

The access of people with autism and other disabilities from Moldova to social services

General information

Approximately 40,000 children are born in the Republic of Moldova each year, of which about 700 are potential children with autism. Based on data presented by the Moldovan Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection in 2018, 366 people with autism were registered, 349 of whom were children. According to the information provided by civil society, which deals with these issues, the number of children with autism is much higher, because most of them are not diagnosed.

Through the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the state authorities have taken a number of steps to provide more protection and help increase the quality of life for children with disabilities and their families. In fact, social protection services are an area that requires more attention and investment.

Currently, government-supported medical and social services are available to a small number of children with autism. Many of these services are provided by civil society organizations, but the current legislative framework does not cover the full range of issues related to accreditation, contracting and funding of these services. For their efficient development, five basic elements are needed: the appropriate legal framework to provide the perspective for the development of the sector, the institutional framework to ensure the delimitation of functions and responsibilities throughout the cycle of social services, the functional framework, standardized work processes and sufficient financing to ensure the complex functionality of the national service system throughout the country.



The objective of the project

Children with autism and other disabilities and their parents / carers in the Republic of Moldova will have greater access to quality services and greater availability of social and health services, which will create opportunities for social inclusion and independent living.

Project description

The project provides support to children with autism and other disabilities and their parents/ carers in the Republic of Moldova. The project aims to ensure greater access to quality services that contribute to social inclusion and increase opportunities for independence in life for people with autism.

The project has 3 main components:

1. Accreditation of social services (mobile team, day centre for children with disabilities, day centre for adolescents with ASD);
2. Developing a mechanism for contracting social services and a mechanism for setting their costs. Advocacy campaigns related to the need for public financing of these services.
3. Promoting the Mobile Team service for children and young people with ASD: guide, articles, radio and TV programs.

The next step is to pilot the social team Mobile Team in Chisinau and implement the advocacy campaign (organizing three round tables to inform and promote the mechanism of contracting social services).

Meetings with local public authorities and stakeholders will be organized during the advocacy campaign. In addition, a round table will be held to establish procedures for financing social services. The NGOs dealing with social issues will be involved in the advocacy campaign, in adjusting the social framework, promoting and approving the accreditation and funding mechanism of social services.

In order to carry out the process of accreditation of social services (mobile team, day centre for children with disabilities, day centre for adolescents with ASD) , there will be developed a series of procedures and internal regulations provided by the minimum quality standards of each service, such as: the operational manual, protection of personal data, protection against violence, selection procedures for beneficiaries and termination of services, budgeting of services, strategic plan, etc. In this context, internal working meetings will be held in order to develop and consult the procedures and regulations for the accreditation of social services.

After the successful completion of the accreditation of the Mobile Team in Chisinau, A.O. The "SOS Autism" team will guide the partner organization A.O. "Support and Hope", to create a new mobile team in the city of Ungheni. The mobile team from Chisinau will be composed of: behavioural psychotherapist (Applied Behavioural Analysis - ABA therapist), physiotherapist, psychologist, speech therapist, social worker or therapist. The partner organization will organize an advocacy campaign in the city of Ungheni to obtain funding for the Ungheni mobile team from local public authorities.

In order to achieve the sustainability of the project activities, an expert will be hired to develop an accreditation guide, contracting and financing social

services. The guide will be distributed among other NGOs targeting people with autism in Moldova (A.O. FEDRA).

BASIC INFORMATION:

Implementation period: 2021 – 2022

Partner: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

Budget: 69 999,98 EUR

Project approach

The following three results, with the effect of mutual synergy/consolidation, ensure the successful implementation of the project.

Result 1: 3 social services for children / people with autism and other disabilities are developed and accredited.

Result 2: The mechanism for accreditation, contracting and financing of social services for the Republic of Moldova is being developed and promoted for approval by the Central Public Authorities.

Result 3: The social services developed by AO SOS Autism, during the project implementation period, are promoted through the social media.

Posted by:
AO SOS Autism

Legal address
Republic of Moldova
Chisinau Municipality
Str. Grenoble 191, bloc.G

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Access for people with autism and other disabilities in Moldova to social services

Author / Responsible / Editor, etc .:
Vornicescu Vioreca

Design / layout
Vornicescu Vioreca

The authors of the photos:
Guzun Olga

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