**PARTNER INFORMATION FORM**

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| **PIC** | 948626827 |
| **Orgnisational ID** | E10041724 |
| **Full legal name (National Language)** | Znanstveno-raziskovalno združenje za umetnost, kulturne in izobraževalne programe in tehnologijo EPEKA, socialno podjetje |
| **Full legal name (Latin characters)** | Scientific and Research Association for Art, Cultural and Educational Programmes and Technology EPEKA, Social Enterprise |
| **Acronym** | EPEKA |
| **National ID (if applicable)** | 4000919000 |
| **Department (if applicable)** | / |
| **Address**  | Koroška cesta 8, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia |
| **Country** | Slovenia |
| **Region** | Podravska |
| **PO Box** | / |
| **Post code** | 2000 |
| **City** | Maribor |
| **Website** | www.epeka.si/en |
| **E-mail** | epeka@epeka.si |
| **Telephone** | +38630610606 |
| **Fax** | / |

**Profile**

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| **Type of organisation** | Association |
| **Is your organisation a public body?** | No |
| **Is your organisation a non-profit?** | Yes |

**Accreditation**

Have you received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?

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| **Accreditation type** | **Accreditation reference** |
| / | / |

**Background and Experience**

Please briefly present the partner organisation

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| Scientific and Research Association for Art, Cultural and Educational Programmes and Technology EPEKA, Social Enterprise, was founded in 2008. EPEKA Association was founded as an initiative to connect creators of cultural, artistic, educational, scientific and technological content for the European Capital of Culture 2012 project. One year later, EPEKA proposed the Municipality of Maribor to submit candidacy for the European Youth Capital title. Consequently, Maribor became the European Youth Capital in 2013. We continue our activity in the field of EU citizenship, art and culture, EU values and intercultural dialogue. EPEKA has branches abroad: EPEKA Czech Republic, EPEKA Austria, EPEKA Serbia, EPEKA Turkey, EPEKA Montenegro, EPEKA UK, EPEKA Berlin and an informal group of youth EPEKA Armenia. We also have affiliate branches in Ljubljana and Izola. Epeka has a long history of working with underprivileged social groups both with youth and adults, promoting the rights of the Roma minority in Slovenia and enabling and empowering them. One of the most prominent results of this was the opening of Romani Kafenava, the first Roma restaurant in the EU working on the principles of social entrepreneurship. This was a part of an ambitious ESF operation and the restaurant is still operational several years after the end of financing. It was also seen as a very good practice by many institutions – e.g. https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-education-youth/-/roma-restaurant-romani-kafenava?inheritRedirect=true. We are a non-governmental, non-profit organization, and we have been operating by the principles of a social enterprise since 2013. Our aims are still closely connected with promoting the rights of vulnerable groups, especially youth and women. In our daily practice we combine theoretical work (e.g. creating educational tools, policy monitoring, counselling etc.) and work in the field directly with the community. In 2016 we have also established the EPEKA Youth Cooperative Society to support youth business in 2017 we established a multi-purpose Roma center; Roma station, which is a project that empowers local Roma community members with information, new skills, non-formal education and opportunities in the field of employment.  |
| What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?  |
| Our main fields of work:Youth and EducationOn yearly basis we are involved in 20+ Erasmus+ and Europe for Citizens projects, currently we’re running 2 Erasmus+ KA2 projects (European Youth Against Anti-Gypsyism and Integration for Deeper Social Integration). We are also running a number of national ESF projects targeting people with fewer opportunities. (https://www.facebook.com/Antigypsyism/) (http://fairemployment.si/en/project/, https://www.facebook.com/romskapostaja)In 2018 opened a modern Youth center with 300m2 of spaces , where we perform various educational activities for young people, with the specific focus on young people with fewer opportunities. Within the youth field we are very strongly focused on issues related to the environment and organise a yearly youth festival connecting policy and decision makers with youth, who are affected by their decisions. Art and cultureWe own a Gallery in which we exhibit various work of art by known Slovenian and foreign authors with a focus on exhibiting art from underprivileged social groups. In addition to this we are a renowned producer and organiser of concerts both in Slovenia and abroad, with a focus on musical traditions from the Balkans and especially from marginalised social groups, e.g. the Roma minority. We are also involved in projects supporting intercultural values and dialogue.Social EntrepreneurshipWe operate by the principles of a social enterprise, through which we focus on the active inclusion of vulnerable groups. One of our biggest projects was the establishment of Romani Kafenava - the first Roma restaurant that operates by the principles of social enterprise (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\_NAboS-p0M). We are also running several operation funded through the ESF targeting long-term unemployed people and those with fewer opportunities (especially the Roma minority), enhancing their key skills and competences and bringing them closer to the job market by linking them with potential employers we cooperate with.Linked to this we are also exploring topics connected to circular economy and especially supporting youth-led and socially oriented initiatives within this context.  |

**Legal Representative**

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| **Title** | Mr. |
| **Gender** | Male |
| **First Name** | Simončič |
| **Family Name** | Štefan |
| **Department** | / |
| **Position** | President |
| **Email** | epeka@epeka.si |
| **Telephone 1** | +38630610606 |
| **Is the same address above indicated?** | yes |

**Contact Person**

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| --- | --- |
| **Title** | Mr. |
| **Gender** | Male |
| **First Name** | Ziga |
| **Family Name** | Dobnikar |
| **Department** | / |
| **Position** | Project Manager |
| **Email** | epeka@epeka.si |
| **Telephone 1** | +38640586843 |
| **Is the same address above indicated?** | yes |

Operational capacities:

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| **Names of staff members of the PARTNER****organisation** | *Summary of relevant skills and experience, including where relevant a list of recent publications related to the domain of the project.* |
| Štefan Simončič | Changmaker in the European Youth week 2017 - 20th Erasmus+ Anniversary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NO4CksgMX54> Panelist by the European Solidarity Stakeholders forum in Brussels (page 3 working group C:<https://secure.destree.be/ei/docs/EU_Civil_corps/Draftprogramme1703.pdf> President of Association EPEKA, Soc. Ent. has been active in the NGO sector since 2010. He’s managing EPEKA’s programme (Culture, Youth, Art <http://www.flanderstoday.eu/art/slavic-cartoon-tradition-show-brussels-comics-museum>, Branches of EPEKA) and managing the business part. He was also the initiator of establishment of the fist Roma restaurant that works by the principles of social entrepreneurship – Romani kafenava. <https://euobserver.com/eu-elections/123908> He’s conducting trainings and workshops as well as managing international EU projects. Throughout his work, he gained valuable skills in leadership and cultural mediation. <https://rm.coe.int/4th-dialogue-meeting-with-roma-and-traveller-civil-society-final-agend/16807517e4> (page 4 Plenary session 3) Through his involvement in youth-work he’s also taking activistic approaches and addressing the decision-makers in the public space. He is proposing to EU Commission new title: European Capital of Roma.Editor of publications and catalogues, known for implementation of various business ideas, where he involves young people, especially those with fewer opportunities. Organiser of concerts and producer of festivals with a long track record and focusing on Roma and Balkan musical traditions.  |
| Žiga Dobnikar | Working as Roma activator, he takes care of the program and activities that are being performed inside the multi-purposed Rome center. Before his employment in Epeka he has worked as a curator and cultural producer, which he continues within EPEKA Gallery and organizes cultural programmes inside Association EPEKA, Soc.Ent. Through his work he often focuses on minority arts and contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage of minorities. He has great ICT and pedagogics competences and gives lectures in the field of ICT and creative usage of modern technology. He’s a youth worker with the specific aim to address the topics of injustice, where the issue of corruption is being one of the topics he’s focused in.Publications:* Selma Selman, catalogue co-editor, 2016
* Ars Electronica 2014; critic, Folio year 6-7 (2014-2015)
* Tadej Vindiš: Figures without title, Folio year 6-7 (2014-2015)
* Lords of Dirt, Catalog introductory text (Art Gallery Maribor), 2013
* (Ne)odvisni? = (Ne)zavisni? = Independent? (co-editor and text author), 2013
* Comic Heroes Rescuing Europe, international comic strip exhibition (text in catalogue and coeditor), 2012
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| Matej Tisaj | MA in Management of Cultural Diversity from Tilburg University with 10 years of experience in Erasmus+ and European Social Fund programs, specialized in education and employment of vulnerable groups. Leader and implementor of numerous projects under EPEKA, including Roma restaurant “Romani Kafenava”.  |
| Jerica Lorenci | Working as project assistant in Association EPEKA, Soc. Ent., she has many experience in the field of working with vulnerable groups, which she earned through long-term involvement in the field of migration. She works with refugees in the process of integration, coordinates EPEKA’s EVS projects and Youth mobility programs, works as an editor of EPEKA’s webpage and social media platforms.Projects:* member of national working group of Becoming a part of Europe project (2017 - 2019)
* conference Dealing with refugees: from challenges to opportunities, Amman, Jordan (2017)
* training course Key to inclusion (2017)
* training course Strengthening the intercultural competencies of professionals in the field of health and social care and education (2016)
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| Nermina Simončič | Administrative work, managing reports and taking care of finances, expert in dissemination of the projects; webpage and social media editor, planning and execution of the activities of EPEKA Association. Active participation in international projects (conferences, trainings, etc.), where she gained valuable knowledge and experience in youth-work, knowledge in mentoring and methodologies of non-formal education. In-depth knowledges of EU structures and mechanisms, great communication skills. With her organizational skills and administrative knowledge she supported the Association with its bureaucratic challenges during the establishment of Association. |

Previously implemented projects:

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| **Programme or initiative** | **Reference number**  | **Beneficiary Organisation** | **Title of the Project** |
| *European Social Fund* | C3331-16-544518  | EPEKA  | Fair Employment |
| *H2020* | SI2.823699 | EPEKA | TRAIN-CE-FOOD |
| *European Social Fund* | C2611-18-591210 | EPEKA  | Social Activation |
| Erasmus+  | 608659-EPP-1-2019-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBY-WB | EPEKA Montenegro | Understanding and Challenging Nationalist Extremism – The Western Balkans and the Question of Kosovo |
| *Erasmus+*  | 602533-EPP-1-2018-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBY-WB | EPEKA Montenegro | Fighting Corruption — Expanding the Union |
| *European Social Fund* | 6100-92/2016/25-2 | EPEKA  | GET ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CULTURE |
| *European Social Fund* | 110712097/2016-5 | EPEKA  | YOUTH WORK |
| *European Social Fund* | 11071-2098/2016-5 | EPEKA  | SUPPORT BY THE CULTURAL EVENTS |
| *European Social Fund* | C1541-17O591231 | EPEKA  | Roma Station |
| *European Social Fund* | C3340-17-196000 | EPEKA  | FORWARD WITH THE CULTURE |
| *EUROPEAN FUND FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPEMNT* | C2130-17-200042 | EPEKA  | Agency EPEKA |
| *Erasmus+* | KA2-AE-9/17 | EPEKA  | Education for deeper social integration |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-1-SI02-KA105-013604 | EPEKA | BREZ POVRATKA – KAKO NAPREJ? |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-3-SI02-KA205-014432 | EPEKA  | European Youth Towards AntiGypszm |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-3-SI02-KA105-014409 | EPEKA  | Voluntary Station |
| *Erasmus+*  | 2015-1-SI02-KA105-012816 | EPEKA  | EVS - a tool for Roma youth inclusion |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-2-UK01-KA105-037023 | Ganimede Ltd | Cooperative Solutions-Seminar on Inclusion of Refugees/IDPs |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-2-RO01-KA105-037610 | CENTRUL DE RESURSE ECONOMICE SI EDUCATIE PENTRU DEZVOLTARE | Transition to Entrepreneurship |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-2-RO01-KA105-037558 | Asociatia Pro Dezvoltare DACIA (APDD) | Alternative Learning: MOVIES |
| *Erasmus+*  | 2017-2-FR02-KA105-013105 | Ballade | Inclusive Europe ! |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-2-BG01-KA105-036604 | Peperudi Mechtateli Bulgaria | Social Photography in Youth Work |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-1-TR01-KA105-04254 | Genc Birikim Dernegi | Rural Realities - Training Course for Rural Youth Workers |
| *Erasmus+* | 2017-1-SK02-KA105-001298 | Obcianske zdruzenie Diera do sveta | Missing Pieces |
| *Erasmus+*  | 2017-1-LT02-KA105-005201 | VsI Kurybingumo ir Inovaciju Centras | Integration? Art is the answer |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-3-TR01-KA105-036943 | YOUTH INCLUSION ASSOCIATION | Youth Workers for Minority Youth Inclusion |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-3-RO01-KA105-035486 | ASOCIATIA COMUNITARA A ANIMATORILOR SOCIALI | ACT! - Active Citizenship Training |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-3-PT02-KA105-003865 | Associação TDM Portugal | Positive Practices Of Mental Success |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-3-LV02-KA105-001361 | DAUGAVPILS JAUNIESU SAVIENIBA | Midsummer night's dream |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-3-DE04-KA105-014762 | CULTURE GOES EUROPE | Xenophobia Revisited - World War II and the lessons (not) learned in the 21st century |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-3-BG01-KA105-035408 | Peperudi Mechtateli Bulgaria | Changing the picture |
| *Erasmus+*  | 2016-2-TR01-KA105-035530 | Sahipsiz Hayvanlari Koruma ve Yasatma Dernegi | Limelight |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-2-TR01-KA105-035513 | Sinop Valiligi | WHO / KİM |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-2-RO01-KA105-025099 | Liga Studentilor Electronisti | Work as Smart as Possible |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-2-PT02-KA105-003454 | ProAtlântico - Associação Juvenil | Learning Together |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-2-PL01-KA105-027296 | STOWARZYSZENIE MOJE MARZENIA SPELNIAJA SIE | Mindful coaching in youth work |
| *Erasmus+*  | 2016-2-ES02-KA105-008230 | Asociación USIT | School of Tolerance |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-1-TR01-KA105-030543 | Karasu Genclik, Sanat ve Spor Kulubu Dernegi | Beni Dahil Et! (Include Me!) |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-1-TR01-KA105-029852 | SAGLAM KAFA SAGLAM VUCUT | #healthie |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-1-TR01-KA105-028840 | Sahipsiz Hayvanlari Koruma ve Yasatma Dernegi | Go Beyond the Limits / Sınırların Ötesine Geç |
| *Erasmus+* | 2016-1-TR01-KA105-025330 | SINOP EGITIM PROGRAMLARI VE EVRENSEL VE KULTUREL AKTIVITELER DERNEGI | Children of the Rain / Yağmurun Çocukları |
| *Erasmus+*  | 2016-1-PT02-KA105-003162 | ProAtlântico - Associação Juvenil | Leadership + |