



### Partner Identification Form

**PIC:** 946199790

**Full legal name (National Language):** Udruga Žmergo

**Full legal name (Latin characters):** Udruga Zmergo

**Acronym:** ZMERGO

**National ID (if applicable):** 0000980

**Address:** V.C.Emina 3

**Country:** Croatia

**Region:** Primorje-Gorski kotar county

**P.O. Box:** Opatija

**Post Code:** 51410

**City:** Opatija

**Website:** [www.zmergo.hr](http://www.zmergo.hr)

**Email:** [erasmus@zmergo.hr](mailto:erasmus@zmergo.hr)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/zmergo>

**Telephone:** 051 271 459

**Mobile:** 095 87 05 423

**Fax:** 051 271 459

### Profile

**Type of Organisation:** Civil Society Organisation

**Is the partner organization a public body?** No

**Is the partner organization a non-profit?** Yes

### Accreditation

Accreditation for EVS (hosting, sending, coordinating)

**2016-1-HR01-KA110-022420**



## Background and Experience

Association Žmergo is a Croatian civil society organisation based in Opatija. It was founded in 1994 by local enthusiasts driven with desire to protect local environment and way of life and inspired to improve the quality of life in the local community, as well as on the national level. Main aims of the association's activity are preservation of the environment, protection of natural and cultural heritage and promotion of sustainable development, green economy, volunteerism and ecological agriculture. For more than 20 years now, Žmergo has been encouraging citizens to participate in making important decisions about the environment at the local level and organizing and implementing projects on both the local and national level. Some of the regular activities thus include:

- development and implementation of various projects connected with education and promotion whose aim is to raise awareness about the environment and change people's behaviour towards sustainability;
- organization of workshops, marking of important ecological dates, debates, round tables, exhibitions, lectures, symposiums and various other actions with the aim of achieving a positive change in the society, primarily in the area of sustainable development;
- dissemination of knowledge and skills with the aim of changing people's habits and way of thinking;
- establishment of a network of connections with similar organisations in the country and abroad;
- production of documentaries, feature films and animated movies;
- promotion of alternative cultural activities connected with sustainability;
- preparation of promotional and educational materials.

## Experience of Zmergo in Youth in Action and Erasmus+ projects, volunteer work coor

In 2013 Zmergo was accredited in EVS as the hosting, coordinating and sending organisation.

In 2014 Zmergo applied to Croatian NA with the first EVS project (European Friends for Green Trends). The project was approved and implemented with three volunteers (Lawrence Paterson from Malta, Helene Lahaye from France and Michal Janus from Czech Republic.) It lasted 16 months from January 2014 until April 2015 and the volunteering activities were held in Opatija. The project was centered on the theme of environmental protection and sustainable development and the volunteers could develop their skills and competences in event and NGO management, conducting workshops with children on ecological topics, promotion and PR and graphic design.

The second edition of the project was implemented from January 2015 to April 2016. During the project two volunteers (Marta Bilska from Poland and Samuel Cebreiro Fernandez from Spain) were part of Zmergo's core team. By gaining experience in working with people from different cultures and social environments, the EVS project could be developed and improved so it can satisfy the needs and expectations of all

participants. Because of the success of the two EVS projects the third edition of European Friends for Green Trends was implemented and Zmergo was hosting three volunteers coming from Poland, Latvia and Spain. Now, fourth edition of the project is implemented and from the beginning of February, Zmergo is hosting three volunteers, two from Spain and one from France and they are really valuable members of our team and due to their hard work and dedication, they are well known in our community.



For the past year Zmergo was also active as the sending organisation. The first volunteer sent by Zmergo went to Germany in August 2015 for her 12-month volunteering service in the organisation Mensa am Schulzentrum Erbach e.V. The volunteer is at the moment working with children from primary school in school canteen and school garden. Next, in November 2015, two girls were participating in one-month EVS in Portugal where they were helping with activities for children in the organisation Associação Juvenil de Peniche. The fourth volunteer from Croatia went to Istanbul, Turkey at the beginning of December for her 10 months EVS. Zmergo is preparing volunteers for the EVS through personal meetings, going through the activity agreements, travel arrangements and mental preparation for what can they expect. EVS volunteers in Association Zmergo are sharing their impressions and advice as well with the Croatian candidates for EVS volunteers. In 2016 we have already develop new partnerships in EVS projects as a sending organisation thus we are acting as a support for youngsters from Croatia in finding EVS projects.







Furthermore, through YiA programme Zmergo successfully carried out the project Green TOOL (Green thinking on opportunities linking) in 2013, the training for youth leaders. It was held in Crikvenica and gathered 20 young people from France, Malta, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. The participants explored the field of sustainability with different methods - creative workshops, group and individual work, discussions and lectures. Participants were motivated to actively engage themselves in the issues of sustainability and its application in the areas of creativity, entrepreneurship and youth unemployment. Implemented activities have contributed to the acquisition of permanent and useful knowledge and skills. Creative handwork, eco exhibition and eco play for the local community and one hundred children united the participants and disseminated the ideas of the training. As the result of the training the promotional video was created and disseminated through communication tools and media of the project's partners.

Zmergo was also a partner in a various youth exchanges and trainings in Greece, Turkey, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Slovenia and Poland for the past three years.

For the past five years Association Žmergo has organised a national clean-up campaign called "Zelena čistka" in which participated altogether approximately 250,000 volunteers from Croatia. Through that the Association members were developing their skills and competences in working with the big number of volunteers and promotion of volunteerism. EVS volunteers each year participated in preparation and implementation of the campaign. As members of



team they were involved in development and implementation of the promotional events and creation of promo materials as well cooperation with local NGOs, student organisations and volunteers.

Žmergo has been organizing ecological fairs in Opatija since 2010, while the environmental education for children, adolescents and youth has been carried out by Žmergo's members and volunteers since 1998. Because of the modest size of the association and large scope of its projects, Žmergo has always welcomed volunteers



and has extensive experience in working with them. In 2015, 29 volunteers contributed to the association's operation with 4323 hours of work. We have watched many of them gain valuable experience, acquiring new skills, developing their confidence and self-esteem, and resulting in helping them in getting better opportunities for working experience.

### **What are the skills and/or expertise of key persons involved in Erasmus+ projects?**

Team leaders of Association Žmergo have 20 years of experience in various projects within the field of protection of natural and cultural heritage. Environmental awareness, problem analysis skills and problem solving skills were necessary to identify issues and understand the fragility of our environment, and thereafter, as required, actualize project activities on local and national level. Project activities of environmental education have also included working with children, adolescents and youth, for which is required the ability of coaching and very good communication. As well very good interpersonal communicating skills and cooperative attitudes are based on the teamwork in the association. Relating to the number of youth workers and volunteers in Žmergo, team leaders organize and coordinate successfully activities and use efficiently the potential of transferring their knowledge and know-how.

Žmergo's members participate actively in various European projects - the President of the Association took part in the training course "Empowering youth through EVS" in Greece in 2014, where is gained practical knowledge of EVS projects. She learned about the best practices and prepared with the other participants the website devoted to EVS and the EVS diary used at the moment by Zmergo's EVS volunteers. The Executive Director of Zmergo was the coordinator of the two EVS projects which gave her the indispensable knowledge and skills in work with the foreign volunteers. Also as the coordinator of the national campaign Green Cleanup she is constantly developing her skills in coordinating volunteers, even in the big number.

The Vice-President of Zmergo has long experience in coordinating of European projects and education of young people from her work in Info centre in Rijeka.

After implementation of two EVS projects, all the Zmergo's staff got experience in everyday work with people from different cultural backgrounds. Not only their everyday communication in English, team work but also conflicts management improved thanks to work with foreign volunteers.

With this regard to, Žmergo's team shares and promotes EU values among the local community. Working in a European dimension inspires a sense of inter cultural awareness and mutual understanding. Zmergo's local volunteers appreciate the fact of working with volunteers from other countries which results in raising their tolerance and cultural awareness.

The fact that Zmergo employed the ex-EVS volunteer after finishing her volunteering service gave a new dimension to the association. New EVS volunteers can benefit from being supervised by the person who has already did her EVS and personally knows how the EVS is influencing the life of volunteers, how to cope with the new situation, surroundings and working area.



žmergo



Erasmus+

### Legal Representative

**Title:** Ms

**Gender:** Female

**First Name:** Diana

**Family Name:** Kovačić

**Position:** President of Association Žmergo

**Email:** [zmergo@zmergo.hr](mailto:zmergo@zmergo.hr)

**Telephone:** 051 271 459

### Contact Person

**Title:** Ms

**Gender:** Female

**First Name:** Diana

**Family Name:** Kovačić

**Position:** President of Association Žmergo

**Email:** [erasmus@zmergo.hr](mailto:erasmus@zmergo.hr)

**Telephone:** 051 271 459