



Rehabilitation service for elderly people with visual impairment in Hungary

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Background of Rehabilitation

- 1980 - First service in Budapest at the Institute for Adult Blind People: VERCS
- Till 2003 – the only service in Hungary with boarding facility and about 20 clients/year
- 1992- Establishment of View Foundation for expanding the activities of VERCS
- 2003 – View Foundation starts to provide rehabilitation service independently from VERCS
- 2007 – Establishment of Rehabilitation Centre of View Foundation on the basis of state grant – first time when rehabilitation of older people started!



Some data on Hungary

- Population of Hungary is about 10 million
- According to the census of year 2001 there are 577.006 persons with disability in Hungary including 83.040 persons with visual impairment. There are 6500 persons loosing their sight partly or totally every year.
- The National Institute of Medical and Social Rehabilitation has national registry and judges financial support for persons with disability. According to the Law, the eligibility is $V < 0,07$ with both eyes or $V < 0,12$ on one eye or less than 20° field.



Who can be our client?

Functional criteria:

- Those persons, age 16 plus are eligible for our service who have eye or central nervous problems and as a result are disabled and need rehabilitation on the following areas:
 - Using their vision and/or optical aids
 - Orientation and mobility
 - Activities of daily living
 - Information access and communication
 - Psycho-social functioning
 - Further studying
 - employment

Rehabilitation Centres in Hungary in the 7 regions

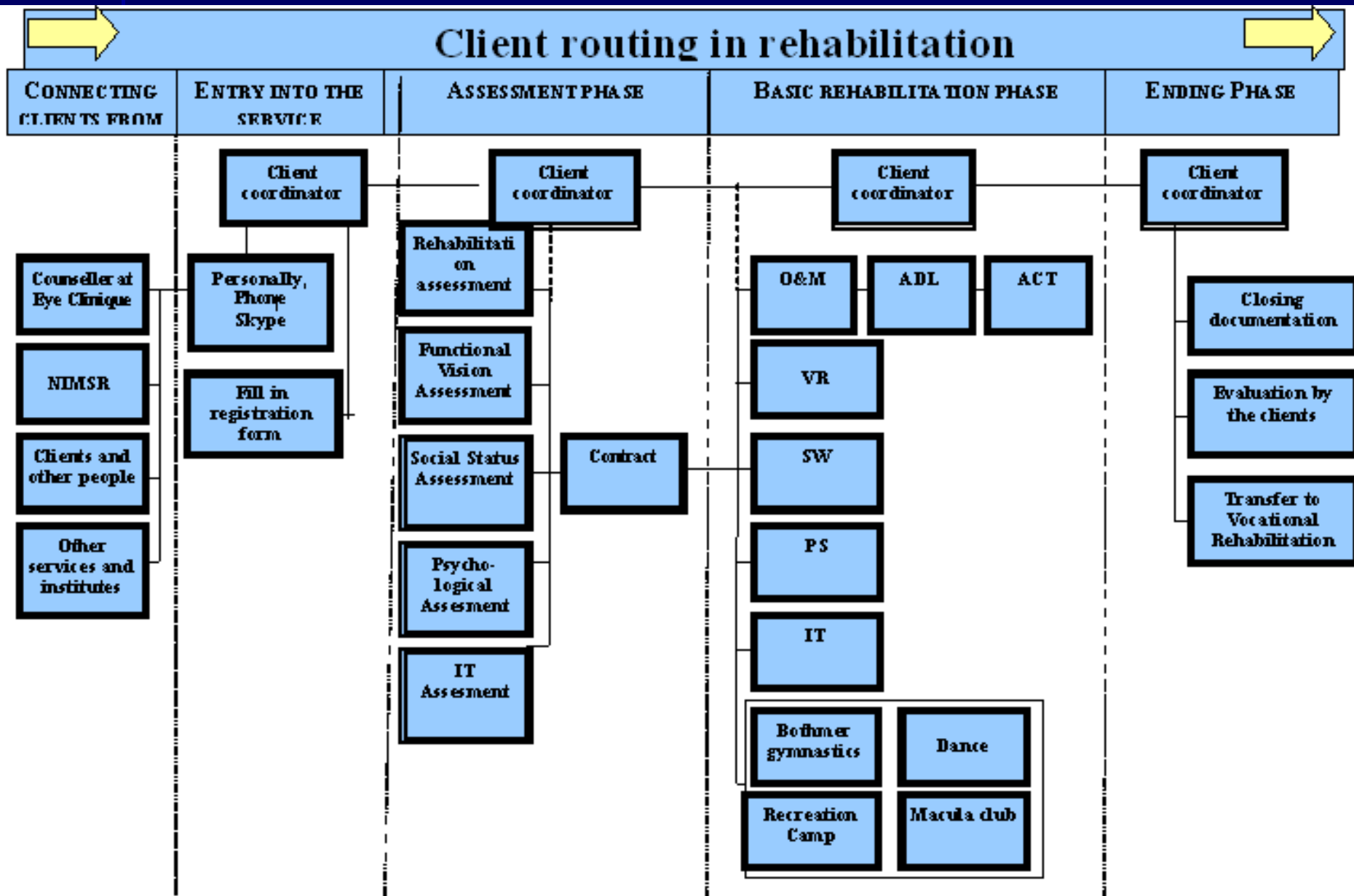


Some statistics of View Foundation

- Number of clients at View Foundation since 2007: *598*
- Since 2007, the number of persons above 60 years old is *85 (cc.14%)*
- The number of persons with AMD is *88 (cc.15%)*
- Youngest client with AMD is *52* years old
- Oldest client with AMD is *95* years old
- Mean age: *73*
- Women: *56 (64%)*; men: *32 (36%)*



Client routing





Professionals working in Basic Rehabilitation Department

■ Rehabilitation teachers	7
■ Social workers	2
■ Psychologists	3
■ IT teachers	2
■ Recreation specialists	3
■ Management	4



Services for elderly people I.

Basic rehabilitation:

- orientation and mobility training – hardly have any needs
- activities of daily living – often needed
- alternative cultural techniques (Braille) – hardly have any needs



Services for elderly people II.

Vision rehabilitation:

- functional vision assessment – mostly needed
- vision training (optical rehabilitation, eccentric training, reading-writing) - mostly needed
- renting optical devices – often needed



Services for elderly people III.

Psychological support:

- Individual therapy – often needed
- Group therapies (social skills; relaxation; solution-focused therapies) – often needed



Services for elderly people VI.

- Social work – helping in arranging the disability financial support – not very often used service



Services for elderly people V.

- Information technology counselling and training: from beginners to more advanced computer users with JAWS or MAGIC – often used service



Services for elderly people VI.

Leisure time activities:

- standard dance course – not used
- macula club – most popular service
- recreation camp – rarely used
- Bothmer gymnastics – rarely used



Macula Club

- Since 2008
- Once a month
- 20-25 participants
- Free and planned discussions and organized programmes
- Based on the clients' wish



Topics of Macula Club

- Some examples: AMD specialists; optometrists; guide dogs; gardening; psychological effects of aging; special kitchen devices; sport activities; Krister Inde: „See bad, feel good” – reading and discussion; loneliness and how to make new friends; sight seeing tour; role plays; exhibition of low vision aids; table games; etc.



Problems

Basic Rehabilitation was financed from the Social Fund of European Union. Since March 2011, the EU Project is over and Basic rehabilitation is not financed by the state, so we can not provide services!

We still run the Macula Club with volunteers.



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Thank you very much for your
attention!