



PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM

A. PARTNER ORGANISATION	
PIC	948626827
Organizational 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
B. PROFILE	
Type of Organisation	Association
Is the partner organisation a public body?	No
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	Yes
C. ACCREDITATION	
Has the organisation received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes - 2017-1-SI02-KA110-014195
Has the organisation received/applied for any EU grants?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes (see the list below)
E. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE	
Title	Mr.
Gender	Male
First Name	Simončič
Family Name	Štefan
Position	President
Email	epeka@epeka.si
Telephone 1	+38630610606
Is the same address above indicated?	Yes
Person responsible for the project	
Title	Mr.
Gender	Male
First Name	Matej
Family Name	Tisaj
Position	Vice-president
Email	matej@epeka.si
Telephone 1	+386 31 593 074

D. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Please briefly present the partner organisation.

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, EU values, and intercultural dialogue. EPEKA has branches abroad: EPEKA Berlin, EPEKA Czech Republic, EPEKA Austria, EPEKA Serbia, EPEKA Montenegro, EPEKA UK, 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 very good practice by many institutions.

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, counseling, 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 and a venue that empowers local Roma community members with information, new skills, non-formal education, and opportunities in the field of employment.

Since 2019, we are continuing our operations within European Social Funds through the project of Social Activation, which empowers long-term unemployed individuals towards social and labour inclusion.

Our implemented projects within Erasmus+ programme in recent years were characterized by challenging topics and interesting partnerships, such as KA2 projects on the topics of national extremism, corruption, social integration and antigypsism, as well as KA1 trainings on employability of vulnerable groups.

Additionally our organization is taking initiative in ecological education of local youth and Roma community, through strategic partnerships such as #greenfluencers and youth exchanges such as “Bathrope day – Lets do something for the environment!”

<p>What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?</p>	<p>Stefan Simončič Changemaker in the European Youth week 2017 - 20th Erasmus+ Anniversary. Panelist by the European Solidarity Stakeholders forum in Brussels (page 3 working group C). President of Association EPEKA, Soc. Ent. has been active in the NGO sector since 2010. He's managing EPEKA's program (Culture, Youth, Art, Branches of EPEKA) and managing the business part. He was also the initiator of the establishment of the first Roma restaurant that works by the principles of social entrepreneurship – Romani kafenava. He's conducting training and workshops as well as managing international EU projects. Throughout his work, he gained valuable skills in leadership and cultural mediation. 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 the EU Commission a new title: European Capital of Roma. Editor of publications and catalogs, known for the implementation of various business ideas, where he involves young people, especially those with fewer opportunities.</p>
	<p>Žiga Dobnikar Working as Roma activator, he takes care of the program and activities that are being performed inside the multi-purposed Rome center. He also works as a curator in EPEKA Gallery and organizes cultural programs inside Association EPEKA, Soc.Ent. Through his work, he often focuses on minority arts and contributes to the preservation of the 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; critic, Folio year 6-7 (2014-2015)</p>
	<p>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 international projects, including more than 50+ Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2, currently involved on ESF project "Social Activation" and several Erasmus+ KA2 projects.</p>
	<p>Jerica Lorenci Working as a project assistant in Association EPEKA, Soc. Ent., she has many experiences 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.</p>
	<p>Nermina Simončič Administrative work, managing reports, and taking care of finances, an expert in the dissemination of the projects; webpage and social media editor, planning, and execution of the activities of EPEKA Association. Active participation in international projects (conferences, training, etc.), where she gained valuable knowledge and experience in youth-work, knowledge in mentoring, and methodologies of non-formal education. In-depth knowledge 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 the Association.</p>
<p>Mateo Horuščak Anglicist and philosopher by education, currently working in the project social activation, promoting a holistic approach in integration of the long-term unemployed into the labor market. More than 5 years of Erasmus+ experience, both as a participant and host. Editor and contributor to the EPEKA website and social media sites. Part of the EPEKA Ljubljana branch. Journalist background sparked interest in politics (especially in the Balkans), social issues, and post-colonialist power relations in macroeconomics.</p>	

<p>What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?</p>	<p>Employment & Social Integration (Roma minority)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESF “Social activation project”, motivating and assisting 200+ long term unemployed individuals towards their social and labour integration - Erasmus+ TC “ACTIVATION - Empowering youth workers in the field of youth activation” - ESF “Fair Employment”, helping 50+ youngsters in the first step into the labour market <p>Ecology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yearly projects “Miss of the trees” (local nature) and “Bathrope day” (climate change) - 10+ yearly educational activities about nature, sustainability, food and - Horizon 2020 project TRAIN – CE- FOOD - Erasmus+ strategic partnership “#greenfluencers” on ecology and social media <p>Digitalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - teaching, assisting and equipping local Roma community with digital skills and tools - 20+ yearly ICT technologies workshops <p>Art & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10+ yearly exhibitions, giving voice to underprivileged groups through various art - Erasmus+ strategic partnership “ARTephemeral in School Education” <p>Youth center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 300m² of spaces for educational activities and quality leisure time - Experienced in hosting activities, including youth exchanges, training courses, seminars, conferences, concerts and outdoor sports/nature activities. -
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