

Full Legal Name	Društvo za razvoj podeželja LAZ			
	Association for Rural Development LAZ			
Type of Organisation	NGO-Non-governmental organisation („NGO“)			
Legal Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Number of staff:	1-2
			Number of members:	120
Commercial orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Profit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non profit		
Address	Zgornja Jablanica 1			
Postcode	1275	City	Šmartno pri Litiji	Region SI-021
Country	Slovenia		Scope	local
Organisation's website	www.jablaniskadolina.si, www.srce-me-povezuje.si/drustvolaz		Organisation's e-mail	drustvo.laz@gmail.com

Contact person:

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Previous projects:

Projects funded by the EU in the **last five years**.

Start Year	Type of Action	Agreement number	Title of the project
2010	Youth in action, Action 1.1	SI-12-02-2010-R1	The tale of Jablanica Valley
2012	Youth in action Action 1.2	IT-11-E159-2012-R2	Youth against razism
2013	EFC, Action 2.2	532891-EFC-1-2010-1-BG-EFC-SM	European Civil Resource Centres
Non EU: 2011	USA small grant		I care for the water

Profile:

Main aims and main activities, target groups ,...

Association for rural development LAZ has been active since 2004 and is involved mainly in activities to improve rural life and actively involve and connect rural population of all age groups through varied activities and projects thus promoting active citizenship. Association goal is to improve through rural development the quality of social and economical aspects of life of the habitants of the Jablaniska valley area. Activities of the Association LAZ are very diverse from development of touristic programs, youth education programs, protection and promotion of the cultural heritage and organization of workshops for rural population in order to raise awareness on different topics (sustainable development, water resource management, ecology, agriculture, handicrafts, healthy food self-sufficiency, gardeninig etc.). The activities are also aimed at different age groups and we are especially encouraging intergenerational transfer of knowledge and cooperation between the seniors and youngsters through different projects. The membership in organization is increasing and thus the volunteer input of the local population. The organization is trying to address different needs of local people therefore the range of the activities is growing form the year to year.

Core activities:

- organization of events and reanimation of old customary events
- educational field trips
- workshops and seminars
- management of the permanent collection of stone pebbles at Breg pri Litiji
- animation and young people's involvement in development efforts of hometown and social life
- establishment of female singing quire (traditional Slovenian folk songs)
- youth exchanges under the programme Youth in action
- promotion of the Jablaniska Valley and the local farms at different events
- informing on the happening in Jablaniska Valley and the NGO activities through local newspaper Jablaniska news (edited and issued by LAZ) and websites
- cooperation with NGOs from other members of EU states through programs such us Youth in action and Europe for citizens

The organization is actively cooperating with other NGOs at local, regional and national level.

Association Laz is member of regional Central Slovenia NGO network (78 members) and national Tourist Association of Slovenia (network with over 600 members) and co-founder of local action group LAG Heart of Slovenia.

Volunteers:

Local volunteers are involved in the organizations activities on a regular basis. In the organization we are counting with 100 members the majority has volunteered for at least one activity on a yearly basis. Approximate 20 members are being regular volunteers and team of 6 members is constantly participating in all the activities of the ngo. The structure of the volunteers is ranging from the young till seniors having to stress that the middle age and older generation is more present and that the ratio of female volunteers exceeds the male.

Our location and environment :

Association LAZ is focusing their activities in Jablaniska Valley which includes 11 rural villages (population of 1250) under two municipalitys Smartno pri Litiji and Litija in central Slovenia Region. The area is well connected with the rest of the country with national road and railway, public bus transport is organized on a small local scale to connect the villages with the rail station situated in Litija and local primary and secondary educational institutions, otherwise the public bus transport is non existent, therefore the most of the residents of the villages use the car as a mean of transport. Local population is in the most cases combining the old way of living (farming) with regular jobs in the nearest cities or 40 kilometers away main capital of Slovenia Ljubljana (commuters). Local enterprises and industry are few and are dwindling from year to year. Once industrious factories such us textile, wood processing, leather industry has ceased to operate or are operating in limited ways. The rural landscape with typical wooden hayracks is being preserved by local farmers which are cultivating the land (monocultures of maize and grain and varied vegetable fields) and using the green fields for pasture (mostly bovine cattle, sheeps and goats). Current tendency in the rural environment is the lack of young people which would continue with the tradition of farming, population which is getting older and establishment of the newcomers from the urban areas which are as detached from their environment as they were before when they lived in urban areas. In order for development of the area the local initiatives are: implementation of the tourism programs (combined with the cultural and natural heritage) and development of additional activities on the traditional farms (baking of bread, home pastries, cheese making, medicinal herbs growing, fresh milk home delivery, traditional crafts-basket making). Higher level of local self-sufficiency is long term goal.