

# Udruga srednjoškolaca Hrvatske (USRED) Croatian Pupils' Association (CPA)



## A. Partner Organization

PIC	940204705
Organizational ID	E10136826
Full legal name (National language)	Udruga srednjoškolaca Hrvatske
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Udruga srednjoškolaca Hrvatske
Acronym	USRED
National ID	68149380974
Address (Street and number)	Sveti Duh 26
Country	Croatia
Region	Zagreb
Post code	10 000
City	Zagreb
Website	<a href="http://www.usred.hr">www.usred.hr</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:erasmus@usred.hr">erasmus@usred.hr</a>
Telephone	+385 97 675 3171

## B. Profile

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Type of organisation	Non-profit, non-governmental organization (NFP-NGO)
Is the partner organisation a public body?	NO
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	YES

## C. Background and Experience

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### 1. Please briefly present the partner organisation.

Udruga srednjoškolaca Hrvatske (USRED) or Croatian Pupils' Association (CPA) is a leading national non-profit organization representing Croatian high school pupils. Our vision is to be at the forefront of organizing and promoting the interests of high school pupils in Croatia. Our mission is to improve the secondary education system and create new opportunities for the holistic development of pupils in collaboration with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Since its establishment in 2011, USRED has positioned itself as the most relevant civil society actor advocating for the interests and rights of high school pupils.

USRED's main areas of interest are policy-making and youth work, particularly non-formal and informal education as supplements to the formal school curriculum. Recognizing that schools may not adequately equip pupils with the knowledge necessary to navigate real-world issues, USRED aims to provide additional opportunities for education in critical thinking, creativity, financial and digital literacy, civic education, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development, personal development, and more.

USRED is headquartered in Zagreb, with members, volunteers, and beneficiaries spread across Croatia. With approximately 140,000 high school pupils in the country, USRED has established a network of schools for cooperation, presenting impressive potential for participation in different international projects. Our team includes over 30 dedicated volunteers who contribute articles to the "usred.hr" website, a news outlet covering topics relevant to high school pupils. Moreover, USRED has a full-time staff responsible for conducting the organization's activities, along with a team of experienced NGO activists who develop new projects and establish partnerships.

Over the past twelve years, USRED has successfully implemented numerous local, national, and European projects. Each November, we commemorate International Students' Day with sporting,

cultural, and educational events organized throughout Croatia. Our long-running campaign, "VoteNow #16+," advocates for lowering the legal voting age from 18 to 16. USRED has extensive experience in Youth in Action and Erasmus+ projects, including the 2013 project "Equality and Tolerance Against Violence" and the 2022 project "Youth Organizations as Advocates Against Islamophobia." Additionally, USRED played a founding role in establishing EUPAS (European Pupils' Association) in 2015, a European-level umbrella organization for national high school pupils' organizations. As a partner organization, USRED was involved in the ESF-funded project "Network for Youth Activation" from 2020 to 2022.

USRED has gained widespread recognition in the media as a voice representing the interests of high school pupils on numerous occasions, including curriculum reform, teachers' strikes, public transportation issues, pupils' working rights, and the prestigious Oscar of Knowledge award. Our organization is renowned nationwide for advocating to improve the position of high school pupils within society and raising awareness of the challenges they face in their everyday lives.

Looking ahead, USRED's main objectives are as follows:

- Strengthening our international partnership network by adding new organizations to it.
- Establishing long-term partnerships with European counterparts.
- Developing and submitting outstanding project ideas to Erasmus+, ESC, and related programs.
- Providing European pupils with an opportunity to increase their knowledge and enhance their skills in a multicultural setting.
- Sharing USRED's good practices with other organizations.
- Influencing policy-making at national and European levels regarding relevant topics affecting pupils.

## 2. What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?

### Equality and Tolerance Against Violence

Funded by the Youth in Action Programme, USRED implemented the project "Equality and Tolerance Against Violence" in 2013 in the city of Ilok, Croatia. The project aimed to address the pressing issue of violence and discrimination within schools, fostering a culture of equality, tolerance, and respect. Through workshops, activities, and awareness campaigns, USRED worked closely with schools and stakeholders to educate high school pupils about non-violence, diversity acceptance, and bullying prevention. By encouraging dialogue and empathy, the project aimed to create a positive and inclusive school environment where every pupil feels valued and respected.

### Youth Organizations as Advocates Against Islamophobia

USRED implemented the training course "Youth Organizations as Advocates Against Islamophobia" in 2022, with funding from the Erasmus+ program. The project was aimed to empower youth workers by focusing on developing advocacy competences to effectively address the growing issue of Islamophobia. By deepening participants' understanding of Islamophobia, supporting engagement in advocacy activities, and emphasizing the importance of intercultural dialogue, the project sought to reduce Islamophobia's impact and prevent youth radicalization. The training course brought together 32 participants from Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, and Turkey, and it took place in Samobor from September 15th to 23rd, 2022.

## VoteNow #16+

The initiative "VoteNow #16+" led by USRED sought to lower the legal voting age from 18 to 16 in Croatia. This project, supported by funding from the Erasmus+ program, aimed to empower young people and promote civic education. Through public awareness campaigns, advocacy efforts, and collaborations with other youth organizations, USRED highlighted the political maturity and awareness of high school pupils, advocating for their active participation in shaping society. By calling for a lower voting age, USRED aimed to strengthen youth representation, encourage civic engagement, and foster a more inclusive and democratic society.

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

Nikolina Vojta, the President of USRED, brings nearly a decade of experience in non-governmental organizations to her role. She embarked on her NGO journey at the age of 13, volunteering in a youth organization, and has since gained valuable experience as a volunteer and team leader in Erasmus+ projects. Nikolina holds a prominent position in USRED and also serves as a member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Croatian Government. Her primary responsibilities include contributing to policy-making in Croatia, advocating for high school pupils, and actively participating in project planning. With a strong interest in mental health, intercultural dialogue, and personal development, Nikolina's educational path aligns with her past experiences. Currently a second-year social work student at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, she brings a well-rounded perspective to her leadership role.

Pavao Škoko Gavranović, previously the Secretary of USRED, now serves as a volunteer of the organization. Holding a Master's degree in Political Science, Pavao possesses a profound interest in policy-making, advocacy, and civic education. His exceptional skills in project management have led to the successful realization of numerous project ideas. Pavao has a strong background in promoting non-violence and civic education among pupils, consistently staying informed about the happenings in his surroundings and bringing valuable practices to USRED.

Toni Sučić is a project coordinator at USRED, with a strong background in youth work and project planning and implementation within the NGO sector. He has gained rich experience in coordinating projects, including his involvement in the ESF-funded project "Network for Youth Activation". Toni's expertise and dedication make him an invaluable member of the USRED team, contributing to the successful execution of various initiatives aimed at empowering and supporting young people.

## D. Legal Representative

Title	Ms
Gender	Female
First name	Nikolina
Second name	Vojta

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Position	President
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## *E. EU Granted Projects*

EU Programme	Year	Project identification or contract number	Applicant/Beneficiary Name
Youth in Action	2013	HR-12-E25-2013-R1	USRED (main applicant)
Erasmus+	2022	2022-1-HR01-KA153-YOU-000063762	USRED (main applicant)
Erasmus+	2023	2023-1-HR01-KA153-YOU-000144788	USRED (main applicant)