Civil Rights Project Sisak

Sisak, 2018
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Civil Rights Project Sisak is beneficiary of institutional support of the National Foundation for Development of Civil Society for stabilization and/or development of NGOs.
The Civil Rights Project Sisak (CRP Sisak) is a non-governmental, non-political, unprofitable, humanitarian organisation, registered in Sisak on 2 December 2003, with a support of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

The goal of the organisation is promotion and protection of human rights, development of political culture and local community, development of civil society, promotion of social partnership and intersectoral dialogue, development of intersectoral and sectoral cooperation, fighting against corruption, fighting against violence, poverty and for social inclusion, development of rural areas, raising awareness on ecological issues, providing humanitarian aid, development and strengthening of democracy and humanism, etc.
Our activities

In order to achieve its goals, the organisation performs the following activities:

- development of civil society and local communities
- monitoring of public policies and advocacy
- providing assistance to citizens in protection of their civil and human rights
- education for democracy in society
- providing free legal aid and relevant information
- providing humanitarian aid
- protecting minorities
- stimulating ethnic and religious co-operation
- development of rural areas
- developing co-operation with similar organisations in the country and abroad
- supporting civil initiatives and economic development
- strengthening local democracy through the participation of citizens in decision making and development of pluralistic and multicultural society as a basis for the construction of a community that fits its citizens.
Since 1999, when the office in Sisak was opened, CRP Sisak, as it continues the work of NRC, provided free legal aid, including in-court representation, to more than 23,000 citizens in more than 60,000 cases, mostly returnees, refugees, IDPs and socially vulnerable persons.

The organisation goals demand co-operation and co-ordination of work with other civil society organisations in the country and abroad, as well as the authorities in the Republic of Croatia and abroad. Since 2011, CRP is implementing partner of UNHCR. CRP is a member of BURA – anticorruption network, ENAR – European Network Against Racism, Informal Antidiscrimination network, Platform 112 and other networks and initiatives.

Since 2009, CRP Sisak has been authorised legal aid provider registered with the Ministry of Justice.

In 2012, CRP Sisak became the Regional Contact Point of the Ombudsman in fighting against discrimination for the region of Central Croatia. Since 2017, CRP continues its co-operation with the Ombudsman, as we were re-elected as antidiscrimination contact point of the Ombudsman.

CRP Sisak has a dynamic program that changes in accordance with the circumstances and social needs.

NRC is independent, humanitarian organisation that works on promotion of rights of refugees and displaced persons with no regards to race, religion, nationality and political beliefs. NRC, which was founded in 1946, having huge experience in work on protection and assistance to refugees, today has projects in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. The activities are divided in five basic components: education, building of houses and schools, distribution of food and non-food products, management of camps and information, counselling and legal assistance.

The Civil Rights Project (CRP) started with its work in Croatia in 1996 in Eastern Slavonia. The aim of the project was to ensure protection of rights of population through legal aid. The office in Sisak was opened in 1999. At the end of 2003, CRP had 13 offices in Croatia, BiH, Serbia & Montenegro and Kosovo.

NRC CRP Sisak is one of first projects of NRC that continued with its work after NRC withdrew from the country.
Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA)

NRC assists persons displaced due to conflict to achieve durable solutions and to fulfil their rights. Within this broader framework, NRC’s activities on information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA) are designed to provide assistance to IDPs, refugees and returnees to make free and informed decisions.
Norwegian national TV crew and Mr Paal Nesse from the Norwegian Refugee Council together with CRP Sisak representatives in the village of Begovići, near Petrinja, shooting of TV show on returnees in Croatia and reconstruction of the family Vujaklija house in Begovići by the Norwegian government funds, Begovići, 2010
After NRC left Croatia, CRP Sisak continued working as a local NGO, but from 2004 to 2008 was mostly financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The projects financed by the Ministry in that period were "Legal aid to refugees, returnees, IDPs, minorities and other socially vulnerable persons" in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.
From 2009 to 2011, CRP was financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Zagreb. Namely, the Embassy co-financed the projects “Citizens Centre Glična”, “Civil Centre Hrvatska Kostajnica” and “Enabling mobilisation of local communities in rural areas” that were financed by the European Union.
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Since 1999, when CRP Sisak was part of the Norwegian Refugee Council, until 2012 CRP was co-operating with the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Croatia and by implementation of its program, CRP was supporting the mandate of the OSCE mission. CRP Sisak contributed to solving of legal issues that resulted from wars during 90-ies in ex-Yugoslav republics. Special attention was given to the most vulnerable groups, such as IDPs, refugees, returnees and national minorities. CRP implemented the following OSCE financed projects.

- 2005/2006 – OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) from Warsaw, Poland, the project “In-court representation to returnees, refugees, IDPs and minorities in Croatia”

During the implementation of the project, CRP Sisak worked with 1,364 beneficiaries that were provided with free legal aid and in-court representation in 153 court cases. There were 269 court hearings.

The cases related to repossession of property, cancelation of occupancy/tenancy rights, compensation for damage, annulment of contracts, establishment of ownership, establishment of death, inheritance proceedings and similar. 502 cases were successfully solved.

- 2006 – OSCE, Mission to Serbia and Montenegro, the project “Support to return of refugees and IDPs through legal aid”

The specific objective of this project was to identify and report on trends in violation of human rights of returnees to Croatia through legal aid and in-court representation. CRP Sisak picked five cases for monitoring. They related to repossession of property, compensation for use of property, reconstruction, permanent residence in Croatia and Croatian citizenship.
2006 – OSCE, Mission to the Republic of Croatia, the project “Mobile team - providing of free legal aid to returnees, refugees, IDPs, minorities and other socially vulnerable persons in the Areas of Special State Concern”

The legal team consisted of a legal advisor and assistant covered field offices in Vojnić and Hrvatska Kostajnica. The project enabled the work with 554 beneficiaries in 695 cases, out of which 51 were court cases before the Municipal courts in Hrvatska Kostajnica, Gvozd, Dvor, Glina and Karlovac. During the implementation, 110 cases were successfully solved and they mainly related to the documents and status issues, pension and health insurance, social welfare and ownership. This project contributed to co-operation of CRP with local authorities in towns and municipalities of the Sisak-Moslavina and Karlovac counties.

2007 – OSCE, Mission to the Republic of Croatia, the project “Mobile team - providing of free legal aid to returnees, refugees, IDPs, minorities and other socially vulnerable persons in the Areas of Special State Concern”

The legal team consisted of a legal advisor and assistant covered field offices in Vojnić, Glina and Hrvatska Kostajnica. The project enabled the work with 635 beneficiaries in 653 cases, out of which 118 were court cases before the Municipal courts in Hrvatska Kostajnica, Gvozd, Dvor, Glina and Karlovac. During the implementation, 120 cases were successfully solved and they mainly related to the documents and status issues, pension and health insurance, social welfare and ownership. This project was continuation of the work of the mobile team which contributed further to better co-operation of CRP with local authorities, as well as to the return of refugees.
Co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR Representation in the Republic of Croatia works from 1991. The office provided protection and humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of returnees that were displaced during the wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The co-operation between the UNHCR and CRP started in 1999 when CRP office, i.e. NRC office, was opened. Daily contacts and co-operation on legal and humanitarian assistance to refugees and returnees in the Sisak-Moslavina County resulted in the implementation of the project "Information and legal aid to ex-occupancy/tenancy rights holders in applying for Housing Care Program", which was implemented during 2005. CRP Sisak implemented the project in co-operation with CRP Vukovar. Almost 1,000 beneficiaries were involved in the project and 180 submitted their requests for housing care.

After 2005, the co-operation continued until 1st of January 2011 when CRP became an implementing partner to UNHCR in Croatia. Since then CRP has been implementing the project "Provision of information, counselling and legal assistance to returnees, refugees, minorities and other socially vulnerable population". The main objective of the project has been the promotion of the rule of law and return of refugees, as well as support to integration of target groups in the war affected areas. The project has been enabling providing of legal aid to citizens in the Sisak-Moslavina County (Dvor, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Glina, Gvozd, Topusko) and Karlovac County (Krnjak and Karlovac), as well as in Pakrac (in Brod-Posavina County) in 2013.

The legal aid is provided in co-operation with an attorney who works in the CRP office in Sisak, but assists in all complex cases and provides in-courts representation when needed.
Since 2013, CRP monitors implementation of the Regional Housing Care Programme (RHP) in the Republic of Croatia. In 2014, CRP cooperated with UNHCR on identification of future beneficiaries of the Home for Older Persons in Glina. The construction works that started in 2015 were finished in 2017. In 2018, CRP continues to monitor the project and beneficiaries.

In 2014 and 2015, CRP intensively cooperated with the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care on closing of the collective centre Mala Gorica near Petrinja. CRP collected documentation for housing care procedures for over 100 beneficiaries from almost all former Yugoslav republics. The collective centre was closed in 2017. CRP continues to work with collective centre beneficiaries, because they are all socially vulnerable population that are being moved to new places after being accommodated in the centre for many years.
On 20 June 2015, CRP, in cooperation with UNHCR, celebrated the World Refugee Day in Sisak. CRP organised an exhibition of photographs “20 years of temporary accommodation” and showed a short documentary on beneficiaries of the collective centre Mala Gorica.

Regarding the refugee crisis in Europe in 2015, CRP has been trying to assist in providing of humanitarian and other aid to refugees from Syria and other war-affected countries. In September 2015, CRP visited Tovarnik, on the border with Serbia, and contributed to providing of humanitarian aid.

From 1 January 2017, CRP Sisak has also been an implementing partner of UNHCR in the project on prevention of statelessness in Croatia.
The relations between Croatia and the European Union are beginning to develop by the international recognition of the Republic of Croatia as an independent and sovereign state on 15 January 1992. Following the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement in 2001, Croatia submitted an application for membership in the EU in 2003, so that negotiations on Croatia's EU accession officially started on 3 October 2005. After the successful negotiations, the member states decided on June 30, 2011 to conclude accession negotiations with Croatia. After the signing of the Accession treaty and its ratification, the Republic of Croatia has become a member of the European Union on 1 July 2013.

The EU Delegation in Croatia was connection between the Croatian authorities and EU institutions. The Delegation was established in 2000 as the Delegation of the European Commission, and after the Lisbon Agreement of 1st December 2009, it was renamed into the EU Delegation in the Republic of Croatia.

During 2008, CRP Sisak decided to apply to the EU Calls for proposals in Croatia. EIDHR – European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights was established on 1st of January 2007 and with its budget of EUR 1,104 million for the period 2007 – 2013 it tried to promote democracy and human rights. From 2009 until 2014, CRP was financed through the EU EIDHR programme.
Citizens Centre Glina

During 2009, CRP successfully implemented the project “Citizens Centre Glina”. The Citizens Centre was operating in the premises of the Croatian House in Glina during whole 2009. The info point was available to citizens with different materials and the Centre was place for gathering of citizens, reading the newspapers, internet using and similar activities. Different workshops and courses such as: English course for children and adults, painting on silk and glass course, human rights workshops, dialogue workshops, project cycle management workshops, were held in the Centre.

The legal team provided free legal aid in 3,944 cases, while the psychosocial assistance was provided in 89 cases. Despite of the fact that the co-operation with the Town of Glina during the project was good and Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the end of project implementation, the Town of Glina could not provide the premises for continuation of work for Citizens Centre and its activities.
Civil Centre Hrvatska Kostajnica

The project was implemented during 2010 in Hrvatska Kostajnica. The general objective of the project was building of consensus in the Areas of Special State Concern, especially reconciliation of target group interests, through organising of the Civil Centre in order to gather the target groups and enable them to participate in different activities that would contribute to better life of present and future generations.

The project enabled organisation of the following activities: English language course, basic computer course, painting on silk and glass workshops, women and human rights forums, project cycle seminar, dialogue workshops, human trafficking seminar, forum against addictions and forum against corruption.

During the project, free legal aid was provided in 3,630 cases and psycho-social to 76 persons.

The Mayor of Hrvatska Kostajnica stated that he especially liked the concept of “Coffee with the Mayor” that the Civil Centre implemented in Hrvatska Kostajnica and that he would recommend it to other mayors in Croatia as a good example.
Building capacity of the local communities in rural areas

The project was implemented during 2011 in the rural areas of the towns of Sisak, Petrinja and Hrvatska Kostajnica.

Sisak-Moslavina County is one of the largest, but also one of the poorest counties in Croatia. Although most areas in the county are rural, the population mostly lives in urban areas. Besides the still notable war damage and the existing problems regarding the return of refugees, the rural area suffers from structural difficulties that stem from remoteness, unfavourable demographic circumstances, which include poor education, unemployment, low or no income, shortage of basic community infrastructure and inadequate social services or deficiency of same.

The general objective of this project was to build the capacity and support the activities of the new organization of civil society in the rural area in order to empower the rural population, so that it would be represented and able to participate in the decision-making process of local government, and to encourage local initiatives and sustainable development in rural areas.

The NGO “Centre for rural initiatives” was established and registered and they underwent education in order to be able to work for the benefit of rural population in the targeted area. The project provided non-formal education of the population that strengthened their capacity for acquiring additional income and for contribution to the local development.
Building Capacity of the Roma Civil Society Organisations in the Sisak-Moslavina County

The project was implemented during 2013 and it aimed to strengthening the role of the Roma civil society in the Sisak-Moslavina County by building capacity of the Roma NGOs through educational and other activities.

The activities were implemented through 12 months and they consisted of: organising trainings, seminars, as well as providing free legal aid and assistance to Roma in the area, activities that are connected to strengthening and improving co-operation between the Roma NGOs in the Sisak-Moslavina County, analysing capacities, needs and activities of active Roma NGOs, improving co-operation between Roma and local authorities by organising meetings and joint participation in the action activities, assisting the local authorities and institutions in defining goals and measures for working with Roma by providing the local authorities and institution with data collected. This action improved capacity of 14 existing and active Roma NGOs in the Sisak-Moslavina County.
Therefore, the project brought Roma in the County together, educated them on simple using of computers, project cycle management and their rights. It initiated possible partnerships, networking among the Roma NGOs and their better cooperation with the City of Sisak and the Sisak-Moslavina County. Roma were provided with a brochure on their rights, which is written in a simple way and used by them as a guidelines and reminder. A web portal of the Roma in the Sisak-Moslavina County (www.romismz.info) was made in order to make the Roma NGOs visible, which had not been the case. A booklet on the Roma in the County was made at the end of the project and it provided data collected during the project that may be used for future work with Roma.

From 2013, CRP has been intensively involved in protection and promotion of human rights of Roma national minority members, both at local and national level. CRP was involved in making and implementation of the Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma in Sisak-Moslavina County 2013-2015. CRP has been an unofficial coordinator of the Action Plan. Besides, CRP works on daily basis with active Roma NGOs, city and county councils of the Roma national minority, as well as with individual cases. CRP cooperates with all relevant stakeholders, such as Center for Social Welfare Sisak, Ministry of the Interior, Police Administration in Sisak-Moslavina, UNHCR, UNDP,
In 2014, CRP and “Roma Rights” wrote and published a picture book “Our rights”. The picture book talks about children’s rights. It is written in Croatian and Roma language, i.e. in Roma official language, Romani Chib, and two dialects, Bayash that is mainly spoken in Međimurje and in Sisak area. The picture book is the first picture book of that type in Croatia, as well as in the region. The printing of the picture book was financed by UNDP and UNICEF. It was printed and distributed in 2000 copies.
The overall protection response – Creating of a new model of intersectoral cooperation in protection of national minorities and other socially vulnerable population

The overall objective of the Action, which was implemented during 2013 and 2014, was achieved, as the coordination of intersectoral human rights programming, which aimed at integral protection of members of national minorities and other socially vulnerable population, was strengthened through the achievement of specific objectives.

Namely, the coordination body “Together for Justice” was formed as a new model of active intersectoral cooperation in the Sisak-Moslavina County and it established regular links between the public sector, civil society and international organisation in order to protect human rights of national minorities and other fragile population in a comprehensive way.
Other specific objectives were also achieved. The call centre Free Legal Phone 0800 200 098 was established. Web forum and portal “My Rights” was made and maintained. Four numbers, issues of the newsletter “I have a right” were written and disseminated. All of the above enabled the target population to have free of charge access to information. The work of institutions was made more transparent, mainly through coordination meetings and interviews in the newsletter. Through the coordination meetings that involved all relevant stakeholders, as well as through the web portal and newsletter, the problems of national minority members were raised and discussed. Therefore, the interactive relationship between the local authorities and institutions on one hand and national minorities’ members, on the other side, was established and it enabled improvement of position of national minorities in the Sisak-Moslavina County. Conditions for return of refugees were improved through discussions and newsletter that raised awareness of the public on importance of sustainable return.

3,586 beneficiaries were provided with free legal aid and their cases initiated or solved.

The signed Charter on Human Rights by all stakeholders is a sign of a good will and intention to continue with work on promotion and protection of human rights.
Knowledge on the EU issues in Croatia generally is rather low and among the rural population in the Areas of Special State Concern (ASSC) is even lower, i.e. it may be said that they do not know anything about it. Many of them have no access to TV, newspapers and not to mention Internet. Even those who have the access, the present TV and other materials are not adapted to the level of understanding of rural population. Therefore, they need a basic and simple approach, including verbal explanations and additional interpretations.

Therefore, the project was implemented in 2013 and 2014. 500 village households were visited “door to door”. They were informed about the accession to EU and provided with small hand tools. They were informed, as well as other beneficiaries, including those at six workshops, on how to produce “rakija”, cheese and sour cream, pig meat products (sausages, bacon, ham and cracklings). They were provided with four brochures on the above mentioned traditional productions, as well as on honey and forest products. Also, a leaflet “Welcome to Europe” was printed and distributed to all stakeholders. The publication “Europe in my farm” was written in a simple way, i.e. using simple language and giving good examples from practice. Another two workshops were organised to work on instruments/sources and measures for rural development and agriculture.
Representatives of CRP Sisak participated in the work of a conference organized by DG AGRI (Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development) in Brussels, Belgium on 29th of January 2015, as well as in the presentation of the best nominated projects from various European countries – finalists, whose project activities in 2014 aimed to informing of farmers and rural population. CRP Sisak nominated its project “Europe in my Farm” and it was short listed among wider range of finalist (top 15 projects out of 146 nominees). Representatives of those 15 finalists were invited to travel to Brussels and to take part in the working conference, as well as to attend the Ceremony of 2014 CAP Communication Awards, where the nine most successful projects were presented and winners in each category were chosen.
Though in the fight for human rights and rights of national minorities, as well as other socially vulnerable population, there are no irrelevant projects, the project “The importance of being Roma” marked the year of 2016. The project amounted to approximately EUR 100,000.00 and was implemented during 12 months. It was financed by the EU and co-financed by the Government Office for NGOs and Open Society Foundations. The partners were: Roma Cultural Centre Sisak, Youth association “New World” Lušćani and Roma Rights Sisak, while the associates were UNHCR, UNDP, City of Sisak, Sisak-Moslavina County and Ombudsman.

The main objective of the project was to raise awareness of the members of Roma national minority on importance of their declaration, because the real number of Roma in Croatia had not been established. Also, the objective was to make influence on general population in order to make more tolerant society and eliminate discriminatory environment, which prevented Roma from declaring themselves as Roma. The project was also marked by fight against discriminatory regulations of the Law on State Registries, which prevents change of nationality in birth register. Namely, Roma that register their children, due to different pressures, as members of majority populations, i.e. as Croats, cannot later on change those registries. Even those children, when they become adults cannot change those entries in birth registers, which is discriminatory and limiting for especially vulnerable Roma population.

In order to achieve the objectives, CRP implemented lots of activities. One of the most important was direct counselling and informing of citizens. 4000 Roma was informed on importance of Roma declaration through free legal aid, trainings educational workshops, etc. CRP Sisak formed an intersectoral body “Local platform for Roma”, which joined together all relevant stakeholders that dealt with Roma issues, such as City of Sisak, Sisak-Moslavina County, Centre for social welfare, Police department, Red Cross, Roma and civil society representatives.
Through four thematic meetings, the Platform dealt with the most problematic issues: 

- poverty, unemployment, living conditions/housing care, education and status issues.

The Platform fit into the National Platform for Roma, which is dealt with by the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities.

As the Platform was also recognised by all other relevant stakeholders, it will continue working in 2017 and further on. Also, in order to inform the general population, CRP made 12 radio shows “Roma World” and a short documentary movie “The forgotten valley”, which, in four months of being published on YouTube channel, was seen by 37,000 people.
Although the cooperation between CRP Sisak and the City of Sisak dates back to 1999 when the office of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Sisak was opened, the cooperation was intensified in 2008 when the City of Sisak allocated office space for the use of CRP Sisak. The office is located in Sisak, Rimska 6, and it was used for daily receiving beneficiaries and other CRP’s work until 2014, when CRP was provided with new, bigger space in the center of Sisak, at the address S. i A. Radića 6/5.

From the beginning of its activities, CRP Sisak is working with the City of Sisak in order to promote community development and development of the concept of the common good. Since CRP Sisak is a NGO that primarily operates locally for the benefit of all citizens of the city of Sisak and the surrounding areas, the City of Sisak recognized the program and the work of CRP Sisak and therefore, in the early 2009, the City of Sisak invited us to join the signing of the Charter on Cooperation of the City of Sisak and NGOs. The Charter is the result of harmonized positions in the definition of common principles of cooperation between the City of Sisak and civic associations in the city of Sisak. The Charter is based on the principles and forms of cooperation established by the Program of Cooperation of the Croatian Government and the NGO Sector, which also encourages regional and local forms of cooperation.

The City of Sisak, by co-financing the program of CRP Sisak, i.e. financing the project "Providing information, advice and legal aid to socially vulnerable citizens" developed a partnership with CRP Sisak. CRP Sisak is the only NGO in Sisak and in the nearby area, which, by implementation of its program, provides complete legal aid, including representation in court, and as such, it is recognized, accepted and recommended by the local governments.

Within the mentioned projects, CRP Sisak provided legal aid to more than 3,000 clients, citizens of Sisak, in cases related to the resolution of status, legal issues in the field of social welfare, as well as issues related to pension and health insurance, property issues and alike.
The cooperation of CRP and City of Sisak continues through the cooperation on numerous project financed by the EU and other national and international donors.

„Sisak colourful inclusion“ is a project that joined together different stakeholders from preschool and school education, culture, social welfare, civil society, local self-government, health care, which all have been giving their energy, enthusiasm and big heart in numerous activities. The intersectoral cooperation has been a foundation for future work, including the work of Inclusion Mobile Team, which was formed in 2016, CRP being a member of it. The aim of the project is to inform all deprived groups of population on their rights and obligations, as well as to break all walls and barriers in heads in order to make Sisak more inclusive city.
Cooperation with the Embassy of the United States

The project "Support to Housing Care Programme for Roma returnees from the collective center Barake Tehnika in Sisak" was implemented in the years of 2007/2008. The aim was to contribute to the sustainability of return of Roma refugees and the housing program within the areas of special state concern. The project enabled seven Roma families to receive basic agricultural tools and seeds. Five families each received a chainsaw, one family received a wood cutting machine and the other received a mowing machine and all seven families received bicycles.

The project, including the provided free legal aid to Roma, and the payment of administrative fees related to personal documents, contributed to the integration of Roma in rural areas and enabled them to self-improve their own living conditions.
Cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

CRP Sisak has, in the years of 2006, 2007 and 2008, implemented two projects co-financed by the Dutch Embassy in Croatia. The projects were related to the provision of free legal aid to refugees, returnees, minorities and other socially vulnerable citizens in the areas of special state concern.

The projects enabled 3,680, i.e. 554 persons to receive free legal aid, which helped to regulate their status in the Republic of Croatia, property and other rights. The project enabled a mobile legal team of CRP Sisak to receive clients in Glina, Vojnić and Hrvatska Kostajnica, which contributed to the improvement of cooperation with local authorities in these areas. By regulation of status and other issues of returnees, the project supported the process of sustainable return to Croatia.

Since CRP Sisak is from the beginning involved in the legal aid system in the Republic of Croatia, which was recognized by the Dutch Embassy, CRP Sisak, in the period from 2010 to 2013, carried out the project "Monitoring the implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid". The implementation of the project required the cooperation with all of the stakeholders in the free legal aid system, lawyers, associations, legal clinics, government offices and the Ministry of Justice. The project also required the exchange of information and experiences in the context of the subject law. The project allowed to analyze the situation in Croatia and to develop conclusions and recommendations for the improvement of the system of free legal aid.
Cooperation with the British Embassy

In 2012 and 2013, CRP implemented the project “Strengthening the role of NGOs in providing of primary legal aid”.

The project aimed at improving capacity of NGOs – legal aid providers in providing of primary legal aid in order to increase the number of primary legal aid cases within the free legal aid system in Croatia.

The project enabled more people to receive primary legal aid within the state system, which was very important because most of the legal problems that citizens face are of primary legal aid nature, such as pension, social welfare, health insurance, status rights, etc. Therefore, the project resulted in increased number of primary legal aid cases, i.e. increased portion of primary legal aid in relation to secondary legal aid. The project also enabled education of NGOs legal aid providers and the Legal Clinic students on providing of primary legal aid in order to increase the number of primary legal aid cases and involvement of NGOs in the state legal aid system.

The project coordinated providing of primary legal aid with the County State Administration offices for free legal aid, as well as with the Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders. Finally, the project with its results and findings contributed to changing of the Law on Free Legal Aid, especially in the area of primary legal aid, whose position and ways of proceedings and financing should be changed completely.
Other activities of the CRP SISAK

CRP Sisak cooperates with many organizations, judicial and state bodies, institutions and others in Croatia. In the framework of this cooperation, CRP Sisak participates in various activities, seminars, training courses, workshops and alike. Specific emphasis should be put upon the cooperation with the Ombudsman and the Ministry of Justice.

In April 2012, CRP Sisak became a regional contact point of the Office of the Ombudsman for combating discrimination for the region Central Croatia. In 2017, CRP was reelected for a focal point.

CRP has been authorized legal aid provider, registered with the Ministry of Justice in 2009, when the Law on Free Legal Aid came into force in Croatia. Considering the fact that CRP has been the most active NGO in improving of the free legal aid system, CRP was chosen as a member of the Commission for Free Legal Aid of the Ministry of Justice. In 2015, CRP wrote and published a Report on Free Legal Aid from its adoption until today, i.e. 2015. The report emphasized existing problems within legal aid system and recommendations for its improvements.

Since 2016, CRP Sisak has been a member of the Local Platform for Employment of the Sisak-Moslavina County.

Since 2010, CRP has been cooperating with the Legal Clinic of the Law Faculty, University of Zagreb, and its Head, professor Alan Uzelac, who is also a member of the CRP Advisory Board since 2004. Students regularly come to CRP main office and field offices to participate in providing of legal aid and to do their practical work and contribute to development of Croatian legal aid system. CRP and Legal Clinic plan on further cooperation, especially through joint projects.

In the year of 2012, Civil Rights Project Sisak joined the anti-discrimination network of civil society organizations. The anti-discrimination network of civil society was formed in mid-2011 as a reflection of efforts to gather CSOs which had, in one segment of their work, dealt with combating discrimination on various grounds (under the Law on Prevention of Discrimination).
CRP has been a member of the BURA network for fighting against corruption. The network was initiated by the Partnership for Social Development (PSD) Zagreb. Within the network, CRP participated in implementation of several anticorruption projects, which were coordinated by PSD. Those projects included the campaign “For the parliament with clean hands” in 2006, which was implemented within the project “Civil Society response to corruption” (2006-2008), project ACRIP (Anticorruption response to implementation of the procurement policies, in the period from 2011 to 2012), project E-SCORE (Enhancing social capacities in corruption resistance, in the period 2015-2017.) Cooperation with PSD is done also through CRP projects in which PSD expert advices and experts are engaged.

In 2012, CRP became a supportive member of Platform 112. Together with many other civil society organisations, CRP continues to work on protection of human rights and support the work of Platform 112. The Platform 112 gathers more than 60 civil society organisations, which work on protection of human rights, democratization, building of peace, fighting against corruption at all instances, as well as protection of public resources, with an accent on environment.

Since 2014, CRP has been a member of the Coordination for Human Rights of the Sisak-Moslavina County.

During 2014, CRP implemented a project Together for Citizens, which was financed through the National Foundation for Development of Civil Society within an ECAS (European Citizen Action Service) project Triple A (Access to Information, Advice and Active Help) for Citizens that was implemented within the Balkan region. The project included several international conferences, study visits and similar.

In November 2015, Platform 044 – for better future of Sisak-Moslavina County started to operate. The Platform gathers 12 members, NGOs, sport associations, cooperatives, family farms, which work together on solving of three main issues in Sisak-Moslavina County – poverty, unemployment and discrimination. The start of the Platform 044 was financed by the National foundation for development of civil society, while the Sisak-Moslavina County financed it partly in 2017. CRP Sisak is the coordinator of all activities of the Platform.

NGO fair organized by ALD Sisak, Sisak, 2007
Campaign "For a clean-handed Parliament", carried out by the anti-corruption network BURA, Sisak, 2006

The anti-corruption campaign, Sisak, 2006

NGO Fair, Sisak, 2017
Providing of free legal aid in cooperation of CRP and Legal Clinic Zagreb, Sisak, 2015

CRP at Sisak market, Day of Bread, 2014
ALL people are equal, regardless of their race, culture, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion or skin colour. Our job is to help ALL those who are in need!
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