
THRIFT STORE**»STARA ROBA, NOVA RABA«****(OLD ITEM, NEW USE)**

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We are the Association for help and self-help of homeless people Kings of the Streets, which was formally established in September 2005. We are an independent non-governmental humanitarian organization with non-profit objectives. We study and research homelessness in order to prevent it from increasing. We aim to improve living conditions for the homeless people, develop practical forms of work and raise public awareness and sensibility regarding homelessness. Our programs are: Street paper Kings of the street, Drop-in day centre for the homeless, Outreach work, Resettlement – housing first approach, University under the stars – educational, sport and creativity workshops.

In this application we present you our newest program of social entrepreneurship – employing homeless people in an eco friendly Thrift store called “Stara roba, nova raba” (old item, new use). Following the example of other European countries we focus on the environmental protection, recycling and return of used things to a new use we established the idea of thrift store which is a part of broader socio-economic development of the integration system. The first thrift store in Slovenia contributes to economic and social inclusion of socially disadvantaged groups and thereby contributes to reducing economic and social differences, and indirectly contributes to the recycling of used goods and reducing waste. People donate us their used things; we clean and restore them in order to sell them for a symbolic price. Assigning new use to used items is also good for not burdening the environment. Thrift store enables homeless and other socially excluded individuals to gain job experiences and employment, while items we sell are available to people with lower income by affordable prices.

General objectives:

- Development, implementation and promotion of an innovative approach of working with multiple excluded social groups, in order to make their social and economic integration.
- Encouraging and facilitating disadvantaged population groups into the market labour.
- Promoting social entrepreneurship as a non-profit activity with the goal of providing employment for marginalized groups of people who are excluded from the free labour market due to their specifics.
- Development and application of different types of employment on the principle of "help for self-help" to multiple disadvantaged and excluded social groups and encouraging them with the knowledge and skills that facilitate their access to social resources, and consequently reduce their dependence on social transfers and other forms of institutional support and improving their control over their lives.
- Promoting and developing alternative forms of labour and relations in the work place, which are aimed at overcoming contemporary commercial-economic relations.
- Promoting and enhancing the role of non-government organizations that work in the field of social inclusion, strengthening integration and participation of different sectors: government, non-government organizations, business sector and local communities.
- Promoting the idea of social networking, corporate social responsibility and social responsibility of local communities.
- Drafting of technical guidelines that will assist the development of social entrepreneurship in Slovenia and will be available to specialists, non-governmental sector, self-help groups and policy makers in this area.

Analysis of achievement in terms of physical targets

In 2009 we have established the executive and consultative group (professionals who are employed in the association Kings of the street) and cooperation with two partners in the project, the Project Human (*Projekt Človek*) and Slovenian Philanthropy (*Slovenska filantropija*).

In 2010 we started with regular meetings of the executive group, which have included participants of first and second training group and professional staff. We had regular meetings where we signed assignments. At the same time we started with the implementation of individual monitoring of all involved in training and made individual employment plans. Then we started with implementation, which begun with the preparation of interior space of thrift store, working in the basement, warehouse, and fieldwork. In collaboration with partners, we carried out social skills workshops for both training groups. We also had trainings for professionals who are working on the project. In April 2010 we had a grand opening of the first Slovenian thrift store. We have established a network with similar organizations to collaborate and share our

experiences. In this way we promote social responsibility of individuals and businesses. We also tried to expand the network of donors of used items as well as financial resources by applying for funds everywhere. We have developed a network of regular customers who come weekly in order to see what's new on the shelves, but some people come just to socialize with people who work in thrift store.

By the end of October 2010 we have successfully carried out training of 12 people in two groups. At the end of training we have evaluated the progress of individual employment plans. Consultative group assessed the potential opportunities and the abilities of all candidates in training and have decided to employ three of them (two males, one female) for one year.

We prepared two promotional flyers from our promotion, one in Slovenian and one in English language. We actively took part in various media, including our own - street paper Kings of the street, where several articles about our project and social entrepreneurship were published. In cooperation with TV Slovenia we have filmed a documentary film about our thrift store. Every first Saturday of the month we still have a market stall in the main square of Slovenian capital, where we present the project and encourage social awareness.

In the research area we have conducted a study of European models of thrift stores and created a business plan and concept of operations for the thrift store. We actively participated in conferences on social entrepreneurship, where we have gained new knowledge and also presented our experiences to others. At the end of 2010 we started to participate in group that is actively involved in the realm of legislation of social economy.

We have established contact with partners from Linz in Austria (*Arge für Obdachlose*), and have organized a three day study trip. In cooperation with the Slovenian Philanthropy, we carried out training for volunteer mentors and for volunteers who are involved in the project.

Financing

The project is supported by pilot project funding of social entrepreneurship that we receive through Slovenian Ministry of labour, family and social affairs (financed by ESF - European social fund and Slovene government). Some funds come from our own means – in kind, some from the thrift store earnings and some from donors.

Our yearly budget for 2010 was 94.600,00 EUR. This includes all the furniture and equipment and pilot project research work and promotion; therefore we estimate that budget for 2011 will be around 80.000,00 EUR (less for furniture and equipment, more for employment).