



CALL
for expression of interest in engagement in Strategic Partnerships for society development in Croatia and in the Euro-Mediterranean within the framework of the “Community Potentials” i3.0 program



**Twenty years
of weaving
support**



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
FOR PHILANTHROPY AND
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
ON EURO-MEDITERRANEAN

I. INTRODUCTION – A NEW MODEL OF INVESTMENT IN SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

After twenty years of operation, the National Foundation for Civil Society Development (hereafter: the National Foundation) is launching a new form of investment in society development through i3.0 Strategic Partnerships under the “Community Potentials” program (hereafter: i3.0 Strategic Partnership). Through co-management and joint activities of strategic partners and the National Foundation, this investment introduces a new way of supporting society (and economic) development in the Republic of Croatia and in the Euro-Mediterranean.

In this way, the National Foundation is introducing an innovation – the third since its establishment twenty years ago in support of organized civil society, and the development of society as a whole.

The first innovation was introduced back in 2004 with institutional support for the stabilization and/or development of organizations. The second was introduced in 2015 in the European Year of Development and on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the National Foundation's activities with the thematic fund “Democratization and Civil Society Development 2.0”. In this year of 2023, i3.0 Strategic Partnerships are being launched in several key areas for society development in Croatia, as well as in the Euro-Mediterranean. Strategic Partnerships should contribute to the society's further development, and the realisation of the potential of local communities through the activities of change makers in those communities. The National Foundation launched the “Community Potentials” program at the time of global lockdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to prepare timely for post-pandemic times, and to engage in problem solving at local, regional, national and international levels. Representatives of Euro-Mediterranean countries also participated in these initial activities of the “Community Potentials” program in 2020 through 2022.

Based on these experiences, a new form of investment has been designed for the society development of Croatia and the broader international community, from EU member states in the Mediterranean (MED9) to the Euro-Mediterranean, which brings together 42 countries, through Strategic Partnerships.

Strategic Partnerships will provide the National Foundation with the opportunity to bring together key Croatian and international organizations/institutions with which it will co-design and implement models of investment in sustainable local communities that represent the cornerstone of each society. In response, the National Foundation will contribute to the development of existing and the recognition of new potentials and forms of sustainability of local communities as the starting point for society development of our country, in the period up to 2030. In doing so, this new innovative form of investment in society development will be a further contribution to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This Call for expression of interest was prepared following the decision of the National Foundation's Management Board of 30 September 2023, based on the provisions of the Rulebook on the Conditions and Procedures for the Allocation of Funds for Achieving the Purpose of the National Foundation. We invited all interested institutions and foundations operating in the areas announced by the Call to express their interest in participating in Strategic Partnerships i3.0 with the National Foundation.

II. CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The objective of this Call for expression of interest in engagement in i3.0 Strategic Partnerships is to create a new, innovative model of investment in the development of society that creates sustainability and increases the potentials of local communities in Croatia and in the Mediterranean.

In the initial period, the National Foundation wishes to establish i3.0 Strategic Partnerships for the following areas under this Call:

1. Sustainable development of local communities in Croatia and in the Euro-Mediterranean
2. Culture: inter-generational bridge in Croatia and across the Euro-Mediterranean
3. New models of knowledge for society development in Croatia and across the Euro-Mediterranean
4. Creativity and innovation: driver of society development in Croatia and across the Euro-Mediterranean

This Call is implemented in four steps, as follows:

Step 1: Expression of interest

After the launch of the Call for expression of interest, interested applicants from Croatia and the international community express their interest in entering i3.0 Strategic Partnerships through innovative contributions to the development of the society and local communities in the areas defined by this Call, and submit their application for cooperation/partnership with the National Foundation.

In this part of the procedure for expressing interest in cooperation/partnership, applicants should complete the prescribed forms and submit the requested documentation in accordance with the terms of this Call.

Applicants expressing an interest in engagement in i3.0 Strategic Partnerships should demonstrate respect for, and commitment to, the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through their activities, and show readiness to liaise with other organizations to be involved in i3.0 Strategic Partnerships.

Through i3.0 Strategic Partnerships, the National Foundation wants to achieve further development in the areas defined by this Call, as well as inter-disciplinarity by connecting stakeholders (participants) of all involved areas with special emphasis on the development of human resources that can contribute to positive social changes through work with young and the elderly people.

The approved i3.0 Strategic Partnerships programs will be implemented in the first two years mainly in Croatia, whereas from the third year the implementation will be extended to Euro-Mediterranean countries through models of transfer of knowledge and experience.

APPLICATION

1.1. Applicants

In accordance with the terms of this Call, eligible applicants are:

- (a) foundations
- (b) institutions

registered and active in Croatia or other countries with a distinction between two types of possible applications:

- (a) applicants registered and operating in the Republic of Croatia apply independently (as a single applicant)
- (b) international applicants can only apply in cooperation with no less than one, and no more than three, organizations (from the non-profit or profit sector) that are registered and operating in the Republic of Croatia.

1.2. Number of applications

One grant will be allocated per each area referred to in this Call.

1.3. Amount of funding

Applicants allocated a grant under the i3.0 Strategic Partnerships program shall receive it for a period of 5 years, with the possibility of further extending the duration of the support.

The annual amount that may be granted:

- to i3.0 Strategic Partners from Croatia is from EUR 50.000,00 to 100.000,00;
- to international i3.0 Strategic Partners (with 1-3 Croatian organizations included) is from EUR 100.000,00 to 250.000,00.

1.4. Specificity of application by area – objectives and potential applicants

1.4.1. *Sustainable development of local communities in Croatia and in the Euro Mediterranean*

Objectives:

- to encourage a balanced and sustainable development in at least 10 local communities in Croatia through investment in human resources and new solutions to improve the quality of life in local communities;
- to carry out an analysis or research on models of innovative solutions for the sustainability of local communities;
- to engage young people from secondary schools and the elderly (pensioners) in all parts of the process of developing sustainability models in 10 local communities in Croatia;
- to establish a network of supporters and experts for the effective implementation of new models of sustainable development of local communities;
- to organize at least one training program per year for stakeholders (participants) engaged in innovative sustainable development models of the local communities involved;
- to encourage the development of participatory governance models in the local communities involved and social/solidarity/circular economy models that contribute to the sustainable development of local communities;
- to simulate the implementation of an agreed sustainable development model in at least one local community involved in the program;
- to cooperate with i3.0 Strategic Partners from other fields and with the National Foundation in the complementary connecting of involved program stakeholders (participants);
- to participate with the National Foundation in the selection of 10 local communities in which the program will be implemented.

1.4.2. *Culture: intergenerational bridge in the Euro-Mediterranean*

Objectives:

- to develop innovative programs in culture that will make it possible to connect young people from secondary schools and the elderly (pensioners) in at least 10 local communities in Croatia;
- to carry out an analysis or research on models of innovative solutions for intergenerational connectivity through culture;
- to engage young people from secondary schools and the elderly (pensioners) in all parts of the process of developing innovative models of improving the quality of life in the local communities involved through the transfer of knowledge and experience
- to establish a network of supporters and experts for the effective implementation of new models of intergenerational cooperation through culture;
- to organize at least one training program per year for stakeholders (participants) engaged in new models of intergenerational connectivity through culture;
- to simulate the implementation of an agreed program in culture through intergenerational connectivity in at least one local community involved in the program;
- to cooperate with i3.0 Strategic Partners from other fields and with the National Foundation in the complementary connecting of the program's stakeholders (participants);
- to participate with the National Foundation in the selection of 10 local communities in which the program will be implemented.

1.4.3. New models of knowledge for society development in Croatia and in the Euro-Mediterranean

Objectives:

- to develop innovative programs of acquiring and applying knowledge in the digital age that will enable the inclusion of young people from secondary schools and the elderly (pensioners) in at least 10 local communities in Croatia;
- to carry out an analysis or research on models of innovative learning and knowledge programs needed in a global world where AI is increasingly used;
- to engage young people from secondary schools and the elderly (pensioners) in all parts of the process of developing innovative models of learning and acquiring knowledge for society development with application in the local communities involved;
- to establish a network of supporters and experts for the effective implementation of new models of knowledge acquisition for society (and economic) development;
- to organize at least one training program per year for involved stakeholders (participants) using new models of knowledge acquisition;
- to simulate the implementation of an agreed program of acquiring and applying knowledge in the digital age in at least one local community involved in the program;
- to cooperate with i3.0 Strategic Partners from other fields and with the National Foundation in the complementary connecting of the program's stakeholders (participants);
- to participate with the National Foundation in the selection of 10 local communities in which the program will be implemented.

1.4.4. Creativity and innovation: driver of society development in Croatia and in the Euro-Mediterranean

Objectives:

- to come up with innovative programs to foster creativity and innovation that will enable the engagement of young people from secondary schools and the elderly (pensioners) from at least 10 local communities in Croatia;
- to carry out an analysis or research on models of innovative programs to foster creativity and innovation in order to drive society (and economic) development;
- to engage young people from secondary schools and the elderly (pensioners) in all parts of the process of developing innovative programs to foster creativity and innovation for society (and economic) development with implementation in the local communities involved;
- to establish a network of supporters and experts for the efficient implementation of new models of fostering creativity and innovation for society (and economic) development;
- to organize at least one training program per year for the involved stakeholders (participants) with presentation of their innovations;
- to simulate the implementation of an agreed program to foster creativity and innovation in at least one local community involved in the program;
- to cooperate with i3.0 Strategic Partners from other fields and with the National Foundation in the complementary connecting of the program's stakeholders (participants);
- to participate with the National Foundation in the selection of 10 local communities in which the program will be implemented.

1.5. Joint preparation of applications for international applicants

International applicants who are obliged to submit the application in partnership with no less than one and no more than three organizations (from the non-profit or profit sector) from Croatia should jointly prepare the application for this Call by completing the prescribed forms for expression of interest (application form and budget form), and by collecting and attaching other documentation required by this Call.

On behalf of all participating organizations, the application shall be submitted by the international applicant while all other organizations sign the Declaration of Participation in i3.0 Strategic Partnership, confirming that they have jointly agreed for the international applicant to submit the application on their behalf.

Organizations involved in i3.0 Strategic Partnerships should, during their joint work on the application, develop a model of operation and joint implementation of activities, which should be explained on the form for the expression of interest, while the budget form should specify the activities and the amounts for their implementation per participating organization/partner.

Step 2: Evaluation and interviews

Once the National Foundation has received all applications from interested applicants in all four areas of this Call, an evaluation procedure will be organized in accordance with the standards of the National Foundation's operational activities.

Depending on the number of applications and the need for additional information, the National Foundation may organize individual meetings/interviews with applicants at the premises of the National Foundation or online, in order to learn more about their operating model and planned activities.

The National Foundation will inform all applicants of the planned meeting times in due time.

Step 3: Decision on granting financial support

After the interviews, the final proposal of i3.0 Strategic Partnerships will be determined with individual and total amounts of support per individual area, and will be submitted to the National Foundation's Board of Directors for approval.

Step 4: Establishment of i3.0 Strategic Partnerships

The National Foundation will conclude agreements on i3.0 Strategic Partnerships with the selected applicants.

III. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Applications with expression of interest in engagement in i3.0 Strategic Partnerships with the National Foundation should be submitted by: **25 January 2024.**

IV. METHODS OF SUBMITTING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

IV.1. FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE REGISTERED AND OPERATE IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA - INDEPENDENT APPLICATION

The application procedure is described in detail in item IV of the Guidelines for applicants which should be studied carefully, given that applications are submitted through the system www.financijskepodrske.hr, in addition to which a printed, signed and certified document on the verification of the documentation uploaded in the system (certificate of documentation upload) should be submitted by e-mail.

All interested applicants should submit their expressions of interest within the prescribed period by completing the prescribed forms and uploading the required documentation electronically only (online application) through the system www.financijskepodrske.hr.

Upon completion of the application procedure through the www.financijskepodrske.hr system, the document on the verification of documentation upload should be printed, certified by the applicant's stamp, and signed by the person responsible for representation, and as such scanned and submitted by **3 PM (CET) on 25 January 2024** to: kodoviprijava@zaklada.civilnodrustvo.hr.

Should applicants fail to complete the prescribed forms and do not upload the prescribed documentation through the www.financijskepodrske.hr system, and fail to send the above mentioned verification document in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time-limit, or should they apply in all (more than one) categories, the application shall be deemed not to have fulfilled the basic requirements of the Call.

Confirmation from the www.financijskepodrske.hr system of the uploaded documentation must be sent by e-mail only within the prescribed time-limit, indicating the subject "i3.0 Strategic Partnerships" to: kodoviprijava@zaklada.civilnodrustvo.hr.

Late applications (completed forms and documentation uploaded after 12:00 (noon) on 25 January 2024, i.e. the document on verification of the uploaded documentation by e-mail sent after 3 p.m. on 25 January 2024), incomplete applications, applications sent by regular mail or fax, hand- and/or typewritten applications, applications that are not uploaded in the system on the prescribed forms of the National Foundation, or otherwise submitted applications contrary to the terms of this Call, will not be considered. Applications that have not been signed by the person authorized for representation will not be considered, and neither will the applications in which the verification document have not been signed by the person authorized to represent them.

In view of the changed operating conditions that have been largely digitalized, please note that it is important to ensure all organizational preconditions in order to prepare and submit the application in a timely and prescribed manner, because complaints or applications that do not comply with all the prescribed conditions due to technical and similar difficulties will not be accepted.

IV.2. FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS APPLYING IN COOPERATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED AND OPERATING IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The application procedure is described in detail in point IV. The Guidelines should be carefully studied, given that applications are submitted through the DropBox platform.

All interested international applicants should submit their expressions of interest within the prescribed period by completing the prescribed forms and uploading the required documentation electronically only (online application) through the DropBox platform.

Upon successful uploading of the documentation to the DropBox platform, the applicant should complete and print the Verification Document, that is part of the supporting documentation, then certify it with the organization's stamp and signature of the person authorized to represent the organization, scan it and send it by **3 PM (CET) on 25 January 2024** to the following e-mail address: kodoviprijava@zaklada.civilnodrustvo.hr.

Should applicants fail to complete the prescribed forms and do not upload the prescribed documentation to the DropBox platform in the prescribed manner and send the mentioned Verification Document within the prescribed period, or if they apply in all (more than one) categories, it will be considered that the application did not meet the basic prescribed conditions of the competition.

It is necessary to submit only by e-mail a Verification Document on the uploaded documentation in the prescribed period to the following address: kodoviprijava@zaklada.civilnodrustvo.hr with the subject "i3.0 Strategic Partnerships".

Late applications (completed forms and documentation picked up after 12:00 (noon) on January 25, 2024 or Verification Document on the uploaded documentation submitted by e-mail after 3:00 p.m on January 25, 2024), incomplete applications, applications sent by regular mail or fax, handwritten and/or typewritten applications, applications that will not be uploaded to the platform applications submitted on the prescribed forms of the National Foundation or in any other way contrary to the terms of this Call, will not be considered. Applications that are not signed by a person authorized to represent them will not be considered either.

In view of the changed operating conditions that have been largely digitalized, please note that it is important to ensure all organizational preconditions in order to prepare and submit the application in a timely and prescribed manner, because complaints or applications that do not comply with all the prescribed conditions due to technical and similar difficulties will not be accepted.

V. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTATION

The documentation for submission can be found on the National Foundation's official website <https://zaklada.civilnodrustvo.hr> and in the system www.financijskepodrske.hr, while the application is to be submitted exclusively in one of the following ways:

- a) through the system www.financijskepodrske.hr - for applicants who are registered and operate in the Republic of Croatia (independent application), or
- b) through the DropBox platform - for international applicants who apply in cooperation with organizations that are registered and operate in the Republic of Croatia.

Specific questions related to the application for this Call can only be submitted to the email address i3.0@zaklada.civilnodrustvo.hr up to 8 calendar days before the deadline for application (**18 January 2024 by 12:00 (noon - CET)**).

Frequently asked questions and answers will be published in the dedicated section of the National Foundation's website.

VI. MAIN ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Quality of the application
- Organizational and human resources for the implementation of activities through i3.0 Strategic Partnerships
- Past experience in programs of complementary planned activities through i3.0 Strategic Partnerships
- Choice of methodology for the implementation of activities through i3.0 Strategic Partnerships
- Innovation in the preparation and implementation of activities of i3.0 Strategic Partnerships

VII. EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS

With reference to Article 6. of the Rulebook on the Conditions and Procedures for the Allocation of Funds for Achieving the Purpose of the National Foundation, applications that have met the prescribed requirements of this Call are submitted to the evaluation body for evaluation.