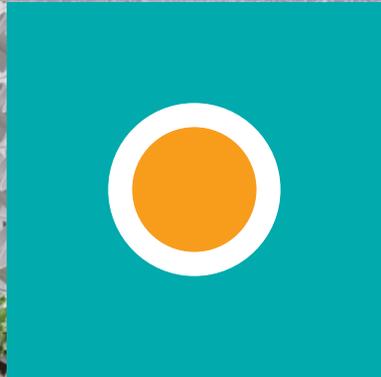
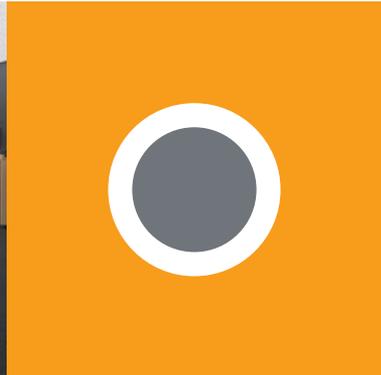




CHANGE COMES FROM THE BOTTOM UP!



CHANGE COMES FROM THE BOTTOM UP!

Local communities across Europe face a wide range of social problems, ranging from air pollution to unequal access to education and poverty. The best way to solve these problems is to act from the bottom up – such a solution involves the whole community and makes the community eager to act for the common good.

Sometimes local communities need support - a mentor who will tell them how to organize their activities in the best way, where and how to look for funds and how to deal with obstacles. The role of such a mentor in many communities is played by **community foundations** - organizations which task is to support the activities of local communities.

There are approximately 650 community foundations operating in Europe. Thanks to their huge work, local communities across Europe are empowered to diagnose crucial social issues and to join forces with different stakeholders to tackle them. In this way, they not only successfully make a change on a local level, but they also contribute to the process of global problem resolution. How? Because each issue faced on the local level has its reflection on the global level. In other words: because local communities across Europe face similar problems, from the wider perspective these problems can be considered global problems.

This is why United Nations, together with different stakeholders introduced the idea of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, otherwise known as the *Global Goals*, that are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. SDGs can be a common language for all organizations to communicate about similar activities.



ABOUT THE FUND

Global Challenges Local Solutions Fund is the first fund which connects CFs and SDGs.

It is a grantmaking program that supports community foundations and local philanthropic organizations throughout Europe to address global challenges on the local level. It was set to provide them with additional resources that can improve local initiatives. The Fund focuses on initiatives referring directly to SDGs.

Within the 3 years of Global Challenges Local Solutions Program we have received 136 applications, from 17 countries (Romania, Slovakia, Italy, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Hungary, Serbia, Ireland, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia, Malta, Spain, Macedonia).

Projects implemented by our grantees are frequently related to the following SDGs:



SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere,



SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all, at all ages,



SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,



SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,



SDG 11. Make cities and all urban settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

In the years 2017-2019 29 grants were distributed for the total amount of approximately 500 000 USD. Grants have been awarded to organizations from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Slovakia, Latvia, Italy, Serbia, Ukraine, Croatia and Hungary.



Below you can see the map with our grantees from 3 grant rounds that were carried out in 2017-2019.



JOIN US

Visit <http://www.localsolutionsfund.org/> to find out more!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE PROGRAM

Within our Program community foundations carried out projects that coincided with progress towards the SDGs in the EU. In the first three grant rounds our grantees implemented education-oriented projects. They organized training courses, grant competitions for the best SDGs-related practices, realized projects addressing youth, women and people at risk of social exclusion.

Projects implemented by our grantees are frequently related to the following SDGs:



SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere,



SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all, at all ages,



SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,



SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,

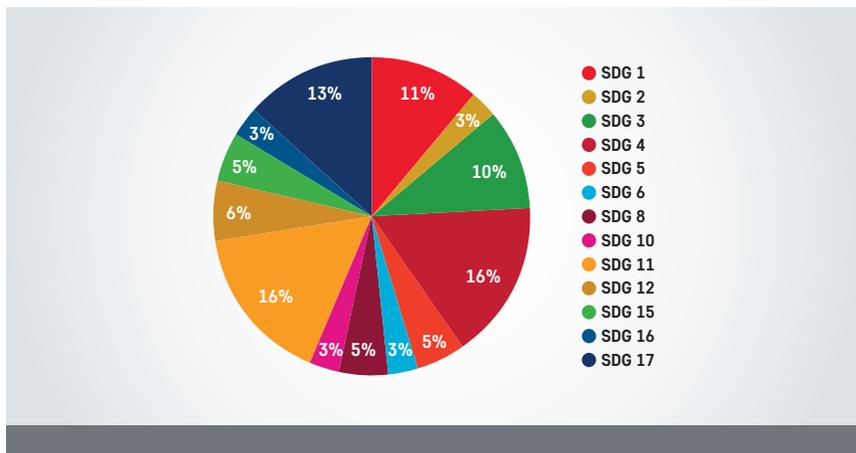


SDG 11. Make cities and all urban settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

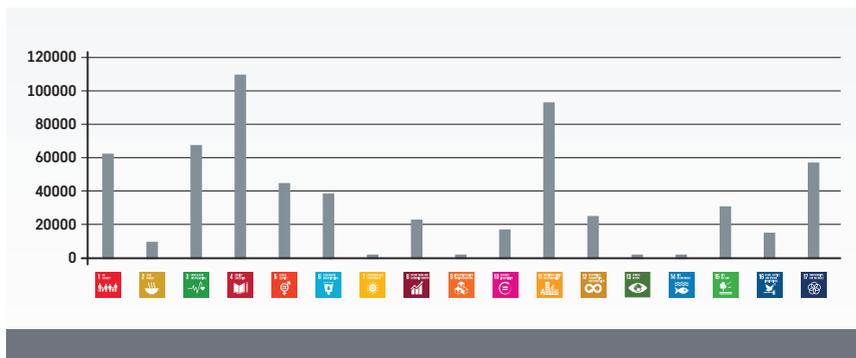




The infographics below shows how many CFs worked on each of the SDGs within the Program.



This infographic presents how much money was invested in each SDG within the 3-year Program.



Below you can read descriptions of good practices from the 2nd and 3rd grant round.

Those from the 1st could be found here – [brochure](#).



PROJECTS WITHIN THE 2ND GCLS GRANT ROUND

SDGs:

GRANT: 15 000 \$



VARNA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Обществен дарителски фонд за Варна
Project: From Community Dialogue to Systemic Change: Reducing Fear of the “Different” by means of Bottom-Up Action

Bulgaria

About: Varna Community Foundation was formed by a group of local active citizens in 2012 who had a history of working together for different philanthropic causes in the community. The purpose was to improve the infrastructure for local giving. Varna Community Foundation has supported several projects that contribute to combating antigypsyism by means of creating positive examples of Roma educational integration, achieved with the support of local philanthropists. They have also supported the integration of migrants in the community.

Challenge: The most crucial challenge is the widespread fear of the different, leading to hate, which was enhanced in 2018 by the political discourse that led to the rejection of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention on the prevention of violence against women. A strong anti-campaign started in the beginning of 2018, launched by religious organizations and later taken over by nationalist parties in the government. The result of the anti-campaign was the spreading of a very aggressive anti-minority rhetoric, which was easily absorbed by the mainstream.

Solution: Organization has undertaken two distinct groups of activities: 1) grant-making for empowering the segregated Roma and other marginalized groups and 2) activities, which enhanced community dialogue, raised awareness on critical issues, and created space for alternative discourses, which stimulate acceptance of the different. It has also prepared a short film to showcase positive examples of Roma inclusion in higher education. Moreover it has organized a special event under the title “Let’s Celebrate Together”, during which children and youth from different minorities, living in Varna, presented their culture and customs.



SDG:

GRANT: 14 875\$



PECS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Pecsi Kozoszegi Alapítvány

Project: Pécs city for wheelchair users
- promoting inclusion through both improved wheelchair accessibility and community building activities

Hungary

About: Pecs CF was set up in 2016 in a city of Pecs with 150.000 inhabitants by 9 dedicated citizens with the aim of promoting community philanthropy and encouraging the local community to engage in generating community initiatives while constantly harnessing the power of community building and the spirit of cooperation. Creating equal opportunities and building an inclusive local community base is a fundamental value to which the Pecs Community Foundation firmly subscribes to.

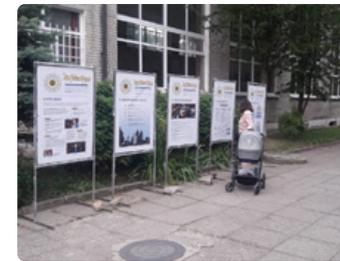
Challenge: In times of politically deeply divided societies (like Hungary) enhancing social integration is a key priority as we often experience serious lack of solidarity, and deficits of trust. In particular, the voices of politically, socially, economically and culturally marginalized people need to be heard and responded to. People with restricted mobility are one of those vulnerable groups who experience exclusion from participation fully in local society. The project was aiming at improving accessibility for them, creating a more enabling physical and social environment. At present there is no real visibility of them in the city which is seen as an indicator of the problem.

Solution: The Pecs CF has organised The COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM, within which they had several expert consultations, discussions with members of civic disabled groups. They have conducted workshops focused on discussing experiences and effective methods capable for improving sensitivity and inclusive attitudes towards the world of people with disabilities. One of the working groups has conducted access audits of restaurants, bars, recreational facilities and buildings of public importance within the city to find out the level of accessibility of the venues and marked the positive findings with a sticker on their entrance. Within the project strengthening of the civic voice of the disability groups has happened, the organization has identified the need to make a cross-disability body demanding co-creation policies together with the local government organs.



SDGs:

GRANT: 14 700\$



CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “FIRST L'VIV FOUNDATION”

Благодійний Фонд

“Перша Львівська Фундація”

Project: Think globally - act locally!

Ukraine

About: The First L'viv Foundation is a community foundation which mission is to develop responsible and effective charitable activities in the community with the goal to improve the quality of life of L'viv. The Foundation's activities are concentrated in four main directions - development of philanthropy, improvement of the natural environment of L'viv, solution of social problems of the city and its inhabitants and support of local initiatives of L'viv. In 2017, the Foundation created the Crowdfunding tool for supporting local initiatives “L'vivs'ka Casa” (www.kasa.lviv.ua) as a platform where donors can support social initiatives.

Challenge: One of the most important problems of the L'viv community is ecology. Some of the main points are: more than 10% of city buildings do not have sewage, in 2016 a single landfill of solid domestic waste was closed, which led to the rubbish crisis, when the garbage was not removed from the city for several months. As result, fecal waste and other household waste polluted rivers Poltva (with its tributaries) and Zubra (with its tributaries). Therefore, such a situation significantly affects not only the health of L'viv residents and the ecosystem of L'viv, but also causes a global threat of pollution of the Baltic and Black Seas.

Solution: To respond to the above mentioned challenge the Foundation decided to produce and distribute 10,000 copies of projects booklets among L'viv residents; produce and distribute 5 minute-long videos (explorers) in the media and social networks on the Project's objectives; to make a street exposition for photo exhibition “Ecological problems and threats of the city of L'viv” and place it in public places of L'viv. In the end they created a mutual support system of L'viv local initiatives on the base of Foundation's Crowdfunding Platform - L'viv Casa (kasa.lviv.ua) and involved funding for 12 local environmental initiatives.



SDGs:

GRANT: 14 351,85\$



HEALTHY CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Komunitná nadácia Zdravé mesto
Project: Life of Women in Banská Bystrica

Slovakia

About: The Healthy City Community Foundation (HCCF) was established in 1994 and is located in Banská Bystrica (80 000 inhabitants), operates in central part of Slovakia, covering the area of 200 000 inhabitants. Its mission is to connect local issues with local capacity and to improve quality of life in local communities. The main goals of the HCCF are: 1. to create and support strong local communities, grassroots activities and leaders – through general grantmaking, networking, consulting 2. to develop and strengthen local philanthropy – through annual campaign, special events, on-line tools, services for donors 3. to strengthen networking and cooperation in community by implementing own projects.

Challenge: The need for such project was identified by the research based on Vital signs model in 2016 and by their previous experience from work with volunteer group consisting of Roma and non Roma women and young women after leaving orphanage. They learnt from their stories about many difficulties and unfair treatment because of their origin, race, social status or just a fact of being a woman.

Solution: To solve the above mentioned challenge HCCF has carried out a survey “The Life of women in Banská Bystrica” about situation of women in their region. What’s more, they have organized focus group discussions, working groups that worked on subjects such as: increasing their own capacity and skills to communicate “their issues” to the public in a simple and acceptable way.; increasing and developing “women solidarity” in order to support women for political candidates, or any female professionals to have a courage to take decision making positions and support them in various practical ways; organizing public debates with inspirational women, something like small TEDx to get the attention and keep discussion. Moreover they have prepared 2 articles about the project and presented it in a printed regional newspaper and online local informational portal. They believe that the major result of the project was bringing up the issue of women discrimination and creating a platform for women who are interested in the topic and eager to cooperate on it.



SDGs:

GRANT: 6 381,88\$



BARDEJOV COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Komunitná nadácia Bardejov
Project: Local solution for a healthy community

Slovakia

About: The mission of Bardejov Community Foundation (BCF) is to connect people in order to tackle their common problems on their own. A perspective change, which BCF is trying to achieve, is to raise engagement of broader community to its development. They believe that it is important, to create a space, to give opportunities and to use proven and innovative tools for mobilization and for involvement of general public into positive changes in community.

Challenge: The most important challenge for the Bardejov community is SDG no. 17, particularly focusing on local solutions to the following three global challenges: a) promoting sustainable agriculture and food security, b) promoting sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products, c) substantially reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling live and reuse. Within the project the Bardejov CF wanted to encourage people that leave abroad to come back to the city and to engage them in the local activities.

Solution: Within the project BCF organized a lot of activities, among others: a TV debate with representatives of the city council, NGOs and local leaders about SDGs and about the opportunities for active citizens to get involved in finding solutions for those challenges. What’s more they have conducted 3 half-day seminars on subjects related to sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, local culture and products, waste reduction, recycling and upcycling. They have also organized Run for A(tra)ctive Bardejov where runners supported their selected projects and BCF projects; entrepreneurs contributed as well by matching the raised funds. By carrying out the project, BCF wanted to increase community awareness about SDGs and, as a result, improve behavior in line with the ‘think globally, act locally’ slogan in their everyday life.



SDGs:



GRANT: 12 911 \$



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SLAGALICA

Slagalica – Zaklada za razvoj lokalne zajednice

Project: Who, if not you?

Croatia

About: CF Slagalica has 10 year experience in supporting positive social change, and mobilization of community resources in response to detected needs on the local level. They are primarily focused on promotion of organized community philanthropy and community development (grant-making, capacity building for CSOs, lectures and trainings in primary schools for a “small/young philanthropists”, Philanthropist’s Club, named funds, annual philanthropy award, community actions, social capital development etc). CF Slagalica is geographically focused on Slavonia (eastern part of Croatia), which is an underdeveloped area, with high rates of ageing population and growing depopulation among other issues.

Challenge: Osijek is an urban area with unequally developed districts and opportunities for good quality of citizens’ life, as well as with the decreasing level of social capital. Town’s centre is known for its old and large green public spaces, sport and cultural facilities, while surrounding districts (6) have very few or no safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children/youth, seniors and persons with disabilities. Citizens are rarely actively engaged in decision-making processes and there are no public forums and/or similar participatory models enabling and encouraging active civic participation in urban planning and community development in general. Consequently, peripheral town districts do not utilize their public spaces, the level of community-minded citizens is very low, and community interaction in these districts is reduced to a minimum.

Solution: General strategy to respond to this challenge included:

- Enhancing civic engagement in development of safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces for vulnerable groups in 3 town districts in Osijek through strengthening citizens’ knowledge, skills and options for mapping problems and for participatory planning in the local community. Activity took place in 3 town districts for 3 groups of citizens of all ages (up to 30 participants per group). They have also organized workshops about SDG’s – how global goals can be targeted by local actions in/for most interested and active groups of citizens.



- Opening new public forum for local authorities and citizens through public discussions on proposed solutions for improvement/development of green and public spaces: min 2 events. During the project implementation they have managed to motivate involved districts to host and organize 4 such community meeting to discuss ideas and proposals raised by active citizens/organizations for improvement of neglected public green areas.
- Local fundraising campaign was organized as another tool for promotion of community philanthropy and community development. It raised all those 3 types of support: time, treasure and talent.

As a result of the project all planned and expected changes occurred: community philanthropy and community development was promoted, citizens and CSOs were active, took responsibility and fulfilled all tasks by changing specific green public area in their districts, local resources were mobilized in order to bring a positive change. 18 donors invested their time, treasure and talent in setting up a new playground made of recycled material on the neglected green area in Tenja, setting a new bench in Donji grad, repairing already existing equipment set up in the scout park and educational trail improved with ashed and new solar lighting pillar near the artificial lake in Jug 2 district, and renovation of roof on a bungalow of the Fishing Club „Linjak” located in a public green area near the drainage of the River Drava which, are used for the school in nature and as an recreational site for gathering, socializing and other occasions.

Roof restoration, new benches, new playground, shed and solar lighting pillar with no doubts contribute to safer, inclusive and accessible use of public green areas in sub-urban districts of Osijek. All together 85 citizens took part in planning, decision making and/or implementation of the described actions investing 743 volunteer hours in creating more safe, inclusive and accessible public green area in 4 sub-urban districts of Osijek.





GRANT: 14 448 \$



ODORHEIU SECUIESC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Fundatia Comunitara din Odorheiu Secuiesc
– Székelyudvarhelyi Közösségi Alapítvány
Project: Let's move out!

Romania

About: Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation (OSCF) is an independent local fundraiser and grantmaker, builder of philanthropy's culture, that builds a conscious, active and creative community through programs and grants. The main strategic objectives are: education and family, developing community living space, civil society development, developing the culture of philanthropy, organizational development. In order to achieve those goals the OSCF runs various fundraising programs.

Challenge: The public transportation system and the infrastructure for traveling by bike in the city and region are not sufficient and safe. The local public administration planned to build biking roads, but in the last two years nothing has happened. Local biker's community is growing, but there is no safe infrastructure for biking. The organization wanted to make the city more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Solution: The organization planned to continue the work initiated within the previous grant round. Their main goal was to develop an inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable city by: developing a part of the hiking trail (1000 m) around the city to be safe and accessible for bikers; developing an interactive hiking booklet with games addressed to the whole families. The organization has also organized a community hiking and biking event that promoted healthy, active lifestyles among the inhabitants and stimulated them to spend more time in the nature.



GRANT: 12 500 \$



ASSOCIATION THE NIDZICA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Stowarzyszenie Nidzicki Fundusz Lokalny
Project: Remember the Gardens

Poland

About: Association is a philanthropic organization established in 1999 which aims to support education of children and youth, work for the community, gather and distribute funds for charity, culture, education and environment protection. The organization implements programs and projects within innovative forms of teaching. So far it has granted 857 scholarships in the total amount of 2 million PLN. It cooperates with a group of 30 volunteers engaged in implementation of educational projects and charity events.

Challenge: Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This is a constant challenge for the organization and it affects the life of the entire community. It is especially important considering the past of their region, where state-owned farms had been destroying natural environment for dozens of years. Only those who are aware and conscious may introduce social changes and improve living conditions of the entire community.

Solution: The organization has conducted a cycle of interactive workshops for the participants of the project which developed skills like, i.a. social communication, creative thinking, biodiversity and ecosystem. It has also organized study visits in the exhibit garden, combined with workshops for the youth. During the meeting they've raised knowledge and skills of the participants in the area of environmental issues. They also organized an event "Remember the gardens" – for 200 participants: adults and children. During this all-day event participants had an opportunity to visit the Paradise Garden with trained participants of the project as a guides, who told about the flowers, taking care of plants and interesting facts about the environment.



SDGs:

GRANT: 11 340\$



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION "THIS IS OUR KYIV"

Громадська організація "Це наш Київ"

Project: Interactive Crowdfunding Platform "Clean Up"

Ukraine

About: NGO "This is Our Kyiv" was founded in 2013 by editorial board of "NashKiev.UA" aiming to create innovational instruments for development of active community in Kyiv. They believe that the most effective way of gathering people to solve any problem is to use digital solutions. The organization team aims to provide these solutions for communities to empower them. Among others they helped to launch a project "Dog Waste Stations" in partnership with local social entrepreneurs under its own brand "LoveGaw". Later, organization has created the First Charity Trading Platform "Murahy" - a fundraising tool for charity funds and social projects that promoted sustainable consumption.

Challenge: Ukraine and Kyiv in particular are facing not one, but many challenges and all of them are rather crucial for general well-being and all of them need citizen's attention. Among others there is no established dog-walking etiquette in Ukraine. Cleaning up after pets outside is not considered as a necessity. This way dog waste slowly decomposes on green zones of the city that often are situated near the children's playground or even serve as one. One gram may contain 23 million of intestinal bacteria that cause diarrhea, intestinal disorders, and kidney problems. In addition, dog waste pollutes storm water that through drains proceeds into rivers and seas without needed filtering.

Solution: The goal of the project was to promote proper dog-walking etiquette as a form of collective, responsibility-sharing activity for the community. They have provided the community with a web-platform that will include interactive map, tools for execution and actualization of citizen's appeals, crowdfunding mechanisms and possibility of sponsorship. Thanks to the project we can observe an increase in quantity of Dog Waste Stations in dog-walking zones: there were 66 Dog Waste Stations before the project in Kyiv and there are 106 by now. This project raised awareness to the problem of proper dog-walking and ways to deal with it: during the implementation of the project 41 publications were released concerning SDGs, dog-walking etiquette. A culture of proper dog-walking will make city green zones clean, safe, and sustainable.



SDGs:

GRANT: 15 000\$



REVIA - SMALL CARPATHIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

REVIA - Malokarpatská komunitná nadácia

Project: Circular economy: waste reduction pilot in Modra, Slovakia

Slovakia

About: REVIA is a nonprofit community foundation focused on improving life of the communities in the Small Carpathian region for already 22 years. It tries to support wide spectrum of ideas and initiatives through following activities: financial and non-financial support of local volunteer projects, focused on the community life enhancement and community development; connecting the public, private and non-profit sector into a well-functioning local network; counselling service for the local non-profits, activists and donors in the field of project management, institutional capacity enhancement and philanthropy.

Challenge: The community faces a double challenge: 1. how to reduce waste generation to minimize the deposit space needed and save money at the same time? and 2. how to do this, engaging all local stakeholders sustainably?

Solution: To solve the above mentioned challenge Revia CF has analyzed the waste situation in the city, carried out waste sampling and presented the analysis to the City Council. Based on collected hard data and gained knowledge REVIA created an action plan containing raising awareness about the waste production and recycling and monitoring system of the project. What's more it has created the e-manual on how to correctly segregate waste in Modra and how to minimize its production. People in Modra are able to find useful information about their town's recycling program just by scanning a QR code by their phones. In the end they have organized the awareness-rising campaign and educational workshop on the subject: how to segregate the waste properly?



SDGs:



GRANT: 8 897,8\$



CUMBRIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

-

Project: Cumbria Revealed - Let's start a conversation

Great Britain

About: Cumbria Community Foundation exists to address poverty & disadvantage and to strengthen Cumbria's communities by inspiring philanthropic giving and by connecting people who give money with inspirational, life-changing projects. They provide philanthropic services to individuals, families and organizations and manage 90 grant making funds, supporting around 500 community projects per year on behalf of their fund holders. Since 1999, they have invested more than £42m into more than 3,500 groups and 6,000 individuals across Cumbria.

Challenge: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Specifically the organization wants to address the challenge to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol. A crucial challenge facing communities in Cumbria is the growing number of deaths linked to substance abuse. According to Government statistics, a total of 77 people died after misusing substances in the county between 2015 and 2017 with Carlisle and Barrow districts suffering the largest loss of life. Not only can drug and alcohol abuse cause a wide range of harms to the individual, it also has an adverse impact on local communities, affecting crime rates, hospital admissions, child abuse & neglect and is rapidly consuming limited public funds.

Solution: Cumbria CF has conducted a desktop study which included reviewing existing evidence and data to understand and provide an overview of the scale of the problem in Cumbria. This also included a review of existing provision of drug and alcohol services and interventions where substance misuse is a problem. Informal interviews have been carried out with key statutory and non-statutory organizations working with people affected by drug and alcohol problems to identify opportunities and constraints when implementing services. Two roundtable conversations have been held to share knowledge and experience.



SDGs:



GRANT: 29 520\$



FOUNDATION STEP FORWARD

Fondacija Iskorak

Project: Discover Zajecar

Serbia

About: Foundation Step Forward (FSF) is the very first community foundation in Serbia, established in 2013 by community philanthropy support organization 'Zajecar Initiative'. It covers the territory of Timok Region in Eastern Serbia, focusing particularly on Zajecar community. FSF supports citizens and provides them tools to shape their communities according to their needs and constantly improve their prospects/position in the Timok region. Its work is based on direct interaction with citizens and a locally-grounded approach.

Challenge: Serbia intensified the efforts for ratifying international conventions in the field of heritage protection and management from 2007 onwards. However, despite positive efforts, the preservation and protection of the cultural heritage in Serbian communities still shows many limitations. Major obstacles include the lack of financial resources, improper governance, ineffective enforcement of regulations, and lack of awareness. Also, the level of community involvement in cultural heritage management is low due to limited efforts of authorities to engage the local community.

Solution: To solve the above mentioned challenge Foundation has organized three consultation meetings, bringing together key community actors related to cultural-historical heritage. Representatives of Municipal Tourist Organization, Municipal Historical Archive, National Museum, local authorities, CSOs and media took part in these meetings. They have prepared a dedicated website – www.upoznajzajecar.rs which contains sections such as: Locations (both list of and Google Map with the most important cultural-historical sites in Zajecar marked with QR codes), Zajecar Stories (the most interesting and rare stories from Zajecar's past) and Sustainable Development Goals (introduction to SDGs, targeting wider population). They have also organized Joint Community Intervention – FSF invited citizens to gather and to jointly renovate the famous site 'Roman Stairs' located in Kraljevica Hill near the town via local traditional media and social networks. This was the one of the most massive collective action of citizens in the recent Zajecar history that brought together more than 100 people to clean and renovate this popular location.

PROJECTS WITHIN THE 3ND GCLS GRANT ROUND



SDGs:

GRANT: 8 755\$



FERENCVAROS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Ferencvárosi Közösségi Alapítvány

Project: You Are On!

Hungary

About: Founded in 2011, Ferencvaros Community Foundation (FCF) is the first community foundation in Hungary, working in one of the largest and most heterogeneous districts in Budapest. Their main activities: fundraising and grant-giving, organizing community programs to improve the well-being of the local community. They are a “bridge”: based on very close contacts, we connect local initiatives, local donors (individuals, SMEs and large companies), and volunteering citizens ready to act for their environment. They support 12 local initiatives yearly, partly through large fundraising programs, Swimathon and Live Giving (the Funding Network method); from their own funds (Central Ferencváros Fund; Péter Zwack Memorial Fund, after one of the oldest and prestigious enterprises here); and from other sources.

Challenge: In Hungary there is a housing and an income crisis, gentrification affects their district and marginalized people are neglected (SDG 11). Recently there have been many news articles and reports about critical local problems (rented residential program, abuse of the paid parking system), which local decision-makers did not react to, or not appropriately. This may cause people to refrain from voting, allowing apathy and indifference, as well as fear and a sense of “no point” to take over.

Solution: The Foundation started a local multimedia program during the run-up to the municipal elections to generate discourse around the 3 key SDGs and the district’s key issues and encourage people to vote. They have produced altogether 7 x 3-hour radio programs during the project on subjects as: climate complaints in the service of developing the district, moral panic and hysteria around Hungarian education and the current gigantic government-funded investments and their utility for the inhabitants and the city. As a result they have observed an increasing number of people who openly voice their opinions and pose their questions and significant increase in the people who went voting in the October elections.



SDGs:

GRANT: 9 630\$



THE USTI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Ústecká komunitní nadace

Project: Education first!

Czech Republic

About: Ústí Community Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working towards an open community and better life in the regions of Děčín, Litoměřice, Louny, Teplice and Ústí nad Labem. The Ústí Community Foundation strives to accomplish its mission by supporting various interest groups, bridging public and private sectors, and assessing the needs and problems of the local community; assisting in the creation of a platform where citizens, businesses, NGOs, and representatives of local and central government can come together to search for and to initiate shared visions and to address problematic issues; contributing to solving current and future issues by raising funds and by providing financial aid through grants to projects in the fields of social and health care services, the environment, culture and the arts, education, and local development.

Challenge: Part of society talk about decreasing level of education. School system stops connecting and giving children common basis to the future. Teachers are underpaid, a lot of them feel a disillusion and they often do not cope with worsening upbringing, because neither they, nor schools are ready for that, which are subjected to changes in society. Due to cancellation of school commissions schools start to differ in Czech Republic. School system loses its ability to balance differences in society and function as social lift. Teachers are not given enough support and the possibility of the Ministry of Education to influence quality of the school system decreases. In this situation poor and less educated people are certainly handicapped. In digital era the real education often moves out of the school and Czech schools ought to find new role in the changing conditions - that can be ability of getting on with people and educate together, taking responsibility of life, showing sympathy to people, who are less successful and, last but not least, the ability of taking responsibility of our place in the world and nature. That’s why the Usti CF have considered SDG 4 as crucial challenge in the region.



Solution: To solve this difficult educational situation Usti CF decided to undertake the below mentioned activities:

- raised appropriate sum of “local” funds within their community and secure necessary funding to run grant-making round to support socially&health disadvantaged pupils to ensure equal quality education for all;
- selected motivated teachers who received support for personal development through individual coaching to ensure optimum environment for their work;
- organized two workshops for teachers & educational experts on SDG 4. The aim was to provide a round table discussion with reflection of priority issues in areas as how to motivate pupils for further education in local environment, how to improve quality and attractiveness of primary and secondary school education by supporting local teachers and how to locally support talented students who are in need;
- carried out series of individual meetings with local donors to secure funding for subject of education and find the effective model how to distribute “local” funds reflecting local priorities in SDG4.



SDGs:

GRANT: 11 622\$



FĂGĂRAȘ COUNTRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Fundația Comunitară Țara Făgărașului

Project: Youth Academy 2.0

Romania

About: Făgăraș Country Community Foundation has been active in the area since 2013, by supporting local NGOs, civic associations, civic initiatives, as well as individuals, youth, seniors and companies, in their desire to make this place better. Some of their activities, focused on education: youth programs (such as YouthBank and Youth Bank Academy) are focused on the fact that young people are the ones who will shape the future. The Scholarship Fund-Fight against school dropout, through which they aim to identify and support students with good results in education but who are in danger of dropping out of school due to their financial situation. They have built around these young students a community of people to support them.

Challenge: A core general challenge of the local community is lack of awareness about the development challenges they face and about the development challenges faced by other parts of the world. That also has a great impact on the community, as it leads to disempowerment and low civic participation. The core challenge the organization wanted to focus within this project was to steer YB Academy to tackle this dysfunctionality of their community with regard to understanding SDGs and generating feasible solutions that can be implemented with local resources.

Solution: The project had 3 components:

- SDGs, learning and community engagement for youth and included forming a community that focuses on producing social change;
- engaging the wider community in a learning and reflection process about the SDGs and their community: The YB Academy team created the context for all sectors (public institutions, business, civil society, media) to be engaged as mentors and supporters;
- building a solution-generation mechanism in the form of a competition for projects activities;
- creating a ‘work and support’ group for young people consisting of: entrepreneurs, people from diaspora, representatives of local institutions, NGO’s, media-min 20 entities;
- launching conference where all the relevant stakeholders were invited in order to combine panel formats and speeches with workgroups devoted to the SDGs identified above.



SDGs:

GRANT: 12 040\$



SNOW MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FUND

Fundusz Lokalny Masywu Śnieżnika

Project: Street law for women
- vehicle for self-development

Poland

About: Snow Mountain Community Fund (SMCF) was established in 1998. Its mission was to change mentality of people and convince them that everybody could be a change maker. During 20 years they have given 820 grants to local initiatives, 1400 scholarships for poor and gifted students, set up Common Room for children and 10 rehabilitation centers. The Fund has established 14 memorial funds helping people understand the idea of philanthropy and implemented 90 educational programs addressing various groups: the elderly to children, the healthy and the sick, people from cities and villages, motivating them to act for common goods. They support local projects in education, ecology, culture, health, sport, art, democracy, tolerance and cross-border cooperation.

Challenge: Many women in the region still have problems with “winning” their place in the community – at work and at home, they are exposed to bullying and violence. Women are often too shy to act and protest. Lack of knowledge in law often brings bad consequences for themselves and their children (divorces, maintenance, inability to mediate, etc.). Information about aggressive behavior of some girls at school are worrying, while cases of girls depression caused by hate in social media require intervention.

Solution: The leitmotif of the project was to strengthen women and girls by acquiring proper knowledge and skills, mainly in the field of interpersonal, personal and legal competences. They wanted to effectively influence the change of attitudes for the benefit of the whole community. To improve this situation the Fund has organized a special two-day conference dedicated only to woman, than included such topics as: legal issues in register partnership, divorce, children maintenance; consumer and neighboring rights etc. Undoubtedly, the project strengthened women, showing them how to use legal solutions, presenting practical and creative approach to problems and matters they want to settle in private, professional and social life. Workshops helped women understand how to react to all kinds of discrimination, how to eliminate and prevent domestic violence and mobbing at work. However, the most important ones showed how to use law and not be helpless in situations of danger or discomfort.



SDGs:

GRANT: 11 036,75\$



WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Project: Wiltshire Poverty Uncovered

Great Britain

About: The Wiltshire Community Foundation (WCF) provides funding and support where it is needed most and through their activities, they help bring communities together. WCF responds to several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their activities – they help to address poverty and disadvantage, to create stronger and more sustainable communities, increase educational and learning opportunities and reduce inequality by funding local voluntary sector and community groups. In addition, their integral ‘Funder+’ approach provides training, advice and support to enable our local voluntary sector to grow and develop so that they can improve lives in the communities.

Challenge: Poverty was identified as a key issue for the county in report Wiltshire Uncovered in 2014, by focusing on poverty as a deep dive theme in 2019 they can refocus their activities and priorities based on current challenges. Poverty is the most significant issue facing communities in Wiltshire and Swindon. From their previous research they know that hidden poverty in our rural areas is a real issue and impacts on health, educational and employment opportunities, and community resilience. In a rural area like Wiltshire, poverty is masked by the high-level national deprivation statistics that do not identify issues at village level, so rural populations have limited access to services, exacerbated by poor transport links and high costs of travel. In addition, there are pockets of extreme deprivation in urban areas which feature in the national indices of multiple deprivation. The gap between rich and poor is widening, policy changes, such as the introduction of Universal Credit and wider public spending austerity, have led to increased poverty and use of food banks, and Brexit provides a new challenge and uncertainty for the economy.



Solution: WCF planned to tackle the above mentioned challenge with for example such activities:

- completion of research activities as part of their Deep Dive, this has included extensive contextual research, analysis and desk research to inform their Poverty Uncovered Research Report;
- in September 2019, they have convened a Poverty Uncovered Stakeholder Roundtable, with attendees from the statutory and voluntary sectors, including other funders and practitioners. The event focused on raising awareness on issues relating to poverty and inequality and highlighted local activity and how it contributes locally towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Wiltshire Poverty Uncovered (report) has helped to bring issues relating to poverty, inequality and the wider SDGs into the consciousness of the voluntary sector in Wiltshire and Swindon, by convening conversations and delivering presentations we have been able to highlight current challenges. The depth of analysis they have been able to undertake, as a result of the GCLS funding, has identified the neighborhoods and groups within the communities that experience poverty, deprivation and inequality in Wiltshire and Swindon. This will enable them to challenge preconceptions that Wiltshire is an affluent area. They will use those research findings to emphasize the inequalities within and between their communities.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In 2020 we will launch the next stage of the Global Challenges Local Solutions Program. We plan to widen the formula of the grant competition by:

- organizing international meetings for the grantees, so they can share their experiences and have a chance to shape the future of the Program;
- implementing European campaign showing that SDG-related issues and projects are present in every community, and teaching on how to tackle them, being inspired by the good practices from local communities across Europe;
- organizing “Tell me your story” competition for the best stories describing projects implemented in the given round. Grantees will be asked to prepare some short multimedia materials presenting their projects. The best stories will be awarded with additional funds for the project or its continuation.
- designing educational materials that will summarize every grant round.



More information about Global Challenges Local Solutions Program:

<http://www.localsolutionsfund.org/>



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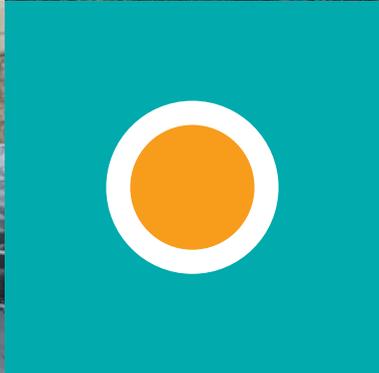
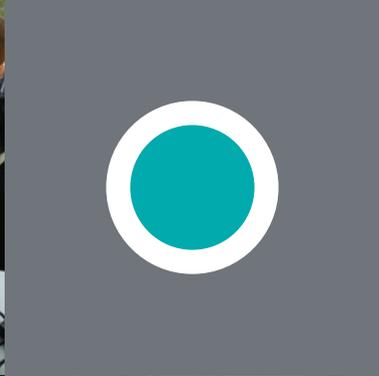
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