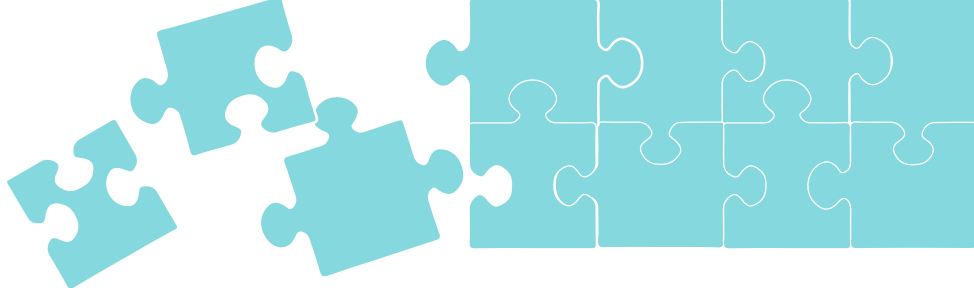


**CROATIAN UNION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR AUTISM (CUAA)**  
**SAVEZ UDRUGA ZA AUTIZAM HRVATSKE (SUZAH)**





# History

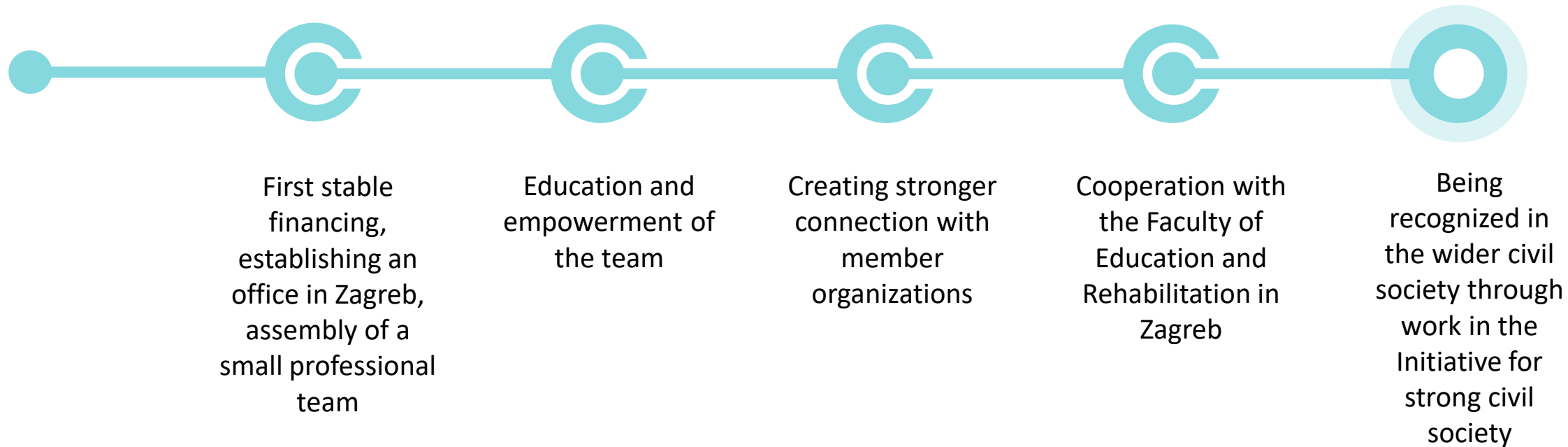


The organization was founded in 1979 by a group of parents who wanted to improve the quality of life for their children with autism

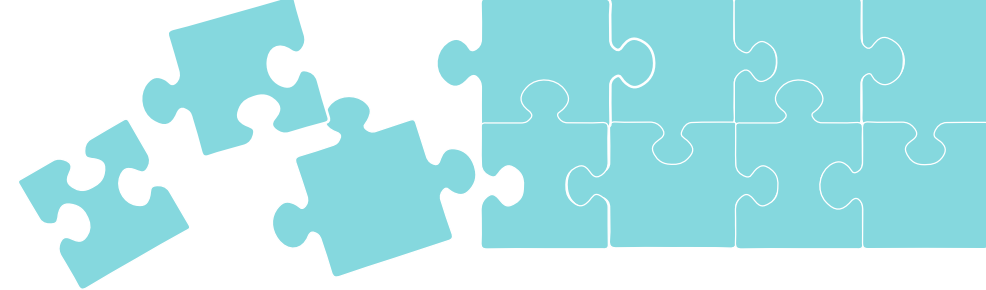
We advocated for the Center for Autism, the diagnostic center, collaborated with similar organizations throughout the former state, issued materials and empowered an entire generation of experts



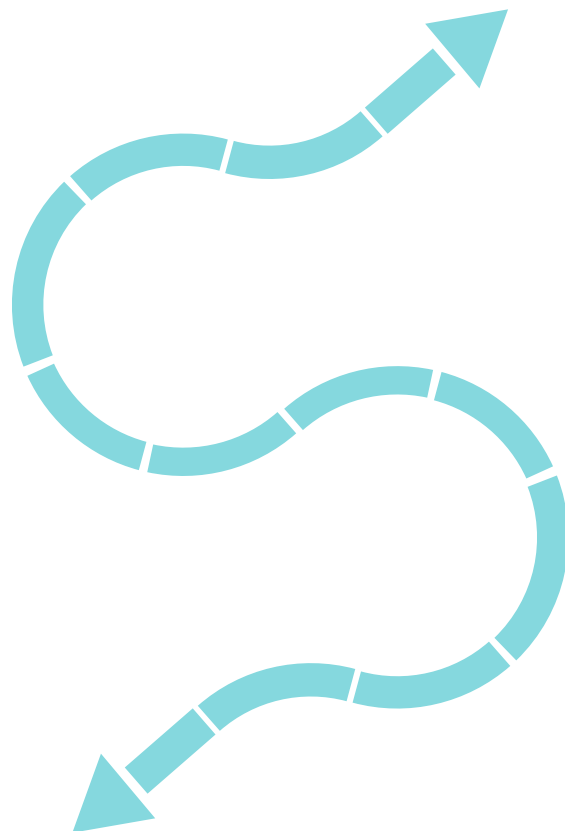
# 2014 - 2016



# 2016 to today



CUAA is recognized in the sector of people with disabilities, in wider civil society, among experts and state administration bodies and in the general public as a relevant actor in the field of care for people with autism



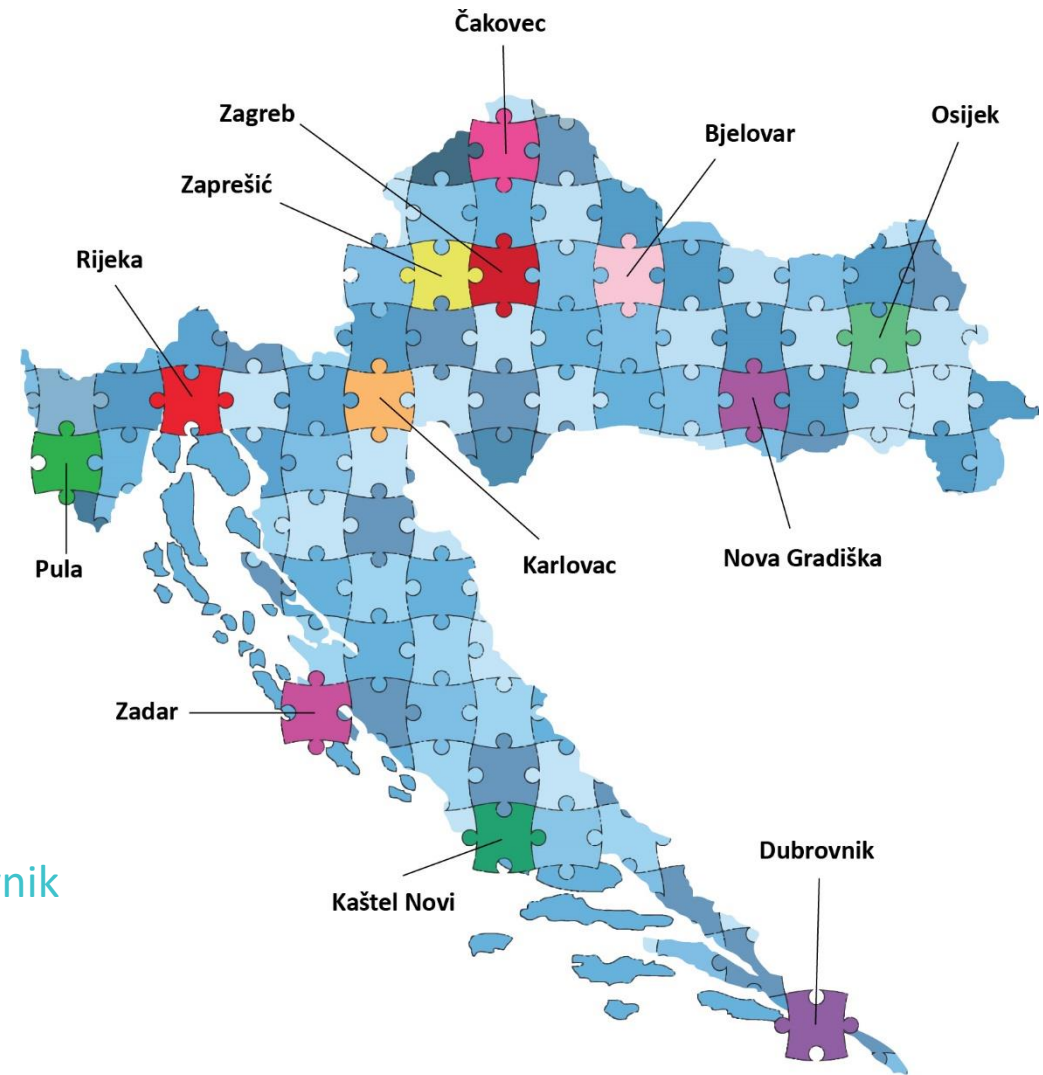
An organization with a small but stable and knowledgeable team



An organization with an exceptional network of cooperation with domestic and EU institutions

# Member associations

1. Association for autism - Zagreb
2. Association „View”, Čakovec
3. Association for autism Rijeka
4. Association „Gift”, Osijek
5. Association „Bells”, Karlovac
6. Association „Sun”, Nova Gradiška
7. Association „Our kids”, Kaštel Novi
8. Association for autism Istra
9. Association for autism Zadar
10. Association „Rubik”, Zaprešić
11. Association for autism Bjelovar
12. Association „Towards health together”, Dubrovnik



# Areas of work

- 
- 
- 
- 1 Support in writing project applications, partnerships on projects
  - 2 Communication with the local public administration
  - 3 Communication with the media
  - 4 Connecting with experts
  - 5 Education of employees and member associations
  - 6 Maintaining mutual support among member associations
  - 7 Event organization (World autism awareness day)

# Research and collection of good practices

Conducted research on the availability of social services and the position of people with Asperger's

A

Continuous monitoring of the position of people with autism in Croatia, starting from the youngest age to adulthood

B

Active cooperation and membership in Autism Europe

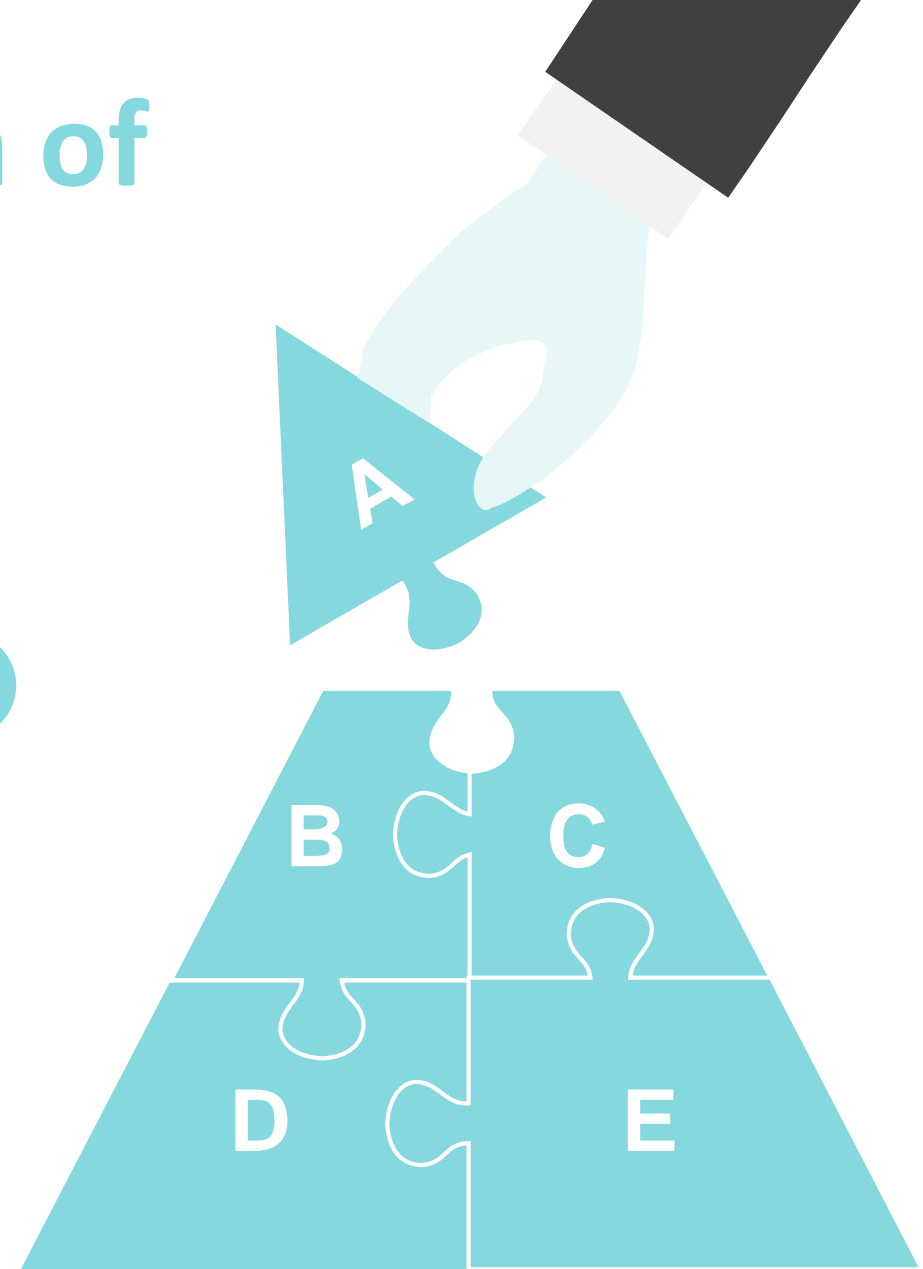
C

Cooperation with organizations from Serbia, Italy, Spain, Scotland, Slovenia, Portugal, Belgium and France

D

Developed numerous educational materials primarily to support families of people with autism

E



# Advocacy



Membership and active participation in a number of government bodies, working groups and Councils with the underlying concept – NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US and SYSTEMATIC SOLUTIONS

- Professional advisory for ombudswoman for persons with disabilities
- Government committee on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Working groups for the development of Early Intervention plan, Inclusive Allowance and Assistants
- Membership in the Council for the Civil Society Development in Croatia



Communication with the media about topics related to autism and the challenges faced by this population



Consultations, roundtables, meetings, open letters and pressure through actions and the media towards state administration bodies, primarily the departments of social policy, education and health



# Accomplishments

Website with more than 20,000  
downloads of our educational materials

Organization of World Autism  
Awareness Day in various formats  
for over 10 years

The growth of our member associations  
and their mutual cooperation

Influence on policies towards people with  
autism and people with disabilities

Raising awareness about autism in the  
general public

Numerous families who received support  
through our family support program

# FUTURE



A lot has been done, but we are just at the beginning. Looking back on the time and resources invested can create discouragement, because change is slow and flawed.



Our greatest assets are patience and persistence and the desire to see a society that will understand and empower people with autism.



Thank you for  
attention!