

Pilot project, St. Petersburg

**DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL MODEL OF  
AN INFORMATION AND ANALYTICAL CENTRE FOR  
SOCIAL SUPPORT AND REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED**

within the framework of a local self-government co-operation project  
between Denmark and the Russian Federation  
supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
the Russian Embassy in Denmark

## 1. INTRODUCTION

There are currently around 780 thousand disabled people in St. Petersburg, which amounts to almost 17% of the total number of the city's inhabitants. Over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them need social support and rehabilitation which is provided by regional (city-level) and local (district) social authorities. Twenty-five of these institutions are subordinated to the Committee for Labour and Social Protection. Other rehabilitation service providers catering for the needs of disabled adults and children are subordinated to 18 district administrations of St. Petersburg.

The Committee for Labour and Social Protection has designed the Concept of Development of System of Social Protection of the Community of St. Petersburg – 2006 through 2010, subsequently ratified by the Resolution of the Government of St. Petersburg No. 559 of May 16, 2006. Pursuant to this Concept, the government is now finalizing the development of standards, norms and regulations of social services, including standards of social rehabilitation of disabled adults and children. St. Petersburg Government has also introduced a resolution aimed at the development of the network of social service providers through 2010. In compliance with these documents, the city authorities have embarked upon the establishment of specialized social service providers – centres for social rehabilitation of children and adults with disabilities. At present, such centres are established as legal entities and operate in 9 of 18 city districts. By the year 2010, such centres will have been opened in all districts of St. Petersburg. All centres will be organized according to the unified structure model introduced by the Concept, which will enable them to bring their services closer to the client and to better address the needs of disabled people and their families. Such institutions will offer a full spectre of social and rehabilitation services (including in-home support) to disabled people of working age, children with disabilities and their family members.

In order to ensure effective rehabilitation and delivery of the full range of social services tailored to the needs of people with disabilities and their families, a comprehensive system of social support and rehabilitation should be established in St. Petersburg. The system should be based on an efficient interdepartmental co-operation and co-ordination between public authorities and non-governmental organizations, consistency and coherence of their activities, and effective regulatory tools.

In this respect, particular importance should be given to systematic analytical efforts (collection, processing and analysis of information on various public authorities, institutions and non-governmental organizations) in the field of social protection and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, as well as to continuous update of information on needs of disabled people and on how these needs are catered for by the available services and facilities. Another focus should be set on design and validation of

regulative tools (legal acts, targeted programmes etc) for the development of rehabilitation institutions and services which best respond to the needs of disabled people and their families.

## 2. PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND TARGETS

The overall project objective is to design a model and develop an information and analytical centre for social support and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.

Project targets:

1. To study and analyse the existing Russian and European disability legislation.
2. To study the experience of public authorities and social institutions in St. Petersburg and Denmark in the provision of information and methodological support in the area of disability and rehabilitation.
3. To propose measures and legal documents regulating the establishment and operation of the information and analytical centre for social support and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.

## 3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Project activities will be implemented according to the following schedule:

Stage 1:

- To collect and analyze information on performance of regional and local social authorities and rehabilitation institutions with the view to identifying areas of concern related to organization issues, methodology and human resources.

Term: June – July 2008

- To research and identify opportunities offered in St. Petersburg by training organizations specialized in rehabilitation and research institutions able to provide methodological support to social authorities.

Term: July – August 2008

- To identify and analyze existing federal and regional legal regulation relevant to the methodology of disability and rehabilitation issues.

Term: August – October 2008

- To collect information and analyze the Danish experience in methodological support in the area of disability and rehabilitation

Term: June – August 2008

Stage 2:

To design a concept of an information and analytical centre for social support and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.

At this stage, the project will define the centre's focus of activities, structure, operation procedures, and provide the estimate economic validation with the aim of the

centre getting included into the regional targeted programme “Social Support to the Disabled, 2009 – 2011”. The latter will allow to attract financial resources from the regional budget to the development and maintenance of the centre.

Term: September – November 2008

### Stage 3:

To design and implement the initial testing of the operational model of the centre.

At this stage the project will finalize the development of measures and draft documents that would regulate the establishment and operation of the information and analytical centre for social support and rehabilitation of people with disabilities. The project findings will be presented to representatives of Russian and Danish public authorities and rehabilitation institutions at meetings, seminars and at the final conference of the project (July 2009).

Term: December 2008 – June 2009

Core project activities at all three stages will be implemented by the project working group which will include local and regional decision-makers, representatives of social and rehabilitation institutions, scientists and educators.

## 5. EXPECTED PROJECT RESULTS

After the completion of the project activities, a new structure is expected to be set up in the area of public social protection. Its role will be focused on information collection, analysis and provision of administrative and methodological support to all participants of rehabilitation system. The structure will also promote the development of rehabilitation service market, rehabilitation training, and provision of advice and information to disabled people, their families, social workers and rehabilitation professionals.

## 6. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Provided that the proposed model is approved of by the respective regional authorities, it is expected that the model will be further used as a basis for establishing a governmental institution which will provide information, advice and analytical and methodological support in the area of disability and rehabilitation. The institution will operate within the public system of social protection and will be financed on a planned basis from the public budget.

## 7. PROJECT WORKING PLAN

№	Project activities	Dates	Results	Responsible
1	<b>Stage 1:</b>			
1.1	To identify and assess performance of regional and local social authorities and rehabilitation institutions	June – July 2008	Analytical report	Russian expert Members of the working group

1.2	To identify and assess performance of training organizations and research institutions based in St. Petersburg	July – August 2008	Report results on	Russian expert Members of the working group
1.3	To identify and analyze existing relevant federal and regional legal regulation	August – October 2008	Analytical reports	Russian expert Members of the working group
1.4	To collect information and analyze the Danish experience in methodological support in the area of disability and rehabilitation	June – August 2008	Analytical report	European expert
2	<b>Stage 2:</b>			
2.1	To design a concept of an information and analytical centre	September – October 2008	Concept description	Russian expert Members of the working group
2.2	To organize a round table discussion of the proposed concept scheme with the participation of local public officials of Aalborg	November 2008	Round table reports	Public Committee for Labour and Social Protection
2.3	To revise the concept of the information and analytical centre	November 2008	Revised concept	Russian expert Members of the working group European expert
3	<b>Stage 3:</b>			
3.1	To design and implement the initial testing of the operational model of the centre	December 2008 – May 2009	Organization documents	Russian expert Members of the working group
3.2	To organize a study tour to Denmark for decision-makers and rehabilitation specialists of St. Petersburg	April 2009	Study tour reports	Municipality of Aalborg
3.3	Presentation of the model and test results at a seminar for specialists	May 2009	Seminar reports	Public Committee for Labour and

				Social Protection Russian expert
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