

Project progress report
“Development of an operation model of an Information and Analytical Centre for social support and rehabilitation of the disabled in St. Petersburg”

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 ¾ 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.

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 the existing Russian and foreign legal framework in the sphere of social support and rehabilitation of the disabled.

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.

According to the project objective and targets a working group and an action plan have been generated.

Project implementation period – June 2008-June 2009.

The action plan of the project in St. Petersburg

№	Project activities	Dates	Results	Responsible
1	Stage 1:			
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 on results	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	Stage 2:			
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	Stage 3:			

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

Stage 1

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 the number of staff, specialist profiles, lists of rehabilitation institutions in St. Petersburg and the number of clients. All findings have been analysed.

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.

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

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.

During the whole period of the project realization, different issues of functioning of rehabilitation institutions have been analyzed at seminars, conferences, round-table discussions. Thus, such discussions were held during the visit to Finnish rehabilitation institutions in September 2008, at the conference “Common Concern” in October 2008, at a round-table discussion meeting “Employment of the disabled. What does it mean?” in December 2008. The meetings were focused on a wide-range of 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 Information and Analytical Centre.

Stage 2

At this stage, different variants and proposals of the operation of the Information and Analytical Centre in St. Petersburg were considered.

The development of a Concept of an Information and Analytical Centre

Information and Analytical Centre for Social Support and Rehabilitation of the Disabled		
Research Department	Coordination and Methodological Department	Training and Tutorial Department
<p>-to collect and analyze the data on the rehabilitation system performance (legal framework, rehabilitation establishments and services);</p> <p>- to systematize and analyze existing information in the sphere of disability;</p> <p>- to collect and analyze final reports on the activity of rehabilitation institutions and service providers (State System of Social Protection of the Population and other governmental and non-governmental institutions of this type);</p>	<p>- to plan organizational and methodological activity in the matters of social support and rehabilitation of the disabled;</p> <p>- to coordinate the work of methodological departments of the establishments subordinate to the Committee for Labour and Social Protection;</p> <p>- to initiate co-operation with administrating authorities in the system of social protection, other establishments, non-governmental institutions (including international ones);</p> <p>- to check (on-site and through http://www.multitrans.ru/c/m.exe?a=110&t=300454_2_1&sc=8qu estionnaire surveys) the functioning of the rehabilitation institutions;</p> <p>- to prepare measures and legal documents regulating the matters of social support and rehabilitation of the disabled</p>	<p>- to organize on-going seminars and meetings to discuss the matters of rehabilitation of the disabled with the participation of methodical departments of the establishments subordinate to the Committee for Labour and Social Protection;</p> <p>- to study and disseminate advanced experience (domestic and international) in the area of rehabilitation ;</p> <p>- to prepare and disseminate methodological materials;</p> <p>- to establish a library of</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to prepare analytical materials for administrative authorities and mass media; - to cooperate with Automated Information System "State Register of the Population", Center for information and methodological support and consultancy of population 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informational and methodological materials on various issues of social support and rehabilitation of disabled people; - to provide training and re-training of rehabilitation specialists; certification of professionals ; - interaction with educational and scientific institutions
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On January 20 through 22, 2009 within the framework of the project, meetings with the Danish colleagues Flemming Trap Heuer and Marie Nielsen were held in St. Petersburg.

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

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

Financial and economic feasibility study for the establishment of the Information and Analytical Centre in St. Petersburg:

Appendix 2

Stage 3:

The development of a Model of the Information and Analytical Centre

Planned Structure of the Information and Analytical Centre

INFORMATION AND ANALYTICAL CENTRE centre for social support and rehabilitation of the disabled Head of Centre		
Research Department	Coordination and Methodological Department	Training and Tutorial Department
Head of Department Senior Coordinator Sociologist Computer Operator	Head of Department Senior Coordinator Coordinator Coordinator	Head of Department Senior Coordinator Consultant-coordinator Administrator
- to collect and analyze the data on the rehabilitation system performance (legal framework, rehabilitation establishments and services etc); - to systematize and analyze existing information in the sphere	- to plan organizational and methodological activity in the matters of social support and rehabilitation of the disabled; - to coordinate the work of methodological departments of the establishments subordinate to the Committee for Labour and Social Protection; - to initiate co-operation with administrating authorities in the system of social protection, other establishments, non-governmental institutions (including international ones); - to check (on-site and through http://www.multitrans.ru/c/m.exe?a=110&t=300454_2_1&sc=8 questionnaire surveys) the functioning of the rehabilitation institutions; - to prepare measures and legal documents regulating the matters of social support and rehabilitation of the disabled	- to organize on-going seminars and meetings to discuss the matters of rehabilitation of the disabled with the participation of methodological departments of the establishments subordinate to the Committee

<p>of disability;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to collect and analyze final reports on the activity of rehabilitation institutions and service providers (State System of Social Protection of the Population and other governmental and non-governmental institutions of this type); - to prepare analytical materials for administrative authorities and mass media; - to cooperate with Automated Information System "State Register of the Population", Center for information and methodological support and consultancy of population 		<p>for Labour and Social Protection;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to study and disseminate advanced experience (domestic and international) in the area of rehabilitation ; - to prepare and disseminate methodological materials; - to establish a library of informational and methodological materials on various issues of social support and rehabilitation of disabled people; - to provide training and re-training of rehabilitation specialists; certification of professionals ; - interaction with educational and scientific institutions
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In February 2009 the Information and Analytical Centre development plan was discussed with St. Petersburg Committee for Social Policy.

In the context of a complicated socio-economic situation in St. Petersburg, the 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, with the assistance of the Centre for Technical Rehabilitation Aids, Urban Accessibility and Physical Education for Disabled People. The methodological departments of the district centers of social rehabilitation of the disabled also participate in the activities.

On April, 3, 2009 the problems of rehabilitation centers were considered and the establishment of an Information and Analytical Centre was discussed at the meeting of the Disability Coordination Council under the Governor of St. Petersburg.

In April 2009 the design of a guide on legal acts relevant to the activity of rehabilitation service institutions was started. It is expected to be issued in June, 2009.

On May 25-29, 2009 a study tour to Denmark (Aalborg, Copenhagen) was organized in order to exchange experience.

In June, 2009 it is planned to hold a meeting of Disability Methodological Council, where the Council working plan for the second half of the year 2009 will be announced. The Plan should include the consideration of the organizational and methodological activities.

Within the framework of the project on the development of a Model of the Information and Analytical Centre for social support and rehabilitation of the disabled in St. Petersburg the following activities have been performed:

1. The activity of rehabilitation, educational, scientific institutions, existing federal and regional regulatory acts have been analyzed in order to reveal problems and assess possible measures aimed at improvement of the quality of rehabilitation services rendered to people with disabilities. The records of the Danish experience in provision of methodology for social support and rehabilitation of the disabled have been examined as well.
2. A Concept of the Information and Analytical Centre has been designed.
3. The model has been developed and is being tested on the basis of methodological department of the Committee for Social Policy and methodological departments of rehabilitation institutions.
4. A study tour to Denmark has been organized in order to exchange experience.

Provided that appropriate financing is ensured and the **Committee for Social Policy** of the establishment, which forms a basis for the Information and Analytical Centre operation, is defined, the conditions for high-quality comprehensive social and rehabilitation services will be created, which will eventually lead to the growth of living standards for disabled people and their families.

Project Expert,
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