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Kosovo Mental Disability
Rights Initiative



Achievements of Kosovo Mental Disability Rights Initiative [K-MDRI] and Mental Disability Rights International [MDRI] in Kosova

Project: Strengthening the Participation of Persons with Mental Disabilities in Kosovar Society

Time frame: October 2008 - March 2009

Supported by: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights [EIDHR] & United States Agency for International Development [USAID]



Citizens with Mental Disabilities were among the first citizens to be equipped with the first Identification Cards of the Republic of Kosovo: After a close cooperation between K-MDRI/MDRI with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kosova, three citizens

with disabilities, respectively two members of the Ne per Ne organization, Qendrim Jashari and Arjeta Emra (self advocates of the organization for and by people with developmental disabilities) and one citizen with physical disability (member of HandiKOS) have achieved to be selected among first Kosova citizens who were equipped with the new identification card of the Republic of Kosova. K-MDRI has continued with this activity through the current project, and until now a total of twenty (20) citizens with intellectual disabilities were assisted with the procedures of the application for ID and were equipped with IDs.



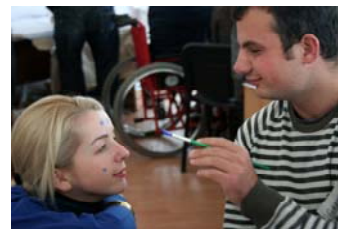
International Day of People with Disabilities: For the first time in Kosova, with the support of K-MDRI, Qendrim Jashari, representative of Ne per Ne Organization, together with the Coalition of the

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities "Equal Opportunities" met with the President of the Republic of Kosova Fatmir Sejdiu. The meeting was held on the international day of persons with disabilities. During this visit, Mr. Jashari has informed Mr. Sejdiu for the human rights of persons with mental disabilities and has requested his support for changing the actual situation of persons with mental disabilities in Kosova.



Members of Ne per Ne Organization / self advocacy peer support groups for and by people with mental disabilities met with the singer Vesa Luma:

With the goal to learn from the experience of successful people, members of the self advocacy peer support groups in Prishtina, members of Ne per Ne organization met with Vesa Luma from whom they learned how to be more successful in promoting themselves and the goal of the organization Ne per Ne. The meeting of members with Vesa Luma was featured in the show Express of the KTV television.



Art Workshop: Learn for Us from Us: Our Hopes and Wishes for the year 2009: With the goal of developing the abilities for fundraising; communicating through art, and

strengthening the participation of persons with mental disabilities in the community MDRI and K-MDRI have organized a four day art workshop in November of 2008. One of the bigger achievements of this workshop was the participation of all the members of Ne per Ne and Surviving Together organizations, and more than thirty (30) persons labeled with mental disabilities, residents of Shtime Special Institute, Integration Center in Shtime and Ferizaj and Center for Mental Health in Ferizaj. From this workshop the beneficiaries apart from having a chance to create artistic work together, they also expressed their concerns regarding the actual situation of persons with

mental disabilities, the discrimination that they are subject to and the need for the support for their integration in the community. Many artistic work that derived from the workshop were distributed to all MDRI, K-MDRI, Surviving Together and Ne per Ne collaborators in all the Kosova municipalities.



Publication of the "Success Stories" book: K-MDRI and MDRI have published the second edition of the collection that consists of the success stories of persons with mental disabilities and all the beneficiaries of the "Initiative for Inclusion" project. Until now this book has been distributed to the elementary and high school students in the municipalities of

Prishtina, Peja, Prizren, Kacanik, Hani i Elezit, residents of Shtime Special Institute, Integration Center in Shtime and Ferizaj. This compilation until now has been promoted in the media and soon will be promoted in the other municipalities of Kosova and will continue to be used as an awareness tool for raising the awareness of the community and the youth in particular regarding the human rights of persons with mental disabilities.



Learn about Us from Us: Help the Awareness of the Community for Our Rights were the topics of the two panel discussions held in the municipality of Prishtina and Kacanik, organized by

K-MDRI and MDRI during the months of January and March 2009. the main goal of these panel discussions was the awareness of the community regarding the human rights of persons with mental disabilities. In these panel discussions the K-MDRI staff in collaboration with the self advocates of the mental disability, organization Ne per Ne, informed the participants regarding the effect of stigma in the life of the persons with mental disabilities and also about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The panelists were representatives of the Ne per Ne organization from Prishtina and Kacanik. From the panel discussions organized till now, except persons with disabilities, beneficiaries were family members of persons with mental disabilities, students of high schools and elementary schools of these two municipalities and more

than one hundred (100) students of the Department of Psychology, University of Prishtina. K-MDRI and MDRI have foreseen that as a part of the project to continue with the panel discussions in the municipality of Peja, Shtime and Kamenica.



The activities of the Strengthening the Participation of Persons with Mental Disabilities in Kosova Society are being implemented in many municipalities of Kosova,

including the municipality of Prishtina, Peja, Kamenica, Prizren, Kacanik, Hani i Elezit and Shtime. Beneficiaries of the K-MDRI and MDRI project are persons with mental disabilities; members of the Ne per Ne organization [the first and only non governmental organization for and by people with intellectual disabilities]; residents labeled with mental disabilities of Shtime Integration Center and Shtime Special Institute, policy makers, family members of persons with disabilities, the community at large, and in particular students of high schools and of the University of Prishtina.

Activities of the project that MDRI and K-MDRI will implement during the upcoming month are:

- *Workshop: How to Function as an Organization? Which will be organized with the goal of building the capacities of the Ne per Ne and Surviving Together Organization;*
- *Start two peer support groups for and by people with mental disabilities in the Shtime Special Institute and Shtime Integration Center.*

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E-MAIL: kmdri@mdri.org

TEL: +381 38 767 071

WEB: www.mdri.org/kmdri.html

Str. Hajdar Dushi nn, 10000 Prishtina, Kosova

© MENTAL DISABILITY RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

E-MAIL: mdri@mdri.org

TEL: +1 202 296 0800

WEB: www.mdri.org

1156 15th Str. NW, Suite 1001, Washington DC, 20005 USA