

NITRA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS FROM NITRA



Nitra Community Foundation

Its mission is to improve the quality of life by promoting philanthropy and volunteering in the Nitra Region. The foundation's main activities focus on implementing community grant programs that support projects with a high share of volunteer work. So far, NCF has supported 1,409 community projects in the amount of more than 1.53 million euros. Its grant programs are not just about simply "giving money", but about building relationships with various stakeholders in the community. NCF is one of the stable partners of the municipality in the City of Nitra, corporate local donors and individuals who want to support volunteer activities in the Nitra Region. More information about NCF: **www.nkn.sk**

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SDGs and Community Foundations

The connection between community foundations and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been discussed as an important topic within the European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) since 2019. More than 2,000 community foundations (CFs) around the world are strengthening the sustainability of local communities. Local community foundation programs are closely related to the implementation of the SDGs. However, the contribution of these organizations to the implementation of the SDGs has not yet been fully recognized. CFs can raise community awareness of the SDGs through their programs and activities and achieve excellent results in this area. Community grant programs are among the most effective motivational tools for increasing community participation in the implementation of the SDGs.



Young Nitra Philanthropists MNF

The "Young Nitra Philanthropists" (MNF) program is aimed at activating youth aged 13-25, especially primary and secondary school students in Nitra. It allows young people to identify challenges in their environment and contribute to their solution based on the implementation of their own community projects. In 2021-2025, 177 young philanthropists (59 teams) successfully participated in the program, whose projects NCF supported with a total amount of €36,000. The results of these projects impacted more than 10,000 other young people.



The grant program is implemented in two main phases:

1. Educational workshops – in which teams of active young people identify community challenges and prepare their own community projects. The entire educational process is led by professional trainers/facilitators.

2. Implementation of own projects based on the grant call, which NCF announces annually. The foundation provides YNP with small grants, consultations on their applications, as well as support in the implementation of projects. Teams of young people under 18 are also supported by tutors (teachers, leaders of youth NGOs, etc.).

In 2024, NCF innovated the grant call for Young Philanthropists of Nitra by including SDG Goal 11 as a horizontal priority. It turned out that young people showed great interest in this topic and naturally incorporated it into their projects. The work and messages of five selected teams are presented in videos, which you can watch at → **this link**.

You can also find an overview of implemented projects from various program editions on our → **Dobromapa**.

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Our Findings and Recommendations

- It is essential to repeat the program in the form of a grant call every year. Any interruption leads to a decrease in youth interest.
- The educational part of the program is crucial. Find good trainers who can not only help young people prepare their projects but also motivate them to work as a team.
- Be patient. Give young people enough time and space to identify and carry out their own ideas.



„The project is founded by C.S.Mott Foundation under the Global Challenges Local Solutions Program run by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland."

AKADEMIA ROZWOJU FILANTROPII W POLSCE

GCLS

City of Nitra

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- Personal support of young people from the community foundation and mentors throughout the program is very important.
- Raise public awareness of the projects implemented by young people. Make them feel that their philanthropic efforts matter to all of us.
- Allow young people to present their results and openly share the feelings they experienced during the project. Help them reflect on what the project brought them.
- Always communicate with young people openly, truthfully, and honestly.