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Day care service

Day care service is one of the community living support services. Day care is provided for children and youth with disabilities, children with behavioral problems, adults and older persons, and adults and older persons with disabilities.

Within this social service for children and youth with disabilities and other persons with disabilities, which is based on intersectoral approach, a wide range of services is provided.

The provider of day care and supported housing is obliged to provide a beneficiary with following services: support for the social inclusion development, occupational therapy, development of social, motor and cognitive skills, support of family, life skills.

In addition to material and technical conditions (accommodation, nutrition, transport, hygiene maintenance, safe environment, etc.), day care provider provides beneficiaries with 8-hour care, psychosocial and medical rehabilitation, educational work with the aim of aquiring skills necessary for daily life, occupational treatment, socialization, individual and group work, parent education for encouraging their self-help skills and ability to help their children. Occasional exursions for beneficiaries of day care centers are also organized. Some day care centres provide transportation service to their beneficiaries (from home to the centre and vice versa).

This is the most widespread social service in the country, and it is mainly provided within day care centres. Currently, there are 17 day care centres in Montenegro, and 15 of them are licensed. The state founded most of them, but there are also centres that operate as part of NGOs. At the time of writing this Analysis, Day Care Centre for Children with Developmental Difficulties and Disabilities “Sirena“ and Day Care Centre Kotor are the only ones that are not licensed. Almost all of the listed day care centres provide services to children and youth with disabilities, while the day care centres in Niksic, Cetinje and Pljevlja extended their services to beneficiaries over 27. Nursing homes in Risan, Bijelo Polje and Pljevlja offer day care service to adults and older persons with disabilities.

The following is a list of day care centres for children and youth with developmental disabilities, and adults and older persons with disabilities:

PI Day Care Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Developmental Disorders Podgorica

PI Day Care Centre for Children with Developmental Disorders and People with Disabilities Niksic

PI Day Care Centre “Tisa“ Bijelo Polje

PI Day Care Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Developmental Disorders Pljevlja

PI Day Care Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities in Berane

PI Day Care Centre for Children wit Developmental Disorders and Adults with Disabilities in the Old Royal Capital Cetinje

PI Day Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Developmental Disorders Mojkovac

PI Day Centre for Children with Disabilities and Developmental Disorders Herceg Novi

PI Day Centre for Children with Developmental disabilities Rozaje

PI Day Care Centre for Children and Youth with Developmental Disorders and Disabilities and “Sirena“ Ulcinj

PI Day Care Centre for Children and Youth with Developmental Disorders “Lipa“ Plav

PI Day Care Centre for Children with Developmental Disorders and Adults with Disabilities Danilovgrad

PI Day Centre within the Children's Home “Mladost“ Bijela

Day Centre Kotor

PI Day Care Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Developmental Disorders Tivat

Day Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Developmental Disorders Budva

PI Centre for the Provision of Social and Child Protection Services for Golubovci Municipality within the Capital city of Podgorica

When it comes to children and young people, a proposal for the use of day care centre services can be issued by the Commission for Guidance to Children with Special Educational Needs, and the request to the Centre for Social Work can be submited by a parent/guardian of the person with disabilities. A decision regarding the use of community living support services, that is, the use of day centre services is served on the service provider by the Centre for Social Work. If this service is delivered without a decision, the service provider is obliged to inform the Centre for Social Work immediately. Based on the aforesaid, the Centre for Social Work should have accurate data on beneficiaries of the care services, whether they are day care centres founded by the state or day care centres that provide their sevices within the NGO sector.

According to the Rulebook on detailed conditions for provision and use, normatives and minimum standards of support service for community living, the service provider creates an individual work plan for a beneficiary, based on an individual service plan of a centre and within 15 days of the reception of a beneficiary. The Centre for Social Work, the service provider, a beneficiary or beneficiary's legal representative and family members, as well as the other persons important to a beneficiary, participate in creating the individual plan, if this service is provided based on the decision of the Centre for Social Work.

According to the statutes, day care centers provide services on a regular full-time and part-time basis, as well as occasional full time services. Daily activities in institutions – day centres for children and youth with developmental disorders include group work within beneficiary groups, individual work within groups, as well as individual work with beneficiaries based on an individual plan with a beneficiary.

Group work is the most frequent and it is performed with beneficiaries in the form of workshops, interactive learning and learning through play. The areas covered within these workshops are self-care, knowledge of the environment, socialization, music and art education, speech and language development, physical education, etc. Individual work is carried out when it is necessary and appropriate, and topics are adapted to capabilities of each individual beneficiary.

According to the report on the day centres' activities, a total of 360 beneficiaries used their services. Day care service is mostly used by children and young people, 284 of them, while there are 76 beneficiaries in day care centres for adults and older persons with disabilities. Given that the data obtained during the preparation of this Analysis are not complete, the previously indicated number of beneficiaries did not change significantly compared to last year (2021). It should be noted that day centres for adults and older persons that do not function as part of nursing homes, were established mainly as a response to the need to continue providing support to those persons who were already their beneficiaries, but had to stop using the service due to their age. These centres also provide this service to new beneficiaries. Some day centres such as those in Podgorica, Rozaje and Ulcinj, are filled to capacity, two places are free in the day centre in Bijelo Polje, while the number of beneficiaries in the day centre in Danilovgrad exceeds the maximum capacity by 1 beneficiary. Other day centres have spare capacity. When it comes to the professional capacities of day care centres, the aforementioned report for 2021 says that the number of employees in day care centres has increased compared to 2020, but that is necessary to hire additional human resources – professional and administrative staff. In addition to the increase in the number of employees, additional training are also necessary, especially in the field of work with autisctic children. That was stated by employees of the day care centres in their reports.

On the other hand, opening of day care centres like those already existing, that would function in the same way, is contrary to the principles of the United Nations Convention, which is indicated by many international reports, because it represents a restrictive, segregated environment failing to be inclusive. The need for these types of services is inevitable, especially for some children and young people who need to have continuously provided certain type of support, which is why certain reforms to day care centres are necessary, in order to make them more flexible and available at any time. It is important to highlight that these centres should not be the only option when it comes to community services for persons with disabilities. This would also be significant for familiy members of persons with disabilities due to their needs, rights and other responsibilities.

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Sincerely,

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