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## KICK OFF MEETING REPORT

### SUMMARY

This report presents the Kick-Off Meeting of the project titled “Assist The Goal – Anti Stigma (ATG)”, implemented within the framework of Erasmus+ Small-Scale Cooperation Partnerships (SSCP).



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### 1. General Information

Bu başlıkta projeye dair genel bilgiler raporlaştırılmıştır.

Project Name:	Assist The Goal- Anti Stigma
Project Number:	101245638
Type of Activity:	Erasmus + SSCP
Mobility Dates:	23.03.2026-26.03.2026
Host Institution:	Mladinski Dom Malci
Host Country/City	Slovenya- Ljubljana
Participant Number:	11
Participant Profile	Staff members of partner institutions

### 2. Purpose of the Mobility

The specific objectives of this project are as follows:

- To increase the participation of children in the child protection system in social inclusion processes through football, and to support their social and personal development by empowering them through football.
- To promote international cooperation among social service institutions in Türkiye, Slovenia and Croatia.
- To disseminate European values such as equality and social inclusion through sport.
- To develop sustainable sports programs in child protection institutions and strengthen sports management capacity.
- To facilitate knowledge and experience sharing among professionals working in the child protection system.



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With the Kick Off Meeting held between 23-26/03/2026, the following objectives were planned to be achieved:

- Face-to-face meeting of project partners,
- Determination of the general framework of the project and reaching consensus,
- Learning about the child protection system of the host institution and observing good practices on site,
- Observing methods of using sport as a social inclusion tool.

With this mobility, transnational cooperation among social service institutions was established. Partners shared methods of access to sport for children under protection, observed the sports programs implemented within the host institution's child protection system on site, and information about the Slovenian Child Protection System was shared. Thus, this mobility supported both the specific objectives of the project and the mobility objectives.

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### 3. Information About the Host Institution

Under this title, general information about the institution hosting the kick off meeting is reported.



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Institution Name:	Strokovni center Mladinski dom Malci Beliceve Ljubljana
Year of Establishment:	1928
Field of Activity:	Social services / child protection system
Target Group:	Children under protection between primary school grades
Services Provided:	Residential care
Number of Children:	68
Number of Staff:	54

### 3.1. Kurumun Faaliyet Alanları ve sunduğu hizmetlere ilişkin detaylı bilgi:

Malči Beličeve Residential Home in Slovenia is a public educational institution established to provide educational services. These activities are carried out as a public service in line with the programmes determined by the Ministry of Education, focusing on the education of children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The institution employs 54 staff members (1 director, 2 counsellors [a social worker and a special education specialist], and 39 educators with diverse professional backgrounds and skills). In addition, sports teachers are also employed at the facility. Malči Beličeve Residential Home provides accommodation for 68 girls and boys and organizes its work in 10 groups (each with a maximum capacity of 8 children): 6 educational groups (up to 15 years old, max. 8 children), 2 residential groups (up to 18 or 20 years old, max. 8 children), 1 intensive support group (up to 3 children of any age, up to 26 years old; children are placed here due to the severity and complexity of their needs), and 1 youth apartment (up to 2 young people, up to 26 years old).





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The institution is connected with various organizations and associations such as the Friends of Youth Association of Slovenia, the Youth Holiday and Recreation Institute, numerous sports and cultural associations, the Scout Organization, and local communities. It also cooperates with primary and secondary schools, colleges, the Faculty of Social Work, the Faculty of Education, and many volunteers. Malči Beličeve Residential Home maintains links with other youth centres across the country.

In addition to educational activities, the institution conducts intensive sports programmes focusing on training and competitions in football, basketball, volleyball, skiing, snowboarding, dance, and school sports. Regular exercise forms the foundation, while competitions are built upon this training. The institution actively participates in national and international sports projects, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and personal development.

International connections include: Faith and Sports Foundation in Kecskemét, Hungary / UEFA Grassroots Football Championship (annually between 2006–2016); CSIPERO Cultural Festival (2008–2012); Balkan bez granica (Balkans Without Borders, 2012–2015) – international exchanges between children and staff from former Yugoslav countries (these exchanges continue annually). Since 2013, a team from Slovenia has also participated every year in the Football World Cup for Children in Care held in Poland.

Children from the institution have been participating in the Mirno more (Peaceful Sea) international project since 2002, and a few years ago, cooperation was also established with the Sonce v Srcu (Sun in the Heart) project. The Igraj se z mano (Play with Me) Festival is another key initiative in which they participate.



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The institution has also taken part in various collaborations and projects with organizations from Argentina (2014, Buenos Aires; international exchange and sports events with Argentina, Uruguay, and Slovenia), partners in Aschaffenburg (Ljubljana, 2016 and 2019), Tarnow Youth Centre (2015), Dječji dom Klasje Osijek (Ljubljana, 2018; Osijek, 2019), and Dječji dom Bijela in Montenegro (winter and summer exchanges).

- The institution has football teams that have been regularly training for the past 10 years.
- The staff of the institution have been working in the same institution for a long time.
- Children under protection stay in the institution in 8 groups.
- Boys and girls stay together in the groups, each consisting of a maximum of 8 children.
- There are 4 regions in Slovenia, and within this area there are a total of 9 institutions providing services to the same target group.
- The institution works with children and young people who have emotional and behavioural problems.
- In 2020, a law was enacted concerning institutions that provide only care services.
- The institution has a youth apartment where 2 university students reside.
- The process of requesting and terminating a protection order is carried out solely by the social worker.
- The institution works in cooperation with the Social Service Centre, and family-related work is conducted by this centre. Decisions such as lifting the protection order or allowing the child to visit their biological family are made jointly by the institution's social service unit and the Social Service Centre.





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- Children aged 0–6 who need protection are supported within their families as much as possible; if not possible, they are supported through foster care.
- The protection order can be extended up to the age of 26 if the individual continues higher education.
- Young people leaving the system are expected to find their own employment.
- There are crisis centres where individuals can stay for up to 20 days.
- In emergency situations, a social worker can remove a child/young person from their family home without a court order.
- Each child is encouraged to have a hobby. To support this, the institution offers study programmes, as well as artistic and sports activities after school.
- The consent of the biological family is required for placement in foster care. Children placed in foster care are allowed to maintain contact with their biological families.
- In addition to full-time foster care, there is also a model where children spend weekends with foster families.
- The duration and frequency of a child’s visits to their biological family are determined based on the professional assessment of the social worker.
- There is strong cooperation between the institution and the schools attended by the children.
- There are no cameras anywhere in the institution.
- The institution works with children who are placed under protection due to neglect, economic hardship, imprisonment of family members, and similar reasons.
- The institution is a detached two-storey building. While group units are separated within the building, they share the same corridor. Meals are prepared in the institution’s dining hall. Within the groups, the ground floor includes a living room and an open kitchen, while the upper floor includes bathrooms/toilets and double bedrooms. The building includes a multi-purpose indoor sports hall, as well as a multi-purpose sports field in the





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garden. Fire hydrants are located at various points in the garden. There is no gate at the entrance of the garden; access is directly from the street. There is no security personnel in the institution.

### 3.2. Units/Activities Visited

During the kick off meeting, the institution’s services were observed on site, the institution was visited, and football training sessions for two different age groups were observed. The following were observed:

- All units of the institution
- Training field
- Information was obtained from the institution's administration and social services regarding legal regulations, common European Union laws/regulations, etc., related to the child protection system.
- Common practices have been shared.
- Information was obtained about the social rehabilitation programs the institution carries out through sports, and inclusive football training sessions were observed.

### 3.3. Host Institution Strengths

During the Kick-Off meeting, the conditions and services of the host institution were observed on site. In light of the information obtained from the visits and meetings, the strengths of the host institution were identified as follows:

1. The institution effectively utilizes volunteer and sponsorship resources.





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2. There is a structured service programme designed to prevent children from engaging in risky behaviours, supported by individually planned leisure-time activities for each child.

Key Observations:

- Activities are highly participatory.
- Trainers use non-formal education methods.
- Teamwork and inclusivity are prioritized.
- There is well-structured activity planning.
- The institution has staff experienced in working with disadvantaged youth.
- The institution demonstrates an effective use of local resources.

4. Good Practices

The good practices observed during the visit and considered suitable for localization are as follows:

**Sponsor Support:**

The institution has a strong sponsor network. The specific needs of the children receiving services, as well as certain sports and social activities, are supported through sponsors. In this way, the financial burden on public resources is reduced, while also fostering young people’s ability to build long-term relationships and develop secure attachments. This volunteer-based system has been evaluated as a good practice in many respects.





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The institution maintains its own sponsor network. Individual relationships are established between sponsors and young people, and sponsors are expected to support the individual needs of children and youth, build meaningful and in-depth relationships rather than superficial ones, and contribute to the social and sporting activities in which they participate.

This practice is considered to provide financial flexibility to the institution and to enhance children’s and young people’s sense of self-worth and belonging. It is believed that there are no barriers to implementing this practice in other institutions, and it is therefore considered adaptable to local contexts.

### Inclusive Sports Programs:

It has been observed that the institution offers sports activities in multiple disciplines for the children it serves. The institution provides training in various sports branches, and this diversity increases the number of children participating in sports activities. The regular and routine nature of the training not only enhances children’s sense of security but also supports the development of self-discipline.

In addition, the presence of football training for different age groups has been evaluated as an inclusive service. This allows children and young people of all age groups to participate in football training, resulting in the inclusion of individuals with varying levels of ability. The institution’s possession of its own sports field within its premises has been considered a factor that facilitates these practices. It has been concluded that inclusive sports programs represent a good practice that should be implemented in all social service institutions.



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### 5. Outcomes

Under this heading, the outcomes obtained as a result of the Kick-Off Meeting have been reported. The expected outputs prior to the mobility for the Kick-Off Meeting were as follows:

- To gain knowledge about the Child Protection System in Slovenia,
- To observe on-site the services provided by a social service institution in Slovenia,
- To learn from the host institution’s experience and skills in sports management,
- To strengthen communication channels by meeting partners face-to-face, and
- To reach a common understanding regarding project processes.

#### 5.1. Learning Outcomes of the Mobility.

The learning outcomes obtained as a result of the Kick-Off Meeting, which is the first mobility activity of the Assist The Goal – ATG project, have been evaluated and reported under two headings: participants and institutional perspectives

##### 5.1.1. From the Participants’ Perspective:

- Staff who worked together during the preparation and application phase of the project met face-to-face and initiated an effective cooperation process.
- Child Protection System professionals gained knowledge about different child protection systems and their modes of operation.
- Participants developed the ability to compare practices of different institutions and analyze good practice examples.
- Their capacity to plan sports-based social inclusion and development activities for disadvantaged children and youth increased.





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➤ Awareness was raised regarding the effective use of resources and alternative methods of resource mobilization.

#### 5.1.2. From the Institutional Perspective:

➤ Awareness was developed regarding inter-institutional cooperation, communication, and coordination mechanisms.

➤ New ideas for activities to be implemented within the institution were generated.

➤ Creative and problem-solving ideas were developed for utilizing community resources for the benefit of the institution.

#### 5.2. Outcomes of the Mobility

The outcomes obtained as a result of the Kick-Off Meeting, the first mobility activity of the Assist The Goal – ATG project, have been evaluated and reported under two headings: participants and institutional perspectives. This mobility aimed to enable participants to observe different care models on-site. Following the meetings and institutional visits carried out during this mobility, the outcomes are as follows:

##### 5.2.1. From the Participants' Perspective:

➤ The knowledge level of youth workers regarding the Child Protection System increased.

➤ Participants conducted on-site observations through the visits and identified examples of good practices.

➤ The mobility activity strengthened participants' professional knowledge and skills and supported the exchange of experience.

➤ It increased the motivation of participating staff to strengthen the child protection system.





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### 5.2.2. From the Institutional Perspective:

- This report, presenting the strengths of the Slovenian Child Protection System and the host institution, has been prepared and will be made accessible to project participants and youth workers.
- The project timeline has been revised, enabling stronger and more effective project management.
- A communication network has been established to ensure sustainable communication and cooperation among institutions.

### 6. Challenges Encountered

No problems were encountered during the planning and implementation phases of the Kick-Off Meeting, which was the first mobility activity of the project. The host institution took all necessary measures to ensure that the meeting proceeded smoothly.

### 7. Future Steps

A consensus was reached during the Kick-Off Meeting regarding the project processes. In line with this agreement, following the meeting, project partners will begin training sessions and start preparations for the first stage of the tournament.

In addition, the host institution and the project coordinator have prepared this report on the first mobility activity of the project, and it will be submitted to the relevant higher authorities of the institution.





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8. General Evaluation

The kick-off meeting of our project titled *Assist The Goal – Anti-Stigma*, implemented within the scope of the Erasmus+ Programme Small-Scale Partnerships in the Field of Sport (SSCP), was carried out smoothly, well-organized, and highly efficiently, as planned. The fact that all partners are public institutions providing services within the child protection system contributed to a shared understanding and strong motivation, making the cooperation more meaningful.

Throughout the meeting, participants demonstrated a common sensitivity to the core values of the European Union, namely inclusiveness, equality, solidarity, and the protection of children’s rights. Institutions contributed to a mutual learning process by sharing their experiences in delivering services to children under protection. This process not only facilitated the understanding of different practices but also strengthened the capacity to develop joint solutions to common challenges.

Furthermore, the meeting established a solid foundation for effective communication and sustainable cooperation among institutions. Clarifying roles and responsibilities related to the project process also contributed to the development of a shared vision.

Overall, the kick-off meeting was not only the starting point of the project process but also a clear demonstration of a shared commitment to improving the quality of services provided within the child protection system.





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### 9. Annexes

#### 9.1. Photos



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