

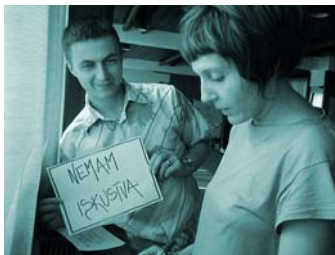
# Community development training program

Croatia is currently facing development stagnation at local level.

Beside weak economic conditions, one of the main reasons is low education/readiness of all sectors for cooperation and development in order to accomplish broader objectives. Local stakeholders often lack knowledge of different ways of developing and supporting community activities.

Over the last three years, we have experienced keen interest, from within local communities, in getting support to start the process of organizing initiatives and finding ways to build cooperation in solving community problems.

Establishing cooperation between interested parties is very important precondition for the improvement of development quality in all parts of Croatia. The interest has come especially from local governments and NGOs on topics ranging from establishing mechanisms for public participation in developing planning documents, project development and management to starting small-scale economic activities.



development by knowledge



## training goal

To support community development activities by building and developing the capacity of twenty active representatives from public, business and civil sectors per year to run effective projects in their communities.

## Reasons for training

We have realized that there are trainings on building capacity of NGO's, but not for those working on integrated community development and improvement of life quality.

Thus we have designed the training covering specific knowledge and skills for community organization, quality project design and implementation, and knowledge transfer.

## training characteristics

During 3 years, public announcement resulted in over 140 applications from all over Croatia – representatives of local government, ministries, and NGOs, craftsmen, teachers, tourist workers, students. The selection criteria were designed to represent **"community in small"**.

The group of 20 selected participants consisted of various professions: social workers, economists, professors, engineers, lawyers, designers, NGO members, which work in local self government, ministires, banks, private enterprises, tourist associations, faculties...

## Why representatives of all three sectors?

All sectors are equally important for the community development and each can and must contribute.

The training is an example on how the agreed objectives could be achieved through joint work and learning. We have created an opportunity for cooperation and communication among representatives of all three sectors and we encourage them to participate in joint projects.



### Knowledge and skills acquired at training



- ▶ how to conduct community needs assessment
- ▶ how to design, write and implement a project
- ▶ how to monitor and evaluate the results
- ▶ fundraising
- ▶ how to involve other community members
- ▶ deliberation techniques
- ▶ how to efficiently present the organization and its projects...

### Educational team

Professional ODRAZ team, Association for civil society development SMART, Association MI from Split and ODRAZ's external associates – professionals from various fields (p.ex. dr. Dubravka MIjković and others).

### ODRAZ message

There will be no significant changes in any community unless all community members participate in the changes and take responsibility. Of course, to generate the changes specific knowledge, skills and individual engagement in the community is necessary.

So far, 35 participants from various communities have been **educated** within this project, and at the moment 21 are currently in programme.

After education, all participants stay in **Local Development Network** which is facilitate by ODRAZ.

### Additional activities

Participants suggest additional topics they are interested in, for example positive thinking, conflict management, relevant legal frameworks, good practice examples, etc.

At the end of the training the participants are awarded the certification of **"community organizer"**. As the title suggests it is a person who, beside the knowledge and skills, recognizes and includes other community member potentials, promotes team work and cooperation.

Community organizer assists in community problem identification, priority determination and joint problem solving. Community organizer encourages civil initiatives and community responsibility for its own development.

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