

BOOST

A CASE STUDY FROM THE PILOTING PHASE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The entrance to the company



Case Study: TyfloCentrum Plzeň, o.p.s.

TyfloCentrum Plzeň, o.p.s. was founded in the year 2000 under company SONS ČR, but its own activity started in the year 2002. TyfloCentrum provides social services to encourage self-reliance, independence and social use of visually impaired people. From that time the clientele is gradually growing and it is associated with providing of more services. Nowadays the company has approximately 130 clients per year. The clients are served and the services are provided not only directly from the city of Pilsen, but also from other cities in Pilsen region.

The main services the company provides are:

- guiding
- reading aloud
- social activation services
- professional social counseling
- volunteering

Engagement of the company

This company was engaged at the very beginning of the piloting – in the beginning of the year 2015. The piloting in the BOOST platform started at the end of May 2015.

Determination of critical needs and goals

The main critical need of this company is a lack of money. It is dependent on the state subsidies, funds provided by company Plzeňský Prazdroj, Pilsen region and foundation Nadace 700 let města Plzně (700 Years of the city of Pilsen). Each year they have to struggle for the money and the amount is not enough for all the activities the company would like to do. Nowadays in the company work just 2 employees and help some volunteers, what causes a lack of time for all the planned activities. Their weak point is also lack of theoretical and practical skills of lecturing/teaching – they organize some learning courses for their visually impaired clients.



The process of learning in TyfloCentrum



The main set Learning indicators were:

- social politics
- fundraising
- lecturing
- presentation
- time management
- and languages and other courses were required rather by employees, than by the company.

In the beginning of the piloting there occurred problems with signing in, after were lost signing data of 2 accounts (one by one) of the director of the company, so she was forced to make third account (under Google) and from that time was everything working well.

Did the BOOST project help the company?

The company really appreciated our support and all the provided learning materials/courses to them.

It opened them new horizons, they gained a lot of new resources of information, which will help them to orient better in social politics of the Czech Republic - where and how to gain more money to help more visually impaired people and provide them more services.

Also the employees now better manage their time and are more satisfied at work.

They improved their presentation and lecturing skills and are prepared to teach the clients more professionally.



Conclusion

The whole process of piloting took the manager and the learners a lot of time but was worth it. They plan to use both the platform and the methodology in the future and even engage in the process more employees/volunteers. They trust in continuous development of their knowledge in the future and trust they will become more independent and beneficial for the visually impaired people in whole Pilsen region.