

Project promoter: Association ANCHOR – preschool teachers in the protection of children right in preschool

Project title: THE LAW FOR EQUALITY – equally accessible, equally safe and equally quality preschool for every child in Croatia

Project implementation period: November 25, 2021 – February 25, 2022

Total project value: 4.969,50 EUR

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Link to relevant website: <http://udruga-sidro.hr/>

Project summary:

The project is an urgent response to the poor amendments to the Law on Preschool Education, which are entering the procedure. We will influence change by strengthening the advocacy role of civil society and civic awareness, activating citizens and CSOs, sending amendments. The existing legal framework gives autonomy to local authorities, which currently, do not invest adequate financial assistance in early and preschool education. As a result, in many areas the quality of kindergartens is too low, or not available at all. The needs for kindergartens are large, there are too many children in groups, and Croatia has committed itself to increase the percentage of children enrolled in preschool. That commitment must not mean that quality will continue to deteriorate, and that is exactly what is happening. Children stay in inappropriate small spaces, there is no professional staff due to the wrong policy of education, internship and employment. Children with disabilities are excluded from the program because the current system cannot provide them with basic conditions. The food in kindergartens is insufficient and low-quality, non-professional staff are hired because professional resources are deemed too expensive, and all that is supported by a bad legal framework. Insufficiently defined, subject to arbitrary interpretations by individuals, leads to multiple discrimination. The announced legal changes encourage further such actions and we want to correct that. By advocating, public appearances and digital campaigns, performances, sending amendments and submissions to the legislator, we will influence the adoption of better legal changes. For end-users, preschool children, stop discrimination based on place of birth, property status, place of work of their parents, especially children with disabilities. Because of unequal possibilities of local authorities, and the fact that the state does not allocate funds for preschools, we will advocate a legal change in the method of financing, to achieve a balanced investment in education.