

EU can aid!

**Running its 55th year of solidarity.
With the hope to do more!**



**Maria
Siaulyte**

Board of Directors
Member

It all started as a reaction to the global imbalance of development and the injustice that it created within. That was back in 1967, when a group of passionate colleagues from the European Institutions decided to continue collecting funds from staff to support those on the far end of development. This way **eu can aid!** was born—an independent association driven by the incredible solidarity of EU staff and now proudly running its 55th year of collective action. Back in the day you may have known us as **Europe Third World!**

We see that our mission to support small NGOs and local communities, which do not have access to funding from major donors, stays relevant, needed and appreciated.



Over the years we saw a growing number of beautiful initiatives supporting those in need. We too grow and adapt

to the changing landscapes of aid, new definitions of development and reshuffling of needs. While responding to the changes around, we see that our mission to support small NGOs and local communities, which do not have access to funding from major donors, stays relevant, needed and appreciated

Last year alone we have received 272 applications requesting funding! Applications for micro-development projects from struggling communities in remote areas, mostly from African countries and India and some from Latin America. Those applications request little in comparison to some big aid projects, often no more than 5.000 euros but they are driven by real urgency and strong willpower to improve life and wellbeing of the local people. Projects aim for immediate results with lasting effects and request funding for water and electricity in schools, sanitary improvements in care centres, orphanages and educational premisses, equipment and facilities for vocational training, purchase of herds or seeds for agricultural activities. Projects aim for social impact, socio-economic improvements or have income generating objectives. The contributions from eu can aid! not only provide for basic needs but allow the communities to move forward feeling stronger and more independent.

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Selecting the applications for funding is not a simple task! Eu can aid! looks at the development projects from a holistic perspective considering a wide range of criteria. We ask if the product or service will be positively welcomed by the local society, if it will meet sustainability requirements. We research the local context, market, political situation and social order to ensure that the proposed development will be ethical and secure. We talk to the community leaders and representatives and try to learn more. And consult international partners when we lack access ourselves. Eu can aid! cares to enable the right people to take appropriate actions.

At eu can aid! we work hard to see more of such community empowerment! And we do it as volunteers, making the time for it after work, during our weekends and on holidays. Last year we had 30 volunteers dedicating their time and energy – evaluating proposals, communicating with the NGOs, following up on progress reports, attending meetings and helping to run the association. We are fortunate to be able to count on such

dedication. The 23 Committee members are also devoting their time on purely voluntary basis. All of this allows us to keep the running costs at about 2% and stream all the donations directly to the communities in need. We, of course, get our reward too – through accomplishments of the communities we supported, success stories of projects, smiles of the project partners and good energies of the eu can aid! team working together!

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What do we wish for this year and the upcoming ones? To be able to give more. Last year we were able to fund 35 proposals out of the 272 applications we have received. And there were many occasions where we had to say ‘no’ to promising ideas, sadly so, simply because our funds had reached the bottom. Our hope for the future is to have the possibility to award all the most promising ideas and to see more communities with improved livelihoods.

We are always open to new collaborations and grateful for new members!

See our [recent projects](#) and [support us](#) so we can do more.