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Accessibility - this is not a ramp, but a means of independence (PHOTO)

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In Stolín-governmental organizations and local authorities to implement a project aimed at independent living of persons with disabilities, and create their own agenda for the region.

Worldwide December 3 is International Day of Persons with Disabilities. His goal - to promote the rights of people with disabilities in all spheres of public life, as well as to attract public attention to the problems of people with disabilities. For more than two years, Belarus has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (this step in our country took eight years), thereby committing themselves to ensure that they and expand. For the most successful implementation of the Convention in Belarus was launched the campaign "Agenda 50", which is to create a local agenda to address specific problems in the field of disability in the regions.

The first project in the framework of the campaign "Agenda 50", "Equal - equal", funded by the European Union, have started to implement in Stolín of the Brest region. information service "EuroBelarus" visited the town to see how the implementation of the project.

Stolín, which, though located in the depths of Polesie, called hinterland language does not turn. Paved streets, bright, neatly painted buildings, purity - that immediately marks the eye. And all socially significant buildings in the city center are adapted to be able to visit them as people with disabilities: inputs are equipped with ramps on stairs, railings and doors - bright yellow labels for the visually impaired. All this will help in the project provided for the creation of a guide to the city accessibility for people with disabilities, and has even hosted the first stage of city facilities monitoring.



Entrance on labor, employment and social protection of the Stolín District Executive Committee. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"



The entrances to the central pharmacy (pictured), a cinema and department store are also equipped with convenient ramps and have a label for people with impaired vision. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"



Affordable and entrance to the Stolín city park in the center - a ladder, side - ramp. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

The project "Equal - equal" is notable for the fact that for its realization were united already seven non-governmental organizations and public institutions: Regional Public Association "Center for support of young people with disabilities," district organization "Belarusian Society of the Red Cross," the primary organization of NGO "Belarusian Association for assistance to disabled children and young People", regional organization of NGO "BeITIZ" regional center of Correction and Development training and rehabilitation, executive committee and the initiative group of parents with disabled children .

- Representatives of these organizations do not just put their signatures as partners, they developed each project event - draws the attention of the chairman of the Center for support of young disabled Mikhail Skrabyka.

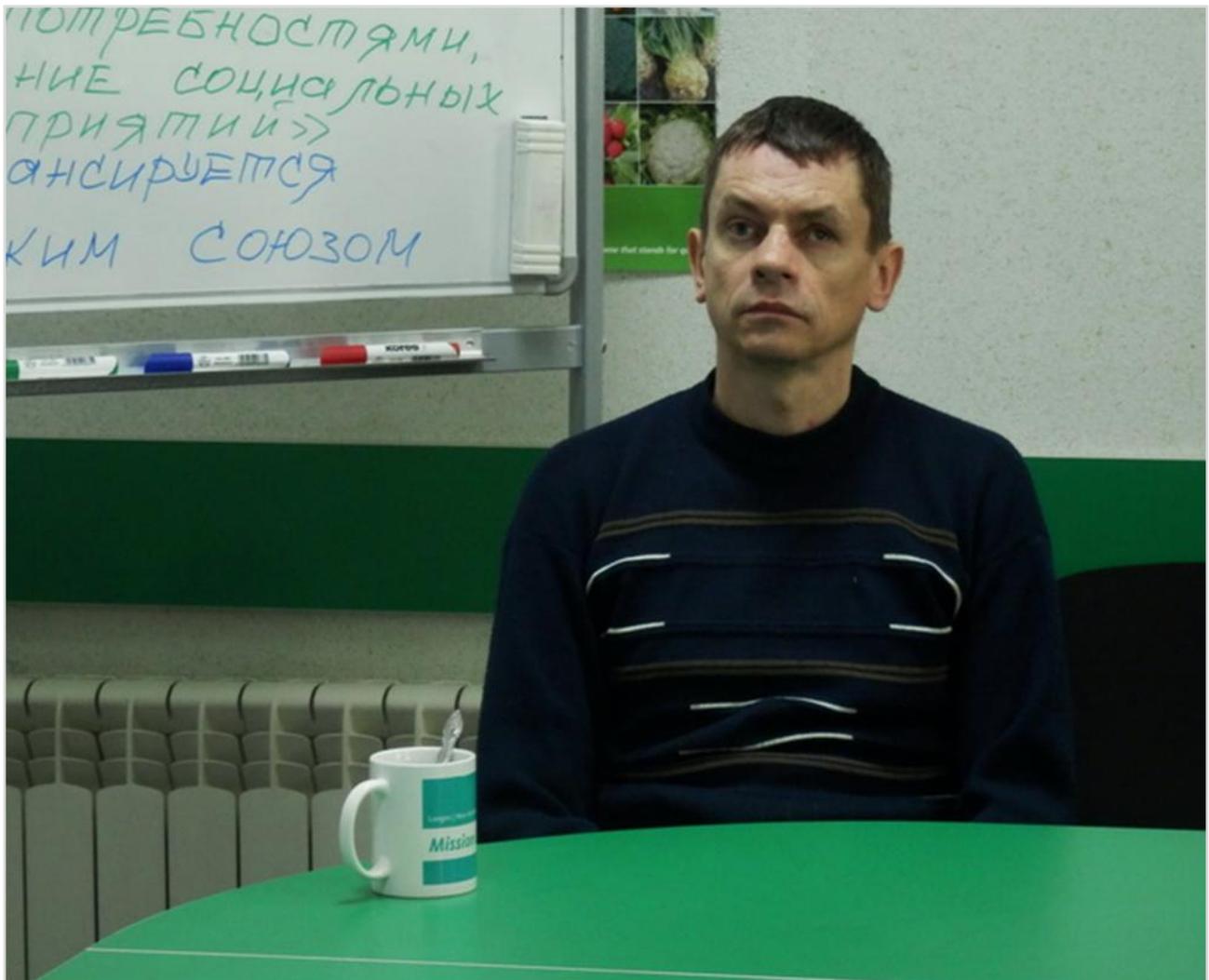


Michael Skrabeyka. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

He stressed that the project has received a good start thanks to the support of local authorities, with whom there was quite a fruitful cooperation in the field of disability. It is known that in order to succeed it is important to have a good foundation, and he was in Stolín. The first monitoring of barrier-free environment here began about four years ago. Sometimes it turned out that the same ramps at the entrances to the institution failed to meet the standards - and the leaders of these institutions had to correct the inconvenience.

Now, the project held seminars and round tables, where the experience of the Stolín activists share their colleagues from different countries (Poland, Latvia, Ukraine), planned the event with the participation of architects and other professionals. Soon to host training with drivers for the carriage of persons with disabilities in low-floor buses with ramps, which are equipped with the city fleet. After the New Year will begin full monitoring of urban facilities to the summer release directory on a barrier-free environment.

- Our global goal - to independent living of persons with disabilities. And not only a separate room in the apartment, and on equal access to all services. Accessibility - this is not a ramp. This means that people should have the opportunity to visit the shops, going to the cinema, restaurant, to be competitive in the labor market. We do not have non-working disabled groups, any group does not prohibit working but only limit it - emphasizes Mikhail Skrabeyka.



George Pyshnyak. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

- I hope that the monitoring will be held in January, will give their results, will create the necessary barrier-free environment for the visually impaired in places where they need to go to - in the pharmacy, hospital, railway station, - says the chairman of the expectations from the project Stolín regional organization of NGO "BeTIZ" George Pyshnyak. - I have repeatedly written treatment, and as a result at the entrances to many institutions appeared yellow label for people with impaired vision - previously healthy people do not even know for what these circles. Therefore, some are already beginning.

Head of the department of social support on labor, employment management and social protection of the Stolín District Executive Committee Galina Voropaeva said that in the area of about five thousand people with disabilities. According to her, the city should create a center of labor rehabilitation for them.

- People with disabilities do not want to sit in a closed space and look out the window. They want to be like everyone. But to understand this, it is necessary to live, - says Galina Petrovna, who had her own experience caring for a mother with a disability.



Galina Voropaeva (left) and Inna Sholomitskaya (right). Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

- As a representative of the education system, I see the need for the appearance of our ergaterapevtav, - said, in turn, the director of the regional center of Correction and Development Training and Rehabilitation Inna Sholomitskaya. - We have only psychologists and speech therapists, so we need ergaterapevty. According to her, in the Stolín district is home to 571 of the child with special needs. Therefore I would like, that all the city was the most convenient and affordable for parents with disabled children, says Inna Alekseevna.



In one of the offices in Stolinsky TsKRNiR rayon. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

Stolin District TsKRNiR participates in the Republican contest for the best special education institutions, and while the final will take place in a few weeks, the center has already entered into the top three among the 98 TsKRNiR across the country. Now the center has two classes and one preschool group for children with disabilities who are in neighboring with Stolin Rechitsa and the same - in the well-known all over the country, "cucumber" Olshany village. All 42 children enrolled. They were from all over the area to carry about classes daily special buses. Children stay in teaching enables their parents to work and deal with the economy.



Rechitsa. Entrance to the building where are located the classrooms for special children. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"



A classroom for children with special Rechitsa. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

- From my own experience, and in comparison with other areas, I like to say that we have done a lot in the area. What we - and non-governmental organizations, and government - talk to each other at the round table, that's good, - Mrs. Ina Sholomitskaya.

Malvina Vydrytskih, creator and director of social enterprise "Road to Life" in Stolín, works with the theme of disability for 20 years. Its businesses are not involved in the project, but stay away from the topic a woman can not.

- for the passed me on the way while everything is changing, but changing very slowly. Perhaps, in connection with the signing by our country to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it accelerates business - hopes Malvina Kuzminichna.

It was she who pioneered Stolín primary organization of the Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Young People, and remembers how in creating a group in the kindergarten for special children, and then they closed, as there were no funds for their maintenance. Now the situation is quite different, as evidenced by the activities of TsKRNiR.

- I think everything that happens - for the better. I have a motto: the way overcome going. So if we at least move in small steps, everything will turn out - believes Malvina Vydrytskih.



- We want to create their own development agenda of our region in the field of disability for five years, starting from education to employment, - he said. - After the workshop with Polish colleagues, organized by the Office on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we gradually began to develop it. After all, a good project - not the one who spent and forgotten. We want our project was the beginning. Though he is small, but it opens up great prospects.

The material was prepared in the framework of the international project "Rights of People with Disabilities: agenda for Belarus (Agenda 50)."



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