



EASPD European Conference
“Investing in Social Services, Investing in People”

**Funding models of social services for
persons with disabilities in the
Republic of North Macedonia**

D-r Vasilka Dimoska, Secretary General of PORAKA

16th May 2019, Bucharest - Romania



General concerns about the service provision in Republic North Macedonia

- ✓ Lack of coordination and implementation of the UNCRPD & National DI Strategy 2018 – 2027
- ✓ State still dominant service provider – NOT a positive example!!!
- ✓ Regulatory mechanisms of the service provision are underdeveloped (including the licencing, quality standards and financing mechanisms)
- ✓ Price per user or price per care day is uniform and does not observe the required amount of support
- ✓ **Money do not follow the user!!!**
- ✓ There is a general lack of services – **lack of available funding**
- ✓ The NGOs and private service providers/NGOs are **not recognized as equal partners in the process**

Funding models in the Republic of North Macedonia

- **Direct funding by national budget of the services created and managed by public authorities (mainly MoLSP)**
- **Reserved markets:**
 - Restricted calls of MoLSP for few NGOs providing housing services and piloting personal assistance
 - Partial financial support by the local authorities for day centres and social clubs for adults with intellectual disabilities
- **Personal budgets** – not available
- **Public procurement of social services** – not available
- **Private investment** – only one private day care centre and one private early intervention service

Provision of services

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

- 3 Residential institutions (300 persons with disabilities)
Average costs per user per month = 395 €
- 3 Small group homes (12 children with intellectual disability)
Estimated costs per user per month = not available
- 29 Day centres (431 children with intellectual disability)
Average costs per user per month = 230 €
- Foster care (197 children -with or without disability)
Average costs per user per month = 165 €

Funding of NGO's services

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

- 17 Housing units (small group homes) for **81** adults with intellectual disability, provided by 1 NGO

Average costs per user per month = 165 €

- Personal assistance for **100** persons with physical disability and blind persons, provided by 6 NGOs in 6 municipalities (pilot)

Price per user per hour = 3,25 € for a limited number of hours

Local authorities

- 9 Day centres for **200** adolescents and adults with intellectual disability

Partial funding from 15% to 75%

Average costs user per month = 155 €

- 6 Social clubs for **94** persons with intellectual disabilities

Partial funding up to 50%

Average costs per user per month = 10,5 €

- Other NGO services (early intervention, counseling, workshops for persons with disabilities) are project based, sustainability is in risk

Licensing of service providers

- ✓ There is no real licensing or accreditation procedure
(Only applicable for NGO, state's services are licensed by default!)
- ✓ Registration of NGO/CSOs in the Register of NGOs working on social protection with the MoLSP
- ✓ Conditions to met for “registration” - not based on quality standards, but solely technical:
 - a. Submission of: Statute and Registration document, Annual Work Program, Description of at least 3 social protection projects of the NGO, Financial statement from the Public revenue office.
 - b. The registration in the MoLSP Register of NGOs gives the NGO the right to apply on the MoLSP Calls for social protection projects
 - c. But, the available funds in the MoLSP Calls have been continuously reduced (from 24.390 € allocated for NGO day centres in 2007 to 0 € in 2017 and 2018)

Perspectives

- Existence of wide range of support services (specialised and mainstream) is basic precondition for successful inclusion of persons with intellectual disability in the society, in line with Article 19 of UNCRPD
- Support services should be available for each individual that is in need, regardless of his/her sex, ethnic origin, religion, age or disability
- Support services should be defined and provided according to the needs of the persons with disability, not according the needs of the system
- To achieve the above, **FUNDING IS NEEDED!!!!**

Perspectives

- **Sustainability** of the existing NGO support services - allocation of adequate funds from the national budget
- **Reform** of the social protection system – personalized services and personal budgets
- **Development** of regulatory mechanisms (gate keeping procedures, quality standards, accreditation and licensing, procedures for evaluation and monitoring, financing) in the service delivery process
- **Partnership** between the CSO services providers and the Government – equal treatment of all service providers
- **Twin-track approach:** Decentralization & DI

If we want to build inclusive society, we must respect dignity of people and social justice including persons with disabilities, empowering them to achieve their full potential.

The challenge is to *change the system of financing the services*, so it will respond to the needs of the people and be available for them no matter where in the system the services are provided – the principle of “*money follows the user*”.

Thanks for your attention!

- D-r Vasilka Dimoska
- Secretary General of the Republic Centre for Support of Persons with Intellectual Disability – PORAKA
- Address: Orce Nikolov 122, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia



poraka@t.mk



+ 389 70 255 732



www.poraka.org.mk