

Project title: Promotion and advocacy of an integrated drug addiction treatment program of mothers and pregnant women in communion with their children

Project leader: Center for Women, Mothers and Children - RETO

Partners: Foundation „Reto for hope“

Project implementation period: September 1, 2022 – November 30, 2023

Project total value: 29.972,53 €

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Link to relevant internet pages: <https://www.retocentar.hr/studijsko-putovanje-u-norvesku/>

Project summary:

The project addresses the issue of the violation of social and human rights of mothers and pregnant women struggling with addiction, who are often faced with gender-specific stigmatization and discrimination. These challenges arise due to inadequate social support from public services and a lack of cooperation among relevant stakeholders. The project's goal is to support these women by promoting interventions that protect the best interests of the child with minimal restrictions on the mothers' rights, and by fostering intersectoral collaboration to highlight challenges and opportunities in working with this population.

The following activities will be implemented as part of the project, with a focus on achieving tangible results:

- Development of a database and report on the needs and challenges of mothers and pregnant women struggling with addiction – through quantitative research, to ensure a relevant and accurate foundation for policy and program development;
- Enhancement of the competencies of professionals and stakeholders through training and consultations – measured by the number of trained individuals and the practical application of the acquired knowledge;
- Raising public awareness about gender discrimination and addiction issues through a campaign – aimed at reducing stigmatization, with progress tracked through the campaign's reach and changes in the target groups' perceptions;
- Increasing the participation of young professionals from helping professions in supporting women struggling with addiction – by providing volunteering opportunities, measurable through the number of engaged volunteers and their contributions;
- Strengthening the organizational capacities of the association – by ensuring sustainable tools and processes that enhance efficiency in program implementation, monitored through evaluations of organizational capacities before and after the project.



Collaboration with a Norwegian partner will facilitate the transfer of innovative integrative treatment methods and their adaptation to local conditions. Dissemination of scientific data on the benefits of the integrative approach aims to ensure its impact on shaping public policies, with the potential for replication in other local communities.

The project is expected to achieve a long-term positive impact by reducing stigmatization, improving the rights of beneficiaries, and strengthening social solidarity, significantly contributing to the priority program area.