

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
“BELARUSIAN ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES”

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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Artyom Shyshov, a member of Molodechno Primary Organization of NGO “BelAPDIIMI”, is on the cover
The archive photos of NGO “BelAPDIIMI” were used in the report.
A photo of the youngsters participating in the bike ride “Thought matters” was taken by Ekaterina Gordeeva/TUT.BY (p.15)
A photo of Angelina Wales at the contest “Miss Wheelchair World” was taken by Bartosz Krupa/East News (p.16)
A photo of Eduard Shypitsyn at the Belarusian forum on employment of people with disabilities was taken from the archive of the Institute of IT and Business Administration (p. 19).

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

Non-governmental organization «Belarusian association of assistance to children and young people with disabilities» (NGO «BelAPDiMI»), being one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Belarus, unites on a voluntary basis approximately 3000 families bringing up children and young people with disabilities. This is a membership organization.

Our goal is to change the existing stereotypes about persons with disabilities, to lobby their interests, protect their rights and strengthen their influence in the society. In order to achieve the above-mentioned goal, we have been implementing socially important projects, cooperating with government agencies and departments, actively cooperating with business partners, mass media and other non-governmental organizations since 1994, i.e. for more than 25 years.



Our mission

To create for children and young people with disabilities equal with other people opportunities to participate in every field of social life.

Main areas of work:

- > protection of rights and promotion of interests of persons with disabilities at the legislative level;
- > work with members of the public and their opinion;
- > capacity-building of primary organizations of NGO «BelAPDiMI» in Belarus;
- > the organization's economic development via work of unitary enterprises, creation of new workplaces for persons with disabilities;
- > support to families who are members of our organization.

WELCOME SPEECH



We work for the sake of a worthy «today» and a sustainable «tomorrow» of persons with disabilities!

We are a team of the executive bureau of NGO «BelAPDiMI». We have been working together for more than 20 years. A professional attitude and independence, a sustainable and authoritative standing at the public and government levels, observance of the world's best practices and international acknowledgement is the guarantee of the quality of our work. Our team annually reflects on its work with the aim to evaluate and analyze the results and make plans for the future.

2017 was a fruitful and significant year for our organization. We've been lobbying interests of persons with disabilities over the last 5 years and we've managed to achieve big results. Thus, the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On social services» has been amended. According to the Law, day stay departments for persons with severe, multiple disabilities will be founded (are being founded) in every Territorial Centre of Social Services.

Workplaces for persons with disabilities are being created and their right to work is being enjoyed thanks to the activity of the unitary enterprises of NGO «BelAPDiMI» which were established within the projects of the organization. Another important result of our work is that a status «social enterprise» has been enshrined in the National Action Plan for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2017-2025 in the Republic of Belarus.

NGO «BelAPDiMI» comprises 52 primary organizations from all over the country. In 2017, 9 primary organizations started providing social services new for Belarus. For example, social patronage, social respite care and family clubs.

Our ambitious goal for the next few years is to change the public disability paradigm and replace the «medical model» approach by the «social model» one, that is to use the individual approach. It is a long-term difficult process to change the public opinion. It requires constant education, awareness-raising activities and introduction of new models of behaviour. Such a goal can be achieved only thanks to constant and close cooperation with the government, other non-governmental organizations, international organizations, mass media and business community.

Our team expresses sincere appreciation and gratitude for our joint fruitful work to our partners, sponsors and all the people who care and are always ready for cooperation. We can create an inclusive society, where every person with his peculiarities is of great value, only thanks to joint efforts and specific actions.

Elena Titova

chairperson of NGO «BelAPDiMI»

OUR TEAM

Our team consists of 14 highly qualified professionals.



Liubov Sivograkova
chief accountant



Alla Dashko
accountant of MCO
of NGO "BelAPDiMI"



Anastasiya Zhyrmont
legal adviser



Marina Voynova
translator



Marina Lysak
family support
coordinator



Anna Lapchik
regional operations
coordinator



Elena Boiko
training programme
coordinator



Natalia Gubar
public relations
specialist



Irina Kuksik
project coordinator



Sergey Lapchik
supported employment
assistant



Tatiana Grishan
specialist social
worker

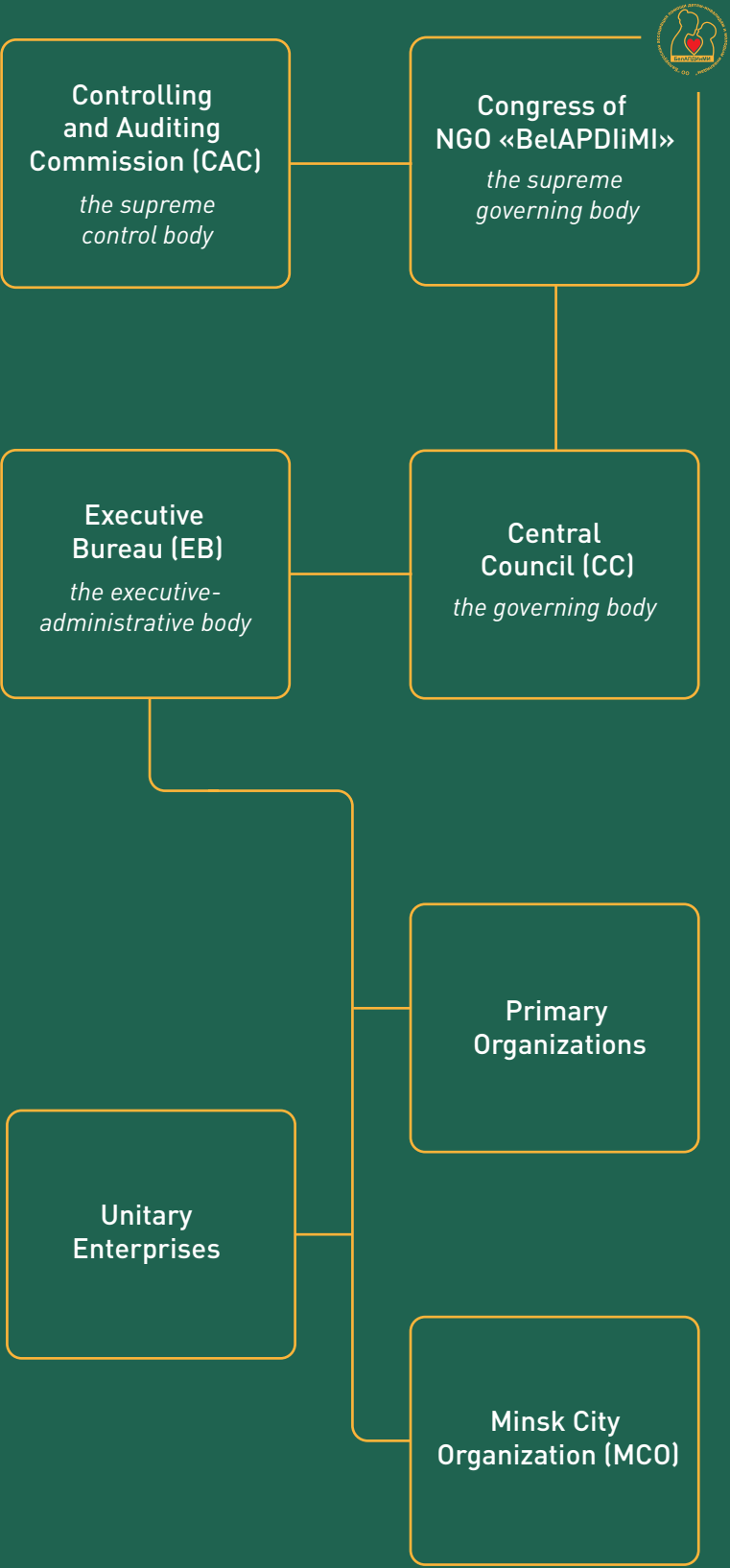


Eduard Shypitsyn
supported employment
assistant



Anastasiya Pigulevskaya
specialist social
worker

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



FACTS AND FIGURES



2850



We unite 2850 families bringing up children and young people with disabilities

42



Our primary organizations are located in 42 regions of the Republic of Belarus

52



We comprise 52 primary organizations which have rights of a legal entity

20



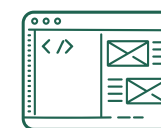
We implemented 20 socially important projects in 2017

4



We founded 4 unitary enterprises

500



In 2017, the activity of our organization was mentioned in mass media approximately 500 times.



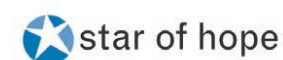
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We did a great job in 2017. We are proud of our primary organizations which actively cooperated with the executive bureau, local authorities and the organization's members. We achieved good results in dissemination of the principles of inclusion in the society, contributed to changes in the legislation and built tight partnership relations with socially responsible businesses.





AT THE LEGISLATIVE LEVEL



We lobby for protection of rights and promotion of interests of persons with disabilities.

13

13 proposals of NGO «BelAPDiMI» were supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and included in the National Action Plan for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2017-2025 in the Republic of Belarus. 2 proposals of NGO «BelAPDiMI» were taken into account in the process of working out of the National Action Plan for improving the situation of children and protection of their rights for 2017 – 2021

13

13 proposals of NGO «BelAPDiMI» were included in the Joint Action Plan of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus and non-governmental organizations in respect to training of persons with psychophysical disabilities, including persons with disabilities, for 2016 – 2020

LEGAL SUPPORT

We provide legal support to families and explain them the legislation in force and the social protection system. It helps families to fully use the social benefits and guarantees provided by the government.

150

Legal advice was given to 150 families

3

Long-term legal support was provided to 3 families



SOCIAL SUPPORT TO FAMILIES



We organize recuperative programmes and summer camps for children with disabilities and their families.

According to the legislation in force, many people with disabilities have contraindications for health improvement and sanatorium and spa treatment. Participation in recuperative programmes, organized by NGO «BelAPDiMI», enables them to improve their health, to relax, make new friends and share the experience.



29 families
in «Nadezhda»



18 families
in «Caritas»



16 families
in «Pasaka»



15 families
in the SOS – village



5 families
in «Zubrenok»

Thanks to close cooperation of NGO «BelAPDiMI» and other non-governmental organizations, government agencies and business partners, inclusive educational platforms were created. In 2016-2017, approximately 100 children with disabilities developed their talents and abilities in:



- > the Fashion Theatre «kids' PODIUM» run by Oksana Kavetskaya
- > the production centre «Super Duper» under the supervision of Alexander Kupriyanovich
- > Max Mirnyi Centre under the supervision of trainer Alexander Dmitriev
- > the Palace of Creativity of Children and Youth under the supervision of Tatiana Gulevich

CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES

The main aim of these activities is to overcome the stereotypes existing within the society, lower the level of stigmatization and form a positive attitude towards people with disabilities. We organize inclusive and accessible activities which are open to the public.

We carried out approximately 100 activities in Minsk and the regions of Belarus

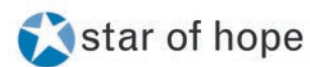
100

Approximately 20 thousand people participated in the activities

20т.



CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE



We attract sponsors with the aim to provide material assistance to families bringing up children and young people with disabilities.

7463,79 BYN

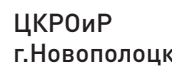
were transferred to the organization's charitable account. 1154 families got material and financial support.



Children from NGO «BelAPDiMI» participated in the creation of a collection of children's T-shirts within Kids' Fashion Days BFW. Children drew bright pictures under the supervision of the pedagogues from Art&Fashion School.

Those patterns were printed on T-shirts. 1882,40 BYN, gained as a result of a charitable sale of the children's T-shirts, were spent on providing support to families.

COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



We provide expert support and attract financial partners for those state institutions which are interested in improving the quality of services provided to persons with disabilities.

20 000 €

More than 20 000 euros were attracted for the implementation of joint projects; equipment was purchased for 3 state institutions

EXPERT ACTIVITIES

Our employees have experience, knowledge and professional skills in disability theme. A professional attitude and independence, a sustainable standing, observance of the world's best practices and international acknowledgement is the guarantee of our excellent high-quality expert judgments.

Elena Titova, chairperson of NGO «BelAPDiMI», participated in EU-Belarus Human Rights Dialogue held in Brussels on July 20. She voiced the position of the organization in respect to the topic «anti-discrimination policy and protection of neglected groups, including rights of persons with disabilities and children».

Elena Titova, chairperson of NGO «BelAPDiMI», joined the finale contest of social projects of Belarus «Social Weekend» as an expert on the rights of persons with disabilities and as a member of the jury. The event was held in Minsk on May 18.

NGO «BelAPDiMI» supported the project «Scrawlless» (the distance learning service) by testing the application.

NGO «BelAPDiMI» in cooperation with UNDP in Belarus designed a flyer «Say – don't say» about the correct terminology which everyone should know and use in communication with persons with disabilities.

The specialists of NGO «BelAPDiMI» participated in the media breakfast «Mass media and NGOs: how to be more useful for each other» as experts. The event was organized by Press Club Belarus and held in Minsk on October 24. The proposals on effective cooperation with mass media were elaborated.

On December 4, the Information strategy of the Republic of Belarus for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities was signed. Elena Titova and Natalia Gubar, public relations specialist of NGO «BelAPDiMI», actively participated at every stage of the elaboration of the Information strategy and the recommended standards on information materials about the problems of persons with disabilities. The aim of the document is to further changes in the information space which will promote the full social inclusion of persons with disabilities taking into account the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

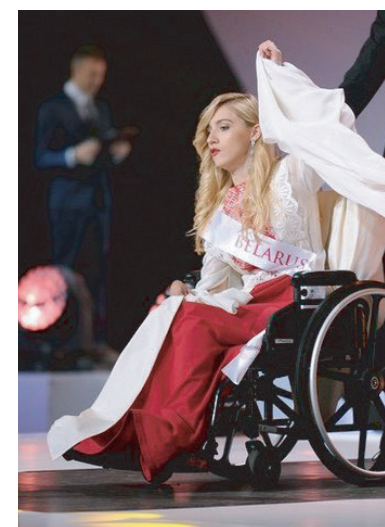
The specialists of NGO «BelAPDiMI» constantly improve their skills and qualifications. Thus, 5 employees participated in an educational visit to Austria within the EU-funded project «Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People-Contacts» in November 2017. The main aim of the visit was to study and get acquainted with the range of social services provided by NGOs in Austria.



KEY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2017

30.05.17 Charitable concert «Millions of hearts»

The inclusive concert «Millions of hearts» timed to the International Day for Protection of Children was held in the Youth Variety Theatre on May 30. The concert was organized by the Fashion Theatre «kids' PODIUM» run by Oksana Kavetskaya in collaboration with NGO «BelAPDiMI». More than 400 persons participated in the event. It was supported by singer Janet Buterus, by the theatre of dance «Menada», the modern dance group «ANTRE», Daria Chernova who is a finalist of the contest «You are super», the production centre «Super Duper», Alina Burachevskaya who is a soloist in the Honoured amateur group of the Republic of Belarus «Syabrynka» and the production centre «Talent Group».



“ Inclusion appears when we change our thinking pattern, when we are on an equal footing. It means that we don't decide for a person with disabilities, but rather support him in his independent decision-making. And the most important thing is that we shouldn't build special worlds for persons with disabilities. There is no «they», there is only «we», and differences in appearance don't matter at all.

Elena Titova

chairperson of NGO «BelAPDiMI»

27.08.17 –
03.09.17

Bike ride «Thought matters»

Families from Grodno, Minsk, Volozhin and Smorgon supported and participated in the bike ride «Thought matters» – a significant initiative of UNDP in Belarus. The initiative was targeted on overcoming of the stereotypes about persons with intellectual disabilities, a healthy way of life and sustainable tourism. On the initiative of NGO «BelAPDiMI», in cooperation with the Republican public organization «Belarusian Chamber of Fashion» and UNDP in Belarus, with the support of Mark Formelle and Huawei, a contest «Easy-to-read language» was announced for Belarusian designers. The participants of the contest had to use pictograms and the ideas of easy-to-read language in their collections. Anna Redko became a winner of the contest; the T-shirts of the participants of the bike ride were decorated with the designs created by 7 finalists.



07.10.17 Contest «Miss Wheelchair World»

NGO «BelAPDiMI» supported the participation of Angelina Wales, the first model with cerebral spastic infantile paralysis in Belarus, in the final contest «Miss Wheelchair World» which was held in Warsaw on October 7.

28.10.17 Belarus Fashion Week

NGO «BelAPDiMI» initiated the creation of the Spring/Summer collection with pictograms. The collection, designed by Tatiana Efremova, was presented in Minsk at Belarus Fashion Week on October 28, as well as at Riga Fashion Week (Latvia).

03.12.17 Inclusive museum: inspiring each other

NGO «BelAPDiMI» in cooperation with the National Art Museum organized an activity timed to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Approximately 200 persons participated in the activity. A concert was held, interactive activities for children were organized, a photography exhibition and an exhibition of paintings created by professionals and amateurs were organized and innovative theatrical performances were held.

PROJECT ACTIVITY

NGO «BelAPDiMI» pioneers many social changes, disseminates and promotes the best practices. We test new services, forms and methods of work; we study their effectiveness, teach specialists and share our experience with the state institutions within the framework of different projects.






PROJECT "ACCESSIBLE WORK"



The project is being implemented with the financial support of the Protestant Agency for Diakonia and Development - Bread for the World.

Aim of the project: to include persons with disabilities in the society by means of increasing the opportunities for their employment.

 Project duration:
JUNE 2016 – NOVEMBER 2018

INTERIM RESULTS:

11 

persons with disabilities were officially employed

11 

The project specialists participated in 11 republican and 7 international activities and presented there the results of the project.

2000+ 

persons from different fields got acquainted with the supported employment service



The model of supported employment was worked out. It's being successfully used in TCSS in Minsk, Vitebsk, Vileyka and Mogilev

1 

online shop «ArtIdea+» was created within the framework of the project: www.artidejaplus.by



PROJECT «ART FOR INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (EXTENSION: IMPROVED SOCIAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES)»



The project is being implemented with the financial support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Aim of the project: to promote the inclusion and improve the quality of life of children and young people with disabilities, with intellectual disabilities in particular, by means of strengthening the organizational capacity of the local disabled people's organization and widening the range of services provided at the local level.

 Project duration:
JUNE 2016 – MAY 2018

INTERIM RESULTS:

44 

organizations participated in educational activities within the framework of the project

14 

organizations of NGO «BelAPDiMI» implemented local initiatives for a total amount of 100 000\$

77 

active workers were taught skills in organizational and professional development

350 

persons with disabilities used social services provided within the framework of the project

10 

organizations are testing social services for their target groups: social respite care, social nanny and assisted living



PROJECT «ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OR EASY-TO-READ LANGUAGE»



The project is being implemented with the assistance of the Support Programme of Belarus in cooperation with the Project group to assist the children of Chernobyl at the Evangelical community Berlin-Köpenick.

Aim of the project: to improve access to information space for people with intellectual disabilities in social protection and educational fields in Belarus; to promote the need for creation of barrier-free communication environment for people with intellectual disabilities in Belarus in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

 Project duration:
APRIL 2017 – DECEMBER 2018

INTERIM RESULTS:

40+

persons participated in the training «Barrier-free environment: inclusive education in mass media» for journalists and pedagogues organized within the framework of the XXI International specialized exhibition «Mass media in Belarus» (within the programme of the institution «Nastaunitskaya gazeta»)

10

young people with intellectual disabilities and 8 specialists were taught the basics of easy-to-read language by the specialists from the Czech Republic

50+

references in mass media about the project activities since the beginning of the project

1

clothing collection with pictograms (the elements of easy-to-read language) was created by designer Tatiana Efremova




PROJECT «PROSPECTS OF INDEPENDENT LIFE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES»



The project was implemented with the financial support of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany «Renovabis» («Action for mutual solidarity of German Catholics with people in Central and Eastern Europe»).

Aim of the project: to promote the model of assisted living of young people with disabilities and teach them skills necessary for realization of their rights to participate fully in social life.

 Project duration:
FEBRUARY 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017

PROJECT RESULTS:

20

young people with intellectual disabilities at the age of 18-38 were taught skills necessary for independent living

24

young people participated in «School of self-advocates» where they were taught skills necessary for realization of their rights

123

hand-books «Experience in realization of educational assisted living service» were published within the framework of the project

14

young people participated in an off-site educational seminar carried out in the Children's Recreation and Rehabilitation Centre «Nadezhda». 8 young people lived there without parents' assistance.





PROJECT «TOGETHER FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE»



The project was implemented within the programme «Strengthening the potential of joint initiatives» with the support of Eurasia Foundation at the expense of the funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Aim of the project: to improve the quality of social services provided by NGO «BelAPDiMI» to the target groups and increase inclusion of young persons with disabilities by means of development of cooperation between primary organizations of NGO «BelAPDiMI» and raising the level of skills of members of primary organizations of NGO «BelAPDiMI»



Project duration:

OCTOBER 2016 – APRIL 2017

INTERIM RESULTS:

40



persons were taught advocacy skills in «Off-site school»

4



self-support groups were organized in primary organizations of NGO «BelAPDiMI» located in 4 districts of Minsk and in Molodechno using the experience of «Swedish hobby groups»

4



advocacy campaigns were carried out in the regions

PROJECT «STAR OF HOPE»



The project was implemented with the financial support of Star of Hope Sweden.

Aim of the project: to improve the quality of life of families which look after children and young people with multiple disabilities in Belarus by means of implementation of socially important projects aimed at widening the range of educational and social services in the country; to assert the rights and interests of people with disabilities and their families in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We have big plans, based on the values and the fundamental principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Belarus, for the next few years:

We've set an ambitious goal: to change the public disability paradigm and replace the «medical model» approach by the «social model» one. This is the paradigm that underlies the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified in Belarus in 2016.

We are interested in capacity building of our regional primary organizations as they are the ones who offer new ideas in local communities.

We will promote amendments in the legislation in order to bring it into the line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We plan to create the personal assistant institution and the allocated guardianship institution, to organize the student assistance process in educational institutions.

We strive for protection and enjoyment of the right to work by persons with disabilities. We promote the supported employment service, ground the necessity to legislatively enshrine the social enterprise institution and create the institution of allocation of workplace quotas for persons with disabilities.

We will continue covering main problems children and young people with disabilities and their families face with at the sessions of the Republican Interdepartmental Council on the Problems of Persons with Disabilities of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

We plan to found the Bureau to translate texts into easy-to-read language and the Advisory centre to support persons with disabilities using the principle «peer-to-peer training».

We plan to design and disseminate an educational programme «Safe Internet» for young persons with disabilities.

We will support and finance youth initiatives, will elaborate the leadership programmes for young persons with disabilities.

A new phase of the project «Art for inclusion of people with disabilities (extension: promoting agenda of people with disabilities)», which is being implemented with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has started. The aim of the project is to promote social activity of persons with disabilities by means of strengthening the organizational capacity of primary organizations of NGO «BelAPDiMI»; to form a new paradigm of disability in the society and view it as a «social phenomenon».

Project duration: 05.2018 – 04.2020



NGO “BelAPDiMI” means

- > activities on a global scale;
- > global reach;
- > high standards at work;
- > a reliable partner for
 - government bodies;
 - foreign donors and business partners;
 - international organizations;
 - partners among government agencies and other NGOs.

NGO “BelAPDiMI” is an expert in the field of:

- > inclusive education
- > easy-to-read language: adaptation of texts and making them accessible for persons with intellectual disabilities
- > assisted living
- > social respite care
- > assistance and support to families of children born with disabilities
- > social entrepreneurship
- > employment and job placement for persons with disabilities
- > legal support to families bringing up children and young people with disabilities.

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