



Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values
Programme (CERV)



**MALI ZELENI GRADOVI
ZA VELIKU ZELENU EUROPU
SMALL GREEN TOWNS
FOR A BIG GREEN EUROPE
CERV PROGRAMME**

**CERV - CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION -
TOWN TWINNING**

KLANJEC (CROATIA) | 11 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

HOST:



TOWN KLANJEC

PARTNERSHIP

TOWN KLANJEC



Wilamowice
(POLAND)



Nikitsch
(AUSTRIA)



Heviz
(HUNGARY)



Erdőkürt Község
(HUNGARY)



Dolní Benešov
(CZECH REPUBLIC)



Qrendi
(MALTA)



Rajecké Teplice
(SLOVAKIA)



Lupus
(ROMANIA)



Galicia
(SPAIN)



Bihać
(BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)



Bistrica ob Sotli
(SLOVENIA)



Petrovaradin
(SERBIA)



Sremski Karlovci
(SERBIA)



Starše
(SLOVENIA)



Pilea Hortiatis
(GREECE)



Junta de Freguesia de
Buarcos e São Julião
(PORTUGAL)

RIJEČ DOBRODOŠLICE



Dragi sudionici i dragi građani

U ime Grada Klanjca i svih njegovih stanovnika želim vam dobrodošlicu u naš grad uz iskrenu radost, poštovanje i privrženost vrijednostima demokracije i europskih integracija koje zajedno dijelimo.

U okviru „PROGRAMA CERV - BRATIMLJENJE GRADOVA“ tijekom četverodnevog susreta u našem gradu, predstavnici 14 zemalja raspravljat će o nizu iznimno važnih pitanja koja su uključena u europsku političku agendu. Tako će kroz prezentacije i rasprave imati priliku i mogućnost razmjene ideja, mišljenja i interakcije na europskoj razini, a u fokusu

interesa ovog susreta su klimatske promjene, zelena ekonomija, Europski zeleni plan i doprinos svakog građanina EU očuvanju našeg zajedničkog okoliša.

Ovim putem zahvaljujemo svim predstavnicima gradova i općina i ostalim organizacijama na pomoći i aktivnom sudjelovanju u realizaciji osmog susreta građana EU u organizaciji Grada Klanjca.

Dopustite mi da vam poželim puno sreće u radu na ovom važnom susretu te vas pozivam da kroz rasprave, prezentacije i druge aktivnosti kreativno sudjelujete sa svojim idejama za dobrobit demokracije, međusobnog razumijevanja i solidarnosti.

Zlatko Brlek

Gradonačelnik Grada Klanjca

GREETINGS

Dear participants and dear citizens,

On behalf of the Town of Klanjec and all its residents, I would like to warmly welcome you to our town with sincere joy, respect, and commitment to the values of democracy and European integration that we share.

Within the framework of the CERV Programme – Town Twinning, during the four-day meeting in our town, representatives from 14 countries will discuss a number of highly important issues included in the European political agenda. Through presentations and discussions, they will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, opinions, and interact at the European level, while the focus of this meeting includes climate change, the green economy, the European Green Deal, and the contribution of every EU citizen to preserving our shared environment.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all representatives of towns and municipalities, as well as other organisations, for their support and active participation in the implementation of the eighth EU citizens' meeting organised by the Town of Klanjec.

Allow me to wish you every success in your work at this important meeting and to invite you to participate creatively through discussions, presentations, and other activities, sharing your ideas for the benefit of democracy, mutual understanding, and solidarity.

Zlatko Brlek
Mayor of the Town of Klanjec



GRAD KLANJEC

Grad Klanjec nalazi se u sjeverozapadnom dijelu Republike Hrvatske, u Krapinsko-zagorskoj županiji. Graniči sa Slovenijom što rezultira dobrosusjedskim odnosima između stanovnika obližnjih mjesta. Lokalna uprava s 11 zaposlenih pokriva sva područja koja su nužna za funkcioniranje lokalne zajednice. Grad ima osnovnu školu, gradsku knjižnicu, dječji vrtić, zdravstvenu ustanovu, hitnu medicinsku službu, poreznu upravu, policijsku postaju, odjel za socijalni rad. Lokalna vlast aktivno podupire rad svih gradskih institucija koje su korisne građanima. Kako je dobrobit građana u prvom planu, grad konstantno promiče i podupire udruge civilnog društva. Aktivno je 25 udruga građana. Također, grad i građani kroz svoje udruge organiziraju različite vrste događanja - sportska, kulturna, zdravstvena, ekološka, društvena događanja. Glavni fokus svih ovih aktivnosti je uključivanje građana u javni život zajednice.

VIZIJA – GRAD KLANJEC – mali grad velikih i plemenitih ljudi, kulture i tradicije

MISIJA – Korištenjem bogatog kulturnog nasljeđa grad Klanjec će postati poznat kao mali grad velikih znamenitosti koji nudi život sa stilom na pitoresknoj kulturnoj karti srednje Europe. Harmonijom poduzetništva i društveno-kulturnog turizma, znanjem i sposobnošću svih stanovnika, ovaj će grad omogućiti kvalitetan i prosperitetan životni standard svojim građanima.

Grad Klanjec bio je jedan od najuspješnijih prijavitelja i koordinatora iz Hrvatske u programu EUROPE FOR CITIZENS u programskom razdoblju 2014. – 2020.

Strand 2 - Democratic engagement and civic participation; Measure 2.1 "Town-Twinning"

Uspješno smo realizirali 7 projekata u prošlom programskom razdoblju i dva u novom CERV programu.

2014. – European tradition for European future

2016. – SolidEU – ABOUT SOLIDARITY IN EU

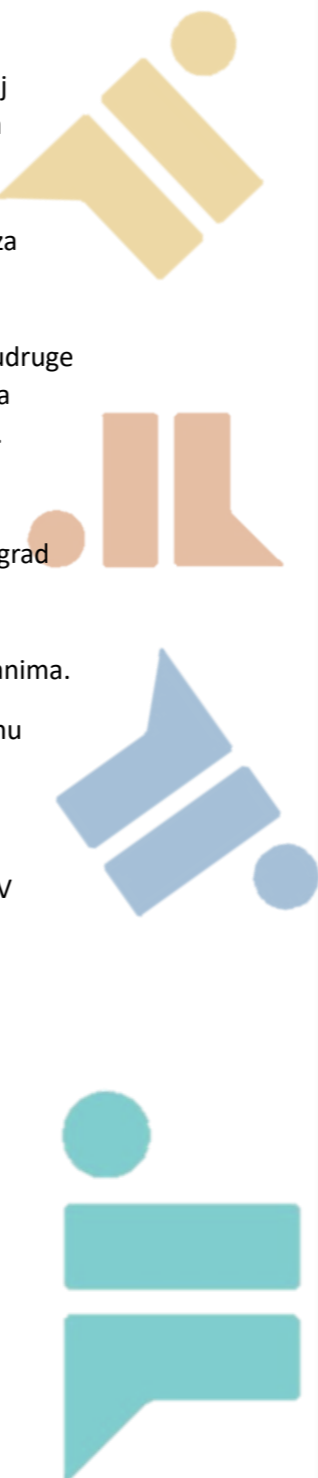
2017. – EUlife – Citizens for Stronger Europe

2018. – EU future – Doing it together!

2021. – EU Future Challenges – Diversity is our advantage

2023. – A time of crisis - A chance for European unity

2024. – Be Positive – The future of Europe is in your hands



TOWN KLANJEC

The Town of Klanjec is located in the north-western part of the Republic of Croatia, in Krapina-Zagorje County. It borders Slovenia, which results in good neighbourly relations between the residents of nearby communities. The local administration, with 11 employees, covers all areas necessary for the functioning of the local community. The town has a primary school, a public library, a kindergarten, a healthcare institution, an emergency medical service, a tax administration office, a police station, and a social welfare department.

The local authorities actively support the work of all municipal institutions that benefit citizens. As citizens' wellbeing is a priority, the town continuously promotes and supports civil society organisations. There are 25 active citizens' associations. In addition, the town and its citizens, through their associations, organise various types of events — sports, cultural, health-related, environmental, and social events. The main focus of all these activities is the involvement of citizens in the public life of the community.

VISION – THE TOWN OF KLANJEC – a small town of great and noble people, culture and tradition

MISSION – By using its rich cultural heritage, the Town of Klanjec will become known as a small town of great landmarks offering a stylish way of life on the picturesque cultural map of Central Europe. Through the harmony of entrepreneurship and socio-cultural tourism, and through the knowledge and capabilities of its residents, the town will provide a high-quality and prosperous standard of living for its citizens.

The Town of Klanjec was one of the most successful applicants and coordinators from Croatia in the Europe for Citizens Programme during the 2014–2020 programming period. Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation; Measure 2.1 Town Twinning

We successfully implemented seven projects in the previous programming period and two projects within the new CERV programme:

2014 – European Tradition for European Future

2016 – SolidEU – About Solidarity in the EU

2017 – EUlife – Citizens for a Stronger Europe

2018 – EU Future – Doing It Together!

2021 – EU Future Challenges – Diversity Is Our Advantage

2023 – A Time of Crisis – A Chance for European Unity

2024 – Be Positive – The Future of Europe Is in Your Hands



PROGRAM UNIJE - GRAĐANI, JEDNAKOST, PRAVA I VRIJEDNOSTI (CERV) 2021.-2027.

U novom programskom razdoblju 2021-2027. uspostavljen je novi centralizirani program Unije Građani, jednakost, prava i vrijednosti (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme, (CERV), s kojim upravlja DG JUST i jednim dijelom Agencija za obrazovanje, audiovizualnu politiku i kulturu (EACEA), a koji pokriva područja dosadašnjih programa Europa za građane (Europe for Citizens), Prava, ravnopravnost i građanstvo (Rights, Equality and Citizenship) i DAPHNE.

CERV Program je najveći program do sada namijenjen promicanju i zaštiti vrijednosti Unije: demokracije, vladavine prava, temeljnih prava, transparentnosti i dobrog upravljanja te ima za cilj izgradnju još demokratskije Europe i podizanje svijesti građana/ki o pravima i vrijednostima sadržanima u temeljnim Ugovorima i Povelji EU o temeljnim pravima, pružajući financijsku podršku neprofitnom sektoru u promociji tih prava i zajedničkih vrijednosti.

U financijskom razdoblju 2021.-2027., predviđeni proračun CERV programa je 1.5 mld. EUR i raspoređuje se na 4 tematske cjeline:

Vrijednosti Unije (European Values strand) - promicanje temeljnih vrijednosti EU

Jednakost, prava i rodna ravnopravnost (Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand) - promicanje jednakosti, prava i ravnopravnosti spolova

Uključenost i sudjelovanje građana (Citizens engagement and participation strand) - promicanje zajedničke europske povijesti i aktivne građanske participacije - uključivanje građana u demokratski i politički život Unije

Daphne strand - borba protiv svih oblika nasilja



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THE CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES (CERV) PROGRAMME 2021 . - 2027.

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme was launched in 2021 and will run for seven years until 2027. It was created along with the 2021-2027 Justice programme under the Justice, Rights and Values Fund.

The CERV programme seeks to support and develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. That includes a vibrant and empowered civil society, encouraging people's democratic, civic and social participation and cultivating the rich diversity of European society, based on our common values, history and memory.

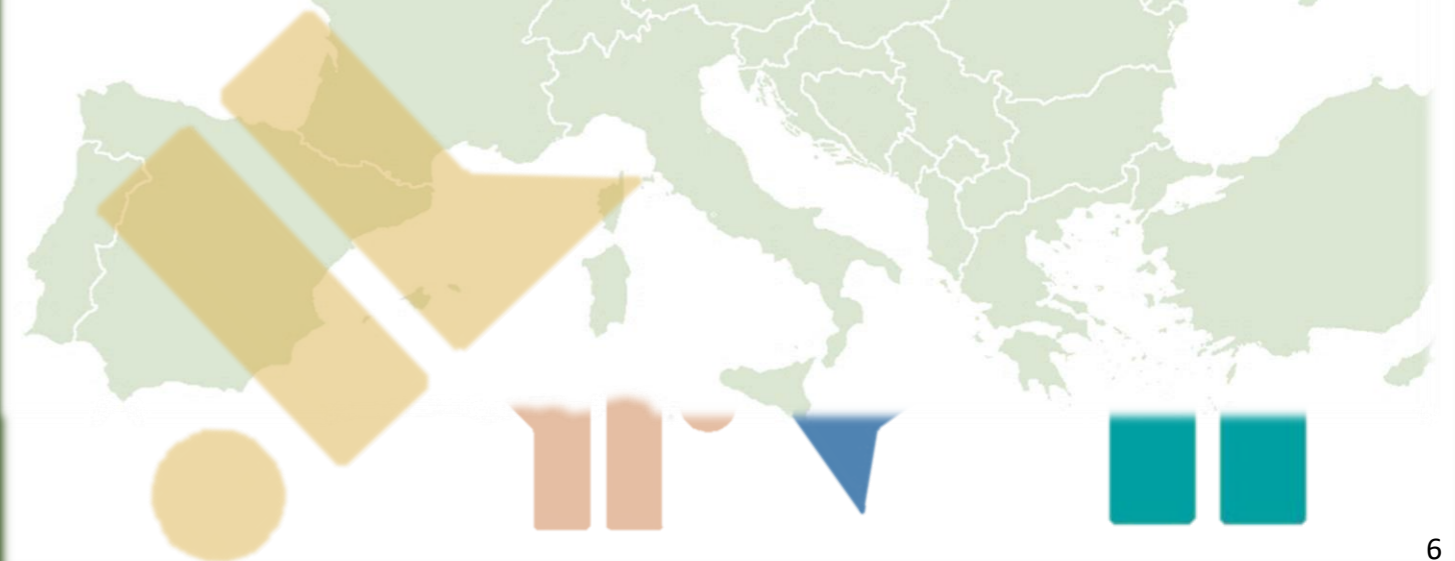
The CERV programme has four pillars:

Union values - protect and promote Union values

Equality, Rights and Gender Equality - promoting rights, non-discrimination, equality (including gender equality), and advancing gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming

Citizens' engagement and participation - promoting citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union, exchanges between citizens of different Member States, and raising awareness of the common European history

Daphne - fight violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children



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SAŽETAK projekta Mali europski gradovi za veliku zelenu Europu / Zelena Europa

Projekt Mali europski gradovi za veliku zelenu Europu / Zelena Europa koji je Grad Klanjec proveo od 11. do 14. rujna 2025., okupio je 17 partnerskih organizacija iz 14 zemalja (uključujući dvije izvan EU-a), kao i 203 međunarodna i 172 lokalna sudionika.

Tijekom 12 aktivnosti u kojima su kombinirane rasprave, radionice, seminari, uključivanje mladih i terenski posjeti, projekt je ojačao sudjelovanje građana, interkulturalni dijalog i solidarnost među malim gradovima suočenima s klimatskim izazovima. Sudionici su istraživali prilagodbu klimatskim promjenama, kružno gospodarstvo, zelenu infrastrukturu te socioekonomski utjecaj zelene tranzicije.

Projekt je ostvario snažnu zastupljenost mladih i rodnu ravnotežu, unaprijedio znanje o participativnim mehanizmima EU-a te kulminirao simboličnom transnacionalnom inicijativom sadnje stabala u klanječkom Spomen-parku

Zaključeno je da mali gradovi i građani imaju ključnu ulogu u provedbi zelenih politika EU-a te da participativna demokracija mora ostati kontinuirana praksa podržana solidarnošću i financiranjem EU-a.



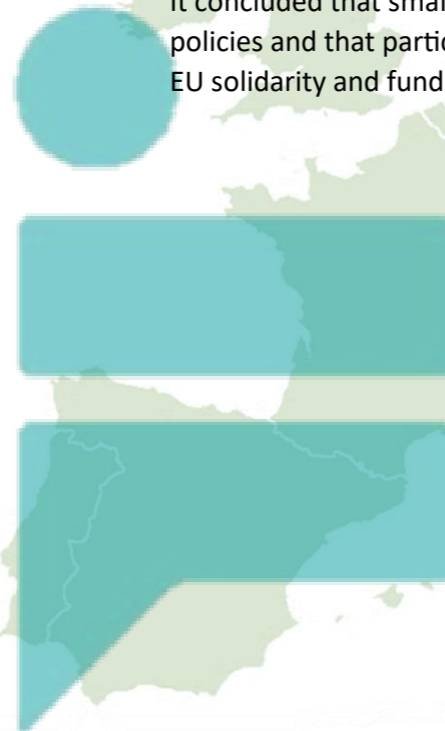
SUMMARY projekta Small Green Towns for a Big Green Europe /GREEN EUROPE

The project Small Green Towns for a Big Green Europe /Green Europe/, implemented by the Town of Klanjec from 11 to 14 September 2025, brought together 17 partner organisations from 14 countries (including two from outside the EU), as well as 203 international and 172 local participants.

Through 12 activities combining debates, workshops, youth engagement, and field visits, the project strengthened citizen participation, intercultural dialogue, and solidarity among small towns facing climate challenges. Participants explored climate adaptation, circular economy, green infrastructure, and the socio-economic impact of the green transition.

The project achieved strong youth and gender representation, enhanced knowledge of EU participatory mechanisms, and culminated in a symbolic transnational tree-planting initiative establishing the Green Avenue of Twinned Towns.

It concluded that small towns and citizens play a crucial role in implementing EU green policies and that participatory democracy must remain a continuous practice supported by EU solidarity and funding.



OPĆI CILJEVI I REZULTATI

Projekt Mali zeleni gradovi za veliku zelenu Europu / Zelena Europa koji je u kojem je Grad Klanjec bio koordinator i prijavitelj, okupio je 17 partnerskih organizacija iz 14 zemalja (uključujući dvije izvan EU) Hrvatska (Klanjec), Poljska (Wilamowice), Grčka (Pilea-Hortiatis), Španjolska (Federación de Asociaciones Juveniles para la Movilidad Europea), Austrija (Nikitsch), Češka (Dolni Benešov), Mađarska (Erdőkürt Község Önkormányzata), Španjolska (Asociacion cultural "Enredate"), Portugal (Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos e São Julião), Slovačka (Rajecke Teplice), Mađarska (Heviz), Rumunjska (Lupuc), Slovenija (Bistrica ob Sotli), Slovenija (Starše), Malta (Qrendi) and 2 non-EU states – Bosna i Hercegovina (Bihać) and Srbija (Petrovaradin, Sremski Karlovci).

Tematski je projekt bio usmjeren na Europski zeleni plan, kružno gospodarstvo, klimatsku prilagodbu na lokalnoj razini, zelenu infrastrukturu, sudjelovanje mladih, EU solidarnost i uključivanje građana.

Uz 12 različitih aktivnosti projekt je doprinio:

- Jačanju sudjelovanja građana u provedbi Europskog zelenog plana;
- Jačanju solidarnosti i kohezije između regija različitih gospodarskih kapaciteta;
- Unaprjeđenju demokratske otpornosti kroz strukturirani interkulturalni dijalog.

Europska dodana vrijednost:

- povezivanje malih gradova suočenih sa sličnim klimatskim izazovima
- poticanje razmjene između EU i ne-EU partnera
- adresiranje demokratskih deficita i euroskepticizma kroz dijalog
- jačanje solidarnosti kao temeljne vrijednosti EU

Zaključci sudionika:

- mali gradovi i pojedinci mogu biti ključni akteri u provedbi Europskog zelenog plana
- građani podupiru održivi razvoj, ali izražavaju zabrinutost za gospodarsku stabilnost i regionalne nejednakosti
- lokalne vlasti slažu se da zelene politike predstavljaju zajedničke izazove za male općine s ograničenim administrativnim i finansijskim kapacitetima, zbog čega su umrežavanje i razmjena dobre prakse nužni
- klimatska prilagodba mora biti vođena na lokalnoj razini, ali uz potporu EU politika i financiranja

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

This Town Twinning project, whose coordinator and applicant is Town Klanjec, includes 17 partner organisations from 14 different countries of which 11 are EU member states – Croatia (Klanjec), Poland (Wilamowice), Greece (Pilea-Hortiatis), Spain (Federación de Asociaciones Juveniles para la Movilidad Europea), Austria (Nikitsch), Czech Republic (Dolni Benešov), Hungary (Erdőkürt Község Önkormányzata), Spain (Asociacion cultural "Enredate"), Portugal (Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos e São Julião), Slovakia (Rajecke Teplice), Hungary (Heviz), Romania (Lupuc), Slovenia (Bistrica ob Sotli), Slovenia (Starše), Malta (Qrendi) and 2 non-EU states – Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bihać) and Serbia (Petrovaradin, Sremski Karlovci).

Thematically, the project focused on the European Green Deal, circular economy, climate adaptation at the local level, green infrastructure, youth participation, EU solidarity, and citizen engagement.

Through 12 different activities, the project contributed to:

- Strengthening citizen participation in implementing the European Green Deal;
- Reinforcing solidarity and cohesion between regions with different economic capacities;
- Enhancing democratic resilience through structured intercultural dialogue.

European Added Value:

- connecting small towns facing similar climate challenges
- encouraging exchange between EU and non-EU partners
- addressing democratic deficits and Euroscepticism through dialogue
- strengthening solidarity as a core EU value

Participants' Conclusions:

- small towns and individual citizens can be key actors in implementing the European Green Deal
- citizens support sustainable development but express concerns about economic stability and regional inequalities.
- local authorities agree that green policies present shared challenges for small municipalities with limited administrative and financial capacities, making networking and exchange of good practices essential.
- climate adaptation must be locally driven but supported by EU policies and funding.

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY – 11. SEPTEMBER

ARRIVAL OF THE PARTICIPANTS

City Hall Klanjec

16:00h Panel discussion – Preconditions for implementation of climate change adaptation on local level – Partner cities experiences

20:30h – WELCOME DINNER

FRIDAY – 4. SEPTEMBER

09:30h – Departure from the hotel

City Library hall Klanjec

10:00h – Presentation and debate – The key is in small changes

11:00h – Presentation and discussion – Why green economy?

City hall Klanjec

10:00h – Seminar and debate – Climate agreement for all Europeans - we are interested in your ideas!

11:00 – Presentation – How to educate, inform and disseminate information, support individual and collective action

Studio of Antun Augustinčić Gallery

12:00h – Discussion – Together we are (even more) greener

13:00 – 13:45h – visit to the Antun Augustinčić Gallery and the Franciscan monastery or free time

14:00h – LUNCH – RESTAURANT “STARA VODENICA” Address: KLANJEC, Gredice 32

Free time

House of Klajn

18:00h – Workshop – Kids and young can do it!

19:30h – DINNER – Klanječka pelnica, Address: KLANJEC, Trg Antuna Mihanovića 1

House of Klajn

21:00h – MUSIC EVENT „FOREVERGREEN“

SATURDAY, 13. SEPTEMBER

07:30h – Departure from the hotel

11:15h – City hall Krk – Presentation Zero Waste island in Croatia

City Library hall Klanjec

10:00 – Presentation and workshop – European Green Deal – My world, my contribution, our planet

12:00 – Presentation and discussion – Green infrastructure in small cities

City hall Klanjec

13:00h – Forum – Personal stories, collective future powered by EU

14:00h – LUNCH – Restaurant “Stara vodenica”, Address: KLANJEC, Gredice 32

Free time

Memorial park Klanjec, Address: Augusta Šenoa Street

17:00h – Partner green action – Do something green today; Workshop – No.2 Walk, run, think, talk!

City hall Klanjec

19:00h – Closing ceremony – Final speech by the participating mayors and exchange gifts

20:30h – DINNER – Restaurant “Stara vodenica”, Address: KLANJEC, Gredice 32

SUNDAY, 14. SEPTEMBER

DEPARTURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

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Kontaktirajte nas:

Više informacija možete pronaći na našoj web stranici:

<https://www.klanjec.hr/eu-projekti/time-of-crisis/>

E-mail: kulturni.centar.klanjec@kr.t-com.hr

Telefon: 00385 49 551 002

Više detalja o Programu CERV:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-cerv_en

Contact us:

For more information please consult our website where you will find more details:

<https://www.klanjec.hr/eu-projekti/time-of-crisis/>

E-mail: kulturni.centar.klanjec@kr.t-com.hr

Phone: 00385 49 551 002

Useful link:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-cerv_en

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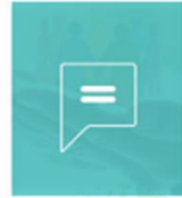
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