



## UG "U KRUGU PORODICE"

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## FGC model development in Serbia REPORT

between two FGC Network Meetings (2013 – 2014)  
realized by CSO »IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE«

In the past year, between two FGC Network Meetings, CSO "IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE", continued to advocate, promote and implement Family Group Conference model in our country.

Encouraged with success of last years FGC Meeting, and using the experiences we gained at the Conference in Belgrade, we created a plan of activities which was approved at the general Assembly of our organization.

The plan was to organize promotions, trainings for FGC referrals and independent coordinators outside Belgrade and to organize Conferences for families in crisis.

It was also a plan to continuously inform decision makers, professionals and citizens about benefits of the model.

Great floods which struck Serbia twice during this year and disasters consequences totally changed priorities and slowed down activities which were aimed towards implementation of innovative practices and services in Serbia.

Despite this unfavorable circumstances representatives of the organization, Executive director, Steering committee members, as well as independent coordinators, presented several times FGC model in media, (TV, radio, newspapers) and on some significant events.

Executive director represented model in front of the several dozens of colleagues during the "Social workers annual expert conference". The main goal was to explain to the professionals the benefits of the model in their every day work, but also to underline gains for families who become able to solve their problems with own strengths and networks.

"In the family circle" also this year took part at "DONOR MARKET in the social care field" and we succeeded to establish connections for the potential cooperation in next year concerning FGC model development.

The organization tried to collect funds for Conferences, but this year we did not receive large grants. The Dutch organization "Child perspectives" helped us by providing funds for Conferences for concrete families. This year we also have opportunity to start implementation of FGC model for people with mental disorders and mental disabilities in two projects supported by EU fund. In the project named "Recovery in local community – supporting recovery and complete social inclusion of people with mental difficulties", CSO "In the family Circle" is a partner to CSO IAN (International Aid Network) in Belgrade. In the second EU funded project, named "Social Alternatives for Family Empowering - SAFE" trainings for FGC implementation are planned by Republic Institute for Social Welfare in Belgrade and CSO "Youth with Disabilities Forum ". Both projects have started in summer 2014 and project activities will be taking place until the end of 2015.



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In 2014 CSO "In the family Circle" put a lot of efforts in spreading knowledge about the FGC in other systems beside social welfare – at the first spot within the health system, with idea to provide support and help to the ill persons.

During the year we managed to organize two trainings for FGC referrals and two for independent coordinators in towns in Northern Vojvodina - (Sombor and Senta). We believe and hope that in this – smaller cities and communities FGC model will give significant results.

Also, this year, for the first time Serbian FGC team got an offer to organize trainings for coordinators and initiators in Region, and in June of 2014 we realized both trainings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, (for the professionals and citizens from three different local communities) which was significant experience and also an opportunity to create connections and establish cooperation on regional level, which, we hope will make easier to spread the model in our "neighborhood".

As far as it comes to the Family Group Conferences for families in crisis, between two Network Meetings, we had 19 applications, but only 11 actually realized conferences. The conferences were realized in Novi Sad, Belgrade and Pancevo. For most of them the main themes were prevention of institutionalization of the children and creation conditions for becoming independence for youth who are leaving social care system.

The lesson that we have learned is that we need to constantly refresh knowledge and skills of trained referrals and independent coordinators, as well as to widen the circle of motivated coworkers, who believe in model.

At the end of this small report about our work we must say that, considering all difficulties which we had during this year and the fact that activities of development FGC model in Serbia are still very much based on voluntarily work of dedicated FGC team ("In the Family Circle") as well as on our constant efforts to provide funds through projects we must be content.

FGC Team Serbia

Belgrade, October 2014.