

Press information

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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."

"It is a fantastic opportunity for us to be able to do even more for our local communities with the help of the UniCredit Foundation here in Hungary as well. Supporting the education of young people can make the future of all of us even more successful." - said **Balázs Tóth, President and CEO of UniCredit Bank Hungary**.

"The Hungarian civil organizations prove year after year that they represent a high standard not only in recognizing social needs, but also in creating programs that offer adequate solutions to them. Therefore, the applications of Hungarian organizations were characterized by an extremely strong field and very close competition." - added **Csilla Dudás, senior communications manager of UniCredit Bank**.

The Hungarian winners are:

The beneficiaries of the **Bagázs Közhasznú Egyesület** project "*Growth with learning - Reducing the early school leaving of Roma*" will be 80 children, 80 parents, 15 teachers and 120 volunteers, located in Pest county: Bag és Dány. The aim of the program is to promote the further education of children aged 11-19 living in or coming from the two Roma settlements in Central Hungary with a complex support system that jointly manages the main obstacles related to children's learning. One of the goals of the project is to make visible the structural anomalies that hinder children's education and further education, since the role of the magnifying effect of systemic problems and disadvantages is significant in the differentiation between Roma and non-Roma. Another goal of the project is to strengthen society's responsibility in promoting equal opportunities.

The **Technological Education Foundation's** "Skool skills for a better life" project targets 1,200 children in several rural regions of Hungary. The 2.5-year holistic program aims high school students between the ages of 15 and 19, during which the students are provided with the development of coding knowledge and soft skills. Great emphasis is placed on the development of young people's personal and social competences through the experience of success and joyful learning processes, while increasing their self-confidence and preparation during the subsequent job search and career. More information: mediarelations@unicredit.eu

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