



GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR  
COOPERATION WITH NGOS



Europe for Citizens  
Programme

## Regional Europe for Citizens Forum 2012

We have the pleasure of inviting you to the Regional Europe for Citizens Forum, which will be held on **15th and 16th of November 2012** in **Hotel Turist, Varaždin, Croatia**.

Regional Europe for Citizens Forum 2012 aims to encourage civil initiative and participation in local communities through regional partnerships supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme. The focus is on the year 2013, as the “European Year of Citizens”.

The objective of the Forum is to provide **a platform for forming partnerships and developing project ideas**. Forum participants - representatives of civil society and local administrations from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia, will have the time for creative formation of potential partners' project ideas – future Europe for Citizens project proposals.

The format of the Forum is **Open Space Technology** which enables group discussion of common themes and identification of concrete cooperation plans through relatively short period of time. The goal of an Open Space technology conference is to create time and space for people to engage deeply and creatively around issues of concern to them. The agenda is set by people with the power and desire to see it through. Typically, open space meetings result in transformative experiences for the individuals and groups involved. It is a simple and powerful way to catalyze effective working conversations and to truly invite organizations to thrive in times of swirling change.

Working language is **English**, translation is not provided.

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### \* Open Space Technology

The conference structure is based on Open Space Technology without pre-determined agenda, only the highly interactive framework. This framework was not intended to tell people what to do and when. It will make possible to create a supportive environment in which all the participants will actively participate and give their contribution in forming partnerships and developing project ideas.

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Open Space works best when the work to be done is complex and the people and ideas involved are diverse. It's been called passion bounded by responsibility, the energy of a good coffee break, intentional self-organization, spirit at work, chaos and creativity, evolution in organization, and a simple, powerful way to get people and organizations moving -- when and where it's needed most.

The most basic principle is that everyone who comes to an Open Space conference must be passionate about the topic and willing to take some responsibility for creating things out of that passion.

Open Space Technology was created in the mid-1980s by organizational consultant Harrison Owen when he discovered that people attending his conferences loved the coffee breaks better than the formal presentations and plenary sessions. Combining that insight with his experience of life in an African village, Owen created a totally new form of conferencing. It has been applied in thousands of meetings around the world with between five and one thousand participants.



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### **Thursday, 15 November 2012**

14.00 – 15.00 Registration of participants and coffee

15.00 – 15.45 Introduction

- Igor Vidačak, Director of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs (ECP Croatia)
- Kossara Petrova, representative of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
- Hrvoje Marušić, Assistant Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

16.00 – 17.00 Open Space Technology conference

- Theme introduction
- Introduction to the methodology and overview of the process
- Market place

17.00 – 19.00 First round of Working session

19.00 – 19.30 Evening news

20.00 Dinner and informal gathering

### **Friday, 16 November 2012**

8.30 – 10.00 Second round of Working session

10.00 – 11.30 Third round of conversation Dialogue Sessions Working session

11.30 – 12.00 Preparation for the Gallery

12.00 – 13.00 Gallery: sharing comments, insights and commitments arising from the process

13.00 – 14:00 Closing circle

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch