



**Center for Independent Living
of Serbia**



**HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
Regional Office -South East Europe**

INVITE

Mrs/Mr

to participate at the Seminar:

**„Social services for persons with disabilities in the Republic of Serbia –
the challenges of the reform process“**

that will take place on June 15th in Belgrade,

Introduction

A system of social services should respond to the expressed needs of persons with disabilities, in order to promote inclusion and provide equal opportunities for full participation in society. Social services should also comply with quality and efficiency requirements. In order to achieve these goals, each country implements a set of regulatory mechanisms, like: the needs assessments (the mapping of needs and services at a local level), the sets of quality standards, the procedures of licensing/authorization, the contracting and funding procedures, the monitoring and evaluation of the service.

Globally, these regulatory mechanisms can be adjusted in relation with the national policies of social welfare, but also with the stage of development of the system of services. That’s why, in a system which is in transition, their role is crucial: they are one of the levers to work towards a universal access of persons with disabilities to qualitative and sustainable services.

Most of the countries of the region are facing a similar transition phase: the open market and the new paradigm of rights based approach to services delivery require a diversity of providers, from the public, private and non-profit sector. Since in the Republic of Serbia the National Strategy for Development of Social Welfare was already elaborated, the need for developing new types of services as well as framing and ensuring the quality and sustainability of these services have been acknowledged. The State develops currently operational plans and regulatory procedures in order to increase the access of people with disabilities to social services.

This seminar, organised by the Centre for Independent Living of Serbia and Handicap International South East Europe, with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs France, targets the difficulties and challenges of this ambitious reform process in Serbia, and brings concepts and experiences from EU and other South Eastern Europe countries.

Invited to the seminar are: representatives of central and local authorities, service providers, representatives of NGOs, DPOs and parents’ organizations, together with representatives of international agencies and organizations, which are active in the field of social services sector.

Thursday June 15th

- 9.00-9.15 Opening session and welcoming speech of the organizers:** Mrs. Gordana Rajkov, CIL Serbia and Mr. Alexandre Cote, Regional Director, Handicap International South East Europe
- 9.15-9.35 The Strategy for the Development of the Social Welfare System in Serbia – –** main stakes and expected results **Mr. Vlada Ilic, Minister Assistant, MOLESP**
- 9.35 – 9.55 The development of National Disability Strategy – Ms.Sladjana Markovic,**
Minister Assistant, MOLESP
- 9.55-10.20 Transformation of institutions for PWD and development of local services_** the plan of action; the challenges of the implementation process – **Mr. Ljuba Pejakovic, MoLESP**
- 10.20 -10.40 Aims and principles that underpin the disability related reforms – Mrs. Tatjana Colin, Consultant of the Ministry, MOLESP**
- 10.40 – 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.00 -11.35 The role of regulatory mechanisms in the social service provision, for people with disabilities ; different national examples and recommendations for the reform process –** Diana Chiriacescu, Handicap International-South East Europe
- 11.35-11.50 Case study on example of innovative service for people with disabilities – Personal Assistance Service, SPAS in Serbia –** Gordana Rajkov, CIL Serbia
- 11.50 - 13.00 Round table - What opportunities and challenges occur in the development of a diversity of services for persons with disabilities in Serbia?**
- 13.00-14.30 *Lunch break*
- 14.30-15.30 Parallel working groups:**
- 1. Assessment of needs and planning of services at local level.**
What challenges in the implementation of the strategy for social services?
 - 2. Contracting and funding social services at local level –** What kind of procedures for Serbia, in the frame of the new strategy?
- 15.30-16.00 Restitution of the working groups**
- 16.00-16.15 *Coffee break*
- 16.15-17.00 Conclusions and recommendations of the seminar**