

**Project title:** Early Childhood Intervention Coalition

**Project promotor:** Croatian association on early childhood intervention – CAECI

**Partner:** Department of Education and Youth - The City of Reykjavik, Iceland

**Project Implementation Period:** 1st September 2022 – 30th November 2023

**Total value of the project:** EUR 85,000.00, The Programme finances 100 % of the acceptable project costs

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**Links to relevant websites:** <https://hurid.hr/>; <https://www.facebook.com/HURID.RanaIntervencija>

#### **Project Summary:**

Early childhood intervention (ECI) is a system of individualized and effective services that experts of various professions (doctors, speech and language therapists, pedagogues, psychologists, educational rehabilitators, social workers, etc.) provide in the child's natural environment when he or she has developmental difficulties or is at risk, from birth to the time he or she goes to school. Croatia does not have a high-quality ECI system in place, and it functions poorly in [rural, remote and less developed environments](#). Establishing the system requires social dialogue and cooperation of stakeholders from different sectors and professions as well as local, regional and national decision-makers. Also, an important factor in the system are non-government organizations. The project will be implemented in the Krapina-Zagorje County and aims at NGO's that are small in number, unconnected, and want to strengthen their capacities for advocacy and develop a modern approach to ECI. The project will sensitize communities and associations to the challenges of families and children with developmental risks and/or difficulties in order to jointly improve the advocacy process for the creation of a comprehensive system. Stakeholders of the project will join together in the ECI Coalition. For adequate advocacy of specific changes, it is necessary to strengthen their capacities and gain accurate and relevant data on the needs of the families and children. The research will be conducted by psychology students of the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation in Zagreb in cooperation with the associations, and thus, the data will be obtained for evidence-based advocacy. Coalition stakeholders will be educated and empowered for advocacy, mutual cooperation and application of modern early intervention concepts. The project partner will transfer their expertise to strengthen cooperation between different stakeholders and provide online support. Events (conferences, public forums, round tables) will sensitize the general and professional public. Through the project, active citizens and vulnerable groups will be strengthened and the practice of creating social justice in society will be connected between Iceland and Croatia.