

The cases in which these persons return to their local community are rare, and they mostly stay in the residential institutions their entire life.

The result of such a situation is not the inability of this population for a life in the local community, but rather, the failure of the system for social protection in providing supported living for these persons.

Changes from isolation...

SUMERO works on creating preconditions for the establishment of mixed-model social services for persons with intellectual disabilities:

- Increasing the capacity of organizations, training of mobile teams who will provide support in the local community
- Ability assessment for independent living
- Implementation of individual programs (training of basic life functions)
- Establishment of housing units for community based living
- Lobbying of relevant institutions for the establishment of mixed model social services

...to life in the local community!



Childhood

Old age

Segregation

“The rooms for accommodation, regardless of whether we speak of a smaller or larger room, have too many beds, many of which are bunk beds, and thus the standard of 4m² per person, which is requested for individuals serving sentences in prison, cannot be met. This leads to the conclusion that mentally disabled persons are accommodated in less appropriate conditions than prisoners who have committed criminal offences.” *

* Special report on the situation of human rights in the institutions for accommodation of mentally disabled persons – September 2009 – THE INSTITUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMEN OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

From social
exclusion
to full
participation!



positive
about intellectual disability

From degrading
treatment
to full
citizenship!



From segregation
to inclusion!



In the European study “Deinstitutionalization and community living– outcome and costs” which included research in 29 countries, states that **in all countries the non-government organizations had a key role in the development of the support services for community based living. Besides that, in most countries the support services are provided by the non-governmental sector in cooperation with state institutions.** This study and numerous other examples clearly demonstrate the results, quality of life and economical justification for community based living.

An example of positive practice is seen in Tuzla, where the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in the Tuzla Canton aids supported living for 15 individuals with intellectual disabilities.



Life in the local community is not a question of charity but of human rights!

UN Convention on rights of persons with disability

Council of Ministers BiH signed and ratified the Convention in July 2009

States Parties to this Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with the right to make choices equal to others, and take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment of this right for individuals with disabilities and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including the insurance that:

- Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence, where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others, and that they are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;
- Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis for persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

Standard rules for equalization of possibilities of persons with disabilities

Adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2003

"The role of organizations for people with disabilities can be to identify needs and priorities, to participate in the planning, implementing and evaluating the services and measures that are related to the life of people with disabilities, and to contribute to raising public awareness and to advocate for changes."

Disability policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2008

"Inclusive social policy has to rest on individual needs of the beneficiary, on engaging social protection outside of the residential institution, on services and on expanding the network of actors of the social system".

European Social Charter

B&H ratified the Charter in 2008

Article 14 – The right to benefit from social welfare services

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to benefit from social welfare services, the Parties undertake:

- To promote or provide services which, by using methods of social welfare, would contribute to the welfare and development of both individuals and groups in the community, and to their adjustment to the social environment;
- To encourage the participation of individuals and voluntary or other organizations in the establishment and maintenance of such services.

With the adoption of these documents, Bosnia and Herzegovina has obliged itself to a new approach in the field of disability, which is **based on the human rights and a social model**, on harmonizing the domestic legislation and practices with the standards foreseen in these documents.



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for people with intellectual disabilities

Clearly, persons with intellectual disabilities reject the idea that residential institutions are the only solution for their lives, and instead, are demanding that they **have the right to choose** to live in the community.

This choice thus requires the appropriate support and services that will enable **full community inclusion and participation**.



How?



for the **2.000** adults and **120** children placed in residential institutions

for the **13.000** potential placements in residential institutions

for parents who require more human approach for their children after their death

for B&H to enter the EU as it requires the achievement of specified conditions for EU accession

for employees in overcrowded residential institutions who do not have the possibility to develop therapeutic work

work for young people in their profession

Why?

