

**Project name:** My Place Under the Sun (MPUS)

**Project promotor:** Center for Culture of Dialogue (CeKaDe)

**Partners:**

- City of Rijeka
- Center for Social Welfare, Rijeka (CZSS RI)
- Creative Cluster Kombinat
- Center for Peace and Conflict Studies of the University of Rijeka (CSMK-CPCS) (University of Rijeka)
- The Institute of Economics, Zagreb (EI)
- Society Our Children Gospić
- City of Gospić
- Fafo Research Foundation (Fafo Institute for Labour and Social Research), Oslo
- Rotary club „St. Vid“, Rijeka

**Project implementation period:** 1.1.2021. – 31.12.2023.

**Total project value:** € 180,116.31, of which € 143,000.00 was provided through financial support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the European Economic Area and Norwegian grants

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**Link to relevant website:** <https://mojemjestopodsuncem.com>

**Project summary:**

My place under the sun project is focused on the problem of urban poverty of children in the city of Rijeka and Gospić. In Rijeka, about 500 children of primary school age live in poverty, while in Gospić there are about 1200. Urban poverty is a special form of poverty in which the socio-economic gap among children is more pronounced. Solving this complex problem requires different agents of change; cooperation between civil society organizations, public institutions, local authorities, the private sector and citizens is important. Therefore, the project is implemented in partnership with the City of Rijeka, Center for Social Welfare Rijeka, Association Creative Cluster Kombinat, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Rijeka, Institute of Economics Zagreb, Society Our Children Gospić, City of Gospić, Norwegian Research Institute Fafo Research Foundation and Rotary Club „St. Vid“ Rijeka. During the three years of the project, various activities will be carried out. First, a survey of 140 households with children living in poverty in the Rijeka and Gospić area will be conducted to find out how families cope with difficulties and whether current institutional strategies meet their real needs. In the light of the insights derived from the results of this research, recommendations will be provided in the new Development Strategy of the City of Rijeka. This project is the basis for creating an intersectoral platform that will connect all important stakeholders in the fight against poverty in the City of Rijeka: local authorities, civil society organizations, the business sector, social services, public institutions such as kindergartens and schools and the Center for Social Welfare. One of the first initiatives of this platform will be to connect public and private catering facilities with needy children for the purpose of donating hot meals, which also prevents excessive food waste at the local level. An important role in

this will be played by high school students from Rijeka, who will learn how to advocate, implement and promote the model of donating hot meals in the long run as part of Civic Education.

Through volunteer engagement, citizens will have the role of direct support to children living in poverty through: learning assistance, interactive workshops (sewing, computer science, creative expression, cooking, music workshop, acting...) and participation in cultural activities (going to the cinema, theater, museums, etc.) that would not otherwise be available to children from families in conditions of poverty. In addition, professional psychosocial support will be constantly available to children and parents to help them cope with their difficulties.