

Good Practice case study

How can a Disabled People's Organisation better promote people with disabilities' interests within the PRSP process?

Relevant articles of the CRPD: 8

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Region: South East Europe

Good practices available in: English (full report available in Albanian and Serbian)

DPO Involvement in the PRSP in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Description of the practice and the process involved

IC Lotos is a local DPO in Tuzla made up of three components: an information centre on regional disability issues, an employment training centre, and a Day Care centre called Koraci Nade (Steps of Hope). IC Lotos has been active in lobbying on key disability issues such as **greater accessibility, promoting awareness-raising and social policy reform**. Recently, IC Lotos was an active participant in the development of the **social reform agenda for the PRSP** in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because IC Lotos also operates a Day Care centre it allows them competencies in both policy reform and service provision on the local level.

In addition, IC Lotos succeeded in securing **cantonal support** for Koraci Nade from the Cantonal Ministry of Social Affairs who will cover 70% of their running costs for salaries and activities. Still, the day care centre needs to **secure funding for additional costs to ensure their sustainability**.



*Stop Barriers
Accessibility Campaign*

IC Lotos was part of an **NGO network** in Tuzla called Reference Group made up of 54 members whose aim was **to follow the policy and practices on a cantonal level regarding the reform process**. From its involvement in Reference Group, IC Lotos was included on the NGO central coordination group for the PRSP consultative process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The presence of an NGO focused on disability on this coordination body within the consultative process, **put disability on the PRSP agenda**.

During the consultative process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were 4 state conferences organised to compile the main fields of interest for NGOs. They came up with four issues that needed to be placed within the PRSP agenda on social reform:

- **Education** which includes disability as a part of this reform objective,
- **Social protection** which includes disability as a part of this reform objective,
- Corruption,
- Environment and agriculture.

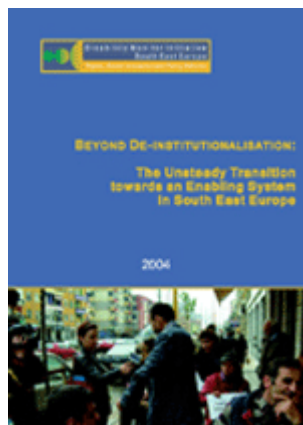
The effects / impact of the practice

From IC Lotos' involvement in the PRSP process, local DPOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina were pushed to be more involved in the overall PRSP process as well. The main result of this process was to **build local DPO capacities** in the following ways:

- Influenced traditional DPOs to change their approach to disability issues to a more **human rights based** one,
- Pushed DPOs to **follow mainstream reform tools** such as the PRSP in order to place disability issues on reform agendas,
- Opened the door for **cooperation between DPOs** who were traditionally fragmented.

The results of the PRSP consultative process in Bosnia and Herzegovina that impact the disability movement include:

- **Strategic measures** for tackling disability issues are included in the PRSP,
- Reforms are **planned within the social protection sector**, specifically lobbied for by IC Lotos,
- This consultative process enabled DPOs to form **closer relationships** with the government,
- Disability became **more visible** within the PRSP reform process - for example, 2 PRSP forums were held and in each forum, at least one person with disabilities was included in the official state.



Background and context

Full project report: [Beyond De-Institutionalisation: The Unsteady Transition towards an Enabling System in South East Europe \(DMI SEE, 2004\)](#)

Criteria for the good practices: see page 21 of the full report.

Recommendations from the good practices: see page 91 of the full report.

Links to further resources:

[Full text on article 8 – Awareness-raising](#)