

UniCredit Foundation: over 3 million euros to the winners of Call for Education 2023**18 non-profit programs combating educational inequalities across 10 UniCredit countries announced as winners.**

UniCredit Foundation is excited to announce the winners of “**Call for Education 2023**”, awarding **18 projects** by non-profit organizations with a total of nearly **3,250,000 euros** to support their work with secondary school students (age range 11-19) in 10 different UniCredit countries.

The UniCredit Foundation, the corporate foundation of UniCredit Group, launched its “Call for Education 2023” in June. The latest initiative to combat educational disadvantage across Europe invited the Group's banks to identify up to five outstanding social projects in UniCredit's territories that are focused on tackling early school leaving, encouraging university attainment and providing youth with adequate skills to enter the job market.

A total of **175** candidates were put forward and reviewed by an especially established Evaluation Committee, who selected the winning initiatives across 10 UniCredit Group countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

This follows the “Call for Education: Romania & Bulgaria”, which awarded 500,000 euros to 4 projects by non-profit organizations aimed at addressing educational disadvantage in the two countries. These pan-European initiatives to promote educational equality for school students, along with the Foundation's recently announced partnership with global education network “Teach For All”, are further proof of the UniCredit Foundation's firm commitment to unlocking the potential of Europe's next generation.

Silvia Cappellini, General Manager of the UniCredit Foundation, said: *“Giving our youth across Europe the power to unlock their full potential takes more than just financing. It means fostering equal educational opportunities for them where they are in Europe. This entails forging partnerships with educational institutions and local entities to co-create tailored programs that address the unique needs of the communities we serve. UniCredit's pan-European presence gives the UniCredit Foundation the unique opportunity, through the Group's network of banks, to empower disadvantaged youth across the continent and help create a brighter future for Europe's next generation. I am immensely pleased with the outcomes of this initiative, and I look forward to seeing how these 18 projects make an impact for young people in their respective regions.”*

In Slovenia, the **Association of Friends of Youth Ljubljana Moste - Polje** received funds for their **Study Buddy** project - a learning support program for 400 children and young people in the Central Slovenia region. The aim of the program is to help children improve their learning and social skills, knowledge, attitude towards school work and the school environment. They also want the initiative to empower their parents to gain more knowledge about how they can help their children. Learning support addresses the academic, social, behavioral and emotional needs of students and targets processes and resources that enable students with additional needs to participate in the school community.

Iza Tajnšek, coordinator of the Multigenerational Center Skupna točka in Ljubljana, says that the funds obtained are very valuable: *“The funds for the Study Buddy project will make it much easier for us to provide free learning support for pupils and students. Together with 75 volunteers, this school year we offer help to 110 children with their school obligations, also remotely. In addition to additional explanations and help, we also teach children independence and develop functional literacy. We sincerely thank the UniCredit Foundation for their support.”*

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