

THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERVIEW – IMPACT4VALUES

CALL 1 – SMALL AND MEDIUM PROJECTS

SMALL PROJECTS

10. SIDRO ASSOCIATION - EDUCATORS IN THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN KINDERGARTEN: I4V – EDUCATION – A RIGHT, NOT A GIFT!

Contact	Katarina Turković Gulin, info@udrug-a-sidro.hr
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Project duration	18 months (1.1.2024 – 30.6.2025)

Education begins in kindergarten, early and preschool education programs, and this is a value recognized by the EU as a priority and right of every EU citizen and every child. Scientific studies show that children who attend kindergarten achieve significantly better results in further education compared to children who did not attend kindergarten. By preventing individual children from accessing this first step of education we put them in a disadvantageous position and in a position of discrimination, if we compare their position to the position of children to whom the education is available at this age. At the moment in the Republic of Croatia at the national level, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, only 57.8% of early childhood children attend kindergartens and preschool age, while the European standard is 97%.

Starting from the fact that education is the right of every child and not a gift that a state might or might not opt to give and being aware that by denying that first step of education we put the child in a weaker starting position, we want to influence the adoption of quality national and local regulations that will guarantee equality to the child. It is necessary to make the public aware of the values and importance of the first level of education and to influence decision-makers in order to ensure equally accessible, safe, affordable and quality kindergarten education for every child.

That is why we will ask for changes to the Law on Preschool Education and the drafting of unified Regulations about enrollments in kindergartens.

Expected project results:

With a public campaign to raise awareness about the importance of early and preschool education and the inequalities in the availability, affordability and quality of that education, we will influence the increase in awareness about the need to harmonize national and local regulations so that all children have the same conditions for enrollment and attending this first level of education. With this project we will increase the share of citizens who recognize the importance and value of the first step of education and the share of employees in kindergartens who will actively participate in advocacy activities. We will influence changes in national and local regulations aimed at equalizing the

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availability of kindergartens to every child, especially the unified Ordinance on enrollments in kindergarten, respecting local and regional specificities.

Activities:

- Public awareness raising campaign on the importance of the first stage of education
- Survey of public opinion - do we know the value of attending kindergarten?
- Forums of citizens where we will highlight challenges and difficulties
- Round tables where the expert public will propose solutions
- Final conference where we will present the results, guidelines and conclusions, and deliver them to the decision-makers at the national and local level and demand changes.