

## PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

### Call for project proposal:

Active citizens Fund Croatia – Large projects

<https://acfcroatia.hr>

**Humanitarian Association "KOLAJNA LJUBAVI"** has established with the largest population the largest population category in Croatia, Tanzania and in the world.

The association was founded by Ivana Parlov (born Marasović). A year of volunteer missionary experience among the poorest in the African country of Tanzania encouraged John to form associations and further humanitarian work. The first goal of volunteers gathered at the Kolajna charity was to build an orphanage in Songea, one of Tanzania's poor cities with many orphans without proper care. The orphanage was built on church land, which for this purpose was donated by the Archdiocese of Songean, and is named after (arguably) the most revered saint in our country - Saint Anti. Construction of the orphanage was completed in July 2010, with the first wardens being accelerated. The orphanage was built using a donation, and all labour costs are provided through a donation, and volunteers from Croatia take care of the children. Association is grateful to everyone who helps in the City of St. John's Orphanage. Ante, as well as everyone who helps our children with food, hygiene and other necessities daily!

No childcare at an orphanage is the sole activity of the charity Kolajna - through the project, godfathering has secured a better future for a large number of children. Association is also active in Croatia - our members volunteer in care homes for many children and help many socially disadvantaged people.

### Main objectives of the project:

The main objective of this project is to support systematically the children in alternative care (children without proper parental care and with behavioural and developmental disorders), and to empower them as individuals by providing additional educational and psychosocial programs, informing them about their civil and human rights and opportunities for social inclusion.

The second objective is the mobilization, education and professional training of interested citizens - volunteers - and the formation of volunteer teams of "Ambassador Volunteers" for the purpose of realization and promotion of project in children's homes, and then to work on the inclusion of formal education institutions (primary and secondary schools in Croatia) in the project.

By conducting workshops about civil education, civil and human rights, with particular emphasis and focus on children in alternative care, in formal education (primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia, with emphasis on deprived areas) – we seek to extend the scope of the project and provide information about alternative care children to the area of life where these children, except in their homes, spend the most time and, accordingly, are most likely to encounter additional problems and challenges.

### Issues the project wants to tackle:

Life in alternative care is fraught with uncertainty, in which children often enter with the stress from family separation and traumatic experiences of the past, which may cause them to suffer from acute and chronic physical and mental health conditions and thus represent a risk group for a range of developmental problems, mental health and asocial behaviour problems, which reduce their chances of success during education, but also in life in general. The American Academy of Paediatrics confirms that children and young adults growing up in alternative care have a higher prevalence of physical, developmental and behavioural health problems than any other group of children, which is why they need to be provided with additional health, education and social services. When these young people finally leave alternative care and start independent lives, they face a range of problems that they have not been adequately prepared for, they miss the support from adults, and as a group they are at high risk of social exclusion compared to their peers who have grown up in standard families, and they are more likely to be homeless, unemployed, physically and mentally ill, and have criminal behaviour. Young people with mental health problems, emotional or behavioural problems are also a highly vulnerable group and the likelihood of unemployment is even twice as high comparing with the other peers leaving alternative care.

The aim is to empower that group of vulnerable children and young people by this project, and to nurture mentally, emotionally, and psychologically healthy and productive individuals with a strong democratic consciousness, who will be able one day to take care of themselves and the community in which they live, using the knowledge and skills and support they have received during growing up and education.

By including formal educational institutions in these projects will educate and inform students and school staff about topics that are not standard in formal education yet. About: civil rights and democratic culture, sharing and promoting good practices in civic education, combating discrimination and hate speech against a defined vulnerable target group and in general, supporting a defined vulnerable group in advocating for civil rights and social involvement, to foster cross-sectoral collaboration between CSOs and public and educational institutions in HR involved in civic education and to improve the reach and impact of civil and human rights education. Students in formal education will thus also become an indirect support to this vulnerable group of children in society, and more democratic and empathic individuals.

The involvement of the volunteer community in the project seeks to strengthen democratic culture, civic awareness and civic engagement, and enable wider and stronger involvement of citizens in civil society activities, thereby increasing the number of volunteers involved in CSOs and the community, the number of public and educational institutions that are partners with CSOs in the implementation of civic education and human rights education (cross-sector partnership), which is considered to be a contribution of the Program to the objectives of public education reform.

### Solutions it proposes:

The Association plans to: 1. Establish partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation with homes for children without (appropriate) parental care (including deprived areas of the Republic of Croatia),

and provide support through educational topics and informative and active content, according to defined needs: lectures, workshops, trainings and mentoring and activities for members of a vulnerable group who promote healthy mental-emotional and psychological development and inclusion and equal opportunities; education on advocacy for their rights and social inclusion and access to information on their rights and related issues; support the vulnerable group in engaging in advocacy; education on civil rights and democratic culture; addressing current social topics and by engaging in them.

2. Mobilize present volunteers and new volunteers through the Association's social networks, educate and train them through a volunteer course, and create volunteer teams "Volunteer Ambassadors for Children in Alternative Care" who will implement the project in homes, and through advocacy activities and educational workshops in formal education, will work to involve primary and secondary schools in Croatia, as partners with CSOs, in delivering education on civic education and human rights and raising awareness of vulnerable groups in society.

#### **Main target groups:**

1. Children in alternative care (children without proper parental care and with behavioural and developmental disorders) - A total of 80 alternative care children from the partner homes listed

2. Volunteers - 15 "Ambassador Volunteers", different professions and profiles: psychologists, psychology students, social workers, social work students, promoters and media professionals, professors, who will participate in designing and conducting workshops for children in homes and teachers and students in primary and secondary schools and work actively on public promotion of the project.

3. Teachers and pupils of primary and secondary schools and the general public - 10 primary and secondary schools participating in the campaign - as the project is focused on public campaigning, we will hold lectures and workshops on civic education, children's rights, activism, and provide information about children in alternative care. In at least 10 schools, we will deliver lectures and workshops on civic education, children's rights and outreach the children in alternative care, and propose concrete actions to support children from homes and promote human and democratic rights. It is estimated that 2 school classes will participate in one education, approximately 60 students per school, which is equal to 600 students), between the ages of 10 and 18.

#### **Foreseen role/contribution of the partner:**

The Association plans to establish the partnerships with partners (CSOs) in Croatia and bilateral partnerships with one donor organization (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), with the aim of exchanging technology "know-how" and obtaining their support in preparation, implementation and public project promotion and sharing of good practices in media and civic education: - Online consulting, exchange of work experiences and strengthening towards a society where children in alternative care and children with disabilities are recognized as an integral and useful part. Together with the project developer and partners will perform the analysis of public policies and solutions for integration of children in alternative care.

- Study visit to a partner organization from donor country with aim to provide knowledge transfer, intercultural learning and insight into solutions of solving similar problems. With this approach, we will strengthen partnerships and adopt international experience on integration policies and empower children in alternative care on many levels, and gained knowledge and experiences will, in the long run be used to further develop methods and tools in this sector.

Association Kolajna ljubavi will elaborate, define, manage and coordinate the project. Our main tasks will include implementation of activities and management of project results. Association will be in charge of educating volunteers, designing and conducting empowerment workshops for children in alternative care and in formal education schools, as well as running promotional campaign and activation and mobilization of citizens on this project.

Partners Education centres Tuškanac, EC Slava Raškaj, Children's home Vrbina i Caritas of Zagreb County are coordinating Centres for alternative care and are giving institutional care for children without parental care and with special abilities. They will give us an access to a part of the target population, as well as support and exchange of knowledge through meetings and qualitative analyses on empowering individuals and developing civic spirit.

Association „Cvrkut“, Autism association Bjelovar, and Caritas, will contribute to the project with great professional support from their professional stuff, psychologists and practitioners.

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