

Type of Project:	Mental Health	Country:	Kosovo
Approach:	Contracted works	Realisation: Year:	2004-2005
Project name:	ICPU (Intensive Care Psychiatric Unit) in Pristina	Version 1	Date: 2005



Initial Situation, Context

The health sector in Kosovo suffered from neglect by the central government in Belgrade, ethnic tensions (dismissal of Albanian staff from senior positions), and chaos after the break up of the former Yugoslavia. This resulted in a deteriorated health system affecting the Kosovar population, which even before the war had already the poorest health indicators in Europe.

The Department of Health and Social Welfare (predecessor of the Ministry of Health) defined in 2001 five main policy goals: healthy start in life, improved health of young people, improving mental health, developing human resources for health, and reducing communicable diseases. The health care system will aim at equity and non-discrimination, acceptability, accessibility, effectiveness, cost-efficiency, appropriateness, quality of care and sustainability (*Health Policy for Kosovo*, DHSW, February 2001).

Goals, Beneficiaries:

Patients in need for forced hospitalisation and/or treatment. Two or three places are reserved in priority for patients returning from Switzerland.

The ICPU will serve a population of a minimum of 600'000 inhabitants in the Pristina region from which approximately 1'000 patients will be admitted per year.

Approach:

The main activities are the diagnostic, the therapy and the treatment of patients either in stationary or in ambulatory mode.

The unit receives also patients for forced treatments after court decision. The duration of stay in the unit is from 2 to 10 days, generally 3 to 5 days. After that, the patients will be transferred for about 15 days to the department of psychiatry and then either back home or in an institution like the protected or semi-protected apartments.

Partner(s):

The following partners participated with this programme:

- The Ministry of Health and the University Clinical Center of Kosovo as owner and user of the new facilities.
- The concerned Municipal representatives (Administration department, cadastre, urbanism, etc.).
- FOM (Federal Office for Migrations for financing the project.
- Laborator per Arkitekture in Pristina as architect's office for the studies and supervision of the project.
- The University Psychiatric Clinic Basel (UPK) as consultant in the preparation and planning phase.

Implementation/Results:

The ICPU has eighteen (18) beds, divided in three zones. Rooms 1 to 4 for are two-bed rooms for 8 patients, rooms 5 to 8 are allocated as one-bed isolating rooms and rooms 9 to 11 are again two-bed rooms.

Services will be provided by a multidisciplinary team consisting of three psychiatrists (one of them already trained for work in this kind of facility), eighteen (18) nurses, and two technical staff.

The admission of patients in the ICPU will be strictly in line with the provisions of the mental health act that will be adopted by the Parliament of Kosovo, ensuring full respect for the human rights of the mentally ill people.

Constructions:

Year 2004-2005. The construction is on one level and in a traditional construction system with reinforced concrete foundations and structure, brick walls, metallic roof cover, thermo insulated roof and facades, metallic doors and aluminum windows.

The floors are covered with tiles in the bathrooms, and with linoleum in the offices the patient rooms, the cafeteria and the corridors.

There are specific security installations (security glass on windows, room alarms, etc) and fire alarm with the necessary installations (Fire extinguishers, water hydrant and detectors).

Cost, Financing:

The financing for this project was made by the Swiss Federal Office for Migration. The total credit for the project was CHF 1'040'000 (Euro 660'000). The expenses where made as follows:

Studies: € 20'000; Construction: € 550'000; Furniture: € 50'000: Various reserve: € 40'000.

The running cost will be supported by the budget of the Pristina University Hospital.

Problems/Constraints:

Mainly delays due to importation of several components like doors and windows.

Lessons learned: What was useful in the approach?

The preparation of the program with UPK Basel was a good starting point.

Lessons learned: What should be done different next time?

Our intervention in the architect's work should be stronger, particularly on the details.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach:

- The first precondition was the general program of development of mental health in Kosovo by the Ministry of Health and WHO that includes the implementation of this type of structure in each Kosovo region. SDC has already build on three regions of Kosova such: Semi-Protected Apartment and Competition of the Centre (Gjakovë), Centre and Semi-Protected Apartment (Gjilan), supervising the renovation of the old building in Peja in cooperation with Swiss Red Cross (financed by them), Semi-Protected Apartment (Prizren).
- Staff training: The staff training will be done by the Swiss Red Cross with a two years programme financed by the FOM.
- Construction Office with administrative and technical capacity to implement the project.

Evaluations:

The practical evaluation will be obtained from the users.

For further information:

Recommended Contacts:	Coof Pristina
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, desk Europe +CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/SHA Fact Sheet June 2002: "The Swiss Contribution"
Relevant other projects (links):	Similar SDC/SHA Projects in Kosovo.

Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: 3

Plan of the project

