

# YOUTH CENTER ZAJECAR

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES



## HIGHLIGHTS

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**YOUTH CENTER ZAJECAR IS AMONG 20 SELECTED ORGANIZATIONS / ENTERPRISES**

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**ZAJECAR YOUTH CENTER REMAINS A CULTURAL LIGHTHOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY**

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**THERE ARE NO TABOO TOPICS IN THE CENTER**

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**A BIG STEP FORWARD TOWARDS CENTER'S SELF-SUSTAINABILITY IS MADE**

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## New Season in the Youth Center - New Challenges and New Opportunities

On the 22nd day of September, Youth Center Zajecar re-opened the door for young people and other citizens after the summer break. Once again, we were excited about all programs and events that will take place in the center in next 8 months and were ready to move forward. Providing quality cultural and artistic content for young people and opportunities for their personal growth and development of creative skills will remain center's priority in the upcoming period.

The center will also remain a central hub for the whole community to gather. Having in mind the shrinking media and physical space for public debates on critical community issues, the youth center will have a growing role in providing opportunities for citizens to participate in open discussions. We will also be working on center's sustainability through further improvement of its Youth Café through which income has been generated for the programs and running costs.



## Zajecar Youth Center Remains a Cultural Lighthouse

Youth Center continued proving its tremendous cultural importance for the whole community. In 2 months only, the center hosted 21 cultural events, including concerts, movie screenings, and performances. It is estimated that more than 1.000, mainly young people took part in these events. Particularly important is the fact that Youth center is also bringing international artists, what is quite rare for Zajecar (Brazil, Germany and Australia). The Center also continued providing space for different groups with different interests to meet, gather and act (e.g. the center regularly organizes exchanges of vinyls, cds and comic books), being recognized as a gathering place for the whole community.



## Youth Center is among 20 Selected Organizations / Enterprises

In November Youth Center Zajecar was selected among 20 organizations / companies that will receive support within Support Program for Companies with Positive Impact on Youth. Zajecar Initiative applied for highly competitive program 'The Youth Employment Promotion' that is being implemented as part of the German-Serbian development cooperation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia, by the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ). The goal of the program is to empower companies directly contributing to youth employment and thus stimulate a further decrease of unemployment among this social group. Youth Center will receive strategic consulting support in the improvement of doing business through working with experienced business consultants and entrepreneurs.



## There are no Taboo Topics in the Youth Center

Without independent media and open spaces for the dialogue, Zajecar Youth Center offers a unique space in the community for public discussions on key issues. Since the beginning of new season, the center has organized 2 public discussions: "Deadly Journalism – Informing, Citizens / Consumers, the Age After Truth", dealing with media freedoms and the future of journalism in the post-truth period and "Democratic Resistance to Authoritarian Trends in Serbia Today", discussing how new authoritarians in new European democracies have undermined press freedom and weakened various checks on the executive power, including legislatures, courts, anti-corruption bodies, central banks and various watchdog agencies.



## A Big Step Forward Towards Center's Sustainability

Since the beginning of new season, ZI has made an important progress related to the work of the Youth Center by succeeding to significantly increase the revenue of the Youth Café. This was achieved by employing new Café Manager, making innovations in café's interior as well as introducing new beverages and offering a range of new drinks. Also, marketing efforts improved. All of this together has attracted new people in the café. Such progress is very important for the overall sustainability of the center.

