



UDRUGA PODRAVSKIH STUDENATA PODRAVINA STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Last change: August 13, 2026

A. PARTNER ORGANISATION	
PIC	869903858
OID	E10264563
Full legal name (National Language)	Udruga podravskih studenata
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Udruga podravskih studenata
Acronym	UPS
National ID (if applicable)	21013492 (registry number), 66817087052 (OIB)
Address (Street and number)	Ulica kneza Branimira 23
Country	Croatia
Region	City of Zagreb
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City	Zagreb
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B. PROFILE	
Type of Organisation	Youth Association (Non-Governmental)
Is the partner organisation a public body?	NO
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	YES
D. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE	
Please briefly present the partner organisation.	Udruga podravskih studenata (UPS) (English: Podravina Students' Association) continues an almost century-long tradition of bringing together students from the Podravina region. As early as 1926 the Akademičar Society was founded, followed by the Podravec Society in 1969, and the Podravina Students' Association in 1994. After the dissolution of the first association of Podravina students, the current Podravina Students' Association was established in 2019. UPS is a volunteer-led organisation whose activities combine student support, regional culture, community-building, youth participation and, increasingly, international youth work. Its members have developed experience in organising events, public discussions, cultural and educational activities, fundraising, communication through social media, and cooperation with universities, public authorities, and civil society organisations. In the academic year 2025/2026, the Association brings together more than 200 active members, primarily students and young people originating from Podravina, particularly Koprivnica-Križevci, Varaždin and Virovitica-Podravina counties. Its membership base makes UPS one of the larger regional student associations in Croatia and provides a substantial network



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	for reaching young people from smaller towns and rural communities. UPS has expanded its work in youth representation and European cooperation. The Association has developed and publicly advocated proposals concerning student standards, employment, housing, mobility and opportunities for young people, while its representatives have become involved in formal youth and student representation structures. In parallel, UPS is currently a partner in five Erasmus+ youth projects. <u>Mission</u> UPS brings together students from Podravina studying in Zagreb, as well as all those with an affinity for Podravina, in order to preserve a sense of community and regional identity among young people. The Association supports students from Podravina who have come to study in Zagreb, assisting them in adapting and maintaining ties with their place of origin. Through social, cultural and educational activities, its mission is to enrich the student experience in Zagreb and to foster solidarity among Podravina students. <u>Vision</u> To be a recognised student association that nurtures Podravina's traditions, promotes the values of solidarity, and supports the personal development of its members. UPS seeks to preserve regional identity among young people in an urban environment, while remaining open to other communities and cultures. <u>Objectives of activity</u> (a) Regional identity and culture → To maintain young people's connection with Podravina's cultural heritage, customs and dialect through events and educational activities (for example, organising traditional festivities and presenting Podravina's culture in Zagreb). (b) Student support network → To create a network of mutual assistance among students from Podravina. Senior students provide guidance to newcomers (mentorship for first-year students, advice on studies and life in Zagreb), thereby sustaining a spirit of solidarity within the student population. (c) Socialising and networking → To organise regular gatherings, excursions and sporting activities, enabling members to build friendships and connections. This helps reduce the sense of isolation experienced by students living far from home. (d) Personal development and mobility → To encourage students to take an active role in their communities, engage in non-formal learning, develop organisational and interpersonal competences, and participate in local and international projects. UPS provides its members with opportunities to take part in Erasmus+ projects, allowing young people from Podravina, including those from smaller and rural communities, to gain international experience. (e) Promotion of Podravina in the academic community → Through its activities, UPS also promotes the Podravina region in Zagreb by presenting its customs, gastronomy, music and notable figures, thus contributing to a positive representation of Podravina within the wider student community.
What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?	The Podravina Students' Association has carried out numerous projects aimed at its members, but also at other students interested in supporting the promotion of Podravina and its students. Some of the more significant projects funded by the Student Centre of the University of Zagreb include: 1. Pleasant Conversations of the Podravina People (October–December 2019) Three well-known figures from Podravina (Zoran Vakula, Professor Hrvoje Petrić, PhD, and Goran Šafarek) visited the Association's premises and engaged with students on the topic of climate change.



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2. **Quiz at Podravec** (October–December 2019)
Five rounds of the Podravec Quiz were held. The innovation lay in the structure: 16 categories were offered, and each of the eight participating teams selected one category that all teams were then required to play. Winners received symbolic prizes.
3. **UPS Belot Club** (entire year 2020)
Weekly belot card games – a popular game in Podravina – were organised at the Association's premises every Tuesday.
4. **Selection of the Podravina Freshman of the Year** (November 2019, October 2020 and 2021)
For three consecutive years, the Association organised the selection of the best Podravina first-year student. Through various games and challenges, knowledge and skills were tested, and the winning student received a symbolic award.
5. **Student Martinmas** (November 2019 and 2021)
For the first time in many years, the Martinmas tradition – the blessing of wine accompanied by live tamburitza performances – was revived. The “bishop” roles were performed by well-known Podravina figures Vid Balog (2019) and Adam Končić (2021), with performances by TS Diversa and TS U Prolazu.
6. **Orientation Day for Podravina Freshmen in Zagreb** (October 2020 and 2021)
First-year students often lack sufficient and accurate information when beginning their studies in Zagreb. Accordingly, students were introduced to the city centre and attended a presentation on studying and student life in Zagreb. In 2021, the programme also included a visit to the Zoo.
7. **Hurry Up, the Bus is Honking** (April and November 2021)
Study trips were organised for approximately one hundred students to Plitvice Lakes and to Siget and Pécs.

Recent activities and organisational development

Since 2025, UPS has increased both the scale and scope of its activities. Podravska fešta, centred on Podravina music, culture and regional identity, attracted approximately 400 young people at each of its two editions held in November 2025 and March 2026. UPS also continues to organise quizzes, cultural activities, sporting events and social gatherings, including activities proposed and implemented by its members. Social responsibility is another element of its work. In December 2025, UPS organised a charity quiz with the Latice Association and raised 1,115 EUR to support the purchase of a house intended for people with intellectual disabilities.

In early 2026, it developed a programme for the Youth Council of Koprivnica-Križevci County based on issues identified through its work with young people and dialogue with its membership. The proposals addressed youth spaces and activities, scholarships, employment and paid traineeships, mobility, housing, and stronger involvement of young people in decision-making. The Association subsequently gained representation in the County Youth Council through its President, Lovro Prišelec.



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	In June 2026, an initiative promoted by UPS contributed to the organisation of the 34th thematic session of the Croatian Parliament's Committee on Family, Youth and Sports, dedicated to the independence of young people. UPS participated in the session through its President and brought the perspective of students and young adults into a discussion involving Members of Parliament, public authorities and youth representatives. The year 2026 also marked the beginning of UPS's Erasmus+ experience. UPS is currently involved as a partner in five Erasmus+ projects addressing digital well-being and mental health, intercultural inclusion, critical thinking and resilience to manipulation, quality and inclusiveness of youth work, and European cultural heritage. Most UPS members originate from Podravina, including smaller towns and rural communities in northern Croatia. Geographical distance, transport availability and economic circumstances may limit access to international opportunities. Erasmus+ cooperation therefore has particular relevance for the Association because it opens European mobility and non-formal learning opportunities to young people for whom such experiences have previously been less accessible. UPS members study across a wide range of academic disciplines, including technical and natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, economics, law, arts and biomedical fields. This diversity provides the Association with competences relevant to project activities, including digital literacy, communication, organisational work, cultural activities and peer learning.
What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?	Lovro Prišelec, President Lovro is a third-year student of Computing at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb. He has been active in UPS since December 2024 and has served as President since December 2025. Alongside his work in the Association, he is active in student and youth representation at university and regional levels. In 2025, he was elected to the Student Union of the University of Zagreb. During the academic year 2025/2026, he has served within its Presidential College as Coordinator for Digitalisation, as a deputy student member of the University Senate, and as the student UNIC commissioner for the University of Zagreb. He has also served as a student representative on the University's Committee for Digitalisation and Digital Transformation. In February 2026, Lovro was elected as a member of the Youth Council of Koprivnica-Križevci County following his nomination by UPS. Through this role and his work in the Association, he has been involved in issues including student standards, youth participation, housing, mobility, employment opportunities and the position of young people from smaller and rural communities. In June 2026, he represented UPS at the 34th thematic session of the Croatian Parliament's Committee on Family, Youth and Sports on the independence of young people. He also gained direct Erasmus+ project experience in March 2026 by representing UPS at the Advance Planning Visit for Beyond Pixels: Mental Health in a Digital World in Mula, Spain, where he participated in programme planning and coordination with international partner organisations. His combination of computing studies, institutional digitalisation, student representation, youth-policy engagement and Erasmus+ experience is relevant to UPS's development at the intersection of local youth participation and European cooperation. He is a native Croatian speaker and has advanced English proficiency (C1 in listening and reading, B2 in speaking and writing). Filip Pezelj, Secretary



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	Filip is a second-year student of Business Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb. He has served as Secretary of the Podravina Students’ Association since December 2025. Born in Koprivnica, he completed the science and mathematics programme at Gimnazija “Fran Galović” before beginning his studies in Zagreb. As Secretary, he is involved in the Association’s day-to-day organisational work and supports activities aimed at strengthening connections among Podravina students in Zagreb, promoting students’ interests, and maintaining their connection with the cultural identity and local communities of Podravina. Alongside his studies, Filip has gained work experience in positions requiring reliability, adaptability, organisation and operational discipline, including delivery, retail, food production and event logistics. His competences include teamwork, communication, organisational skills, social media literacy and the use of MS Office tools. He has advanced English proficiency (up to C2 in listening and C1 in reading, writing and interaction) and basic German proficiency (A1 to A2).					
E. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE						
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CONTACT PERSON 2						
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F. PREVIOUS PROJECTS						
	Type	Year	Project ID	Project name	Country	Role
1	Erasmus+	2025	2025-3-ES02-KA152-YOU-000386827	Beyond Pixels: Mental Health in a Digital World	Spain	Partner
2	Erasmus+	2025	2025-3-IT03-KA153-YOU-000383126	Common Ground: architects of the future	Italy	Partner
3	Erasmus+	2025	2025-3-PL01-KA152-YOU-000376448	Spektrum Perspektyw: Odporność Obywatelska na Starcie	Poland	Partner
4	Erasmus+	2025	2025-3-CY01-KA152-YOU-000367704	Reframing Perspectives for Inclusion	Cyprus	Partner
5	Erasmus+	2026	2026-1-PL01-KA152-YOU-000398099	Echoes of the Past: Slavic and Baltic Youth Dialogue	Poland	Partner