

OBSTACLES AND ACCELERATORS OF THE DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS

ENTER Conference 2022

June 2022

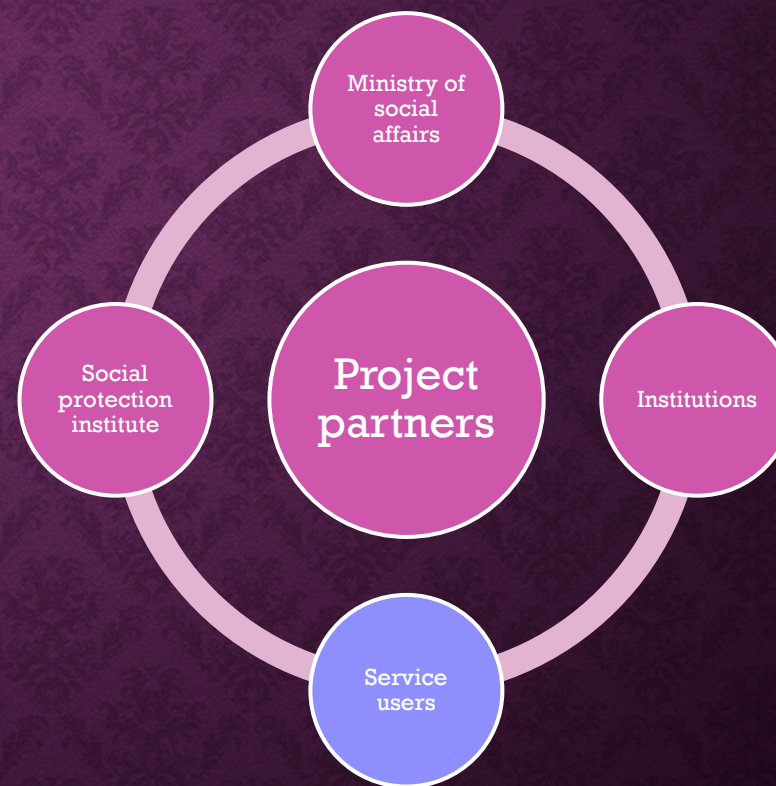
Andraž Kapus
Andreja Rafaelič
Kaja Zoran

SETTING THE CONTEXT

Long history of deinstitutionalisation in Slovenia.

Two projects of transformation of large institutions for people with disabilities from institutional to community care

- Funded by the European Union
- launched in 2020
- Purpose of the projects:
 - i) promote the human rights of people with disabilities,
 - ii) resettle people to the community,
 - iii) establish community services,
 - iv) close the institutions.



DOM NA KRASU - TRANSFORMATION OF THE INSTITUTION

- public social care institution – similar to other institutions in Slovenia,
- for people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities who need long term support,
- around 170 residents (120 in main building, 50 in group homes),
- mainly older population (48,27 % older than 60 years, 31,6 % 65 to 84 years old), from all Slovenian regions
- 51 % people are residents more than 10 years
- around 155 employees,
- closed ward (around 13 residents)



In the process in conversion – transformation of entire institution -
plan to resettle 70 residents to community in 3 years, closure in 5 years

SETBACKS AND SLOW PROGRESS

Pandemic

Perpetual planning without action

Keeping the established intermediate structures

Misguided approach about housing

Lack of legislation framework – community care semi-legal

Lack of determined support and commitment for consistent deinstitutionalisation of the political actors

Change in culture and mindset

Burning out of the key actors



INŠTITUT RS ZA SOCIALNO VARSTVO
SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



Deinstitucionalizacija
Slovenija

OBSTACLES – DOM NA KRASU

INSTITUTION AND STAFF

- Inability to change the mindset to personalised care – keeping the old structure
- Fear of the unknown and changes
- Too many activities in the institution instead of the community
- Lack of communication
- Using research results as convenient

LEADERSHIP

- Keeping the existing system (anti-change force)
- As opposition - struggle to get research data
- Passive role and expecting answers
- Lack of support for innovations
- Traditional management – governance of the resource instead of generating the resources
- Top down management, poor organisation
- Personal motives of the leadership



OBSTACLES - POLITICS

- Mixed messages on DI and the project
 - Infrastructure as priority
- Pilot projects, where nothing is possible
 - Pressure to make projects successful
- Pressure to confirm good work and results
 - Pressure not to demand anything
- Pressure on professionalism – giving alibi and criticism when appropriate
- Civil initiatives

ACCELERATORS

Individual enthusiasts

Resettlements, good practices

Change of the leadership

Service users involvement

Activities outside of the institution

Active training

Transparency

Clear goals

Strong convictions

Intervision

International collaboration

Team work and cooperation between Institute's researchers and project team

User perspective and the promotion of human rights



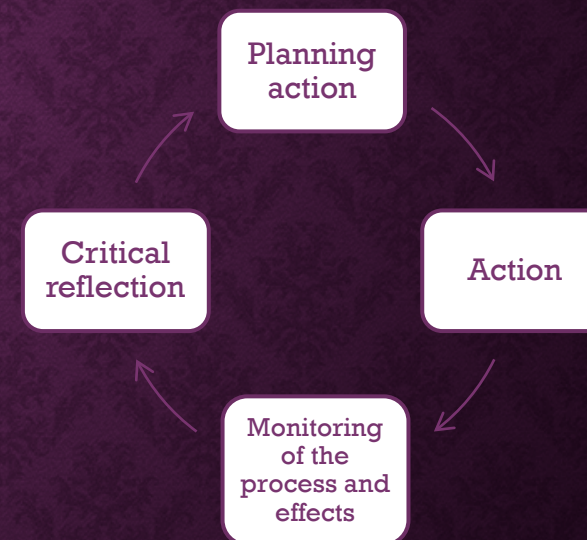
INŠTITUT RS ZA SOCIALNO VARSTVO
SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



Deinstitucionalizacija
Slovenija

INFLUENCING CHANGE – SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS

- Pressure and persistency from researchers and project team
- Systematic work and involvement of external collaborators
- Consultations, direct actions and networking
- Connection between decision makers and practitioners and service users
- High expectations and transformation as a goal
- Inclusion of service users



THANK YOU.



INŠTITUT RS ZA SOCIALNO VARSTVO
SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



Deinstitutionalizacija
Slovenija