

# **Iameurope**

**CATALOGUE**

# ANIMAFACFRANCE

Animafac is a network of 12,000 French student associations working in various fields (culture, sport, media, anti-discrimination, sustainable development, etc.). A platform for exchanging experiences and learnings, Animafac helps students to launch innovative initiatives, provides practical guidelines, training and advice, and organizes conferences, workshops and information campaigns (both online and offline). Our major goal is to develop and promote opportunities for student volunteering and engagement in public life. We also want to improve the recognition of youth organizations by higher-education institutions.

## PROJECT(S)

Animafac seeks to contribute to the renewal of our democratic culture, encouraging citizens, and young people in particular, to become actively involved in public debate and political decision-making. In 2012, we initiated *la Fabrique citoyenne* (the Civic Factory), an innovative participatory project that enables young people to form and express political opinion in the context of the French presidential elections. Inspired by the principle of deliberative polling, usually organized by public authorities, the Civic Factory is different in that it was initiated by civil society and seeks direct exchange with policymakers.

The Civic Factory invited 40 young people from all over the country to reflect on major questions : What kind of society do we want to live in? and What decisions should be taken during the coming years to make this society possible?

A special methodology was implemented to ensure the emergence of *collective and informed opinion*. We wanted to prove that every citizen can take part in debate if fully informed about the stakes and challenges. The participants panel, aged 16 to 30 and representing French youth in all its diversity, was selected by an agency specialized in opinion studies in order to build a group with a plurality of backgrounds and opinion. After the first general debate, the participants were assigned at random to thematic groups to work further on three main topics: school, economy, Europe. The workshops program (2 sessions of 3 days) was prepared with the help of political think-tanks; it consisted of addresses by experts presenting contradictory positions, debates, and the elaboration of proposals. Additional material (articles, web sources, etc) on each theme was provided

for further analyses. The set of proposals elaborated by each group was then submitted for final deliberation and a vote by all participants. The debates were facilitated by six independent experts in participatory methodologies.

The proposals were sent to all candidates in the French presidential elections and disseminated via Animafac's channels. A special media partnership was established with a major French daily, which dedicated a special dossier to the issue.

In March 2012, the participants met the policymakers – presidential candidates or the representatives of the major political parties – during an open public conference in order to discuss the proposals and determine how they can be translated into effective political decisions.

By experimenting in this original model of collective deliberation, the Civic Factory proved that young people, like any citizens, can contribute to high-quality public debate and shape policies that meet their aspirations and requirements.

[www.animafac.net](http://www.animafac.net)

[www.fabrique-citoyenne.fr](http://www.fabrique-citoyenne.fr)

# BALKAN ASSIST ASSOCIATION BULGARIA

The Balkan Assist Association is a Bulgarian NGO founded in 2000 by individuals and organizations contributing to the development of civil society. There are three member organizations and 20 individual members – all specialists in the field of civic participation, local government, regional development, rural development and European affairs.

Our mission is to promote and support civic activity and participation in decision-making at local and central level. In this regard, we implemented successfully initiatives and projects with Bulgarian and international partners, and achieved concrete results in the study, practice and dissemination of effective and innovative methods and approaches for civic engagement and dialogue between citizens and institutions; in the initiation and development of legislative changes; in capacity-building and advocacy, and in information campaigns in favor of civic causes and ideas.

The organization is supported in its work and financially by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), European Union programs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Balkan Trust for Democracy, the Government of the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, and ministries and municipalities in Bulgaria.

## **PROJECT(S)**

With the support of SDC, Balkan Assist introduced in Bulgaria the so-called “forum approach” (a cycle of structured public discussions and open dialogue between citizens and institutions). In the framework of the Community Forum, the approach was implemented in more than 50 Bulgarian municipalities (2000–2007).

In 2008–2009, Balkan Assist enriched its experience with implementing projects financed by EU structural funds. It implemented the project Public Councils – Living Link between Citizens and Local Government, funded by the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity within the Bulgarian National Development Plan 2007-2013. The most important result of this project was the establishment of a partnership network of public councils built across the country and the skills the organization gained in management and reporting of EU funds.

At the initiative of Balkan Assist in 2009, the Civic Participation Forum (CPF) was established – a platform of more than 100 Bulgarian NGOs active in civic participation. The main objective of the CPF is to consolidate the efforts of the NGO sector in Bulgaria to defend common causes and interests, to intensify the dialogue between citizens and institutions at central and local level, and to promote the effective participation of civil society in planning for the next National Development Plan 2014–2020. The association has established solid partnership and cooperation with institutions, NGOs, platforms and networks in Bulgaria and Europe, and successfully implements joint activities and initiatives under Europe for Citizens, Leonardo da Vinci, Youth in Action Programme and others.

By experimenting in this original model of collective deliberation, the Civic Factory proved that young people, like any citizens, can contribute to high-quality public debate and shape policies that meet their aspirations and requirements.

[www.balkanassist.bg](http://www.balkanassist.bg)  
[www.bgactivecitizen.eu](http://www.bgactivecitizen.eu)

# RESOURCE CENTER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ROMANIA

The mission of CeRe (the Resource Center for Public Participation) is to act so that public decisions meet the needs and desires of social actors. In CeRe's vision, NGOs, citizens and public institutions take responsibility for public participation and avail of the rights associated with this participation. To this end, CeRe assist NGOs and public institutions, so that:

- NGOs mobilize citizens in the communities they are active in by organizing advocacy campaigns to promote the interests of the community and get them involved in designing and implementing public policies
- NGOs and citizens monitor the activity of public institutions so they are transparent and open to the participation initiatives of NGOs and citizens; consult NGOs and citizens in designing, implementing and monitoring public policies, and are responsible and accountable for their activity before the citizens and the groups representing them.

CeRe helps both civil society and public institutions to learn about and make use of new methods of public participation (PhotoVoice, Citizen Jury, World Cafe, etc). CeRe assists citizens and NGOs to organize and advocate and promotes cases of successful public participation. The Public Participation Awards Gala each year displays the extent of public participation in Romania, and how it produces tangible results and changes communities.

## PROJECT(S)

CeRe started its program in late 2009. We are now working in four neighborhoods. In each, we formed a core group of people interested in solving the problems identified. We help the groups to organize community meetings to prioritize the issues they want to work on, and to attract new members. Then we help the groups to conduct advocacy campaigns to persuade public authorities to solve the problems raised. The groups' successes include:

- Callatis-Drumul Taberei Group convinced the authorities to pave an alley between two schools

- The group in Lacul Tei convinced the public authorities to build a sidewalk on an alley where people were forced to walk alongside cars
- In the Favorit area, the group fought to restore an old cinema building and transform it into a cultural center. After a one-year campaign, the City Hall took important steps towards establishing the center and a the feasibility study was voted through by the city council.

CeRe also initiated PAS, the permanent advocacy service serving NGOs and citizen groups who want to start an advocacy campaign but do not know exactly what they should do. PAS provides support for developing and implementing an advocacy strategy (including financial contributions for some activities); legal assistance, and other supports as needed. Over five years, CeRe has supported numerous organizations and citizen groups in their advocacy campaigns, which resulted in community achievement such as: local government funding for a center of services for children with autism; a park built by the City Hall and community which replaced an illegal landfill; the allocation of public funds for activities for those people with Parkinson's disease, etc.

[www.ce-re.ro](http://www.ce-re.ro)

# CESAM FOUNDATION, CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILIZATION SWEDEN

The Cesam Foundation, Center for Community Development and Mobilization, started as a collaborative project in the Örebro region in Sweden in 1984. It was initiated as an NGO foundation by the county council in 1993, the aim being to strengthen community work and mobilization and promote competence in this field.

The foundation is 95%-financed through consulting assignments and 5% by the county council. Voluntary organizations, associations and public or private bodies may consult Cesam concerning community development, active citizenship, democracy and empowerment strategies and practice. Cesam can assist in any part of the process (initial phase, implementation, evaluation). The assignments can be on a short- or long-term basis.

Currently key activities are:

- Supporting local initiatives, projects and long-term community development
- Providing an advisory service to promote community development, active citizenship and participatory democracy
- Supplying training and facilitating process-orientated work and techniques for democratic meetings
- Supervising and guiding process-orientated work and community workers

Our catchwords are empowerment, participation and partnership.

## **PROJECT(S)**

Within the framework of the statutory policy of civil society, Cesam took part in the process of developing “game rules” concerning the relation between the state and the voluntary sector. The national agreement that resulted has also become a role model at the local municipality level. Cesam initiated this process and facilitated the municipality of Örebro and more than seventy local NGOs in agreeing on how to cooperate, which resulted in a local-level agreement. This kind of work will now be carried out in several municipalities.

- The process of forming local-level agreements has

been scaled up to county level ( 12 municipalities). This work is continuing.

- As a result of the local-level agreement, IUC, the Voluntary Development Centre was established in 2010, aiming to be a resource for the development of NGOs, associations and volunteers in Örebro. The Cesam Foundation has been running the center for almost four years, promoting the practice of local empowerment and community organizing.

- At the center Cesam is creating a local, web-based hub for connecting volunteers in Örebro both with NGOs and actors in the public sector.

- Together with the umbrella organization Örebro Voluntary Council, the center has initiated a development process to establish a sustainable Voluntary Resource Centre in Örebro.

- Together with NGO organizations and the county council, Cesam initiated a process for scaling up local experience from IUC to a regional level. This work continues.

- EKSAM, the Centre for Economic Cooperation, is a venue for people in Örebro who need financial counseling. The visitors can get individual counseling as well as training in private finances. Employees of Cesam and Verdandi (NGO) work side by side with volunteers.

Our methods concerning design and facilitating workshops, Techniques for Democratic Meetings, have important lowest common denominators. We create and develop techniques for local development, focusing on meetings that are simple and clear for the participants. The Future Scenario Workshop is a basic technique and a platform for us when we design meetings. Our techniques are inspired by and developed in cooperation with colleagues in Europe, within The Combined European Bureau For Social Development, CEBSD and other networks. We use models for intersectoral cooperation with organizations with members, who take part in formulating the

goals. Our methods focus on goals, organizational structure and responsibilities.

Nationally we cooperate with other NGOs in a project to provide manuals and inspirational material as shareware on a common website.

**[www.cesam.se](http://www.cesam.se)**

**[www.iucorebro.se](http://www.iucorebro.se)**

**[www.eksam.se](http://www.eksam.se)**

# CONFAVC (CONFEDERACIÓ D'ASSOCIACIONS VEÏNALS DE CATALUNYA) SPAIN

CONFAVC is a social, civic and non-profit organization that coordinates the associations of 535 neighborhoods of Catalonia and 23 local federations at municipal and county level. The main objective is to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods, understood as a unit of value, and develop citizenship.

We pursue this goal by engaging the government in civic issues, developing sectoral and regional action programs, promoting social action projects, and networking with other stakeholders. Issues include: democratic participation and quality, social cohesion, environment, waste management, water management, gender violence, urban planning and housing. We base our work on the need to adapt public policies to the needs of citizens, but also on the momentum of our own projects and a commitment to build tools for social and economic solidarity.

## **PROJECT(S)**

Our project work is currently focused on social intervention, especially in neighborhoods with strong immigrant populations, through multicultural interaction. We also have engaged in many local social economy projects.

Our training and advice is focused primarily on neighborhood organizations and management issues of partnership, participation and specific aspects of local urban planning and the public policy environment.

### *Campaigns and institutional participation*

We promote public campaigns to demand improvements in public services and social rights, such as health and housing. The current focus is on the protests against the cuts produced by the politics of deficit reduction.

### *Communication with the administration?*

We maintain a continuous presence in different organs of institutional participation, which allows us to track and monitor public policies.

### *Social intervention*

We aim at raising important issues and promoting multicultural coexistence, social cohesion, gender equality, etc, working with associations in each region.

One example of our intervention is the social interaction project, Multicultural Groups (GIM). The foundation program aims to sensitize and train volunteers and neighborhood newcomers concerning the new realities of cultural districts in Catalonia, and facilitate these people in undertaking community activities together in their districts. This project has been carried out in 17 districts of Catalonia.

### *Participation, training and advice*

CONFAVC has undertaken several projects to encourage and improve participation. The most recent examples are:

- Encouraging the organization: Under this theme workshops, discussions and seminars were conducted to provide organizational instruments to neighborhood associations, as well as to identify their shortcomings and difficulties.
- Good practices: A project was implemented involving several local federations with the aim of detecting inspiring practices of other associations, with particular attention to those that promote citizen participation in neighborhood associations and the shaping of public policies.
- Communication: Meeting space was provided for neighborhood associations to exchange experiences and best use of communication tools, encourage use of Web 2.0 tools in their activities, both internally and in organizing citizen participation.

We also customized our training for people linked to the third sector (volunteers, members of technical teams, individuals working in public administration). The training is conducted by a teacher who works

daily with the third sector or historically linked associations, including people involved in voluntary associations, and professionals in public administration.

We advise and promote studies in (1) Citizen Participation, (2) Environment and (3) Housing and Urban Development.

**[www.confavc.cat](http://www.confavc.cat)**

**[www.fundacioconfavc.cat](http://www.fundacioconfavc.cat)**

**[www.confavc.cat](http://www.confavc.cat)**

**[www.fundacioconfavc.cat](http://www.fundacioconfavc.cat)**



# THE ASSOCIATION OF CREATIVE INITIATIVES „E” POLAND

Since 2002, E has been realizing socio-cultural projects all over Poland. We train, give grants, publish books, and create and promote new models of activity in the sphere of culture. We carry out projects arising from our passions and the way in which we observe the world. Our values include authenticity, ensuring high-quality proposals, and getting satisfaction out of what we do. We run a network of animators in the country; these long-time partners' experience and skills help us to experiment, outline new trends and implement new projects. Our goals are grouped in three themes:

- *Young Creatives Cooperative* is an alternative production studio, in which we create good conditions for young creative people to develop. Our rule is to see projects through “from the idea to realization”. We organize workshops, open shows and portfolio reviews, and produce debut movies and photographic projects. We promote youth documentary work in Poland and abroad. We are a member of the international movement Doc Next Network.
- *Citizens In Action* is a laboratory of socio-cultural projects. Within its framework, animators realize their own projects in their neighborhoods, cities or the entire country. We run grant and micro-grant projects and created the network of Flying Cultural Animateurs, gathering experienced trainers from all over the country to support the local leaders.
- *Open Cultural Sector* is a think-tank for creating new solutions. We run participatory projects aimed at engaging people who work in the cultural sector, residents, researchers and local government. Together we work out new strategies for action in cultural institutions (local cultural centres, libraries, Universities of the Third Age).

## PROJECT(S)

*Young Managers of Culture* is empowering young people to take cultural action in their hometowns by inviting them to a specially designed course in managing culture. They are invited to participate in workshops and meetings with key cultural sector actors in Poland; they are given tasks during which they develop their ideas for small projects in their

local environments. They are also funded on a small scale, and mentored and coached in implementing their ideas.

*Seniors in Action* is a grant project directed at both older and young people involved in intergenerational activities. They are invited to workshops and meetings, as well being supported by experts and mentors. The main goal of the project is to encourage senior people to take action and support intergenerational dialogue.

*The Laboratory of Animatoria* is a Warsaw-based project in which we fund people to help them develop and implement their ideas for projects involving others citizens. We strongly support the desire to share passions, as well as work to make the local environment more open and friendly. Each participant works with a specially trained coach who supports realization of their goals and their development as young animators.

*Animators in Residence* is directed at cultural animators and animators-to-be in Poland. We invite one person for a two-week stay in Warsaw, during which he or she participates in cultural events, meetings and consultations with practitioners and key cultural actors. We also share our know-how as the animator prepares and implements his or her socio-cultural action.

[www.e.org.pl](http://www.e.org.pl)

[www.mmk.e.org.pl](http://www.mmk.e.org.pl)

[www.seniorzywakcji.pl](http://www.seniorzywakcji.pl)

# MITOST ASSOCIATION GERMANY

The MitOst Association was established in 1996 by a small group of people attracted by the idea of and growing opportunities for free movement, multilateral exchange and joint activities in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The statutory objective – commitment to international understanding and education – is realized by building and maintaining an information and contact network and implementing educational and cultural projects. The association, with more than 1,300 members from all over the region, is developing and implementing innovative projects in the sectors of non-formal education and cultural exchange.

As a service provider for foundations and government agencies, it runs well-established programs (e.g. [www.theodor-heuss-kolleg.de](http://www.theodor-heuss-kolleg.de) for Robert Bosch Stiftung) and is involved in European networks for active citizenship (e.g. [www.nece.eu](http://www.nece.eu), [www.dare-network.eu](http://www.dare-network.eu), [www.europaeische-bewegung.de](http://www.europaeische-bewegung.de), [www.bpb.de](http://www.bpb.de)). Together with partners from all over the Continent, the association is engaged in an increasing variety of projects for youth exchange, lifelong learning and European integration, with the support of relevant EU programs.

## PROJECT(S)

*Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg*: a program of Robert Bosch Stiftung and MitOst Association aimed at empowering young people to become active citizens, through seminars and development of project experience (project management, mentorship, small grant, complex reflection). Approx. 400 participants a year, with a wide partner network in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

The annual *International MitOst Festival*, held in host cities: presentation of best-practice activities in cultural exchange and active citizenship, networking and exchange of experiences, initiating new activities.

*Europazug*: focused on “discovering society and citizens in the enlarged EU” through a train tour for 100 young Europeans who travel for 10 days through seven countries, with discussions, exhibitions and cultural events during the journey and at host stations.

*Play your part* workshops for people involved in civil society projects or organizations from all over the Continent: encouraging and strengthening civil participation by reflecting individual and common interests and skills, exchange of experiences, networking, developing joint project ideas.

[www.mitost.org](http://www.mitost.org)

[www.theodor-heuss-kolleg.de](http://www.theodor-heuss-kolleg.de)

# POUR LA SOLIDARITE BELGIUM

PLS is a European think-tank seeking to contribute to the construction of a European Union based on coherent social and development policies. It plays an active role in influencing sustainable public policies, promoting social economy, raising companies' interest in corporate social responsibility and enabling citizen participation in decision-making. The projects developed and run by PLS seek to build bridges between different categories of stakeholders acting in the economic, social, and public sectors – NGOs, public authorities, companies, trade unions and research centres.

Since 2002, PLS has invested resources and efforts in developing its capacity to mobilize civil society organizations in all member states to work together in three major areas: participatory democracy and active citizenship, social affairs and social economy, and sustainable development. To this end, PLS undertakes research and action research-based activities, organizes consultations and events that enable dialogue between stakeholders, and acts as an intermediary between researchers, representatives of the business sector, policymakers and, last but not least, both organized and unorganized civil society.

## **PROJECT(S)**

The Polish community that PLS has been working with in Belgium has encountered problems caused by lack of information on the rights and responsibilities associated with EU citizenship and lack of contact and interaction with Belgian society. In response, PLS has developed training activities aimed at strengthening the knowledge of representatives of influential Polish associations about the Belgian political system and to help them network with other Belgian associations and institutions. To do so, PLS began by mapping the major Polish organizations in Belgium, including the Polish media, and then contacted their representatives. The training activities contributed to building up the capacity of these associations to become more involved in local life by giving them tools to disseminate information and to launch new projects with the support of a network of Belgian actors.

Following the training, representatives of the Polish community have started to promote political and

civil participation among members of the community, to disseminate information on the protection of Polish people's fundamental rights, and to fight against stereotypes and reciprocal discrimination, particularly concerning women. Furthermore, PLS was able to reach the Polish candidates standing in the next municipal elections. In selecting participants for training, the group concentrated on women's participation due to the important role women play in the community but also to encourage women's participation and the promotion of women's rights.

[www.pourlasolidarite.eu](http://www.pourlasolidarite.eu)

[www.beingcitizen.eu](http://www.beingcitizen.eu)

# SAMENLEVINGSOPBOUW ANTWERPEN STAD BELGIUM

Samenlevingsopbouw Antwerpen Stad (SAS) is a Flemish regional NGO that focuses on four main themes: the right to housing, the right to an income, the right to work, and peaceful living together.

Due to social exclusion and discrimination, many Belgian citizens remain deprived of their fundamental rights. Their voices are not heard. Often they live in areas that are hardly livable. SAS organizes these citizens, and together with them strive towards equal chances for all.

## **PROJECT(S)**

Buurtschatten is a project based on the ABCD-methodology (Asset-Based Community Development) and Can Do (i.e. community development based on resources from within the community). It was initiated by Samenlevingsopbouw Antwerpen and the Evens Foundation.

In contrast to more traditional approaches that focus on problems and gaps in problematic areas, Buurtschatten starts with a positive approach: it seeks to make use of capacities already present in the area to enable a developmental process from within. It makes an inventory of available talents and residents' knowledge about their area (they are the experts!), and uses their engagement and feeling of responsibility toward their own living environment. Buurtschatten also aims to make better use of (der)used public spaces (covered and open-air) in the area. To summarize, it aims to reactivate the local social capital in an area, together with the residents. To achieve this, it started a campaign with a call to residents to develop ideas and projects to improve the overall quality of life and general cohabitation between (groups of) people. Our overall aim was to transform *"the patient (client) into an agent"*.

Every community has strong but inefficiently used local capital, a reservoir of practical skills, local knowledge, real-life experiences and plain common sense. Buurtschatten was created because of an urge to reactivate this social capital and establish a greater sense of community. Its story of creation: creation of relations between residents, creation of new

initiatives, creation of a sense of responsibility and engagement (active citizenship). Buurtschatten thus challenges residents to realize their own projects to improve the quality of life in their community. Residents have a fantastic ability to enthuse others about their ideas, and the perseverance to put them into effect. Buurtschatten provides a framework and, if necessary, financial support for such work. In 2010, particular attention was paid to involving young people in Buurtschatten; they were encouraged, with varying success, to take their own initiatives or to cooperate in the projects of other residents.

Meanwhile, residents have continued to propose and implement their ideas to improve the quality of neighborhood life, including a sewing atelier, a public protest against bus traffic in a neighborhood with many children, an art project in which children portray older people in the neighborhood, and a storytelling project about migration, including the stories of longtime residents confronted with an influx of migrants, as well as many other initiatives.

**[www.buurtschatten.be](http://www.buurtschatten.be)**  
**[www.riso-antwerpen.be](http://www.riso-antwerpen.be)**