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## Slovenia – Regional Red Cross Association Novo Mesto

### Dance and English Workshops

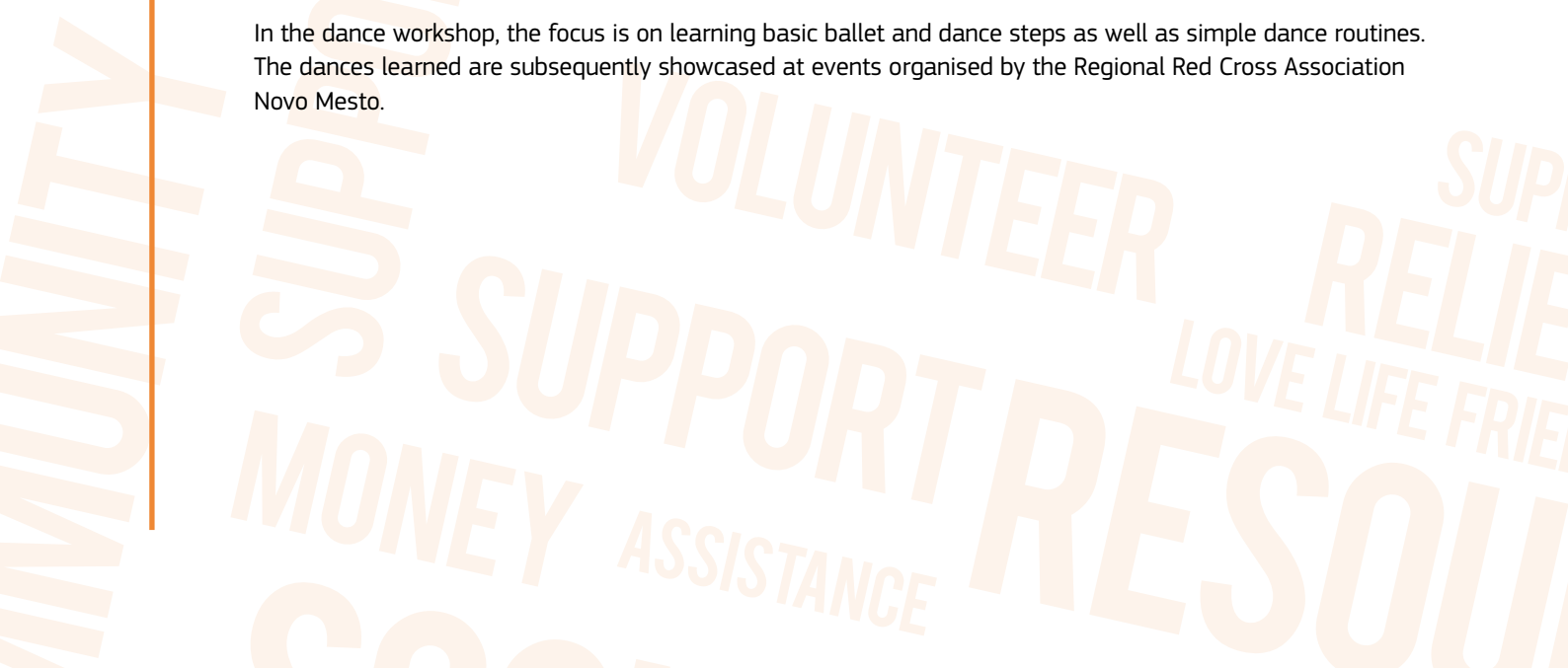
#### WHY?

Children from underprivileged backgrounds in Slovenia are often not able to participate in after-school classes and workshops, as their families are **unable to pay the required fees**. As a result, they're not given the opportunity to develop particular talents or improve their performance in school through extracurricular school support. The Regional Red Cross Association began supporting these young people in November 2016 by offering **free workshops in dance and English language** for the children of families benefiting from FEAD support.

#### WHAT?

The English workshop focus in particular on improving English vocabulary through a range of exercises. An emphasis is placed on developing conversational English, and the level and pace of the workshop is adjusted to the needs of the participating individuals.

In the dance workshop, the focus is on learning basic ballet and dance steps as well as simple dance routines. The dances learned are subsequently showcased at events organised by the Regional Red Cross Association Novo Mesto.





Participants from remote locations do not come regularly, because it is hard to come to the workshops. I do not know if the workshops have an affect on their knowledge, but it is pleasant for them to socialise and be entertained, particularly if the workshops are prepared outside. We try to speak in English.”

English workshop volunteer

## WHO?

The workshops are provided by the Regional Red Cross Association Novo Mesto in Slovenia. They are one of the partner organisations supplying FEAD food assistance while simultaneously offering a range of accompanying measures across Slovenia.

## HOW?

The English workshops are currently being carried out on Saturday mornings between 09:00 am and 11:00 am on the premises of the Regional Red Cross Association Novo Mesto. They are led by volunteers associated with the Red Cross.

The dance workshops are carried out on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am till 11:00 am, as well as on Friday afternoons from 7:00 pm till 9:00 pm at the dance hall of the Cultural Center Janez Trdina in Novo Mesto. The two different times are offered so that children could potentially attend both the English and dance workshops.

One of the main challenges in the programme is to ensure the **sustainable participation** of children in the workshops. It's been noted that regular attendance is a particularly important part of being able to make sustainable progress within a group.

To date, 12 English workshops have taken place, with an average participation of 7-10 children. There are two volunteers present at each workshop.

With regard to the dance workshops, there was generally one volunteer leading the workshop and 7-10 children participating. So far, 24 dance workshops have been offered.

For more information regarding the project, contact **Mrs. Barbara Ozimek** via:

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