

CONSTRUCTION OF A PLAYGROUND IN THE OPEN AIR in SOFIA

Project Goal:

To build a playground and create conditions for games and rest for children of different ages, suitable for both health and disable children.

The project is set up during the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the first club "Sofia1-Founder", through which the Soroptimist International organization entered in Bulgaria.

ASDE supported the project and gives support in all its phases of research, approval and implementation.

The partners were led by the idea of creating an accessible for everyone architectural environment, which is a material expression of the society's concern to the disabled people. Their problems are subject to special attention on international level and are a main priority during 2003.

Set goals and expected results

The main intention is to lessen the social isolation of disabled children, as they join for games and amusement at common playgrounds, but not isolated in specialized places.

- Club "Sofia 1" chose to work on a project, which has a long-term effect and can be repeated at various places, both in the districts of Sofia and all over the country.
- With this idea, the initiators respond to the priority themes of the European federation **Soroptimist**, oriented to the children and youths and to the integration of handicapped people.
- It is decided to build the site in the zone of the capital, called "Ecozone Sofia-East", which is planned as a pilot project and a Model for sustainable development.
- The implementation of the project should have a significant environmental, health and social effect.

Tasks and activities:

- To establish partnership and provide support from the local authorities of a district of the capital.
- The territory should be suitable /unbuild municipal property, with the possibility for protection.
- To urbanize and place grass over the municipal area in the build-up living area and create a playground where children can rest and play.
- To prepare a preliminary project and operation park planning project and co-ordinate it with various offices.
- Use of contemporary materials and design, conformable to children communication and play.
- To select facilities for children play that is also suitable for handicapped children.
- To prepare a quantitative account documentation and the steps of implementation
- The project should be co-ordinate and approved by the club members and the local administration.
- To select a company and sign a contract with a company executor.
- To set and implement a stage of the project for playground construction, according to the raised funds
- To secure protection /guard of the build up facilities
- To seek for funding with the aim of completion of the playground construction in perspective
- To disseminate information about the specific features of the playground and the possibility to be used from whoever wants.

Stages of implementation

The project was developed and started in the period of 2001 – 2002. Club "Sofia 1" established contacts with the administration of Mladost district. The information about the current procedures of restitution and investment intentions over the unbuild areas was analysed, review of the suitable sites, that are compulsory municipal property. The selected site, in an open-air lawn, in front of the 10th floor residential block 321-A.

Another reason for the selection of this site was the expressed willingness from the owner of the build shop on the ground floor to take care of the conservation of the playground facilities.

The project was prepared in both Bulgarian and English language; the drawings were accompanied by colourful illustrations of the playground facilities, photo material and costs.

The project includes the complete urbanization around the residential house, according to the urban planning requirements, but is designed for stage implemental- ton, which permits its completion according the financial sources.

The site is situated on a total of 650 m² southwards of block 321-A in "Mladost" 3 district in a free not well laid out terrain, in the vicinity of the main district boulevards " Sveto Preobrajenie ". The site construction aims at completion of the architectural-spatial area of the nearby group of children gardens and schools, in which territory, a suitable park area is already built.

The ground floor of block 321-A is already arranged as a commercial centre with district significance. The planned nearby playground for children play should complement the function of the surroundings

The goal is to create a pleasant environment for spending most of the free time and combining simultaneously commercial services, public catering establishment with the passive and active of parents and visitors.

Fitting-up and facilities

The playground is line with the modern requirements for children contact. The playground construction permits variety of games with more than 15 facilities. Part of them is intended for handicapped children. The aim is to integrate the children regardless of the problems they have. The ergonomics of all facilities is consistent with the safety requirements. The quality of the proposed materials corresponds to the standard ISO 2000.

Reinforced plastic is proposed as a main material, the carrying elements are from steel tubes with powder painting. After their reconstruction

and renewal, it is envisaged to utilise used wood facilities

The selected floorings are nature friendly, mostly with natural materials, enough safe for the children.

The possibility for one after another construction of the playground sections is assured.

The collected funds, \ on the first stage permitted the construction of floorings, 2 facilities that can be used by handicapped children as well as the reconstruction of the existing children slides, cradles and benches.

The rest of the funds for complete construction of the playground are expected to be supplied by other financial institutions.

The members of Club "Sofia 1", with president Ms Emilia Primerova and arch. Ionka Marinova will carry out the project co-ordination.

Costs and implementation

According to the prices proposed by "BORO" company, for the entire area around the residential houses, the project costs considering the total area of 650 m² and 15 children facilities is about 30000 Euro, including:

For floorings – 3300 Euro/, for grassing – 550 Euro, children facilities range from 130 to 2500 Euro.

The Municipality of Mladost granted some existing old children facilities that fell into the restitution estates.

The main donors of the playground are Club "Sofia 1" and other clubs from the International women organization "Soroptimist International".

The first stage of implementation was officially completed in May 2002. This event coincided with the celebration of 10th anniversary of the foundation of Club "Sofia 1"

Many Soroptimist members participated with voluntary work. This day coins

Author and donors

The international women organization Soroptimist International
Club "Sofia 1" – founder in Bulgaria with president Ms Emilia Primerova
Club Kingston Upon Thames, England
Soroptimist clubs from Bulgaria and France.

Location

The project implementation is continued at a new site against the building of Municipality of Mladost in the "Mladost 3" district

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