



**AMICA EDUCA**  
Centar za edukaciju i humani razvoj

# Amica Educa 2020

Enhanced social protection by building capacities of the civil society  
organizations (CSOs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020

# Amica Educa

## EVERYTHING WE DO GETS MEANING WHEN BENEFICIARIES BECOME EMPOWERED AND START MAKING CHANGES

Amica Educa in Tuzla has been, for more than 24 years, proving that difficult life's challenges we face can be overcome, and that we can come out stronger and more aware of ourselves and of our life's vision. Many children, young people and adults have been empowered through psychoeducation, psychotherapeutic support and counselling that this organization provides to marginalized groups. They have recognized their problems, addressed them and changed their lives.

One of them is **Dijana Branković**, who had suffered emotional abuse for years. She decided to seek help at time of severe depression. **"I had severe depression then. They immediately referred me to a psychotherapist and I started to attend individual psychotherapy sessions. My life turned around completely. I got a divorce after my husband became physically abusive, and now feel more stable, happier, simply more peaceful and stronger. I know that I always have support"**, says Dijana.



Tremendous efforts and work on self-sustainability of the organization go into securing adequate assistance to the beneficiaries. **Selma Aličić**, directress of the organization Amica Educa knows it best. **"During 2020, we have tried to connect as much as possible with the institutions engaged in the area of social work. We have intensified cooperation with the Center for social work and established cooperation with the Home for children without parental care concerning the support to young people who are leaving the system of care. Our organization became member of the Cantonal Board and the Working Group for preparation of the Tuzla Canton Development Strategy, as well as member of the working group for preparation of the gender action plan in Živinice, where we have established cooperation through education of employees working in the institutions on the territory of this city. This year was marked by advocacy, networking and increasing the visibility of the organization in the community,"** says Aličić.

The support of the organization CARE International Balkans through the project **Enhancing social protection by building capacities of the civil society organizations (CSOs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina** was of great importance in promoting organization's key ideas: **"We had education on marketing, promotion through social networks and advocacy, and it meant a lot to us. In addition to furnishing the therapeutic room for psychotherapy and the conference room for group psychoeducation, this year we have received support for construction of a ramp that makes our premises accessible for persons with disabilities.**

Furthermore, Amica Educa has sent a request to the Ministry of Labor, Social Policy and Return of Tuzla Canton for continuous financing of Family Counselling. **"Amica Educa has personnel, exceptional experts, 24-year long experience, adequate premises, and continuity of progress. At the same time Centers for social work are missing personnel and resources to respond to all needs in the community. We have so far cooperated through projects, but in order to improve the cooperation and maintain continuity of Amica Educa's work, we have sent a request to the Government of Tuzla Canton to partially**

finance this organization from the budget”, points out **Edin Šestan**, assistant to minister for social and child protection of Tuzla Canton.

This would surely contribute to this organization expanding its capacity and providing services to a larger number of citizens, but also to being stable and sustainable for its years-long beneficiaries, such as **Emina Slijepčević**. **“My brother was killed on May 25, 1995 in Tuzla massacre. I have carried a lot of sorrow and pain in my heart for a very long time, but have not work on that. When I came here, I painted my life and that event through three stages. Stepping back and looking at my painting had really struck me. I am happier today, especially because I learnt to recognize emotions and to talk about them and that is extremely important”**, says Emina, who works as an educator today and closely cooperates with this organization.

Hearing positive feedback of beneficiaries means a world to **Ivona Erdeljac**, program manager of the organization Amica Educa: **“It is a deluge of pleasant emotions. Everything we do gets meaning when a woman, a man, a child, make a change in life and become more satisfied and happier, and then start changing environment in which they live.”**

They did not even give up on helping beneficiaries in the situation caused by COVID-19 pandemic.



“

**“We are very proud of how quickly we adapted to the crisis. We immediately turned to the online support. No beneficiary was deprived of support. We have developed a range of new online services, which is very positive. We have a stable team for years already, we support each other, just like our beneficiaries. They give something of themselves to us, we give a part of us to them, and therefore that connection becomes stronger and better,”** concludes Ivona.

”





This project is financed within  
Czech Republic development cooperation



Enhancing social protection  
by empowering COS in BiH



This project is implemented by  
CARE International

---

This document was created within the project „Enhanced social protection through building capacities of CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018-2020)“, implemented by CARE International in BiH and CARE Czech Republic and financially supported by the Czech Republic Development Cooperation. The displayed content is an exclusive responsibility of CARE International in BiH and by no means does it reflect the position of the Czech Republic.