

Pilot Project  
DEVELOPMENT OF A WORKING MODEL  
OF AN INFORMATION-ANALYTICAL CENTER  
FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT AND REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

**Information on the System of  
Social Support and Rehabilitation of Disabled People  
in Saint-Petersburg**

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With the Assistance of the Committee on Labor and Social Protection of the Population  
of Saint-Petersburg

Saint-Petersburg is a city of federal subordination (an autonomous “subject” of the Russian Federation). The city’s population stands at 4.5 million. There are 18 administrative districts in the city. The city has legislative competence and a network of executive authorities at several levels: urban level departmental agencies (committees, on health care, education, social protection of population, culture, physical culture and sport etc.), district authorities (administrations of Saint-Petersburg districts with departments of health care, education, social protection of population etc.); municipal authorities.

Social support and rehabilitation of disabled people is among priority policy areas of the city’s legislative and executive authorities. In practical terms, the policy is implemented primarily by social protection authorities at all levels, which, as a way to accomplish this task, may, among other things, organize and fund subordinate institutions’ activities, as well as by other authorities depending on departmental subordination of issues under review.

Disabled citizens comprise almost 17% (over 780 thousand people) of the population of Saint-Petersburg. Working-age citizens (those from 18 years of age to the pension age) comprise almost 16% (122.5 thousand people) and disabled children below 18 years old - less than 2% (13.8 thousand people) of the total disabled population.

Individual rehabilitation programs (IRPs), which ought to be implemented by authorities, institutions and organizations regardless of their departmental subordination as well as by non-governmental organizations, are developed by institutions of medical-social expert evaluation upon ascertainment of disability with the aim of providing targeted social and rehabilitation assistance for disabled people.

In accordance with needs of every disabled person, concrete measures and services within the scope of medical, occupational and social rehabilitation (for children, psychological-pedagogical rehabilitation measures are also included) as well as required technical means of rehabilitation to facilitate movement, education and execution of domestic and occupational activities are specified in the IRP. Also, concrete implementers of rehabilitation measures as well as dates and procedures for their implementation must be mentioned in the IRP.

Presently, over 260.5 thousand residents of Saint-Petersburg have IRPs, which are being implemented in social institutions. Almost 170 thousand disabled people with

IRPs need social rehabilitation measures proper, which are provided in institutions of social protection of population.

The organizational structure of the rehabilitation system in Saint-Petersburg is comprised of three key components:

1. elaborators of IRPs (federal institutions of medical-social expert evaluation operating in Saint-Petersburg);

2. organizers and coordinators overseeing implementation of IRPs (regulatory agencies – the Urban Committee, district departments of social protection of population and the branch of the Federal Social Insurance Fund in Saint-Petersburg),

3. implementers of IRPs (rehabilitation and other institutions of various departmental affiliations: health care, social protection of population, education etc., at various levels of subordination).

The organization of the process of elaboration and implementation of IRPs for disabled people at an administrative district level, that is key structural-functional components of district rehabilitation system, are presented in the diagram (Annex 1).

State institutions of social protection of population at various levels of subordination (federal, regional (municipal) and district (local)) as well as non-governmental structures are primary implementers of social rehabilitation measures for disabled people. . Institutions operating within the system of social protection of population that provide social and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and disabled children in Saint-Petersburg are presented in the table (Annex 2).

In Saint-Petersburg, there are institutions of federal subordination that provide assistance to residents of the city as well as residents of other Russian regions. Among institutions of urban subordination providing services for disabled people and children residing in all districts of Saint-Petersburg is a well-developed network of state inpatient and outpatient social services institutions, specialized rehabilitation centers and institutions providing vocational education for disabled people. They are subordinate to the Committee on Labor and Social Protection of the Population (as of 01.01.2009 – the Committee on Social Policy under the Government of Saint-Petersburg). Among institutions of district subordination, it is social rehabilitation centers for people with disabilities and disabled children as well as specialized divisions within social services centers that provide assistance to disabled people. Non-governmental structures involved in provision of social support and rehabilitation of disabled people are comprised of institutions and enterprises under disability NGOs as well as other non-commercial organizations.

The “Concept of Development of the System of Social Protection of the Population of Saint-Petersburg for 2006-2010” was developed in 2006 by the Committee on Labor and Social Protection of the Population and then approved by the Decree of the Government of Saint-Petersburg. As part of its implementation, development of standards and norms for provision of social services to the population, including social rehabilitation services for disabled adults and children, is nearing completion and the plan of development of the network of social protection institutions, which is effective until 2010, is being implemented.

In accordance with the “Concept” and the plan, institutions of a special type - social rehabilitation centers for people with disabilities and disabled children - are being established and developed in each of the 18 administrative districts of Saint-Petersburg. To date, such centers have already been set up and are functioning as legal entities in 10

districts. By 2010, such centers, which will follow a standard structure defined in the “Concept,” will operate in all districts of the city. This will bring their activities and services that citizens need as close as possible to their place of residence and help meet the real needs of disabled people and families with disabled members. A wide range of social and rehabilitation services are provided by these institutions for working age disabled people, disabled children and their family members (including at home).

The set of rehabilitation services includes:

1. Measures of social rehabilitation proper, including:

1.1. social-domestic adaptation: formation, development and recovery of vital skills, including personal care skills (personal hygiene, eating), independent living skills (cooking, linen and clothes care, room cleanup, using household appliances and devices);

1.2. social-environmental orientation: formation, development and recovery of social conduct skills (contact with people: family members, friends, strangers, awareness of services and people that may be approached for help, visits to shops and theaters, money management skills), personal safety skills at home and outside; legal counseling for the family of the disabled child;

1.3. teaching how to use technical means of rehabilitation and prosthetic-orthopedic devices;

1.4. consultations on creating an accessible living environment and household, study place and workplace adaptations; choosing and adjusting auxiliary facilities and special equipment;

1.5. social-cultural rehabilitation (isotherapy, music therapy, game therapy as well as other types of occupational and leisure therapy).

2. The block of social and rehabilitation services provided in departments and centers also includes several occupational rehabilitation (social-occupational) measures, in particular:

occupational orientation in the form of occupational testing, occupational information giving, occupational counseling and occupational selection;

initial development of occupational skills and pre-occupational training;

interaction with vocational education institutions, enterprises and district employment services with the aim of settling matters related to occupational training and employment of disabled teenagers.

3. Psychological rehabilitation services, including psychological diagnostics, psychological counseling, psycho-correctional measures and psychological training, are provided to disabled children and their family members, primarily parents.

4. Measures of adapted physical culture (physical culture and sport for disabled people), aimed at the development and improvement of physical, mental, functional and volitional faculties and abilities of the disabled person. These measures include: adapted physical education, movement recreation and sports events. To carry out these activities, gyms are equipped and swimming pool sessions are organized in centers and departments.

Due to the active development of new institutions in the system of rehabilitation of disabled people and reorganization of existing ones, development of a package of organizational and methodological materials that will help support the activities of rehabilitation institutions, monitor and evaluate their work, facilitate training and raising

of qualifications of currently employed and new specialists of regulatory agencies, rehabilitation institutions and services poses an acute problem.

Within the last several years, Saint-Petersburg authorities have also developed, adopted and are implementing a broad package of legal documents securing the rights of disabled people (people with disabilities, disabled children, families with disabled members) to various kinds of financial and social support funded by the city budget (in addition to measures provided for in the federal legislation). Clear procedures for provision of relevant measures and their financial backup have been defined.

The following are among social support measures covered by the budget of Saint-Petersburg: various types of cash payments, benefits and compensations; fare privileges for travel by urban transport (sometimes - free travel); organization of a special service, the "social taxi"; provision of technical means of rehabilitation; medical, including pharmacological, aid and prosthetics; sport and recreation activities, recreation of people with disabilities, disabled children and their families; assistance with upbringing and education of disabled children; organization of vocational education and job placement assistance for disabled people; support for activities of disability NGOs etc.

To carry out all these broad-spectrum activities, appropriate information support as well as coordination of activities of authorities and institutions involved in the process of social support and rehabilitation of disabled people are required.

An advisory agency, the Methodological Council on Rehabilitation of Disabled People, was set up under the Committee on Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Saint-Petersburg to facilitate effective interaction among Saint-Petersburg public authorities, state institutions, NGOs and other organizations responsible for organizational-methodological support of activities in the system of rehabilitation of disabled people. It incorporates heads of rehabilitation institutions, specialists employed by departments of social protection of the population and other agencies involved in rehabilitation, research and educational institutions and disability NGOs to facilitate discussion of required managerial decisions.

The establishment of the Methodological Council is an important yet initial stage in the development of the system of organizational-methodological support for management of activities in the field of social support and rehabilitation of disabled people.

At this stage of development of the system of social support of the population, it is required that a lasting, professional, clear-cut mechanism for information-analytical, organizational-methodological and staffing support of those involved in the system of rehabilitation of disabled people (management structures, practical institutions, NGOs, citizens) be developed in Saint-Petersburg. . It is assumed that the most effective way to make this mechanism work is through the establishment of a municipal organizational-methodological center for social support and rehabilitation of disabled people, which must be made responsible for activities in the abovementioned areas.

Development of a model and the required package of organizational documents for the establishment and support of such a center in Saint-Petersburg considering Russian as well as international experience has been declared as the key aim of the pilot cooperation project between Saint-Petersburg (Russia) and Aalborg Municipality (Denmark), which is implemented with the assistance of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Denmark.