



Република Македонија
НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

O M B U D S M A N
Republic of Macedonia

National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and the Department for Protection within the Office of the Ombudsman carried out regular visit to the PI “Institute for Rehabilitation of Children and Youth” - Skopje jointly with members of the National Preventive Mechanism of Austria (within the Twinning Project aimed to support the Ombudsman Institution) on **17.11.2015**. This visit was conducted in cooperation with the Association of educators of the country.

NPM conducted regular visit to the Public Institution in accordance with its mandate and competencies arising from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Law on Ombudsman, in fact, arising from Article 4 and Article 20 of the Optional Protocol.

The aim of the visit according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was to assess the living conditions in the Institution and the treatment of this category of persons, the exercise of their rights guaranteed by the Law on Social Protection, the Law on Child Protection and other international and domestic laws, as well as getting insight in the records of these persons.

The Rehabilitation Centre for Children and Youth – Skopje is a State Institution in the network of Public Institutions for Social Protection. The Institution dates since 1965, being relocated in 1969 in the premises in Topansko Pole.

The Rehabilitation Centre for Children and Youth provides rehabilitative care - corrective treatment of children and youth with moderate, severe and multiple mental disabilities. This treatment is complex since consists of multiple components, such as a daycare and dormitory, shelter, upbringing, education, vocational training, occupational therapy, health care and cultural and entertainment activities and sports for the patients.

The Centre consists of three buildings: dormitory, vocational training facility and another one for the administration, the daycare center for adults and the educational department.

In the Institution there is a professional team composed of: special education teacher /assistant director, psychologist, social worker and a doctor. The team is actively working on a plan for the admission of new residents, observation and deployment of those persons at the appropriate level / appropriate group, switching from one group to another or from one department to another.

The Institute is divided into several departments in order to operate smoothly and efficiently: Educational department, Vocational training facility and Daycare center for adults; Healthcare department and Dormitory with a kitchen; Department of General and Administrative Affairs; Department for determining the right to financial assistance and the need for assisted living.

There is plan in the Institution prepared in advance regarding the educational and rehabilitative - corrective treatment. Basically, the rehabilitative - corrective treatment is a long process that aims to correct or mitigate the secondary effects cause by their

developmental disability, in order to bring out and the best of the child and its capabilities, facilitate their socialization and provide them living as independent as possible.

Having spoken with some of the educators and the residents during the visit of the educational department, NPM found that the residents are really interested in vocational training but their capabilities are limited to being able to perform only simple activities. Classrooms are mostly equipped with tools and machinery but there is lack of materials and protective equipment. Some of the rooms were not properly heated and lit.

The daycare center has a total of 18 users of which 11 male and 7 female users. The activities of the daycare center are carried out by a special education teacher and two instructors working according to a work plan. The Institution has an organized transport so the users can be transported from/to their homes. They are transported by bus which is very old, unheated and often broke.

The primary health care is provided by primary care physician who works near the Center and is responsible for ordination of medical treatment or referral to a medical specialist as well as doctor who works in the Center and monitors the health condition of all the residents and takes care of their therapy and treatment. The professional team examines each new resident in the Center, gives consultation and prepares the full medical documentation which is kept in the personal case file of the resident.

NPM issued a special report for the stated conditions including recommendations to the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Director of the Institution in order to overcome the identified weaknesses and eliminate the risks.