

EASPD Provider Forum

NATIONAL FORUM / EXHIBITION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

HOTEL “MELIA GRAND HERMITAGE”

“GOLDEN SANDS” - VARNA

17-19 JUNE 2015

Narrative Report

1. CONTEXT

The overall concept of the EASPD provider forum is quite straightforward. With the support of National alliance for social responsibility, the main goal of the event was to invite service provider organisations, their managers and/or presidents, also authorities on local, regional and national level and bring them together for a joint event.

Specific objectives:

- ❖ Bringing service providers from Bulgaria together so they can network amongst each other. Besides **networking**, there should be time available at the forum for the different organisations and individuals to present their work and good practices, their concerns, their target groups and how their sector or activities are financed. Their relation with authorities, on the local, regional or national level. It is encouraged for provider forums to **welcome a (national) Member of European Parliament as well as relevant local politicians**.
- ❖ In order to facilitate this networking process, to gather people who can share know-how on how to organise networking and how to **build structural networks for future**.
- ❖ **Expected Outcome:** creation of an umbrella structure or at least the basis for structural cooperation between service provider organisations in that region/country.
- ❖ Inform managers and leaders, through training, on the **values and principles of the European Union and the Council of Europe** in relation to persons with disabilities and in relation to the provision of social services. Values such as full participation, inclusion, freedom of choice, full citizenship, right to education, employment and independent living for all, as mentioned in the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** need to be shared by the leading organisations and networks.
- ❖ At the level of organisational development, it is necessary to underline that the governance principles, the principles on **how to run and to build an organisation** and network are crucial.
- ❖ Spreading information about EASPD's activities should also be part of the programme and ideally also a presentation on how to understand and get **access to funding** programmes, budget lines and project opportunities launched by the European Commission.



2. PROVIDER FORUM PROGRAMME AND DISCUSSIONS

The programme in 3 days with the following topics included:

- ❖ European and national partnership. Participation in the European Semester and presentations of the results so far;
- ❖ Recommendations for better services within the European Semester - WG on education, employment, social inclusion and healthcare
- ❖ Development of social services. Innovation, efficiency, normative regulations.
- ❖ European experience and practice for social service innovation and efficiency.
- ❖ Sharing good practices. Suggestions. Concerns. User involvement
- ❖ Optimisation of mechanisms, standards, rules, methods, funding and control of social services. Social entrepreneurship in the social service sector.
- ❖ Structural Funds: what are the available funds, how to find and follow them, how to use them, etc. OP “Human Resources Development”: A resource and an incubator for more effective social services, employment and social entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship - an important resource for providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities and other disadvantaged persons.
- ❖ Exhibition of social services.

Speakers:

- ❖ Mr. Stoyan Pasev – Governor of Varna region
- ❖ Mrs. Ginka Chavdarova – Executive director of National association of municipalities in Bulgaria
- ❖ Dr. Lidiya Marinova – Deputy mayor of Varna municipality
- ❖ Mr. Ivaylo Ivanov – Executive director of Agency for social support in Bulgaria
- ❖ Mr. Georgi Georgiev – President of National alliance for social responsibility
- ❖ Mr. Luk Zelderloo – General secretary of European association of service providers for persons with disability
- ❖ Ms. Aneliya Zheleva – State expert, Ministry of Labour and social policy
- ❖ Mrs. Tashka Gabrovska – State expert, Ministry of Labour and social policy
- ❖ Mrs. Teodora Todorova - – State expert, Ministry of Labour and social policy
- ❖ Representatives of service providers in Bulgaria

The participants had many opportunities to create partnerships, exchange good practices, to participate in the discussions and to form recommendations on the topic of the European semester, to form knowledge about the opportunities of the new Operational Programme "Development of Human Resources", to ask questions, receive answers.

3. OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

- ❖ Created network amongst the service providers in Bulgaria.
- ❖ Shared good practices and problems in the social sector at the forum by different organisations and individuals – representatives of service providers in Bulgaria and authorities, on local, regional and national level.
- ❖ Provided information to managers and leaders in the social sector, on the values and principles of the European Union and the Council of Europe in relation to persons with disabilities and in relation to the provision of social services.
- ❖ Formed recommendations for better services within the European Semester - on education, employment, social inclusion and healthcare
- ❖ Spread information about EASPD's activities
- ❖ Presentation on values such as full participation, inclusion, freedom of choice, full citizenship, right to education, employment and independent living for all, as mentioned in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ❖ Arranged exhibition on social services and shared know-how on employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through social entrepreneurship.

4. PARTICIPANT LIST (attachment)

5. EVALUATION RESULTS (attachment)