

## THIRD PARTY PROJECT OVERVIEW – IMPACT4VALUES

### CALL 1 – SMALL AND MEDIUM PROJECTS

#### MEDIUM PROJECTS

#### 9. Centre for Peace, nonviolence and Human Rights - Osijek: Community Service Without Compensation – Social (In)Justice?!

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<b>Funding awarded</b>	59.218,88 Eur
<b>Project duration</b>	18 months (1.9.2023 –28.2.2025)
<b>Project partner</b>	Centre for Peace Studies

The project focuses on the issue of **mandatory participation** of guaranteed minimum benefit recipients in **unpaid community work**. We believe that the provisions of the Social Welfare Act, which define the measure of unpaid community work, are **discriminatory** and violate the **economic and social human rights** of guaranteed minimum benefit recipients. These rights are also guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, which leads us to consider the measure **unconstitutional**. In this project, we will first examine how the measure is implemented in practice and identify which international legal documents this measure violates. Based on the collected data, we will compile a document for the authorities explaining why the measure is problematic and provide our **recommendations** for correcting this issue. Throughout the project, we will conduct a **public awareness campaign** to inform the public about this measure and the human rights violations it entails. Additionally, we will support the affected recipients by providing **free legal aid**.

#### Expected Project Results

The project aims to influence the **Social Welfare Act** to align it with the legal framework of the Republic of Croatia. Through a **situational analysis**, we aim to determine how the measure is implemented across different parts of Croatia, how recipients experience participation, how its shortcomings are reflected in practice, and how many recipients have been sanctioned and why for not participating in the measure.

Furthermore, by analyzing **international agreements** and rulings of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), we intend to draw **expert conclusions** about the legal foundation of the measure. Despite the existence of similar measures, no such analysis currently exists in English or Croatian. These analyses will serve as the foundation for preparing an **advocacy campaign** and as preparation for potential **strategic litigation** at the national and international levels (particularly before the ECtHR). The **awareness campaign** aims to influence three levels:

1. **General Public:** To raise awareness about the causes and consequences of poverty, fostering greater empathy and solidarity in society.

2. **Benefit Recipients:** To inform them of the unfair and potentially discriminatory consequences of the measure and empower them to seek **legal advice** from providers of free primary legal aid.
3. **Decision-makers:** To clarify the legal and democratic deficits of the measure and, through quality proposals and analyses, encourage them to improve the **Social Welfare Act** and social policies to make them more just.

Additionally, the project will provide **direct legal aid** to **300 social welfare recipients** across **4 locations** in Osijek-Baranja County and through the free information hotline **0800 900 880**. With the support of our partners, we will also ensure this service is accessible to **guaranteed minimum benefit recipients** in the City of Zagreb and Zagreb County.