



United Nations  
Development  
Programme

## Social Services against New Employment (SANE)

### Programme Area:

Poverty Reduction and Job Creation

### Project Number:

11713

### Duration:

October 2002 – December 2008

### Partners:

- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy  
(Executing agency)

### Budget:

- \$7,014,684

### Donors:

Government of Bulgaria,  
Municipalities  
UNDP

### Project Contact Information:

#### Project Manager:

Violina Ananieva

#### UNDP Programme Officer:

Emiliana Zhivkova

#### Project Office:

Ovcha Kupel,  
59 Boryana Street,  
Bl. 215, Ap. 1  
Sofia 1618, Bulgaria  
**Tel:** (+ 359 2) 855 4157,  
855 4158

#### Web site:

www.sanebg.org

**Email:** pmu@sanebg.org

### Project Description:

SANE Project is initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) and implemented with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The project's objective is to develop and test a viable operational modality for the decentralisation of social services in Bulgaria. The project provides access to the Social Assistant service to vulnerable people (permanently disabled or seriously ill people) while generating employment to persons as Social Assistants, who after an appropriate training provide social services to those in need. The Social Assistant service is delivered by private providers registered in the Register of the Social Assistance Agency. The Social Assistant service is co-financed by the national budget, municipalities and the social service users. The new mechanism for decentralized funding, management and provision of the Social Assistant service has been implemented in 12 municipalities in 2006, whereas in 2007 it is being implemented on national level through the National Programme Assistants for People with Disabilities (NPAPD), Social Assistant activity. In order to ensure the successful transfer of SANE project model in NPAPD, the project conducts training and consultancy for capacity enhancement of the municipalities, NGO's and private providers across the country as well as of all territorial structures of the Social Assistance Agency (SAA). A Methodology for provision of the community-based Social Assistant service, which was approved by the SAA, has been elaborated within the framework of the project. In 2008, an informational system for monitoring the implementation of the national quality standards of the community-based Social Assistant service will be developed. It is expected that the project will contribute to the development of a long-term national policy, supported by an appropriate legislative and financial framework to guarantee the transition from institutionalized social services towards community-based social services.

### Objectives:

The project aims to implementing on a national scale a new mechanism for sustainable financing, management and provision of the community-based Social Assistant service, while striving at:

- 1) Strengthening the capacity of municipalities across the country to co-finance, outsource and supervise the community-based Social Assistant service;
- 2) Strengthening the capacity of NGOs and private providers across the country to deliver the community-based Social Assistant service;
- 3) Strengthening the capacity of relevant state institutions across the country to enter into partnerships with the municipalities and the private (profit and non-profit) providers aimed at the efficient and quality provision of the community-based Social Assistant service;
- 4) Development of national quality standards for the provision of the community-based Social Assistant service;
- 5) Development of a monitoring system for the implementation of the standards;
- 6) Training of social workers at national, regional and municipal level to monitor the observance of the standards.

### Location(s):

- In 2006 – 12 municipalities (Aitos, Berkovitsa, Blagoevgrad, Botevgrad, Biala Slatina, Veliko Tarnovo, Vidin, Vratsa, Gorna Oriahovitza, Etropole, Kazanlak and Pravetz) – under the project
- In 2007 - 150 municipalities – under the NPAPD

### Expected results:

- Supplementary mechanism, based on European Structural Funds, for decentralized funding of the community-based Social Assistant service elaborated

- Methodology for provision of the community-based Social Assistant service elaborated, endorsed and published
- Monitoring system for introduction and implementation of the quality standards and the Methodology for provision of the community-based Social Assistant service developed and operational across the country
- 1000 social workers and experts trained in monitoring the observance of the national standards for the community-based Social Assistant service
- Over 500 employees from SAD and LOD trained to work in compliance with the new regulation of NPAPD, Social Assistant activity
- 265 municipalities with strengthened capacity to co-finance, manage and control the outsourced provision of the community-based Social Assistant service
- 650 providers (registered with the Social Assistance Agency) trained to deliver the community-based Social Assistant service
- 5,100 vulnerable people with an access to the community-based Social Assistant service rendered under SANE project and National Programme Assistants to People with Disabilities
- 1,700 people hired as social assistants under SANE project and National Programme Assistants to People with Disabilities
- Updated and published handbook of the Social Assistant
  - Monitoring system for the Community-based Social Assistant Service, based on the quality standards in the Methodology for the Provision of the Service developed and operational across the country
  - 500 social workers from the district and municipal structures of the Social Assistance Agency trained to evaluate the quality of the Social Assistant service and to work with the monitoring system.

**Benefits:**

- Strengthened institutional capacity at national, regional and municipal level for funding, management, delivery and monitoring of the community-based Social Assistant service;
- Sustainable model for community-based social services provision and employment generation;
- Better targeted long-term policy towards social inclusion of vulnerable people and unemployed.