Project Details:

Promoting Organisation/contractor:

Social- and school service in Thingeyjarsysla

Project Name: Social Return

Project No: **ISL/04B/F/PP-164002**

Project Duration: 36 months, 1.10.2004 - 30.9.2007

Total Budget: 475.470 euros

Leonardo Grant Awarded: 356.355 euros

Project Partners:



University of Akureyri, Research Institute, Iceland

Name of contact person: Björk Sigurgeirsdóttir **www.rha.is**



University of Florence, Department of Educational Science and Culture, Italy

Name of contact person: Giovanna Campani www.unifi.it



Valakupiai Rehabilitation Centre, Lithuania

Name of contact person: Rasa Noreikyte www.reabilitaciia.lt



Atrium Research and Innovation, Holland

Name of contact person: Joost Thissen www.atriumby.nl



University of Maribor, Slovenia Name of contact person: Tanja K. Stjepanovič

Contact Details:



Contact Person: **Soffía Gísladóttir**Pórsstíg 4, 600 Akureyri, Iceland
+ 354 460 5721
soffia@simey.is
www.tingey.is

This project is co-financed within the frame of the Leonardo da Vinci programme and implemented by project partners.

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Social Return - Summary

The main goal of this innovative pilot project called "Social Return" is to develop a holistic and multi-disciplined rehabilitation programme, and to offer this to disabled individuals with limited employment capability. The programme should preferably be carried out in the participant's local or regional area.

The project is a co-operative endeavour of healthcare services, social services, integration agencies, employment agencies and educational institutions.

This project will straightforwardly enhance the implementation of equal opportunities for disadvantaged people by applying a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach, customized to the needs of the individual in small scale settings at local levels.

Target Group: Individuals receiving disability pensions, long term unemployed people, young people without employment experience or a suitable job qualification, inactive drug addicts, and others with limited employment capabilities.

The Structure of the Project: The rehabilitation project is based upon a professionally administered multi-disciplinary programme, involving healthcare, psychological guidance, social development support, general education and vocational training, job acquisition support and on the job coaching.

The main goal of this integrated project is to offer disabled individuals **complete rehabilitation and social inclusion** *in* **their own and** *into* **their own local community**.







The main goal of the innovative
pilot project, named
"Social Return",
is the development of a holistic
and multidisciplinary rehabilitation
programme for people with
specific needs and those with
restricted employment
capabilities / possibilities.

Social Return

The main goal of this innovative pilot project called "Social Return" is to develop a holistic and multidisciplined rehabilitation programme, and to offer this to disabled individuals with limited employment capability. The programme should preferably be carried out in the participant's local or regional area. Pilots will be set up in Húsavík (a remote and sparsely populated area in N.E. Iceland), in South Limburg (a densely populated but partially rural region in The Netherlands), in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, in the Firenze region in Italy, and in the region of Maribor in Slovenia.

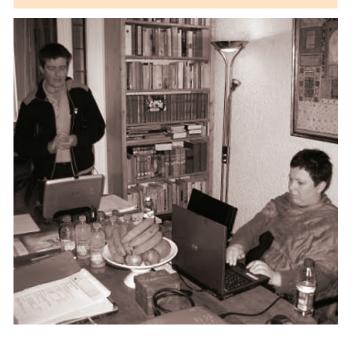
In all participating countries, the project is a cooperative endeavour of healthcare services (hospitals), day care centers, social services, integration agencies, employment agencies, and educational institutions. "Social return" is further strengthened by the involvement of private sector companies like ANZA, a communications and internet provider in Iceland, by Trigos Support, a business consultancy in The Netherlands, and by partnerships with research institutes like Akureyri University, Iceland, and Universitá degli Studi di Firenze, Italia, and the Centre for European Studies and Education in The Netherlands.

The project should be perceived as a necessary response to the risk of the social inclusion of increasing numbers of disabled individuals in various European countries. This project will straightforwardly enhance the implementation of equal opportunities for

disadvantaged people by applying a holistic, multidisciplinary approach, customized to the needs of the individual in small scale settings at local levels. People will not be temporarily pulled away from their community and families, as is the case in many of the existing large rehabilitation centres. In some of these, disabled people may live from the age of four until they die, completely serviced but totally isolated from society and literally out of sight.

Target Group: Initially, individuals receiving disability pensions or rehabilitation allowances will be selected or invited to enter the programme. In the second stage, the aim is to offer such programmes to a larger group of individuals, including long term unemployed people, young people without employment experience or a suitable job qualification, inactive drug addicts, and others with limited employment capabilities.

The Structure of the Project: The rehabilitation project is based upon a professionally administered multidisciplinary programme, involving healthcare, psychological guidance, social development support,



general education and vocational training, job acquisition support and on the job coaching.

The main goal of this integrated project is to offer disabled individuals complete rehabilitation and social inclusion in their own and into their own local community, increasing the quality of life for participants and their families. As a logical outcome of the individual's participation in this programme, they might be expected to find suitable employment or to continue education. One should keep in mind, however, that the project covers the whole personal development continuum, ranging from a very low level of education, severe disabilities and low self esteem to full participation in work and community activities. Some may start from the most basic level and reach a fair level of secondary education, others may start at this secondary level, achieve a job qualification and become employed. Both (and other) forms of personal development are valuable, although the project is likely to focus on those who may successfully complete vocational training.



