this magazine young people will become more aware of their important role as active citizens who share a sense of global solidarity and dedication to solving actual problems. Young volunteers on this project will gather valuable knowledge and experience in creating printed media which will be relevant in their future life (finding job or appropriate professional education). Project duration is from 1st of September 2013. to 30rd of June 2014.