

**Project:** **Development and support of the welfare system in Novi Sad - Serbia**

**Subject:** This project originates from the historical friendship between the cities of Modena and Novi Sad, formalised by a twinning partnership dating back to 1974. Over the time, this link has shifted from regular visits and exchanges between the two local governments (including humanitarian aid during the Yugoslav war dissolution and after the Kosovo crisis) to a more structured and institutionalised relation. Since 1999, the City of Modena is partner to the “City to City” programme, promoted by the UN in co-operation with the Italian government and implemented by UN special agency UNOPS.

In the framework of the “City to City” programme, the City of Modena has strengthened its decentralised co-operation scheme with the City of Novi Sad and identified welfare as one of its priority of intervention.

The project implies a joint effort between the network of Modena’s social services and Novi Sad aiming at enhancing the quality and effectiveness of actions and personnel in charge of the local territory through ad hoc training schemes.

The project focuses on three specific areas identified over the time in the professional exchanges between the local governments of Modena and Novi Sad which involved a small group of NGOs operating in Serbia.

1. area minors: the purpose is to implement a programme supporting minors suffering from family hardships or social marginalization through the promotion of foster care.
2. area disability: the aim is to encourage the reintegration of disabled persons into social life through access to specific work trainings allowing them to learn how to perform a job.
3. area elderly: the goal is to collaborate with other Italian NGOs already operating in the field in partnership with the City of Novi Sad.

**Submission:** 2001

**Donors:** City of Modena (Department for Social and Health Policies), Emilia-Romagna Region (Department for European Policies and International Relations), UNOPS

**Programme:** L.R. 5/96, Regional Act for measures supporting populations damaged by natural disasters, armed conflicts malnutrition and poor sanitary conditions, as well as “City to City” programme, promoted by the UN in co-operation with the Directorate-General of Development Co-operation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by UNOPS.

**Leader:** City of Modena - Department for Social and Health Policies

**Partner:** City of Novi Sad

**Duration of the project:** 24 months