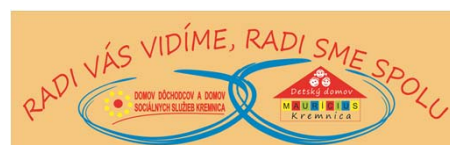




Ensuring a society for all ages:

Promoting quality of life and active ageing

UNECE 2012 Ministerial Conference, Vienna, Austria



## Project Title: We Are Glad to See You, We Enjoy Being Together

### The Project description

The Nursing Home and Social Services Home in Kremnica (NHSSH) is a skilled facility for seniors and a social services centre providing a year-round residence for 34 clients. As part of our social services, we also create conditions for cultural and hobby activities and work therapy. We cooperate with local schools as well as with Kremnica's Mauricius Children's Home to fill our clients' leisure time to maintain and even improve the quality of their lives. The children of the Mauricius Children's Home regularly visit the NHSSH's clients; when they learn something new, they come to present it – they sing songs, play musical instruments, recite poems or act out fairy tales. Their programmes are always followed by mutual socializing and exchanging gifts. The NHSSH's clients prepare refreshments and small gifts for the children as a reward for their programmes. These meetings are very popular. The children are looking for new "grandparents" and the NHSSH's clients are looking for new "grandchildren" and new friends. Our meetings develop into work activities, during which everybody creates various decorative items and gifts. While the children help, the NHSSH's clients pass their life and work experience on to them. When working, they sing to each other and the children are introduced to the secrets to making products which the clients have already made before. All of them often remember these meetings.

**Why is it considered a good practice** The programme is aimed at strengthening self-confidence and self-assertion in a new heterogeneous group environment consisting of people of various generations, the support of abilities like making other persons happy and offering or accepting help regardless of age or familiarization with the elderly.

**Timeline/duration of the project** The project started on November 4, 2009 and has still been continuing.

**Lessons learnt** We want the children to realise that they must respect the elderly and to behave towards senior citizens more attentively. During their regular meetings with our clients they can try to read their life stories in their faces. We want the children to touch our clients' grey hair and to hold their hands to win thus each other's affections. When the children give our clients a helping hand during making decorative items and gifts the both groups exchange their experience, learn to accept each other, as well as to enjoy the time spent together, which is the main contribution of the meetings.

**Relevance for the UNECE region** Slovak Republic

**Location of the project** City of Kremnica, Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region, Slovak Republic

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