



EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

FACT SHEET

INCREASING CAPACITIES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Residential institution for adults and older people with intellectual difficulties “**Srce u jabuci**” **Jabuka** is implementing the project of deinstitutionalization since 2007. and until now 33 beneficiaries are passed through this process. Since 2014, the process has been implemented through 18-month project “**Increasing capacities for independent living in community**”. In the frame of the project, two houses are built and 8 beneficiaries live in them. Project purpose is creation of better quality of life for the beneficiaries, their involving in the community and reaching a higher level of their basic human rights.

There is a need to raise human rights to a higher level, especially the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and minorities, and the whole process was accelerated through the fulfillment of requirements that are part of the path of European integration. There is also a need to overcome the prejudices that exist in the community and which exist only because of the isolation of institutions’ beneficiaries. This project in the local community has already created a different atmosphere so those who until recently were placed in the institution are now accepted as equal neighbours.

Beneficiary institution is **Residential Institution for Adults and Older People with Intellectual Difficulties** “Srce u jabuci” in Jabuka.

The project is financed with **€130.186**, out of which the contribution of the “Srce u jabuci” institution is to €22.974 (this participation is covered by the Provincial Secretary for Finance of the Autonomous province of Vojvodina).

One of the project objectives was achieved by moving beneficiaries in to their homes. Along with this, it was noted the raise of awareness in the community about existence of people with intellectual difficulties and their right to be accepted in the community as equal members. The whole process would be finally rounded off with their employment which the project team plan to be soon.

A WORD FROM USER: After moving into a new house, **Mirjana Kupreski** said that she finally takes her life in her own hands after she had spent twenty years in the Residential Institution. She now enjoys the freedom that she has; grateful for the opportunity of a lifetime that she received, she learns to cook and spends her time as she wants.

The Institution slowly enters the process of transformation .The plan is that by 2020. all users move in to the houses in which they will live with the support. The goal is to maintain the sustainability of the established services and to promote the successful development of the process of transformation of institutions. The next logical step, but also a challenge, is their employment or social entrepreneurship.

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