

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE BLUE WINGS ASSOCIATION

## for the Year 2025

**Association name:** Blue Wings (Plava krila)

**Country:** Croatia

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## 1. Introduction

The year 2025 was exceptionally active and significant for the Blue Wings Association. Through numerous projects, campaigns, and advocacy activities, we continued to fulfil our mission: improving the quality of life of people living with pulmonary hypertension (PH), strengthening patients' rights, and increasing public awareness of this rare and severe disease in Croatian society.

Strong public health and humanitarian initiatives characterized our work throughout the year, marked by close cooperation with institutions, healthcare professionals, and industry partners, as well as active engagement within the international PHAEurope network.

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## 2. Projects and Financial Support

### 2.1. Zagreb County – Project “Blue Wings for Blue Heroes II.”

For the second consecutive year, Zagreb County recognized the continuity and quality of our work and provided financial support for the project “Blue Wings for Blue Heroes II”.

The funds were used for:

- production of educational video materials and podcasts,
- information and support for patients and their families,
- raising public awareness of pulmonary hypertension.

A key activity was the recording of an educational podcast with Dr. Mateja Janković Makek, a specialist from the National PH Reference Centre, which is available via social media and public digital platforms.

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## **3. Cooperation and Partnerships**

### **3.1. MSD**

- A working meeting was held with representatives of MSD.
- Financial support of **EUR 6,000** was secured for activities related to World Pulmonary Hypertension Day (WHPD).

### **3.2. Bauerfeind**

- Long-term partner Bauerfeind once again supported the association with a donation of up to **EUR 1,500**.

### **3.3. Croatian House of Breathing**

- Donation of promotional T-shirts for WHPD, valued at **EUR 3,500**, as recognition of the association's work and the importance of patient advocacy.
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## **4. World Pulmonary Hypertension Day (WHPD)**

### **4.1. Educational and Social Gathering – Plitvice Lakes (24 May 2025)**

- Gathering of patients and family members.
- Educational lecture on healthy nutrition for people living with PH.
- Art workshop “Paint and Breath” as a form of psychosocial support and community empowerment.

### **4.2. “Get Breathless for PH” Race – Saborsko & Plitvice (25 May 2025)**

- More than 300 runners participated in a public race dedicated to raising awareness of pulmonary hypertension.
  - The event achieved strong media visibility and public engagement.
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## 5. Awareness-Raising Campaigns

### 5.1. Via Adriatica – 1,100 km Get Breathless for PH

- Completion of the Via Adriatica Trail in support of people living with PH.
- **EUR 1,250** raised through a GoGetFunding campaign.

### 5.2. “Štefan Pedals for PH” / “4000 for 30.”

- A cycling journey of more than 3,000–4,000 km from Vukovar to Paris and back.
  - Strong national and international media coverage.
  - A humanitarian photography exhibition supporting the work of the Blue Wings Association.
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## 6. Advocacy and Institutional Dialogue

- A meeting was held at the Croatian Parliament with Member of Parliament Ljubica Lukačić.
  - Key topics included access to innovative therapies
  - Official letters and inquiries were sent to national PH reference centres regarding patients with PH-ILD.
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## 7. Professional and Public Events

- Participation in the 4th National Pulmonary Hypertension Meeting.
  - Participation in a panel discussion on philanthropy and charitable giving.
  - Continuous cooperation with healthcare professionals, institutions, and the wider expert community.
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## 8. Ambassadors and Volunteers

We would like to highlight the association’s ambassadors – runners and athletes who consistently promote the “Get Breathless for PH” message at races and sporting events in Croatia and abroad, significantly contributing to the visibility of pulmonary hypertension.

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## 9. Conclusion

In 2025, the Blue Wings Association reaffirmed its role as a strong, credible, and proactive patient organization in Croatia. Through a combination of public campaigns, education, advocacy, and institutional cooperation, we continued to build a society that better understands pulmonary hypertension and the needs of those living with this condition.

With commitment and optimism, we continue our work into 2026.

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*Report prepared by:*

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On behalf of the Blue Wings Association