



**COOPERATION FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BELARUS**

## **SUBGRANTED PROJECTS**

### **Developing social services and psychological care for cancer patients**

**Развитие сферы услуг социально-психологической помощи для онкопациентов как социально-уязвимой группы населения: в г. Сморгонь**

#### **GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project location: Smarhón

Organiser: Belarusian Young Women Christian Association

Status: Civic initiative

The purpose of the project is to create a centre for cancer patients, where scientists and patients, their relatives and friends, lawyers, psychologists and representatives of local authorities will work together for the well-being of the patients. To do so, long-term and sustainable relations between the stakeholders will be encouraged, to improve the quality of life and the social inclusion of the cancer patients.

In this framework, several activities will be organized such as meetings with the stakeholders, trainings to prepare the local specialists on the psychological and social adaptation of cancer patients and two public events on the fight against cancer. As this project targets women cancer patients, twelve of them will take part in training sessions on psychosocial rehabilitation. They will also take part in a comparative survey with 12 other women cancer patients who are not involved in the trainings.

The Belarusian Young Women Christian Association is dedicated to develop women leadership and bring them together to stand for their human rights, their good health conditions, their safety, their dignity, their freedom as well as for justice and peace.

#### **PROJECT UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2012**

The project is a result of several years of awareness-raising about breast cancer activity by Smarhón regional branch of the Belarusian Young Women Christian Association (BAMHZh). Smarhón women who passed through cancer had many questions concerning rehabilitation and psychological assistance after the treatment. Female cancer patients, members of BAMHZh, were helping to answer such questions. So was established an informal group of female cancer patients and their families who were ready not only to talk openly about their disease, but also to help themselves and others. The idea arose to create a seminary for patients on the basis of the centre of social service for people "Warm house".

The project consisted in a number of round-tables and trainings for different target groups: local authorities and non-state actors, experts in cancer, experts in psychology and patients. The

activities aimed at creating a Help Unity based in Smarhón for cancer patients and their families. This Help Unity in cooperation with local authorities will inform Smarhón inhabitants about its activities, involve patients who need assistance, as well as promote human values and self-responsibility for life-style and health.

Trainings for psychologists and psychotherapists gave them new knowledge about the specificity of work with cancer patients and raised their interest to the work in this field. In result, eight specialists in psychology expressed their readiness to take part in future work with cancer patients and their families.

Trainings for patients promoted the idea of particular importance of psychology and communication for the success in cancer treatment. These trainings improved the psychological state and self-esteem of patients and promoted the group work.

The project implementation was accompanied by a communication campaign in local media – a TV reportage and several publications in Smarhón region's newspaper.



For more pictures, please click [here](#)

Download a video on the project activities [here](#)

Download a video on the project activities [here](#)