

FICAT Foundation: A brief summary

Already 20 years in favor for the access of justice and of community development

I.- Origin: 1996/2000

A group of people from all ideology and condition organized in 1996 in a basic associative social movement, began in Catalònia from the ONG Franciscans International, in order to respond to the need to promote and ensure the citizen's access to justice and develop strategies for community development both locally and internationally.

With few economic resources, much work was done on investment in young social capital, new professionals of Law and Social Sciences with a social aspect who wanted to dedicate themselves to the defense of human rights and dignity.

Activities Performed:

1. **Implementation in 1996 of the Socio-Legal Service in the Youth Penitentiary Center of Barcelona (SSJoves):** detection of a lack of legal information to young inmates in prison / accompaniment / social and legal / free. (1996/2000)
2. **Implementation in 1996 of the Sociojuridical Service in external media (SSJ):** social needs for access to justice to cover / alleviate the lack of legal information / need for accompaniment in the lawyer's request ex officio or of free justice / need of accompaniment to trials, as socio-legal support. (1996/2000)
 - a. Subprogram of Support to the Community Development (APC) of population at risk of exclusion and defense of the right to housing in the Sant Cosme neighborhood of El Prat de Llobregat. (1997/1999).
 - b. Subprogram of Support to the City Council of Barcelona in the design and creation of the Office for Non-Discrimination. (1997/1998).
3. **Implementation of international projects in 1996:**
 - a. International Advocacy Service (AI): reflection and defense of Human Rights recognized in the Universal Declaration in the United Nations Human Rights Commission (interventions thematic and regional). (1996/2000).
 - b. International Cooperation Service (CI) in order to create and support community development projects: support for street children from Bucharest (Romanian Orthodox Church) and support the victims of anti-personnel mines (landmines) in Cambodia (support for Kike projects Figueredo). (1996/2000).
 - c. Support to the City Council of Barcelona in the design and secretariat of the 1st International Conference Cities for Human Rights. (1998/1999).

II. Transformation into Foundation: 1999/2000

With the work done until then/ following an important donation that ensured years for the coordination of the entity/ with the human base formed and dynamic in the defense of access to justice and human development/ with the firm decision to create a foundation based on humanism and altruism, welcoming everything professional of the Goodwill Social Sciences/ through a process of community decision/ coinciding with the start of the new millennium.

The Ficat Foundation was formally established in February 2000, with the same projects developed by the association and the professionals themselves.

III.- FICAT Foundation

An option of social intervention is consolidated, coordinated with the Administrations and other entities, from their own perspective (community of professionals, jurists / with therapeutic social functions / austerity of means / criteria of rigor professional, creativity

and voluntarism), within a holistic vision of reality.

1. **Socio-legal Service in the Youth Penitentiary Center (SSJoves):** maintenance of service with same criteria.
2. **Socio-Legal Service in an external environment (SSJ):** before the increase of social needs for access to justice to be covered, service maintained. (2000/2015):
 - a. Support to Community Development (APC) of the needs of legal information of residents in the Raval neighborhood of Barcelona, derived by social entities. (2000/2009)
 - b. Socio-Legal Service specialized in Immigration Law during the first ten years of our century, especially during the 2 extraordinary regularizations of foreigners of 2001 and 2005. (2001/2012).
 - c. Socio-legal specialized service for unaccompanied minors (MENA), before the abandonment of obligations of guardianship of the Administration (2007/2015).
 - d. Socio-legal service to the educators at the college of educators of Catalonia.
3. **Social Investigation:** We have always tried to reflect on the social changes that have occurred in society:
 - Research on the role of multinational corporations in the defense of Human Rights (2001).
 - Research on unaccompanied minors and proposals for socio-educational intervention with the support of the Jaume Bofill Foundation (2002).
 - Research-Action on the transformation of children of victims of violence to actors of non-violence (2013/14).
 - Research on social models of violence prevention (2015).
4. **Training in Law and Social Sciences of agents involved in the different phases of the reception and social development:** legal operators, social agents, volunteers, students of Legal Sciences, Social Sciences and Management, inmates in Penitentiaries and migrants in the process of establishing themselves definitively in our society.
5. **International Projects:**
 - a. International Cooperation Projects (CI) in order to create and support community development projects, through the participation of volunteering: support for vaccination projects in the jungle of Ecuador (2005), of construction of water wells in rural town schools in Mali (2006), support for a school in one of the communities of Lima (2007/2008), support educational programs of the Salesians in Angola (2008/2009), in support of Daughters of Charity in the construction of a popular bakery in Mozambique (2011/2012).
 - b. Participation in a Daphne program of the European Union on the transformation of minors from victims of violence to actors of non-violence. (2013/2014)
 - c. International Advocacy Service (AI): reflection and observation of the processes of defense of Human Rights recognized in the Universal Declaration in the Commission and Human Rights Council of the United Nations. (200/2006). Development forecast in 2016.
 - c.i. Subprogram of support for the Intra-Rwandan Dialogue initiative national reconciliation.

IV: FROM THE PAST WE ARE PROJECTING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

The driving story that our entity focuses on:

- Ensure the people's rights to their legal defense and access to justice
- Get involved in community development (dynamization and social cohesion, economic development, mediation, training)
- Maintain the duality of action along with local and international reflection
- Focusing on reflection and being laboratories of ideas with applicable research

We think that this driving story continues to be applicable in the coming years.

Fundación Ficat. Barcelona, October 7, 2015.