**Association "Lauku Partnerība Sēlija" Launches the "We Can" Project to Promote Civic Engagement in Jēkabpils Municipality**

The association *Lauku Partnerība Sēlija* has launched the implementation of the *"We Can"* project in the rural areas of Jēkabpils Municipality. The project is being carried out within the framework of the *"NGO Fund"* program of the Society Integration Foundation.

The project aims to promote citizen participation in civic engagement processes by strengthening cooperation between residents, the non-governmental sector, and the public sector. It seeks to encourage community activity, involve citizens in addressing socially significant issues, enhance mutual trust and collaboration, and foster public participation in policymaking and decision-making processes.

Within the project framework, the following activities will be organized:

* **Dialogues and informational events** between residents, the non-governmental sector, and Jēkabpils Municipality specialists, politicians, deputies, including candidates for the upcoming elections, to foster effective cooperation and improve information exchange.
* **A research study** titled *"NGOs in the Rural Areas of Jēkabpils Municipality."*
* **Two networking visits/exchange trips** to strengthen collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
* **A series of short films** documenting rural communities in Jēkabpils Municipality that are driving positive change.
* **A community leaders' camp** titled *"We Can"*, led by an expert from the *Innovation Circle Network.*

The expected results of the project include an increased awareness of citizen participation in local development, a better understanding of the importance of civic engagement, and the creation of video materials highlighting community impact. Additionally, a detailed study of the NGO sector in Jēkabpils Municipality will be conducted, and community representatives will receive training on effective communication with government institutions and policymakers.

The project has been approved within the framework of the *NGO Fund* macro-project and will run from **January 6, 2025, to October 31, 2025.** The total project budget amounts to **€39,952.81.**

**Contact Information:**
Kristīna Rubina-Apinīte
*Lauku Partnerība Sēlija*
✉️ partneriba.selija@inbox.lv
🌍 [www.partneribaselija.lv](https://www.partneribaselija.lv)