



Information Legal Centre (ILC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

ILC is a non – profit organization registered in June 2002. It was created by transforming the Legal Center of the American humanitarian organization International Rescue Committee which started operating in Slavonski Brod in 1998.

Vision

Creating a positive environment for the promotion and protection of human and civil rights and social justice, for the purpose of democratization and civil society development.

Mission

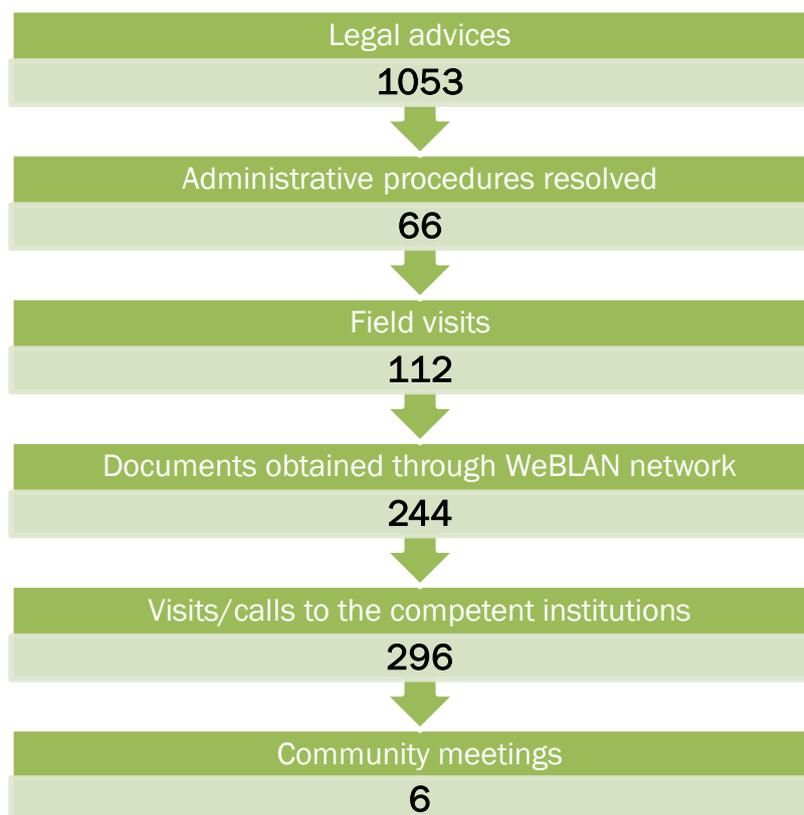
ILC Slavonski Brod is a civil society organization established for the purpose of providing legal assistance to socially vulnerable groups of the population in the exercise of their human and civil rights and for the strengthening of civil society and active citizenship in the area of our local community and the wider region.



PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The main objective of the project was to provide support and legal assistance to the Roma population in their systematic integration into the local community through the promotion and protection of human rights, providing them with free access to justice in matters relating to their statutory rights, which resulted in reduced number of people at risk of statelessness.

Since 2011, when ILC began with the implementation of the project, we managed to enter into the otherwise closed Roma community thanks to our mobile teams and to provide them with legal assistance and support in resolving their status issues. Our beneficiaries are persons of undetermined nationality, persons at risk of statelessness, stateless persons and persons without regulated stay in the Republic of Croatia. Although we have helped a large number of beneficiaries, information from the field indicate that our presence is still needed because the problems burdening the Roma community continue to accumulate, and their resolution is slow due to bureaucracy.



During the project implementation, ILC's mobile teams detected 53 stateless persons, persons at risk of statelessness and legally

Project title:

“Legal assistance to stateless and at risk of statelessness persons”

Implementation period:

1 January to 31 December 2015

Area of implementation:

Brod – Posavina County,
Vukovar – Srijem County,
Osijek – Baranja County,
Zagreb County

Donor:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

invisible persons. With the assistance and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders, 21 cases were successfully resolved.

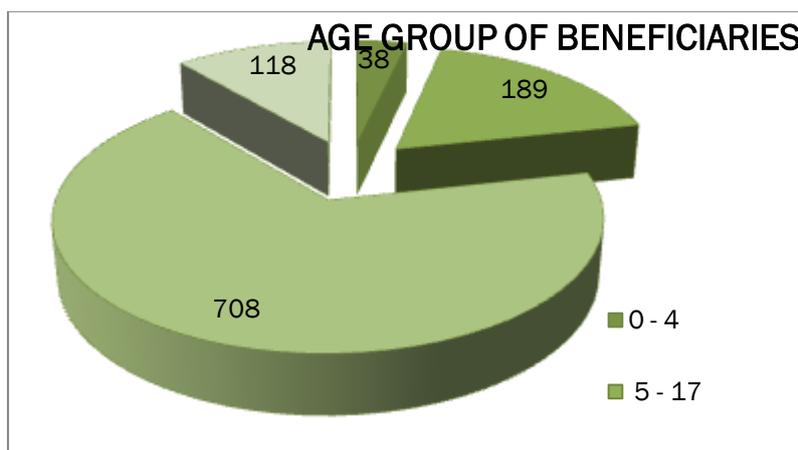
Persons who were born or who have been living for many years in the Republic of Croatia and were stateless or at risk of statelessness, regulated their citizenship status thanks to ILC's assistance. 12 beneficiaries were subsequently entered in the register of births and the register of citizens of the Republic of Serbia, 3 beneficiaries were admitted to the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina while 1 beneficiary was entered in the register of citizens of Montenegro.

With the financial assistance from UNHCR, the DNA analysis for four children who had previously been stateless was paid. After conducted proceedings, they were entered into the Book of Croatian citizens because their father is a Croatian citizen.

In addition, Croatian citizenship was granted to a person who was legally invisible over 40 years. ILC conducted this procedure with the assistance and cooperation of the competent institutions (Ministry of Interior and the State Administration Office). The procedure itself lasted almost a year and has ended with a positive outcome for our beneficiary.

At the end of the reporting period, ILC has registered 32 stateless persons or persons at risk of statelessness. Among registered persons, there were 10 children who did not possess birth certificates, who are legally invisible and without regulated residence.

For 10 beneficiaries who were faced with the decision to leave the Republic of Croatia, ILC has filed complaints to the competent Commission of Appeals. By the end of 2015, 8 complaints were adopted while the decision is yet to be made for the other two.



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On 30 June 2015 ILC and UNHCR organised an Expert Roundtable “Nobody should be stateless” in Zagreb. It provided an overview of the national and international legal aspects and recent trends of statelessness and additionally, it initiated discussions on the identification, reduction and prevention of statelessness, as well as on the legal protection and legal status of undocumented and legally invisible persons.

The aim was to draw the attention of the public institutions and representatives of Croatian authorities, as well as the general public about the problems faced by stateless persons. International experts from Hungary and Italy, representatives of the Central Government Administration, Office of the Ombudsman, local institutions, Roma National Minority Council of the City Zagreb, international organizations, civil society organizations, and the lawyers attended the roundtable that was closely covered by the media.

The intention of the ILC and the UNHCR was to provide insight into the EU Member States Best Practices to Solve Statelessness and include participants in discussion with international legal experts Dr Tamás Molnar, Chief international law advisor, Deputy State Secretariat for Hungarian Minorities and Diaspora, PM’s Office, Hungary and Mrs. Maja Bova, Expert on non-discrimination-related policies and Roma inclusion, Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities, National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR), Italy.

The roundtable was completed with the conclusion that erratic practice in resolving statelessness has to be changed. Also, it was suggested to plan a meeting of all engaged in that process with the Hungarian representatives so as to apply their best practices to prevent and reduce statelessness.

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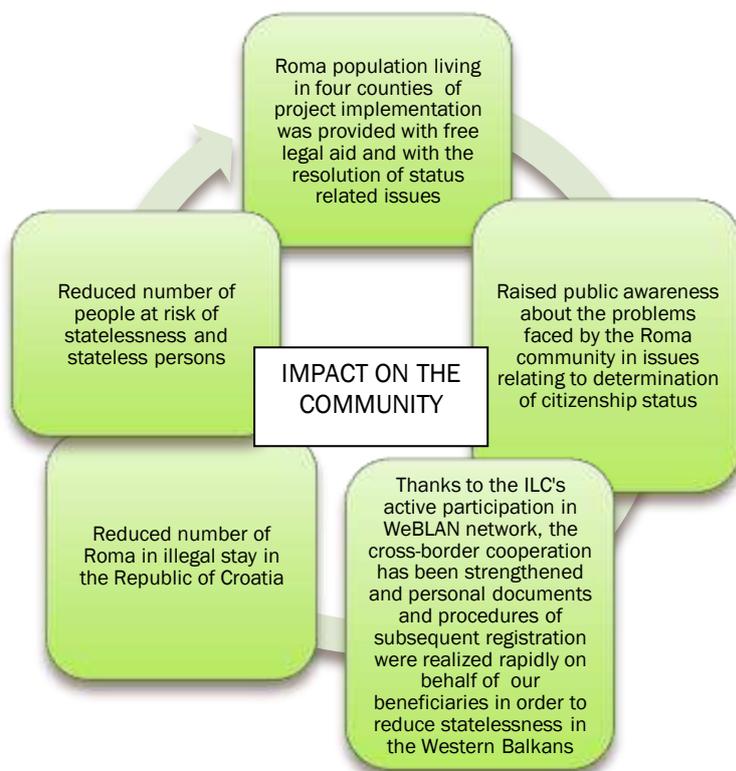
1 January to 31
December 2015

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Donor:

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1 January to 31 December 2015

Area of implementation:

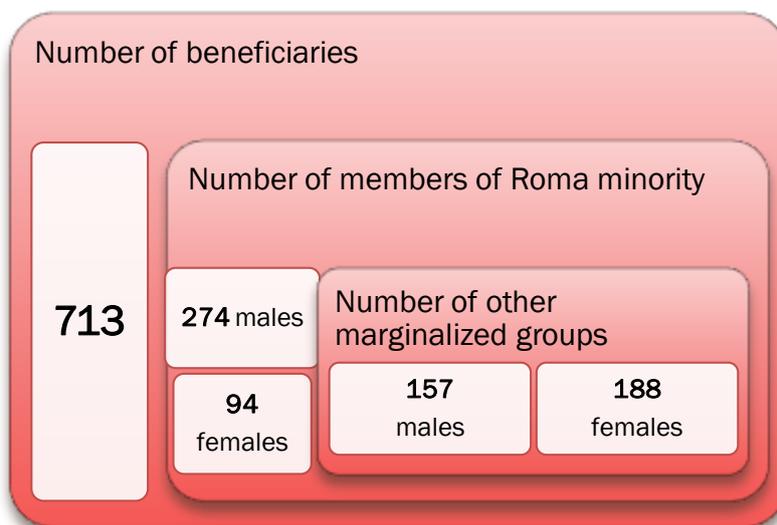
Brod – Posavina County, Vukovar – Srijem County, Osijek – Baranja County, Zagreb County

Donor:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The main objective of the project was to improve the situation of the Roma minority and other vulnerable and marginalized groups by providing equal access to rights and support in the form of primary legal aid in order to facilitate access to socio – economic rights.

ILC's office was the focal point for the coordination of all project activities and was available during office hours to beneficiaries in need of immediate legal advice by ILC's professional legal staff. Legal aid was also provided through a minimum of four monthly field visits to Roma settlements in Brod – Posavina, Osijek – Baranja, Vukovar – Srijem and Zagreb Counties, as well as through an open phone line and official mail.



Thanks to the primary legal aid we have provided to our beneficiaries, their access to rights in the social welfare system was greatly facilitated, as well as in enforcement

Project title:

“Legal aid to the Roma and other marginalized population in four Croatian counties“

Implementation period:

1 April to 31 December 2015

Area of implementation:

Brod – Posavina County, Vukovar – Srijem County, Osijek – Baranja County, Zagreb County

Donor:

Ministry of Justice

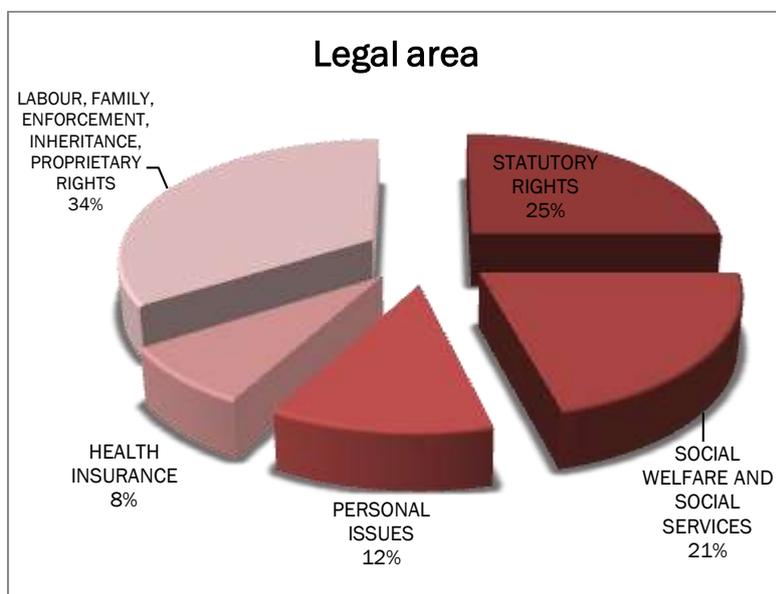
proceedings, health insurance, pension and labour rights proceedings under family law, inheritance, proprietary, law of obligations, tax law and the incurred debts and also in status issues.

Additional activities:

- Round table "Prevention of addiction among young Roma," with co-financing from other donors.

- Independent research was conducted on the availability of free legal assistance during field visits of ILC's two mobile teams to Roma settlements in the area of project implementation, and also in ILC's office premises on a sample of 200 beneficiaries. We have covered 51% of men and 49% women of the average age of 46.2 years.

ILC collected the highest number of questionnaires in Slavonski Brod (36%), Zagreb (22%) and Darda (10%), in places with largest Roma settlements in the project area. Statistically, according to counties, the highest number of questionnaires was collected in Brod – Posavina County (62%), followed by an equal number in Zagreb County (16%) and Osijek – Baranja County (15%) and 6% in the Vukovar – Srijem County in which Roma people do not live in ghettos and they are not segregated as in other counties involved in the project implementation.



ILC implemented all project activities in order to achieve the general and specific project's objectives and to empower individuals within these groups for active social involvement in their communities.

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“Legal aid to the Roma and other marginalized population in four Croatian counties“

Implementation period:

1 April to 31 December 2015

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Brod – Posavina County, Vukovar – Srijem County, Osijek – Baranja County, Zagreb County

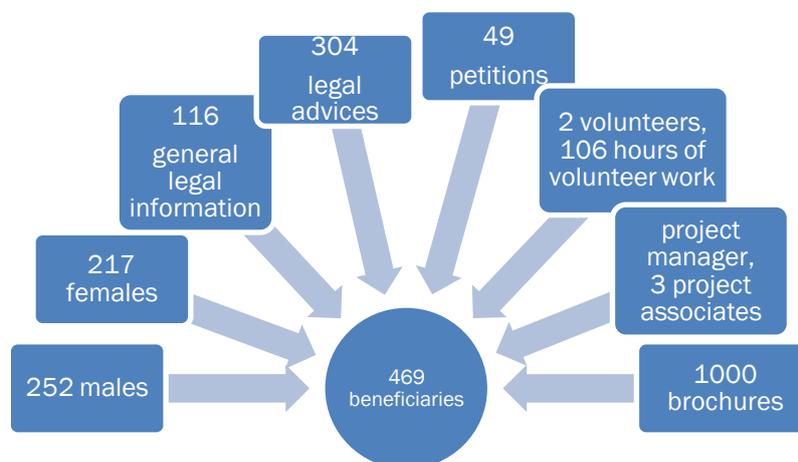
Donor:

Ministry of Justice

The main objective of the project was to improve the situation of elderly and infirm persons in Slavonski Brod through ensuring equal access to rights and support in the form of free legal assistance in order to facilitate access to human and socio – economic rights.

ILC implemented a number of activities to meet the objective of the project and to improve the situation of elderly and infirm persons in the area of Slavonski Brod by enabling equal access to rights and providing support in the form of free legal assistance in order to facilitate access to human and socio – economic rights.

Direct primary legal aid ILC provided was related to the conclusion of lifelong support contracts and contracts for support until death, including legal effects of the mentioned contracts. Additionally, legal aid was provided to 469 beneficiaries in our local community in matters relating to the realization of social welfare rights, personal status of citizens, health and pension insurance, inheritance law, proprietary rights, status rights, enforcement proceedings and other legal problems. In addition to primary legal aid, ILC created a brochure for the project beneficiaries, organized three public forums and one round table.



Public events:

TOPIC	DATE
Public debate <i>"Social justice for the elderly and infirm persons of the City of Slavonski Brod"</i>	13 March 2015
Public debate <i>"Abuse of elderly persons"</i>	15 June 2015
Public debate <i>"Fraud at the expense of the elderly persons"</i>	9 September 2015
Round Table <i>"The quality of life of elderly persons in the City of Slavonski Brod"</i>	28 October 2015

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Project title:

"Legal aid to the elderly and infirm persons in the City of Slavonski Brod"

Implementation period:

1 November 2014 to 30 October 2015

Area of implementation:

The City of Slavonski Brod

Partners:

Social Welfare Centre in Slavonski Brod

Association of Pensioners 'Third age'

Donor:

Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

The main objective of the project was to raise awareness of the local community about the problems and difficulties faced by marginalized Roma population in Slavonski Brod with the help of the Photovoice.

Project activities included:



During implementation of the project, ILC informed the Roma population in which way, with the help of modern media and Photovoice techniques, they can sensitize the general public to the problems and difficulties they face every day. Also, ILC encouraged the inclusion and involvement of a number of members of the Roma minority to initiate changes in society by organizing Photovoice education.

After the public exhibition of photographs taken by young Roma, general public was informed and sensitized about the problems of the Roma community in our local environment. A number of young Roma will continue to use Photovoice technique as means of pointing out the problems that exist in their community, which will also encourage positive changes in society and reduce the occurrence of discrimination against members of the Roma minority by the majority population.

In addition to accomplishment of the main objective of the project related to raising public awareness about the problems faced by Roma people in our local community, the specific objectives of the project were accomplished by the successful implementation of project activities, including that the attendants of Photovoice were familiarized with the concept and the opportunities offered to them through Photovoice, as well as of the ways of presenting their problems to the general public. Thanks to the exhibition of photographs and excellent media coverage, the general public was sensitized about the problems faced by marginalized Roma population.

Project title:

"Raising awareness of the local community about the problems and difficulties faced by marginalized Roma population in Slavonski Brod with the help of the Photovoice"

Implementation period:

1 May to 31 December 2015

Area of implementation:

The City of Slavonski Brod

Donor:

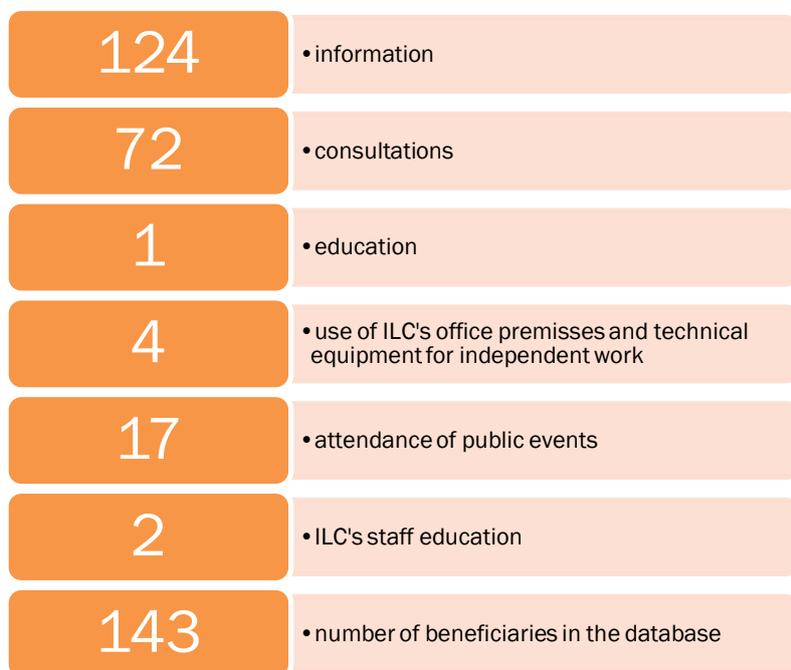
The City of Slavonski Brod

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The main objective of the program SALTER is to strengthen civil society and active citizenship through systematic and continuous support of all stakeholders interested in the development of local communities and democratization in Brod – Posavina, Osijek – Baranja, Vukovar – Srijem and Požega – Slavonia Counties.

In Brod – Posavina County, ILC has carried out activities that include the provision of advice, information and technical support in order to provide continuous support to the development of civil society and promote the values of civil society, volunteering and active citizenship through different media channels.

Results in 2015 include:



Project title:

"The regional program for the development of civil society and local communities in Croatia – Salter"

Implementation period:

1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016

Area of implementation:

Brod - Posavina, Osijek – Baranja, Vukovar – Srijem and Požega – Slavonia Counties

Regional support center:

Volunteer Center Osijek

County collaborating organizations:

PRONI Centre for Social Education (Vukovar), Information Legal Centre (Slavonski Brod) and Youth Association OPPIDUM (Pleternica)

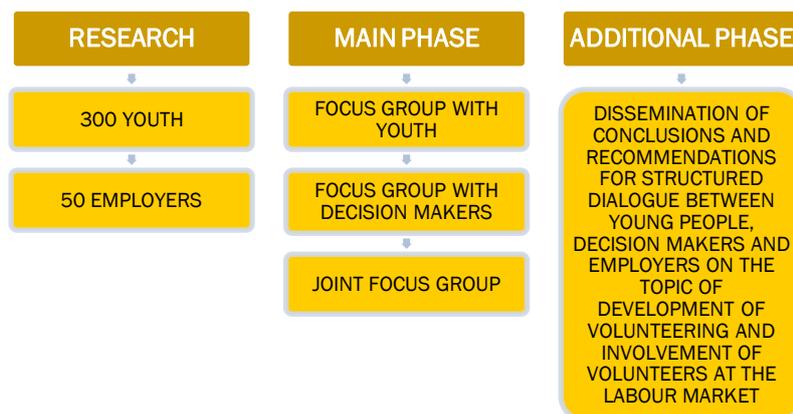
Donor:

National Foundation for Civil Society Development

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The project objectives were aimed at raising general awareness among citizens, especially among young people, about the importance and value of participation in volunteer programs, contributions to the community, opportunities for personal and professional development that extends through volunteering and also about raising awareness among employers about the importance of recognizing and evaluation of volunteer involvement and competences acquired through volunteering in order to facilitate the involvement of volunteers in the labour market.

Furthermore, the aim of the project was to encourage a wider network of relevant stakeholders, primarily members of local employment partnerships and the media, to actively promote and participate in the development of volunteer programs and strategies aimed at strengthening motivation of employers to recognize volunteerism and involvement of volunteers in the labour market.



Summarized conclusions and recommendations were disseminated throughout the region in order to achieve wider impact of the project on the target groups, strengthen the recognition and validation of voluntary work in practice, especially among employers and also to affect the strategic change in attitude towards volunteering and evaluation of volunteers in order to facilitate the inclusion in the labour market through the development of new measures within the County's Strategies for development of human resources.

Project title:

"I worth for two"

Implementation period:

4 May 2015 to 4 January 2016

Area of implementation:

Brod - Posavina, Osijek – Baranja, Vukovar – Srijem and Pozega – Slavonia Counties

Applicant:

PRONI Centre for Social Education

Partners:

Volunteer centre Osijek, Project Civil Democratic Initiatives (P.C.D.I) Beli Manastir, Oppidum Pozega, Information Legal Centre Slavonski Brod

Donor:

The European Union through the Erasmus +, Key Activity 3 (KA 3) - Support for policy reform - Structured dialogue: Meetings between young people and decision – makers in the field of youth.

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations to monitor, analyze and report on the implementation of policies related to good governance and anti-discrimination, to strengthen cross-sectoral partnership by establishing a local expert platform of civil society organizations, local government and public institutions in order to strengthen the principles of governance and anti – discrimination on the local level and a structured dialogue between civil society organizations, local governments and public institutions, national authorities and experts from the EU, with the support of the creation and promotion of new mechanisms for the monitoring of policies in the area of good governance and anti – discrimination.

Project activities include strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations, local government and public institutions through training and follow – up with experts from the Netherlands and the development of cooperation between them, regular motivational meetings with civil society organizations and local professional teams, monitoring good governance and anti – discrimination, creating local reports and final analysis/publication and organizing Regional Forum at the end of the project.

The project beneficiaries are small, local civil society organizations established to promote, exercise and protect the rights and interests of vulnerable groups (minorities, Roma, sex/gender, disabilities, young people) and human rights, representatives of local government and public institutions in charge of the implementation of these policies, and local Councils of national minorities, Government office for Human Rights, Ombudsman and other ombudsmen, citizens and the public.

Project title:

"Civil Society for Accountable Governance"

Implementation period:

30 December 2014 to 30 December 2016

Area of implementation:

Osijek, Beli Manastir, Slavonski Brod, Nova Gradiska, Pakrac and Lipik.

Main applicant:

Center for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights, Osijek

Partners:

Information Legal Centre from Slavonski Brod

Serbian Democratic Forum from Pakrac

PAX (Netherlands) and

Hague Academy for Local Government (Netherlands)

Donor:

The European Union through IPA 2011 „Strengthening Support to Civil Society Organizations for Increasing Transparency and Good Governance Public Administration in Croatia“.

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 to 29 May 2015 • Training "Monitoring policies related to good governance and anti-discrimination"
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivational meetings with civil society organizations from Slavonski Brod and Nova Gradiska
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivational meetings with local expert platforms in Slavonski Brod and Nova Gradiska
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of national partners
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey which monitors the level of implementation and the level of efficiency of "Guarantee for Youth" measures
58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey which monitors the implementation of measure 2.4.3. <i>To organize public work programs and to include long - term unemployed members of the Roma minority</i> in the Action Plan 2013 - 2015 for the implementation of the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys that determine the level and scope of implementation of measure D.2.6. <i>To provide mobile professional teams and/or personal assistant to assist and support the educational process and meeting the needs of children with disabilities</i> within the National Strategy for Children's Rights in the Republic of Croatia 2014 to 2020
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys which determine the type and the extent to which stereotypes associated with people with disabilities are dominant in targeted communities
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys which determine the extent of the application of Article 22 of the Constitutional Law on National Minorities, Article 9 of the Law on the State Administration and article 108, para. 4 of the Courts Act, which define employment of national minorities in the state administration and judicial authorities, and article 56.a. of the Law on Local and Regional Self-Government.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local professional platforms
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperations between civil society organizations

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Since the beginning of the refugee crisis in Croatia, ILC staff have been actively involved in assisting refugees who have passed the Balkan route, on their way to the western countries of the European Union.

In accordance with our financial capabilities and human resources, ILC employees went to the camp in Opatovac and provided direct assistance to refugees in the form of distribution of clothing and footwear, accompanying seriously ill persons to a doctor, provided general information on their whereabouts, etc. ILC carried out 4 field visits and volunteered 36 hours in the Temporary Refugee Camp in Opatovac.

After the opening of the Winter Transition Centre in Slavonski Brod on 3 November 2015, ILC set up a team of 10 volunteers-lawyers who provided legal assistance to refugees regarding the possibility of seeking asylum in Croatia and distributed leaflets in Arabic, Farsi and English with relevant information. In addition, we provided general information on their location, when to expect to move on, whether the borders were closed, etc. ILC volunteers had over 400 hours of volunteer work in 2015.

On 10 December 2015, the day when in 1948 the Declaration of Human Rights was signed and for the first time in the history of mankind the right of all people to "life, liberty and security - without any difference" was recognized, Information Legal Centre, together with the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) and Croatian Law Centre (CLC) organized celebration of International human rights day in the Winter Transition Centre.

Representatives of ILC, CPS, CLC, UNHCR and the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior Ranko Ostojic talked about the significance and importance of this day. In addition, as part of the program, ILC prepared exhibition of photographs which were taken during the "Photovoice" project in which local Roma population used Photovoice techniques to present their everyday life and hardship. Additionally, the messages of refugees in transit through Slavonski Brod about their comprehension of human rights were collected and presented by CPS volunteers.

REFUGEE CRISIS



TOTAL REVENUES:

998.976

Revenues from
international
organisations:
562.188

Revenues from the
state budget:
187.932

Revenues from the
local self government:
4.000

Revenues from
companies and other
legal entities:
239.805

Other revenues:
5.051

FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 1.008.677

Expenditures for employees (salaries including taxes and contributions):	600.195
Official travelling:	8.435
Compensation for other persons who are not employees:	60.000
Telephone, postage and transportation:	22.522
Current and investment maintenance service:	24.448
Communal services:	4.109
Office rent:	36.120
Intellectual services:	138.646
Computer services:	15.600
Other services:	32.047
Office supplies:	13.311
Energy:	32.565
Small inventory:	1.202
Insurance premium:	6.187
Representation expenditures:	4.208
Other material expenditures:	433
Amortization:	5.026
Banking fees and money transfer fees:	3.623

FINANCIAL REPORT 2015