

## PROJECT *FAIRYTALE OF AGING*

The aim of the project is to realize the program in the facility of the association throughout the year, interactively and with a focus on all generations. The project would incorporate a set of educational and creative workshops with an aim to sustain quality, accessible and sustainable activation, socialization and humanization of everyday life of all citizens who come to the “House of Good People”. The House would be open to everyone: to those who wish to broaden their knowledge, ideas and experiences and to those who wish to acquire and learn something new. In this manner, we would directly have an effect on the increased level of satisfaction and self-realization of our citizens, as well as the decrease of loneliness and depression which are in constant rise and represent a problem all generations face.

I am convinced that with such activities we can help in an interventional way –when individuals already have a personal problem; but, moreover, preventively – so that these problems and social damages do not exist or, at least, to postpone them.

It is important to settle regular programs so that the citizens would get used to the schedule and timetable of activities. Continuity in work builds a relationship of trust, professionalism and safe place that we wish our facility that would host “House of Good People” programs to become.

Such places do not exist at the moment, and their existence is of national interest on a micro plan in the community. Since this work demands knowledge and experience in similar tasks, it is necessary to have a team of at least three professionals as we expect to have a few hundred people a month through workshops/activities.

Monthly and annual reports on work would be available at the official website of “House of Good People”, and sources of verification are procedures of basic administration/continual record keeping of activities and users, photo gallery, press-clippings etc.

Association “House of Good People” has so far achieved a reputation and trust with partners and citizens. By realizing the program *Fairytale of Aging* of support to the

individuals, we are making a step further to accomplishing long-term goals of national significance.

Legal framework: Law on Citizens' Associations, Law on Volunteering, Law on Social Entrepreneurship.

The program would consist of:

1. Educational workshops (foreign language learning, the internet usage, self-help skills, psycho-social support etc.);
2. Creative workshops (acquiring various creative skills, old crafts, music and drama);
3. Workshops of socialization (interaction, altruistic goals - donations with humane causes);
4. Charity work and building of solidarity
5. Developing the culture of aging with all generations, creating a positive image of senior citizens, their needs and possibilities - through exhibitions, promotions, various public appearances etc.;
6. "Gallery of the invisibles" - a smaller part of the House which would house a permanent sales exhibition of work that fulfill basic artistic and craft criteria - social cooperative business;
7. Coffee shop in the House for members with regressed prices, open to employees, guests, associates - social cooperative business;
8. The House would be a model of an authentic culture center that would cherish the culture of aging and lost system of values as a foundation of every healthy society;
9. It is necessary to plan permanent and temporary activities in the House.

Work method would be based on the principle of citizen participation that would come and use the House program through occasional surveys, focus groups, evaluation of realized activities and other methods that would map priority needs of individuals in continuity and create suitable content. It would be good to organize activities in thematic blocks according to days in the week, from Tuesday to Saturday.

The House would not be open on Sunday, except in special cases. Mondays would be reserved for administrative work, operational work and planning, but not for work with citizens. The following are of great importance: continual transparency of all activities, associates and users; achieved results whose indicators would be tracked in continuity through the system of user grading, number of visitor tracking and realized scope of activities.

For financing the realization of the program it is necessary to ensure multiple sources: memberships, donations, co-financing from domestic and foreign funds, self-sustainability (for some activities), auctions and etc. Real costs are: costs of hired professionals in project, realization and program monitoring, individuals responsible for facility maintenance, running costs and expenses for activities' material.

As an author of program "Voluntary service Zvezdara" that operates 8 years in a row on the Municipality Zvezdara and gathers volunteers from 12 central municipalities, our users come from 12 municipalities (including Novi Beograd, Zemun, Mladenovac, Čukarica) - commuting to satisfy their social and culture need does not represent a problem to them - I am sure that we lack programs of activation and support that help people live more fulfilled and creative lives, to socialize, meet and exchange their knowledge and ideas.

The facility should be architecturally available, equipped in a multifunctional way (simple and mobile equipment with folding tables and chairs), a projector for various educational purposes and workshops, culture events and promotions, exhibition inventory for different setting etc. Yard for outdoor activities is of great importance.

On Annunciation Day, April 7th, 2018

Radmila Pecija Urošević, sociologist and journalist  
Author of *Good manners or démenti of aging* and 6 more books  
Play *Excuse me, how old are you?*  
Program "Voluntary service Zvedara" etc.