

## **PI Home for Children "Rada Vranjesevic"**

**Banja Luka, RS/ Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### **REPORT ON VISIT TO THE CHILDREN'S HOME "Malci Beliceve" IN SLOVENIA**

A study visit to the Home "Malci Beliceve" in Ljubljana was implemented in the period from 13.11- 15.11.2010.

*The visit was realized by groups of employees within the Home:*

Director, chief educator, supervisory nurse and pedagogue- assistant of director for upbringing and education work.

*The purpose of the visit:* Linking with similar institutions, and the creation of insight into the possibilities of the use and experience of others within their own practice.

The visit was realized by visiting the space - staying in the institution - informal discussions with staff, partly with young people who were in the Home- based on official documents and information received at the meeting with representatives of Home (a social worker, a psychologist and director of home "Malci Beliceve").

#### **Basic Characteristics of Home "Malci Beliceve"**

-Home for children aged from 6 to 18 years, therefore, the children of school age. Capacity of 60 children namely young people.

-The target population is children who have experienced homelessness.

**-The institution has set as its primary goal to encourage positive alternatives for young people with the maximum use of resources.**

-The institution develops individualized sponsorship of the program so that each child has a "godfather." Sponsorship is based on monthly payments to interested citizens in the transaction account for every child, in the amount of 21 €, continuing and evolving depending on the interest of the child. The child / young person have the funds freely available, educators are informed about that.

-Home introduces weekend arrangement, children on weekends go to biological family because it gives importance to the maintenance of family relationships.

-In terms of standards, the Home meets the needs of young people in properly equipped accommodation in double rooms. The special impression leaves purposefully made elements that have separated closet space for individual elements of wardrobe (separate area for children's underwear, socks), which indicates that people take care detailed of a daily life of children in this home. The group stays up to 8 children / young people; they have available common living room, a computer, a kitchen, dining room. Food is prepared in a central kitchen and delivered to each group. Simpler dishes are being prepared in periodic and independent groups. The two educational groups, the tour could see a mini-winter food (homemade jams) that the teacher had made with children.

Each group has its master educators. Groups are heterogeneous by gender and age. In addition to a group of educators and determined individual educator who assists in learning, make an individual educational plan for each child to be evaluated throughout the year and revised as necessary at the beginning of the school year

- The importance is given to free time, and trying to involve the children in activities. In addition, the Home has already established its annual programs and activities to participate in various international sports and educational events (hiking, so called Peace sailing program, sport events in European countries and so on. Cooperates also with former Yugoslavian republics through various events in which they participate young.

-Immediately upon finding out that there is a need to separate the child from the family, Representatives of Home (Social worker, psychologist, educator) go to see a child, meet the child on the spot with his current environment, represent a child living conditions namely opportunities offered by Home as well as rules of behavior.

### **Services that exist in the Home:**

1. Pedagogical- professional (teachers, social worker, a psychologist and director).
2. Technical Department (cooks, housekeepers, economist, *snažilka*).
3. Committee and Administrative Department (secretary, accountant).
4. Manager and Pedagogical leader - director.

### **Observations and possibilities to improve their practice**

Since Slovenia is a member of the former government, which operated under one system now is a member of EU, it is interesting to see how the similar institutions in this part of the world function. **The general impression of the compiler of the report is that it is not just declaratively, but actually that children's rights are implemented and respected, and that the institution is realistic in assessing the possibilities they have and everything that can be offered to young people.**

During the visit to almost every room of the facility, the majority of children were absent because it was a weekend, and in the home were five young people. With the four of them we had a short contact. Young showed cooperative behavior, typical for a Sunday morning at Home, each in accordance with their age. Even that Sunday morning two of the four with the help of educators prepared what they need for school.

Despite many differences, it is possible to apply our experience in our community, too.

1. Example of good practice and application is simple and psychologically effective / work in preparation for the arrival of the child at the Home. Specifically, the current practice work can be supplemented by child's better preparation. Namely, our thus far practice is that a child before arrival to the Home had no preparation.
2. In addition, in documents can be seen clearly how important planning is, there are special terms for meetings of the Pedagogical Council which will be implemented for example in June 2011.

3. Considering that in Slovenia exists a wider network of services to work in the community crisis centers, and even some institutions that have composed and customized programs, the problems of children with severe mental disabilities are solved then, not only in the Home "Malci Beliceva", while there are crisis centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, RS, but other institutions would be specialized and would in a long-term deal with children with severe adolescent crisis, behavior disorders, and the like.

4. Individualized support and sponsorship are addressed in the framework of care for children in our institution, but not to the extent it could be said every child has an allowance, which significantly reduces the standard of children in our institution.

5. Very important information that implicitly speaks of responsibility towards children is the fact that we were guests (4 adults) who have slept one night in the children's room at the time they were absent. The next day when the return of young people to the house was expected, we had to leave the room for children because children need their own rooms and their comfort, which I consider a high respectful and responsible towards children. Our practice in this situation is to go more in line with our mentality to please the guests, while the children's feelings and comfort of the children are in the background.

### **Results of the visit**

Better cooperation between two institutions, and the children from the Home in Slovenia is established on two occasions, the last time in December 2011 when they visited our institution. It is expected that a group of children from our Home go to Slovenia during the summer vacation.

Our institution involves children in international sports competition that is traditionally held in Hungary during the summer, it is also done with the mediation of the Home in Ljubljana,.

Operation of the Center in Ljubljana is presented to the expert team, parallel to our capabilities, 18.11. 2010th

Report on the visit to Home in Ljubljana presented to the Pedagogical Council of the facility 03.12. 2010.

**Banja Luka 3.12.2013**