

- ☒ I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Horizon Europe Project
- ☐ I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

### TOPICS OF INTEREST

Supporting and developing contemporary, independent, socially engaged cultural and artistic practices. Pogon's key areas of interest include interdisciplinary and experimental art, community building, audience participation, and sustainability (urban gardening, upcycling, permaculture, etc.). Pogon actively fosters collaboration between artists, cultural workers, and local communities, with a strong focus on inclusion, accessibility, and civic participation, and also engages with themes such as urban commons, sustainable cultural infrastructure, and international exchange and cooperation.

### PARTNER INFORMATION

POGON – Zagreb Center for Independent Culture and Youth is a hybrid institution established with the aim of providing support to the independent cultural scene and youth in Zagreb. It was founded by the City of Zagreb and the network of cultural NGOs Operacija grad, and is distinctive for its public-civil partnership model. POGON provides space and technical support for production, presentation, and collaboration in the field of contemporary art and culture, as well as activities aimed at young people. To this end, POGON manages the former Jedinstvo Factory space on the Sava embankment (including the adjacent urban garden), as well as office and conference spaces in the city center. In addition, it organizes its own projects, primarily focused on community development, cultural participation, and innovation. Since its founding in 2008, it has actively collaborated with artists, cultural workers, and young people in the fields of contemporary art, socially engaged, and experimental artistic practices. POGON is also involved in various international collaborations (e.g., artist residencies) and has many years of experience as a partner in projects funded through the European Union's Creative Europe and Erasmus+ programs.

#### Description of the Legal Entity

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Institution | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Administration                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry /SME    | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: public-civil partnership |

#### Description of the (Research) Team

Pogon is managed by a dedicated team with extensive experience in cultural management, contemporary art production, and community engagement. The team brings together professionals with expertise in producing complex, interdisciplinary programs, supporting local and international artists, and fostering participatory and inclusive cultural practices.

Key capacities include:

- **Project Management:** Long-standing experience in managing EU-funded projects (e.g. Creative Europe, Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens), including transnational cooperation and capacity building,
- **Production:** In-house technical and production staff skilled in organizing performances, exhibitions, residencies, community, and other events across various disciplines,
- **Curation and Programming:** Deep knowledge of the contemporary independent cultural scene, with a focus on socially engaged practices and support for emerging artists,
- **Community Work:** Strong orientation toward civic participation, audience development, and inclusive practices,
- **Active role in shaping cultural policy** on the local and national levels, with a focus on public–civil partnerships and the commons.

### **Expertise of the Team Leader**

Sonja Soldo: Worked at Pogon as Program Coordinator from 2009 to 2015, and since 2016 she has held the position of Senior Associate for Cultural Programs and International Cooperation. Among other responsibilities, she manages the artist exchange program with Akademie Schloss Solitude, as well as EU and other cooperation projects. Since 2004, she has been leading various projects and programs in the field of independent culture. From 2004 to 2012, she worked with the organization [BLOK] on projects related to art in public space. She was co-curator of UrbanFestival from 2006 to 2009. She also worked as coordinator of the artistic program of the events Operation:City in 2005 and 2008, organized in collaboration with Zagreb's independent cultural scene.

### **Potential role in the project**

☐ Research

☐ Training

☒ Dissemination

☒ Other: case study; artistic production

Already experience as a	Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
	Partner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
	Expert Evaluator	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Contact Person: Tihana Bertek
Organization: Pogon – Zagreb Center for Independent Culture and Youth
City: Zagreb
Country: Croatia
Phone: +385 91 795 7005
Email: tihana.bertek@pogon.hr

Organization Website: <a href="http://www.pogon.hr">www.pogon.hr</a>
Contact Person Webpage:

Date: 3 July 2025