

## Concept of Social Services Development Policy in Trenčín

### Example from the Slovak Republic

**Rastislav Bednárík**, ILFR, Bratislava, SK



Funded by the European Commission  
under the Seventh Framework Programme  
Grant agreement no. 223037

# Introduction: main objectives, key-issues addressed, status

- Sub-theme: Policy
  - Key issue: Implementation strategies in LTC
- Status of the example



## Why was this project developed/implemented?

- Slovakia has need to massively invest into (neglected) regional LTC infrastructures, so involvement at the political level became necessary.
- Slovak Parliament requires Regional Parliaments to coordinate regional activity: they have developed concepts of social services development with respect to ...
  - The effective use of limited financial resources (also from EU – funds) and better capacity utilization of existing facilities and buildings infrastructure,
  - Completing the basic structure of social services in regions,
  - Reduce the burden households and hospitals from LTC for older people

## Main features of the example (description)

- The concept in Trenčín as policy document
  - Reflects a nationwide effort to improve LTC (declared by the Ministry of Social Affairs in the “National development priorities of social services”)
  - Defines the region needs to expand capacity and quality of LTC and defines the budget options
  - Compiles the Box of Project Intentions, which take place gradually.
- Procedure in Trenčín regional Parliament:
  - Approval of pre-defined actual needs
  - Approval of investment plans for the coming year (ca. € 1.2 mil.)
  - Evaluating the efficiency of investment expenditure and service improvements

## What are/were the effects?

- A higher number of community and residential social services
- More social counselling and crisis intervention
- Better quality in LTC through modernisation of facilities
- Education of personnel
- Support for new types of disease specific social services

## Strengths and limitations

- Strengths
  - Political will (and interest) of legal entities and political decision-makers to support LTC in region
  - Agreement on priorities and appropriate investment (Box of Projects Intentions)
- Limitations
  - Limited financial capacity for social services (as well as LTC) operation and development
  - Bad technical conditions of buildings, lack of information for users
  - Unclear status of LTC in social services sector
  - Weak continuity of health and social care

## Conclusions

- *For practice:* People with care needs and carers should be more involved in discussions about the priorities of social services
- *For policy-makers:* To ensure both financial sustainability of LTC as well as regular completion of the “tool box”
- *For research:* How to define and assess criteria of cost-effectiveness for expenditures on social services at the interfaces between LTC and health care, and between formal and informal care?