

Life with support



Autism during pandemic

The City Association for Helping People with Autism Nis has been helping families of children with autism for 15 years. Raising an autistic child is difficult enough without the ongoing pandemic with limited socialisation.

As some research data have shown, there are no adequate services for children with developmental difficulties and their families. Although Serbia has a wide network of services, their provision is fragmented and inept, missing the opportunity to support families early enough in the critical period for child development (Serbian Society of Autism, 2019).

How we help:

Daily life therapy

To ease at least some of the difficulties of the initial 60-member association from Nis, Help provided technical assistance in cooperation with the German Embassy in Serbia through which the Association was granted 3000 EUR worth equipment by the organisation „Förderkreis Eine Welt“ at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany (Auswärtiges Amt).

The grant enabled the Association to improve their conditions for the provision of services through the early intervention support. The workshops facilitate early intervention approach to encourage development and provide support to children to participate in social life actively and independently.

This approach contributes to the improvement of behaviour, learning new skills and enhancement of the position of people with disabilities and their families.

The association procured an interactive whiteboard, sports, kitchen, and office equipment to improve their facilities and provision of services in socialisation, learning and sports activities of children and their parents. Learning and life skills are now facilitated through the various workshops run by the psychology, pedagogy, sociology, general medicine, paediatrics, as well as physical education professionals.



A workshop in progress

Perseverance pays off

Tadija is 11 year and he likes the interactive board the most.

"I like it the most. It is big and I can write with my fingers on it. I did a test with words and some geometry elements and it is awesome!" His father says that Tadija was not talking until four. Now, he is attending regular school, practices aikido, and takes math competitions. The fact that they have actual equipment in the Association's premises makes things much better for all of them and gives his son more space to develop learning and practical skills.



Tadija plays in front of the interactive board in the association premises.



Some like the sports the most and regularly come to prevent consequences of a sedentary lifestyle.

Sports for healthy habits and quality life

Parents and children are overjoyed to have their association fully equipped for a variety of activities. All members come and spend a lot of their time in the association's premises. But since the equipment was installed that number even increased.

Due to the epidemiological measures, they had to introduce scheduling the time for all the activities with the equipment. In one month only, nearly 100 children had various activities with the new equipment. The sports activities are the next in the focus of parents and children, regularly performed under the supervision of professional volunteers from the Faculty of sports and physical education.

Project Summary

- Increased Associations' capacities in provision of services to the parents and children with autism Procurement of the teaching, sports, and kitchen equipment – modernised equipment and tools available for progress in learning and life skills practising.
- Increased number of learning and sports workshops and activities – three per day now with a tendency to increase further depending on the current epidemiological measures.
- Increased number of participants - from 60 to 100 in a month.
- Introduction of the early intervention approach – modernised and full method of early intervention in the development of children and facilitation of mental disorders set of services provided by the professional teams.
- Increased participation of parents and caregivers and the number of families and volunteers (total 500).