Initial Situation, Context

In the process to define a new strategy for regulation of the social system in Serbia, the Ministry of Social Affairs opted for a de-institutionalising and for an active participation of the local community. The ministry, municipalities and Parent-Associations requested support for the realization of this contemporary approach. The institution in Pozarevac was finally selected as it has all the conditions for a successful and convincing implementation.

The town with its 95’000 inhabitants is the main place in a group of 8 municipalities in Central Serbia with approx. 0.5 mio people. According to an estimation of the “Society for helping the mentally disordered and Autistic persons”, there are 469 mentally retarded persons in this area, out of them 324 children and youth under the age of 25.

Educational opportunities are limited only to slightly mentally handicapped children within three elementary schools. The rest of those children’s, especially those from poorer families, have to stay at home, without any possibility to be involved in special treatment or rehabilitation. With the establishment of a Daily Centre a big part of these needs can now be met and it will improve the integration of these handicapped children and youth into the society.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Aim of the project was to support the Serbian Ministry of Social Affairs in its efforts to adapt a care system for disabled and mentally disordered people to achieve an improved social care system by the introduction of new models of health care.

Approach
- Support the Ministry of Social Affairs in its effort to improve the social care system
- Assist the local community in solving the problem of children and youth with disabilities
- Support the relevant families in facilitating their efforts for the benefit of their handicapped children

Partner(s)
- UNICEF: provides a consultant in charge of defining the requirements for developing the technical project and for setting up the educational program.
- Serbian Ministry for Social Affairs: includes this project in its strategy and covers the main part of funding the Center for Social Work
- Municipality of Pozarevac: as the owner of the building funds the employees and the functioning of the Daily Center through the Center of Social Welfare, provided the building permissions, primary infrastructure, day-to-day technical inspections during implementation of building works.
- Municipal Center of Welfare (CSW): is in charge of functioning and management of the Daily Center
- Parents Association for……: cooperates closely with CSW and was actively involved in all project phases
- SDC Housing Office: developed, prepared, implemented and monitored the project.
Implementations/Results
The implementation required 9 months:
- 3,0 months for Phase 0: preparation of detailed pedagogical, therapeutical and institutional concept
- 1,5 months for Phase 1: Agreements, project documentation and authorization, bidding and contracting
- 3,5 months for Period 2: Implementation of building works
- 1,0 month for phase 3: Furniture, equipment and hand-over

Technical details
The building selected for this adaptation was a very old storage space (19th century) in very bad condition. The transformation in a modern well-equipped Daily Center produced a usable area of 430 m², and in addition, 550 m² of courtyard. The interior space had to be newly organized.

**On ground floor:** Entrance, 2 sanitary blocks with toilets for handicapped, first aid room, three classrooms, small kitchen, dining room, storage room with economic entrance, gymnastic room and a multipurpose room.

**New attic:** 3 rooms for individual work and a common room for staff.

Type of works executed: hydro insulation, forming new space in the attic, new installations for water, sewerage and electric power and outside works in the courtyard. Furniture for all rooms.

Cost, Financing
The Swiss Federal Office for Refugees (BFF) financed the construction works and the equipment. The cost including furniture and equipment is 273'000 CHF.

Problems/Constraints
No specific problems occurred.

Lessons learned

**What was useful in the approach?**
This is a Pilot Project. The Ministry plans to create a national network with similar Daily Centers with the participation of the local communities. This Center serves therefore as an example.

**What should be done different next time?**
To have to many partners in this project was sometimes difficult for the process. A longer period for the necessary capacity building (training) of the future staff should be better considered.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach
Political acceptance by national and local authorities
Close cooperation with all relevant partners.

Evaluations
None

For further information

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<tr>
<th>Recommended Contacts:</th>
<th>Ernesto Morosin, SDC Housing Office Belgrade</th>
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Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: 3-6
Cross Sections

Fassades
Ground Floor

Attic

Longitudinal Section
Type of Project: Health
Ambulantas, Dispensaries

Country: Serbia

Approach: New Construction

Realisation Year: 2002 - 2003

Project name: Daily Center for Children /Youth hindered in their development

Version: 1

Date: February 2004

Procedures Checklist

General Information

This is a pilot project, which will be used as a model for other Daily Centres since the Ministry of Social Affairs (MSA) intends to build a national network of Daily Centres for disordered and autistic children, with the participation of the local communities. The communal CFSW (Centre for Social Work from the MSA) is responsible for the monitoring of these Daily Centres; the program should last at least 10 years, stated in the agreement with MSA.

The basic function of a Daily Centre is the accommodation during the day for children who are handicapped in their development or who are autistic. Aim is to allow an economic and social functioning of their families without losing the emotional bindings with their handicapped children. The centre provides the conditions for early rehabilitation and a support for a well functioning of the relevant families.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Project aim was to support the Serbian MSA in its efforts to improve and to adapt the care system to a modern standard for disabled and mentally handicapped people in the country.

The beneficiaries of this Daily Centre are mentally disordered and autistic children and youth from the municipality of Pozarevac.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1. Problem Detecting: Parents Association + Municipality + SDC Initiative
   a. Is there an awareness of the high number of mentally disordered and autistic children?
   b. Is the municipality in the process of de-institutionalising the social system. Support from the Government?
   c. Is there a limitation of educational opportunities for mentally disordered children?
   d. How are the specific situations in the involved Municipalities?

2. Concept: SDC Initiative
   a. Analyse the needs of the municipalities
   b. Analyse the needs of potential beneficiaries
   c. Define the concept and the participation of each partner
   d. Find consensus about concept
   e. Set up the educational program
   f. Assess and present already existing models or implemented projects

3. Architectural solution: SDC + UNICEF initiative
   a. Update the structure of beneficiaries
   b. Develop an appropriate solution
   c. Define the requirement for financing the technical project
   d. Propose layout plan and preliminary design

4. Motivation: SDC Initiative + Municipality
   a. Check the willingness of the municipality to participate in the project
   b. Analyse the municipals potential to participate
   c. Motivate, if needed, the municipality to find potentials and resources
   d. Improve motivation, if needed, by defining benefits (incentives)

PROJECT STRUCTURE

5. Partnership: SDC Initiative + UNICEF + Municipality + MSA + CFSW
   a. Approach all partners, organise a round table discussion
   b. Discuss and agree about project concept
   c. Prepare first draft of agreement based on preliminary discussion, receive comments and remarks
   d. Define and sign final agreement
6. Responsibility (Agreement): All Partners
   a  SDC: Initiates, develops concept, coordinates among partners, funds construction, provides technical documentation, implements and monitors
   b  UNICEF: provides a consultant who is in charge of defining the requirements for finalizing the technical project and for setting up the educational program
   c  MSA: Supports the project and includes it into its strategy, covers the main part of funding for the running of the centre
   d  CFSW: Provides professional services, manages and monitors the Daily Centre
   e  Municipality: Provides land and primary infrastructure, provides all permits and authorizations, performs day-to-day supervision of the construction, provides funds for staff and maintenance
   f  Parents Association for hindered and autistic children and youth: Not mentioned in the agreement because of its non-institutional role. Cooperates closely with CFSW and is actively involved in all phases of the project

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

7. Building works: SDC + Municipality
   a  Find urban planning conditions for the project design
   b  Organise urban planning permit
   c  Elaborate the main and executing design and documents
   d  Provide technical check-up of all project documents
   e  Provide approval from the relevant organisations
   f  Organise the necessary “Building Permit”
   g  Organise Tendering
   h  Organise Contracting
   i  Open the construction site
   j  Run the project monitoring
   k  Find and organise the project acceptance
   l  Organise the final account
   m  Organise the documents for “Permit for use” and handover.

8. Selection of Beneficiaries: CFSW (Municipality)
   a  Set-up the Joint-Commission with the relevant partners: (CFSW)
   b  Interview of the parents candidates by the Joint Commission
   c  Final selection, CFSW informs the selected beneficiaries

Legend
MUN: Municipality
CFSW: Centre for Social Work (in each municipality, representing the Ministry of Social Affairs)
MSA: Serbian Ministry of Social Affairs
SCR: Serbian Commissioner for Refugees

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