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## PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2002 - MAY 2003

### People concerned

My role as project manager is to cooperate with the two persons in Lidingö, which together with myself make up the group running the project. This is Kerstin Lundberg, responsible for disability services, and Adriana Buzea, responsible for economy of disability services in Lidingö. Patricia Ericsson, consultant to the project in matters dealing with the method of the project, is also attached to this group.

6 persons with disability make up the group being focussed in the project. Each of them has got a representative who supports the person when they participate in project activities. As staff in housing as well as in daily activities are concerned, this means that 12 more persons participate. This means that in all 28 persons are involved in the STEPS/Lidingö project.

### Implementation and initiation

This part is the natural beginning of a project. Previous project plans have to meet the reality and detailed plans have to be made for the project to be implemented. This means that work has taken place to plan project activities for the coming 2 years.

These plans also have to be communicated to those who are involved. This means a period of initiation. There are three groups who have been concerned, the group who runs the disability services in Lidingö, it is staff in these services and there are the persons themselves and their representatives. This phase of initiation has taken place in a series of meetings.

### A training programme

The key method in this project is to organize seasonal meetings. The intention with them is to give persons a possibility to bring forward their views about activities which are to take place during the coming season. In this way the person will have an opportunity to be involved in his everyday life during coming season.

The idea of the seasonal meeting has been developed in services where projects have had the ambition to increase the participation of the person in his own life. This method is often seen as a possibility to increase democracy in disability services.

The method is not something which comes naturally. Therefore there is a need to

prepare those persons who will be involved that is persons, representatives and staff in housing and daily activities. A training programme did take place during the early phase of the project the ambition being to support persons to master this method.

#### Seasonal meetings

With the concept of seasonal meetings the intention is naturally to offer the person a possibility to participate in 4 meetings during a year. The spring meeting for 2003 has taken place and at the moment the summer meeting is going on.

There has also been a follow-up of the spring meeting when all concerned met to share their experiences which were gained. Staff reported a very positive reaction to the phenomena of the seasonal meeting. A personal relationship to the person, which had existed earlier, now had grown deeper.

As this is an anti-discrimination project examples of discrimination in everyday life have been given by staff. These had been found on a personal level, regarding some of the persons involved in the project. Activities have also taken place which have ameliorated those acts of discrimination.

#### Analysis and development of method

The objective of this project is to deliver a checklist to be used as a guideline which supports staff, persons and their representatives, on how to carry out, that is to plan, to realize and to follow-up, a seasonal meeting. The material for this comes from the meetings which are held in this project. Work has therefore started on the development of such a checklist, as the experiences of the spring meeting have been documented and analysed.

#### The final report

Work has also started on the final report of the project. This is of course version 1 of the report. But from earlier experiences I have found that the work with the final report has to start early. This is possible as a lot in a report is material which can be found before the end result has been delivered. Today the final report contains chapters about Swedish disability policy and organization, disability services in Lidingö and chapters on community based services. The idea of the seasonal meeting is also presented.

#### Conferences and relations

During this first working year two European conferences have been arranged by STEPS, one in Rotterdam and the other in Lidingö. The Lidingö project has of course participated in these and also presented its work with the European partners.

Over the year relationships have been created with partners in Barcelona, Hamburg, London and Rotterdam. They have been deepened and given possibilities for exchange of ideas, comments, questions and discussions, which mostly have taken place through the Internet. In this way a network has been created with people having common experiences and goals.

#### Administration

It must be mentioned, to give a just picture of what goes on in a project, that administration is a part of running a project of this magnitude.

#### A concluding comment

After this first year one must say that this is a project which expresses positive feelings. The basic idea of seasonal meetings have met with much interest from those who are concerned because one has in this method found a way to develop a social relationship which previously had good quality. People who are not involved in the project are now asking to get the possibility to make the same experiences.

The disability services of Lidingö offer support with a good quality. It has got a very local character as it uses small groups in housing and places where people are active during day-time. In this way this is a good representative of modern community based services. The method, seasonal meetings, fits well into this organization of services and contributes in a positive way.

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