

# THE ZAGREB COUNTY – THE PROGRAMME HOME CARE ASSISTANCE FOR THE ELDERLY



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## Background

The Zagreb County is a regional self-government unit in the Republic of Croatia, consisting of 9 towns and 25 municipalities with 317.606 inhabitants. More than 50.000 people over the age of 65 live in Zagreb County (census - 2011). The percentage of the old population in Zagreb County indicates that it belongs to the "older county" in the Republic of Croatia. In the County's rural areas, a large number of the elderly and disabled live in single-person households.

## Material & Methods

In addition to the institutional care, the County promotes the development of the community-based non-institutional care for the elderly and disabled people.

The Programme includes the services related to food, performing household chores, assistance in the maintaining of their personal hygiene, as well as in performing other daily activities.

## Results

The Programme **Home Care Assistance for the Elderly** is intended for the elderly who have been socially isolated for many different reasons and live in the areas where there is no public transportation, live far away and do not have neighbours around, do not have heirs or their children have moved out for work, their spouses are dead, and live within an area with poorly developed social attachments, with insufficient financial resources, often of poor health. For the users of the said Services, it is essential to maintain the level of independence and remain as long as possible in their homes, within the safe environment in which they have spent their whole life. The Social Service Programme is currently implemented in the municipalities of Žumberak, Pisarovina and Pokupsko. It is conducted by a team of experts, nurses, elderly caregivers and other assistants. The programme covers more than 100 households in need and the service is carried

out by employees and members of the Association "Sv. Martin Pisarovina". On an annual basis, Zagreb County co-finances the program with about 45,000 euros.

It is also important to mention the programme named **"Wish - Women's Employment Programme"** (cro. *Zaželi*), implemented by the Red Cross town nursing centres for the elderly on the territory of the municipalities of Sveti Ivan Zelina, Vrbovec, Ivanić-Grad, Dugo Selo, Samobor and Jastrebarsko and respective municipalities. The Program covers 580 households and employs 96 hard-to-work people living in the area. The Programme funding is supported by the European Social Fund.

In 2018./2019. Zagreb County purchased and donated 6 vehicles for the needs of the City Red Cross Societies in the Zagreb County for the purpose of implementing the program for about 115.000 euros.

## Conclusion



With the purpose of extending the network of non-institutional senior care services, the Zagreb County will provide support to all those who want their parents, grandparents and citizens to live contentedly in their homes, according to its means. Home Care Assistance for the Elderly and Disabled Programme has proved to be very successful. For the successful continuation of the programme we can conclude that cooperation with competent institutions, local government units, NGOs and others who wish to achieve longevity and healthy ageing is necessary.