

Introduction

Carinthia is situated in the south of Austria and is bordered by Italy and Slovenia.

Carinthia encompasses 9.500 square kilometres and has a population of half a million inhabitants. About half of its area is sparsely populated. Especially the western and northern mountainous parts contain only single dwellings or very small settlements and are difficult to reach by public transport.

The mental health services in Carinthia consists of:

an inpatient hospital service with a 220 beds in Klagenfurt, a 30 psychiatrists who offer a surgery in the community and some 30 rural foster establishments for the long term population and the non governmental organisation pro mente kärnten.

Pro mente kärnten is a voluntary non profit organisation. We have set ourselves the goal to aid the integration of people with mental health problems and Schizophrenia into society and employment.

Services pro mente kärnten is providing are:

a mobile 24 hour crisis intervention and emergency service and a home visiting service in all districts.

Further in four central districts it runs day centers an social firms as well as vocational training. In addition pro mente is running therapeutic communities for youngsters and therapeutic communities for severely handicapped adults.

Social Firms

To provide working places throughout Carinthia we have established four work projects in the districts of Spittal, (west) Villach, Klagenfurt and Wolfsberg.(east). They are organised as so called “unentbehrliche Hilfsbetriebe” or social firms though it is not allowed to use the international term social firms in Austria because of different defined legal meaning.

While as unentbehrlicher Hilfsbetrieb a trade licence is not required, we are not allowed to enter into competition with regular firms. (That means no product or service advertising)

Today 137 persons are employed in regular work places in the work projects.

Best praxis model: “ Copy Shop Spittal”

The goal setting up this new project was to provide three sheltered work places for higher qualified persons

Of cause the employees are paid market wage including all kind of insurances (health insurance, pension insurance; unemployment insurance)

The problems we were facing setting up the new project were as following:

1. a lot of money is needed to buy copying apparatus, printer, computers and software
2. to run the shop qualified staff is needed
3. you need a full order book to pay all these expenditures

Per month	07/2000
turnover	9.911,32
subsidies unemployment office	1.969,01
subsidies local government	31,99
subsidies disablement office	3.849,36
total	15.761,69
personal costs	
I.	-1.744,15
II.	-2.086,66
III.	-1.744,15
IV.	
project management	-233,64
job coach	-100,25
other expenditures (including administrations)	-9.852,84
total	-15.761,69
	0,00

“Special program”:

In Austria the disablement office subsidizes the establishment of sheltered work places with so called “Special Programs”. Within this program you get subsidies for three years to establish the new firm on the market and to qualify the staff.

In addition we got subsidies from the unemployment office and the local government for reintegration in the labour market.

After the three years subsidies are cut down and we just get individual based subsidies depending on the individual’s handicap.

Training program:

Right from the beginning we developed an individual training program for our new employees including basic computer skills as well as training in desktop publishing

The goal was to enlarge the range of services and products we are able to provide in our copy shop.

So it is actually possible not just to make copies and print but also to lay out flyers and poster or booklets.

Services on order:

The real big job is to get your order book filled. Of course the local market was analysed before we started the project. So it was quite likely that we would be successful. But to archive the planned turnover is just really hard work.

So within these three years most of the local NPO’s and the public bodies use our services.

In addition we co-operate with private printing offices in the way that we get those orders that are to little in number for them and vice versa.

In the meantime we have established a fourth sheltered work place in our shop and the financial situation for the month of July 2003 shows up as following:

Per month	07/2003
turnover	12.968,40
subsidies unemployment office	1.220,93
subsidies local government	1.177,30
subsidies disablement office	944,36
total	16.310,99
personal costs	
I.	-2.216,88
II.	-2.385,63
III.	-1.882,98
IV.	-1.882,98
project management	-307,91
job coach	-136,85
other expenditures (including administrations)	-7.343,37
total	-16.156,59
	154,40

Contact:

Annemarie Künstl
Richard Dabernig

Pro mente kärnten
A-Villacherstraße 161
9020 Klagenfurt
Tel.: 0043 463 55112

Fax: 0043 463 501256

Mail: office@promente-kaernten.at

<http://www.promente-kaernten.at>