

Project name: CENTER FOR THE INTEGRATION OF FOREIGNERS

Project promotor: Civil Rights Project Sisak (PGP Sisak)

Partners:

- City of Sisak
- Civic initiative "My city Sisak"
- Norwegian Refugee Council, Norway

Project implementation period: 01.01.2021. – 31.12.2022.

Total project value: € 150,000.00, of which € 135,000.00 was provided through financial support from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the European Economic Area and Norwegian grants.

Contact person for more information: Milana Kreća, milana.kreca@crpsisak.hr, pgp-sisak@crpsisak.hr

Link to relevant website: <https://www.crpsisak.hr/>

Project summary:

The Center for the Integration of Foreigners project in Sisak is a new model for the protection of the human rights of foreigners who do not have a resolved status in the Republic of Croatia. Serb returnees, stateless persons / at risk of losing citizenship, Roma, applicants for international protection and persons granted international protection, refugees relocated from Turkey through a resettlement program, except in Zagreb, have nowhere to turn for comprehensive assistance in one place. The center will operate in Sisak but will operate throughout the Republic of Croatia.

The project will enable there to be a place where foreigners can come for help, and where they will get that help, because the Center will systematically work on international protection and legal aid to all foreigners, in cooperation with all state bodies. In the Republic of Croatia, this is the first such model of comprehensive support to foreigners in one place. The Center for Foreigners will provide permanent assistance through integrated legal, psychosocial and other services.

PGP was established with the help of the Norwegian Refugee Council, and the project will enable the continuation of bilateral cooperation between Croatia and Norway. Partner Civic Initiative "My City of Sisak" will provide psychosocial assistance and participate in activities of social inclusion of users in the local community, and the City of Sisak will enable the sustainability of the project, because it plans to build Center for Support of Vulnerable Groups in Sisak, which will build on the results of this project. By monitoring the legislation through cooperation with the academic community, lawyers and attorneys, civil society and the Office of the Ombudsman, we will point out the problems in practice and initiate changes. We will develop a new form of communication with representatives of public institutions for the purpose of better changes in the application of laws relating to foreigners. We will hold Croatian language courses, and foreigners and locals will participate in the workshops in order to connect and overcome cultural barriers.

The project will strengthen human rights associations dealing with the issue of foreigners in the Republic of Croatia so that they can promote the rights of foreigners with unresolved status, as well as work on resolving the issue and will inform and raise public awareness of the issue of foreigners. Attention will be paid to discrimination with an emphasis on racial or ethnic origin and religion, which applies to most foreigners.