



Involving users in improving their mental health



SLOVENIA
LJUBLJANA



BRIEF DESCRIPTION

ŠENT is a non-profit association providing mental health services in the community at 39 locations in Slovenia. Its services enable people suffering from mental illness to break out of the vicious circle of repeated hospitalisation, and gain the skills and knowledge need to live an independent and self-sufficient life.

The association was founded in 1993 and is recognised as a humanitarian organisation by the Slovenian government. It now operates:

- day centres: these offer users, free of charge and across the country, the opportunity to improve their social skills and learn to take responsibility for their own lives, through taking part in group work and activities in the community, as well as individual information and counselling;
- residential groups: these offer adults occasional or long-term tailor-made assistance to support independent living;
- drug abuse reduction programmes to reduce social and health damage from drug use;
- employment and rehabilitation programmes: these carry out work integration, preserving and developing skills and enabling economic independence. The activities are incorporated as social enterprises, and profit made from them is ploughed back into creating new jobs;
- human rights protection and advocacy programmes: these use peer advocacy to advise individuals and groups on how to exercise their rights. They also help to develop new legislation;
- events such as round tables, conferences, festivals and expert consultations at local, national and international levels, to reduce the stigma of mental illness;
- development projects in mental health, social care, employment and drug dependence.

The association employs 292 people, of whom 153 are registered as disabled. Its annual turnover is €6 million.



GOVERNANCE MODEL

ŠENT has established a dozen or so separate legal bodies including seven employment centres, two social enterprises and a vocational rehabilitation and education centre.

ŠENT works in the public interest and has a participatory system which allows all members to be directly involved in its management.

Its organisational structure comprises the assembly, the supervisory board, the board of directors, the elections committee, the forum of relatives and the council of users.

Important stakeholders are:

- Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- social chamber
- municipalities
- association of employment rehabilitation and association of social firms (ZIPS)
- members
- users
- workers



START DATE:
1993



LEGAL FORM:
Association



N° EMPLOYEES:
292



SOCIAL IMPACT

ŠENT provides 292 jobs, 153 of which are held by disabled people, and serves to 3,492 users, helping them to live independent and self-sufficient lives.



STRENGTHS

- Governmental recognition as a humanitarian organisation
- A wide range of complementary services to support mental health
- Forum of Relatives and Council of Users enable beneficiaries a say in management decisions

ŠENT – Slovenian Association for Mental Health
Belokranjska ulica 2
Ljubljana
Slovenia
www.sent.si

R2G RIGHTS TO GROW
information consultation
participation rights
help social enterprises grow



The R2G project is co-funded by the European Union (agreement reference - VS/2018/0009)

This document reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Union cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

