Subject: Comment on the Report on the implementation of the Joint Memorandum of Social Inclusion of the Republic of Croatia, between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the European Commission for the period from March 2007 to June 2008 (Joint Inclusion Memorandum/JIM)


In our opinion, it should be noted that the Report reflects a certain inclusion, cooperation and participation of civil society organisations (CSOs). Since the issue here is promoting a public good, we believe that in many priority areas of the fight against poverty and social exclusion there is some space where advancement of this cooperation and a more harmonised activity of CSOs might lead to a more significant progress.

With this in mind we would like to comment on several points:

3.1.5. We propose that, in addition to a number of measures proposed in this item, it should be stressed that there is a need for and importance of a synergy of the activities of individuals, the local community and CSOs in resolving the issue which is one of the possible generators of poverty.

3.1.7. Indications of the possibility of the introduction of the state pension seem noteworthy, particularly because, as mentioned, this measure might preserve and support the dignity of a person, and also because the importance of mutual assistance among elderly persons is not neglected.

3.2.3.2. a) We commend the proposals of measures for strengthening and preserving the family. We trust that the wellbeing of the family should be considered from a holistic aspect and therefore would like to stress that we also expect a stronger, better coordination with regard to legal regulations which, directly or indirectly, contribute to the preservation or jeopardising of the family. Various legal regulations are passed by insufficiently strong political will, and they, in the name of economic prosperity and growth of the country, at the same time jeopardise the dignity of the workers and lead to detriment of the individual and the family (for instance, by inconsistent Act on Sunday Work of Shops, and this then reflects on the society as a whole).

b) We believe that the proposal for the preparation of a study on deprivation of children and what has been done so far in the development of a programme of working with children with behavioural disorders in educational institutions is valuable.

c) In our opinion, in order to strengthen and preserve the family, a more appropriate approach would be the one that would, in addition to the measures mentioned, also
include programmes of advancement of communication, rage control, prevention of violent resolution of family conflicts etc.

3.2.4.4. We trust that it is appropriate to use the term „other vulnerable groups“ to include all victims of violence (in the school, at work place, at public gatherings and public spaces etc.), and not only the victims of family violence.

3.2.6. i 4.2. We would also like to stress great importance of cooperation and inclusion of CSOs, particularly in the preparation and implementation of the Strategy of Decentralisation and Deinstitutionalisation of Social Services in order to make faster progress through cooperation at all levels.

Thank you for delivering the report to us. With kindest regards,

mr.sc. Ivan Milovčić
Hrvatski Caritas
Director