

# **The Situation Of Children In Institutions Of Social Care In Serbia**

**Yugoslav Child Rights Centre**  
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\* The titles of Institutions are given in their original form indicating the still prevailing attitudes towards disabilities.

## FOREWORD

The Yugoslav Child Rights Centre has been monitoring the situation in social care institutions providing accommodation for children in Serbia for several years. Until the autumn of the year 2000, our activities in children's homes were reduced to monitoring and, occasionally, to certain small-scale activities. Co-operation with the then Ministry of Labour, Veterans' and Social Affairs was reduced to a minimum, which we, nevertheless, considered to be a success at that time. In the given circumstances, we were not allowed to inform the public about the real situation in children's homes, as that would have resulted in our being denied further access to the users.

Fortunately, the changes that occurred in October 2000 led, primarily, to the commencement of a process of revelation in this domain. Pictures from some of the homes were broadcast on TV and appeared in the press. The local and foreign public responded swiftly, offering assistance in solving urgent problems.

Most of the donors addressed the Ministry. However, many questions reached our Centre as well. Since this problem was also within the realm of our activities in the past, we decided to take certain steps, the first being to establish contacts with the "new" ministry. Representatives of the Yugoslav Centre for Child Rights addressed Minister Gordana Matković, proposing that closer co-operation be initiated between this organisation and the Ministry. We were extremely pleased to see that we were now communicating with a different kind of ministry. In the discussions that followed, we decided that the first step in accomplishing long-term objectives regarding children's homes in Serbia was to establish what the real situation in the institutions was.

As a small and mobile organisation, we were soon able to organise an expert team, to visit all the children's homes in two months and note down the details of the relevant findings. We reached an agreement with the Ministry swiftly and easily, and decided to launch the survey immediately. That is how it started. In order to obtain data about the status of children in children's homes, we established specific indicators, which were to serve as the basis for our work. Below is a presentation of the results the team achieved.

The results given here are significant for two reasons. The first is related to short-term objectives - urgent aid to the occupants of the homes, consisting of food, clothing, medicines, upgrading professional capacities and renovation of facilities. The second one relates to long-term objectives which are to be achieved on the basis of the specific policy, which will be developed and implemented. In addition to the field survey results, this report will also present certain frameworks designed by us for developing policy in this domain.

We consider that it is extremely helpful to make the results of this survey accessible also through a specific computer programme, and that this will make it possible to load and process additional data, based on the newly created situation.

As a non-governmental organisation we are particularly pleased to be able to make our contribution, together with state representatives, to the efforts aimed at making the world a better place for children, particularly for those who have always been on the margins of life.

We are deeply grateful for this survey and this Report to our friends Sanne Andersen (The Embassy of Denmark) and Deborah McWhinney (The Embassy of Canada), without whose financial aid and genuine understanding it would have been impossible to implement this project.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the members of the team who agreed to do this difficult task and who performed it very professionally.

**Nevena Vučković Šahović**

Programme Director of the Yugoslav Child Rights Centre

## INTRODUCTION

There are three types of institutions for children and the youth in the system of social care of Serbia, which are under the jurisdiction of the Republic, i.e. the Ministry of Social Affairs. These are:

- institutions for children and youth without parental care,
- institutions for children with disabilities,
- institutions for the education of children and youth (providing accommodation for children with behavioural disorders or children in conflict with the law).

In addition to this, there are two more institutions, which are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice:

- Correctional institution in Kruševac,
- Juvenile prison in Valjevo.

The Social Care Act in Serbia stipulates that local authorities may establish institutions serving as day-care for children and youth with disabilities.

The major problem of all the institutions for the accommodation of children and youth is their financial status. The long-term degradation of the country, the poorly administered welfare policy and many other reasons have led to the serious impoverishment of these institutions. The lack of essential means calls into question not only the quality of the lives of the children in institutions, but also their survival and development.

In this set of circumstances, it is difficult to speak about the quality of upbringing and education, the preparation of the children for their return to the natural environment, teaching them to take care of themselves independently, etc.

So far, a number of large-scale humanitarian drives have been organised in Yugoslavia, independently or in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the aim of urgently alleviating the effects of the children's impoverished material status. The campaign to provide relief for children without care in Yugoslavia has a far-reaching objective whose purpose is to enhance the level of public solidarity, i.e. responsibility felt by each individual for vulnerable citizens in this country.

The project undertaken by the Yugoslav Child Rights Centre, carried out with the consultative assistance of the Ministry of Social Affairs is one more in the series of drives aimed at improving the material and social status of children in this country.

However, humanitarian aid as well as all that has been done so far or that will be done in the near future, is only the first step and the basic prerequisite for bringing about an essential change in the situation of children, not only in institutions, but in the overall system of welfare and social child care.

**Ljubomir Pejaković**

Director of the Yugoslav Child Rights Centre

## ABOUT THE REPORT

This Report on the **Situation Of Children In Institutions For Social Care In Serbia** is the result of work done by an interdisciplinary team comprising experts and associates from the YuCRC, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia.

The team consisted of:

- Milena Lukić, psychologist;
- Beba Đurašković, architect;
- Dušan Pačić, civil engineer;
- dr Rada Ćućuz, M.D.;
- Jakov Knežević, cameraman;
- Suzana Miličić, YuCRC associate;
- Slađana Vorkapić, YuCRC associate.

The team was composed in this way in order to establish all the essential aspects of the living conditions of children in institutions.

The data was collected on the basis of semi-standardised interviews, that were conducted with the managers of the institutions, the members of the professional teams and the other staff in the institutions.

In addition to this, an assessment was made of the condition of the buildings and equipment, based on personal inspection and documents, and all the material is supplemented with film footage and photographs.

The survey of the situation involved the following aspects:

- the state of the buildings, installations and equipment;
- the premises where the children live and spend their time;
- education and up-bringing;
- health care and meals;
- clothing and footwear.

Apart from presenting a description of the situation, each segment gives a list of priority needs of the institution as well as the requirements of the institution as a whole. This Report includes film footage on each institution, which has been edited by the YuCRC, for a documentary film. Also, a large collection of photographs was taken.

The whole set of data has been entered in the YuCRC data base.

While the team was paying visits to the institutions and writing this report, certain international organisations joined a drive to give donations to a number of institutions on the basis of information provided by the YuCRC and the relevant ministry, which included either humanitarian aid or financial investments (e.g. Stamnica, Kulina, Banja Koviljača, etc.).

The survey, the drafting of this report and its printing took place in the period from January 22 till May 31, 2001.



**Institutions for children and youth  
without parental care**



## **Institutions for children and youth without parental care**

The accommodation of children without parental care in institutions of social care is one of the basic modes of providing for these children in Serbia. According to the latest data, there are about 2,000 children living in 17 institutions for children without parental care.

At present, Serbia has about 5,000 children without parental care who are accommodated with the families of their closest relatives, foster families or homes for children and youth without parental care.

The Social Care Act stipulates that the following children are entitled to accommodation in welfare institutions:

- 1) children without parents, children whose parents are unknown or have disappeared, and children whose parents do not exercise their parental rights and duties for any reasons whatsoever, either temporarily or permanently;
- 2) children whose development is impaired by family conditions as a result of which their parents are unable to provide them appropriate conditions for their development.

The most natural environment for children who have been left without parents, or whose parents cannot take care of them for whatever reason, is that of their closest relatives. This is why the first stage in finding adequate accommodation for a child without parental care is the effort to provide him/her with shelter in the family of his/her closest relatives, who thus become his/her guardians (there is no accurate data on the number of children without parental care who have been accommodated with the families of their kin).

A characteristic of the organised social protection of children without parental care in Serbia is the parallel development of a system of institutional care (homes for children) and alternative care (accommodation of children with foster families). The number of children covered by these forms of care has been balanced for a rather long time. Currently, there are more than 2,000 children in the homes and in foster families.

As a result of unresolved problems in the field of the social rights of foster families, lately, the motivation of foster families and individuals to join the system of foster families has dwindled, although the promotion of this concept of child care has been the subject of extensive activities over the past period. Promotion of this form of child care is part of a broader campaign for the general recognition of the concept of alternative forms of child care, which should be one of the basic trends in the development of social protection for children without parental care in the forthcoming period.

The seventeen institutions for the accommodation of children without parental care encompass 23 individual homes: one institution has six homes, another has two homes, and there are eleven special homes and four homes that are attached welfare centres. Apart from differences in the manner of organising the institutions, the homes differ also in other characteristics: their premises (depending on the time when they were built and whether they were built specifically for that purpose); the organisation of work, which often depends on the organisation of the premises; equipment which determines the category of children that can be provided with appropriate protection (e.g. only two homes have the conditions required for accommodating the youngest children) etc.

In collaboration with the relevant centre for social work, the role of the home as an organ of social care is to provide social protection, health care, education and legal protection for each child. There is no verified programme of educational work that can ensure uniformity of the education process and facilitate the process of training new teachers for the job.

Any accommodation in the institution is considered as temporary and it terminates after the elimination of the reasons for which the child was admitted to the institution. Accommodation for children without parental care terminates when they can go back to their families, or when a more favourable measure of social protection is available (adoption, relocation to a foster family or to relatives, or to another welfare institution), or at the end of schooling, or vocational training.

If the child does not go back to his/her family, or if no other social care measure has been applied, the child leaves the home after attaining his/her majority and obtaining suitable professional qualifications, respectively, because that is considered as the basis for leading an independent life. However, this assumption is rather unrealistic in many cases, because the general poverty that prevails in this society makes it impossible to ensure any certain prospects or a quality start in life for the child who is in the "leaving programme" (for instance, providing a job, continued schooling or solving accommodation problems).

A rather conspicuous feature of the structure of the children in these institutions in the recent period has been the increasing number of children with impaired mental development and children who lag behind in school. The result of the increased number of children with slight mental disabilities and children who are unsuccessful in school is an essentially different social picture relating to education as compared to what it was in the former period, and this has significantly affected the quality of the process of education.

Homes accommodate approximately 30 percent of children with slightly impaired mental capacities, although there are several institutions where they account for as much as 50% of the total number of children who are provided with care. Consequently, education and the day to day functioning of the homes have become rather difficult, and fail to yield good results in working with children who have normal intellectual abilities or with those who have special needs.

If necessary, children accommodated in homes are provided with health care in health centres and special institutions. All the children have social insurance. Homes for children without parental care do not have their own health services, although the majority of them each have a nurse on the staff. The nurses are responsible for health and hygiene education, supervising the health of the children and administering the therapy prescribed by the doctor.

The greatest problem confronting the institutions is obtaining medication that cannot be found in the pharmacies. Meanwhile, all of the homes are short of money for purchasing medicines.

International humanitarian organisations do not organise individual donations in the form of medicines, as a result of which the management of the homes are faced with an insurmountable problem when it comes to obtaining medication drugs or money for treating children with serious diseases.

## CUMULATIVE TABLE 1

### Homes for children and youth without parental care in Serbia

name of home and place	capacity	total number of children	number of children with LD	year of establish. of the home	age structure			
					aged up to 7	aged up to 14	aged up to 18	aged above 18
1. "Angelina - Gina Kojić" Home, Zrenjanin								
	60+8 (admission dept.)	58+8	27	1960.	1	32	22	2
2. "Vera Blagojević" Home, Banja Koviljača								
	60	62	20	1983.	6	39	11	6
3. "Vera Radivojević" Home, Bela Crkva								
	120	107	37	1960.	9	62	27	7
4. a) "Dr Milorad Pavlović", Sremska Kamenica, b) Youth home, Novi Sad								
	156+60+10 (admission dept.)	164+54	30	1975.	21	119	77	-
5. "Duško Radović", Niš								
	96+10 (admission dept.)	101	17	1984.	5	58	32	6
6. "Jefimija", Kruševac								
	72	73	20	1955.	6	42	21	4
7. "Kolevka", Subotica (see note 1)								
	-	40+140	-	1903.	80	-	-	-
8. "Miroslav-Mika Antić", Sombor								
	80	83	46	1981.	-	48	30	5
9. Home attached to the "Dr Mihajlo Stupar" welfare centre, Valjevo								
	24	20	3	1971.	2	5	13	-
10. "Mladost" Home attached to the welfare centre, Kragujevac								
	60	54	12	1987.	-	29	22	3
11. "Olivera-Verica Đurđević" Home, Vranje								
	72	62	12	1981.	4	27	18	16
12. "Petar Radovanović" Home, Užice								
	96	75	24	1982.	16	42	18	-
13. "Spomenak" Home, Pančevo								
	93	84	24	-	2	47	27	6
14. "Stanko Paunović" Home, Negotin								
	88	81	30	1919.	-	60	21	-
15. Home attached to the welfare centre "Hristina Markišić", Aleksinac								
	48	47	26	1946.	7	12	25	3
16. Home attached to the welfare centre, Čuprija								
	34	32	9	1970.	1	18	14	-
17. Centre for the protection of newborn infants, children and youth								
a) Infirmary for mothers and children, Belgrade (see note 2)								
	332+20 (maternity home)	279+6	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) "Dragutin Filipović - Jusa", Belgrade								
	30+10 (admission dept.)	34+4	1	1963.	38	-	-	-
v) "Drinka Pavlović", Belgrade								
	96	68	27	1955.	-	33	29	6
g) "Jovan Jovanović - Zmaj", Belgrade								
	72	68	29	1989.	1	24	18	11
d) "Moša Pijade", Belgrade								
	96	83	19	1957.	1	32	28	23
d) Home for secondary school and university youth, Belgrade								
	50	30	-	1999.	-	-	5	25

**Remarks:**

1) The "Kolevka" Home in Subotica has an infirmary with the biggest ward for children with development risks and children with disabilities (120). All of the children are aged between 0 and 7 years.

2) The Infirmary for mothers and children in Belgrade is intended for new-borns and children aged up to three years. The infirmary includes a ward for children with development risks and for children with disabilities (with a capacity of 50 places).



# 1

## Home for children and youth without parental care “Angelina Gina Kojić”, Zrenjanin

Cara Dušana 4, 23000 Zrenjanin ▪ Telephone: 023-561-467 ▪ Fax: 023-534-840

The home accommodates 58 children, while its total capacity is 60 places. The home also has an admission department with a capacity of 8 places. It provides accommodation for children aged between 3 and 18 years, while the majority of the children are aged between 7 and 14 years. A characteristic problem of this home is the large number of children with slightly impaired mental abilities (27).

Apart from accommodating children without parental care, the home also provides boarding school accommodation for secondary school pupils (230 pupils in the boarding school, which shares the premises with the home)

### Architectural and structural conditions

The home was built on a site that is very inconvenient for its purpose - at the intersection of two very busy traffic arteries. Due to the ruined state of the entire structure and its inadequacy, one of the management's suggestions was to relocate the home to a more suitable place, if possible.

If not, complete reconstruction will be necessary.

In some rooms in the basement, there is moisture. The facade is dilapidated and the interior requires complete restoration, from the walls and floors to the furniture and equipment (beds, cupboards, shelves, tables, chairs) all of which are in a catastrophic condition. Owing to the lack of space, the children's rooms are overcrowded. There is no kitchen or dining room in the building, so the kitchen and the dining room of the adjacent boarding house are used. There is an enclosed passage, linking the two buildings.

#### Priorities:

- relocation to a more suitable place or complete restoration;
- completely new equipment and furniture;
- extension or upgrading of the existing boiler room;
- solution to the problem of moisture in the basement;
- new woodwork;
- new sanitary installations.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The home for children and youth in Zrenjanin provides accommodation for children without parental care and has a boarding home for secondary school pupils. The capacity of the home for children without parental care is 60, or five educational groups. The institution accommodates 58 children, among whom 32 are elementary school pupils and 22 are secondary school pupils. There is one student in the home, two beneficiaries attending a professional qualification course, and a child of kindergarten age. Among the children accommodated in the home, there are 27 children with impeded intellectual development.

Traditionally, this home houses a large percentage of children with slightly impaired mental development because the home was established after closing down the Institution for the Education of Children With Slightly Impaired Mental Development, and also because there is a possibility for them to have a complete education in a special school in the city.

The home employs seven teachers, a social worker and a psychologist, which is in accordance with the professional work standards that apply to institutions of social protection. The home has a teacher coordinator in charge of education.

The work on education is organised in groups with a heterogeneous composition, and each group has its teacher. When determining what group a new child is to join, the elements taken into consideration are the composition of the group and the potentials of the child to develop its abilities in the group in the best possible manner.

The work on education is programmed according to the elementary domains of education. Full attention is paid to studying, and also to the children's creativity, as well as to satisfying their specific interests and the development of their skills in extra-curricular activities. Education in terms of developing work habits consists of assigning regular tasks in the home.

The home maintains well-developed co-operation with local educational and medical institutions, and steps are taken to remove the possible disorders in the development of each child. This home for children has a long tradition in the city, and it takes part in the activities and events organised for children. The home has also had media coverage.

### Priorities:

- education of teachers for working with children with special needs;
- a nurse in accordance with standard requirements;
- increasing the number of teachers to 12 (two for the admission department, two for the night shift, and two more for each other shift);
- a computer and training for using computers;
- training for practical work with children who have behavioural and adolescence-related problems, as well as in topics dealing with the prevention of diseases of addiction.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The home has two nurses who give medical and hygiene training as an aspect of medical and hygiene prevention, supervise the children's health and monitor their hygiene. They co-operate directly with medical institutions and provide medical treatment for the children in the home.

The home co-operates closely with medical institutions in respect of preserving and improving the physical and mental health of the children and their medical treatment.

The meals in the home regularly include meat and fish.

### Priorities:

- a weight and height measuring unit;
- medicines (mainly antibiotics, ephthyl, contraceptives);
- a pastry-mixer;
- fresh fruit and vegetables;
- new footwear for the children, for all seasons
- a transport vehicle for the children (mini van).

### *Views of the staff*

Relocation of the home to a more suitable location

The home should be relocated to a more suitable location.

The management and the staff consider that the existence of the home is justified, however they emphasise that the admission of children with minor mental disabilities should be limited as this has an adverse effect on the work to bring up the other children with normal intellectual capacities.

# 2

## Home for children without parental care "Vera Blagojević" Banja Koviljača

Vojvođanskih brigada bb, 15316 Banja Koviljača ▪ Telephone: 015-818-395 ▪ Fax: 015-818-395

There are 62 children without parental care living in this home, which has a capacity of 60 places. The majority of the children are aged between 7 and 14 years (two thirds of them). The home accommodates 20 children with slight mental disabilities.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The block consists of two buildings - one (A) of 990 square meters and the other (B) of 600 square meters. Both structures were built in 1983.

The external appearance of the buildings is satisfactory but the interior and the equipment in the home are in very poor condition.

The outer windows are dilapidated, twisted, do not close properly, and need to be replaced. The main entrances of both buildings need to be repaired or replaced. The roof on building "A" leaks and needs repairing.

The kitchen and the dining room in building A are inadequate. A separate building should to be built for this purpose.

Both buildings need to be repainted inside. The floors and doors in the buildings are completely ruined and need repairing or replacing.

The furniture in the rooms and particularly in the day rooms is useless or non-existent. Completely new furniture: beds, cupboards, shelves, tables, chairs, as well as bed linen are required.

The bathrooms have partly been repaired, i.e. some toilet bowls and the ceramic tiling have been changed. New doors are also needed in them, and the remaining necessary repairs should be completed.

### Priorities:

- completely new furniture in the dormitories and day rooms (beds, cupboards, tables, chairs);
- new outer windows, entrance doors and the doors inside the buildings;
- to erect a separate facility for the kitchen and dining room;
- roof repairs on building A;
- a large circulation pump for the heating system, and the repair of all the radiators.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The home for children in Banja Koviljača was established after World War II, as a home for war orphans. In 1984, the home moved into the premises of a new building, specially constructed for this purpose using the resources of the "Solidarnost" Fund (with the donor participation of the former beneficiaries of the home). The capacity of the home is 60 places or 5 educational groups, and currently, there are 62 children in it. Eight teachers and one pedagogue provide education. One teacher is an olygo-phreno-pedagogue who is a member of the professional team because of the high percentage of children with mental disabilities. A vacancy for a psychologist has been advertised for a rather long time. The post is necessary for planning and carrying out individual care (in other words, for supplementary diagnostics that subsequently enable the pedagogue to determine the appropriate educational method), for children with emotional disorders, and disorderly habits, etc.

The difficulty that arises in providing education in this home is due to the relatively high percentage of children coming from sub-cultural communities, where education does not have a high rating in the system of values, who quit schooling in the higher grades of elementary school.

Two years ago, the relevant ministry issued instructions for the children in educational groups to be of the same age. The staff in the home consider that the organisation of work according to groups of the same age hinders younger children from learning the rules of family life and communicating with representatives of a different age group.

Children attend the elementary school in Banja Koviljača, and the secondary school in Loznica, which means they have to travel a distance of six kilometres.

The home is in pleasurable surroundings, however, the proximity of the state border creates problems in supervising the older children, since they travel to school in Loznica, and may often be tempted to establish social contacts of a risky nature.

The home is always filled to capacity and its existence will be needed in the foreseeable future, as well.

### Priorities:

- a psychologist;
- increasing the number of teachers according to standards, because one teacher per group cannot cover the activities during the weekend;
- employing a nurse in accordance with the standards.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

One of the difficulties in providing basic health care for the children is the distance from the Loznica Health Centre, which is responsible for providing health care for the children. A nurse has been employed in the home for quite a long time. She is responsible for carrying out health and hygiene preventive measures and supervising the state of health of the children.

The home provides three meals for the users, while younger children also get snacks. The basic shortcoming in their nutrition is fresh fruit and vegetables do not feature regularly in meals.

There is a good supply of clothing and footwear for the children, as well as hygiene items and school stationery, because the items are provided through regular donations from humanitarian organisations.

### Priorities:

- basic medicines for the portable pharmacy;
- foodstuffs: meat and fish paste, milk, honey, fruit, vegetables, meat;
- footwear for children for all seasons, underwear, socks, trainers, tracksuits.

### *Views of the staff*

Support for the children leaving social care

The teachers in the home require livelier co-operation with other institutions of the same type. One of their ideas is to have expert teams stay in the home where they would give a practical demonstration of their method of work.

The staff consider that the existence of the home is justified despite the fact that there is a well-developed foster care system in the region.

The view of the staff is that the preparation of the children for leaving the home is incomplete, and that the children are emotionally over-protected and that leaving the home is a traumatic event especially because there is practically no external support.

# 3 Home for children without parental care "Vera Radivojević", Bela Crkva

Jovana Cvijića 1, 26340 Bela Crkva ■ Telephone: 013-853-021 ■ Fax: 013-853-145

The home accommodates 107 children without parental care, while its capacity is 120 places. The majority of children are aged between 7 and 14 years, and there are seven users aged above 18 years. The problem affecting the concept of work is the increased number of children who are slightly mentally disabled (currently 37 of them), as well as the fact that there are two children in the home, whose mental capacities are moderately impaired.

## Architectural and structural conditions

The block of facilities in Bela Crkva dates back to 1900. It was reconstructed in 1989. It consists of four buildings around an inner, quadrangle of an area of approx. 1,000 square meters. Generally speaking, the buildings are in good condition, except the ground floor building (III) in the yard, where moisture from underground waters has appeared. Therefore, new hydro insulation must be installed and the complete repair of the walls, particularly in the day rooms and recreation hall, is necessary. It is possible to build one more storey with a sloping roof and roofing tiles atop the ground floor building (II) that has a flat roof in order to provide more room for the accommodation for the existing number of children. The space in the attics in buildings (I) and (II) could also be used to expand these capacities.

### Priorities:

- resolving the problem of moisture in the ground floor building;
- renovation of the recreation hall and day rooms.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The Bela Crkva home for children was established in 1960. The home is situated in the centre of the town; however, this is no threat for the children while they engage in their activities because the building and the courtyard of the home have ample space. The capacity of the home is 120 places (10 educational groups), and the number of children accommodated there is 107 (9 educational groups). The majority of the children are of elementary school age because the city provides only modest conditions for secondary school education. The vacated space of one educational group is being rented out to athletes who use it for their preparations, and this has been an income generator for the home. The home also earns income by providing laundry-washing services for certain institutions, and from a mini bakery situated in the home. There is a plan for launching other activities that are expected to generate additional income. Additional revenues have made it possible to maintain the standard of living of the children at a time burdened by irregular payments from the budget of the Republic earmarked for the care of the children. The home accommodates 37 children with slightly impaired mental capacities, who attend special classes in the elementary school. After completing elementary school these children are either transferred to another home in order to continue their education, or they are trained in the town, where they attend courses for simple occupations, because there is no secondary or special school in the town. If there is an insufficient number of pupils, no special classes are formed for each grade of elementary school, and this affects the admissions capacity of this home.

Educational work is organised according to the principle of homogenisation of the educational groups according to age. Each group has its own separate space, which is marked in a specific way (name, method of space arrangement).

The number of employed teachers corresponds to standards. The teacher of an incomplete educational group organises educational work. There is only a social worker to carry out the work of a professional team. The home has advertised a vacancy requiring a psychologist for quite a long time.

The planning and organisation of education in this home, like in others, is based on the Principles of Education in the Homes for Children and Youth Without Parental Care adopted by the Education Council of Serbia and the Instructions for the activities of professional workers in the field of education in boarding homes for pupils.

A characteristic feature of education is to prepare the children for living in a family and train them to perform household tasks, which is done by means of joint activities in the home, extracurricular activities, work duties (work in the kitchen, arranging the environment, work with handymen).

Great importance is attached to sports. A former teacher, the PE teacher, athletes and the sports organisations that it has been co-operating with assist the home in this respect. The children are well received by the local community, and evidence of this is the fact that many children find jobs in the town after leaving the home, and many of them get married in the town.

### Priorities:

- a psychologist;
- seminars for exchanging experience and additional training to refresh and update knowledge;
- training based on the "Help for Helpers" Programme - relaxation exercises to alleviate fatigue.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

A health centre, which is in the immediate vicinity of the home, provides general health protection for the children, and they are taken for specialised medical examinations to the hospitals in Vršac and Belgrade. The home has obtained a van and a passenger car for the transport of children to the hospital centre.

This home has managed to overcome the problems of medication shortages thanks to the support of the Hemofarm pharmaceutical company from Vršac, and the hospital for pulmonary diseases in Bela Crkva. The teachers and a nurse who works only part-time do supervision and training in hygiene. The nurse co-operates directly with medical institutions in the health supervision and the medical treatment of the children, and is responsible hygiene and health training, and monitoring the health of the children. There are no cases of chronic or serious diseases, among the children in the institution.

### Priorities:

- medicines: antibiotics, antipyretics, antimicrotics, alcohol, Povidon, Chloramphenicol (1%, 5%), acido-borici, pregnancy tests;
- foodstuffs: honey, meat, margarine, meat and fish paste and processed meat products;
- kitchen equipment: a refrigerator;
- clothing and footwear: trainers, socks, shoes, underwear, jackets and tracksuits.

### *Views of the staff*

Increasing market and business activities

Teachers need to exchange experience with colleagues from other homes, and update their knowledge.

The further development of the institution requires a reduction in the capacities of the home to an optimal level of between 80 and 90 children, a reduction in the number of children in each educational group, or an increase in the number of teachers or other staff who work directly with the children.

The institution also plans to expand its market and business activities to bring benefits to the education process, for the vocational training of the children, to earn income, and provide job opportunities for the children when they leave the home.

In the plans at the level of the municipality and the Ministry of the Economy, the home is designated for the cultivation of silkworms.

The local community considers that the home should continue to function, and even though there are individuals who are interested in fostering the children, the position of foster care is a demotivating factor. In order to solve the problems of the children in regard of being independent after they leave the home, the employees have offered to help the children establish contact with families of elderly people who have no offspring.

# 4

## SOS Children's Village, "Milorad Pavlović", Sremska Kamenica, and the Youth Home, Novi Sad

Kamenički park 1-14, 21208 S. Kamenica ■ Telephone: 021-461-177, 461-871 ■ Fax: 021-462-960

The "Milorad Pavlović" SOS Children's Village also includes the Youth Home in Novi Sad. This institution used to be a full member of the International Children's Village Organisation.

At present, this is the only children's village in Yugoslavia.

The thirteen standard houses in the Children's Village accommodate 164 children (their total capacity is 156), and the majority of the children (119) are aged between 7 and 14 years.

The Youth Home provides accommodation for 54 young people (its capacity is 60). The home also includes an admission department that can provide temporary shelter for 10 children. This institution has 30 children with slight mental disabilities, and they are accommodated in the Novi Sad home because of the proximity of the school.

The SOS Children's Village owns four apartments in Novi Sad that are for children who have left the home.

### Architectural and structural conditions

#### Children's Village

The block of the Children's Village consists of 13 standardised dwelling units, the main building with a multipurpose hall and administration offices, surrounded by an open space arranged for the children needs.

The standardised units and the main building were built in 1975, and are in excellent condition. Some were damaged during the bombing in 1999, so all the 13 roofs were subsequently repaired. The kitchen in the basement of one of the dwelling units does not meet the needs of the entire block and must be relocated. The interior and the interior furnishings are in excellent condition and very well maintained.

#### Youth Home

This block consists of two buildings. Building "A" that covers approx. 600 square meters is in fairly good condition. The facade needs renovation, and the problem with the flat roof can be resolved by adding another floor on top, with a sloping roof. The required documentation has already been completed. New windows have been installed.

The interior is in a much worse condition. The inside doors need repairing or replacement, where necessary.

The floors also need repairing and renovation. The bathrooms also require complete renovation and new equipment. All the furniture needs repairing or replacing, where necessary.

Building "B", with the admission department, covering approx. 450 square meters, is in a much worse state. Besides the complete renovation of the facade, all the windows need to be completely replaced. The problem with the flat roof could be resolved in the same way as building "A".

The required documentation also exists.

There is moisture in the bathrooms, which must be eliminated. The bathrooms need complete renovation and new equipment.

Floors and walls also need restoration, as well as the bedrooms and day rooms. The complete replacement of the furniture is necessary.

The kitchen and the dining room are inadequate and should be reconstructed within the same space.

The walkways around the building, within the fenced area should be repaired, and the open playground paved with concrete and made fit to serve its purpose.

### Priorities:

#### Children's Village

- dislocation of the kitchen from the dwelling unit and restoration.

#### Youth Home

- reconstruction of the flat roof;
- complete renovation of bathrooms;
- replacement of all the furniture in the bedrooms and day rooms.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The institution of the SOS Dečje selo (Children's Village) consists of two organisational units for the accommodation of children without parental care - the SOS Children's Village in Sremska Kamenica and the SOS Youth Home in Novi Sad.

The SOS Children's Village was opened in 1975. For several years, it was a full-fledged member of the international SOS Children's Village organisation. In recent years it failed to satisfy the conditions for this membership in the organisation because of its departure from the organisation's original principles regarding the structure of its staff and because of differences in regulating the status of its employees.

The SOS Children's Village has the support of the international SOS Children's Village organisation, which has been particularly evident in the last two years (support and material aid for keeping the children, renovating damaged facilities and equipment, expanding its housing and so on).

The institution is unique because of the organisation of its premises, the method of housing and the organisation of the children's life. The children live in 13 separate houses, surrounded by a park that extends over an area of four hectares. Each house is a completely equipped apartment in which 12 children are accommodated like a family, and they make up an educational group. The groups are heterogeneous in age and sex. The children are aged from three to 20 years. Two houses make up one functional unit and two teachers take care of the children in them in shifts, as well as three housekeeper-nannies in each house. In each of the shifts, there is a teacher and a nanny in the two houses, who share the duties of caring for the children. The teachers work with the children primarily in helping them to organise and do their homework and the nanny deals with the house chores, prepares the meals, and teaches the children hygiene habits. During the night, the nannies and the institution's security guards are with the children. The life in the Children's Village bears a closer resemblance to normal family life than all other forms of institutional childcare.

An entire professional team, which is periodically joined by two psychologists and a consulting neuropsychiatrist, work in the Children's Village.

Education focuses on the creation of a cosy family atmosphere and learning about family life in which each child has its own place. The type of accommodation and organisation of life certainly contribute to this. The children attend school in the village or in Novi Sad, depending on the school they attend. The pre-school children go to kindergarten.

The institution's other organisational unit is the SOS Youth Home in Novi Sad that houses older children without parental care, who attend secondary schools or training courses. After the bridges were destroyed, owing to the difficulties in travelling to the special school in the city, a group of slightly mentally disabled children of elementary school age was also housed in the Youth Home. The capacity of the institution is 58 places or five educational groups in permanent accommodation, ten places in the admission department, and there is a day-care centre for 60 children of elementary school age on the premises of this home, which is financed by the City of Novi Sad.

The activities of the home take place in two separate buildings, surrounded by parks and sports-grounds. The premises are arranged like a boarding school, which also has a bearing on the organisation of upbringing.

The number of teachers and the professional team comply with the regulations on professional work in institutions of social care.

Considering the age of the children, attention is paid primarily to education, professional training and involvement in the broader social environment.

Besides the education of the children, both organisational units place emphasis on the development of the children's individual abilities through the work of hobby groups, the public information media and participation in public performances. For several years, the institution has been issuing a newspaper called Platan.

The SOS Children's Village institution has taken the first steps in helping young people, leaving the home, to become independent, by housing them in apartments. The institution has four furnished apartments for the accommodation of students and young people who are starting off in jobs. There are plans to buy a farmhouse for training children in farmhouse tasks and gardening.

### Priorities:

- the organisational separation of the Children's Village and the Youth Home;
- transferring the admission department from the Youth Home facility to a separate building which would be built in the yard of the home;
- a psychologist;
- 23 posts for nannies in the Children's Village;
- training the qualified staff for group work;
- training to introduce the children to learning methods;
- training for work with slightly mentally impaired children, especially for organising their spare time.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Health care for the children is provided in health centres (general health care) and in specialised institutions. The teachers pay attention to health prevention and regular check-ups in co-operation with the health centres.

A trained nurse is primarily in charge of duties in the admission department in the home in Novi Sad. The home has engaged a neuropsychiatrist for prevention in the domain of mental hygiene.

Meals are adjusted to the needs of the children. The menu is arranged one month in advance, and there are fruit, salad or cakes every day.

Clothing and footwear are mainly obtained through humanitarian organisations. The home usually purchases new clothes for pupils graduating from school.

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### *Views of the staff*

The construction of new Children's Villages

The staff consider that the most appropriate form of institutional care to meet the needs of children who have no family to care for them is the Children's Village model. Consequently, this institution believes that one of the courses of development in the system of the institutional child care is to build new children's villages.

Bearing in mind that the Youth Home in Novi Sad functions according to an entirely different concept, a proposal has been launched to separate these two institutions and for the Youth Home to become a boarding school institution for housing young people without parental care, for children of secondary school age and students. The home has premises that can be adapted into separate housing units for younger children, who are slightly mentally retarded (groups of six to eight children), and for the attic to be converted into rooms for students or young people who are leaving the home.

There was a proposal to build a separate facility in the yard for the needs of the admission department, in order to provide hygiene and health protection and, if necessary, a quarantine, for special treatment in the education of these children.

The Children's Village plans to buy a farmhouse with a garden for the production of eggs, vegetables and suchlike so that the children, who would be able to lead a life in a village, would learn to work and prepare for leaving.

There is an idea for the home to open vocational or service workshops in its own or in hired premises, where the children from the home and from the city would practice working or be employed later, when they leave the home.



# 5

## Home for children and youth "Duško Radović", Niš

Drinke Pavlović 4A, 18000 Niš ■ Telephone: 018-716-168 ■ Fax: 018-714-137

There are 101 children in the home, and its capacity is 96 places. The home also has an admission department with 10 places, where it temporarily accommodates the children. Six of the charges are over 18 years old. Seventeen of them are slightly mentally disabled but a characteristic problem in this home is that the majority of children are borderline cases in terms of intellectual capabilities. The home has also been providing shelter to refugees for several years, so that during all this time its capacities have been over-extended by about 30 per cent.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building itself is in fairly good condition. The windows are distorted due to their own weight. They are mostly single glazing, 3-mm thick plain glass, which causes enormous heat losses. The windows and window frames need repairing or replacing and the glazing should be replaced with thermal glazing or perspex.

There is no adequate hydro insulation in the bathrooms so moisture and leakages occur along the vertical lines. It is necessary to restore the hydro insulation and some new piping should be installed.

The furnishings in the bedrooms and day rooms have not been changed since 1984, and are completely ruined. New furniture is needed in them and the floors need repairing.

The dining room was extended in 1999, but it cannot meet the intended capacity. The need exists for another extension to be made to the kitchen, in the same way as the previous extension.

### Priorities:

- extension of the kitchen;
- hydro insulation and replacement of installations in the bathrooms;
- new furniture for the day rooms and bedrooms.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Duško Radović" Home for Children and Youth is one of the first, specially built, family model homes and for several years it functioned according to this family concept and the teachers lived in the home with the children. The home's capacity is 96 children (eight educational groups). Now, there are 101 children in accommodation, half of whom are of elementary school age. In addition, there are 17 children with mental disabilities. All of the children attend school, and two are students. An admission department was opened for the children. The educational work used to be organised in educational groups according to age but, owing to bad experience, the home has gone back to the principle of organising the educational groups with mixed ages and other characteristics.

The number of teachers corresponds to the home's work regulations and teachers have been employed for the admission department. A social worker and a psychologist deal with the duties of professional social work.

The number of professional staff directly involved in working with the children is not sufficient to cover all their needs or to fully control their activities and behaviour. The home insists on respect for house rules as well as the daily organisation of work. The teachers focus primarily on supervising and keeping a record of school work and less on the organisation of the children's spare time activities and work in hobby

groups according to their individual choice and affinities. Because the children's success in school work is poor due to their lesser abilities or lack of interest in learning, insistence on study leads to the risk of them neglecting school and turning to undesirable forms of behaviour. The city environment of Niš offers plenty of events and encounters that can lead to all sorts of temptation.

In this home the question is always being raised about how to encourage the children to respect house rules and obligations, and a system to reward them. It has already become a custom for the children to join up and live together when they leave the home.

### Priorities:

- increasing the number of professional staff to improve supervision of the children;
- opening two posts for trained nurses;
- engaging eight more teachers to enable work to be done in shifts;
- training for work with children with behavioural disorders;
- writing professional handbooks for bringing up children in an institution.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Among the children in the home, some show signs of changes in their mental health and there is a significant level of co-operation with the Institute for Mental Health. Health care is provided in the health centre and in specialised institutions, as required. On the basis of the medical documents and a medical examination of each child in the health centre when they arrive in the home a file is opened on each child and the state of his health is recorded.

The home employs a trained nurse to supervise the state of the children's health and carry out preventive check-ups.

The nurse, a doctor and professional staff from the Institute for the Protection of Health and the Institute for Mental Health give the children health training.

International humanitarian organisations and, in some measure, the relevant ministry provide the home with foodstuffs so that the children's needs are satisfactorily covered. Some of the food products are purchased in shops and winter food preserves are prepared in the home itself.

The children's needs in clothing and footwear are also covered satisfactorily with regular supplies from humanitarian organisations.

### Priorities:

- medical equipment: a weight and height measuring unit, a blood pressure measuring kit, a stethoscope;
- underwear, socks and bed linen;
- other necessary equipment: a washing machine and a tumble dryer, a steam ironing press, boilers for the educational groups, heaters for a tipper, cookers and boilers, a boiler thermostat, heaters for the boiler, magnetic valves, switches, plugs, "nautilus" water taps.

### *Views of the staff*

The reconstruction of premises as an infirmary for infants and children under five years of age.

The teachers consider that the institutional forms of taking care of children are still needed (in this home the capacities are always full). It is possible to build an annex on the existing building and the city once had a plan for these premises to be an infirmary for infants and children under five years of age, for the south-eastern part of Serbia (its capacity could be up to 30 places).

# 6

## Home for children and youth without parental care "Jefimija", Kruševac

Veselina Nikolića 51, 37000 Kruševac ■ Telephone: 037-21-027 ■ Fax: 037-23-653

There are 73 children in the home and its official capacity is 72 children. More than a half of the children are of elementary school age. There are 20 slightly mentally disabled children. Many of them (39) have only one parent, and six of them have neither parent.

### Architectural and structural conditions

This home for children without parental care was specially built for this purpose in 1955. It is a four-storey building with an area 2300 square meters.

Although renovated in 1987, generally speaking, it is in poor condition. The main problem is the plumbing and sewerage systems, which are partly ruined and so they should be completely reconstructed. Some parts of the facade wall and also of some interior walls through which the plumbing pipes and sewage pipes pass are totally ruined as a result of moisture, therefore repairs are necessary.

The electrical installations also need reconstruction.

The doors and windows are in a bad state and need to be repaired or replaced with new ones.

The interior furnishings are fairly satisfactory. Beds, cupboards and tables need refurbishment; new chairs are needed. The bathrooms should be renovated and new equipment (toilet bowls, basins and shower cabins) should be installed.

The floors and walls are relatively good but need repairing in the parts where moisture occurs.

### Priorities:

- reconstruction of plumbing, sewers and electricity installations;
- refurbishment of interior furnishings;
- renovation of bathrooms;
- new windows.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Jefimija" Home for Children is located in a quiet street in the town of Kruševac. It has a spacious and well-arranged garden. The home provides accommodation for 72 children (6 educational groups). Currently there are 73 children, 42 of whom are of elementary school age, 21 are of secondary school age and the rest are either younger or older. About 20 children are mentally disabled. Eight teachers, a social worker and a psychologist work with the children. All the staff work in three shifts to enable them to have closer contact with the children in the evenings, but this results in longer intervals of two to three days between contacts with the children. The number of staff who work directly with the children corresponds to the standards of social care in professional work, but not with the children's needs for contact. A characteristic of this home is that there are fewer, other employees and that besides working with the children the staff also have other work to do, in keeping with their particular interests and abilities.

Efforts are made in the organisation of education to respect the needs of the children when they are placed in an educational group and so there have been no changes, such as creating groups according to the age of the children. In respecting house rules and the rhythm of daily activities, attention is paid to the individual abilities of the children. In order to cater for the children's individual affinities and abilities, there

are numerous hobby groups and it is also possible for them to take part in town organisations. It is sometimes impossible to fulfill all their needs for additional activity because of the lack of materials or equipment. In order to give the children better preparation for life after they leave the home and find employment, the children are trained to work on computers. The home is integrated in the life of the town; the children communicate with their peers and take part in the town's cultural events.

### Priorities:

- increasing the number of teachers to improve direct contact with the children;
- annual professional gatherings of psychologists and social workers;
- two cycles of lectures for psychologists dealing with emotional behavioural therapies;
- training teachers about the problems of MNR children, characteristics and methods of work with this category of child;
- workshops connected with all the problems of school age children (training teaching staff for workshops).

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

After receiving their previous health documents and certificates of health, when the children arrive in the home, like in any institution of social protection, the keeping of health records, prevention and general health supervision are carried out through the health centre. Specialised medical examinations are performed in the town or other health centres in keeping with the Health Service and Health Insurance regulations. There are no children with serious health problems in the home. Health instruction is carried out in co-operation with health institutions.

The regular practice is that meals are not prepared in the institution but are purchased in a specialised organisation for food production.

The children are mainly well supplied with clothing and footwear.

### Priorities:

- foodstuffs: fresh fruit, meat, milk, processed meat products;
- bed linen and towels;
- other necessary equipment: a blackboard, balls, a basket, a seesaw and swings for the playground, chemicals and paper for a photo-laboratory, textiles for handiwork.

### *Views of the staff*

Reconstruction of premises for the children's additional activities

The home has a good reputation in social care and the staff consider that its capacities will be full in the years to come. There are no plans to change the capacity as optimal conditions have been ensured for the life of the children in their present numbers. There are plans to adapt some of the premises for additional activities (building plans and permits).

# 7

## Home for children "Kolevka", Subotica

Jaše Ignjatovića bb, 24000 Subotica ■ Telephone: 024-554-520 ■ Fax: 024-552-560

There are 180 children under the age of seven years in this home. Although it is primarily intended for the youngest children without parental care, there is also a rehabilitation department for children whose development is at risk. The children are mostly aged from three to seven years (102). There are 28 babies over one year old, and 50 children between the ages of one and three years.

The number of seriously mentally impaired children is 35, moderately impaired - 15, and severely impaired - 30. About 40 children have not yet been categorised because of their age. Fourteen children are semi-mobile, and 95 are immobile (from 0 to one year - 17, from one to three years - 33, from three to five years - 39 and from six years - 6).

### Architectural and structural conditions

In general the building is in good condition. The users have asked for the conditions to be improved, such as, for example, an extension to the day room for the babies (within the building), the design of which has already been done. In to prevent the sewer from being frequently clogged, a new drainage connection should be installed from the kitchen to the sewer.

A direct exit from the laundry (in the basement) to the yard would make communication more functional. The opening of this exit is feasible.

Besides the open playgrounds, within the complex of the children's home, there is also a special building called "the playhouse". It is necessary to build an enclosed access to the playhouse from the main building and two sanitary compartments. The documentation already exists for this adaptation.

### Priorities:

- a new drainage connection from the kitchen to the sewer;
- a direct exit from the laundry into the yard;
- an enclosed connection between the playhouse and main building.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Kolevka" home has an almost century long tradition in providing accommodation for children without parental care, or children from disturbed homes.

The home's current organisational concept is to function as an institution providing social and health care to children without parental care between the ages of 0 to 7 years, which means that part of the home is an infirmary. The infirmary (140 places) has a large rehabilitation department (120 places) providing care for children with developmental and health disorders. There are also 60 children whose psychophysical development, essentially, is not at risk, and 17 of them are aged between three and six years. The institution also has an admission department. There were plans to open a maternity home but since there was little need for that kind of accommodation, the idea was discarded.

Bearing in mind the age and composition of the children, the staff structure is clear: half of them are trained nurses (66), nine are nannies with secondary medical school training, and there is a doctor (and they regularly co-operate and consult the development counseling service attached to the medical centre).

There is only one full-time defectologist to deal with the aspects of social work, pedagogy and psychology, and the other professional work is done in collaboration with the relevant institutions or by employing staff for services on a contractual basis.

Maintaining a high standard of hygiene in nutrition and diet food requires a larger number of staff than foreseen in the regulations. The education programme for pre-school institutions is used in working with the healthy children and this work is done by two teachers and a defectologist. The normally developing children are provided with optimal conditions for social development and their adaptation in conditions outside the home (attending a kindergarten, taking part in all children's events in the town). Special attention is paid to familiarising the children with family life (weekend visits, primarily to the families of the staff, and to other families in the town).

The institution pays a great deal of attention to encouraging the children with mental disabilities to join in the activities of the children who are developing at a normal rate.

In order to preserve the standards that have been achieved, periodical training courses are needed for the staff on problems and on working with children whose development is at risk, children with psychomotorial, sensory and health disorders and children without initial parental care, and to teach the staff exercises for relaxation.

### Priorities:

- training the staff to work with children whose development is at risk;
- a large number of medical workers because of the large number of meals, diet nutrition, the need for maintaining hygiene;
- a large number of trained nurses to care for healthy babies, for their socialisation and activation as children;
- a large number of workers in almost all fields to cover a 24-hour working day.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The institution has a health service: a full-time doctor and 66 trained nurses. The health service is organised like a hospital. The home also has a dental surgery.

The standard of health care and hygiene in this institution is high. The high demands require extraordinary efforts from the medical and nursing staff and this has resulted in some becoming invalids (seven of the nurses are occupational invalids and are now engaged in other jobs in the home).

The maintenance of a high standard of hygiene in nutrition and diet nutrition requires a larger number of staff than the regulations prescribe.

In this home, the children have five regular meals and because of the large number of small children there are also night meals. The children are given meat in their meals three times a week and they have fruit every day.

### Priorities:

- Pavlović ointment (32 kg are used in a month), hypo-allergic lotion, feeding tubes, sterilising chamber;
- the creation of a genetic infirmary and a physiotherapy room because there are chronic patients in the institution;
- coloured uniforms for the staff;
- monthly supplies of medicines that are difficult to obtain: Flixotide aerosol 50 mg - 11 small pumps, Salbutamol Aerosol - 15 small pumps, Aktiferin drops - 20 small bottles, vitamin C - 110 boxes, Diazepam micro-enema 5 mg - 13 micro-enemas, Lasix ampoules - 34 ampoules, Aminofilin - 7 boxes, Sabril tablets - 30 tablets, Niripan - 45 ampoules, Eritromicin syrup - 22 bottles, Phenergan syrup - 12 bottles, Alfacet syrup - 20 bottles, Zorkaptil tablets - 12 boxes, Amoksiklan syrup - 8 bottles, Folan tablets - 3 boxes, physiological solution for infusions - 20 bottles, Brufen syrup - 50 bottles, paraffin oil - 16 litres;
- equipment in the kitchen: two sterilising chambers, food cart with a thermostat, a refrigerator for dairy snacks, bread slicer, pastry mixer, food strainer, fruit mixer;
- clothing for the children: cotton tetra diapers (5,000 a year), underwear, socks, bed sheets, flannel fabric, fine toweling fabric for sewing baby overalls;
- other necessary equipment: vacuum cleaners with an attachment for shampooing, equipment for a mini-laboratory, a sterilising chamber, a Harbart bath, highchairs, ultraviolet lamps, a washing-machine, steam iron, a lawnmower, an autogenous welding set, a cassette recorder, a Xerox machine, a music line, a camera, a film camera, various tools and a locksmith's vise.

### Views of the staff

To reduce the capacity of the rehabilitation unit

The profile of this institution should remain the same but the capacity of the rehabilitation unit should be reduced in order to have more room to work with these children to stimulate their development (more attention and more room for the children and the staff to move around).

Bearing in mind the high level of co-operation among the social protection, health and educational institutions in the city, it has been recommended that the institution increase the number of medical, nursing and educational staff. Psychological and pedagogical services may be obtained in co-operation with the development counseling office, childcare and social welfare institutions or by employing staff on a part-time basis.

- The institution intends to develop the practice of weekend foster homes in co-operation with the Centre for Social Work.
- According to the network of institutions of social care for the accommodation of users, the "Kolevka" Home was entrusted with the administration of the building belonging to the former Institution for Education, in order to expand its capacities. The building is on the other side of the city, it has not been converted until now, nor has its purpose been fixed, which should be done in co-operation with this home, the Centre for Social Work in Subotica, the city administration and the relevant ministry.

# 8

## Home for children and youth “Miroslav Mika Antić”, Sombor

Radoja Domanovića 98, 25000 Sombor ■ Telephone: 025-450-744

There are 83 children without parental care in the home that has a total capacity of 80 places. These are mainly children of elementary school age (48) and secondary school age (30). The home is under great pressure to admit children. A characteristic problem is that more than half of the children belong in the category of slightly mentally disabled children (46).

### Architectural and structural conditions

The block of the children's home in Sombor consists of an administration building, a boarding house and a separate boiler house.

The administration building is currently under reconstruction, which also includes converting some space that was previously used for a different purpose.

In general, the boarding house facility is in good condition. The windows need repairs and reconstruction. Part of the facade needs repairing. The day rooms should be equipped with the adequate furniture, and the beds and the cupboards in the bedrooms must be repaired.

What this block really needs are various workshops (art, photo, carpentry) which could be arranged in the lofts (200 square meters) if they were to be suitably adapted.

The area around the buildings should be cultivated and properly arranged. The basketball court should be covered with an asphalt layer; the football pitch lacks equipment.

#### Priorities:

- repair of windows on the boarding house;
- new furniture (beds and cupboards);
- adaptation of the lofts into workshops;
- arrangement of the sports grounds.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

This home is the only children's home in the northwestern part of Vojvodina. It was established in 1981, in the premises of what had previously been a home for children with behavioural disorders.

The main characteristic of this home is the high percentage of children with minor mental disorders (55%, in other words 46 children), which is, nevertheless, lower than in previous years. The proximity of a special school, which has now been moved to another part of town, has had an impact on this situation. The readiness of this institution to admit children with mental disabilities and children with learning difficulties has made this home popular in the system of social care so that it is always full to capacity (7 educational groups with 12 children in each).

The number of staff employed in education is in keeping with standards - seven in-house teachers and two for night duty, while there is only one welfare worker with many years of experience in dealing with the social, pedagogical and psychological aspects of this work. For a long time, the home has been unable to fill its other vacancy. It would prefer to employ a psychologist because of the large number of children with emotional disorders, problems with maintaining hygiene and suchlike.

The curriculum is planned in keeping with the basic fields of education, according to the pedagogical and psychological principles that apply in working with children. For one year now, a handbook has been used for programming education procedures and the organisation of life and work in boarding schools, because no innovated programme exists for education in children's homes.

The educational status of the children requires a great deal of individual work from the teachers in helping the children to learn.

Because of the high percentage of children who are not successful in class, full attention is paid to extra-curricular activities which the children can choose according to their affinities, in which they can express their abilities and experience a feeling of satisfaction with their achievement and success. The sports group is the most popular and the staff intend to ask the municipal authorities for the use of the gym in the next-door yard (in the building of the former special school). The children are also members of sports clubs in the town. The pleasant schoolyard area has made it possible for a gardening and ecology hobby group to function and the domestic science and art hobby groups are also very active.

In order to create more opportunities for the children to go in for extra-curricular activities, there is also a plan to build a facility in the schoolyard for workshops and group work with the children.

### Priorities:

- a psychologist for working with children with emotional disorders, as well as an oligophrenologist because of the increased number of children with special needs;
- the construction of a facility for workshop and group activities with the children in the schoolyard, because of the intention to intensify work in hobby groups;
- training the teaching staff for working with mentally disabled children.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The children's general state of health is satisfactory, but there are children with serious diseases. These are cerebral paralysis (1), epilepsy (1), tachycardia (1), celiac disease (1), and menstrual cycle disorder (1). Basic health care is provided in the health centre, and treatment for serious conditions is provided in the special infirmary and hospital in Sombor. Medication that cannot be found on the market is obtained in the humanitarian pharmacy in Sombor.

A large number of children have no basic hygiene habits and so this is one of the problems to which special attention is paid in education.

The general impression is that the children in this home are fairly well clothed.

### Priorities:

- medical material, a thermometer, cotton wool, sanitary towels, a First Aid kit, a sterilising chamber, a blood pressure measuring kit, a blood sedimentation stand;
- a vehicle (mini van) is needed for transporting the children;
- foodstuffs: honey, tinned meat products, margarine, jam;
- kitchen equipment: plates, knives and a pastry mixer;
- periodical renewal of clothing, as well as bed linen and towels;
- other necessary equipment: a computer, sports requisites, staff uniforms.

### *Views of the staff*

Permanent supplementary training for teachers

The staff considers that due to the constant pressure to admit new children and the fact that it is the only institution of its kind in the district, this institution should continue to exist.

In order to improve their educational work, the teachers need to renew their knowledge in the domains of psychology, pedagogy and work in education. In particular, they need additional knowledge for working with mentally disabled children.

# 9 Centre for Social Work "Dr Mihajlo Stupar" Home attached to the "Kolubara" , Valjevo

Sindelićeva 48, 14000 Valjevo ▪ Telephone: 014-221-114 ▪ Fax: 014-220-305

The "Dr. Mihajlo Stupar" Home functions as part of the Centre for Social Work in Valjevo. The capacity of this home is 24 places, and it currently houses 20 children, mainly of secondary school age. Half of all the children (10) have only one parent, and three of the children are slightly mentally disabled.

## Architectural and structural conditions

After the earthquake in 1998, cracks appeared in the walls of the home and they need to be repaired. Otherwise, the general appearance of the building is very good. The windows are new, the premises are regularly repainted, the carpentry is in good condition, as well as the heating and other installations. Reconstruction is required in the bathrooms because the sanitary installations are worn out. The cupboards in the bedrooms and day rooms also need repairing. The yard should be arranged as a multi-purpose playground, seeing that the home is located in the town centre and there are no parks, nearby.

### Priorities:

- repair of walls (cracked in the earthquake);
- reconstruction of bathrooms;
- reconstruction of yard as a multi-purpose playground.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Dr. Mihajlo Stupar" Home for Children and Youth functions as a home attached to the Centre for Social Work in Valjevo and is located in the same premises, only in a separate building. The home has a small capacity and can cater for up to 24 children (two educational groups). All the children are from Valjevo and its neighbourhood. For many years, the home's capacity has satisfied the needs of this district for the accommodation of children.

Accommodation in foster families is poorly developed in the municipality. Only six children are housed in this form of accommodation, four of them in the households of relatives. The conditions in terms of space and the number of teachers, which correspond to the standards of professional work in the domain of social care requires direct work with the children, and the teaching groups are only formal. The number of teachers makes it possible for one teacher to be in one shift, organising and supervising the children's activities. The fact that the premises are unified makes the home a cosy environment for all the children and for life to evolve in a family-like community. The children are able to learn the important obligations of family life and family organisation. The teacher and the children themselves perform the whole task of keeping the rooms in the home tidy and clean, and during the weekend they prepare their own meals in the kitchenette. The workers (a team of professionals and auxiliary services) from the Centre perform the institution's function of social care.

Relatively few children without parental care are able to find employment after leaving the home.

### Priorities:

- training for work with children with post-traumatic syndrome;
- developing conditions for a better quality of life of the children when they leave the home;
- the development of fostering as a concept of social care for children without parental care;
- a cleaner is needed in the home so as to relieve the children and so that some tasks can be done better (she would spend the other half of her working hours, working in the kitchen, which would relieve the teacher);
- a head teacher is needed in the organisation of education.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

As soon as it arrives, each new child's health condition is reviewed in the documentation and checked in a medical examination at the health centre. The teachers pay attention to the vaccination calendar, systematic check-ups and health and hygiene training. Humanitarian organisations used to be engaged to provide preventive dental and preventive mental hygiene services.

The staff regularly undergo health check-ups and the hygiene of the premises is checked. The children are essentially healthy. Treatment is provided at the health centre and in other institutions in the town, in keeping with the health care and health insurance regulations.

In the main, the children have sufficient amounts of clothing and footwear.

### Priorities:

- foodstuffs: honey, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables, margarine;
- bed linen, towels, underwear;
- a dining table and chairs.

### *Views of the staff*

Training for work with children with post-traumatic syndrome

The teachers stress the need for training in order to work with children with post-traumatic reactions, work with children with behavioural disorders, children with development disorders or children with impaired abilities. The home's capacity satisfies the needs of the district, especially if foster care is developed. If needed, it is possible to build an annex to the home (a construction project exists).

# 10 Children's Home "Mladost" attached to the Centre for Social Work in Kragujevac

Čika Matina 9, 34000 Kragujevac ■ Telephone: 034-370-195

The "Mladost" Children's Home is attached, organisationally, as part of the Centre for Social Work in Kragujevac. It is a rather small home (its capacity is 60 places) and accommodates 54 children. More than half of all the children are of elementary school age (29). Twelve of the children belong to the category of children with mental disabilities. Twenty-one children maintain regular contact with their parents and 27 see them periodically.

## Architectural and structural conditions

The home was built in stages. In 1987, the first stage was completed and then the occupants moved in. In 1991, the second stage was finished and the third is still under way. At present, only preliminary construction works have been completed (on the third building). A new technological project is required for the entire facility in order to re-arrange how the premises will be used and only then define the structural conditions, woodwork, plumbing and electricity installations in the "third stage". This also implies the need to plan the furnishing and equipment of the new premises.

The kitchen does not meet the required standards. There is no storage space so that a suitable area in the building must be found in the so-called "third stage". The existing sewage system is constructed in such a way that the basement is often flooded (small or reverse slopes). A new sewage pipeline is needed for a length of 200 metres with suitable bedding and a connection to the lower points of the town network (for which conditions exist). The drainpipes on the dilations between the buildings and in the troughs on the roofs need to be renovated to prevent leaks in the roof.

In the "third stage" of the facility, railings are to be installed on the balconies that are in need of repair. The furniture in the children's rooms is in fairly good condition except for the cupboards and shelves, which need repairing.

### Priorities:

- completion of works on the so-called "third stage" of the facility;
- construction of a new sewage pipeline (200 m) and a connection to the lower points of the town network;
- repair of cupboards and shelves in the children's rooms.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Mladost" Children's Home is situated on the fringes of the Šumarice Memorial Park, far away from the Centre for Social Work in Kragujevac.

The home can cater for 60 children, in other words, five groups. At present it houses 54 children, divided into five groups. All the children attend class in the town schools.

The number of teachers complies with the standards. But, the effort to fulfill the children's needs in all the aspects of education and health has led to fatigue among the staff.

The problem of this home is that, according to the regulations, the Centre's professional team spends part of its working day doing social work for the home. As a result of being over-burdened with work in the Centre and due to its distance, the team's work is interrupted and it is unable, for instance, to maintain a constant process of psychological treatment and keep records of this.

The teachers in the home do work in three shifts and they are not in constant contact with the children from their educational groups. Although the educational groups have their premises, the teachers' work in shifts makes it possible to do direct teaching.

Life for the children in the home is organised so as to resemble a family environment. A feature contributing to this is the fact that this year the groups were reorganised according to age. The change has only been in terms of space and it is formal. Previous ties have not been severed and the children's communication and movement among the groups is lively.

The teaching staff in the home need training, which requires the presentation of new techniques in educational work and an exchange of experience with staff in other homes. The organisational link between the home and the centre needs to be greatly improved because administrative and financial work for the home is done in the centre and these services are not efficient.

### Priorities:

- to enable the continued work of the entire professional team and constant psychological supervision of the children;
- the training of staff in new techniques of educational work (workshops);
- organisational separation of the home from the Centre so the home can function more efficiently;
- employment of a store-house manager, an accountant to deal with accounts and book-keeping, who would also train employees how to use computers, a caretaker/maintenance man, a nurse, a psychologist working full-time, and a pediatrician or general practitioner for a third of the working day.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

When they are admitted to the home, the children bring with them their medical record. After undergoing a medical examination in the health centre, the children have medical files opened for them and, in accordance with health regulations, close attention is paid to health prevention in education. The children receive treatment in the health centre or at the clinic, as required. The home also has the conditions to provide treatment.

During the year 2000, there was a hepatitis epidemic, after which the sanitary inspection issued an order to eliminate hygiene and sanitary problems.

Food is not prepared in the home but in another organisation, which is not economical and makes it difficult for the children to participate in the choice of meals.

### Priorities:

- medicines: antipyretics, analgesics;
- foodstuffs: honey, margarine, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and fish paste products;
- kitchen equipment: refrigerators, an aspirator, a dishwasher, a potato-peeling machine, a mincing machine;
- underwear, slippers (plastic), tracksuits, trainers;
- other necessary equipment: washing machine and tumble dryers, clothes press, equipment and furniture, a sewing machine and a knitting machine for occupational training.

### *Views of the staff*

Separation of the home from the Centre for Social Work

The organisational link of the home and the Centre is also unsatisfactory because the home's administrative and financial work is done in the Centre and its services are inefficient.

The transformation the home into a separate institution should be considered, given the problems of the home functioning as a department, the number of children it cares for and the planned increase in its capacity.

In the local environment, the policy regarding the social care of children without parental care in this complex organisation involves placing more emphasis on increasing the accommodation of children in foster family households and the more intense integration of the children from the home into the town environment by developing friendly relations with their peers, developing weekend foster care and persuading people in the local community to provide children without parental care with better opportunities to find jobs and suchlike.

# 11 Home for children and youth without parental care “Olivera - Verica Đorđević”, Vranje

Moše Pijade 41, 17500 Vranje ▪ Telephone: 017-21-703

The capacity of this home is 72 places, and 62 children are living in the home. The majority of the children are of elementary school age (27) and many children (16) are over 18 years. Twelve of the children suffer from minor mental disabilities. The building is technically linked to the neighbouring building, which is a boarding house for pupils, with which it shares the kitchen and heating system.

## Architectural and structural conditions

The building is in the central part of the town, and it is in good condition.

The only problem is insufficient space in the kitchen (10 square meters), i.e. at present the kitchen does not meet the needs of the home. The documentation for the extension of the kitchen within the available space has already been prepared.

The heating is good, but there is a request for the heating system of this home to be separated from the adjacent boarding house heating system.

### Priorities:

- the extension of the kitchen;
- the separation of the heating system from the adjacent boarding house heating system.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The home in Vranje is in a building that was specially built for this purpose. Its premises are arranged for work in educational groups. The building is technically linked to the neighbouring building, which is a boarding house for pupils (common heating system and kitchen) which creates difficulties because the boarding house for pupils closes down during school holidays. The capacity of the home is 72 children or 6 educational groups. At present, it has 62 children in its care. The majority of the children are of elementary school age and twelve of them are slightly mentally disabled.

All the children attend school and co-operation between the home and the schools is very active to ensure that the children complete their schooling and receive occupational training in keeping with their abilities. The number of teachers in the home corresponds to the standards and the professional team includes a social worker and pedagogue. Lately, employing refugee colleagues from Kosovo (a psychologist, a sociologist and a social worker) has assisted them. Otherwise, the home considers it necessary to increase the number of staff who work directly with the children. The educational work in groups is organised so as to pay full attention to the needs of each child, and there has been no attempt to shift to a policy of working with homogenised age groups. The daily schedule, in other words, house rules, attends to the individual needs of every child and is not rigidly imposed. Enabling them to work in some hobby group or in some town organisation supports the children's individual occupational interests. The children from the

home are well treated in the town and manage to find jobs and accommodation after leaving the home. The teachers need supplementary knowledge for working with mentally disabled children.

### Priorities:

- increasing the number of staff in direct work with the children (supplementary teachers, a psychologist, a trained nurse);
- training staff for working with children with special needs.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

All the children in the home have health insurance and health care is organised and provided in the town's health institutions. The children do not have any major health problems and co-operation is excellent with the Institute for Mental Health in the Medical Centre in Vranje, where some of the children receive treatment regularly. Health and hygiene training is given in the home and there are drives at the town level in the domain of health prevention.

The institution considers that it is necessary to employ a trained nurse to give the children instruction in hygiene, supervise their health and apply treatment in the home.

The needs in food, clothing, footwear, school equipment and hygiene items are satisfied thanks to international humanitarian organisations conducting independent or joint donor drives in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs. The children's standard of living is fairly good.

### Priorities:

- shoes, trainers, jackets, jumpers, underwear;
- other necessary equipment: a computer, cupboards for the children's clothes, chests for footwear, TV cupboards.

### *Views of the staff*

More teachers for improving care for the children

The home provides good care for 72 children. If the kitchen is properly equipped, the institution will be able to function normally. The employment of a nurse and a psychologist, as well as teachers, will make it possible to provide the children with better conditions for teaching, mental care and hygiene.

# 12 Home for children and youth without parental care "Petar Radovanović", Užice

Nemanjina 52, 31000 Užice ■ Telephone: 031-521-584 ■ Fax: 031-511-347

Although this home's capacity is 96 places, due to the reconstruction of one part of the facility, there are 75 children living in the home, so that there are 21 vacant places. More than half of all the children are of elementary school age (42). There are 16 children under the age of seven living in this home, which creates significant problems because the facility consists of two buildings (and the small children need the teacher's constant supervision when going from one building to the other). There are 24 children with minor mental disabilities.

## Architectural and structural conditions

The block is located in the central area of the town and consists of two structures - A and B. Structure A includes the administration offices, the kitchen with a dining room, and the recreation hall. Structure B consists of the day rooms and the dormitories.

Besides the two buildings the open recreation grounds are on the same lot.

The construction of one more storey and a loft atop building A has begun. Only the basic construction work has been completed so far and the structure has been "under construction" for several years, now. It is necessary to complete the commenced work and begin using it.

The existing part of building A - the dining room and recreation hall - has very poorly made metal windows with single glazing, which need repairing.

Building B was built in sections. The first section was completely renovated recently, and the remaining three also need thorough restoration.

An enclosed connection between the buildings A and B is absolutely indispensable.

The thermal insulation of the buildings does not comply with the regulations and new insulation is required.

The plumbing and sewage systems are ruined and their complete reconstruction has already been planned. There is an initiative for an extension to the children's home and its activities in the present location. This is yet to be approved by the city authorities.

There is also a suggestion for the entire institution to be relocated farther away from the city centre, and to turn the existing facilities into a boarding house, which must be arranged with the city planners.

## Priorities:

- rehabilitation and reconstruction of the residential premises in sections II and III of building B;
- the alteration of the storage space into a central laundry;
- the restoration and reconstruction of studios and workshops;
- the repair of the metal windows in the dining room;
- the repair of the wooden windows in the reading room and library;
- adaptation of the attic above the residential premises into an area for social activities;
- thermal insulation on the facades of all three sections;
- repair of gutters and troughs;
- arrangement of playgrounds;
- replacement of the two boilers;
- resolving the problem of heating and ventilation in the central kitchen;
- replacement of the broken fence and adding a new one all around the yard.

## Education and upbringing and the structure of the staff

The home for children and youth in Užice has been in existence for several decades and is now located in a building that was specially built for this purpose in 1984. The organisation of the premises in the home is inadequate because the residential unit (three wings) is separated from the administrative building, where the

gym, library and workshops etc. are located. This requires more staff than foreseen in the professional work regulations so as to be able to properly organise work with the children and supervise their movements and activities. The gym, library and workshops are rarely used, as it is difficult to heat them.

The children without parental care are accommodated in two wings (with a capacity of 96), and the third wing is a boarding house for pupils. The administration and general services are shared by the entire institution, and the work of the teachers and their number corresponds to the professional work regulations that apply to the functioning of each unit.

There are currently 75 children in the home, divided into eight educational groups. Each group is housed in a separate area. The groups are fairly homogenised according to age, but this is gradually being abandoned because of the youngest children, their adjustment and need for protection. More than half of the children are of elementary school age and more than 24 of them are mentally disabled. Most of the children are from Užice and the surrounding municipalities.

The structure of the children according to their schooling abilities is similar to other homes for children without parental care. A relatively small number of children are able to make a consistent effort in learning and trying to reach their goal. Therefore, in equipping the home to function more successfully and in preparing the children to become independent, it is necessary to set up occupational workshops for training the children for certain jobs and giving them additional knowledge and skills.

In previous years dancing schools used the gym and this was a way to link the home to the life of the town, and this should be resumed.

The experience gained in excursions to the surrounding villages has shown that children are attracted to country life and that it is useful to organise stays in villages in the periods when they can learn the tasks that are done on farms.

Owing to fatigue, the educational staff require assistance from the "Help for Helpers" Programme. They have also expressed the need for training to work with children with mental disabilities and educationally neglected children.

### Priorities:

- equipping workshops for training children to do certain jobs and gain additional knowledge and skills because of their poor interest in school;
- organising village outings and holidays for the children, after observing that they are interested in farmwork;
- training for teachers for working with children with mental disabilities and educationally neglected children;
- employment of a nurse.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Preventive health care is provided through instruction in hygiene, the attitude towards food, health, by means of workshops and group work on topics that are suitable for the children's age. Basic health care is given in the health centre, and specialist services are provided in the relevant health institutions in Užice and Belgrade.

In the home, there are two children with epilepsy, who require the additional attention of the teacher. There are also several children with psychokinetic syndrome that requires co-operation with neuropsychiatric institutions. That is the reason why the home considers that it is necessary to employ a nurse for training in medical hygiene, health supervision and co-operation with health institutions.

Full attention is paid to nutrition and in this respect the children's needs are satisfied in terms of quality and quantity.

Needs in clothing and footwear, hygiene items and school kits are supplied by means of donations from international humanitarian organisations.

### Priorities:

- kitchen equipment: a potato-peeling machine, a hot table, a cooking tipper, and a universal pastry mixer;
- foodstuffs: fresh fish, fruit and vegetables, honey, fresh meat, Eurokrem;
- necessary clothing and footwear: trousers, trainers, underwear, pyjamas, shoes, and slippers;
- other necessary equipment: computer equipment - three computers for the children, and three for the work of the general services.

### *Views of the staff*

Solving the home's property and legal relations

The facilities that make up the institution are massive, and the problem of heating is not solved. The fact that construction works are not completed on one facility makes it difficult for the other facilities to function. Apart from that, it is necessary to solve the home's property and legal relations in order, finally, to resolve the children's accommodation.

There are 84 children, mostly of elementary school age (47) in this home. The capacity of the home (93) is slightly larger than the number of children, living in the home. There are six children older than 18 years, and two of the beneficiaries are younger than seven years of age. Twenty-four of them belong in the group of children who are slightly mentally disabled.

## Architectural and structural conditions

The home in Pančevo consists of five structures: the administration building (A), the facility where the children are housed (B), the boiler house, the laundry and the workshops facilities.

Building (A) was built in 1930. It was renewed in 1991 and generally is in good condition.

The problem is the open terrace which has no hydro insulation, so rainwater is a threat to the premises in the basement. The high level of underground water also causes moisture in the basement and on the facade, which should be prevented by applying a new coating of hydro insulation.

Building B was built in 1979, and it is in good condition. The flat terrace above the ground floor is not properly hydro insulated. One more floor could be added here. That would mean an extension of the day room and also resolve the problem of hydro insulation.

The four roof windows need to be changed and several others, repaired.

The bathrooms need new hydro insulation over the existing finish (ceramic tiles).

The furniture in the rooms is totally ruined. New cupboards and shelves must be purchased.

### Priorities:

- reconstruction of the bathrooms;
- coating the playground in the yard with asphalt;
- enclosing the power generator in the building and its automation;
- hydro insulation and placing a concrete layer on the terrace;
- planing and varnishing the parquet flooring;
- new radiator valves and threads;
- painting and varnishing of woodwork;
- legalization of the existing auxiliary buildings and completion of the required documentation.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Spomenak" Home for children has 84 children under its care (eight educational groups) and it employs the number of teachers required in the regulations.

The premises of this home are organised in such a way that the only suitable form of educational work is in direct contact with the children, which means that all the teachers are engaged in the work and supervision of the planned activities with all of the children. This sort of organisation in educational work creates the atmosphere of a large family in which there is lively interaction between the members. The number of teachers is not sufficient for there to be three teachers present all the time and this makes it difficult to supervise all the children's activities.

The group method of work is applied for some activities, for instance, for teaching children with difficulties in organising themselves and who are not accustomed to this kind of work. Individual work is also done with the children, if necessary, in keeping with the work plan for the child.

The teacher in charge of each group participates in making the most important decisions regarding each child and the group as a whole and performs the administrative work.

However, conditions are not all that favourable for developing a closer relationship between the child and its teacher. This home pays special attention to the children's artistic expression. There is a sculpture and pottery workshop in which the children work under the supervision of an instructor. Art colonies are a tradition and include workshops for children (visual art and music).

The teachers need supplementary training about direct educational methods in order to achieve a greater degree of uniformity in their approach to education, methods of work and methodology in dealing with professional documentation.

### Priorities:

- training the teachers in the aim of unifying educational stands and methods of work;
- increasing the number of teachers to enable constant supervision of the children's activities;
- employment of a social worker, a nurse (full-time), a lawyer employed on a part-time basis (for one half or one third of the working day), a boiler man and an installations maintenance man for the entire season.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The health of the children in the home is satisfactory because of the good quality health care provided in co-operation with the relevant health centre. Out of its income, the home employs a nurse for instruction in hygiene and health training, and supervising the children's health.

But, in addition to this, it is necessary to employ a medical technician to carry out preventive health and hygiene training.

The children's meals in the home meet the basic quality criteria.

Clothing, footwear, school kits and hygiene items are obtained by means of donations from international humanitarian organisations in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs.

### Priorities:

- medicines and medical material: antibiotics, medical material (sterile gauze, Rimavol, bandages), a kidney basin, sterilising chambers, stanicid gauze, contraceptives (AB film, condoms);
- medical equipment: blood pressure measuring kits, weight and height measuring units;
- foodstuffs: fresh fruit and vegetables, meat;
- kitchen equipment: cutlery, stainless steel plates and cups;
- clothing and footwear: underwear, socks, tracksuits, jeans;
- other necessary equipment: curtains, carpets, cupboards, a computer, a TV set, a fax machine, washing machines and tumble dryers, balls, games, stationary and other office material, multiple plug socket, plastic mattress covers, wage programme, book-keeping and accounts.

## Views of the staff

Helping the children when leaving social care

On the basis of experience, the staff believe that this institution should continue to function because there are children who require institutional accommodation (adolescents), seeing that plenty of adolescents come to the home from foster-families.

In the long term, there are plans to convert the premises so as to separate the educational groups. There are plans, in the near future, to equip four rooms for children who are leaving the home to help them become independent, but the proper forms for the contract have not yet been found.

# 14 Home for children and youth without parental care "Stanko Paunović", Negotin

Badnjevačka 5, 19300 Negotin ■ Telephone: 019-541-933 ■ Fax: 019-541-800

There are 81 children without parental care living in this home. The official capacity of the home is 88 places. The children are mostly of elementary school age (60). More than a third of all the children (30) belong in the category of slightly mentally disabled children. A characteristic in this home is that almost half of the children (40) have both parents.

## Architectural and structural conditions

The outside of the building was restored in 2000. There is a well-kept park around it (2010 square meters). It was built for this particular purpose in 1923 and today, it is one of the finest examples of architecture in the 1930s.

In contrast to the building's glamorous exterior, the interior, though well maintained, is totally dilapidated. The windows should be renewed; in some places the floors are totally ruined. At least 1,000 square meters of the flooring should be renovated.

New toilet bowls must be installed.

The furniture is old and worn and most of it should be renewed.

### Priorities:

- renewal of the floors (1,000m<sup>2</sup>);
- renewal of the bathrooms;
- new windows with thermal glazing;
- new windows in round window cases;
- new electric feeder and exterior lighting;
- overhaul of the kitchen line;
- overhaul of the bakery;
- new sanitary installations.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Stanko Paunović" Home in Negotin was founded in 1923 as a home for war orphans and was specially built for this purpose.

The home is of the boarding school type with a capacity for 88 children or eight educational groups. Most of the time it is full to capacity. At present there are 81 children and 60 of them attend elementary school. Of the total, 30 have mental disabilities.

The number of staff corresponds to the regulations, and includes a social worker and a psychologist, employed on a part-time basis.

The premises are organised so that two or three educational groups are joined together, and the teachers working in shifts functionally connect the groups.

A characteristic of this home is that professional communication is very lively among the staff and they are highly motivated in acquiring new knowledge and using it in their professional practice.

The very high percentage of children attending elementary school is due to the fact that there is no secondary school for children with special needs in the town. Regular secondary schools and training courses cover a narrow range of occupations so that the children are transferred to another home in another town to resume their schooling. This is one of the reasons for the relatively frequent changes in the composition of the groups and in that situation a boarding school type of organisation is more suitable because frequent changes in a family type of organisation would be disturbing.

Apart from that, the majority of children lag behind in the educational process, they show little interest in intellectual pursuits and fail to complete their secondary education. The data on the structure of the children in terms of education raises the problem of preparing them to lead an independent life when they leave the home. The staff believe that it would be useful to equip several workshops for trades in which the children would receive training suited to their affinities and abilities, to make it easier for them to find jobs once they reach adulthood. There are few production workshops and firms in the town where the children could train for jobs and be employed.

At present job training consists of household chores (maintaining hygiene in the premises in the absence of an employed cleaner, serving out food, clearing the yard and working with the caretaker).

### Priorities:

- equipping production workshops for training the children who are not interested in school or are far behind in their schooling;
- training the teachers for working with children with special needs.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The health centre in Negotin supervises the children's health, but doctors work in the centre at the weekends, to supply additional medical consultation. However, the staff consider that this is not enough and they stress the need to engage a neuropsychiatrist for periodical consultations. This home has only basic medical equipment and a modestly supplied dispensary.

The children do not have the proper quality clothing or footwear and one may say they are continually in need of new clothing and footwear.

### Priorities:

- foodstuffs: fresh fruit and vegetables, meat;
- clothing and footwear; trainers and shoes, underwear, pyjamas, jeans;
- a transport vehicle (mini van);
- other equipment required in the home: a cooking stove, three TV sets, bed linen (88 sets) and two computers.

## *View of the staff on the home's development strategy*

Equipping the premises for vocational training

The teachers believe that the home should exist in its traditional form, in view of the fact that the number of children in need of accommodation is not declining. Part of a building that belongs to the home is expected to be returned (the municipality gave this facility to some business organisations), so that the premises can be equipped for the additional activities of the children (for example for providing the children with vocational training etc.).

This home is an organisational unit of the Inter-Municipality Centre for Social Work. There are 47 children without parental care in the home, which is roughly the registered capacity (48). The children are mostly of secondary school age. Seven of them are below the age of seven. More than half of the children have slight mental disabilities (26).

### Architectural and structural conditions

The structure is in good condition although it was built in 1886 (and renovated in 1983). The adaptation of the roof space into a loft has not been completed. A new roof structure with hydro and thermal insulation, new roof tiles and some of the electric installations are finished (300 square meters). The loft is intended for workshops, recreation space and a day room. The laundry and the workshop should be moved out of the basement because the drainage water sometimes spills into the basement. A separate auxiliary building on the same site, facing the street, has been suggested for this purpose. One of the proposed workshops is a car wash where the home's youngsters could work. The spills of drainage water into the basement are due to the inadequate pitch of the drainage lines. The drainage lines should be redone with the right pitch and the proper connection to the street drainage system. The electric feeder should be upgraded and the major part of the electricity installations overhauled.

#### Priorities:

- adaptation of the loft into workshops and a day room;
- relocation of the laundry;
- overhaul of electricity installations.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The home for children without parental care in Aleksinac is situated in a separate building with a lovely garden. It can cater for 48 to 50 children, in other words, for four educational groups. Currently, there are 47 children in accommodation, aged three to 20 years. In keeping with the institution's capacity and the regulations of professional work in social welfare, there are six teachers working with the children. Workers from the Centre for Social Work in Aleksinac (a professional team) deal with the aspects of professional social work. This situation makes it difficult to employ a psychologist and a pedagogue to provide continual treatment to those children who need it. Because of the relatively small number of children and the living conditions in the connected rooms of one house, the educational groups are formal and the teachers in fact work with all the children. It is practically impossible to give the children individual attention, given the number of teachers. Twelve of the children are of elementary school age and 26 are slightly mentally disabled which means that a large number of them need individual attention in learning. A significant number suffer from difficulties that require psychological treatment. Attention is paid to the individual interests of the children in hobby groups. In preparing the children for family life, they learn how to perform all the regular

household chores. Since all the teaching staff are elementary school teachers, they require training in psychology, pedagogy and defectology (oligodefectology) and the behavioural treatment of enuresis.

### Priorities:

- training of teachers in the domains of psychology, pedagogy, defectology (oligodefectology), behavioural treatment of enuresis;
- full-time employment of a psychologist and pedagogue because the professional work is done by specialists from the Centre for Social Work in Aleksinac;
- employing more teachers to make it possible to work with the children individually;
- employment of a nurse, an assistant cook in the first shift and a technician.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Health protection is organised in co-operation with the health centre. The children have previous health records and the necessary check-ups are done in the health centre after which a medical file is opened for recording the child's condition of health and carrying out lawful medical prevention and necessary treatment. Specialist medical examinations and hospital treatment are done in Niš.

Instruction in health and hygiene prevention is carried out through educational work. The home has difficulties in paying for medicines that are not on the market.

### Priorities:

- foodstuffs: honey, fresh meat, fruit;
- kitchen equipment, dishes and saucepans;
- new footwear for the children;
- other necessary equipment in the home: cupboards and dining chairs, and computers.

### *Views of the staff*

Separation from the Centre for Social Work and expansion of capacities

The home should become independent from the Centre for Social Work. The staff believe that the capacity can be expanded (to 60 places), that some of the premises can be converted for the additional activities of the children and that workshops can be erected in the yard to give the children vocational training and earn additional income for the institution.

It is necessary to employ more teachers in the educational process so as to achieve the function of educational work, establish a closer relationship between the teacher and the child and coordinate the educational work with the needs of the children who live there (problems in social adjustment).

# 16 Home for children and youth without parental care attached to the Centre for Social Work, **Ćuprija**

Cara Lazara 89, 35000 Ćuprija ■ Telephone: 035-460-533 ■ Fax: 035-477-275

The home is a part of the Centre for Social Work in Ćuprija and is located in the same building. Its capacity is 34 places and currently it houses 32 children. Only one child is younger than seven years and the others (18) are of elementary school age and secondary school age (14). Nine children have slight mental disabilities.

## Architectural and structural conditions

The home is located in the central part of the town. The ground floor and first floor are used to house the children. There is no proper fence around the building; considering the purpose and the location of the building, the surrounding garden area should be cultivated and properly fenced in.

The outside of the building looks quite sound, but the interior and the furnishings are in a much worse condition. The windows do not function at all and should be replaced with new ones. The day room has no furniture and equipment, just benches and a TV.

The bathrooms are in a very bad state, particularly the showers and the toilets, and they should be renewed.

### Priorities:

- new windows;
- day room furniture;
- renovation of the bathrooms;
- arrangement of the garden area around the home.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The home in Ćuprija is on the first floor of the building which houses the Centre for Social Work. The children use the same corridors as the people who come to the centre to seek assistance. The yard that is used as a playground is small and has no railings and the exit from the Centre faces a busy street with street vendors.

The premises and position of the home is unsuitable for the life of the children because it is inadequate for games and spare-time activities.

The regulation capacity of this institution is 34 children, but its real capacity is for up to 26 children or two educational groups. It currently caters for 32 children, more than half of who are of elementary school age and nine of them have mental disabilities. All the children are from this town and the surrounding municipalities. In this district, there are up to 40 children without parental care, who need accommodation. Accommodation in family households is not developed and neither is there sufficient encouragement for this form of childcare.

The number of teachers corresponds to regulations (four full-time teachers and one employed on a part-time basis) and because of the teachers' working hours; one teacher is with the children in each shift. This kind of organisation leads to working with all the children together, for them to function like a large family,

and educational groups are formal. All the children in the home attend school. Since the schools are far away from the home, the children spend most of their time in activities connected with school and have little time for anything else. They know little about what is happening in the town and the attitude of the local community is indifferent.

Children who cannot finish school attend training courses and have trouble finding employment. The teachers need additional training for working with disabled children.

### Priorities:

- developing better contacts with the local community;
- training the teachers for working with disabled children.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Health care is carried out according to the health regulations and in regular health institutions in the town and in the region.

The children are basically healthy and their most frequent problems are problems of emotional neglect.

Meals are satisfactory thanks to donations by international humanitarian organisations.

Clothing, footwear, school kits and hygiene items are also supplied by means of humanitarian aid.

### Priorities:

- foodstuffs: honey, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and fish paste, fresh meat, hot dogs, processed meat products, mayonnaise, Eurokrem;
- kitchen equipment: a potato-peeling machine, a pastry-mixer, a bread-slicer;
- jumpers, socks and jeans for children, and new pairs of seasonal footwear;
- other necessary equipment in the home: hair-dryers, irons, a washing machine, vacuum cleaners, computer equipment.

### *Views of the staff*

The teachers believe that the home should remain in its present form, especially because of the large number of adolescents for whom placement in foster families is unsuitable.

# 17 Centre for the protection of infants, children and youth, Belgrade

The Centre for the protection of infants, children and youth, in Belgrade, is a complex institution created by amalgamating all the social welfare institutions for the accommodation of children without parental care in Belgrade. The Centre includes the Infirmary for Mother and Child, the "Dragutin Filipović-Jusa" Children's Home, the "Moša Pijade" Home for children and youth, the "Drinka Pavlović" Home for children and youth, the "Jovan Jovanović-Zmaj" Home for children and youth and the newly opened Home for secondary school pupils and student youth. This organisation of institutions makes it possible to continue providing a home for these children, bearing in mind the needs of the age structure of the children.

The Centre has joint management, administrative, financial and technical services and periodically, a professional team that admits, keeps records and discharges the users, which is important for the functional connection of the individual homes.

Every organisational unit has a manager and a professional and a technical staff, in keeping with the regulations of social care. Due to the distance between the facilities, the efficiency of the joint services, especially the technical and supply services is not satisfactory. There are also problems regarding the efficiency of certain homes when dealing with the public, their own staff and other institutions.

## a) Infirmary for Mother and Child

Zvečanska 7, 11000 Belgrade ▪ Telephone: 011-36-90-314, 648-622

This is the most widely known institution for the accommodation of the youngest children without parental care. The Infirmary caters for 279 children from the age of 0-3 years. The capacity of this institution, which principally focuses on the health aspect in child welfare, is 330 places. The home has a rehabilitation department for accommodating children with development risks. The Infirmary also has a maternity home for pregnant women and mothers with infants of up to nine months, who do not have family protection. Currently, it is sheltering six mothers and their children.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The block consists of a four-storey building of approx. 4,600 square meters, specially built for this purpose in 1938, and a maternity home, a ground floor building of approx. 400 square meters.

The first facility, built in 1938, is in fairly good condition, and besides four storeys, also has basement premises and a cellar.

The basic problem is the terrace on the top floor, which should be adapted for use during the summer season. This would also improve the thermal insulation of the top floor.

Other terraces, on each floor, also need repairing and higher handrails to serve the proper purpose.

The entire building needs painting and new flooring.

The playground is nicely arranged as a park but, considering the users (children of up to three years), it should be supplied with equipment which is adequate for that age.

The ground floor building of the maternity home needs adapting and new furniture and equipment.

### Priorities:

- adaptation of the top floor terrace for use during the summer season;
- repainting and new flooring;
- furnishing the interior of the maternity home.

### Education and upbringing and the structure of the staff

The Infirmary for Mother and Child is the most widely known institution for the accommodation of the youngest children without parental care, catering for 279 children from the age of 0-3 years. It also has a maternity home for pregnant women and mothers with infants of up to nine months.

There is also a child's rehabilitation centre for health and developmental problems attached to the infirmary. The institution's total capacity is 330 places, 40 of which are in the department for early

rehabilitation and 40 are in the maternity home. A high percentage of the places in the institution are occupied and this is not always in keeping with the planned capacity of each department, depending on the current needs for accommodation and the ability to discharge children that are older. The premises are equipped and the staff are organised primarily to provide the youngest children with physical and medical care.

The conditions for the youngest children and those in the rehabilitation programme are closer to those of a hospital than a home and the results of this are also noticeable in the children's psychomotorial development. In order to alleviate the consequences of the initial type of care of the children, the institution has employed professional teachers for the pre-school children, even though this is not foreseen in the regulations. The material conditions, the equipment of the institution and the organisation of work do not offer the children sufficient opportunities, even when they learn to walk again, to go out into a natural, social, non-institutional environment. In order to improve socialisation the institution has enabled pupils from the secondary school of medicine to do their apprenticeship in the infirmary and they come to take care of the children twice a week. The institution's doors are also open to the programmes of non-governmental organisations. The application of these programmes is periodical, the programmes do not always receive adequate preliminary professional appraisal and often, the effects of this work do not correspond to the amount of money or effort that have been invested.

In the past few years, since the amount of accommodation in foster homes has declined, it takes longer to discharge children from the infirmary that do not return to their natural family till their third year, and for whom a foster family cannot be found. Most often the children with mental disabilities and children with health and other difficulties in development, stay on. Physically disabled children are most at risk because, if they have no mental disabilities, there is no suitable institution to accommodate them and it is hard to find foster-parents or a family that would adopt them.

### Priorities:

- opportunities for the children to go out more often into a natural, social, non-institutional environment (when they learn to walk);
- the ideal number of teachers for two shifts would be 24 so that more teachers are required;
- a boiler man, a caretaker and a nutritionist.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

### Priorities:

- medical equipment: 5 aspirators, 7 inhalation units, 7 oxygen dispensers, an interferent electricity unit, a laser therapy unit, a vacuum unit, an ultrasonic unit with diagnostic currents, an ultrasonic abdominal probe and C.N.S. for ultrasonic diagnostics, three paraffin melters for therapy, a hydro-massage unit and bath, a KSAFA unit for speech and hearing diagnostics, children's wheelchairs (2), a Maclaren chair for cerebral paralysis, an electrophoresis unit, blood pressure measuring kits for adults and children (5);
- kitchen appliances: dish-washers with a sterilisation programme (3), vegetable-peeling machines, a receptacle for keeping food hot, gas/electric cooker, 10 electric cookers, 10 refrigerators, four deep-freezers, 1,000 stainless steel cups;
- other equipment needed in the home: children's potty washers (7) telephone exchange unit, beds (or plastic coating of the existing ones).

### *Views of the staff*

The basic task of matching children and prospective adoptive parents

The staff believe that the infirmary is a necessary Republic institution and that it should be entrusted with matching children and prospective adoptive parents in the adoption process. They also consider that the maternity home now has the function of a shelter for young mothers and that its function should be adjusted to the current users.

## b) Home for children and youth "Dragutin Filipović-Jusa"

Božidara Adžije 17, 11000 Belgrade ■ Telephone: 011-454-973 ■ Fax: 011-454-973

The home accommodates children of pre-school age. The capacity of this institution is 30 places and it has also opened a shelter for 10 children. There are currently 34 children under the age of seven years living in the home. Only one child has mental disability. However, seven of the children, although not categorised, according to the assessment of the psychologist, attend the development group in kindergarten. Fifteen younger children in the home have been assessed as suffering from impeded development.

There is no data at all on the parents of a third of the children, and two thirds have only one parent, mostly mothers.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building was constructed in 1930 and is located in the central part of the town. Considering the age of the children (mostly three to five years) in this home, a building with a ground floor plus two floors is inadequate, primarily because of the unsafe stairway. A protection net on the stairway is indispensable.

Although the building looks nice from the architectural point of view, the facade needs repairing and painting. The roof gutters need repairing. The roof and supporting structure should be renovated, and some of the roof beams, lathes and tiles should be replaced with new ones.

The terrace on the second floor needs new hydro insulation and a new finish - ceramic tiles.

The door on the rooms, bathrooms and corridors need repairs, and the entrance door should be replaced with a new one.

The plumbing and drainage systems should be replaced because moisture appears in some rooms (dining room, kitchen).

The electricity installations are in poor condition and should be overhauled.

The flooring needs repairing, and the parquet should be planed and varnished.

The bathrooms and toilets should be completely redone with completely new equipment. Thanks to donations, a great deal of equipment has been renewed, but there is still a need for repairs and new furniture, such as children's beds, cupboards and work tables.

It has been suggested that a separate building - a playhouse - should be built and equipped with suitable contents.

### Priorities:

- partial renovation of the roof and its supporting structure;
- hydro insulation of the terrace;
- partial replacement of plumbing and drainage systems;
- partial replacement of electric installations.

### Education and upbringing and the structure of the staff

The "Dragutin Filipović-Jusa" Home was opened by the municipality of Vračar in 1963. The centre decided in 1997 that the home should be used for accommodating children of pre-school age (three to six years of age). These are mostly children from the infirmary for whom a foster family or other form of care could not be found in time.

The capacity of the home is 30 places but the number of children is always higher. There is an admission department with ten places through which several hundred children pass each year and a number of these children remain in the home. The children from the admission department are in a separate part of the home until their health condition is checked and then they are enrolled in the regular educational groups where they remain until they return to their own families or until some other form of care is found.

The building was not built for its present purpose and the necessary adaptation was done so as to ensure the safety of the children.

The majority of the children are between three and four years of age and about 30 per cent of them are mentally disabled, which is important because of the organisation and content of the teaching process.

Five teachers who are professionally trained for working with children of pre-school age, four trained nurses, a part-time night teacher, a pedagogue and a social worker are directly involved in care and teaching.

The number of the staff is not sufficient to fulfill the children's needs for attention, and provide health and physical care. In the daytime shifts, there are three teachers for 30 to 40 children, whereas, at night, there is only one teacher. In order to consolidate the teaching and caring process and enrich the life of the children, the home co-operates with children's pre-school institutions and the Institute for Psycho-Physical Disorders and Speech Pathology, whose employees work with the children, and with cultural institutions for children etc.

Owing to the number of children and staff, the organisation and equipment of the premises, the home functions as a unit, as a large family, but it is too large to offer children of this age enough warmth and close, personal contact.

Since the children are at an age when they learn basic relations with their immediate environment, and they are most often children from the infirmary, which means that they have no experience of being in a family or having more lasting relationships with a parent figure, it would be more suitable for them to be in a home of the family type, with one teacher and a relatively stable group of other children of different ages.

### Priorities:

- increasing the number of staff who work directly with the children (a psychologist, three trained nurses, three teachers, a speech therapist, and a physiotherapist;
- planning education in a home of the family type.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Trained nurses care for and supervise the children's health and the Vračar Health Centre, whose doctor visits the home once a week, is responsible for their general health protection.

The children are well supplied with clothing and footwear and toys, thanks to donations from individuals encouraged by the home's management and by means of regular donor drives, organised by the Centre for the Protection of Infants, Children and Youth.

### Priorities:

- foodstuffs for snacks because snacks are made in the home;
- kitchen equipment: the replacement of kitchen cupboards, cutlery, and plates, glasses and cups;
- other necessary equipment in the home: a tumble-dryer, a boiler, 40 beds for children, 40 cupboards for children, eight shoe cupboards, five wardrobes, five office cupboards, writing tables, a large table and chairs, carpets and runners for the children's rooms, curtains, a dining-table and chairs, gym mats, horizontal bars, a toboggan, hoola-hoops, a hidey-hole, swings, a see-saw, a sand pit, a computer and a printer, teaching materials (jigsaw puzzles, puzzles, bricks, coloredo-pins, video and audio cassettes, painting books, picture-books, slates, balls and spinning-tops.

### *Views of the staff*

A family-type home

The staff consider that the home should be organised like any home for children and youth, for all age groups or to be equipped with staff according to the needs of the children of this age.

## c) Home for children and youth without parental care "Moša Pijade"

Ustanička 19, 11000 Belgrade ■ Telephone: 011-444-00-66 ■ Fax: 011-450-257

There are 83 children without parental care living in this home. Its capacity is 96 places. The children are mainly of elementary school age (32) and secondary school age (28), and only one child is younger than seven years. The occupants are chiefly children who are older than 18 years (23). Nineteen of the children are slightly mentally disabled.

Thirty-eight of the children have no contact whatsoever with their parents or relatives.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building was specially constructed for this purpose in 1957. Although the building itself looks quite solid, it needs repairs and the facade needs painting.

The roof leaks, and so does the large terrace on the top floor. The handrail on the terrace is totally ruined. The terrace needs new hydro insulation and a new finish, the terrace handrail needs repairing and the roof should be renewed.

The bathrooms are currently being repaired, so is the dining room and the kitchen. The windows and the inside doors are in bad conditions and must be replaced. The equipment in the rooms is fairly satisfactory. New cupboards and shelves are required. The flooring in the rooms should be renewed.

The open space around the home should be cultivated and equipped with various gadgets.

#### Priorities:

- the overhaul of the roof and hydro insulation on the terrace;
- new windows and interior doors;
- partial renewal of furniture (shelves and cupboards).

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Moša Pijade" Home is one of the first specially built, family type homes.

The capacity of this institution is eight educational groups, or 96 children, and in keeping with the regulations, the institution has ten teachers, a social worker and a psychologist.

Currently, there are 83 children living in the home, most of them of school age. They attend regular schools. There are also ten students living in the home. Nineteen of the children, or 17 per cent, are slightly mentally disabled, which is lower than in other homes.

Educational work in this home is adjusted to conditions in the town and to the children who attend school. The children with minor mental disabilities find it more difficult to fit into the regular system in the home because they have more spare time and the institution has programmes for their activities.

The home does not have enough equipment for vocational training and this particularly affects the children who cannot finish secondary school. But, there are premises that could be equipped for this purpose. In the daily life of the home, the boys are trained to use simple tools under the supervision of the caretaker, and all the children learn how to do household chores. There are musical instruments but they are not used. Some children who have no family support at all, spend a longer time in the home, especially if it is impossible for them to find jobs relatively quickly with the education they have acquired.

### Priorities:

- adjustments in the organisation of teaching children with disabilities;
- equipment for the occupational training of children who are not interested in finishing secondary school, or who have not finished secondary school because they were late finishing elementary school;
- eight in-house teachers (so as to have two for each in-house group, for work in shifts);
- a pedagogue to complete the professional team;
- a secretary;
- a medical worker;
- two housekeepers;
- a consulting psychiatric service;
- psychological counselling service for adolescents.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Regular health care is provided by the Voždovac Health Centre. In the home there is a dental surgery used by the entire centre. The children are basically healthy. A trained nurse takes care of hygiene and health instruction, supervises the children's health, co-operates with the health services and is in charge of the children's treatment in the home.

### Priorities:

- medicines and medical material: basic medicines for chronic patients, basic medicines such as nose drops, cough syrup, vitamin supplements, cosmetic items (cream, talcum powder) for small children and adolescents;
- kitchen equipment: saucepans, stainless steel plates, and a dishwasher;
- foodstuffs for supplementary meals per group (jam, margarine, meat and fish paste, milk, biscuits) foodstuffs for diet food (biscuits, tea, toast), additional supplies of fruit, milk, fruit juices, sweets;
- underwear, socks, pyjamas;
- other necessary equipment: video and audio teaching aids, school literary reading sets for elementary and secondary school, a diapositive film projector, 8 typewriters, 8 cassette recorders, embroidery and handiwork materials, sewing machines, carpentry and locksmith's tools.

### *Views of the staff*

Greater freedom in decision-making

The staff consider there are enough children in the home and that it needs to exist. Due to the centre's massive organisation, they believe greater freedom in decision-making is needed or even complete freedom within the organisational units, in other words, in the homes themselves.

## d) Home for children and youth without parental care "Jovan Jovanović Zmaj"

Brače Jerković 119, 11000 Belgrade ■ Telephone: 011-461-867 ■ Fax: 011-492-184

The "Jovan Jovanović-Zmaj" Home is intended for children between the ages of seven and 18 years without parental care. At present, there are 68 children living in it, 24 of them between seven and 14 years, and 18 are between 14 and 18 years of age. Only one child is younger than seven years. The home has a capacity of 72 places and a part of the otherwise enormous complex is rented out to the Telekom-Srbija Company as school children's boarding house.

Nearly half of all the children belong in the category of slightly mentally disabled children (29).

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building is located in the Braće Jerković residential area. It was specially built for this purpose in 1988. The building is in good condition, but the plumbing and drainage systems have to be renewed since moisture occurs in the bathrooms.

The ground floor with its halls, dining room and kitchen are in good condition.

The windows are ruined on the entire building. They do not shut properly and all the rooms are cold although the heating is good. This problem must be resolved either by repairing the windows or replacing them with new ones.

The furniture and equipment in the dormitories and day rooms are completely worn out, except in two rooms which have been renovated, recently. The floors, walls and lighting in the dormitories and day rooms are also in very bad condition.

The bathrooms are in very bad condition and damp.

The complete renovation of the dormitories, day rooms and bathrooms is necessary and they require new furniture and equipment.

### Priorities:

- repair of the plumbing and drainage systems;
- new windows on the entire building;
- renovation of dormitories, day rooms and bathrooms;
- new furniture and equipment in the dormitories and day rooms.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The "Jovan Jovanović-Zmaj" Home for Children and Youth moved to a specially built building in 1989. The facility is too large for its purpose and has numerous technical shortcomings that essentially affect the heating of the premises. The home uses only one part of the building, the other is a common kitchen that supplies meals to all the homes in the centre and some of the premises are rented out to the "Telekom-Srbija" Company as a boarding house for school children.

The planned capacity of the home is 96 children or eight educational groups and the corresponding number of teachers. The home also has a professional team that consists of a social worker, a psychologist and a pedagogue. There are 68 children living in the home at present. More than half of them are of elementary school age. Twenty-nine children are mentally disabled.

The dominant aspect of this home is that the large, technically unsuitable premises make it difficult to create a warm "family" atmosphere. Another feature is that there is a large fluctuation of children with frequent newcomers. This makes it difficult to achieve cohesion in the educational groups. There are too few teachers and the house rules are too rigid to be able to create the rhythm of everyday family life. There are few opportunities for pleasant "family" activities such as gathering around to prepare food. Family-type activities roughly consist of the children being obliged to maintain hygiene and tidy the premises they occupy etc.

Due to the organisation of the premises and life in the home, and the age of the children, the educational groups are fairly uniform. In order to encourage and teach the children to live in a community and about relationships and finding their place in a group, the children are encouraged to participate in decision-making. The home's doors are open to the programmes of non-governmental organisations and it gives preference to projects by recognised experts in specific fields. It prefers programmes that are designed to satisfy the interests and develop the children's abilities (art, knowledge, skills) and psychosocial training programmes (non-violent communication, protection from violence and suchlike) in view of the children's previous experience and social environment.

### Priorities:

- increasing the number of teaching staff in order to give more individual attention to the children (six teachers) and make it possible to organise work with the children along family lines;
- implementing a psychosocial training programme and other activities that are of interest to children, in co-operation with non-governmental organisations;
- training programmes in the domain of development psychology and development psychopathology: the prevention and detection of abuse and drug addiction;
- a pedagogue, or a complete professional team;
- two trained nurses (in two shifts, for consultation regarding nutrition and health care, and sanitary supervision);
- a consulting psychiatric service.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

### Priorities:

- medical equipment: a sterilising chamber, a blood pressure measuring kit, a weight and height measuring unit, thermometers, basic medicines (nose drops, cough syrup, vitamin supplements), medical material, scissors, nail scissors, de-lousing equipment, adolescent skin hygiene cosmetics;
- foodstuffs: honey, fresh fruit and vegetables, processed meat products, foodstuffs for diet nutrition (biscuits, toast, tea and lemons), foodstuffs for making birthday cakes, foodstuffs for supplementary meals in the groups (corn pops, cornflour puddings, honey, jam, margarine, meat and fish paste, cocoa),
- kitchen equipment: a dishwasher, a Kirby;
- clothing and footwear: renewing all the children's sports shoes. Otherwise, the idea put forward by the teachers in the home is to plan funds for the purchase of footwear and clothing, and to make advance payments to shops so that the children can choose for themselves what they would like to buy and wear;
- Other necessary equipment: washing-machines, a vacuum cleaner, hairdryers, irons, ironing boards, televisions, cassette recorders, a stove with two hot-plates, a fire-extinguishing ladder.

### *Views of the staff*

Independently planning the institution's development

The premises of the home are too large and the functioning of the home within a large organisation (The Centre for the Protection of Infants, Children and Youth) makes it impossible to plan this home's development independently.

## e) Home for children and youth without parental care **"Drinka Pavlović"**

Koste Glavinića 14, 11000 Belgrade ▪ Telephone: 011-650-761

There are 68 children living in this home although the planned capacity is 96 places. Most of the children are of elementary school age (33). There are 29 children between 14 and 18 years of age and six are older than 18 years. The home has 27 slightly mentally disabled children and one child has borderline intellectual abilities. About 40 children maintain contact with their families and relatives.

### **Architectural and structural conditions**

The home was specially built for this purpose in 1965, and it is in good condition. The main problem is the leaking flat roof. It should be replaced with a sloping roof. The woodwork and windows are in very bad condition and should be completely replaced. The bathrooms need to be totally redone, from the plumbing and drainage systems to the flooring, walls and new fittings. The electricity installations need to be overhauled, particularly where the children live. The kitchen and dining room are inadequate and must be adapted and properly equipped. Since the concept of family life has been abandoned, the premises need to be adapted. The furniture and equipment are totally ruined or missing, so one of the priorities is completely new furniture.

#### **Priorities:**

- roof reconstruction;
- new woodwork;
- renovation of the bathroom;
- new furniture;
- renovation of the kitchen and dining room.

### **Educational work and the structure of the staff**

The "Drinka Pavlović" Home was specially built as a family-type home, for eight families, in other words eight educational groups. For several years, life in this home experimentally functioned according to an original "family home" concept, and the teachers lived in the home together with the children.

There are currently 68 children in the home's accommodation, or six educational groups, therefore, it employs eight teachers, a social worker and a psychologist. The majority of the children are of elementary school age, and 27 are mentally disabled.

With this structure of children, most of the time, the work of the teachers is focused on the younger children and teaching them to take basic care of themselves, behaviour, and respect for house rules and for the needs of others. Learning about the family starts with these relations and the obligations to maintain tidiness, hygiene etc. The most agreeable aspect of life together is preparing meals. The city environment and the tradition of this home encourage the children to focus on school, sports organisations, culture and art organisations. They are very active in the scout movement and, in their spare time, they take part in the life of the city.

### Priorities:

- reducing the capacity of the home and forming "family communities";
- equipping the empty premises to house the children who are leaving the house ("half-way house" project);
- more teachers so that each educational group will have its own teachers in both shifts;
- a complete professional team;
- a trained nurse according to the regulations;
- a neuropsychiatric consulting service;
- a housekeeper.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The nurse carries out health supervision, health and hygiene training and co-operates with the health centre and health institutions.

The needs of the children in clothing, footwear, hygiene items and school kits are supplied through donations from big humanitarian organisations.

### Priorities:

- medical equipment: a stethoscope, a weight and height measuring unit, a steriliser with drum cassettes, a diabetes monitoring system, thermometers, a medicine bowl, forceps, pincers, a kidney basin, spatulas with bowls, a medicine cabinet;
- medicines and medical material: analgesics, antipyretics, antipsychotics, anti-depressives, some of the medicines from the negative list (cough syrups, nose-drops), antibiotic ointments and teas with antiseptic effects, alcohol, iodine, hydrogen, vitamin supplements, bandages, gauze, elastoplast, plasters, pregnancy tests, contraceptives;
- foodstuffs: honey, milk, fresh fruit, fresh fish;
- kitchen equipment: a dishwasher;
- other necessary equipment: physical training equipment for the gym, library equipment, art, music and computer workshop equipment, equipment for a club for informal spare time, didactic material and toys.

### *Views of the staff*

Helping the children leaving social care

There are empty premises in the home. Plans are aimed at reducing the capacity of the home to create smaller "family" communities and equipping the free space to provide housing for the children who are leaving the home, until they find jobs and are able to become truly independent (a "half-way house").

## f) Home for secondary school and student youth **Zvečanska 52**

Zvečanska 52, 11000 Belgrade ■ Telephone: 011-648-365

The home is intended for children of secondary school age and students. At present, it houses five children aged between 14 and 18 years while all the rest, 25 of them are older than 18 years and are mainly students. There are no children with disabilities in this home. This home is one of the best institutions of social protection in Serbia, in terms of the quality of its living standard.

### **Architectural and structural conditions**

There is a narrow lawn in front of this building, behind it is a yard, enclosed in a metal fence. The home was built in the 1960s, and has a flat roof. Makeshift repairs have been made, for the time being, to the leaking roof. As a permanent solution to the problem a sloping roof or another storey can be built on top of the building (which is feasible from the structural point of view). The insufficient pitch of the sewer lines causes flooding in the basement and this must be prevented. New flooring should be installed in the bathrooms and toilets on the ground floor. The rooms, dining room and kitchen are relatively new and very well maintained. The playground behind the building should be redone and equipped with baskets for basketball.

#### **Priorities:**

- pitched roof or an additional storey;
- new flooring in the bathrooms on the ground floor;
- repair of playground behind the building.

### **Educational work and the structure of the staff**

The home opened in 1999 in a renovated facility, which had previously been a home for children and youth.

Secondary school pupils and students without parental care, from other homes and foster families in environments where they did not have the necessary conditions for further education, live in this home. Part of the building has been rented out to the PTT Service as a boarding house for schoolchildren (19 schoolchildren).

The home is a boarding house with 50 places. The premises are suited to this purpose. At present, 30 children, who are independent in their work, with well-developed interests and habits required in intellectual work, are living in this institution.

The staff consist of five teachers employed for educational work, one of them part-time, a social worker and a pedagogue. A psychologist is needed for individual work with young people and their problems in growing up.

The conditions of life allow the children to express their individuality in equipping the premises and planning their time.

The modest conditions in the home have been used to give the young people the opportunity to go in for activities that interest them (an art "workshop", a hairdressing studio, a dressmaking workshop, and a computer workshop).

The young people are encouraged to take part in decision-making at meetings in the home, to prepare them for leading an independent life in the outside world, and accepting responsibility. There are plans in this community to organise lectures and panel discussions on topics that interest the children.

### Priorities:

- a psychologist to deal with young people individually and help them to cope with the problems of growing up;
- organising panel discussions and lectures on topics of interest to the young people in the home;
- three teachers to deal with all the work of educating, personal contacts and technical jobs;
- a trained nurse;
- one employee to work as a caretaker, boiler man and driver.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The home does not have separate infirmary premises and one of the basic priorities in this institution is to open its own outpatient ward. It is important to step up health training that deals with diseases of addiction, AIDS and suchlike, because this home houses secondary school children and students. The dispensary is modestly supplied.

### Priorities:

- medical equipment: a sterilising chamber, a stethoscope, a blood pressure measuring unit, a weight and height measuring unit;
- foodstuffs: fresh meat, fruit and vegetables, yoghurt, milk and fish;
- kitchen equipment: a dishwasher, a large mixer, a refrigerator, and dishes;
- clothing and footwear, bed-linen and slippers;
- other necessary equipment: equipment for a sports ground, a satellite antenna, clothes cupboards.

### *Views of the staff*

The results justify the existence of the institution

As the organisation of the home is of a more recent date, and so far the results have been good, the general conclusion is that an institution like this one is necessary in the system of social care.





## **Homes for children with disabilities**



## Homes for children with disabilities

According to the network of social care institutions, the homes in Veternik (Novi Sad), Sremčica and Zemun (Infirmity for Autism) have been designated as institutions for accommodating children and youth with mental disabilities.

However, various circumstances have led to a great many children living in two institutions that care for adults with disabilities - the homes in Stamnica and in Kulina - such as over-crowding in the previously mentioned institutions, the situation in the country generally, even the treatment of seriously and severely disabled persons like children as a result of which they remain in the institution after they reach adulthood, and the shortage of places in institutions for accommodating adults.

Among the rights to which this population is entitled, the Act on Social Care and Providing Social Security for Citizens, children and youth with disabilities provides for the right to be placed in an institution of social care. Children who suffer from severe, serious or moderate disorders in development, with or without other physical, health or sensory disabilities, in the case when their natural family cannot give them adequate care, may exercise this right.

The relevant commission for categorising children, whose psycho-physical development is impaired, must determine the degree of impairment and propose further treatment (the fulfillment of other conditions is in the jurisdiction of the guardianship authorities, i.e. the relevant Centres of Social Work) in order for them to exercise this right.

In institutions that care for children with disabilities, children are provided with the basic needs (housing, meals, clothes, footwear), health care, rehabilitation, education and work therapy according to average abilities and other, different activities that help them to develop.

Besides the material difficulties that are a common feature in all institutions, the position of these institutions is worse for a number of specific reasons. We shall list here only some of the most frequent circumstances that complicate their position:

- all institutions have a large number of users (except the Infirmity for autism), ranging from 316 in Sremčica to 600 in Veternik (Stamnica - 429, Kulina - 500),
- a large number of users in these institutions are with multiple disabilities and need special health care and therapy (for example, around 400 charges in Veternik, which is two thirds of the total number of users in that home),
- the heterogeneous profile of users in terms of age (from 6 to 40-45 years), the degree of impairment (from slight to severe), the degree of mobility (mobile, semi-mobile and bedridden),
- the distance of institutions from urban areas, which makes adequate care for children impossible and narrows down the possibility to select staff, and suchlike,
- the lack of qualified staff, whose job it is to provide children with care and protection, and certain profiles of staff (especially carers),
- a large number of beneficiaries remain institutionalised for the duration of their life,
- in Serbia, in spite of the well-developed network of fostering, children with disabilities seldom live with families, not even their own families.

**CUMULATIVE TABLE 2****Homes for children with disabilities in Serbia**

name of home and place	capacity	total number of children	year of establish.	number of severely impaired users	number of seriously impaired users	number of moderately impaired users	number of slightly impaired users	age structure			
								aged up to 7	aged up to 14	aged up to 18.	aged above 18
1. Home for children and youth with disabilities, Veternik											
	590	587	1971.	201	193	188	5	15	11 4	4)	-
2. a) Home for children with disabilities, Kulina											
	-	595	1957.	337	170	17	2 note.5)	12 0	14 2	89	2 4 2
b) Home for girls with disabilities in the Sveta Petka monastery, Izvor											
	92	92	1946.	67	25	-	note.6)	10	-	-	-
3. Home for children with disabilities, Sremčica											
	320	316	1968.	-	16	243	24	15	70	68	-
4. "Dr Nikola Šumenković" special institution for children and youth, Stamnica											
	450	429	1964.	70	32	6	1	12	55	42	-
5. Daycare centre for children and youth with disabilities, Belgrade											
a) Home for deaf children											
	110	106	1990.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Daycare for children with autism, Diljska											
	30	28	1996.	note.3)	-	-	-	5	23	-	-
v) Daycare for children and youth with autism, "Kornelije Stanković"											
	30	30	-	note.2)	-	-	-	-	-	11	1 9
g) Daycare for mentally retarded children and youth, Šekspirova											
	100	75	-	-	5	54	12	note.1)	-	-	-
d) Infirmary for children and youth with autism, Zemun											
	41	43	-	note.7)	-	-	-	-	7	12	2 4

**Notes:**

- 1) 70% of users in this institution are older than 18.
- 2) All of the users suffer from autism (24 have multiple disorders, and there are two blind children in the daycare).
- 3) All the patients are autistic
- 4) 67 children were not yet graded according to the categories of mental impairment at the time of the survey.
- 5) Only women and girls (6 to 60 years of age) are accommodated in the home attached to the monastery.
- 6) All the users suffer from autism.

## Home for children with disabilities, **Veternik**

Kninska 157, 21203 Veternik ▪ Telephone: 021-821-034 ▪ Fax: 021-823-518

The home for children with disabilities in Veternik has a capacity of 590 places and is almost always full. There are 587 patients currently living in the institution, most of them older than 18. Because of the unsolved problem of caring for adults with disabilities, several hundred children and adults live in this home together. There are 15 children younger than seven years, 114 are younger than 14, and 225 children and youth are aged between 15 and 24 years.

In terms of the degree of mental impairment, in the home in Veternik there are 201 severely impaired children, 103 are seriously impaired, 188 have moderate and five have minor mental impairments.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The complex of the children's home in Veternik consists of five buildings for the accommodation of the users, plus auxiliary facilities: a boiler house, a bakery, a gas station, a farm, a laundry, workshops and a warehouse.

At present part of the roof on building A, where the administration is also located, is being replaced. The facade is in need of repair, as well.

Building B is currently under reconstruction and it is necessary to speed up the completion of works and furnish and equip the premises.

The recreation hall, also in this building, should be equipped with suitable equipment.

Building C is currently in the final stage of renewal, and all the equipment needs to be obtained.

The floor heating in facilities A1 and A2, which has not functioned since it was installed, should be replaced with radiators. Some radiators have already been procured.

After the completion of the work on the heating system, and the repair of the floors, the premises need to be completely adapted and refurbished.

The facades on all the buildings need repairing and repainting, including the repair of roof gutters and downcomers.

The farm should be relocated to an already selected and prepared location. The old location is to be adapted into a warehouse.

### Priorities:

- completion of works on building B;
- new furniture for the pavilions;
- the building of a small cattle farm.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The Home for children and youth with disabilities in Veternik was built in 1969. The home occupies an area of 10 hectares. The children are housed in five separate buildings and, besides this, the complex includes several facilities used by the general and technical services, and a small farm.

Children and young people are housed in the home in Veternik from the age of three. They suffer from moderate, severe or serious mental impairments, but may also have other disorders. Although the home is intended for children and youth, those who have reached adulthood are obliged to remain there longer because of the lack of room in homes for adults and there are now 233 users who are older than 25. Apart from that, moderately and seriously disabled users who are mobile and socialised find it difficult to adjust to new surroundings, therefore their stay is prolonged in order to protect them emotionally. Out of the total number of users, 188 suffer from moderate mental disorders, 193 have severe disorders, and 201 have serious disorders. Around two thirds of the users are under constant health care and therapy. This figure speaks of the need for intensive health and physical care and explains why more than half of the staff are engaged in these duties.

The institution's need has been acknowledged to employ 39 social workers, teachers and nurses.

Education is carried out by the rehabilitation service, according to the Programme For The Education Of Persons With Moderate Mental Disabilities of the Educational and Pedagogical Institute of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina from 1989, and the Programme For Moderately And Seriously Disabled Persons of the same institute from 1978. The programmes envisage defectologistst working with charges to develop their ability to help themselves, socialisation, communication, psycho-mobility, and develop an interest in music and visual art. The contents and the volume of work depend on the degree and type of capabilities that a particular patient still retains.

The users receive vocational training in eight manufacturing workshops and in doing simple manual jobs in the home, in the yard and on the farm.

Some material, machines and tools are still lacking for vocational training and work.

The institution offers an educational basis for several schools and university faculties.

The home has also organised a daycare centre in Novi Sad for moderately or seriously disabled children and young people, who live with their parents.

### Priorities:

- oligophrenologists - (cooperation should be established with the Faculty of Defectology because there is a shortage of qualified people in this field);
- a speech therapist;
- a physical education teacher and a physiotherapist;
- a night watchman and porters (because of the size of the premises), six in all;
- a psychologist.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Health care is provided by three physicians, 24 trained nurses and one dentist. There are fewer trained nurses than foreseen in the regulations; therefore the employment of at least another 11 trained nurses is a priority. Caring for the health of the patients is one of the home's primary activities. The most serious problem is the shortage of trained nurses, medical technicians and medical equipment.

The staff believe that the home must have a fully equipped gynaecological surgery.

Food is distributed to all of the home's facilities from a central kitchen. Supplies are obtained from the donations of humanitarian organisations and also from the small farm within the home.

Clothes and footwear are also regularly provided from humanitarian shipments, but there is a continual lack of underwear, socks, bed linen, mattress covers and mattresses.

### Priorities:

- kitchen equipment: a 20 kilogram pastry mixer, a gas heated vat, a bread-slicing machine, a large frying pan, food carts;
- other necessary equipment: artificial leather covered mattresses, air conditioning in the laundry-room, a collator-machine for the cardboard workshop, sewing machines (10), furniture for the pavilions, TV sets (10), tools for maintenance workers, furnishings for one floor in pavilion C, equipping the speech therapy, psychology, music and art cabinets.

### *Views of the staff*

Categorisation of institutions according to the type of disability

The staff consider that the institution's organisation is enormous, both in terms of premises and the types of disabilities the users suffer from. The employees think that the priority of institutionalised care is to categorise institutions according to the type of disability they cater for and not according to the age of the users, because they suffer when they are transferred to another institution and have trouble in adjusting to the new environment. The home plans to organise drives to bring a more humane atmosphere to the premises by separating the groups of beneficiaries into smaller housing units.

# 2

## Home for children with disabilities, **Kulina**

Kulina, 18214 Aleksinac ▪ Telephone: 018-883-835 ▪ Fax: 018-883-816

The home for children with disabilities in Kulina is located in a fairly inaccessible area at the foot of the Mali Jastrebac mountain, several kilometers away from the main road. There are 593 charges of different ages living in it and they are mostly seriously or severely mentally disabled (337 seriously, 170 severely, 17 moderately and two slightly disabled). Half of the children are bedridden.

According to the findings of many teams who have visited this home, it has the worst conditions for the life of patients.

The home is practically composed of two organisational units - the home in Kulina and the home for girls in the Sveta Petka monastery.

### Architectural and structural conditions

#### ▪ Kulina

The entire complex of this home, with the exception of one building that was constructed in 1980, was not built for the present purpose. The buildings were mostly erected during the 1930s, and they are in bad condition.

Over the past ten years the buildings have fallen into disrepair because there was no maintenance. All the buildings need reconstruction according to priorities, as well as the replacement of roof gutters.

#### Priorities:

- plumbing;
- sewage system;
- exterior lighting.

#### ▪ Sveta Petka Monastery

The building is situated within the walls of the Sveta Petka monastery. The general state of the building is on a very high level. It was reconstructed in the year 2000 thanks to donations. All additional buildings (laundry room, storage room and the mill) are also in the good state.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The home in Kulina is a social care institution for housing adults with serious or severe mental disabilities and persons with multiple disabilities. The home's capacity is 550 users but owing to the dilapidated condition of the facilities, for many years, the home has had roughly 500 patients.

Among the patients, there are always about 110-120 children aged between six months and six years, and up to 200 between the ages of six and 15. An average of 25% are older than 25. This home has the largest number and largest percentage of children.

Children younger than six are sent directly from maternity wards or transferred from the infirmaries for children without parental care in Belgrade and Subotica, if they are believed to be suffering from severe mental disability.

In the last few years, the institution has had tremendous trouble in functioning because of damaged installations and equipment, water shortages and transport problems, since the home is far away from the populated areas where the employees live. This is why it is difficult to find qualified staff, especially doctors and defectologists, which is one of the main reasons for the exhaustion and discontent of the staff. The children are provided with social protection, their existential needs are covered, principally physical care and health supervision. This is performed by three physicians, 28 trained nurses, a physiotherapist and 102 carers. One social worker is in charge of social care, and one teacher is responsible for education, instead of a defectologist. The absence of a trained defectologist makes it difficult to adequately organize and carry out programmes of socialisation, communication, learning hygiene habits, training in self-help and the overall development of the children. The situation is best in the ward for children under six years of age, where care is provided by trained nurses who have some knowledge of child development and the importance of contact and attention that naturally arouses the children's interest. Non-governmental and humanitarian organisations have been providing assistance in the development of the children in the past few months.

### Priorities:

- two physicians;
- two defectologistst;
- a psychologist;
- 10 nurses;
- three physiotherapists;
- 20 carers;
- a speech therapist;
- an electrician, two kitchen assistants;
- consultants: a pediatrician, a dentist, a physiologist, an epidemiologist, a dermatologist;
- training for nurses about novelties in their field, as well as about working with severely handicapped patients.

#### ▪ Home in the Sveta Petka monastery

The Sveta Petka monastery in Izvor near Paraćin houses 92 girls with mental disabilities (serious and heavy impairments). The nuns from the monastery provide all care. This home is formally under the management of the home in Kulina because the nuns do not wish to perform jobs that entail contact with the public. The children in Izvor are housed in buildings that have been constructed for this purpose in the monastery grounds.

Eleven nuns and three nurses are directly engaged in working with the children, while a physician from the village dispensary helps them in providing the children with medical care. A doctor from Kulina used to prescribe neuropsychiatric therapy, but this supervision has been neglected.

The nuns who care for the children spend one year performing this task and are then replaced by another group of nuns.

### Priorities:

- it is considered that if this home were to be separated in the organisational sense from the institution in Kulina, it would greatly help in the functioning of the home.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Besides the mentioned personnel needs, this home also lacks medical equipment. The list of priorities include: chemicals, glass, laboratory utensils, an ultrasonic unit, a laser, five blood pressure measuring kits, thermometers, forceps, scissors, spatulas, scalpels, two small oxygen cylinders.

### Priorities:

- foodstuffs: rice, biscuits, semolina and fruit;
- kitchen equipment: dishes, a dish-washer;
- cotton fabric for nappies, artificial leather for covering mattresses, towelling for bedspreads, bed linen, trainers size 35 to 40, underwear, vests for adults, mattresses - large and small;
- other necessary equipment: a washing machine, an ironing press, floor-cleaning machine, TV sets, air conditioning, bio-chemical centrifuge, beds, wardrobes, tables, chairs, gym mats, a computer and a printer.

### *Views of the staff*

Such an institution is necessary in the system of social protection. This home has great difficulties because of its remote location, poor installations, personnel problems, but the public outcry that followed a media campaign managed to attract a large number of donors. This is why there are prospects of a notable improvement in the conditions for providing care to the beneficiaries.

# 3 Home for children with disabilities, Sremčica

IX nova 1, 11250 Sremčica ▪ Telephone: 011-801-30-93 ▪ Fax: 011-801-33-60

There are 316 children housed in the home in Sremčica, and the institution's capacity is 320 users. The home provides care for children with special needs, mainly with moderate and minor disabilities. Most users are older than 18 (163). There are 15 children younger than seven years, 70 are younger than 14 and 68 are aged between 14 and 18 years. There are 243 charges in the group of moderately mentally disabled children, 16 suffer from severe impairments and 24 have minor impairments.

Most of the patients have no contact with their relatives: a third of the children have no contact, some seldom have any contact, and a third occasionally receive visits by their parents or relatives.

## Architectural and structural conditions

This block consists of seven buildings:

- 1) Porter's lodge - ground floor residence house;
- 2) Administration, First Aid station;
- 3) Men's pavilion - ground floor plus two storeys;
- 4) Women's pavilion - ground floor plus one storey;
- 5) Children's pavilion - ground floor plus one storey;
- 6) Kitchen block with dining room, laundry, warehouse, boiler room -basement plus ground floor;
- 7) Day room with workshops, classrooms, gym - ground floor.

The entire complex was built in 1986, with flat roofs. There is a farm and an orchard at the lower end of the 17-hectare lot, on which the home was erected.

The paths and the area around the buildings are cultivated and well maintained. But, the open courts for basketball and volleyball, as well as the playground in the yard should be completely equipped, since the existing equipment is totally ruined or nonexistent.

The men's pavilion has been completely reconstructed from donations. One more storey and roof have been added, and the exterior and interior have been completely renovated. The furniture is completely new.

The same scale of reconstruction was planned for the women's and the children's pavilions, which are in a very bad state.

The three remaining buildings also require complete reconstruction (except for the building with the porter's lodge).

### Priorities:

- complete reconstruction of the three buildings that have not been renovated so far;
- cultivation of open spaces.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The work of this home is to provide care, health protection, education, vocational training and work therapy for children and youth with moderate or serious mental disabilities. The home's capacity is 320 and the current number of patients is 316.

Among the patients, there are 47 children with minor mental disabilities, who have been transferred to this home from the infirmary in which the children are housed before the classification process. They are supposed to be in a home for children without parental care because their current environment imposes limits on their development. Meanwhile, the fact is that the homes for children without parental care have room while the institutions for children with disabilities, are overcrowded.

Since the home was planned for children with disabilities who do not suffer from additional health and physical problems, and who can be educated and trained for simple jobs, according to their abilities, it employs a staff consisting of 23 defectologists, a psychologist, a social worker and nine vocational instructors.

The life of the children and their education, is organised in groups. All newly admitted children are put in observation groups (three-six months), during which time an evaluation is made of their abilities as well as interests and characteristics so that they can later be placed in the groups that are the most suitable for

them. For children younger than 15 years, groups are formed according to age and the degree of impairment. For those who are older, the groups are also separated according to sexes. For children older than 15 years, so-called "care groups" are formed, in which providing care is the primary element, and groups for work therapy, training and job performance.

No work programme is prescribed for their education.

Special needs teachers in cooperation with members of a professional team and a physician plan the work with the group and draw up an individual work plan for each child. In this they adhere to the basic guidelines of the treatment of special needs: socialisation, communication, self-help, physical activities or work therapy. Here, one should stress the need for a PE teacher or a defectologist, who would be in charge of the children's physical activities.

In the interest of the housed children and in the aim of satisfying their needs in the best possible way, the personnel need help in overcoming the crisis of work fatigue and in increasing job motivation.

This institution has very well organised production workshops, a printing house and a small farm, which are the basic requirements for the children's vocational training. For this reason, the home is orientated towards admitting children who are able to receive vocational training - moderately retarded children and children from the upper limit of serious impairment.

In order to maintain efficiency in the protection of children, there are no plans to expand its capacity.

### Priorities:

- a special needs teacher for physical education or a PE teacher;
- a music therapy teacher;
- a speech therapist;
- a cleaning lady;
- laundry ladies;
- male carers;
- male carers for the children's ward;
- a trained nurse (nutritionist).

### Staff training needs:

- immediate observation and learning about the work of such institutions in the countries of West Europe and an exchange of experience;
- "Help the Helpers" seminars on relaxation at work and ways to increase job motivation;
- visits to other homes, exchange of experience;
- internal programme of staff training, especially for technical staff and nurses, about the problems of the mentally impaired.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Health protection is fully organised for the users in the home. There are three doctors and 15 trained nurses, which is sufficient for the health service to be fully functional.

In addition to humanitarian aid, the home's small farm is an important source of food, because most of the supplies (meat, fruit, and vegetables) can be supplied from this source.

### Priorities:

- medical equipment: two sterilising chambers, an ECG unit, an EEG unit, an ultrasonic unit, a dental X-ray unit, equipment for a mini-laboratory for hepatitis and AIDS tests;
- an ambulance vehicle;
- medication: anti-epileptics, anti-psychotics;
- new clothes and footwear.

### *Views of the staff*

It is possible for the home to expand its field of work by organising daycare for children from the territory of the municipality and by employing the necessary professional workers to organise a group for moderately disabled children with behavioural and psycho-kinetic disorders. There is a possibility for erecting another home to cover social protection needs on the site, which belongs to this institution.

One of the ideas of the staff is to erect a so-called "Swedish village", with houses for couples who would live there under the observation of the institution's teachers.

# 4

## Special institution for children and youth "Dr Nikola Šumenković", Stamnica

Stamnica, 12300 Petrovac na Mlavi ■ Telephone: 012-348-042 ■ Fax: 012-348-113

There are 429 charges housed in the home for impaired children and youth in Stamnica, mostly older than 18 years. The home's capacity is 450 users. They are housed in pavilions, which are actually old miners' houses built in the first half of the 20th century. The living conditions in these facilities are extremely unsuitable. The home accommodates charges with serious, severe or moderate disabilities. There are 39 bedridden cases.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The block in Stamnica consists of a main building (A) that was erected in 1985 and 15 ground-floor buildings, which were erected in 1950. These are old miners' houses and totally inadequate for this purpose. They are on the list for demolition in the future phases of construction. The main building is in good condition. It consists of a technical block, an infirmary and an atomic shelter.

The existing project foresees the construction of two wings, consisting of a ground floor plus three storeys each. The two wings would form a whole with the main building.

Since the idea of building the wings was abandoned, the sections meant for the connection between the main buildings and the wings, which are not properly insulated, must be insulated properly, once again.

The flat roof between the main and technical block leaks and must be repaired (100 meters square).

The elevators in the infirmary are not functional and must be repaired.

The problem of the water supply of the entire complex must also be resolved by finding new water sources (exploration is under way now).

The boiler house, the laundry and the storehouses, as separate structures, are in bad condition and repairs are necessary.

#### Priorities:

- resolving the problem with the water supply;
- repair of the flat roof;
- repairs in the boiler house, laundry and storage;
- insulation.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The institution in Stamnica houses children, youth and adults with serious and severe mental disabilities, as well as charges with multiple disabilities. The institution was formed in 1964 as a home for sheltering children. In the network of social welfare institutions, it was designated as a home for adults with serious mental disabilities in 1991, but it actually always remained an institution for housing mentally disabled children. This 1991 decision had its effect on the home's staff regulations.

The capacity of the home is 450 users. There are currently 429 users, of whom 166 are children, aged from six to 24 years. All the children have been placed here in care on the basis of findings by commissions for the classification of children and youth with disabilities. Among the older users there are some who have been placed here according to the findings of health commissions for the disabled.

There are seven persons in the home with autistic disorders that are more difficult to protect from aggression or auto-aggression when they are indoors (when they are outdoors they are neither upset nor aggressive). Approximately 40 users with moderate disabilities are also kept in the home, mostly because of additional health and physical disorders. Preparation is under way for the transfers of younger, mobile users with moderate disabilities, whose recovery process is complete and who are attending vocational training.

The housed children and adults are provided with the services of social care, hygiene and health care and treatment, education, work and occupational therapy and recreational activities.

The home is located in a 10-hectare park area. The housing facilities are located in this area and include a new central building for the management, administration, health and social protection services. The ward for bedridden children is also located in the central building. Other children and adults are housed in 14

houses-pavilions. Construction plans are now being designed for a new building, where 80 children will be housed, financed by the French Red Cross.

The children in the home primarily need physical and health care and treatment. A physician is engaged in this work, together with 25 trained nurses, a laboratory technician and 80 carers. There is no physiotherapist in the institution, which is necessary for the treatment of physical disabilities and for the prevention of secondary injuries.

One social worker and one defectologist are in charge of social care and education. One defectologist cannot successfully organise, carry out and supervise the work on encouraging the development, socialisation, communication, self-help training and physical activities of this number of children and adults.

Trained nurses and carers are engaged to work directly with the children. They receive the basic instructions for stimulating the development and sensory improvement of the most seriously disabled children. The defectologist, in co-operation with the nurses and carers, works on basic training in hygiene and self-help with the severely disabled by means of a game for stimulating communication and socialisation. All mobile older and adult users are engaged in regular chores in the home and on the small farm, but they also help in looking after and helping the bedridden.

The institution also attaches great importance to preserving the children's contact with their parents and families, and parents are provided with transport from Petrovac to the home, a place to spend the night and suchlike.

### Priorities:

- one social worker;
- three defectologists (in order to cover two shifts);
- a physician;
- two physiotherapists;
- a painter, a construction worker, a carpenter.

### Staff training needs:

- seminars for all staff on the problems of the development of children with mental disabilities, and on stimulating their development.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The crucial problem of the home, which has an impact on the health protection of the beneficiaries, is the lack of clean drinking water. Because of this, there was a hepatitis epidemic in the home during several months of 2000. The staff also underline the problem of the medical treatment of the users suffering from chronic diseases (celiac disease, epilepsy, TB).

The institution has an organised health service, consisting of one physician, 20 trained nurses and one laboratory technician. Medical specialists are also engaged on a part-time basis.

Food for the patients is provided by means of regular donations from international humanitarian organisations.

### Priorities:

- renewal of laboratory equipment (hematology counter, chemicals, test tubes, pipettes);
- reconstruction of the quarantine pavilion;
- equipping of the X-ray room;
- medical material and equipment: a kit for minor surgical interventions, anti-tetanus kits, tuberculostatics, drums for the distribution of medicines and a cart, gynaecological spirals, permanent catheters, gloves, masks, stethoscopes, blood pressure measuring kits, a syringe for ear rinsing, a kidney basin;
- food supplies: honey, fresh yeast, fruit;
- footwear: rubber slippers, trainers, galoshes, new clothes for almost all the users;
- other equipment necessary in the home: TV and radio sets, beds, boilers, a 125kW-generator, an ironing press, a camera, and an announcement system.

### *Views of the staff*

The institution should preserve its profile, and therefore remain a home for children with serious and severe disabilities. In order to improve the functioning of the home, it is necessary to complete the construction of the new housing facility.

# 5 Centre for daycare and accommodation of children with disabilities

The centre in Belgrade is a complex institution in terms of organisation (with two infirmaries and five daycare units), in terms of its founders (the city, the Republic), sources of income (republican and city budgets and the Republican health insurance fund), and from the aspect of the disabilities of the children it caters for (children with impaired hearing, children with mental disabilities and autistic children). The facilities are located in different areas.

The infirmaries are a boarding home and daycare for children and youth with hearing impairments and the infirmary for autistic children and youth. The daycare centres for autistic children are located in Belgrade, Diljska 12 and Kornelija Stankovića 13. The daycare centres for children and youth with mental disabilities are in Belgrade, Šekspirova bb, in Zemun and in Obrenovac. Such a complex institution with dislocated facilities has trouble in functioning (for example preparation and distribution of food, laundry, warehousing of goods, maintenance, transportation of children and suchlike), because their capacities do not satisfy the current needs.

In the organisational sense, the institution has a joint administrative, financial and technical service, a director and a professional planning team, the organisation and carrying out of social care, education, health and hygiene protection work. Every organisational unit has its own manager and is independent in the immediate protection of users.

## a) Boarding home for deaf children

Svetozara Markovića 58, 11000 Belgrade ▪ Telephone: 011-683-487

This home provides accommodation for 106 children, and its capacity is 110. It is considered that this planned capacity is insufficient and that it should be expanded. All children regularly attend a special education programme.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The boarding house is situated in the loft of a three-storey building, erected in 1988. The structure is in fairly good condition.

The heating in the loft is not good, and the radiators are insufficient. One of the priorities is the problem of additional heating.

Besides, the wooden outer windows are in poor condition, most of which cannot shut properly, additionally aggravates the heating problem. The windows need repairing or replacement.

The hydro insulation in the bathrooms must be renewed, as well as some minor repairs done on taps, showers, fans and some bath tubs.

The dining room and the kitchen on the ground floor require more serious interventions. The furniture in the dining room is completely ruined, particularly the tables, which should be replaced with new ones.

The kitchen, which supplies several children's homes with meals, should be totally reconstructed and new equipment purchased. The home lacks storage space.

#### Priorities:

- resolving the problem of additional heating;
- new outer windows;
- hydro insulation in the bathrooms;
- adaptation of the kitchen and dining room.

## Educational work and the structure of the staff

The boarding home for children and youth with impaired hearing accommodates children who attend elementary or secondary schools for children with hearing impairments. The capacity of the home is 110 in the boarding home and 10 in the daycare centre for children of pre-school age with impaired hearing. All children regularly attend school so their education and the organisation of their life are relatively simple.

The teachers are qualified (with college or university degrees) for working with children who have special needs and they are specialists for working with persons with impaired hearing.

Education is carried out according to the plan and programme for children with impaired hearing, recommended by the Education Council of Serbia in 1978, and according to the regulations on education and the organisation of life and work in homes for pupils, passed by the Ministry of Education in 1997. According to its function and the organisation of work, this home corresponds to institutions within the education system and should formally belong to this network of institutions. One should add that the management, administrative and financial services are located in the premises on the boarding house, which disturbs the work and life of the children. Apart from that, the kitchen, with a planned capacity only for this home, is overburdened because it is used for preparing food for the children in the other facilities of the centre.

### Priorities:

- the home lacks special teaching aids for children with impaired hearing and individual hearing aids, in the process of education;
- the training of teachers and nurses for working with the parents of disabled children.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

The staff have pointed out that in the functioning of health protection for the children in the home, it would greatly help to improve collaboration with health institutions, which currently boils down to "pulling strings" through personal connections. In this sense, cooperation with the dental service, which has so far been paid for, would also be useful.

### Priorities:

- supplies: special supplies for certain kinds of diets, special vitamins, honey, meat (except chicken), bioprotein flour, fruit, vegetables, margarine;
- a partial renewal of kitchen equipment;
- new clothes and seasonal footwear are needed, although the parents provide clothes and footwear.

### *Views of the staff*

The boarding home should be separated from the organisation of the centre because according to its function, the home is a part of the educational system.

Furthermore, if the boarding home is to be separated from the centre for daycare and the accommodation of children and youth with disabilities, one should bear in mind that new premises will be needed for the Centre's general services, as well as an alternative way for providing meals for children in the Centre's other organisational units.

Besides singling out the boarding home for children with impaired hearing as a typically educational institution, an increase of the Centre's overall capacities is also planned, by the opening of such facilities in all the Belgrade municipalities. In this framework there should also be a possibility for children to stay in daycare for several days. Such a system would help families in caring for their impaired children over a longer period of time. If such an institution is closer to the family's place of residence, it becomes easier to use it, the child will be able to adjust more easily and move more freely in its environment. Such a system would make the local community more interested in helping the institution and its children in a concrete way.

## b) Daycare for autistic children

Diljska 12, 11000 Belgrade ▪ Telephone: 011-783-230

There are 28 users, aged between three and 14, who stay every day in this home that provides daycare for autistic children. Twenty-three of the children are aged between seven and 14, while only five are younger than seven years. All the beneficiaries are autistic.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building is located in a residential area. It was built in 1996 and is in good condition. The windows and window cases are in poor condition and should be repaired or replaced. The furniture and equipment are also in good condition, except for the observation by the staff that the furniture has sharp edges and is not high enough should be replaced with more suitable items, while this furniture should be given to some other children's home. The jacuzzi in the bathroom next to the gym needs repairing.

#### Priorities:

- replacement of windows and window cases in the loft;
- replacement of some of the furniture;
- repairs on the Jakuzzi.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The daycare for autistic children is located in Diljska Street, in a separate house that was converted for this purpose in 1996. The state of the interior and the equipment for working with the children is satisfactory. The staff pay attention to the functionality and esthetics of the equipment they use, which indicates their active approach, the adequate engagement of the children, and there is careful observation and alertness to any possible outbursts of aggression.

Aggressiveness is not excluded and it is usually connected with an interruption in taking the necessary medication.

Nine defectologists and 10 nurses take care of the 28 children, who are organised in five groups. The institution is supposed to have a PE teacher and carers. The employment of this staff would create the optimum conditions for working with the children.

Since these are children primarily with a health problem, they are under the constant supervision of the medical staff, nurses, and once a week they see a specialist from the centre.

**Since April 2000, an experiment has been under way in the institution, involving a special regime of meals without white wheat flour, a new method applied in the world in the treatment of autism. The method is expected to show its full effect after two years of implementation,**

**and the institution's staff have noted an improvement in the children whose parents adhere to the instructions regarding meals at home.**

The so-called **Belgrade integration method** is applied in education and upbringing, encompassing the organisation of life and teaching children with special needs, which is adjusted to the needs and capabilities of autistic children. This programme envisages a well-structured daily regime, self-help training, socialisation in closed and open social environments, speech therapy through organised activities and, individually, physical exercise and activities, work on education through musical, visual and verbal contents, and handiwork and individual exercises to re-educate psycho-motorial functions.

### Priorities:

- specialization at the Faculty of Defectology;
- additional training for work with the parents of disabled children.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

10 nurses from the centre provide health care with a physician regularly on duty, who is also the head of the Centre's health service.

### Priorities:

- medicines: Neuleptil drops, Efitil, Mazepin...;
- supplies: because of the diet being implemented in the home, fruit is needed - kiwi, oranges, tangerines, melons, water-melons;
- kitchen equipment: two large saucepans, stainless steel baking tins, a cooker, a deep freezer, a multipractic, an additional 50-liter chamber for the refrigerator;
- tracksuits, trainers and slippers;
- other necessary equipment: rubber footholds for stairs, uniforms for the staff and the children, equipment for the gym, a computer, a closed circuit video system for monitoring the children.

### *Views of the staff*

In order to maintain the performance standard of this institution, the staff's job motivation and the level of interest in this domain must be stimulated through organising supplementary training that deals with scientific novelties and new practices in the treatment of autism at seminars or through some other form of work, specialization, or occasional training for co-operation and working with the parents of children with disabilities or ill children.

## c) Daycare for children and youth with autism

Kornelija Stankovića 13, 11000 Belgrade ▪ Telephone: 011-435-115 ▪ Fax: 011-683-487

Thirty beneficiaries with autistic disorders stay in this institution every day. They are children aged between 14 and 18 (11), and children older than 18 years (19). Among these children are 24 patients with multiple disabilities, two children are blind, five suffer from serious and one from moderate mental disabilities.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The facility is located in the residential part of the central town area, in a very solid building, erected in the 1930s.

The interior is in very good condition and the furniture is satisfactory. The roof windows in the loft leak. The windows in all the rooms do not shut and seal properly and should be repaired or replaced.

The parquet on the first floor and in the rooms is covered with carpeting because it is totally ruined. New parquet flooring should be laid.

There are two apartments that are private property within the home block. One is 50 square meters and is situated on the ground floor, while the other is approximately the same size and is in the house in the yard. There is a possibility of making a deal with the tenants and moving them out to some other, adequate locations. That would mean a major extension of the children's home.

It is also possible to add another storey to the building in the back yard.

#### Priorities:

- new roof windows and all other windows;
- new parquet flooring.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

This institution provides daycare, health protection, education, teaching children with special needs and work therapy for autistic youth that live with their families.

The institution caters for 30 young persons with autism, who are older than 15 years, in five groups. Seven defectologists, seven trained nurses and one PE teacher work with them. The need has become evident to employ a physiotherapist, as well as for part-time music and visual art teachers.

The programme applied in working with children with special needs consists of continual training in self-help, self-care, socialisation in the internal and external environments, physical activities inside the institution and outside it, communication through activity, and individual attention.

Life in the institution evolves in the same rhythm every day, which is important for autistic persons. Work therapy is an important aspect of defectological work (working with wool, weaving and tapestry, working with clay, making wicker items, and making PVC bags).

### Priorities:

- a physiotherapist;
- music and visual art teachers.

### Staff training needs:

- therapy techniques for working with patients;
- additional staff training for working with parents.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Seven trained nurses from the centre, supervise the health condition of the patients with a doctor, the head of the Centre's medical service, who is regularly in attendance. There are difficulties in providing medical treatment for additional health problems in special institutions, because physicians of other profiles do not know about the problems of autism. This is a common problem in all the institutions that care for autistic children.

### Priorities:

- medication: Novalgetol ampoules, Akineton ampoules, Bensedin, anti-histaminics, liquid Liobif, medical coal (charcoal);
- medical equipment: thermometers, spatulas, a weight and height measuring unit;
- supplies: fruit for autistic children's diet, margarine, fresh vegetables;
- kitchen equipment: a deep freezer (50 liters), saucepans and dishes, cutlery, a cooker, a dish washer, a refrigerator;
- tracksuits, underwear, socks, vests, trainers, slippers;
- one transport vehicle;
- other equipment necessary for the home: tables for the daycare rooms, couches, a washing-machine, PE apparatus (gladiator, gym mats, horizontal bars, Swedish box), mirrors, wardrobe, loudspeakers, flooring tiles for the dining room.

### *Views of the staff*

Working conditions are favourable, the staff's job motivation is good and should be maintained by means of organising interesting seminars about working with autistic children and cooperation with their parents.

d)

## Daycare for mentally retarded children and youth

Šekspirova bb, 11000 Belgrade ▪ Telephone: 011-622-745

This institution cares for 75 children and young people daily, mostly with moderate and severe mental disabilities. The premises are in a prefabricated, single-storey building, surrounded by a large yard. Most users are aged between 20 and 30 (58). The characteristic problem of this home is that the parents of the users are mostly older people, who retired long ago, and are often unable to take care of their children who spend the day in the home. The parents launched an initiative to raise funds for the construction of a new, solid brick housing facility.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The day care home for mentally retarded children is a prefabricated ground floor building. Its roof has been reconstructed and the building was repainted three years ago.

Considering the type of building, it is in good condition.

The home has a very large yard with a circular running track and some playground equipment (swings, jungle gym).

The children's parents have suggested that a solid building be erected on this site, and they are willing to participate in its construction. The aim of this would be a new, combined infirmary and part infirmary/day care home.

At present the heating is the only major problem, The boiler room the school is connected to is in the building of the Academy of Pedagogy. Due to the different working hours and school holidays of these two institutions, the home is very often left without heating.

The installed electric power is insufficient for additional electrical heating. The best solution to this problem would be to separate the heating systems of the two institutions.

The school needs one more telephone line.

### Priorities:

- resolving the problem of heating, since the day care home is connected to the heating system of the adjacent building;
- an additional telephone line.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

This home for children and youth with mental disabilities provides 12-hour daycare, health supervision, education and work therapy for children and youth whose intellectual development is impeded to a degree that does not permit them to become literate or educated even through special programmes, and who live with their parents.

There are 80 children in Šekspirova Street. Eleven defectologists, qualified for working with patients suffering from oligophrenia, four nurses and a PE teacher work with them, while a professional team consisting of a physician, a defectologists, a social worker and a speech therapist work with them once a week, or according to the patients' needs.

The number of children and their 12-hour daily stay is on the verge of becoming a burden and disrupting the well-organised work schedule and reducing the staff's efficiency. There is no prescribed programme for the education of the children with moderate mental disabilities. Instead, activities are planned according to the areas of defectology that have become accepted in practice (socialisation, self-help, communication, psycho-motorial exercises, art education and vocational training). Defectological work is performed in groups and the children's achievements are monitored individually.

Work therapy consists of handicrafts, such as sewing, knitting, weaving and tapestry, making small leather items, making plastic bags.

### Priorities:

- two defectologists;
- one nurse because of the children's sensitivity and the possibility of them injuring themselves.

### Staff training needs:

- brief seminars about innovations in defectological theory and practice;
- medical training about the chief health problems of this population;
- training of all the staff for working with the parents of disabled children.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Four nurses are in charge of supervising the patients' health and a physician - the head of the Centre's health service - comes to the institution once a week.

### Priorities:

- medication: anti-epileptics, sedatives;
- medical equipment: blood pressure measuring unit, spatulas, uniforms for the staff;
- kitchen equipment: a cooker, a dish washer, refrigerator-freezer (50 liters), equipment for a domestic science cabinet, saucepans and dishes for the kitchen;
- tracksuits, trainers;
- other necessary equipment: a moving belt for the gym, two static bicycles, and a button-making machine.

### *Views of the staff*

Occasional lectures on news in the theory and practice of defectology are required to maintain the standard of work in the institution, as well as training the staff for working with the parents of children with disabilities.

## e) Infirmery for children and youth suffering from autism

Autoput bb, Bežanijska kosa, 11080 Zemun ▪ Telephone: 011-605-274

This infirmery provides permanent accommodation for 43 patients, all diagnosed as suffering from autism. The capacity of the home that only recently received some equipment (since it used to be one of the most poorly equipped homes) is 41. Most users (24) are older than 18 years. There are seven children aged between seven and 14 years.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building appears to be in good condition. It is a two-storey building, with a sloping roof, covered with corrugated asbestos cement sheets, built in the 1960s.

The infirmery lacks a rehabilitation department, and there has been a proposal to adapt the loft for that purpose, or to build an additional storey on top of the building.

The interior is in satisfactory condition. There is no isolation room, while the nurse's room needs furniture. Currently, the outer windows are being repaired.

Equipment and furniture are non-existent, except beds, which are in bad condition and they do not have mattresses with protective plastic covers, or any bed linen. There is absolutely no furniture in the day room. It should be completely refurnished.

The dining room and the bathrooms should be completely reconstructed.

The yard around the building is fenced off and arranged as a park, but there is no recreation equipment for the youngsters.

### Priorities:

- adaptation of the loft into a rehabilitation department;
- an isolation room;
- new furniture and equipment;
- reconstruction of the dining room and bathrooms.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

This infirmery for autism belongs to the network of social care institutions. It is located in a converted building that used to be a school. The capacity is 42 users. The institution was planned to house children and youth but as time passed the number of users became adults; therefore the prospects are that the infirmery will become an institution for housing adults. Moreover, the patients are from Belgrade; their parents are attached to them and are getting old, so the likelihood of them taking their children back home, or travelling, if an institution for adults is formed outside Belgrade, is remote.

The number of beneficiaries and requests for admission illustrate the need for such an institution to exist in Belgrade, and raise the question of the need to expand the capacity of the home to cater both for children and adults. It is especially important that an infirmery exists for autistic children with additional disorders, who are without parental care. The capacity need not be large, but such an institution must exist.

The infirmery's location in a city environment is not very suitable. Many years of experience show that autistic people feel comfortable in open spaces, in nature and they enjoy physical activity. The current environment is not suitable for going for walks, although the equipped gym and the possibility to erect additional facilities in the yard for physical activities and sports could provide opportunities for them to satisfy their need for physical movement.

The users suffer from serious or severe disorders in their intellectual development, and besides autistic disorders they suffer from additional health problems. There are also users with other mental disabilities. In view of their age, few patients are likely to make any progress in their development, so health and physical care is primary in the organisation of their lives, and in defectological work it is the organising of physical activities, work therapy, permanent training in order to preserve what has been accomplished in the domain of self-help, hygiene, socialisation and communication.

The staff who work directly with the patients are defectologists, trained nurses and carers. More carers are needed. A great advantage for the residents is the PE teacher, who organizes and helps them with physical activities, exercises in the gym and outdoors. There is also a vacancy for a physiotherapist in order to make their treatment more complete.

A medical specialist is in charge of organising health care and prescribing therapy, and comes to work in the infirmary one day in the week. Ten nurses, working in three shifts, monitor the patients' health and administer treatment.

A problem in providing health care for these patients is that it is difficult to send them for treatment in city health institutions. These institutions are reluctant to admit patients from this infirmary, or they are unable to establish the proper communication with them to make it possible to provide adequate treatment.

### Priorities:

- a physiotherapist;
- two carers;
- two nurses.

### Staff training needs:

- specific training in the domain of health for all staff;
- computer training;
- training for working with the parents of disabled children.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Eleven nurses monitor the patients' health, and a doctor - the head of the Centre's health service, comes to the institution once a week.

### Priorities:

- medication: Largaktil, Fenargan, antibiotics;
- medical equipment: medical material, medicine cabinet, hygiene and cleaning articles;
- supplies: honey, milk, fruit juices, fruit and vegetables;
- kitchen equipment: a cooker, a deep freezer, a refrigerator, crockery for the dining-room;
- new clothes, bed linen, underwear and socks;
- one transport vehicle;
- other equipment needed in the home: 1-2 washing-machines and 1-2 tumble dryers.

### *Views of the staff*

To meet the needs of Belgrade and the entire Republic, it is necessary to expand the capacities for the permanent housing of autistic children and adults.

In order to provide better care and treatment for persons with autism, the staff need occasional refresher courses, as well as training for new staff in the problems and treatment of autism. In addition, it is important to maintain the level of knowledge of all the staff for working and collaborating with the parents of children with disabilities. The experts from the centre can perform permanent education and training, because the institution has professional staff who are highly qualified in this field.



**Institutions for education of children and youth**



## INTRODUCTION

According to the decision of the Centre for Social Work (which includes the view of the relevant ministry that applies to children below 14 years of age) or on the basis of a court decision, children and young people who violate the generally accepted social rules of behaviour in certain situations are sent to suitable educational institutions that provide them with protection, education and health care. Placing a child in an educational institution is a measure that relies on two fundamental premises: a criminal legal basis, and a social and a family legal basis. In the former case, this measure may be pronounced for criminally liable juveniles who need to be under constant professional supervision. In the latter case, guardianship authorities have the possibility of sending children below the age of 14 years, who are not criminally liable but have committed a criminal offence, as well as children and young people whose life and development have been at risk and deviant for years, to this kind of institution.

In the legal system of the Republic of Serbia, these institutions are called Institutions for the Education of Children and Youth and, in Serbia, there are currently three such institutions: The Institution for the Education of Children and Youth in Belgrade, the Institution for the Education of Children and Youth in Knjaževac and the Institution for Education in Niš. The members of the YuCRC team of professionals also inspected these institutions in the course of the project The Situation Of Children In Institutions For Social Care In Serbia.

The complex and heterogeneous structure of the children who are placed in institutions as well as the complexity of the problems these institutions deal with inevitably imposes the question of them continuing to function effectively. As an illustration, we only mention the Institution for the Education of Children and Youth in Belgrade, which came into being by joining three institutions: the "Vasa Stajic" Home, the Shelter for Children and Youth and the Institution for the Education of Children and Youth, where two organisational units operate today: the unit for institutional treatment and the shelter, with its admission department. The case is similar regarding the institutions in Knjaževac and Niš, particularly in regard of the heterogeneous composition of their occupants. Here, we pay special attention to the fact that in the absence of special institutions for the accommodation of child and young criminal offenders, and children with deviant behaviour, with additional physical or mental disabilities, they are accommodated in the aforementioned educational institutions. This practice brings the professional work of these institutions into question, therefore the demand for opening special institutions or institutions for this category of children, imposes itself as a dire necessity.

In the course of this project, besides these institutions, the members of the expert team from the YuCRC also visited two institutions that are not under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Serbia's Ministry of Social Affairs: The Correctional Institution in Kruševac and the Juvenile Prison in Valjevo. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia is responsible for these two institutions and the decision to institutionalise offenders in a house of correction or a penalty of juvenile prison is served in them, based on a court decision issued to the young perpetrators of criminal acts. In view of the fact that there are children in these institutions for whom the Convention on the Rights of the Child seeks special treatment and protection, we believed it was necessary to visit these institutions as well. We also consider it necessary to stress that the separate legislative responsibility of two ministries, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Affairs, is not the best solution regarding these institutions, in the context of their effectiveness. In that sense, we believe that future legislative changes must take this fact into account, as well.

**CUMULATIVE TABLE 3**  
Institutions of Education

name of home and place	capacity	total number of children	year of establish.	age structure				number of children with LD
				aged up to 7	aged up to 14	aged up to 18	aged above 18	
1. Home for the Education of Youth, Knjaževac								
	84	66 on the list, 52 in the home	-	-	45	21	-	26
2. Institute for the Education of Youth, with admission department, Niš								
	48	33 on the list, 16 in the home	1961.	-	-	13	3	11
3. Institution for the Education of Youth, Belgrade								
	96+30	44+20	1950.	-	4+10	30+10	10	10+8

## Home for the education of youth, Knjaževac

Bore Stankovića bb, 19350 Knjaževac ■ Telephone: 019-761-835, 731-426 ■ Fax: 019-731-332

The Home for the education of youth accommodates 66 children. Its capacity is 72 places. Most of the children are from seven to 14 years of age (45). They include 26 children who suffer from minor mental disabilities, and 14 of them periodically receive treatment for these disorders.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building appears in fairly good condition. The flat roof leaks. The problem has been partly resolved by the construction of a sloping roof atop the management building, and the rest should be resolved in the same way.

The interior of the building looks good on the ground floor and first floor; except there is practically no furniture or equipment. The door cases have been destroyed and beds, cupboards and other equipment are in very poor condition and must be repaired or replaced.

The second floor cannot be used due to the roof leaking. The reconstruction and repair of the flooring began but now, that is also in jeopardy due to the leaking roof.

The repair of the roof is urgent i.e. the complete structure must have a sloping roof.

#### Priorities:

- construction of a sloping roof on the remaining part of the building;
- new furniture in the dormitories and day rooms.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The Institution for Education in Knjaževac was founded in 1948. The children moved into the present, specially built premises in 1974. The facility was built with a capacity for 84 places, or seven educational groups. In recent years, part of the home has been used to shelter refugees, and the institution used the premises for six educational groups. Since the number of refugees has diminished and there is more free space in the home, there are plans to remain at a capacity of six educational groups, to maintain efficiency, and equip the space, which would have been used for a seventh educational group, for spare time activities and other forms of work with the children.

Besides the accommodation facility, there is also a school for the elementary education of the children in this institution. There is a farm on the premises to train the children to work and its produce is used to cover the needs of the institution.

This institution houses children of both sexes, aged seven to 14 years, and according to the instructions of the relevant ministry, the children may remain in the home till they are 17 years of age, that is, while they can still regularly acquire an elementary school education, in keeping with the Elementary Education Act.

There are seven teachers, pedagogues with a college or university degree, who are specialists in the field of resocialisation, employed in the educational process, as required by the regulations. The institution has difficulty in getting a psychologist, and in the past few months, a pedagogue was absent from work, which placed an additional burden on the other teachers.

Education is carried out in the educational groups, five of which follow the general education programme, and one that is an observation group in which there is always a sufficient number of newcomers. In the

latter group, additional diagnoses are made and the children are helped to adapt to the new conditions and begin their treatment of resocialisation. Another teacher is needed for this group because of the need for constant supervision and the need to work with it, all day.

The programmes and plans of educational work are based on the general principles of special and general pedagogy and psychology and experience, observing of new forms of behaviour and new problems with children (a high degree of neglect in upbringing, maladjustment, psychiatric disorders, a high percentage of mental retardation, combined with other problems).

The institution is organised so as to keep the children occupied with work, recreation and leisure.

The children do the household chores in the institution and work in the yard, the orchard and on the farm. The tasks are adjusted to the interests and abilities of the children and they are encouraged to work with rewards.

The home is fairly well integrated in the local environment where there is no antagonism towards these children. This helps in the socialisation of the children and in controlling their behaviour outside the institution.

Considerable funds are needed for the development of the institution, in order to secure all the equipment that is needed for the children's activities. The local community does not have enough donors to cover these needs. It is important to mention that the institution has a clear concept and precise plans regarding this equipment, and that it is gradually carrying them out.

### Priorities:

- a trained nurse;
- a teacher for the second shift, for carrying out the observation group programme;
- a teacher for leisure;
- a worker - instructor, to carry out the work programmes;
- finding someone to fill in the continually advertised vacancy for a psychologist.

### Staff training needs:

- supplementary training about new trends in the practice and theory of defectology.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

General and specialised medical institutions provide health care to the children in the institute, when this is necessary. The teachers supervise the children's health, even though they are not trained for this. The organisation of work is such that they do not have enough time to take the children to the doctor.

The worst problems in education and the process of protection are children and young people with mental health problems as a result of which their behaviour is asocial.

In Knjaževac, the specialised health service is not well developed.

It is necessary to open a post for a trained nurse because of all the risks the children in the home are exposed to.

### Priorities:

- blood pressure measuring unit, sterilising chamber;
- a transport vehicle;
- other necessary equipment in the home: TV sets and stereos, CD players, computers, a photo-laboratory, billiard tables, table tennis boards.

## Views of the staff

In co-operation with the Centre for Social Work, the home in Knjaževac plans to open a day-care centre for local children with behavioural and social development problems.

It has signed a protocol on co-operation with the Faculty of Defectology in Belgrade, to help link theory and practice in defectology.

In order to promote educational work in the institute, the staff need supplementary training about novelties in the theory of resocialisation and practical defectological work.

# 2

## Institution for the education of youth, Niš

Božidarčeva 37, 18000 Niš ▪ Telephone: 018-43-619 ▪ Fax: 018-43-618

The Institution for education in Niš has a capacity of 48 places and it includes an admission department. On the day of the survey, there were 33 children in the official record, whereas, in actual fact only 16 were present. Part of this facility is used to shelter refugees. About one third of the charges are slightly mentally disabled. The children are between 14 and 18 years of age, and only three, at the time of the survey, were older than 18 years.

### Architectural and structural conditions

The block consists of three buildings, for housing the children, the school, and the management. One of them is being used to house refugees.

The overall condition is catastrophic. The facades of all the structures are in very bad condition since there are no roof gutters.

The gym and a few workshops have been renovated, but are now in jeopardy because the gutters have disintegrated. New gutters must be installed urgently.

Heating is another urgent problem that need to be resolved in the new project of installations. There is a boiler room, and there is enough fuel, but the heating not good. It is necessary to inspect the system and find the solution to the problem.

The equipment in the school is practically nonexistent, though the premises for the accommodation of children are in no better condition. Tables, chairs, cupboards and the day room furniture and equipment are missing.

The capacity of each of the three facilities is about 30 children, and only 16 children were there at the time of this survey, so it might be reasonable to reconsider the need for an institution with this capacity.

One of the solutions could be to change the purpose of some parts of the block.

#### Priorities:

- construction of new rain gutters;
- the connection of the existing heating system to the municipality heating system;
- converting the boiler room into storage space;
- to replace the missing furniture (chairs, tables, cupboards);
- renovation of pavilion III currently used by refugees;
- renovation of electricity installations, plumbing and drainage system;
- renovation of the school workshop.

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The Institution for education in Niš accommodates boys with behavioural disorders, aged from 14 to 18 years who are sent here by instruction of the Centre for Social Work, and charges who have been sentenced by the court to be remanded in an institution of education (children over the age of 14 years, while the measure of education may expire at the age of 21 years).

The real capacity of the institution is 48 places because one housing facility has been used for several years to house refugees. The number of children on the list is between 30 and 40, but in actual fact there are fewer children and their composition keeps changing.

In the yard of the Institution is a school, which has a very well equipped gym (adapted and equipped by the International Red Cross organisation). The Institution has an equipped admission department that provides shelter to fugitive and street children for a period of up to seven days.

It employs six teachers, two psychologists, a pedagogue and a social worker for education and the general care of the children.

Educational work is programmed and planned according to the principles of general treatment for classical resocialisation which involves working in educational groups, abiding by the daily timetable of activities, obligatory education, spare time activities and so on.

The reduced number of occupants and the different set of problems that burden them (mental disability, neglected education, life outside an organised environment, drug addiction, mental disorders, bad habits, serious criminal offences and so on) have made it necessary to organise work with the children individually.

A significant number of children with mental disorders receive treatment in an infirmary or outpatient clinic in co-operation with the town's health services.

Owing to the age of the children, the school in the Institution is designed as a school for vocational training. Many of the children without elementary schooling complete their elementary education in a fast elementary education course for adults.

Jobs in the institution consist only of tidying the rooms and the yards (which are arranged and tidy), but the workshops (carpentry and precision mechanics) are disordered and unequipped (the equipment is unusable).

A number of the children work for private businesses in the town and earn some money, and their social experience is not supervised by the teacher. The children do not have regular or sufficient pocket money. The furniture and equipment in the dormitories and other rooms in the facility are ruined or do not exist.

### Priorities:

- specialised training on non-violent communication with young people with criminal tendencies;
- training for work with abused children;
- training for work with children inclined to drug abuse, mentally disabled children and children unused to an organised life;
- emphasis on planning workshops for work therapy adjusted to the category of children in this institution.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

Health care in the home is provided in co-operation with the health institutions in Niš, which is very good. Otherwise, the home does not employ a trained nurse and the children's health is at great risk.

The charges have very few clothes and footwear. They need new clothing.

### Priorities:

- kitchen equipment: a cooking stove, a dishwasher, and a fan;
- other necessary equipment in the home: equipment for the educational groups (wardrobes, a TV set and a radio), a computer for the professional team.

### *Views of the staff*

This kind of institution for the education of male juveniles is necessary in this area; therefore, it should continue to exist, but it should only accommodate young people who have been sentenced by court to corrective educational measures. In that case, it should belong within the justice system.

## Institution for the education of youth - **Belgrade**

Bulevar JNA 219, 11000 Belgrade ▪ Telephon: 011-492-301 ▪ Fax: 011-471-622

There are 44 children in the Belgrade Institution for the Education of Youth (on the day of the survey 20 of them were in the admission department in the institution). Otherwise, the capacity of the institution is 96 places in the home and 30 in the admission department. The charges are mainly between the ages of 14 and 18 years (30). Of all the children who were in this home during the survey, 18 were slightly mentally disabled (10 in the home and 8 in the admission department).

### Architectural and structural conditions

The building was constructed in 1919, and renovated in 1955. It is in very good condition, with a new facade and a repaired roof.

The interior should be completely restored. The woodwork is in poor condition, from the entrance door that does not close, and the interior doors (mostly broken or torn out) to the windows which need repairing or replacement.

The flooring is also in a bad state (ceramic tiles and parquet in the rooms) and should be repaired or renewed.

The furniture in the day rooms and dormitories is completely dilapidated or missing, and new beds, cupboards, shelves, tables, and chairs must be purchased.

The bathrooms need to be completely renovated, and have new fittings.

The gym in the basement has no equipment or adequate ventilation, and the parquet floor is ruined. New flooring must be laid, a ventilation system installed and new equipment purchased.

The telephone network the building should be checked and repaired.

The loft above the admission department was destroyed in a fire. Only the roof has been repaired so far. It is necessary to renovate these premises and put them to use.

#### Priorities:

- new woodwork: windows, interior and entrance doors;
- new furniture (beds, shelves, cupboards, tables, and chairs).

### Educational work and the structure of the staff

The Institution for the Education of Youth in Belgrade is a complex institution consisting of two organisational units, an institution for treatment and a shelter. It came into being by amalgamating three institutions, the "Vasa Stajić" Home, the Shelter for Children and Youth, and the Institution for the Education of Children and Youth - Belgrade, the so-called Central Shelter.

The institution's capacity is 90 places, 60 for accommodation in the Institution, and 30 in the shelter and the admission department. The "Vasa Stajić" School is also part of the institution, where the majority of children housed in the institution and the shelter, who spend a longer period of time in this form of care, attend school.

The Institution's two organisational units were in separate buildings until 1998. The shelter was in Zvečanska Street No.52, a facility that had been specially built for that purpose, which is now the Home for secondary school children and student youth.

By combining these two organisational units the institution did not achieve the proper functional connection. Owing to the different structures of the children, there is a need for the children from the shelter to be protected from possible negative experiences in mingling with the children from the institution, and this is achieved by the children in the shelter practically being shut inside one facility of the institution. In order for the shelter to function adequately, it is likely that the best solution would be to move it to new premises.

Children of both sexes from the age of seven to 18 years are accommodated in the institution, that is, until the measure of being sent to an institution of education has expired, and that means that they may stay in the institution until the age of 21 years.

The shelter and the admission department take in children and young people who live on the street or are neglected in some other way, and they stay here until they return to their families or the environment where they live, or until the guardianship authorities find other adequate measures of protection.

The basis for placing children in the institution, but also to the shelter, points to the heterogeneous

composition of the children. The difficulties of the children in their development, health, behaviour and so on increase this diversity, making it difficult to organise the work and process of education and resocialisation. The combination of male and female youth in the same premises poses a particular problem for the staff. The increased number of children with special difficulties increases the range of needs for individual treatment.

More workers than required by the regulations are employed for the planned capacities of both organisational units.

Education is programmed at the level of the institution, and planned at the level of the educational group, individual services and the individual plan of work with each child.

Basic education is organised according to the general resocialisation treatment, combined with intensified individual work with each child or young person.

Coordinators are appointed for the special education programmes, to work with all the children individually or in specially formed groups. The employed professional workers need training for individual work with the children, but also for group work with those children who have particular difficulties in development. This training should help them to learn about the problems and how to deal with them.

Non-governmental organisations with special programmes (educational, creative, sports and so on) are periodically engaged to work with the children in the institution and in the shelter. This work is not continual, nor do the teachers resume it.

The institution does not have sufficiently or adequately equipped premises for work, sports or leisure activities. Not enough organised use is made of the current premises.

The work of education at present is burdened with difficulties because the institutional treatment is not defined either in terms of duration or the termination of any particular programme, there is no defined degree of success in the process of resocialisation and this practically means staying in the institution till the natural termination of protection when the occupant reaches adulthood or the measure expires. Even in the case of the successful completion of the process of resocialisation, if a child has no parents or has no possibility of returning to his/her natural family, it is very difficult to transfer him/her from the institution to a home for children without parental care because of prejudice.

Opportunities are emerging for solving the aforementioned problems by planning co-operation with the Faculty of Defectology in Belgrade, through the signing of a Protocol on Co-operation.

### Priorities:

- pedagogues for mentally disabled children;
- a caretaker.

#### Staff training needs:

- supplementary training for teachers, to work with children with behavioural disorders;
- new techniques in therapy for young people (e.g. non-violent communication, psychodrama);
- training in new techniques of work with mentally impaired children and young people.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

General and specialised medical institutions provide health care for the children, when this is necessary. The teachers, who are in charge of health supervision, are not sufficiently trained for this kind of work, and they do not have enough time to take the children to the doctor. Consequently, it is extremely important to open a post for a nurse who would continually supervise the children's health because these are children whose health is at great risk.

It is necessary to employ a part-time neuropsychiatrist for the adequate treatment of the children with mental health problems.

### Priorities:

- kitchen equipment: items for maintaining hygiene in the kitchen (dishcloths, sponges, caps...), dishes (plates and saucepans);
- foodstuffs: honey;
- renewal of clothing and footwear;
- other equipment needed in the home: furniture for day rooms and bedrooms, technical appliances.

### *Views of the staff*

The institution believes that the home's traditional name "Vasa Stajić" should be restored because it is officially called the Institution for the Education of Children and Youth - Belgrade. Because of its specific process of education, the school in the home should be organisationally linked to the home. At present, it is included in the educational system. The shelter should be a separate organisation in separate premises. The home should be organised to cater exclusively for children and young people of both sexes with behavioural disorders. It is necessary to separate the children with mental health problems from the children with problems of diseases of addiction.





## **Correctional Institution and Juvenile Prison**

In its inspection of social care institutions for children and youth, the team of the Yugoslav Child Rights Centre visited the Correctional Institution in Kruševac and the Juvenile Prison in Valjevo, although these institutions are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. Regardless of this, we considered that in order to obtain a complete insight into the state of affairs in institutions where children live under the supervision of the state, we needed to have data on the position of children who have been sentenced to a correctional or criminal sanction.



## Correctional institution, **Kruševac**

Blagoja Parovića bb, 37000 Kruševac ■ Telephone: 037-26-977, 26-960

This institution of education is intended for children and youth up to the age of 18 years who have been sentenced by court to the correctional measure of being sent to a correctional institution. There are 194 occupants who are mainly older than 18 years (121). The other 73 occupants are between 14 and 18 years old. The majority of the children are mentally normal, whereas 54 children have slight mental disabilities.

### **Upbringing and education**

The correctional institution is the only institution of its kind in the Republic. Its purpose is the resocialisation of juvenile criminal offenders who have been sentenced by a court to the correctional measure of being sent to a correctional institution, and ensuring the existential needs and health care of these minors for the duration of the measure.

The facilities for the accommodation and activities of these young people are maintained and equipped with the basic requirements. General health care, prevention and treatment are organised in the institution, and specialist examinations and treatment are carried out in specialised health institutions. The director of the health service is a neuropsychiatrist, and the service also has a dentist and three trained nurses. At present, the home has 194 occupants of both sexes, aged 14 to 23 years. The total number of staff is 178, and 67 of them are engaged in the work of resocialisation (a manager for correctional education, 17 teachers, five of whom are part-time, two sports teachers, one teacher for cultural activities, 12 school teachers and 34 practical teaching instructors).

The service for education works in three departments:

- the department for personality observation, i.e. the admission department,
- the department for correctional education,
- the department for professional orientation.

The organisation of education and the resocialisation programme are carried out according to the Law of Implementation of Criminal Penalties System of the Republic of Serbia and in keeping with house regulations, which prescribe the time for leisure activities (existential needs, teaching, work, leisure activities).

The process of resocialisation is carried out according to the individual plan of work with the juvenile, the foundations of which are set by the professional team (social workers, a pedagogue, a psychologist and a doctor) in the admission department, after the observation and the examination of all factors that are important for treatment during a period of 40 to 60 days. The teacher applies the plan and changes it according to his findings and the changes that occur and reports to the court and the Centre for Social Work, every six months.

The process of resocialisation consists of work on changing the attitude towards committing crimes, developing critical attitudes and self-criticism, forming working and hygiene habits and the habit of making proper use of spare time and it is obligatorily carried out through the educational programme and vocational training.

Education is carried out according to the programmes of adult elementary education and the regular secondary school programme, in the school and in the home. Work assignments and vocational training is obligatory during the day, in shifts outside class time, and it is carried out in 27 workshops in the home. Of the 194 juveniles in the home, 99 are in the adult elementary education programme, 36 are in the regular secondary school education process, nine are on a second degree course of vocational training and 50 have completed the education process in elementary or secondary school and they are in vocational training or on work assignments in the workshops.

The objectives of education are determined according to the educational status of the juvenile or on arrival in the home, according to the level of mental impairment and the time available for the process of resocialisation. In the past few years, 25 to 30 per cent of the charges had minor mental disabilities and there were even some at the lower limit of that level, the number of minors without elementary literacy has increased so that their aim is elementary literacy and vocational training according to their abilities.

The percentage of juveniles with mental health problems and drug addiction problems has increased in

the institution. There are many former occupants of the Correctional Institution (80 per cent) who have experience with psycho-stimulants.

The education work programme lasts for a fixed period of time and also consists of preparation for the time when these young people leave. This aspect is the most difficult to carry out successfully because of difficulties in the outside environment in finding accommodation and a job, since the majority of juveniles either do not have a family or the family is inadequate.

Several teachers have received training in non-directive counselling but they lack training in more effective counselling in a specific group (non-violent communication, resistance to the group, team co-ordination and suchlike).

There is also a need for giving teachers supplementary training on delinquency, adolescent problems, drug addiction and generally, about asocial adolescent behaviour.

### Priorities:

- seven teachers;
- a teacher for culture;
- two class teachers (for mentally disabled children);
- an English language teacher;
- a social worker.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

General health care, prevention and therapy are organised in the institution, and specialist examinations and treatment are carried out in specialised health institutions. The manager of the health service is a neuropsychiatrist, and the service also has a dentist and three trained nurses. The charges undergo regular medical check-ups and no serious illnesses have been detected. It co-operates with the Health Centre in Kruševac.

Foodstuffs for preparing meals are mainly purchased, although some are obtained by means of humanitarian donations. There is a constant need for fresh food.

In terms of quantity, meals satisfy needs, but there is a shortage of fresh food.

The children are modestly dressed and new clothing and footwear are continually needed in this home.

Clothing is within the limits of what is necessary, except for the juveniles whose parents supply them with additional items.

### Priorities:

- medical material, contraceptives, a portable ECG unit, instruments;
- systematic check-ups of the employees in the home;
- other necessary equipment in the home: teaching materials, sports items, a video recorder, TV sets, stereos, musical instruments.

The capacity of the only juvenile prison in Serbia is 250 places, and while the survey was being carried out there were 183 detainees accommodated in the institution (171 in the institute, and 12 in detention). In this home, practically no one is younger than 18 years but they all committed crimes when they were minors, and they were sentenced on the basis of those circumstances.

### Upbringing and education

The institution in Valjevo is the only institution of this kind in Serbia. Sentences of juvenile detention in a duration of one to ten years and the prison sentences of younger adults of up to ten years who are first offenders and not older than 23 years are carried out in this institution.

The institution was specially built for this purpose and is equipped for the work of its employees and the housing, education, work, sports and cultural activities of its occupants. The maintenance and equipment of the institution meet the basic needs of the staff and the occupants. There are 183 detainees and 39 of them are attending a programme of secondary school education. The rest are in vocational training or on work assignments. There are 16 employees, working on education programmes (the manager of the service, teachers and a professional team), and 29 instructors and the other employees are providing vocational training and work assignments.

The education programme covers a period of five years and is applied on the approval of the relevant ministry, which finances it. Its contents involve individual work and forms of group work with the charges, their education, work assignments and leisure activities.

The organisation of education is defined by the Law of Implementation of Criminal Penalties System of the Republic of Serbia and is based on the house regulations that set the rhythm and specify the timetable of daily activities.

The content of educational work focuses on developing work habits. Currently, the material situation dictates priorities, and so education is in the background (there are no funds to pay teachers) and emphasis is placed on vocational training. This orientation in the work programme for resocialisation is also justified because the characteristics of the current population are aggressiveness and violence, so in the treatment it is necessary to keep the charges busy and physically active all the time (occupational and sports activities).

In the current structure of charges, 12 to 15 per cent have personality disorders and the others have behavioural disorders. However, the programme for the resocialisation of persons with behavioural disorders is used for both groups.

Some of the professional staff in charge of resocialisation believe that there is a need for a work programme for charges with personality disorders and ensuring conditions for the effective therapy of such persons in the process of resocialisation. The educational structure of the charges is relatively high. Most of them have secondary education (70 per cent), and the number of illiterate and mentally disabled charges is negligible.

#### Priorities:

- there is a shortage of direct teachers and class teachers.

#### Staff training needs:

- staff training for the psychological treatment of charges with personality disorders, especially disorders connected with aggressiveness, violence and suchlike...;
- cognitive therapy;
- behavioural therapy;
- training about diseases of addiction.

## Health care, meals, clothing and footwear

A doctor of internal medicine (an anaesthesiologist), a medical technician and a dentist are responsible for health supervision in the institution. There is a shortage of basic medicines in the institution's dispensary and the medical equipment is very modest.

For a long time, the institution was obliged to purchase almost all the foodstuffs for preparing meals. It was not until the beginning of this year that it started receiving donations from humanitarian organisations.

Nutritional needs are satisfied in the required measure according to the institution's regulations.

### Priorities:

- to reorganise and equip the medical bloc;
- equipment for the dispensary: portable ECG, oxygen units, a graphoscope for reading X-rays, an otoscope, a kidney basin, a syringe for rinsing out ears, a stethoscope, two blood pressure measuring kits, spatulas, lamps for throat examinations, white sheets, coats for the staff, clogs, masks and tubes for applying anaesthesia, a laryngoscope, a defibrillator, dental material, a doctor's bag...;
- one ambulance;
- the assembly of a mini-laboratory;
- foodstuffs: fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, milk;
- clothing and footwear: bales of fabric for sewing winter clothes, terylene for summer clothes, protective gloves, work overalls, boots.



## Notes





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a) Ustanove socijalne zaštite za smeštaj dece  
i omladine - Srbija - 2000-2001 b) Ustanove  
za smeštaj dece i omladine bez roditeljskog  
staranja - Srbija - 2000-2001 c) Domovi za  
decu ometenu u razvoju - Srbija - 2000-2001  
d) Zavodi za vaspitanje dece i omladine -  
Srbija - 2000-2001

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