

Project Details:

Promoting Organisation/contractor:

Social- and school service in Thingeyjarsýsla

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.reabilitacija.lt



**Atrium Research and Innovation,
Holland**

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



University of Maribor, Slovenia

Name of contact person: Tanja K. Stjepanovič
www.uni-mb.si

Contact Details:



Contact Person: **Soffía Gísladóttir**
Þórsstíg 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.

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.**



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S O C I A L R E T U R N

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 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. 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 co-operative 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 Università 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, multi-disciplinary 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 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, 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.

