



Centar za
integraciju mladih
Center for
Youth Integration

NEWSLETTER

The only organization that for 18 years deals with the prevention, protection and improvement of the position of children and youth in street situation and those who are at risk of being in street situation, but also children and youth refugees and migrants.

20
22





INTRO SPREECH

Marko Tošić, executive director

In 2022, we witnessed examples of expertise and love for work and beneficiaries, examples with which the employees and volunteers of our organization promoted the rights of children in street situation, fighting for each individual child. For us there are no numbers and divisions, for us every child is equally important and for every child, without exception, we will fight equally in future.

We can be proud of the principles that we nurtured and that guided us for years.

We will never give up on those principles, they are more important to us than anything that makes our organization.

A difficult period is behind us, a period marked by a pandemic that made it difficult for our services to function on the one hand, but also reminded us how important life is and how every child is more important than laws, strategies, protocols and other documents.

In 2022, over 1,500 children used CYI programs and services, and over 40 professionals and over 60 volunteers worked with them.

Our work was recognized and financially supported by: 10 institutional donors, over 40 companies and 430 citizens.

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DROP IN SHELTER

In May 2022, Drop In Shelter celebrated its 15th birthday. We organized a celebration for children, donors, employees and volunteers, at Drop In Shelter in municipality Zvezdara. During the year 2022, Drop In Shelter was a safe place for a large number of girls and boys in the street situation in Belgrade. The trend of increasing number of beneficiaries who visit us on a daily basis continued, and the record number of visits was at the end of December, when **204** girls and boys visited Drop In Shelter in one day. The needs of the children and families that used the Drop In Shelter services continued to increase dramatically. On a daily basis, the Shelter distributed packages with food, personal hygiene products, school supplies, clothes and shoes. During 2022, Drop In Shelter distributed over **3,500** packages of help. More than 300 girls and boys were enrolled in the new school year, and at the beginning of September, each child received a set of school supplies consisting of a backpack, pencil case, notebooks, equipment for physical education and art, and all other necessary things for a successful start of school. In addition, school equipment was replenished during the year.

In 2022, the professional team of Drop In Shelter consisted of **13** professionals who were available to the children 356 days a year. During the past year, the Shelters directly supported 391 girls and boys, and indirectly over 200 members of their families. In November 2022, the Shelter's professional team conducted a field research on living conditions and the position of families in 30 informal settlements where Drop in Shelter beneficiaries are living. After the research, it is estimated that in 2023 the Shelters will start working with around 80 new beneficiaries.

Drop in Shelter in 2022:

- **400 educational workshops**
 - **40,000 meals served**
 - **33,500 baths**
 - **328 beneficiaries attends primary school**
 - **6 in secondary school**
 - **65 sets of clothing per day**
 - **65 school snacks per day**
 - **at least 15 jackets per day**
 - **at least 15 pairs of shoes per day**
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PROGRAM OF EDUCATION

Program of education was established in 2010 and designed to prevent involvement in street work at an early age. The inclusion of children in the education system at the earliest possible age is one of the prerequisites for further proper growth and development of every child, especially children living in extreme poverty. Beside huge gap in education, issues in regular attending in school also leads to the deprivation of peer relationships, which further affect children's socialization and self-confidence. The aim of Program of education is to enroll every child living in the informal settlements of Vuk Vrčević and Mali Leskovac, on the territory of Palilula Municipality, in preschool or primary school and provide them with support during attendance. Our team is made up of experienced professionals who, in addition to provide conditions for adequate schooling, are also taking children to preschool and later returning them home, educational support during first grade, also provide support to their parents in order to exercise their rights before state institutions. For these needs, our team is in regular contact with Centers for Social Work, Health Centers, police stations, courts, municipalities, but also other NGOs from the system of social protection.

Given that for quality school attendance, it is necessary to provide children with an adequate healthy snack as well as the necessary materials, our program every year with the help of its donors and the community ensures that every child is not hungry, dirty, torn, and has adequate equipment for school. Also, for better socialization and self-confidence development, our team organizes extracurricular activities for its users at least once a month. We take children to the Zoo, the Botanical Garden, for a walk, the theater, the cinema, etc.

Program of education is supported by the Ministry, and a Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed with each school where educators are present. Plans for the further development of program include the introduction of support for children attending fifth grade of primary school, as one of the most difficult periods in the educational process, but also due to the fact that there is a large dropout of children from the education system.

Education program in 2022:

- **over 220 beneficiaries**
 - **395 educational workshops**
 - **support during 184 school hours**
 - **53 extracurricular activities**
 - **50 volunteers**
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EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Unemployment and difficult access to the labor market among young people in a street situation is a big problem for the majority of young people who, after turning 15, stopped using Drop In Shelter service. The employment support program, through a series of focused activities, offers this group of young people the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and additional skills so that, with the support of the program's professional team, they can become more competitive on the labor market and find a formal employment. For all of them, informal work, work on the street, was until then the main source of income, as well as for members of their families and communities in the informal settlements where they live. The basic activities of the program are focused on two basic aspects recognized as the most important for the development of potential and opportunities, namely education and psychosocial support. In this way, through direct and individual approach in working with young people in smaller groups, they get the opportunity for education (which until then was mostly within primary school or more often, through schools for adult education) with constant support in order to strengthen motivation, self-esteem, empowerment and setting goals both in life and in future work. Creating stable living conditions is something that, along with formal employment, is the ultimate goal of activities within the Employment Support Program.

Cooperation with employers within the Inclusive Network of Employers continued, currently there are 17 members. Local employers were primarily supportive in activities related to work practice, through organization of workshops for beneficiaries in their premises. This type of cooperation offers young people, who are preparing for a formal employment, the opportunity to get to know different work environments and types of service activities.

Employment program in 2022:

- 20 young people were involved in the activities
 - 20 young people attended training for waiters and bartenders at the Center for Culture and Education in Božidarac in 1947
 - 20 young people completed work practice
 - 12 young people received formal certificates for waiters and bartenders
 - 14 young people got a formal job
 - 10 young people attend secondary school
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PROGRAM OF SUPPORT REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

The year 2022 was marked by a geopolitical situation change in the world (first of all, war in Ukraine), but also by the transition from the Covid 19 pandemic to the normalization of life. All these changes had an inevitably impact on migration flows, and above all on the position of refugees and migrants.

During 2022, on monthly basis, the presence of refugees and migrants in Serbia varied, and that figure went up to 8,000 people in the reception centers of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration.

Our program of support was implemented at 2 locations in Belgrade – OSP Miksalište and the Asylum Center Krnjača.

In addition of providing protection and psychological support, the focus of activity was on providing support to children in education, both formal and informal. Together with other organizations in the camp and representatives of the Commissariat, we facilitated the process of online classes for our beneficiaries, which included direct support in the classes, communication with the teaching staff, help with translation and preparation of assignments. For children included in regular schools, we provided a safe place for doing assignments, help with inclusion in schools, and in that way helped the integration process.

In addition, we organized disposal structured sports activities (that became a trademark of our team) and involved whole community, as well as a range of participatory creative and relaxation activities.

During the summer, for children from the camp, we organized trips outside the camp and visits to museums, the zoo, participation in various workshops.

The end of 2022 marked a turn from a liberal attitude towards refugees and migrants to a tightening of internal policy (signing a memorandum with Hungary and Austria aimed at slowing down migratory flows in Europe, abolishing the visa-free regime for many African countries, etc.). The importance of providing timely information and referral to relevant services becomes even bigger in new circumstances.

Children traveling unaccompanied are particularly exposed to risks and this type of service is most important for them.

We have cooperated with all relevant actors in the field: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Labor, Veterans and Social Policy, civil society organizations, international organizations, and local schools.

Support program for refugee children and migrants in 2022:

Most beneficiaries came from Burundi, Afghanistan, Syria and Somalia.

- **812 supported children, of which**
 - **418 unaccompanied children**
 - **educational activities provided for 586 children**
 - **shared information with 1039 people**
 - **1019 people referred to necessary services**
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REVIS



CHILD HUB

From 2021, in cooperation with partner organizations from Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania and with the coordination of the Terre des hommes Regional Office in Budapest, our organization is implementing the REVIS project – "Response to peer violence among children in schools and neighboring environments."

The goal of this project is to reduce violence among children by highlighting and suppressing negative ones social and gender norms that lead to violence, as well as empowering children to be an integral part prevention, reporting and intervention in situations of peer violence.

Also, in May and September, 2 important National workshops were held and they were attended by students and teachers from ten schools with the aim of exchanging experience, ideas for designing individual actions that they want to implement with the aim of raising awareness about peer violence.

In addition to the above, we have also created a Guide for parents who want to improve their own knowledge and capacities in relation to this topic, as well as webinars for professionals working with children.

Project Revis in 2022:

- **10 participating schools**
(from Belgrade, Šid and Kraljevo)
 - **513 children**
 - **250 workshops (for students aged 12 to 16)**
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After 7.5 years of the CHILD HUB regional project, it ended with a big online conference on March 31, 2022. More than 500 professionals from 7 Southeast European countries attended this event, which was dedicated to present the key findings of the regional research on supervision. The research was led by David Wilkins from Cardiff University, in collaboration with national researchers, and aimed to explore current policies and practices in relation to the provision of supervision to multidisciplinary child protection teams.

This Conference marked the end of the existence of ChildHub but only in the form of a project, because as of April 2022, the www.childhub.org platform continued to be a great resource for all professionals in the field of social and child protection and currently has more than 22,000 users. Our organization Center for Youth Integration, together with other 7 partner organizations, is one of the initiators of the CHILD HUB initiative, and actively continues to participate in its development and promotion of this multilingual online community of practitioners that offers numerous news, latest publications, free trainings and materials for work with children and for children.

REVIS project is implemented in Serbia in cooperation and with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and technological development.



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Hvala na podršci!

PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM

Philanthropy program in 2022 was very successful, despite forecasts that this year will be very unfavorable for fundraising and that donations will decrease by 30%.

The trend of company support continued and we are proud to say that during the previous year we collected **7.396.000** dinars from the corporate sector, which represents the most funds collected since 2014, when Philanthropy program has been created.

This year was also marked by the renovation of the Drop In Shelter, thanks to the campaign "FOR A BETTER LIFE OF EVERY CHILD" that we implemented together with Essety company in Lidl stores and collected **4.000.000** dinars.

In July, we organized our traditional action "Lemonade Day for Drop In Shelter" and collected **400.000** dinars and provided school supplies for all beneficiaries of our programs.

The end of the year was marked by great support from citizens and companies that helped us collect New year's presents for all beneficiaries of our programs and provide 3 months of snacks for schoolchildren from the Drop In Shelter.

Also, the end of the year was marked by the financial support of the corporate sector for the function of Drop In Shelter in 2023, as well as the partnership and donation of **1.500.000** dinars from OTP Bank.

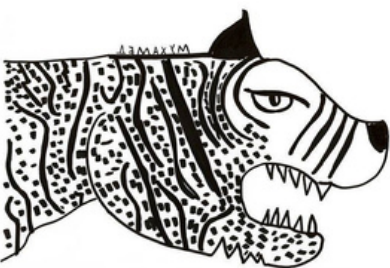
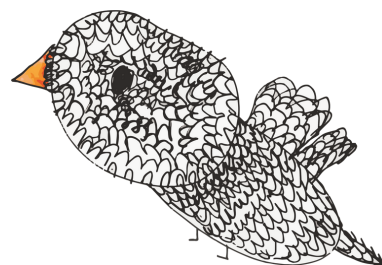
Philanthropy Program in 2022:

- **436 citizens donation: 3.725.000 dinars**
 - **40 do companies donation: 7.396.000 dinars**
 - **"Lemonade Day": 400.000 dinars raised for school supplies for 500 children**
 - **"For a better life for every child" 4.000.000 dinars, for renovation of Drop In Shelter**
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We would like to thank you for your support and invite you to continue with donations in 2023:

Account for donations: 205-201979-13

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CAFE BAR 16

After two uncertain years when, due to the consequences of the pandemic, business of Cafe bar 16 was threatened, in 2022, for the first time from opening, Cafe bar 16 became sustainable.

Year 2022 was also very significant for Cafe bar 16 due to the adoption of the Law on Social Entrepreneurship.

The Law on Social Entrepreneurship defines the concept of social economy and the conditions for acquiring the status of a social enterprise, but on the other hand, it does not foresee a new legal form for already existing social enterprises, which will become institutionally recognized by this law.

Cafe bar 16 continued to break down prejudices and stereotypes by providing young people in street situations with the opportunity to become equal members of society.

At this moment, **4** young people who went through the Employment Support Program are permanently employed at Cafe bar 16.

This success of Cafe Bar 16 would not have been possible without the support of people who believe in our idea.

That's why we invite you to visit us.

**Cafe bar 16, Cetinjska 15a..
We are waiting for you!**

