



SOCIETY
AND ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

PARTNER PROFILE

PARTNER ORGANISATION	
OID	E10157145
PIC	921987814
Full legal name (National Language)	Viešoji įstaiga “Visuomenės ir verslo plėtros institutas”
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Society and Enterprise Development institute
Acronym	SEDI
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ACCREDITATION

Has the organisation received any type of accreditation before submitting this application? **YES**

Accreditation Type	Accreditation Reference
European Solidarity Corps Quality Label - Hosting	2020-1-LT02-ESC52-006846
European Solidarity Corps Quality Label - Supporting	2018-1-LT02-ESC52-006127

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Please briefly present the partner organisation and its local associated partners (e.g. their types, sizes, scope of work, areas of specific expertise, specific social contexts and, if relevant, the quality systems used). .

Our main goal is to develop social, cultural, educational, sports and youth projects in remote regions of Lithuania and beyond. The team's experience has been gained through the development and implementation of projects of local, national and international importance such as youth initiatives, international exchanges, democracy projects and strategic partnerships. The success we have achieved is based on cooperative relationships and trust in our partners and the search for new relationships. In addition to strengthening links between organizations in neighboring countries, our projects are developing examples of good and friendly communication between organizations located in different countries of the European Union and beyond. We are able to work with schools, colleges, universities, non-governmental youth organizations and foreign embassies to raise the common level of culture and awareness among young people and in various local communities.

What are the activities and experience of the partner organisation and local associated partners in the areas relevant for this project?

The experience of the Society and Enterprise Development Institute's team has been gained in the development and implementation of projects of local, national and international significance, such as youth initiatives, international exchanges, democracy projects and strategic partnerships. The success we have achieved is based on a cooperative relationship and trust in our partners, as well as the search for new relationships. The projects we have implemented and are implementing not only strengthen the links between organizations in neighboring countries, but also develop examples of good and friendly communication between organizations that are located in different countries of the European Union and beyond. We know how to work with schools, colleges, universities, non-governmental youth organizations and foreign embassies to raise the

general level of culture and awareness among young people and in various local communities.

Our team members and volunteers have organized and participated in many different projects, such as the Youth in Action and Erasmus + local initiatives, youth exchanges, youth dialogue and youth democracy projects, and so on. In total, we as a team have more than 10 years of successful project experience and this will allow us to successfully integrate into the new Erasmus + program in 2021-2027. In recent years, when we have been active and involved in projects, we have found many partners at home and abroad who have similar ideas and goals as us. Our strong partnership is based on full trust in each other. In addition to project activities, we ensure the involvement of young people in activities that are very attractive to them, such as debates, volunteering, discussions and meetings with famous people, working with embassies, various concerts, sports and health activities. At the same time, we want young people to realize that there are many different opportunities for young people in our city, in the country or even throughout the European Union that can help them realize their favorite activities. Also, in recent years, the team of our organization has grown significantly, acquired the right competencies and skills that allow us to test ourselves in new activities and challenges. We have therefore decided that our institution can transfer its skills, competencies and knowledge by organizing and coordinating a youth dialogue project.

In 2019, we refined 4 strategic directions of activity, with which we seek changes relevant to youth and society through various measures, programs and initiatives:

1. VOLUNTEERING. We aim to strengthen the quality of organization of voluntary activities of youth and local communities in Marijampolė and Alytus counties both locally and internationally. We are currently coordinating the Youth Voluntary Service programs in both counties and implementing 2 projects of the European Solidarity Corps' international volunteering activities. In this strategic direction, we not only seek to coordinate existing and potential initiatives, but also to ensure the competencies of those working with volunteers in the organization of volunteering. We aim to improve the competencies of volunteer tutors, mentors and volunteer coordinators through a variety of means: training, study visits, sharing of good stories and experiences, and providing methodological and practical tools.

2. ENTREPRENEURSHIP. We aim to develop the entrepreneurial skills of local people through creativity training, sharing of good ideas and experiences, study visits, the Entrepreneurship Academy, mentoring and consulting sessions for business

representatives and career guidance sessions. We also support the development of young small businesses by providing representatives of these young businesses with the special training, advice and equipment needed to start their own business. We believe that entrepreneurship starts with creativity and the ability to present your idea through history and storytelling, not from building factories.

3. INTEGRATION. We encourage and support the establishment and development of the day center for children with disabilities "Suvalkijos saulytės", providing them with consultations on project implementation issues. It is also through this direction that we develop young people's intercultural awareness competencies and raise debates and initiatives on topics that are marginalized in society: sexuality education; young people from remote rural areas and emotional well-being.

4. CITIZENSHIP. We realize that citizenship is much broader than raising a flag during public holidays. We see the benefits and meaning of developing young people's sense of solidarity, their understanding that they can create and be active in the local community, that they have and must take care of members of their community who have not been so well off, and that they are responsible for their environment. and must take care of it daily.

What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

- All staff, volunteers and facilitators of the Society and Enterprise Development Institute (hereinafter referred to as VVPI) have relevant experience in project administration at both European and national level. This guarantees strong management of the various projects and the possibility of coordinating them in the light of common views, priorities and the objectives of the Erasmus + program.

- VVPI brings together a large number of young leaders, youth workers and volunteer mentors with relevant experience in non-formal and informal learning at local, national and international levels, focusing on progressive education for community development.

It is very important to mention that our team has many years of experience in organizing various non-formal education activities:

- The head of VVPI is Vladas Polevičius, who has been working with various non-formal education programs and projects for 10 years. Vlad has a wealth of international experience that still seems inaccessible and impossible to young

people, especially in regional municipalities. Innovative youth projects coordinated by Vladas are recognized as one of the best in Lithuania and Europe: the project "My voice matters: the European Young Citizens Initiative" was recognized as the best Lithuanian youth project by the European Charlemagne Youth Prize Commission in 2015. Vladas is a regional consultant of the Agency for International Youth Cooperation, which coordinates the youth field of the Erasmus + program in Lithuania, and is a former member of the Board of the Lithuanian Council of Youth Organizations (LiJOT). As a member of the LiJOT board, Vladas was involved in structured (youth) dialogue processes and participated in four European youth conferences, where he worked with colleagues from all over Europe to develop youth goals that are currently embedded in the European Union's youth strategy. Vlad has a lot of experience in coordinating and administering projects, preparing plans for the implementation of project activities, following them and ensuring that the set tasks and activities are completed on time.

- VVPI Project Manager Aistė Rutkauskienė has experience as a leader of various trainings, moderator of classes (since 2012). Topics - teamwork, creativity, solidarity, entrepreneurship, intercultural learning, citizenship, volunteering. Has experience coordinating a network of local and international volunteer mentors that spans several counties. For the past three years, it has brought together active young people and people working with young people who develop tolerant, learning and critical citizens. Aistė is responsible for and coordinates youth volunteer service and volunteer projects for international activities since 2018.

- VVPI activities coordinator Virginija Tulevičiūtė works with entrepreneurship promotion initiatives and vocational guidance activities for young people. Virginia has experience coordinating visibility, publicity and communication campaigns for various projects and initiatives. Virginia has work experience in both the public and NGO sectors, which allows it to understand and understand the communication of various agencies and the ability to purposefully broadcast a message to a desired target group.

- Currently, VVPI has 3 youth volunteers who coordinate the communication of Marijampolė Youth Information Center on social networks. The fact that we involve volunteers in our initiatives demonstrates that we are open and willing to work with the local community, thus developing their competencies not only by participating in project activities, but also by participating in projects at all stages.

In summary, our team has the following competencies, which are crucial for Erasmus+ projects:

1. is able to accompany individuals individually and in teams in the learning / educational process;
2. is well aware of the context of Lithuanian and European Union youth policy, legal framework and existing programs for young people;
3. is familiar with the European Union's youth strategy and the youth objectives set out in it. Ability to use youth goals in their activities;
4. is able and able to adapt various non-formal education methods and tools to different and different situations, target group;
5. understands and is able to present intercultural education and develop it in various activities;
6. use creativity and creative tools in organizing activities, events or training.