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ASB SETS UP MOBILE SOCIAL TEAM UNDER SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAJUR AND DONJI KUKURUZARI

Under the project for the provision of social services within the CARDS 2004 programme, the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Croatia and its project partner, the civil society organisation "Novi Svijet", have recently set up a mobile social team to provide home care services for the elderly in the municipalities of Majur and Donji Kukuruzari in Sisak-Moslavina County in Croatia. For this project, ASB employed 10 people including one nurse and nine care takers who carry out a variety of social services. Prior to their employment, ASB conducted a course for 16 unemployed persons from these two municipalities who were trained as home care providers. The course was held in the municipality of Donji Kukuruzari and later, the home care providers completed a practicum at a nursing home in Petrinja.

At the same time, ASB selected 122 elderly beneficiaries from the municipality of Donji Kukuruzari and 114 from the municipality of Majur who were in dire need of social and health care services. They are now included in this project and receive social services such as medication delivery, medical and administration services, basic house maintenance (grass cutting, small repairs and painting), firewood chopping and stacking, transportation to medical treatment facilities. The beneficiaries mainly live in remote villages and hamlets in these two municipalities and the afore-mentioned services are provided by this mobile social team. In the long run, this will significantly improve their living conditions and enable these elderly beneficiaries to continue a comparatively self-sustained life.

This project also provides the opportunity for ASB to remain active in the implementation of development projects in Croatia, building up on its previously implemented development and social infrastructure projects under the previous EU-funded projects, especially in the area of Sisak-Moslavina County. Since 1996, ASB has implemented projects valued at € 82.1 million in Croatia with funds from the European Union and individual member states. ASB rebuilt more than 4,235 housing units for DPs and refugees and carried out numerous projects in the fields of humanitarian mine-clearance, technical, social and economic infrastructure, sustainability measures and capacity building.

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