

**Development of a functional model of an Information and Analytical Centre  
for social support and rehabilitation of disabled people in St. Petersburg**  
**Project progress report**  
**September 2008 — February 2009**

Research has been carried out by the working group to collect information on city and district-level institutions engaged in the delivery of social and rehabilitation services to disabled persons. The findings are summarized in tables and reflect numbers of staff, specialist profiles, lists of rehabilitation institutions in St. Petersburg and numbers of clients. All findings have been analysed (see the list of tables).

Information is likewise collected and analysed on education, training and research institutions of St. Petersburg.

Research has been carried out to collect and analyse information on existing relevant federal and regional legal framework.

An analytical note on knowledge acquisition, exchange and dissemination in the area of service provision to disabled citizens in Aalborg (Denmark) has been reviewed and analysed. It is suggested that a study tour should be organized to Denmark to provide a full insight into the Danish policy and practice in the area of disability and social protection.

The project has also explored the Finnish experience in the field of social and vocational rehabilitation services provided by day care centres, temporary residential arrangement facilities, social and occupational centres, and residential facilities for disabled people. Discussions covered a wide range of issues associated with information and analytical activities, including troubleshooting guidelines designed to guide the service provider through the most common problems. This experience can be used as a reference in the organisation of Information and Analytical Centre (hereinafter IAC) under the current project.

On October 29, 2008 a research conference “Common concern” on social support for families with disabled children was held at Social Rehabilitation Centre for disabled children and adults of Frunzensky District, St. Petersburg. The conference was attended by specialists of rehabilitation institutions, NGO representatives and project experts T. Shelomanova, N. Medvedeva and I. Makedonova. In their statements, T. Shelomanova and I. Makedonova emphasized the importance of the emerging IAC.

Based on the implemented research, an analytical note is presented on training, rehabilitation and research institutions of St. Petersburg (See Appendix 1).

On December 2008 a round table discussion meeting “Employment of disabled persons: what does it mean?” was held at Podderzhka Social Rehabilitation Centre of Kolpino District, St. Petersburg. The event brought together representatives of rehabilitation institutions, NGOs, health care facilities, employment services. The meeting discussed wide-ranging issues, including co-ordination and co-operation between service providers, introduction of unified record and reporting format, raising awareness through mass media, development and dissemination of methodological guidelines, professional training. All these issues are expected to be addressed by the emerging IAC.

On January 20 through 22, 2009 meetings were held in St. Petersburg with the Danish colleagues Flemming Trap Heuer and Marie Nielsen.

On January 20—21 a series of visits were organized by the St. Petersburg State Social Protection Institution “Podderzhka” of Kolpino District to bring the Danish colleagues abreast of the practice of St. Petersburg rehabilitation institutions.

On January 21 a round table meeting was held to discuss the project implementation prospects.

Late in January, a request for information on rehabilitation institutions was made to district departments of social protection. The findings are expected to be processed in March.

In February 2009 the IAC development plan was discussed with the St. Petersburg Committee for Social Policy.

Earlier, the IAC development was expected to be pursued by methodological departments of the Centre for Technical Rehabilitation Aids, Urban Accessibility and Physical Education for Disabled People (see Appendix 2). However, due to the economic crisis, all rehabilitation institutions in St. Petersburg, including that Centre, were forced to cut up staff.

Therefore, major organisational and methodological tasks and activities are reassigned to the department of methodological guidance in the area of rehabilitation of disabled persons of the Committee for Social Policy, while support is expected from the Centre for Technical Rehabilitation Aids, Urban Accessibility and Physical Education for Disabled People.

Plan for organisational and methodological developments  
for March 1 — May 31, 2009

1. To prepare and enact the Decree of the Committee for Social Policy on organisational and methodological activities in the area of disability and rehabilitation in St. Petersburg

2. To launch the Methodological Council of St. Petersburg Committee for Social Policy ( according to the new framework for meetings)
3. To prepare a report with video materials to be delivered at the meeting of Disability Co-ordination Council
4. To publish a guide on legal acts relevant to rehabilitation service institutions for managers of rehabilitation service providers
5. To organise and carry out the meeting of the Methodological Council (planned for the second half of 2009)
  - To request and analyse unified formats used for document processing in rehabilitation institutions (registration logs, reports)
  - To formulate instructions on the introduction of unified formats in rehabilitation institutions
  - To draft regulations for centres for social developments and rehabilitation institutions.

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