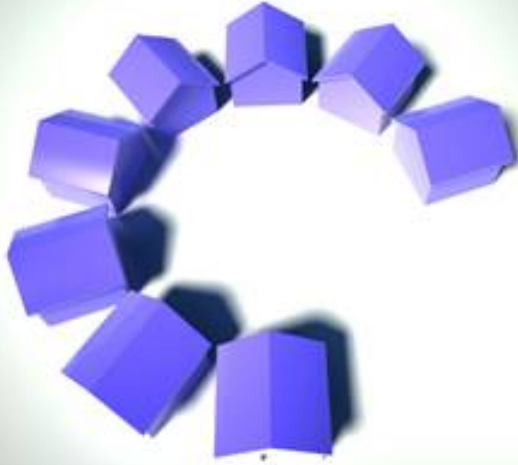




# Communities that Care: Strategy for community prevention in Croatia

University of Zagreb  
Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Josipa Basic, Miranda Novak, Josipa Mihic

# BEGINNING OF CTC IN CROATIA



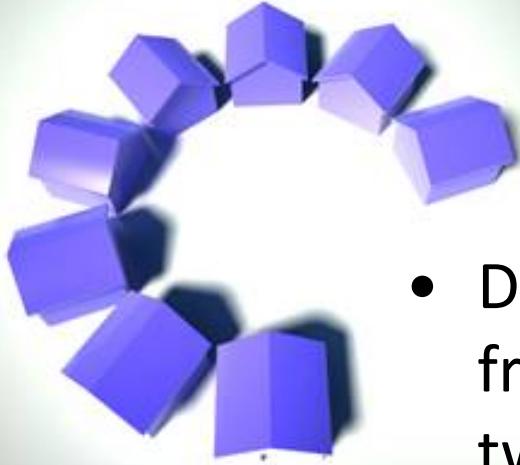
- Government Committee for Prevention of Children and Youth Behavioral Disorders (head: prof. dr.sc. Josipa Basic)
- University of Zagreb's Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences
- During 2001: several meetings with experts from institutions and NGO's involved in prevention of behavioral disorders on regional levels – **the Region of Istria was chosen as a real life laboratory for CTC research**

# BEGINNING OF CTC IN CROATIA



- Implementation of CTC strategy started in Croatia from the year 2002 with the scientific projects in the Region of Isthia
- Communities that Care as a model of prevention of behavioural disorders (2002-2006)
- Communities that Care: development, implementation and evaluation of prevention (2007-2011)
- Supported by Ministry of Science, Education and Sport and Region of Isthia's Department of Health and Social Welfare

# WIDER CTC IMPLEMENTATION



- During 2010 and 2011 all learned lessons from Istria have been transferred to other two communities

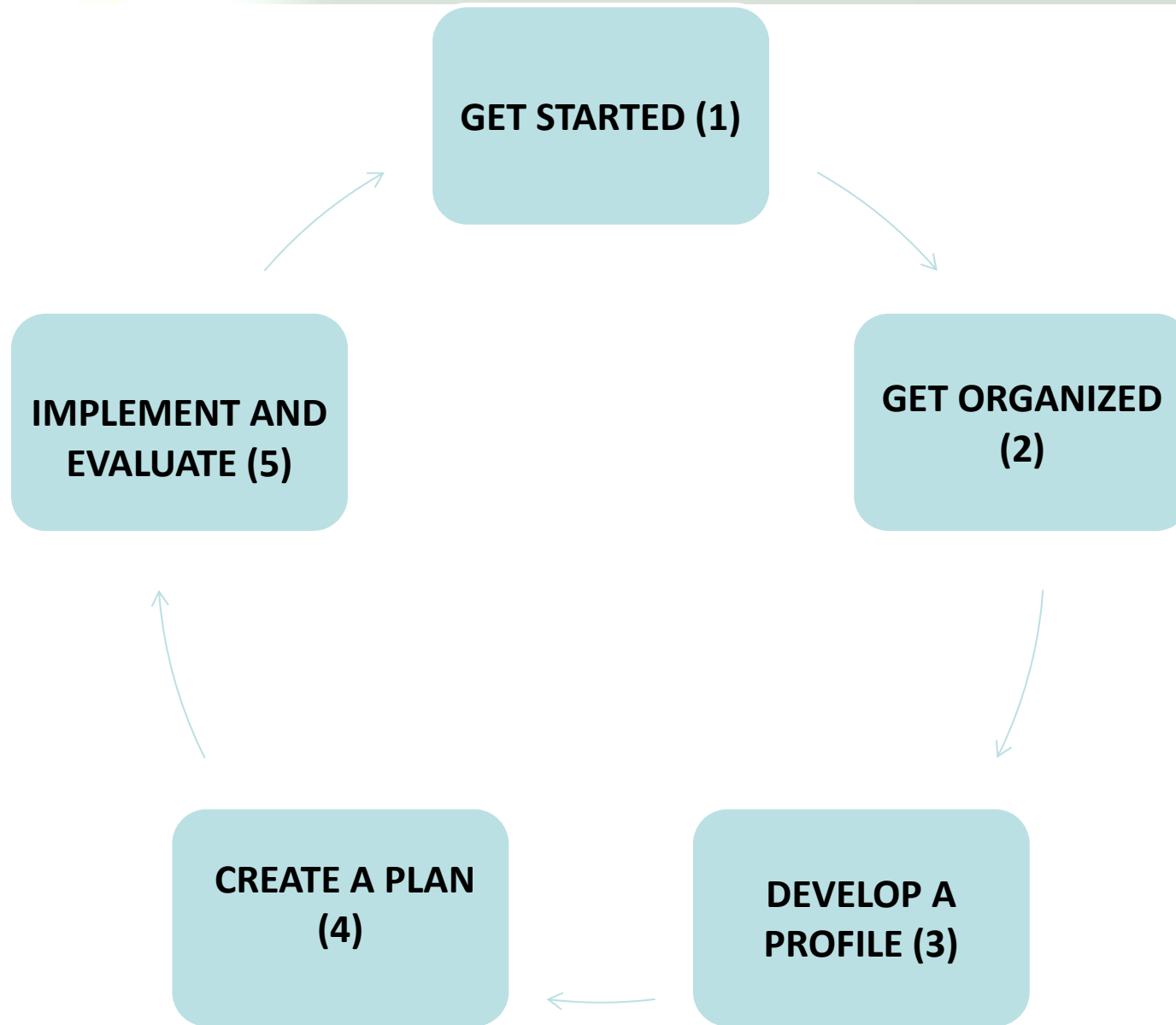


- City of Split and city of Cakovec

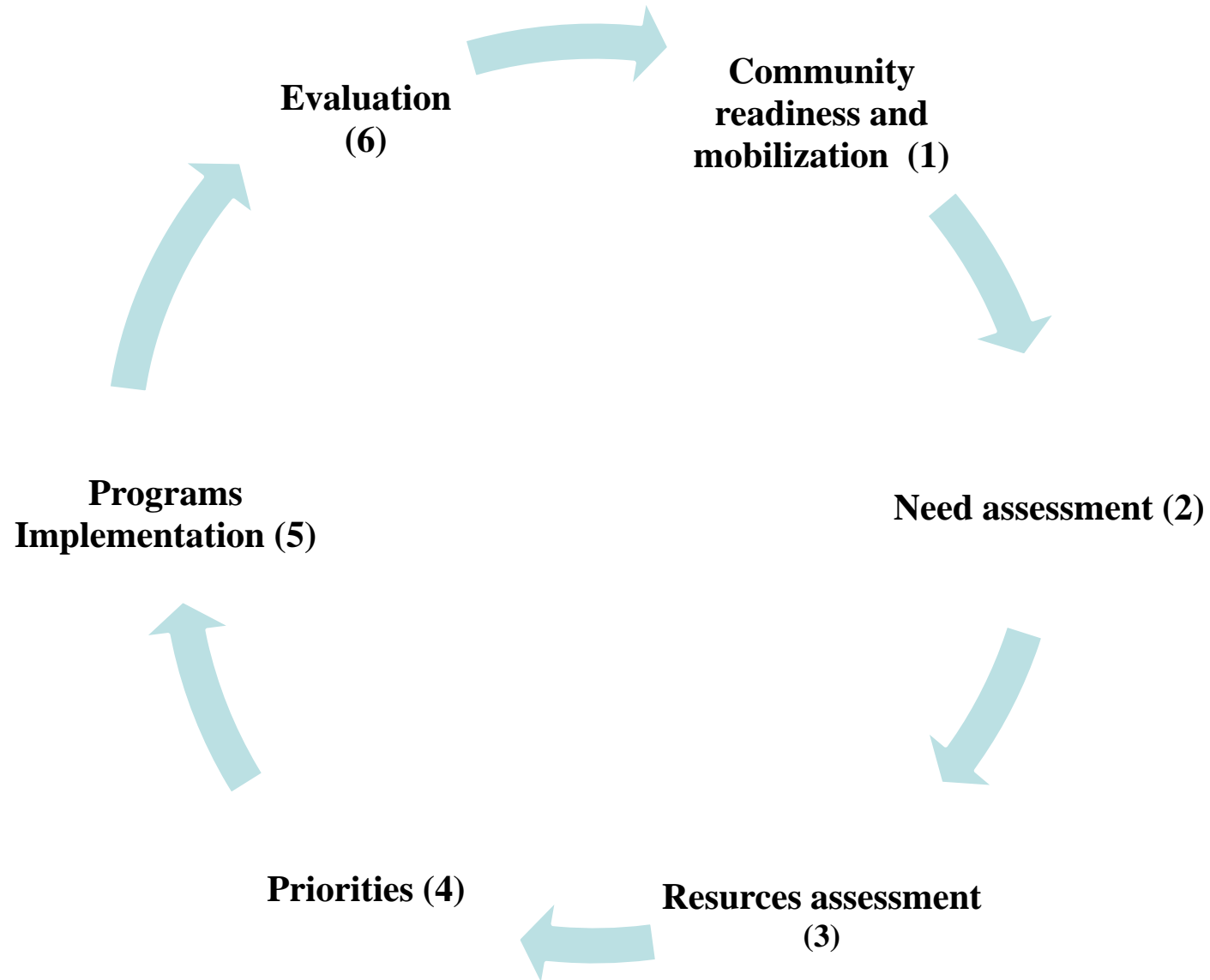


- Joint project of UNDP and Croatian Ministry of Interior aiming at the development of Councils for prevention

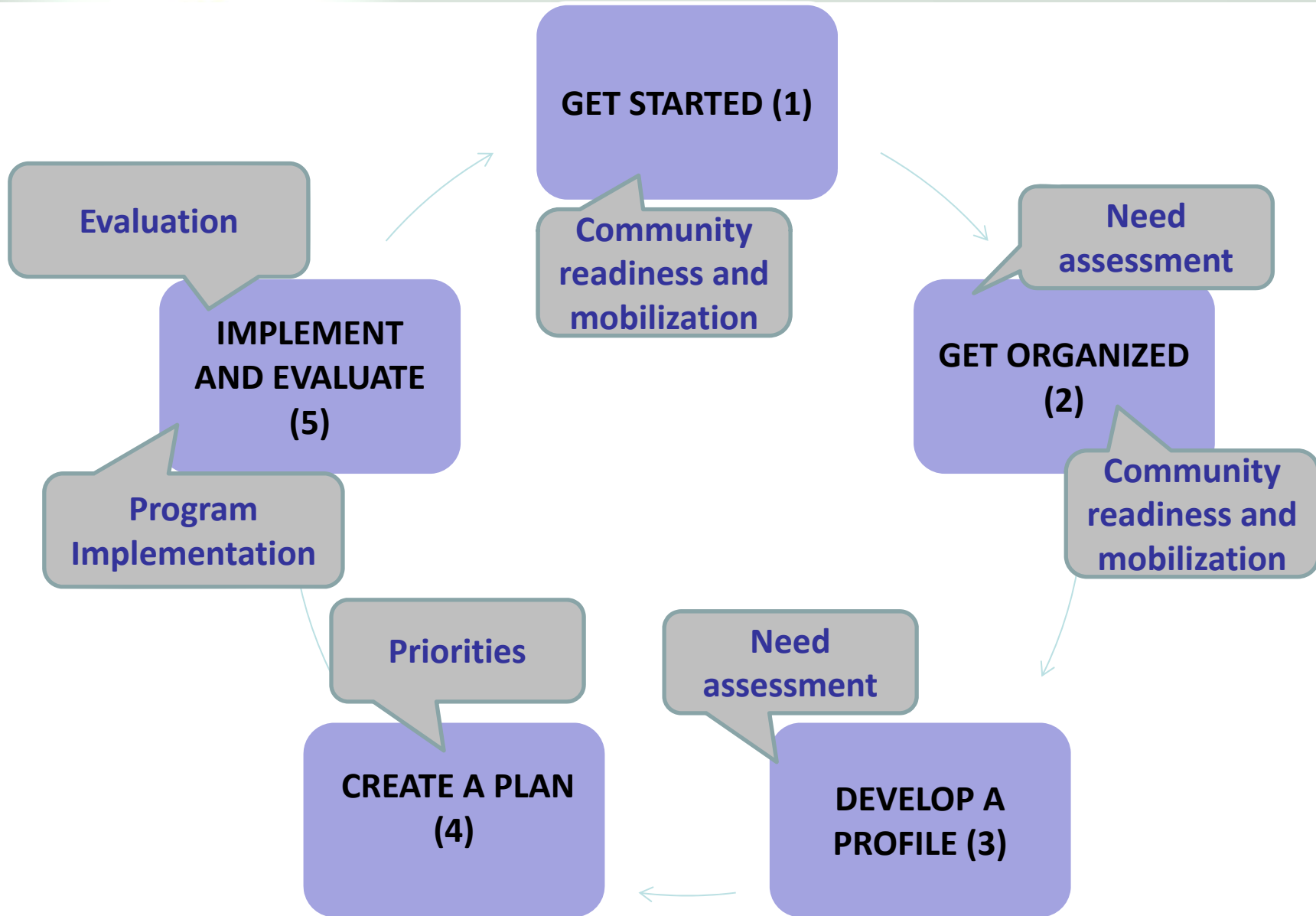
# ORIGINAL CTC MODEL



# CROATIAN CTC MODEL



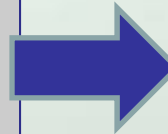
# COMPARISSON OF TWO MODELS



# COMPARISSON OF TWO MODELS



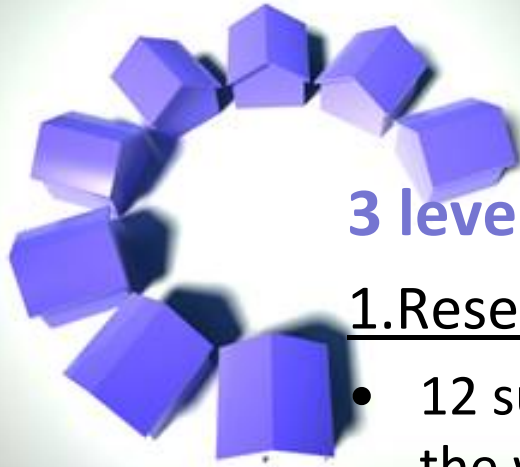
- **Original CTC model**
- Powerful role of stakeholders boards
- 2 days of training in original CTC model
- Validated CTC youth survey
- Lots of evidence-based programs available
- Evaluation of the model



- **Croatian CTC model**
- Forming of the boards in the beginning was nominal but it didn't have enough strength
- A lot more training needed
- Level of knowledge regarding prevention was low
- Measures for research were adopted from USA, not validated
- Croatia at that moment didn't have evidence-based preventive programs = PATHS was adopted and lots of work invested in existing local interventions
- Conducted evaluation: as it was possible



# EVALUATION OF CROATIAN CTC MODEL IN ISTRIA



## 3 levels of model evaluation:

### 1. Research and action level

- 12 surveys and several focus groups were conducted during the whole project - questionnaires for risk and protective factors assessment (children, youth, adults) and questionnaires assessing the conditions for prevention and the level of community readiness
- 5 community priorities for investment:
  - **parent programs,**
  - **socio-emotional competencies,**
  - **programs and initiatives for alcohol abuse prevention**
  - **collaboration of kindergardens, shools, parents**
  - **community and development of counselling service in community**

# EVALUATION OF CROATIAN CTC MODEL IN ISTRIA



## 3 levels of model evaluation:

### 2. Phases of the community prevention model

- Support from key people and leaders from communities
- Teams formed for each priority area
- Community coalition comprised from different stakeholders organized
- Education and training for the experts from the community
- Inventory of existing interventions and resources
- Need assessment (risk and protective factors assessment, level of community readiness and prevention capacities)
- Research conducted
- New interventions implemented and researched
- Intense collaboration with international researchers from prevention field

# EVALUATION OF CROATIAN CTC MODEL IN ISTRIA

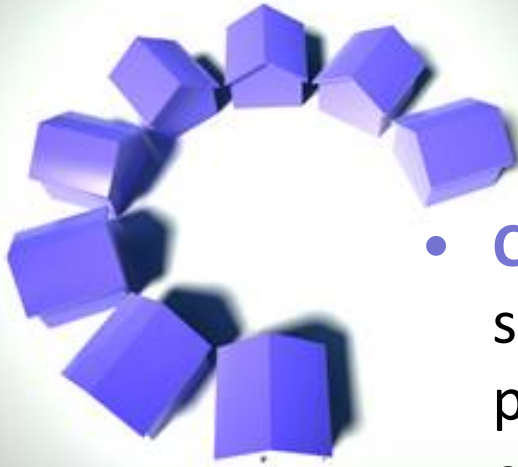


## 3 levels of model evaluation:

### 3. Programs implemented in community

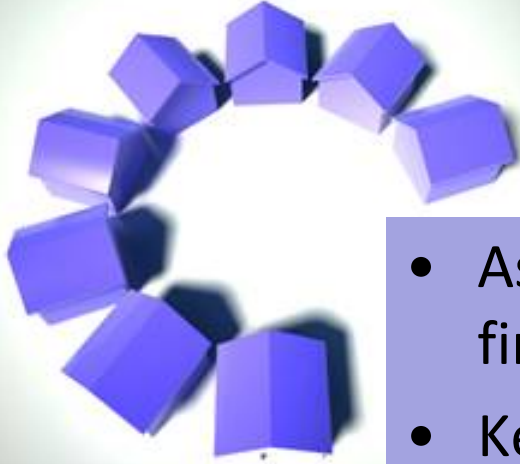
- Community parent training programs
- School preventive intervention: PATHS curriculum (4 years of implementation in 2 experimental schools)
- Research of the alcohol abuse of children and youth in the Region of Istria
- Flowchart of collaboration between community members and institutions
- Described counselling services in the community

# RESEARCH OF CTC MODEL



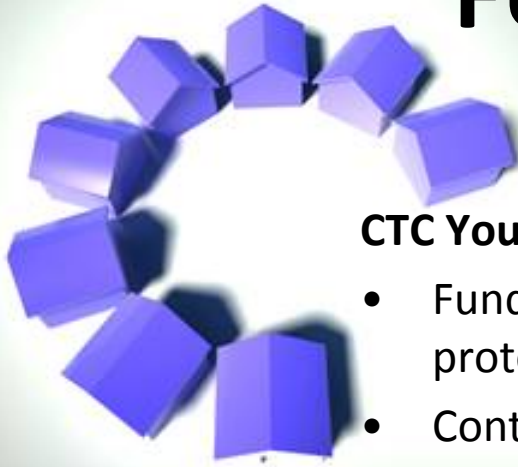
- **Community members** perceive CTC model as significant contributor in the development of prevention strategy and mobilization of community as well as prevention of risk behaviours
- **Stakeholders and key leaders in CTC communities** reported a higher stage of adoption of science-based prevention and were more willing to provide greater funding for prevention
- After 9 years of CTC model implementation, both perceive **better care for children and youth development**

# LEARNED LESSONS OF CTC MODEL



- Assessment of readiness for prevention has to be first step – before any intervention is implemented
- Key stakeholders have to be recognized and included before and their support has to be continuous
- Better coordination of institutions and their collaboration is needed
- Public media campaigns have to follow the whole model to include all community members
- **Need for further research – experimental CTC communities + control communities**

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS



## **CTC Youth survey implementation**

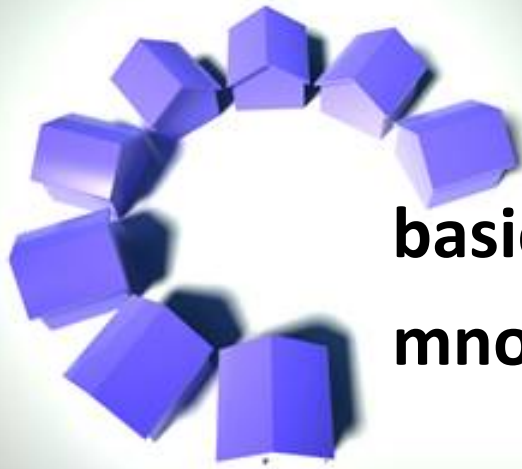
- Fundamental research of Croatian children and youth's risk and protective factors
- Continuation with adaptation of Croatian CTC Youth survey
- Development of Croatian criteria for risk and protective factors
- Comparisson of CTC Youth survey results within EU CTC Network

## **Community readiness assessment**

- Assessment of the level of community readiness in several cities
- Enhancement of the community readiness level

## **Development and adoption of evidence-based programs**

- Development of programs for the prevention of internalized problems
- PATHS curriculum
- Strengthening American Families



**basic@erf.hr**

**mnovak@erf.hr**

**Thank you for your attention!**