

## THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERVIEW – IMPACT4VALUES

### CALL 2 – ACTIONS FOR DEFENDING EU VALUES

#### 2. Green Istria Association, „Citizens for the City – inclusive and participatory creation of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Children with Developmental Difficulties of the City of Pula”

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<b>Funding awarded</b>	10.000,00 EUR
<b>Project duration</b>	7 months (26.02.2024-25.09.2024)

This project responds to the opportunity to embrace the initiative of organizations for the establishment of a Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Children with Developmental Difficulties, as well as the proposal to involve the entire local community in the process of creating the Commission. To address this opportunity, the project enables the participation of citizens, specifically persons with disabilities, parents of children with developmental difficulties, and the organizations that support them in this process.

The process is based on the values of inclusion and participatory democracy, allowing all citizens, regardless of their disabilities, to be equally involved and encouraging their democratic engagement, participation in decision-making, and collaboration with representatives of the authorities. It connects persons with disabilities, parents of children with developmental difficulties, supporting organizations, citizens, and experts to collectively prepare proposals for decisions that will form the basis of the future work of the Commission for the City of Pula.

Advocacy for the acceptance of these proposals and the participatory establishment of the Commission in the City of Pula is encouraged. Persons with disabilities and parents of children with developmental difficulties are the best experts on their own needs. Therefore, they should be the key actors in shaping the policies that affect them. Their active and continuous engagement in the future work of the Commission will enable this. The collaboration established by the project among citizens, civil society, and representatives of the authorities will create the foundations for a higher quality local policy and support system for these vulnerable groups.

#### Main Project Goals:

- Improved understanding among experts from the civil and public sectors, regarding the framework of the Zagreb Commission for Persons with Disabilities (OSI) and enhanced collaboration between the civil and public sectors.
- strengthened civil society, persons with disabilities (OSI), and parents of children with developmental difficulties (DTUR) for advocating the inclusion of vulnerable groups in local decision-making processes.

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- Increased opportunities for intersectoral cooperation and sectoral collaboration (between the City of Pula, Istria County, and the City of Zagreb).
- Enhanced quality of democratic processes in Pula.
- Increased awareness among citizens about the necessity of civic participation to ensure participatory democracy, rights, and inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- Increased cooperation between the City of Pula and the Working Group, along with a greater willingness from the City of Pula to accept the proposals from the Working Group.
- promoted mechanisms and processes of participatory/direct democracy – the future intersectoral Commission for OSI and DTUR of the City of Pula, as well as the implementation of an inclusive and participatory process for creating part of the local policy for OSI: the key policy framework for the work of the Commission for OSI and DTUR of the City of Pula – criteria for the call for members of the Commission and the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, with the participation of OSI, parents of DTUR, and supporting civil society organizations (OCD).

#### **Expected Project Results:**

**ACHIEVED IMPACT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION AND ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMISSION IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (OSI) AND CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFICULTIES (DTUR) (a minimum of 2 decisions from the relevant authorities of the City of Pula include recommendations).**

Decisions for the protection of the rights of OSI and DTUR are developed within an inclusive and participatory process, namely the work of the Working Group for the establishment of the Commission, which includes persons with disabilities, parents of children with developmental difficulties, supporting organizations and experts, as well as interested citizens. Public consultation on the decisions is conducted online for 30 days, and they take their final form during three meetings of the Working Group. These decisions also serve as key publications of the project, created in accessible formats (in addition to the basic form, an audio format for visually impaired individuals, a video format in Croatian sign language for hearing-impaired individuals, and a format in easy-to-understand language for those with hearing impairments) and in an open (Creative Commons) format intended for further development.

#### **INCREASED AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT OF THE INTERESTED PUBLIC AND LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH AN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN**

This campaign raises awareness and encourages the engagement of the interested public and local community – an alliance of local civil society organizations (OCD) supporting OSI/DTUR and their parents is formed, and their members are included in the inclusive public action „About Us, With Us,“ aimed at mobilizing support from the broader community and citizens for the active participation of OSI, parents of DTUR, and the organizations that support them.

## Achieved results:

During the project implementation period from February 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 to September 25<sup>th</sup> 2024, **Result 1 - Impact on the establishment of the Commission and the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission in the field of protection of the rights of PWDs and DTUR (min. 2 decisions of the competent authorities of the City of Pula include the recommendations of the Beneficiary)** was achieved. After the study trip to Zagreb, the establishment of the Working group for the Participatory Creation of the Commission for the People with disabilities and CDID of the City of Pula has started.

The operational core of the Working group consisted of local experts for PWD/CDID and which has drafted a proposal for the basic policy framework for the work of the future Commission, which consisted of Decisions on the establishment of the Commission, a Public tender with criteria for selecting candidates for the Commission's members, the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, Decisions on the amount of remuneration for members of the Commission, the Commission's Code of Ethics and Decisions on prior consent to the Rules of Procedure and the Code of Ethics.

**Result 2 Increased awareness and engagement of the interested public and the local community through an advocacy campaign** was also achieved. The initial draft, after consultation with CSOs that provide support for PWDs and CDID/parents, and the city of Pula, was submitted to a public consultation that lasted 30 days, and 45 citizens, associations, institutions participated in it, and the same number of opinions/comments were received. /proposal/comments. During the public consultation, the public action "About us with us" was held, where about 70 citizens gathered, where through a conversation with representatives of the City of Pula, the first proposals of citizens for the City of Pula related to the Commission on Persons with Disabilities and Children with Disabilities were presented in the development of the City of Pula.

An online campaign was also carried out during which 8 announcements were published, 2 jingles were made (broadcast as part of the Radio Rojc program), 1 e-newsletter was delivered to people who had pre-registered to receive it, 10 announcements were made on the Beneficiary's website and 28 announcements on media websites and other civil society organizations and institutions, the project coordinator was a guest on radio shows 4 times, 22 posts on Beneficiary's social networks (9 Facebook, 5 Instagram, 8 Youtube) and 25 posts on social networks of other organizations and institutions. The campaign was supported by 7 CSOs that support PWD/CDID/parents through announcements through their own communication channels. In total, the reach of 1,742,739 users of communication channels was achieved.

Based on the input from the public consultation as well as the public action, the final proposals for implementing local regulations in the area of protection of the rights of PWDs and CDID (2) were created and 4 of them were accepted: Rules of Procedure, Criteria for selecting members of the Commission, Code of Ethics and the model of the Commission.