

## Zagorje ob Savi Occupational Activity Centre

Zagorje ob Savi Occupational Activity Centre (VDC) is a **public social welfare institution in the Upper Sava Valley, which provides social inclusion, work and daycare to 116 mentally and physically challenged adults**. Housing in residential unit and community is provided to 15 persons. There are 29 regular full-time employees. Operating the E-Qalin quality management system in team spirit, the organization encourages development and inclusion of its users and their relatives, employees and volunteers in the planning, improvement projects and final results of the institution's operations. The institution operates transparently and economically. The key interest groups (users, relatives and employees) express high levels of satisfaction with the facility in question.

Since the very foundation of the organization on January 6, 1984, **the key principal** has been based on a social model grounded on a complete integration of an individual into society. The primary focus is on the users with specific disabilities which entitle them to institution's services. It is the organization's task to recognize and improve skills of an individual and to develop ways to overcome obstacles in daily life.

**Mission:** The users are given different alternatives, individual treatment, safe environment and socialization. Their weaknesses are minimized and overshadowed by their strengths which are strengthened and emphasized. Their relatives are included in every step of the way. Greatly encouraged are personal development and team work of employees. Assets provided are managed responsibly and economically.

**Vision:** The organization strives toward keeping and improving a qualitative, innovative and well-known Occupational Activity Centre in Slovenia as well as abroad.

Social assistance activities which, in accordance with Social Assistance Act, include **care, guidance and employment under special conditions**, are carried out by the organization in question. **Institutional care** is provided in residential units and communities.

**EMPLOYMENT UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS** is provided every working day from Monday to Friday. The goal is to put working abilities of the users to the best use and give the users a chance for obtaining new skills, accomplishing success on every level and building their self-esteem.

Provided are the following programs:

1. VDC program (handworks, sewing, packaging, innovative gifts ...)
2. Cooperation program (work for other companies' needs)
3. Other works (housework, maintenance work, marketplace sales ...).

**DAYCARE** is provided every working day from Monday to Friday. It comprises activities which encourage physical development, protection and safety of the entitled persons. Furthermore, it includes personal care, organized meals and protection of an individual, implementation of hygiene measures, social care which enables normal, healthy and safe way of living, company and support, organization of transportation, etc.

**INSTITUTIONAL CARE** is provided to the users living in residential units and communities all year round. This type of care replaces and fulfills functions of family and home. It comprises:

- Basic care which includes accommodation in single or double rooms, organized meals, technical supplies and transportation;
- Specific types of care which aim at preserving and developing independence and social relations, providing work occupation, active leisure time and solving personal and social distress;
- Social care which aims at professionally led activities which comprise the contents of social prevention, therapy and guidance of users;

- Health care which is carried out under health care regulations.

**GUIDANCE** is provided on daily basis by employees. It comprises: preserving and developing independence, providing help with personal/individual plans and solving personal and social distress, preserving and developing communication skills as well as applying already acquired knowledge and skills, ensuring active leisure time, encouraging development of social relations, active integration into society, therapies and correction of disorders, social welfare, counseling with parents.

Of great importance as part of the guidance are above standard activities, which take place on daily basis according to a schedule that is beforehand prepared by employees and users. Such activities are meant to diversify daily routine and to encourage development of different skills and abilities. What is more, they provide integration of the users and have positive impact on their physical health. The users choose which activity they want to take part in and the employees encourage them to participate regularly. On a regular basis, more than 40 activities are carried out:

- sports activities (soccer, basketball, Nordic walking, swimming, skiing, table tennis ...),
- cultural activities (dramatic society, choir, music and dancing workshops ...)
- project activities (summer and winter holidays, virtue project ...)
- rehabilitation activities (hydro massage, hand massage, electrical stimulation ...)
- cooperation with local environment (cooperation with different organizations and societies in organizing sports, cultural and social events with a common goal of increased integration of the users in local environment ...)

The program also provides educational workshops and life-long learning (reading, writing, calculation, electronic literacy) in accordance with individuals' interests.