

Inter-sector partnership - the base for quality social services

Stea Association announces the launching of the "Inter-sector partnership – the base for quality social services" project implemented in partnership with the Public Social Services for Social Assistance Satu Mare and the Local Police of Satu Mare, from May 16th 2014 to April 30th 2016. The project is funded by EEA 2009 - 2014 grants under the NGO Fund in Romania (www.fondong.fdsc.ro). The project's budget is 211,326.61 EUR, of which 186,160.36 EUR represents the grant and 25,166.25 EUR is the contribution of Stea Association and its partners.

The overall objective of the project is facilitating access to social and basic services for disadvantaged people (children and youth at risk, homeless, people who are experiencing difficulties that may lead to social exclusion) in Satu Mare.

The specific objectives are:

Objective 1: Developing a local inter-sectoral partnership for a multiple perspectives approach of disadvantaged people in the first 12 months of the project

Objective 2: Increasing the capacity of Stea Association to provide social and basic services to 465 disadvantaged people by the end of the project

Objective 3: Strengthening the capacity of local NGOs and promoting a favorable environment for the NGO sector, during the project

Organizational development objectives of Stea Association are:

1. Increasing transparency and visibility of Stea Association at local level
2. Developing Stea Association's financial resources
3. Developing skills among staff and volunteers to develop the organization.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are 465 people (over 80% Roma) who are experiencing problems which represent a major obstacle to the social inclusion (140 street children and young people, 35 homeless people, 200 people facing difficulties that can lead to social exclusion, 50 people who had committed infractions; 40 prostitutes) and 20 local NGOs/institutions.

The indirect beneficiaries are local stakeholders, NGOs providing social services and the local community.

In recent years, a large number of people are living in dysfunctional backgrounds in remote and unsanitary areas, on the street or they squat disused places. Many of them are often exploited, forced to beg, to commit criminal acts or engage in prostitution, all of these, making them victims of social exclusion. Disadvantaged, people in the defined target groups don't have the same access to education, culture, professional development and integration, as other community members. They often face discrimination and experience rejection in the community. Segregation between community members and disadvantaged people often comes in the form of a lack of mutual understanding and a lack of opportunities for positive interaction.

The analysis of the situation of disadvantaged peoples showed that these individuals don't have access to conventional social and economic strategies to lead a normal existence. Lack of decent living conditions is associated with poverty, aggravated by the lack of educational resources and social risk factors such as disease or disability.

In this context, social and basic services developed by the project are pursuing a multiple perspective approach of the target groups to prevent and overcome difficulties. Provision of basic and integrated social services by collaboration between the public and the private sector will facilitate the access of these peoples to different types of resources. Thus, local organizations and institutions with responsibilities that interfere with this issue will be involved in joint efforts to enhance social inclusion of target groups. Also, through various types of actions, the project also aims to combat discrimination, promote active citizenship, social solidarity and crystallization of a favorable environment for the NGO sector.

Identifying needs and comprehensive research of the situation of target groups, by quantifying and mapping, will bring to the community of Satu Mare an increased capacity to manage the problems of vulnerable populations. Moreover, the range of social actions will increase adding a necessary dimension of human progress both among direct beneficiaries and other citizens of the municipality. The project aims to build effective tools of social intervention for a sustainable and reproducible implementation, transmitting work and organizational patterns to other entities and urban centers interested in developing flexible and innovative services for vulnerable populations and better results in social life of the local community.

The main activities under the project are:

- Creation of an inter-sectoral working group at local level
- Needs assessment and accessibility of services to target groups
- Optimization of case management for vulnerable groups
- Development of counseling, support and mediation services to meet basic needs and improve access to information for beneficiaries in the target groups
- Development of integrated social services for children and youths at risk
- Campaign against discrimination of vulnerable groups
- Evaluation of integrated social services
- Quality requirements for integrated social services
- Carrying out research to assess social services, prioritize service needs, efficient use of local resources
- Organize and conduct a community development course for public and private providers of social services
- Promotion of co-decision and co-delivery of social services between NGOs and local authorities
- Creating an online platform
- Open Day
- Publication and presentation of annual report
- Campaign to promote the rights of children and young people at risk
- 2% campaign
- Fundraising campaign
- Actions to attract volunteers
- Developing skills among staff and volunteers to develop the organization

Expected key results:

- ✓ 1 inter-institutional local group composed of 10 public institutions and 5 local NGOs
- ✓ 1 sociological study providing improved knowledge about the beneficiaries' needs and access to services
- ✓ 1 unitary management methodology defined for target groups
- ✓ 3 social / basic services newly created
- ✓ 465 people direct beneficiaries of social and basic services within the project
- ✓ 1 sociological research on social services, service needs and ways to efficiently use local resources
- ✓ 20 employees of NGOs and local institutions with enhanced skills in community development
- ✓ 1 resource web page created within Stea Association's website providing access to resources of interest to professionals
- ✓ Improved capacity of local organizations to mobilize local resources
- ✓ Wider involvement of the community to support disadvantaged peoples
- ✓ 14 employees with enhanced skills in fundraising, needed for organizational development

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