



## **DUNICOP**

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# **IMPACT OF SOCIAL COHESION TO REGIONAL POLICY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO OSIJEK-BARANJA COUNTY**



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# Osijek- Baranja County



- Total area: 4,149 km<sup>2</sup>
- 7 cities
- 264 villages
- 305 032 inhabitants

## Member of:

1. Croatian Association of Counties
2. Euro Regional Cooperation Dunav- Drava- Sava
3. Working Association of the Danube Regions
4. European Campaign for Sustainable Cities and Places
5. Assembly of European Regions
6. Croatian Network of Healthy Cities

## Cooperation with:

1. The Baranja County (Baranya Megye) in Hungary
2. Autonomous County Friuli Venezia Giulia
3. Vicenza Province in Italy
  - Branch office in Brussels
  - Since 1973. Osijek- Pecs “cities that are friend”



# Regional Policy and regional development of the Republic of Croatia

- Regional policy is a means of intervention by the state and it aims to decrease the socio-economic inequalities of different parts of the country and to create conditions for the uniform development.
- The oldest common policies
- 1958. European Social Fund and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
- 1975. European Regional Development Fund- main goal was the redistribution of budget funds to the poorest regions.
- European Commission-Directorate General for Regional Policy
- European Parliament-Committee for Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism
- EU- Committee of the Regions
- Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds
- Law on Regional Development and the Strategy of Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia
- Regional Development Board
- Aim - reducing imbalances in the development of certain areas, and to help create conditions for sustainable economic and social development

# Social cohesion



- Integration of individuals and social groups in the society as a whole
- Social protection, employment and unemployment, education, workers' rights, effective protection of vulnerable social groups, equal treatment, fighting against exclusion and discrimination and strengthening European cooperation regarding migration issues
- Challenges: demographic changes, migrations, cultural differences and political, economical and social changes
- Ideal that should be aspired, constantly conserved, improved and adapted to
- Today's problems and potential threats: unemployment, doubts in maintaining the social security system, uncertainty because of the social problems and criminality rate in derelict city districts, the growth of interculturalism – danger for the traditional identity, emerging of new risks of poverty and social banishment etc.



# about Social Cohesion

- Acquis that can be further worked on.
- Explains the term the social cohesion as an ability of one society to ensure the gain for each member, to minimize the inequality, to avoid the polarization and to „listen to the voice of the banished“
- European Committee for Social Cohesion (Comité européen pour la cohésion sociale)- CDCS
- 2001. Strategy for Social Cohesion
- 2004. Revised Social Cohesion Strategy
- Research under the name „Acces aux droits sociaux en Europe - Access to Social Rights in Europe“



How to change and combine the differences so that they become a source of mutual enrichment and not a factor of division and conflict?

# Social banishment



- A failure in achieving integration in one or more social systems
- One of the most popular topics of social science but also the main social problem of our era
- There are certain difficulties when defining the term social banishment
- 1998. (France)- No-Banishment Law
- 2001. EU accepted laconic indicators
- In the middle of the 90s of the last century the term social banishment started appearing also in Croatian expert publications

# Social cohesion and social involvement in Osijek- Baranja County

- The County Development Strategy of Osijek- Baranja County 2011 – 2013.
- Human Resource Development Strategy of Osijek- Baranja county 2011 – 2013.
- Project “Fostering Effective Inclusion of Disabled People into the Labor Market” (EuropeAid/127436/D/SER/HR) :
  1. Study on the Status and Needs of Persons With Disabilities in the Labor Market
  2. 2010 and The Action Plan for Employment of Disabled People for the Osijek-Baranja County for 2011 and 2013.



# Social Welfare Services:

1. Six centres for social welfare
2. Eight homes for the elderly and infirm
3. Two homes for mentally ill adults
4. Three childcare homes
5. Centre for professional rehabilitation
6. Centre for education and therapeutic community
7. Family centre
8. Other: civilian organizations (Red Cross, Caritas, etc.), foster families, family homes, legal persons with the performance of other core businesses and others



## Welfare program in the City of Osijek

- Through assistance for housing costs
- Costs of fuel
- Assistance for public kitchens
- Temporary homeless shelter
- Assistance for the costs of public transport
- Free hot meals for pupils in primary schools
- One-time assistance
- Assistance covering funeral expenses
- Gifts for children from socially disadvantaged families for Christmas holidays
- Financial assistance for layette
- Assistance in placement of children from socially disadvantaged families in kindergartens and nursery schools etc.

## Welfare program in the Department of Health and Welfare

- One-time assistance to socially disadvantaged citizens
- The cost of heating
- One-time assistance to pensioners with pension amounts of 1 100 kn and lower for Easter
- aid to Caritas for funding soup kitchens
- supports projects that contribute to the quality of life of elderly people

# Examples of good practice in Osijek- Baranja County

Ord.	Name of the association and other program providers and projects	Name of program/project, activity or service provided
1.	Women's Association "Izvor" (Source or Spring), Home for mentally ill adults and Volunteer Centre Osijek	Support for social cohesion – you can do more
2.	Association for psychosocial needs "Amadea"	Workshops for school children – the rights of children and youth to leisure, play and participate in cultural and artistic activities
3.	Croatian association to help disadvantaged people from Bolman	Help for socially vulnerable people, buying equipment for children from socially disadvantaged families
4.	Bowling Club of disabled people "Osječkosmijeh" (The Smile of Osijek)	Improving the health of people with 100% disability
5.	Croatian Pensioners - Municipal Association Đurđenovac	Program of humanitarian and charitable activities, social welfare and health care
6.	MOGU - therapeutic, recreational and sport riding for people with special needs, Osijek	Inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the labour and social environment through education for work
7.	Caritas of the Đakovo-Osijek Archdiocese Centre for Child	"We are here, too" workshops for children and young Roma
8.	Osijek-Baranja County, Osijek Centre for Inclusion	Inclusion, working occupation of protégés, employment of people with intellectual disabilities
9.	Association HVIDR-a Osijek	Self-help and psycho-help for the disabled, veterans and their families, team for crisis interventions
10.	Social welfare centres of Osijek-Baranja County	Measures of family legal protection taken in the interests of children, counselling, housing, delivery of hot meals, home care

# Big inevitable problem: unemployment

- The third county according to the unemployment rate in Croatia
- A special problem was the unemployment of women, older people and long term unemployment

Category	The number or percentage
1. The unemployment rate had descended for :	3,4% or 2.966 people
2. Unemployment rate had ascended for :	11,8% (3,0 % more than last year)
3. Registered monthly	34.438 unemployed people
4. Structure by sex	54,4% women, and 45,6 % men
5. Education level	31,7% of people had a three year education in high school 60,9% of the people had the entire high school education 31,4% of people had either not finished or had finished elementary school
6. Age	35,4% of people were older than 45
Unemployed people with handicap	740 people (6,6% or 46 people more than in December 2011.)

# Social Cohesion from the Media

- 19. April 2012., official Internet site of the Independent Croatian Labor (about the meeting of a laboring group where the topic of discussion was the economical and social cohesion)
- 21. April 2012., National, Title: „Endangered Social Cohesion of the Union”





Conclusion...



“United in Diversity”



Thank  
You

