

## How can partnership between multi-sector stakeholders improve rehabilitation and education services for children with disabilities?

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

**Country:** Montenegro

**Region:** South East Europe

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

### *Partnership in Montenegro*

#### Description of the practice and the process involved

The first Day Care centre for children with disabilities in Montenegro was established in Bijelo Polje in June 2004 with the mission of **providing opportunities for children with disabilities to be integrated in the community and to receive basic rehabilitation, education and to learn daily life skills.**

This initiative is unique in Montenegro, as it is based on partnership between the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Parents Association of Children with Disabilities in Bijelo Polje, the National Parents Association of Children with Disabilities in Montenegro, the local municipality of Bijelo Polje, the Centre for Social Work in Bijelo Polje. The project was developed in collaboration with UNICEF, Handicap International, the Swiss Development Cooperation and Gemeinden Gemeinsam Schweiz, a Swiss charity-based NGO, with the aim of developing a Day Care centre co-managed by key local stakeholders.

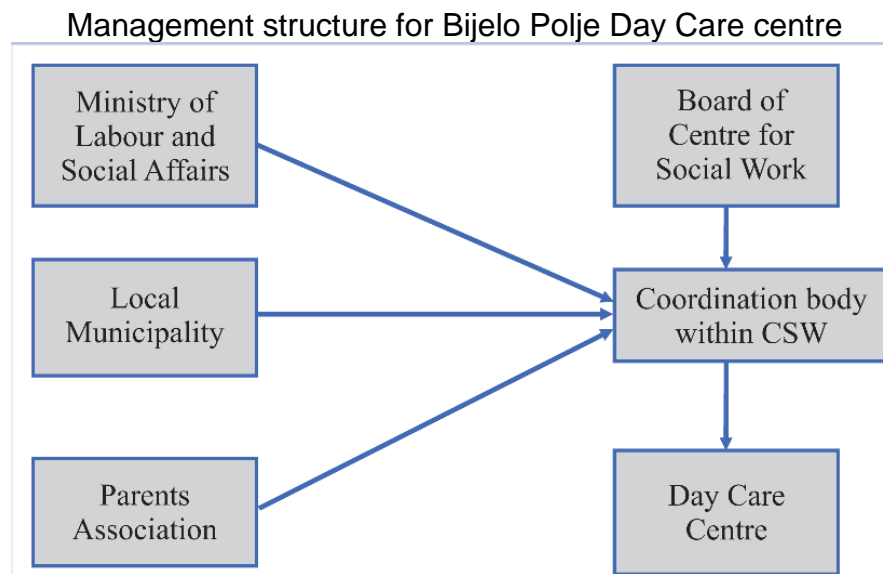
The planning process involved the following steps:

1. The project began with the **formation of a working group** made up of representatives of all the partners involved.
2. **Three exchange visits** were organised with Aurora in Bucharest, IC Lotos/Koraci Nade Day Care centre in Tuzla and Vladimir Nasor institution in Sarajevo, to share **best practices on developing and building a Day Care centre.**
3. The working group elaborated a **project proposal** in November 2003
4. The plan was **agreed upon** by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and a **pilot phase** was planned for one year.



*The Day Care Center is Open!  
Teachers working with Children in Bijelo Polje, 2004*

During the pilot phase, the Day Care centre will be **under the administration of the local Centre for Social Work** in Bijelo Polje since most of the salaries and running costs will be paid by Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. In order to ensure the **partnership and involvement of the Parents Associations**, strong negotiations took place and finally the following management structure during the pilot phase was agreed upon:



In addition to project planning, **several trainings** were organised with the working group as well as with the Parent Associations and other DPO's in Bijelo Polje on topics such as:

- Disability awareness,
- The Disability Creation Process,
- How to build awareness-raising campaigns,
- PR development.



*Training on awareness-raising techniques, Bijelo Polje, 2003, conducted by the Associations of Students with Disabilities in Serbia and Montenegro*

The staff of the Day Care centre has attended one **training session** in Slovenia as well as on the job trainings in Bijelo Polje along with Karin Dom Foundation from Varna. Several additional training sessions are planned during the pilot phase.

## **What are the main points that require attention? How could it be improved?**

In order to ensure the sustainability of alternative forms of services, the state, local communities, parents, and Centres for Social Work **should all have a stake in projects** such as the Day Care centre in Bijelo Polje.

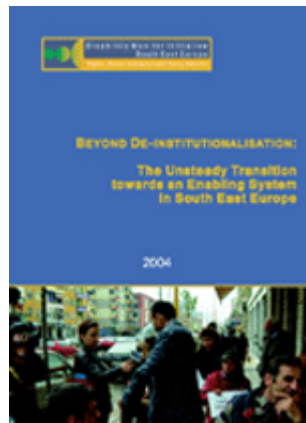
**Services should be a part of the overall welfare reform package** owned and managed in partnership by **cross-sector stakeholders** in partnership.

**Monitoring and evaluation should be conducted in partnership** as well with the involvement of all stakeholders including the state, parents, and people with disabilities.

The Ministry has shown an interest in **developing more centres** like this one, but there is a need to **change legislation on social policies**, as well as **having criteria and standards** in order for future Day Care centres to become **independent structures as alternatives to residential institutional care**.

## **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](#)