

An example of a day care center providing scholastic educational and rehabilitation services to children with disabilities

Relevant articles of the CRPD: 19, 24, 25, 26

Country: Romania

Region: South East Europe

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

Aurora Day Care Center in Bucharest, Romania

Description of the practice and the process involved

The Day Care Centre Aurora is the only centre in Bucharest providing scholastic educational and rehabilitation services for children with neuro-motor disabilities aged from 5 to 14 years. The centre was created in 1995 and is the result of the partnership between the Support Association for the Physically Disabled Children from Romania (ASCHF-R) and an International NGO. The main objective for the opening of the centre was to provide **activities for children with severe disabilities, without any type of support and kept at home within the families.**

Since 1996 Aurora has been integrated into the **national system of special education**. The Ministry of Education funds teacher salaries. Aurora's other major partners are: the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity and the National Authority for Disabled Persons and Romanian and foreign NGOs.

Services provided in the Day Care centre component:

- **Education according to adapted curricula in small groups** (4-5 children/teacher) where each child is learning in accordance with their specific abilities and needs,
- **Physiotherapy and speech therapy services** on a weekly basis,
- **Counselling to families** of the children included in the centre,
- **Preparation for integration into special education and mainstream education.**



Aurora Day Care Center, Bucharest

In 2003, the parents of children who completed the education segment with Aurora requested the establishment of a **Sheltered workshop**. A project, aiming to provide a **range of services for young adults on their path towards integration in the job market** was planned. The workshop opened in 2003 and is being developed in line with the needs of the beneficiaries of the centre. The idea is that the centre can **provide job opportunities for youth that cannot be integrated in the open labour market**. It also functions as a **training centre and transition point** for some youngsters who are capable of finding a suitable job in the open labour market. A programme providing **training in daily life skills** for teenagers and young adults with severe disabilities is included in the workshop's activity plan.

The third and final component of Aurora is the **Resource Centre**, which was a natural development from the Day Care Centre. The aim is to **better support families and to address an increasing demand** from other stakeholders in the de-institutionalisation process in Romania in terms of professional training and practical internship. Today the resource centre has become a place where families come for **advice and information on all topics relating to physical disability**. Here also, **a well-trained team of professionals can provide training and consultancy to other institutional stakeholders, NGOs and governmental bodies** on alternative support to children with multiple disabilities and also on management and approaches to disability and inclusion.

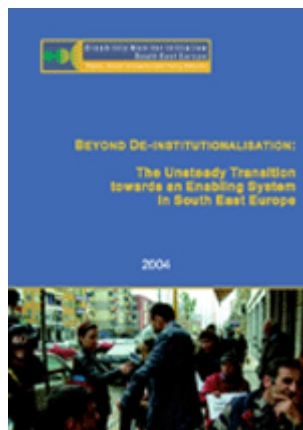
The factors that made this practice possible

Aurora has shown an interesting development during the last period and in the way they ensured the sustainability for their services while still adhering to their mandate and values. Their **adaptation** to the changing legal environment, to the decrease of international funding presence, to new emerging needs of the community in which they provide their services, can give some indications that seem necessary for the survival of such NGOs:

- **Strong leadership skills** in management positions,
- **Motivated and flexible** staff,

- **Wide network with local stakeholders** such as municipality, local companies, local educational structures, other civil society organisations, parents associations, different ministries and international NGO's and donors,
- **Quality of the services provided** (internal manual of procedures in accordance with new legislation in the field of standardisation and accreditation, annual evaluations and needs assessments of all beneficiaries involved in Aurora's programmes etc.),
- **Diversity of type of financial donors,**
- **A clear strategy of development of the services,** according to the **results** of permanent needs assessment of all beneficiaries,
- **A strong partnership with the families** of the children with disabilities, in all the current activities, but also in the development of the day centre services.

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 19 – Living independently and being included in the community](#)

[Full text on article 24 – Education](#)

[Full text on article 25 - Health](#)

[Full text on article 26 – Habilitation and rehabilitation](#)