

## Co-Production Of Individualised Support Service For Families With Children With Functional Disabilities

<b><u>Organisation(s):</u></b>	Riga City Council Welfare Department	
<b><u>Country:</u></b>	Latvia	
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<b><u>Theme:</u></b> Choose at least one option	<input type="checkbox"/> Ageing & Care <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum & Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Young People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support for Children & Families <input type="checkbox"/> Community Care <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Care & Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Production <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> Digitalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour Market Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Social Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce and Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Social Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> EU Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Social Service's Resilience <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Person-Centred Care <input type="checkbox"/> Research & Use of Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
<b><u>Principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights:</u></b> Check the 20 principles <a href="#">here</a> .	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Education, training, life-long learning <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Gender equality <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Equal opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Active support to employment <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Secure and adaptable employment <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Fair Wages <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Transparent employment conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Social dialogue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. Work-life balance <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Healthy, safe work environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11. Childcare and child support <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Social protection <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Unemployment benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Minimum income <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Old age income and pensions <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Health care <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Long-term care <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Housing and assistance to homeless <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Access to essential services
<b><u>Current status of the practice:</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Concept and Design Phase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Execution & Monitoring Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Up and Transformation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<b><u>Context/ Social issues addressed</u></b> Please explain the problem you attempt to solve.	<p>The project aimed to develop, launch, and evaluate a new social support programme for families with children with functional disabilities. To reach this goal, the Riga City Council Welfare Department conducted a research study to assess these families' needs. Following a comprehensive needs assessment conducted in 2020-2021, a social support programme was designed in collaboration with social service providers and parents of children with functional disabilities and piloted in April 2021. This pilot programme served 22 families with children experiencing functional disabilities. After a successful 12-month implementation period, the programme's impact was evaluated using both qualitative (semi-structured interviews with social service providers and parents) and quantitative data (surveys of families and support professionals). Positive outcomes for participating families</p>	

	led to the programme's adoption as a regular social rehabilitation programme within the Riga municipality.
<b>Objectives:</b> <i>Please provide a maximum of three objectives in bullet points.</i>	<p>The programme's primary objective is to establish conducive circumstances for the social functioning of families with a child or children with functional disabilities. The specific objectives encompassed within this intervention are outlined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alleviate or prevent both physical and psychological fatigue experienced by parents, particularly those in single-parent households, in light of raising a child with functional disabilities and engage parents in gainful employment opportunities.</li> <li>2. Ensure a sustained, systematic, and comprehensive provision of care, education, rehabilitation, and socialisation for children with functional disabilities.</li> <li>3. Foster harmonious and balanced relationships among family members.</li> </ol>
<b>Activities:</b> <i>Please summarise the activities put in place to achieve the objectives (maximum 300 words).</i>	<p>The research study used a mixed methodological design, including qualitative research (semi-structured expert interviews with representatives of social service providers and parents of children with functional disabilities already receiving social support for children with severe disabilities) and quantitative research (survey of families with children with functional disabilities). Altogether, 12 expert interviews and 15 interviews of parents of children with functional disabilities were conducted, and 355 respondents participated in the survey.</p> <p>The research study's results were introduced to selected social service providers and family members of children with functional disabilities. In the following five meeting rounds, the conceptual design of the social support programme for families with children with functional disabilities was co-developed.</p> <p>In April 2021, the newly developed programme was launched for 22 families with children with functional disabilities. The programme consisted of assistance provided by trained support professionals who, together with family members, co-developed an individual support programme tailored to the individual needs of the child with disabilities, siblings, and parents.</p>
<b>Outcomes:</b> <i>Please explain what the results were/are so far and how you evaluated this.</i>	<p>Family members universally acknowledge a highly favourable influence of the programme on the social functioning of the family. Notably, the programme facilitates the provision of essential physical care for the child, fosters the development of the child's self-care abilities, and cultivates or reinforces a robust and healthful attachment to parents, thereby promoting the child's self-determination and autonomy. Furthermore, the programme ensures the safety of the child, motivates parents to actively participate in employment, and contributes to the growth or stability of the family's financial situation.</p> <p>In general, parents mention that a number of aspects have changed in the family during the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Security:</b> "There is a feeling of a cushion of security and it is easier to cope with the situation, not having to worry about how we are going to cope with responsibilities and childcare", "I am sure that there will be someone to look after me at a certain time. There's no need for that to worry".</li> <li>• <b>Work:</b> "I have returned to a full working relationship", "Now we with my husband can both work without thinking about what will happen to our child".</li> <li>• <b>Time:</b> "I now have time, even a little, for myself and my son", "Time to think, time to take my time".</li> <li>• <b>Peace:</b> "I feel calm because I can relax a little, because I don't have to be with the baby 24/7", "Everyone is calmer at home because we know there is support", "There is an emotional release because I am safe, I know there is someone to help".</li> <li>• <b>Money:</b> "We got some money, which we quickly used for child's rehabilitation, which is very important for him", "It's a financial benefit - you don't have to hire a nanny".</li> </ul>

	<p>and the spare money is invested in the child's rehabilitation (ABA therapy, physiotherapy, swimming pool)".</p> <p>Overall, evaluation results show that the social support programme for families with children with functional disabilities has reached all planned objectives: has reduced physical and mental exhaustion in parents, especially when the child is raised by a single parent; has ensured the continuous, systematic, and complete care, education, rehabilitation, and socialisation of the child with functional disabilities; has harmonised and balanced relationships between family members; and has strengthened the financial capacity of the family by involving parents in the labour market. Such high efficiency of the programme is the direct result of a collaborative approach in the development and co-design of the intervention structure and content by social programme administrators, social service providers, and social service receivers - families with the children with functional disabilities.</p>
<p><b><u>Links to supporting documents:</u></b> e.g. website or report of the practice</p>	<p><a href="https://ld.riga.lv/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PetijumaApraksts.pdf">https://ld.riga.lv/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PetijumaApraksts.pdf</a>  <a href="https://ld.riga.lv/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/APP-izvertejums-apraksts.pdf">https://ld.riga.lv/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/APP-izvertejums-apraksts.pdf</a></p>
<p><b><u>Comments and tips</u></b> i.e. for people willing to use your Practice</p>	<p>Overall, the project demonstrates a commitment to engaging persons with lived experience, carers, and the community at various stages, from needs assessment to programme design, implementation, and evaluation. This inclusive approach enhances the relevance and effectiveness of the social support programme for families with children with functional disabilities.</p>