

# ESIPP Project

Equality and Social Inclusion  
through Positive Parenting



# CROATIAN UNION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR AUTISM



Continuously working from 1979, and keep growing

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president of CUAA, and

Association for the care of autistic people of Rijeka - member in  
ESIPP project

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# CUAA Member Associations



1. Association for autism - Zagreb
2. Association „View”, Čakovec
3. Association for autism Rijeka
4. Association „Gift”, Osijek
5. Association „Bells”, Karlovac
6. Association „Sun”, Nova Gradiška
7. Association „Our kids”, Kaštel Novi
8. Association for autism Istra,
9. Association for autism Split
10. Association for autism Zadar
11. Association „Towards health together”, Dubrovnik
12. Association „Rubik”, Zaprešić
13. Association for autism Bjelovar



Our goal is to continue until all the needs of people with autism are met - we know it will take time, but our motto is – NEVER GIVE UP

- Provide support to parents and individuals with autism
  - Advocating system solutions and services for people with autism and their families
  - Increasing awareness in local and wider community about autism, coping, coexisting and the needs of people with autism – we've been doing it for many years and the progress continues to go on
  - While fighting for system solutions, we provide services through projects and institutional support
  - CUAA was founded by a group of enthusiastic parents in 1979, and to this day we continue with our quest that many other families after us will follow. We learned to fight and break many barriers, to seek, enhance, upgrade and provide services for people with autism.
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- **Parents are the engine that drives the system to provide services to our children, shaping the consciousness of the society and pushes the limits of their own endurance**

# What are we missing:

- Diagnostics - 5 diagnostic multidisciplinary teams that we expect to be established in four major cities in the near future
- Systematic solutions for early intervention and support to parents across Croatia, and not only partial solutions solved through projects by associations
- The educational component is best resolved in Croatia, but there is a lack of education for elementary school teachers and more professional support
- Above all, the lack of professional staff - special education teachers, speech and other therapists, training for a variety of methods (ABA, Teach, Pecs, etc.)
- Care for adults is as well currently insufficient and poorly resolved, as well as deinstitutionalization, labour occupation for adults, support for the family, employment and assistants.

# Formula for success - progress, integration...

- Parents seeking support and a way to help their child (recognizing deviation, accepting the situation and not being ashamed of the condition of their child)
- A profession that knows and can provide advice and support to both parents and a child
- Local and state government that understands and seeks to provide systematic support and community services on local and national level (which is an investment, not an expense) in compliance with rights and the Convention
- Society - the whole community that accepts differences of people with autism and aims to integrate them into daily life within their capabilities (awareness, information, education)
- **Parents in every country are main initiators of all the above, because they are willing to move mountains for their child with autism**

CONCLUSION: With no educated professionals and no political will, there is no progress

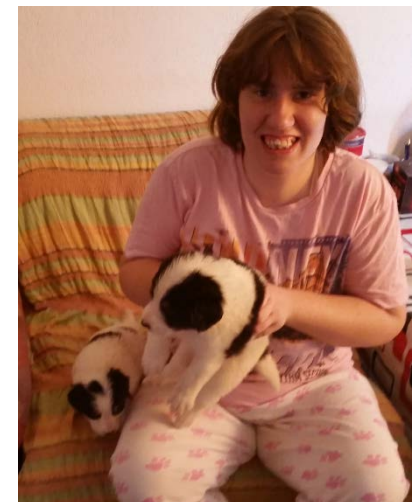
- Professionals - rehabilitators that define a deviations' scale, the needs of children/adults with autism is of utmost importance, as well as for parents in order to empower and advise them
- The same applies to the health care system diagnostics and life-long support to various emergency and other medical needs
- Social welfare system and education with trained staff and support system for children and families is extremely important
- When we have a political will and the government decision to provide all services, it is most important that we have professional people who will implement it

**The main objective is that educated professionals are the BASIS of it all, as there is no point in building residential communities and facilities if there are no PROFFESIONALS who provide support services for children and their families**



# Finally, Nina, my princess with autism

Greetings to everyone with the smile of my unusual princess and her brother





# Croatian Union of Associations for autism



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Thank you for your attention  
with my princess' smile!

