

## CROATIA

### Local development

#### Location

Gudovac

#### Programming period

2014 – 2020

#### Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local development

#### Measure

M07 – Basic services & village renewal

#### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 3 781 644.98  
EAFRD 710 025.68  
National/Region. 946 320.65  
Private 2 125 298.65

#### Project duration

2019 – 2021

#### Project promoter

City of Bjelovar

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#### Website

<https://www.bjelovar.hr/>

The construction of a kindergarten and a nursery to increase rural pre-school provision, contribute to improving local services, and help retain young families from the rural areas.

### Summary

Bjelovar is a city located in central Croatia. It is the administrative centre of Bjelovar-Bilogora County with some 40 000 inhabitants, according to the 2011 census.



A plot of municipal land in the village of Gudovac was used for the construction of a kindergarten and a nursery to help relieve pressure on the nursery in the centre of Bjelovar, which up until now, has accommodated the children from the neighbouring villages.

### Results

The project has direct benefits in creating new employment. Ten new jobs (seven preschool educators, one service person and two cleaners) will be created in the kindergarten and nursery, that will care for 52 pre-school children.

The positive effects for the target group and end users of the project are the provision of infrastructure that contributes to the improvement of basic services in Gudovac village.

### Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The project can be seen as an example of good networking between the local authority, the public pre-school institution and the private sector. These groups have cooperated and coordinated their work so that the project can be implemented successfully and achieve the planned results.
- ❑ The project can be transferred to other areas that need kindergarten services, and thus contribute to reducing the trend of out-migration of young people from rural areas.
- ❑ Projects like this contribute to improving the quality of life of rural residents and provide accessible services to local communities. The project was financed under Measure 7.4.1, as have several other kindergartens in Croatia and probably elsewhere in Europe.

### Context

Bjelovar is a city located in central Croatia and it is the administrative centre of Bjelovar-Bilogora County with some 40 000 inhabitants, according to the 2011 census. The city owned a plot of land in the village of Gudovac with a gross construction area of 473.06 m<sup>2</sup>. The plot was ideally placed next to a primary school in the village, which was recently renovated with EU funds.

The plot was large enough to build a kindergarten and a nursery, in full compliance with the respective laws. This would help relieve the pressure on the existing nursery in the centre of Bjelovar, which has been accommodating children from the village of Gudovac (1 095 inhabitants) and neighbouring villages Prgomelje (696 inhabitants), Rajic (214 inhabitants), Klokočevac (828 inhabitants) and Stara Plavnica (673 inhabitants).

Therefore, it was decided to build a kindergarten that will have two kindergarten groups and one nursery group and care for about 52 children. This will make it easier for parents with children living in these areas.

### Objectives

The project aims to improve the quality of life in village of Gudovac by building a kindergarten and nursery. It also aimed to contribute to the creation of new jobs and to encourage economic growth and socio-economic sustainability in the village.

The primary target group was young families with children, with the aim of putting in place accessible social infrastructure to reduce the out-migration of young people from rural areas of Bjelovar.

### Activities

The project started after the City of Bjelovar received the decision that the 'Construction and equipping of kindergartens and nurseries in the village of Gudovac' project would be co-financed through the Rural Development Programme (RDP) from the Agency for Payments in Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development in November 2019.

Before this decision was made, a public procurement contract was launched to find the supplier. Construction work began on 18 November 2019 but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The works were finally completed on 28 February 2021.

In parallel, a tender was announced for the employment of ten people to staff the kindergarten and nursery. In

April 2021, the newly built kindergarten and nursery officially became operational.

The entire administration and implementation of the project was led by the project manager from the City of Bjelovar and the professional service of the City of Bjelovar. The construction was carried out under the supervision of the contractor and the construction supervisor and work was completed without any problems.

The Bjelovar kindergarten will be responsible for employing the new staff and enrolling the children as well as managing and maintaining the facilities in the newly built kindergarten. The project is due to be completed in May 2021, which is the approximate deadline for submitting the last payment and the final report. The City of Bjelovar has paid more than HRK (Croatian Kuna) 5 000 000 (€ 660 000) for construction works. Also, it will be the first kindergarten to be housed in an almost zero-energy building in a rural area of Bjelovar.

### Main results

The project has direct benefits in creating new local employment. Ten new jobs (seven preschool educators, one services person and two cleaners) will be created in the kindergarten and nursery, that will care for 52 pre-school children.

The positive effects for the target group and end users of the project are the provision of infrastructure that contributes to the improvement of basic services in Gudovac village.

### Key lessons

The project can be seen as an example of good networking between the local authority, the public pre-school institution and the private sector. They cooperated and coordinated their work so that the project could be implemented successfully and achieve the planned results.

The project can be transferred to other areas that need kindergarten services, and therefore contributes to reducing the out-migration of young people from rural areas.

Projects like this contribute to improving the quality of life of rural residents and provide accessible services to local communities. The project was financed under Measure 7.4.1, as have several other kindergartens in Croatia and probably others elsewhere in Europe.

### Additional sources of information

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