About SOLIDARNA Foundation

In Fall 2015, 55 Croatian human rights activists and civil society organizations set up SOLIDARNA Foundation as a strategic initiative to ensure the sustainability of protection of human rights, the rule of law, and democratic standards in Croatia, since it became clear that Croatia’s EU membership alone would not guarantee their proliferation. The founders were especially concerned about the social and political trends of anti-liberalism, nationalism, xenophobia and authoritarianism in Croatia and its neighboring regions of Central Europe and the Balkans, in addition to the rest of the world. The founders were also concerned about widespread social exclusion, poverty, and economic deprivation, generated by the patronage and capitalist economy, drastically reducing opportunities and safety for the vast majority of citizens. Economic frustration is easily used to justify excluding “others”, hence for SOLIDARNA’s founders promotion of tolerance and inclusiveness needs to be viewed as inseparable from advocacy for social and economic rights. In addition to domestic concerns, Central and Eastern European societies need to address the new challenges of migrations to Europe from regions affected by war and poverty in a constructive and inclusive manner. Considering present challenges and those that could develop in the future, social solidarity must be strengthened and citizens’ voices advocating for equitable social and economic relations need to be supported.

The intention of SOLIDARNA Foundation is to create new channels for flexible and quick support to citizens who are active in a broad spectrum of human rights issues - from rights regarding work, home, education, and migration to rights regarding expression of identities, freedom of speech and public actions.

SOLIDARNA’s goal is to provide funding as a private foundation, as an alternative to public funding programs, which provide large donations in slower and longer cycles and demand significant administrative capacity, meaning they are often very bureaucratic. SOLIDARNA focuses on funding new community-based actions: ad hoc actions, new local initiatives which don’t have access to established donors, socially involved cultural productions, established artists, and young and marginalized groups.

In building a new resource base for human rights activists from the “bottom up”, SOLIDARNA’s founders are its most precious asset, in terms of ideas, social contacts and commitment. They include a diverse group of activists, political analysts, academics, artists as well as six renowned civil society organizations that are committed to supporting SOLIDARNA’S organizational growth, under the statutory provision that they as founders cannot get preferential treatment in SOLIDARNA’s grant-giving nor can they take part in the governance bodies of SOLIDARNA if applying for its grants.

SOLIDARNA acts on principles of openness and solidarity to grow into a foundation focused on expanding the sphere of common goods.
SOLIDARNA is a foundation that:

- comes from community and is focused on the community of individuals who actively work on protection of human rights
- wants to change the perception of human rights in order to intertwine all generations to human rights and to change the social perception of fixed minorities and majorities since all of us make up many different social groups
- views and measures its value through social capital first and then through financial capital
- wants to enrich various goods—money, knowledge, work, time, information—which come from different sources
- values quality more than quantity
- builds relationships on trust and cooperation and does not hide itself behind bureaucracy
- wants to connect domestic and foreign sources of finances including donations from democratically oriented Croatian diaspora
- welcomes innovations in collaborative models of management and support but without compromising transparency, honesty and responsibility

SOLIDARNA works to firmly connect different dimensions of humanitarian and advocacy work with the promotion and protection of human rights. Though this, SOLIDARNA hopes to create opportunities to broaden circles of solidarity among citizens who may not be activists themselves, but want to contribute to building a more just and free society. Accordingly, all donor campaigns are focused on raising awareness among the general population and SOLIDARNA recognizes first private citizens as its broad donor base, then companies and international foundations who focus on human rights. For that purpose, SOLIDARNA extends its human resource base of its founders with new supporters and volunteers.

SOLIDARNA believes that many citizens and companies that do business and make money in Croatia can and want to support protection of human rights. Through their small financial contributions and donation of knowledge, skills and time, civic activism for a more just and freer society can become sustainable and autonomous from financial and political power centers. Hence, SOLIDARNA initiated the set-up of Activist Tool-sheds in Zagreb and Split intended to be used by different initiatives with similar values and founded on the principles of activist solidarity and the common good. Similar spots are intended to be set up in Rijeka, Osijek and other regions of Croatia, hopefully in 2017. There are also plans to initiate a “Solidarity Stock Exchange”, a non-material fund of knowledge, services and work time, providing that everyone is able to share himself/herself with other people.

This report presents the first year of SOLIDARNA actions, mainly the intensive work of developing organizational procedures, communication channels, and relationships with the initial circle of supporters and collecting foundations for initiating support programs. Crucial for these accomplishments was the enthusiasm of the Foundation’s Board, support of the organizations founders, and the considerable amount of trust and initial donor support from the Atlantic Group for the program „Culture in Community“ and purpose-specific project
support funds of the European Economic Area and Kingdom of Norway (EEA and Norway Grants) for the execution of the „Philanthropy for human rights“ project. One of the project goals was to establish the first domestic foundation for human rights; it was successfully executed by the founding organizations GONG, Centre for Peace Studies, Documenta, as well as the mentor support of Romanian Foundation for Civil Society Development and close cooperation with the Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development and Cooperative for Ethical Financing.

SOLIDARNA believes solidarity begins with contact - so meet us closely through this report, our web page www.solidarna.hr, Facebook and direct contact. We invite you cordially to join us in 2017 and to support autonomy of activism for human rights. You can do this in various ways - through one time basis donations for specific actions, by joining our donator action „1000 coffees for human rights“, or by volunteering and joining the circle of SOLIDARNA supporters.

Organizational development of SOLIDARNA in 2016

Foundation SOLIDARNA completed the registration process into the Register of Foundations in January 2016. After its first assembly meeting held on January 22, 2016, SOLIDARNA adopted its Statute and chose its Foundation Board members, who are Urša Raukar, Mirjana Matešić, Sandra Benčić, Goran Jeras and Vanja Škorić.

With the help of ICT technology and according to statutory regulations, the voting for candidates for the Foundation Board was carried out. After that, the Foundation Board elected Urša Raukar to be its Chair and Mirjana Matešić to be her deputy. The Foundation Board met on a monthly basis in person and, through ICT technology, has actively completed tasks in cooperation with the Director and Secretary of the Foundation and Foundation councils which were formed throughout the year.
The organizational structure of SOLIDARNA reflects its priorities of understanding social problems and its vision for social change shared with activists for the protection of human rights of various groups throughout the Republic of Croatia, the Balkans, Central Europe and the whole continent. In SOLIDARNA’s initial phase of development, active participation by the founders was crucial for building relationships with initiatives of civil society, the business community, the media and citizens. Thus, its Statute proscribes Foundation’s Assembly which enables the direct involvement of all interested founders in strategic development of the Foundation through yearly meetings. The Assemblyappoints five members of the Foundation Board which can include members that are not Foundation founders.

For the organizational development of Foundation SOLIDARNA in its initial phase, the opportunity to implement the project „Philanthropy for Human Rights from 1 January 2016 until 28 February 2017 was crucial. The project is aimed at the protection of human rights and the creation of an incentive environment for the civil society organizations (CSO’s) and their engagement in human rights protection. Among other things, the project helped set up the communication infrastructure for the Foundation and the support for the continuous engagement of Ivan Blažević and Marina Škrabalo in developing SOLIDARNA as one of the expected outputs of the project. The project focused on the following objectives:

1) Increasing capacities of CSOs to be able to protect human rights and develop a trustworthy and cooperative relationship with the citizens and the business sector,

2) Increasing public understanding of human rights issues and the possibilities of contributions to the protection of human rights through corporate social responsibility,

3) Developing innovative channels of communication and resource mobilization between CSOs, citizens and the business sector.

Generally, there is little incentive to gather support and contributions from citizens and the business sector. Thus, the project has intended to diversify sources for financing activist organizations and platforms. The project does not make it possible to invest in SOLIDARNA funds or to assign small donations from project funds to the end users through SOLIDARNA, but it has ensured technology and the framework necessary for the active acquirement of donations for the Foundation.
As part of the project, a study visit to Romania was organized in April 2016 to learn about innovative fundraising models in local communities, civil society support funds, social entrepreneurship and co-operation with the business sector. Acting as a mentor to the SOLIDARNA Foundation, the Romanian Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC), helped develop various procedures and positioning towards donors, such as the EEA/NG program (director of the advocacy program Simona Constantinescu, grant-giving program director Anca Nicovescu and director of the Romanian Foundation and member of the EESC Ionut Sibian).

The study visit included the following participants: Josip Konjevod, lawyer and associate of ZEF, Mirjana Matešić, director of HRPSOR, Mladen Majetić, director of the consulting company K-factor and leader of the planned workshops on funding diversification, Danijela Šavrljuga Todorović, Head of the Grants Department of the Kultura Nova Foundation, Tea Lerga, psychosocial counselor in Terra and Oaza associations from Rijeka as well as Ivan Blažević and Marina Škrabalo from SOLIDARNA Foundation and GONG.

The most useful Romanian contacts included the Association of Community Relations (ARC) which works as a resource center for community philanthropy; the Resource Center for Public Participation (CeRe) which, funded by local contributions, facilitates the local community based processes of civic participation; the Social Economy Institute which operates within the FDSC and encourages collaboration and clustering of cooperative producers and their joint marketing; the Romanian-American Foundation and the Romanian Association for Culture, Education and Normality (ARCEN) which supports cultural projects in the community. SOLIDARNA benefited from the consultations with Laura Stefan, the leading expert on conflict of interest and anti-corruption issues and an FDSC adviser for the development of an internal conflict of interest management system. During the visit, SOLIDARNA also participated in the conference “Public services for accessible social services: Building Bridges among social service providers”.

Immediately after the visit, on the 13th of April, a strategic meeting was held in Zagreb to discuss the findings of the trip. The meeting was attended by members of the Foundation’s Managing Board, several founders of SOLIDARNA, and the director and secretary of the SOLIDARNA. Based on insights gained, the meeting covered how to build the public profile of the new foundation for human rights and solidarity in light of frequent public and political attacks on “human rights ideology”. After considering two strategic options for communication, it was decided that SOLIDARNA would gradually reach out to a targeted audience - activists, donors (private individuals and companies with an already proven interest in human rights) and other cooperating organizations (ZEF). Communication should initially focus on non-controversial topics (education, health, community development), until the Foundation is fully capable (when it has further defined internal procedures, donation programs and ICT support, and an initial small donation fund) so that it can reasonably respond to expected attacks from conservative circles. It was decided that, in order to gain access to the activist community, the "Activist Exchange Toolshed" program would be launched and its first pilot crowdfunding campaign would focus on supporting the survival of
small domestic dairy farms that are discriminated against in a market dominated by wholesalers and corporations. The campaign was planned in cooperation with the Cooperative for Ethical Financing. It was also decided that a series of correspondences and meetings with selected potential donors would be conducted by September, and that a series of closed donor events, modeled on the Romanian "donor circles", would be held to expand the alliances and initial donations until SOLIDARNA's public launch.

By the end of May, SOLIDARNA’s online donor platform was finalized in collaboration with the ICT company Abbacus Studio, as well as the visual identity of the Foundation and its first crowdfunding campaign, designed by Barbara Blasin, FABRICA. The donor platform allows direct payments through credit and debit cards for a variety of donor programs, and has been activated for the first time for the pilot crowdfunding campaign "Working for Milk", with the aim of empowering small cooperative milk producers.

On the eve of the public launch of the SOLIDARNA Foundation on December 10 2016, an ICT Advisory Platform was made accessible to anyone interested in the independent administration or consultations within their work networks, sectors or organizations.

On June 22-26, experts from the Romanian Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC) Ionut Sibian (Director), Simona Constantinescu (Head of the Advocacy Program and Legal Adviser) and Anca Nicovescu (Head of the Donation Program) visited SOLIDARNA to discuss the development of the SOLIDARNA Foundation’s procedures. On August 23 a strategic meeting of SOLIDARNA’s Managing Board on fundraising, partnership and grant-making capacity development was held in Split, engaging Romanian mentors from FDSC. Based on this meeting and the advice of Romanian colleagues, it was decided that SOLIDARNA should focus on the launch of the small-grants contest, since it is a preliminary requirement for its positioning towards international donors as a re-granting partner. In this meeting, a new crowdfunding campaign "The Secondary Out Loud!" was outlined.

During the autumn, with the mentoring of the Romanian Civil Society Development Foundation experts, SOLIDARNA developed its core internal procedures - the Rulebook on Conflict of Interest Management, the Donor Relations Rulebook, and the procedures for granting small grants from future funds. The Rules of Procedure and the Financial Regulation of SOLIDARNA were drafted and should be adopted in early 2017.

After the strategic meeting in Split and revision of SOLIDARNA’s work program for the last quarter of 2016, the Director and Secretary decided to recruit a volunteer group (primarily students) to strengthen SOLIDARNA organizationally and logistically. Fourteen people responded the public call for volunteers, distributed through the Volunteer Center Zagreb and student and activist mailing lists. Six of them were outstandingly active during the autumn, especially in the creative development and implementation of the
"The Secondary Out Loud!" campaign: Petra Mađerčić, Sandra Rozman, Mateja Medlobi, Ivan Tranfić, Maja Kurilić and Tonči Talaja. Volunteers Ivan Tranfić and Petra Mađerčić published an article about their experience in SOLIDARNA on the Foundation’s website (see Appendix 2). The development of the volunteer program of SOLIDARNA is an investment in its sustainability, and has proven to be a valuable opportunity for acquiring a range of skills, including public communication, campaign development, logistics and social networking. It is expected that at least four volunteers will be active in the spring of 2017.

On Human Rights Day on December 10, 2016, SOLIDARNA had its public launch at the Cinema Europe in Zagreb, attended by about 150 people from the activist, business, academic, artistic spheres and public institutions. Since then, SOLIDARNA has been present in the media and public space through its web pages and media coverage. Twitter was launched, while its organizational FB page, beyond campaign specific FB pages, will be launched by the end of January 2017.

Development of support programmes in 2016

In February and March, preliminary consultations with civil sector organizations were held in Zagreb, Osijek, Čakovec and Split, in order to begin developing donation programme strategies. Topics discussed were the organizations’ needs for funding, their experiences in gathering funds from private sources, and the future priorities of additional philanthropy efforts through the private foundation SOLIDARNA. Based on these consultations, SOLIDARNA has defined priorities for gathering funds designed to be given to separate initiatives who enable fast and flexible support for 1) ad hoc initiatives 2) new initiatives without access to other donors 3) socially engaged cultural productions 4) “money box of solidarity” with the victims of human rights violations 5) activists and reporters under pressure and 6) a long-term relevant fund for supporting of proved successful programmes of human rights protection, to ensure their sustainability, regardless of the project logic.

Based on the needs and resource mapping of human rights activism throughout Croatia, SOLIDARNA’s priority grant-giving programs were defined, to provide flexible, highly responsive funding for grassroots advocacy and solidarity actions, cultural productions and social innovations, complementing funding
priorities and project-based logic of grant-making by public donors:

- **URGENT & IMPORTANT**: Ad hoc funds for civic initiatives that react to violations of human rights and democratic governance, that cannot get flexible and timely funding from other donors
- **CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY**: Cultural fund for small-scale cultural productions with broad community outreach that raise awareness on human rights and solidarity,
- **INCUBATOR**: Start-up fund for new grassroots initiatives, especially in local, deprived settings.
- **SOLIDARITY**: Fund with human rights activists, artists, scientists and journalists, under political and societal attack (e.g. legal protection costs, social protection, support for their continued public work through research, arts and activism),
- **PERPETUUM**: Long-term support fund for successful programs that contribute to human rights

In addition, SOLIDARNA has initiated the set-up of Activist Exchange Toolsheds – local pools of resources shared by various progressive civil initiatives and co-managed by local human rights CSO in each Croatian region. Also, SOLIDARNA provides ICT support for rapid response crowdfunding actions and undertakes thematic donor drives, selected and shaped in collaboration with civil society stakeholders that combine crowdfunding, community-based fundraising and media outreach, in order to make citizens more aware of systemic problems.

The "Activist Exchange Toolshed" or “Posudiona” was initiated with the intent of creating a common inventory of resources needed for direct action. Ideally, shared equipment would be used in a wide range of civic initiatives and associations who share the values of pluralism, human rights, non-violence and responsible management of public resources. The goal of SOLIDARNA is to transfer the idea of the "Activist Exchange Toolshed" to different communities and, of most importance, regional centers.

The first donor event in favor of the "Activist Exchange Toolshed" was organized in Zagreb on May 20th in cooperation with Zelena Akcija. There was a lot of activist participation in the benefit event and its cultural program, which included an activist stand-up show (by Urša Raukar, Vilim Matula, Eugen Jakovčić), political activist quiz "Greatest Sheets" (hosted by Ivan Blažević and Drazen Hoffman), andparty (DJ Milan Fošner). The event was attended by about 100 people and raised a total of 6200 kuna. A donation of beers by the Daruvar Brewery reduced costs, and after all costs were deducted,
a net amount of 3500 kuna was left for the purchase of activist equipment. This money was used to support the student activist initiative for independence of public media “Sloboda Trećima”.

In Split, the “Activist Exchange Toolshed” was presented on September 24th, in Chillton bar, with the cooperation of local NGO Infozona. The event included an activist-political pub quiz and a presentation of activist stories with the participation of various activists from Zagreb, Split and Sarajevo, organised by SOLIDARNA’s Secretary Ivan Blažević and Duje Prkut from GONG. After the event, the House of Flamingo collective held the first drag show in Split. Since there is a lot of distrust towards new initiatives and programs in Split, the organizers said it would be better to first introduce the “Activist Exchange Toolshed” before trying to raise any money. Thus, a benefit event was not held. During September, preparations began for the introduction of the “Activist Exchange Toolshed” in Rijeka, in cooperation with local feminist association Pariter.

Regarding the “Activist Exchange Toolshed” in Zagreb, a cooperation agreement was signed with the House of Human Rights in Zagreb. The procedure for borrowing the equipment was defined, additional equipment was ordered (thanks to funds raised at the May benefit), and storage space was prepared. The Catalog for the “Activist Exchange Toolshed” is in the process of being written and, when finished, will list all additional equipment and services that are available in other locations for civil initiatives who are guided by the values of human rights, nonviolence and social justice and organise public events and protests in Zagreb. Interest for the “Activist Exchange Toolshed” was also expressed in other countries and Ivan Blažević presented the initiative to the association BASOC in Banja Luka.

On Human Rights Day, December 10, SOLIDARNA, proudly announced its first public call for grant applications “The Secondary Out Loud!” with a fund of 60,000 kuna for small grants up to 4000 HRK for ad hoc actions (“Urgent&Important” fund) and small grants up to 10,000 kuna for new or innovative artistic, activist and help-oriented actions (“Incubator” fund). With a focus on innovative initiatives from small communities, “Incubator” funds will support projects of individuals, informal groups or organisations that protect and promote gender equality and freedom of gender expression.

There were 61 applications for the funds and 16 small support funds were allocated before the International Women’s Day 2017, including the support for the central event – a Night March for Sexual and Reproductive
Rights, organized by the collective FAKTIV. Seven great initiatives are on the waitlist. During 2017, due to the acute need for continuous work in defending of women’s rights, SOLIDARNA will continue its efforts to find donor support for ad hoc and new women's initiatives in the community. Also, when there is opportunity, and in accordance with available funds, SOLIDARNA would like to repeat the contest “Secondary Loudly”. In this way, SOLIDARNA plans on developing strong international cooperation with foundations and funds that support women in Croatia and around the world.

The “Culture in the Community” programme was developed during summer 2016 and in September 2016, a leading corporation Atlantic Group signed a donation contract with SOLIDARNA in the amount of 50 000,00 kn, which will provide support for implementation of the first set of cultural productions in the scope of this programme. “Culture in the Community” aims to create new opportunities for socially engaged art created by renowned artists, as well as for affirmation of those artists who raise issues of human rights in an interesting way, but come from marginalized background or do not belong to the cultural elite. Support is focused on cultural creativity that promotes solidarity and advocates human rights protection, with particular emphasis on those communication formats that enhance participation in the overall process of creation, reception and interpretation of works of art.

The costs of creating and implementing the programme are mainly based on voluntary involvement of the artists affiliated with SOLIDARNA and partnerships with relevant organisations and institutions with the purpose of non-financial support as well as financial support of interested donors. Along with expected social impact, the program “Culture in community” is a valuable force for promoting the mission of SOLIDARNA and expanding its circle of supporters, and its launch is mainly based on voluntary involvement of founders and supporters of SOLIDARNA, who are active in the Foundation Council for cultural productions. The scope of the program will gradually develop in line with the pace of development in partnerships.

SOLIDARNA signed a partnership agreement with the Academy of Dramatic Arts (ADU) in Zagreb in early December of 2016. The agreement states that SOLIDARNA will provide financial support for the student festival of drama texts, DeSADU and the Student Film Festival FRKA, and will be connect students of ADU with human rights projects and initiatives so they can provide creative contributions. In this way, SOLIDARNA can support the promotion of civic engagement through student productions and provide educational support on the topics of protecting and promoting human rights. In December 2016, within the DeSADU festival, a public
poet evening was held on the topics of human rights, based on an open call for student contributions. Selected poems were read with the support of the editorial team summoned by SOLIDARNA—actress Urša Raukar, poet Aida Bagić, dramaturg Goran Ferčec and writer Ivana Simić Bodrožić. Additionally, ADU and SOLIDARNA decided to prepare a joint project application together with the cultural association KURZIV for an ESF supported grant scheme to support community-engaged learning as part of academic programs.

Within the programme “Culture in the Community”, there are a number of activities being prepared, for example, the recital of a collection of essays “Manual for Yesterday – thirteen essays” by Goran Ferčec and Urša Raukar (in Croatian and English, thanks to the donation of the translation by Mirna Čubranić), a performance by Vilim Matula titled “Sign of Inequality”, and a digital textbook and photo competition for children and youth called “What human rights mean to us”. The Programme is open to further additions and suggestions for cooperation, for example, the present request for help with initiating and developing a Centre for audio-visual descriptions for persons with disabilities.

In December 2016, members of the Foundation’s Board, Sandra Benčić and Goran Jeras, with the help of the Head of the Foundation, prepared a project proposal for the development of a Solidarity Market—a new ICT platform based on the proven successful ICT platform Publiconn. The Market would enable (1) creation of a non-material fun of the Foundation for donations and exchange of knowledge, services and work time, (2) direct exchange of goods and services between cooperatives of the Cooperative for Ethical Financing and (3) connection of potential suppliers from community businesses, agricultural businesses and socially responsible businesses with clients. It is created as a long-term financially sustainable platform based on the co-ownership of all involved stakeholders as a step in the direction of a solidarity economy that includes a philanthropic dimension. The project proposal was submitted to the ACT Group on the open call “Pokreni nešto svoje” (results are still unknown).

Developing relationships with donors and fundraising actions

As of May 2016, the SOLIDARNA Foundation initiated the development of relations with potential donors by mapping out possible allies and supporters. SOLIDARNA’s founders helped by maintaining correspondence, holding meetings, coordinating donor meet-ups and participating in major events, such as the Donors’ Forum for the Balkans in Belgrade in September, a round table about philanthropy in Croatia and the “Battlefield: Culture” conference in Sarajevo. Initial contacts were made with a number of foundations and philanthropy support programmes (OAK Foundation, ERSTE; OSF, ECF; DAPHNE Network, Transgiving Europe) and similar foundations in neighbouring countries (FRIDA, Slavko Curuvija, TRAG, Mozaik). The
initial list of 60 potential donors was broadened and, during Fall of 2016, especially thanks to the cooperation with the Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CBCSD), the list of donors held around 200 individuals and businesses at the end of the year.

In October, SOLIDARNA submitted a project proposal, prepared by the secretary and the Head of the Foundation, to CD UNITED „Democracies in Action“ for the support of the initial theme funds of SOLIDARNA in the amount of 60,000 USD, but to date SOLIDARNA has not received a response.

In June and July, the first crowdfunding campaign, Radim mlijeko (lit. “I Make Milk”), was started with advisory support from the BRODOTO company and with the cooperation of the Cooperative for Ethical Finance. The goal of the campaign was to raise awareness about the problems that small-scale cooperative producers of healthy homemade food face and to promote the value of solidarity with both producers and impoverished citizens. Many times, these citizens are provided food through social services in the community (“soup kitchens”) or private citizens and businesses, meaning they are completely dependent when it comes to the nutritional quality of their food. Within the campaign, citizens were encouraged to support small, cooperative dairy farms surrounding the city of Požega, centred around the family-owned BIZ dairy, an operation which puts food on the table of as many as 100 families associated with a local dairy cooperative. Citizens and businesses were invited to donate money for the distribution of natural and healthy homemade milk by social service providers in the Zagreb urban region. A total of 15,000 kuna was raised through the Cooperative for Ethical Finance’s partner network, while the test run of SOLIDARNA’s donor platform raised an additional 3,538 kuna.

In late August, the SOLIDARNA Foundation was approached by the Save Our Park citizens’ initiative, calling for assistance in raising funds for their campaign to prevent the building of a church in the Savica neighbourhood of Zagreb. In spite of protests by numerous citizens and architects calling for the church to be built elsewhere, plans were being made to build on the neighbourhood’s central green surface. SOLIDARNA endorsed the crowdfunding campaign for the initiative by lending out its donor platform with an adapted interface, promoted on the Save Our Park website and Facebook page. With significant media attention and citizen participation during the two weeks preceding the September 10 protest, 6,713,50 kuna was raised — well beyond the organizers’ expectations — enabling them to cover all organizational expenses, on top of in-kind donations of goods and services.
In October, the SOLIDARNA Foundation endorsed a charity drive organized by the CROSOL Platform for International Civic Solidarity and Human Rights House to help volunteer Sanja Kordić from Croatia establish a volunteers’ centre in a remote village in Guinea, by means of a cultural benefit evening entitled “Africa – a place of beginnings and interlocking”. The action was joined by culinary-linguistic collective Taste of Home, which brings together refugees and other persons of migrant descent, The Association of Africans in Croatia, musician Marko Boric and his West Africa drum collective, world music DJ Ilko Čulić and historian Tvrtko Jakovina. The small but inspiring evening of intercultural action, again employing SOLIDARNA’s donor platform, succeeded in raising 6,000 kn. An additional outcome were contacts made with the Association of Africans in Croatia regarding advocacy and fundraising for provision of scholarships for the CROATICUM Studies of the Croatia language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb.

Later in October, SOLIDARNA launched a campaign entitled “Drugotna na sav glas!” (lit. The Secondary Out Loud!), which was triggered by the growing conservative and clerical misogynist tendencies in the Croatian society and increasing attacks against reproductive and sexual rights of women in Croatia. The campaign responded in a witty way to increasingly frequent and aggressive clerical labelling of women, which reduces women’s positions in society to the role of obedient, humble handmaid to all men, who are in privileged positions as “the original” Adam, who dominates in all spheres of society, from policy to economy to the family domain. Women T-shirts with messages “Secondary”, “Slut”, “Disobedient” as well as men/unisex shirts of solidarity with the cause through message “From Eve’s rib” were promoted through the FB group, joined by more than 2,500 citizens. It was publicly endorsed by a range of public figures from the cultural domain and media and public events. Currently, throughout Croatia and beyond, more than 500 citizens are wearing our shirts and thus acting independently against the degradation of increasingly powerful misogynistic discourse.

Citizens’ donations for T-shirts raised a total of 40,579.00 kn, matched by SOLIDARNA with another 15,000.00 from the Foundation’s general fund. The funds were used to launch a public call for projects supporting women’s rights on December 10, International Human rights Day.

“The Secondary Out Loud!” entered the final round of an award for “The best non-profit campaign in 2016” sponsored by BRODOTO. The decision was made on February 1st, based on a combination of
popular online vote and jury's assessments. Even though SOLIDARNA’s campaign did not win, it was highly appreciated and its selection among the finalists was a recognition of SOLIDARNA’s pioneer attempt to combine public awareness raising with fundraising around a sensitive topic of derogation of women’s human rights.

As noted by renowned feminist Vesna Kesić in her essay “Our Daily Misogyny”, published on the independent fact-checking media portal Faktograf, the campaign “The Secondary Out Loud!” used the process of semantic reversal that changes the relations of power. The object of humiliation and ridicule (women) knowingly adopts a negative connotation attributed to a term or a word, and thereby transforms, adopts and deprives negative meaning. There are many examples of this praxis in emancipatory movements, from “Black is Beautiful”, to “Less is more”. There are even local examples like the name of the Croatian feminist organization B.a.B.e that is an acronym for “Be Active, Be Emancipated”, which was a witty way to transform the word “babe”, which in Croatian is a derogatory term for women, especially old women.

Holiday campaign “Good Hosts: Support Creative Youth without Home” during December 2016 and early January 2017, focused on supporting 20 refugees coming from war zones around the world and living in Zagreb as well as young adults without adequate parental care who are residents of SOS Children’s village Croatia. Croatian Etno band Kries, in their generous initiative to waive the profits on a new album for the donor campaign, joined by pro-refugee association Are You Syrious, national coalition Initiative Welcome! Coordinated by the Centre for Peace Studies, SOLIDARNA and Coalition of Solidarity Split. Together, we launched a campaign for raising funds to provide for instruments, creative mentoring and all that is necessary for creative young adults without home to be able to realize and fulfil their full potential and development of all talents, enriching themselves as well as the communities in which they live. Renewed Croatian musicians like Edo Maajka, Kandžija and educational expert Boris Jokić supported the campaign through promotional video clips. The campaign also included various creative workshops for youth of different backgrounds and living conditions, united in their desire to create. As donations are flooding in even after the campaign, during the spring, we expect to support all creative young adults, which we identified as beneficiaries of our campaign, as well as several collective creative projects, such as choir “Locals-Guests” that brings together refugees and local people, and providing equipment for creative studio in Osijek, within the residential community for youth run by SOS Children’s Village.
Over the past six months of 2016, SOLIDARNA raised a total of 182,950.00 HRK for direct donations (cca 24,400 EUR), and by our annual Assembly in January 2017, the amount rose to 208,000 HRK (27,700 EUR), which we perceive as a solid beginning of our systematic learning and development of local philanthropy for human rights.

In 2016, our financial supporters, sorted by timeline of donations, were the following legal entities:

- Association ODRAZ
- Projekt Jednako Razvoj
- Atlantic Grupa d.d.
- PARAFRAZE
- ANALEKTA j.d.o.o.
- Association TransAid
- Kinematograf d.o.o.
- Madison Consulting
- Primorsko-Goranska County
- Messer Croatia Plin d.o.o.
- Pepeljuga d.o.o.
- Association Kulturtreger/Clubture


Information on financial revenues and expenditures of the SOLIDARNA Foundation in 2016 is based on the official financial report for the financial year 2016, prepared by the non-profit accounting service GRIF, with which SOLIDARNA has signed a contract on providing book-keeping services. The Financial Report for 2016 was submitted to relevant financial authorities within the legally binding deadline of February 28, 2017.

In 2016, SOLIDARNA collected 182,950.00 HRK of donations, from approximately 600 citizens and 12 business entities, associations and the public sector, in the proportion of 59% donations of citizens, 41% of donations of legal entities.
Summary of the financial report of the SOLIDARNA Foundation in 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>2016. (HRK)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from individual donors</td>
<td>105,071,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from donations of legal entities</td>
<td>72,850,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from donations of local and regional self-government units</td>
<td>5,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from financial assets</td>
<td>29,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>182,950,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material expenditures</td>
<td>40,578,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(travel, communications, Procurement of equipment and printing services)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations - Transferred</td>
<td>14,452,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial expenditures</td>
<td>1,759,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditures</td>
<td>110,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>56,899,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Excess income for the reporting period | 126,051,00 |
| (The Secondary Out Loud! and Culture in the Community funds in 2017) |        |

Note: 1 HRK equals approximately 7,5 EUR

With regard to payment channels, viral payments account for 91% of all donations, while payments through the donor platform 9%. The viral payments also include the payments of donations collected in cash, and subsequently paid on the SOLIDARNA’s bank account. On the other hand, according to the number of individual payments or donors, of which a total of 225 are recorded through bank transactions, the ratio is balanced so that both payment channels are relevant (the donor platform was used to implement thematic donor campaigns).

The difference in revenues and expenditures at the end of 2016 includes earmarked funding of 60,000 HRK for donations for the call for proposals "The Secondary Out Loud" and 45,105 HRK for the "Culture in Community" programme, so at the end of 2016 the Foundation has 29,004,28 HRK for running costs and other donation programs.

Donations to SOLIDARNA according to donation purpose
In addition to donations, SOLIDARNA has relied on a large volume of volunteer work of the Foundation’s founders, volunteers and outside contributors to the campaigns.

SOLIDARNA is grateful for the collaboration and material, logistical and program support of several organizations – Center for Peace Studies, Documenta, GONG, Human Rights House, Osijek Volunteer Center, associations Terra, MOST and Info Zone, ACT Group, Green Action/FoA, BRID Association, Multimedia Institute, Are You Serious?, Split Solidarity Network, SOS Children’s Village, Cooperative for Ethical Financing, Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development, and the band KRIES.

The Kultura Nova Foundation and the Slagalica Foundation have provided valuable advice on the development of internal procedures of SOLIDARNA while the National Foundation for Civil Society Development has contributed to SOLIDARNA’s networking with other foundations in the scope of the ZaDobroBit! Forum, as well as with the EEA/NG Programme. We particularly emphasize the dedication and permanent support of the association GONG in the start-up phase of the SOLIDARNA Foundation.

SOLIDARNA Foundation is grateful to steady engagement of Petra Mađerčić, Sandra Rozman, Mateja Medlobi, Ivan Tranfić, Tonči Talaja and Maja Kurilić who made SOLIDARNA’s volunteer team which was instrumental for SOLIDARNA’s public outreach in Fall/Winter 2016. SOLIDARNA’s founding members Urša Raukar, Mirjana Matešić, Goran Jeras, Sandra Benčić and Vanja Škorić served on SOLIDARNA’s Board on a voluntary basis, with great dedication. Designer Barbara Blasin (FABRIKA) donated visual identity to the “The Other Out Loud” and “Working for Milk” campaigns, and Tin Nuic (Rizol Media) donated PR services in the development of messages and the concept of the Let’s be Good Host Campaigns, as well as the concept of SOLIDARNA’s public presentation on Human Rights Day. Lovorka Šošić volunteered in the Facebook promotion of the campaign “Working for Milk”.

SOLIDARNA expresses its gratitude for the specific volunteer contributions of Maja Sever, Ivana Dragičević, Željka Vrbaslija, Sanja Despot, Aida Bagić, Goran Ferčec, Ivana Simić Bodrožić and our founders Dražen Hoffmann, Sanja Sarnavka, Silvia Žučić Dujmović, Suzana Kunac, Zoran Grozdanov, Blaženka Sečkar, Nives Miošić-Lisjak, Vilim Matula, Vesna Teršelić, Gordan Bosanac and Tomislav Domes. We also thank all the other sponsors who helped with their contacts in opening up communication with donors.

We especially appreciate the trust of the public persons who promoted the campaign “The Secondary Out Loud!”: Ksenijaa Marinković, Lucija Šerbedžija, Katarina Bistrović-Darvaš, Urša Raukar, Lukrecija Tudor, Ivanka Mazurkijević, Daniela Trbović, Mani Gotovac, Adrian Pezdirc, Ivan Šarić, Ilko Ćimić and Danka Derifaj. We are greatful to Boris Jokić, Kandžija and Edi for the public support of the “Let’s be Good Hosts” campaign.

We also thank our business partners for their professionalism, creativity and adaptability, especially Dubravko Rutalj from Abacuss Studio (ICT Applications), Morana Komljenović, Iva Kraljević and Martina Globočnik from FADE In (Working for Milk campaign, Activist Profiles), Karla Horvat Crnogaj from the association DOMINO (The Secondary Out Loud! and Let’s be Good Hosts campaigns), Barbara Blasin (visual identity of the Foundation), Taste of Home (catering for a series of events), Petar Grimani, Ana Kulić and Andrej Korovljev (creative solutions for the Let’s be Good Hosts campaign), as well as all our other partners and associates on their trust and kindness.
Promotion of human rights in the business sector

SOLIDARNA has worked intensively with the Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development (HRPSOR) to promote the role of the business sector in the protection of human rights through education workshops and the granting of Special Award for a good business practice in human rights protection, based on a public call for applications, announced in the scope of the Index of Corporate Social Responsibility 2016. The award was given to Podravka d.d. for their support to the staff volunteer group who were helping refugees, in the competition of 14 companies who applied for the award. The ceremony took place at the 8th National Conference on CSR, organized by the Croatian Chamber of Commerce and HRPSOR. At the Conference, Marina Škrabalo, SOLIDARNA’s Director took part in the panel discussion with local and international experts on the topic “The role of the business sector in the protection of human rights”, which is also the theme of the new special edition of the journal “Economy & Sustainability” published by HRPSOR.

Additionally, SOLIDARNA was a partner of the Human Rights Film Festival, held in December 2016 in Zagreb and Rijeka. SOLIDARNA organized a programme set on business and human rights - showing the films "Bitter Money" by the leading Chinese documentarist Wang Bing, "The True Cost" by Andrew Morgan about the fast fashion industry and organizing the round table “From Bottom to Top: Business Sector and Human Rights in the 21st Century”, which brought together a unique spectrum of key stakeholders - the Office of the Ombudsman, IKEA, HRPSOR, Cooperative for Ethical Financing, BRID, Novi Sindikat trade union and Green Action/FoA, as well as active participants from the association Kamensko, Workers’ Front part and Center for Peace Studies. In Rijeka, the showing of “The True Cost” was preceded with a discussion on workers’ rights in globalized economy in cooperation with the association BRID that focuses on workers’ rights and industrial democracy, local trade-union activists and NGO SMART.

SOLIDARNA in the Media in 2016

Since SOLIDARNA went public only on December 10th at the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights, most previous media coverage related to the campaigns (The Other Out Loud, Working for Milk, Let’s Be Good Hosts) and activities in cooperation with other organizations (HRPSOR, Human Rights Film Festival). The total number of media releases in 2016 is 141, including 80% of local media and 50% of non-profit media.
Media coverage of SOLIDARNA by media type

Media coverage was concentrated on the campaigns "Working for Milk", "The Secondary Out Loud!" and "Let's Be Good Hosts and it makes up 62% of the total media coverage from a great variety of media including N1 Television, Croatian Radio Television, Večernji list, Jutarnji list, Radio Student, h-alter.hr, lupiga.hr, teatar.hr, zihre.hr, civilnodrustvo.hr, dnevnik.hr, carice.eu etc.

Media coverage of SOLIDARNA by activity type

SOLIDARNA had productive co-operation with non-profit media, especially with Kulturpunkt.hr, Radio Student and regional independent news portal TRIS, who were ready to follow all our campaigns and activities for which we are most grateful and hope for continued cooperation.

In the scope of SOLIDARNA's “Culture in the Community” Program and in cooperation with KURZIV- Platform for Culture, Media and Society three students of the Academy of Dramatic Arts – Nikolina Rafaj, Dorotea Šušak and Borna Vujčić – were engaged, based on a call for applications, to write film reviews and thematic essays on the programme of the Human Rights Film Festival. With editorial assistance of Antonija Letinić from Kurziv, 12 texts were published on Kulturpunkt.hr portal, which contributed to the media visibility of the festival.
The very first year of SOLIDARNA Foundation’s existence has been dynamic and challenging, due to the context of the political crisis of the previous anti-liberal government, led by PM Tihomir Orešković, which came to power in late January (at the time of official registration of SOLIDARNA) and dissolved in late June. The first part of the year was marked by attacks on fundamental civil rights and media freedoms, the undermining of the curricular reform and drastic cuts in public funding for civil society organizations and independent media. These undemocratic setbacks were met by a series of protest actions, collectively organized by numerous cultural and human rights organizations and initiatives. They engaged the majority of SOLIDARNA’s founders as well as its executive team, in parallel to the implementation of the “Philanthropy for Human Rights” project and the launching of the foundation.

However, the period of crisis has enriched collaborative relationships and enhanced awareness of the need for solidarity among civil society groups and the imperative of citizen mobilization. The crisis also provided clear evidence that the endeavour to develop the SOLIDARNA Foundation, as an independent mechanism to mobilize resources, is much needed, especially for rapid support for ad hoc actions and emerging initiatives, as well as for bridging financial difficulties faced by CSOs. Beyond the Foundation’s launch which we view as a success given the challenging circumstances, we must persevere in the development of SOLIDARNA’s funding base and grant-making programs in order to ensure its sustainability in service of the human rights community in Croatia.

Key Achievements of SOLIDARNA in 2016:

- We have established open communication with most of the target groups (civic associations and initiatives, the cultural sector, citizens, the business sector, international donors and the media), with the exception of democratic diaspora. We are particularly glad that SOLIDARNA has gained visibility among community-based human rights initiatives, particularly those led by youth.
- We have raised close to 200,000 HRK (25 000 EUR) for direct donations mostly from citizens and private sector, which we view as a big accomplishment in the first year of SOLIDARNA’s work and in light of the political crisis.
- We have established the “Activist Exchange Toolshed” - an innovative support system launched in Zagreb and presented in Split, which has been met with demand and appreciation by local citizen initiatives.
- We have implemented our successful campaign “The Secondary Out Loud!”, with many innovative features (discursive reclaiming of oppressive labelling of women, collection of individual, small donations which resulted in a public contest for small grants to community-based initiatives based on user-friendly procedures, dynamic interactions with numerous public events and actions undertaken by other stakeholders, active contribution to 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women, creative engagement of volunteers from the student population, strong presence and visibility on social networks).
Key objectives of SOLIDARNA in 2017:

1. Further development of organization and cooperative relations
2. Attracting funds – promotion and development of cooperation with donors
3. Development and implementation of support programs
4. Advocacy in support of philanthropy for human rights

Expected outcomes of SOLIDARNA’s development until 2018:

• SOLIDARNA functions as an organization with defined procedures and modalities of work and with sufficient resources for the professional engagement of the executive team.
• SOLIDARNA has developed mechanisms of donations that will be met with trust by donors – citizens, entrepreneurs, companies, other foundations, etc.
• SOLIDARNA has positioned itself and will continue to act as a relevant actor for the protection of human rights in public and civil society.
• SOLIDARNA has created a base of permanent donors and partnerships, and has collected enough money to operate continuously in 2017 and 2018 as well as implementing a program of donating.
Priorities of SOLIDARNA's program development in 2017:

- Implementation of the support program “The Secondary Out Loud!” through allocating small grants, support in equipment, knowledge and networking intended for ad hoc and experimental community initiatives that promote women’s human rights, gender equality and freedom of gender expression
- Establishment of the “Urgent&Important” fund as a permanently available support program for ad hoc initiatives, through small grants and access to Activist Tool-sheds in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek, in partnership with local associations
- Continuation of the program “Culture in the Community” in cooperation with the Academy of Dramatic Arts, the Center for Audio Descriptions, and the foundation founders engaged in cultural productions of SOLIDARNA and Human Rights Film Festival
- Continued cooperation on education and motivation of business organizations for the integration of human rights into business processes with the Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development, and independent institutions and organizations concerned for the protection of human rights.
- Starting SOLIDARNA’s “stock market” — a virtual space for exchange and donations of knowledge, goods, time and services, in cooperation with associations, cooperatives, social and socially responsible companies

Priorities of SOLIDARNA's organizational development in 2017:

- Expanding and enhancing SOLIDARNA’s active organizational core, which consists of members of administrative and executive bodies of the foundation, volunteers, active founders, supporters and associates in Croatia and abroad
- Providing financial and material resources for the overhead costs of the Foundation in order to enable continuity of its activity: working position for Secretary— full time from March 1, the engagement of external collaborators for the implementation of support programs, the position of foundation director – full time from October 1, 2017.
- Improving the planning and monitoring of implementation in order to ensure adequate time for preparation, administration and continuous communication with donors
- Development of effective communication tools in relation to the targeted groups of potential and active donors, taking into account their specific features and communication styles.
- Finding adequate and financially acceptable office and meetings space starting from September 2017, as a follow-up of the current support provided by GONG.
Appendix 1. SOLIDARNA’s organizational structure in 2016

SOLIDARNA’s organizational structure reflects its position as a thematic foundation firmly embedded in the values, understanding of social problems and vision of social change shared by human rights defenders from diverse backgrounds across Croatia and its counterparts across the Balkans, Central Europe and the entire continent.


**Organizational founders of SOLIDARNA include:** Centre for Civil initiatives Poreč, Citizens’ Human Rights Committee, Centre for Peace Studies, Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights Osijek, Documenta – Centre for Dealing with the Past and Association Terra.

**SOLIDARNA’s Board** was elected by its founders for the mandate 2016-17, representing a creative mix of competences, united by enthusiasm and commitment to SOLIDARNA’s mission and growth:

- **Urša Raukar,** Board president, renowned actress and activist engaged in Right to City initiative,
- **Mirjana Matešić,** Board deputy president, sustainable development expert, director of the Croatian Council for Sustainable Business Development,
- **Sandra Benčić,** human rights activist and lawyer, head of Economy and Human Rights program of the Centre for Peace Studies,
- **Goran Jeras,** director of the Cooperative for Ethical Financing and initiator of the first ethical bank in Croatia,
- **Vanja Škorić,** legal expert for non-profit law and access to information, currently working for European centre for Non-profit Law, former legal advisor of GONG.

SOLIDARNA’s Statute envisions the Assembly as a body that enables direct engagement of all interested founders in the strategic development of the foundation, through annual sessions. The Assembly appoints five members of the Board that can include up to two members who are not SOLIDARNA’s founders.
The Board is the key governance body that meets on a monthly basis and supervises the work of the Director, adopts internal procedures, sets up councils, specialized working groups and makes strategic decisions on program development and fundraising.

SOLIDARNA’s Director, initially appointed by the founders and later by the Board, takes charge of operational management of the foundation and daily interactions with key stakeholders. SOLIDARNA’S director is Marina Škrabalo, peace activist, policy researcher and advocate; currently employed in GONG as project coordinator of the Philanthropy for Human Rights project, and represents Croatian human rights and democracy organisations in the European Economic and Social Committee. SOLIDARNA’s secretary is Ivan Blažević, human rights activist, coordinator and organizer and he is responsible for administering and coordinating the implementation of work tasks in accordance with the annual Foundation’s Work Programme in co-operation with SOLIDARNA’s director and Board.

Appendix 2. „How we found ourselves in SOLIDARNA?“, article by SOLIDARNA’s volunteers Ivan Tranfić and Petra Mađerčić, published on www.solidarna.hr

Everything started with a few raised eyebrows, few emails and the public call for volunteers issued by SOLIDARNA-Foundation for human rights and solidarity. At the first meeting, Ivan, the secretary of the Foundation, explained goals and the idea standing behind SOLIDARNA to us and he proposed ways how to get involved. We could actively get involved in any programme of the foundation and also, we could be a part of the team in charge of the technical development of foundation. It is important to emphasize that immediately after presentation, few of us went for a drink where we rushed into a heated conversation about every problem of this society. Ivan quickly became one of us and since then we were often seen in the headquarters of the Foundation, at Jelačić

Among us - the six of volunteers of SOLIDARNA, there are employed, unemployed and students with different backgrounds and professions. Amongst us there are jurists, sociologists, political scientists and social workers, and we are mostly in our twenties. But whether we were born in Yugoslavia or Croatia, the commitment to human rights and social change is equally important to each one of us. Our different experiences, skills and knowledge complement each other greatly and each one of us contributes in the way and span in which he/she can. Some of us volunteer few hours per week, some of us few hours per day, which depends on our possibilities, needs and other obligations in our lives. To some of us, this is the first volunteering experience and there are also some veteran volunteers but in SOLIDARNA there is no hierarchy so we all learn from each other.
Volunteer work that we do is diverse and involves creative, logistical and analytical tasks. We manage social networks, communicate with citizens, partners, keep track of donations, take care of distribution (of T-shirts), organisation of public events, quizzes, and even parties. Each one of us has at least once carried boxes with T-shirts to bus stations or public events and we try to share our task fairly, according to everyone’s needs and possibilities. In our little office, we work with Ivan and Marina who is the “homekeeper” of the foundation and part of our motivation surely comes from the opportunity to learn from this high achieving and hardworking duo. They encourage us to break out of our comfort zone, to learn and try something that we have never done before in order to learn new skills which are going to be useful in our personal and professional lives.

Until now we were mostly engaged around the campaign “Secondary Out Loud!” whose purpose was to point out the problem of discriminatory public discourse about women. Through a little bit of irony - with funny quotes printed on T-shirts – we collected donations to support local women’s initiatives around Croatia. The campaign was promoted by celebrities, TV appearances, social networks, a party and a live event at the Flower Square and we also cooperated with the Solidarity March organized by Young Antifascists of Zagreb.

SOLIDARNA Foundation participated at the Human Rights Film Festival at Cinema Europe where we sold out T-shirts and helped with the screening of two movies about business sector and human rights called “Bitter Money” and “The True Cost”. Few of the volunteers had the chance to participate in round table organisation at Human Rights Film festival. The event was called “From Bottom to the Top: Business Sector and Human Rights in the 21. Century”. It was a discussion about ethics and economy of global trading chains and the responsibility and the power of individual people.
Volunteering at SOLIDARNA isn’t just about fulfilling the tasks no one else has the time to do, in fact our input is important and ideas we have are equally important and valued. For instance, we came up with the idea of making a video for the campaign “Secondary Out Loud!” and some of us also had the opportunity to be the part of organisation of campaign “Good Hosts” which was organised by Foundation SOLIDARNA, Initiative for supporting refugees Welcome!, Are you Syrious?, Coalition of Solidarity Split and ethno band Kries. The aim of the campaign was collecting donations for young creative homeless or parentless people, both from Croatia and refugees, so that they can express themselves through art. Organisation and execution of the campaign were discussed at the creative meetings and we were the ones who got the chance to be co-authors of this great and noble campaign.

Through our volunteering, we worked a lot but also learned a lot, we had the opportunity to be a part of many processes of the Foundation’s development. We met a lot of new people and, what is the most important, we made new friendships, found new associates and we became a part of the fight for the protection and promotion of human rights on a new platform - the first of its kind in Croatia - SOLIDARNA-Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity.