The Preventive Programmes
in the Town of Velika Gorica and the Presentation of the Centre for Children, Youth and Family Velika Gorica

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The Preventive Programmes for Children and Youth with Behavioural Disorders

Identity Card of the Town of Velika Gorica
Status: Town - The Friend of Children
21,000 inhabitants - 64 settlements
200 new enterprises annually - positive natural processes
8 kindergartens - 1,200 children
3 primary schools - 4,000 pupils
1 high school - 670 pupils
4 secondary schools - 500 pupils

Starting points:
1. The Convention on the Rights of the Child: States, governments and local authorities have an obligation to learn about, understand, observe and implement the Convention.
2. Expert and scientific knowledge: The behavioural disorders occur in the child's environment surrounding which consists of family, school and local community.

The program development procedure:

- Setting of objectives
- Setting of specific objectives
- Program development: Implementation and evaluation

Universal prevention:
- Velika Gorica has been granted a position as one of the Friend of Children. The rights of the child are respected and observed in different areas of children's life: education, social care, health care, leisure time, participation.
- Police and children in the community: Children visit the police station when the contact-police man gives them a presentation on the work and role of the police. We also introduce them to the dangers of substance abuse and topics of interpersonal violence.
- Parents awareness raising: The booklet "A Guide for Parents" was given to all parents; the booklet is composed of useful information gathered from institutions and NGOs that can contact.
- Children's City Council: It gathers children from kindergartens and primary schools; they discuss problems and ask local authorities to provide solutions.

Need assessment and targeted interventions:
- Identifies the protective factors in order to plan children's and youth activities in order to promote priorities for preventive activities - research conducted in all schools.
- Sample: such pupils in the 7th grade of primary schools and the categories of secondary schools.
- The research included GSC Questionnaire (The Community that Cares Survey, 2004).
- Outcomes: priority problems of alcohol consumption.
- Targeted interventions: "House to House" Campaign.

CUGA JE TUGA
GRAD VELIKA GORICA
PRIJATELJ DJECE

Activities:
1. Youth focus group 14 years old; consideration of problems from the youth's perspective
2. Press conference: campaign announcements, promotion of materials
3. A letter of invitation to all catering and shopping facilities in the area of the Town of Velika Gorica to cooperate and observe the Act on the Protection of Minors from Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to Children and Minors
4. Distribution of posters "Be wise using alcohol" in the town institutions
5. Distribution of stickers and T-shirts clearly indicating that alcoholic beverages are not for sale to minors
6. Web site: www.cugajetuga.net and Facebook group
7. Call for and shop visits
8. Nonalcoholic cocktails in Club 700
9. Promotional video with Velika Gorica youth
10. Preparation and promotion of the performance "Harmless - What happens the Day After?" - visits to all schools

The Centre for Children, Youth and Family Velika Gorica

The Centre's Identity Card
Initiation: February 2003
Founders: The Town of Velika Gorica
Activities: Implementation of psychologically oriented programs for children, youth, parents and family members, support and training for experts and publishers.
Number of employees: 6
Number of associates: 70
Number of volunteers: 250
Number of programs: 45 programs implemented by groups and through counseling programme
Number of beneficiaries: about 2000 a year
Specific quality of the Centre: It is the first and the only institution for children, youth and family locality founded on the local community. The programme is free of charges and developed by the Centre's expert team.

- The work of the Centre is based on the community's need assessment; the Centre offers efficient and adequate programmes.
- Strategic goals:
  1. Development and implementation of quality programmes;
  2. Establishment and expansion of the network in the local community;
  3. Sharing and using of experience in the country and abroad.

The following programmes are implemented in the Centre:

- Programme for position development are focused on skill strengthening, new knowledge learning and attitude acquisition to help children and youth in their development.
- We have the following programmes: Art Group, Dancing Group, Jewellery Workshop, Woodwork Workshop, Games in the Church, Sewing and Writing Come, Visible Art, Summer Workshop, Singing Group, Creative Group for Kids, Support Group, Drama Group, Voice-Pitch, Pop Art Artists, Youth Panel, Discussions, Lectures for Parents, Baby Fitness, Family Art and Craft Workshops.

The prevention programmes are for personal strength development and creative stimulating surroundings for risks behavior prevention. There are three levels of prevention - universal, selective and indicated (development, support, prevention).

- Universal level: B refers to entire populations that have not been identified as risk factors of individual risk. The following programmes are implemented in the Centre at the Levels of the Centre: Pre-school programmes, Playgames, Preparation for School, Warm Meal, Classroom Activities, The Adventure is about to Begin, Preparations for Adults, The Course for Future Parents, Let's Grow Together: First, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Creative Parenting Club, Parenting in a Different Way, Shake Off Shyness, Developmental Pearl.

- Selective level: B refers to individuals or groups that are at risk of developing behavioral disorders. The level includes the following programmes: What is being Good and "What? Happy Classrooms, I Can Do it Differently, Be What You Want (Arts, Psychodrama for Children.

- Indicated level: B refers to high-risk individuals who have been identified with problems, but without signs or symptoms of a behavioral disorder. At this level, the Centre works individually with children who have an ADHD syndrome, with minors referred to our Centre by the Municipal Social Administration's Office or the Municipal Court. We also have individual counseling for children, youth, parents and family members.

- Speaking and Language Development Stimulation Programmes are designed to improve communication, speaking and language skills and comprehensibility. The Centre implements the following programmes: Spelling Playgroup, Individual Work with Children with Speaking and Language Disorders and Reading and Writing Disorders, Individual Counseling for Parents of Children with Speaking and Language Disorders and Reading and Writing Disorders, Individual Counseling for Parents of Children with Speaking and Language Disorders, Individual Work with Children with Specific Learning Disabilities, Individual Work with Parents of Children with Specific Learning Disabilities.

- Programmes for Experts are developed for Centre employees, associates and experts from the local community. The Centre offers supervision, consultation, mentoring, lectures and training. These programmes are designed to improve their professional work. The Centre also offers the programme "Workshop on Workshops" for future associates, who learn about the group work basics through their own experience.

- The Centre centre's regular evaluation of its performance and specific programmes. The evaluation consists specific objective and program efficiency evaluation questionnaires. The evaluation provides an insight into the usage of the Centre in terms of its beneficiaries, associates and citizens of Velika Gorica, but it also measures the achievement of strategic objectives.

CONCLUSION: The local administration represents a venue for programme consolidation, organization and coordination.

- The programme need to be scientifically founded.
- The national strategies provide the framework, whereas local programmes need to observe all characteristics of the local region, including its specific social and cultural identity.
- The Centre for Children, Youth and Family represents a good practice example - it was established according to the needs of the local community and its programmes are developed independently in compliance with the need assessment.
- The programme implementation require team work and a multidisciplinary approach, which allow recruitment of all resources in the local community.

The last preventative measures and programmes are in the domain of the Centre for Children, Youth and Family Velika Gorica. These measures are based on the latest knowledge in the field of psychology and are focused on the development of personal strength and creative stimulation in connection with risks behavior prevention.