

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

CAPACITY BUILDING MEASURES IMPROVING THE ELDERLY CARE POTENTIAL IN THE RURAL AREAS OF MÓRAHALOM

The proposed action comprises an investment component with a number of different items to be realised while large scale institutional development in terms of the improvement of the existing capacities is also envisaged.

The ultimate goals of the project activities are to reduce the load from the existing human infrastructure by enhancing and improving their capacities according to the following scheme. In addition to the infrastructure development component of the proposal the recognition and adoption (tailored to local conditions) of the Norwegian social care and elderly care experiences – within the given legislative framework – are also essential. First the promoter's staff have to get acquainted with the Norwegian social care system by study visit(s), training activities and exchange of personnel, all of which combined will provide input for a joint study. Through these activities and experience the staff will be able to elaborate educational programmes for future uptake and to develop a range of services provided by the municipality in this field.

During the study visit in Norway the Hungarian professionals will have a better understanding of the Norwegian social care system; the Norwegian partners can present their local experiences; and the Hungarian partners can have hands-on experience on



The local elderly already has a vibrant community life

the operation of the Norwegian social care system by paying a visit to a designated facility of such kind.

The Norwegian partners will be also invited to Hungary to get to know the current theoretical and practical operation of the Hungarian social care system. Such activity would support a mutual baseline analysis which will be the bases of the joint study.

One of the major tasks within the realm of base-care services of Mórahalom right now is the provision of the so called „farm-aid” service. Its main objectives include: mitigating the negative effects of the lack of various services deriving from the geographical setting of these scattered farm units, providing those basic services which are unavailable at these estates, again due to their

sporadic setting and finally supporting the residents' personal and communal needs at these locations. Currently within the Municipality's legal geographical limits there are four full time farm-aid worker on duty. The current proposal seeks the opportunity in improving the mentioned service both in terms of its infrastructure and its capacities.



The generous mandatory budget allocated to HR development and institutional capacity building provides a great opportunity to deliver a number of high-end activities aiding the above mentioned soft targets including elaboration and implementation of relevant methodologies, protocols and even pilot actions assisted by the donor partner. Also within this framework inter-institutional cooperation frames will be established ensuring long-term sustainability. In addition such actions will result in the improvement the service portfolio of the local authorities.



The individual farms sometimes are challenging to reach to.

KICK-OFF EVENT

The kick-off meeting took place at Mórahalom, Hungary on 10 June, 2016. Mr Laszlo Csanyi, deputy-mayor, welcomed everyone on behalf of the Mr Mayor, Zoltan Nogradi and he was particularly pleased to have the representatives of the Norwegian donor institute, SINTEF at the meeting.

During his introduction and opening speech, Mr Csanyi briefed the participants about all those actions and initiatives that had preceded main activities of the current project, some of which were funded also by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the past decade.



The kick-off meeting generated a lot of local and regional interest

The following, rather specific presentations covered the actual state-of-play for those fields of social care that will be targeted and pursued by the project's tasks and those priority areas too, where major difference could be made not just by efficiently using the funding provided by the project but also by implementing currently unused methods and introducing a different mindset to improve the service potential and to increase the level of social care.

The potential responses to the highlighted challenges were gathered and summarized by Ms Marta Farkas, local project manager in her presentation. She, as representative of the project promoter, covered in detail the main aspects and the primary objectives of



this current initiative, as well as the various activities and their expected potential impacts on the short, medium and long term. All these information and the presentations are available at the project's dedicated website (http://www.morahalom.hu/norway_grant) or can be obtained by contacting the Municipality.

In his presentation Mr Joe Gorman, senior researcher, representing The SINTEF Foundation (one of the largest independent, not-for-profit research institution in Europe) introduced the audience not only to most recent technologies used in the field of elderly care in Norway, but he also covered the importance of the necessary approach without which such technologies wouldn't be able to reach their full impacts. The adaptation of such approaches is clearly one of the major objective of this project, since the modest financial conditions of the local municipalities cannot be compared to their Norwegian counterparts to invest in such high-tech gadgets, but the implementation of a different approach usually requires a lot less financial effort and demands more on the HR side.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING AND INFO-DAY

On July 27, the local elderly and their relatives were invited to participate at the community briefing organised and hosted by the Municipality, aiming to give a better understanding for those who are interested about the future plans for local elderly care and to describe how the present project fits into this agenda.

The Mr Mayor described in detail the present project's aims and goals, with special emphasis on the capacity building aspects. Such activities will include implementing Norwegian best practices and technological solutions making them available for the locals.

He also introduced the „elderly daycare” concept to be hosted by a new building (erected within the frame of this current project) in the Szentjános area of Mórahalom. This centre will aid the self-supporting activities of those elderly who face minor difficulties when it comes taking care of themselves but are keen on keeping their independence.

The municipality will host a series of similar events during the oncoming months to have a better understanding of the potential needs of the local population who eventually will be served by the outcomes of this initiative.



Members of the consortium are discussing after the kick-off event

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The topics of the community briefing addressed primarily the elderly population

