

YOUTH CENTER ZAJECAR

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES



HIGHLIGHTS

**THE YOUTH CENTER
HOSTED THE BEST-
SELLING SERBIAN WRITER**

**YOUTH CENTER'S
CHARITY BAZAAR**

DIGING FOR MORE MUSIC

**SPACE FOR GENUINE
COMMUNITY DEBATES**

**SUPPORTING YOUNG HIP
HOP ARTISTS**

No Summer Break for the Youth Center

Our dream finally came true! Zajecar Youth Center will have its outdoor part. Using the financial support provided through the program The Youth Employment Promotion that is being implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ) and funds generated through the work of the Youth Café, Zajecar Initiative will put in order and adapt the backyard of the Youth Center.

The outdoor part will have around 120 square meters and will be equipped to provide cultural and educational content to young people during summer months. Particularly important is the fact that university students mainly spend their summer break at home, so Zajecar is full of young people during summer months. After many requests to continue offering space and content for youth in the summer time, Zajecar Initiative and the Youth Center are finally able to open the gates and organize movie screenings, discussions, workshops and cultural events under the open sky. The outdoor part will be opened in mid-June 2018.



The Youth Center Hosted the Best-Selling Serbian Writer

Marko Vidojkovic, the most popular Serbian writer of the young generation presented his new novel titled 'E bas vam hvala' in crowded Youth Center in December 2017. This novel has been a leading one in all top-lists in the region, attracting huge attention of young people across the countries. Marko spent two hours talking with audience about this book, his work and situation in the country. After the discussion, Marko continued talking with his young fans, while playing his favorite music as a DJ. He is also a singer of a famous Belgrade based punk group "On The Run". In his novels, Marko is as provocative as in his public life. He using a language that is direct and often obscene. Vidojkovic's novels are taking place in the streets of Belgrade, portraying angry and lost young people, drowned by lack of understanding and hypocrisy of the society. In last 10 months, Marko has also been running a very popular political TV show "The Good, the Bad, the Ugly", brining various guests.



Youth Center's Charity Bazaar

Youth Center continued organizing its traditional charity bazaars. In December 2017 and May 2018, in partnership with Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation and Inditex, two new rounds were organized in benefit of Jelena Majstorović School for Special Primary and Secondary Education. Inditex donated new clothes, while the students of this school have been repairing damaged pieces that were offered at the Bazaar. These charity bazaar attracted hundreds of people, while, around 1.500 euros was raised and donated to the school.

Diging for More Music

It started as an initiative of 3 young music enthusiasts from Zajecar. They turned the stage of Youth Center into the living room and invited people to join them to dig the music together. Since late February 2018, each Thursday, they have been bringing music lovers from the town to discuss and play various music genres and bands. Very soon, so called Diggin' Room became a popular way of spending Thursday evenings among young people in Zajecar. More digging is yet to come!



Space for Genuine Community Debates

In December 2017, ZI organized a special public debate as a support to CSOs 'Children Center' and 'Association for Support to People with L Down Syndrome'. Mayor of Zajecar made a decision to move out these organizations from the premises they are legitimately using in November 2017. The debate brought together a number of citizens that also wanted to support these CSOs. During this event, representatives of 'Children Center' and 'Association for Support to People with L Down Syndrome' debated possible solutions with a member of City Council in charge of civil society and mayor's deputy for about two hours,

Saša Stefanovic, the director of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS), also joined the discussion as a guest speaker. This was a first open debate that involved representatives of local government in last three years.



Supporting Young Hip Hop Artists

Timahi is a name behind the community of very young hip hop artists from Zajecar. These young people gathered with the aim to ensure that hip hop scene and culture will continue to live in the town. Youth Center Zajecar recognized the importance of this initiative and organized two live gigs of around 15 young hip hoppers. For many of them, this was the very first opportunity to perform live on the stage.

One of the Timahi members is Nikola Zivanovic - MC Johnny. This 18 years old boy is suffering of cerebral palsy but regularly participates in Timahi events.

