

Better together – European Year of Citizens 2013

To support the European Year of Citizens 2013, our foundation is working toward the Year's goals of providing the opportunity for people to learn about the rights and opportunities open to them in the wider community; stimulate debate about the obstacles that prevent people from fully using these rights; and generate specific proposals for addressing them.

We also want to encourage people to participate in civic fora on community policies and issues in general. The better citizens understand their rights, the more informed the decisions they can take in their personal lives.



The award "Heart Print" is given to primary and secondary school students for volunteering initiatives.

We've opened up a call for proposals this year under the theme of "Better Together", focusing on community development and the strengthening of active citizenship within small cities in Croatia (up to 30,000 inhabitants). The project supports proposals that aim at the continuous development of participatory democracy based on citizens as subjects of the overall social processes in the local community, and those that focus on helping citizens acquire

knowledge and skills needed for them to get involved in the decision-making processes at the local level. The activities foreseen by the individual projects will be implemented during 2013, the European Year of Citizens. The following are additional ways in which our foundation is working towards the goals for the Year:

Heart Print award

Since 2006, the National Foundation for Civil Society Development awards the best volunteering initiatives and innovative youth volunteering models for primary and secondary schools. The aim is to encourage children and teenagers to volunteer in the local community in order to identify and solve, or at least assist in solving, the problems of their community and thus become part of a great number of people and organisations whose volunteering work contributes to the development of humaneness, solidarity and social connections in Europe, especially in 2013 as the European Year of Citizens. The motto of these "Heart Print" awards is, "You don't have to walk on water, you don't have to be better than everyone else, you don't have anything more than

what everyone else has, but what makes the difference are the things you do for others that leave their mark... the Heart Print."

For Wellbeing

The website www.zadobrobit.hr (forwellbeing) is a communication channel which represents a unique form of contact, cooperation and joint activity between civil society organisations and citizens in the Republic of Croatia and abroad by means of interaction between all participants in the process. The website features a platform which civil society organisations and activists use to present their activities and actions focused on the common good. This platform, based on cloud technology and visible in all major social networks, supports the development of philanthropy and active citizenship, and in that way contributes to development of all activities for the wellbeing of citizens.

Social innovations

We live in a world of constant change. Social values, the climate, the environment, technology, balance of power and routines are all changing. They are bringing us new models of human existence based on modernisation, intelligent approaches and sharing. Those changes are also incentives for a shift in our joint efforts for a better future. Respecting the fact that problems can't be solved on the same level that they were created, the National Foundation has decided this year to invite citizens gathered in civil society organisations to propose social innovations in various fields of school development. The best proposed innovations will be awarded at a ceremony in 2013 as a way of celebrating the impact of active citizens in the creation of a more inclusive, better and more just world.

Civic initiatives

Since 2004 the National Foundation has supported civic initiatives through an initiative entitled "Our Contribution to Community". Thanks to this, 715 communities were supported with a total number of 32,580 citizens involved. In 2013 all of the supported communities will be gathered to present to the public achievements of their civic initiatives.

<http://zaklada.civilnodrustvo.hr>

