

RED NOSES International

Children with Disabilities Programme Evaluation: Terms of Reference

1. Evaluation Topic

The Children with Disabilities Programme Evaluation will provide an analysis of the needs and opportunities faced by children with disabilities in seven European countries (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia), particularly with regard to their emotional well-being, social inclusion, and the supportiveness of their environments. This analysis will also take into account the impact that RNI's Children with Disabilities programme has had in these countries since 2011.

2. Background

The aim of RED NOSES is to support the emotional well-being of individuals in difficult life situations and of vulnerable groups through the art of clowning. RNI's Children with Disabilities programme is active in 6 RED NOSES partner organisations (Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia), and Poland is planning to begin implementing it. The programme now mainly consists of one signature format, "Caravan Orchestra" (CarO) performances, which was originally created and developed by CliniClowns in Holland as an interactive performance specially designed for children with strong and multiple disabilities. Some partner organizations have also developed additional, similar performances. These performances are carried out by professionally trained and qualified RED NOSES healthcare clowns in schools and social-medical institutions. Each RED NOSES partner organisation implements the performances locally; RNI is responsible for monitoring, quality assurance and training of the artists involved.

During the innovative and interactive performances, a group of three specially trained clowns travel from "oasis to oasis". They are looking for new musicians to join their orchestra, because music is their passion.

The clowns quickly find what they are looking for: the children in the room. A treasure chest reveals keys that become musical instruments; the children's names are woven into highly personalized songs, and everything together results in a joint melody.

These special formats are exclusively dedicated to the needs of mental and multiply handicapped children and youth. The interactive performances aim for the following impact outcomes on the children, families, medical staff and institutions.

- Through the interventions, the vulnerable children are encouraged and empowered and their self-esteem and self-confidence becomes enhanced.
- Children and youth with disabilities are integrated and participate better within the community.
- Access to arts and culture: The clowndoctor activities provides them with access to cultural activities by bringing culture and arts, clowning and music to the social facilities in which they are schooled and cared for.
- The individuals get engaged.
- The staff is more relaxed and can better focus on their work and more easily interact with the children.

Due to the great success and uniqueness of the programme, the number of performances of the present format will be increased in the next year, thus answering to the spike in demands by local institutions. The project also wants to react to new developments in the sector and establish a new artistic format for the Children with Disabilities programme.

To support this expansion and development, a one-year project (January 1 -December 31 2020) will be carried out, *"Improved psychosocial well-being for children with mental and multiple disabilities through artistic interventions."* This project is funded by C&A Together, a charitable programme of C&A Foundation and C&A Europe. The Children with Disabilities Programme Evaluation is a key component of this project.

3. Evaluation Objectives

The objectives of the Children with Disabilities Programme Evaluation are as follows.

- A. Present an accurate and nuanced picture of the needs and opportunities faced by children with disabilities in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
- B. Examine the impact to date of the Children with Disabilities programme in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia, showing whether and how the programme has interacted with relevant systems to affect both short-term and sustainable changes for the benefit of children with disabilities.
- C. Serve as a baseline against which the next phase of the programme will be compared as a measure of its impact.

4. Users of the Evaluation

The results of the evaluation will be used by RNI artists and managers to facilitate the planning of a new artistic format for children with disabilities. Using the evaluation results, RNI can ensure that the new format builds on the most successful aspects of RNI's earlier work and meets the specific needs of children with disabilities in each country.

In addition, the evaluation will be used to provide material for evidence-based advocacy strategies to improve the access of children with disabilities to humour, art, and empathetic interactions.

Finally, the evaluation will be used by the RNI Research and Evaluation division to improve RNI's recently drafted Framework of Change and understand how Caravan Orchestra fits into the Framework.

5. Evaluation Questions

The evaluation should provide answers to the following questions (*revisions may be made during the evaluation planning process*).

Each question should be answered for each of the seven target countries: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland (with the exception of the impact questions), Slovakia, and Slovenia.

A. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FACED BY CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

1. What cultural, systemic, and other factors influence the access of children with disabilities (CwD) to humour and art?
2. What cultural, systemic, and other factors influence the access of CwD to empathetic interactions?
3. How do cultural and systemic stances on integration and inclusion affect the psychosocial wellbeing of CwD?

B. IMPACT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAMME TO DATE

4. What short-term impact has the programme had on CwD, care takers, and decision makers?
5. What long-term, institutional, and systemic impact has the programme had on the psychosocial wellbeing of CwD?
6. To what extent has the programme impact been in line with the RNI Framework of Change?
7. To what extent has the programme had an impact on adults with disabilities?
8. What unexpected impact, positive or negative, has come from the programme?
9. To what extent is the current format of Caravan Orchestra appropriate for the needs and opportunities of CwD?

C. BASELINE FOR FUTURE MEASUREMENTS

10. Which indicators measured in this evaluation can be used to track future progress of the Children with Disabilities programme?

6. Approach and Methods

This research involves people and children with disabilities and so demands strict adherence to international ethical research guidelines. The evaluation team must take extra measures to ensure that they promote the wellbeing of everyone who is participating in or affected by the research process. The dignity and autonomy of all those involved in the research process must be respected in all phases of design, implementation, and reporting.

As an international study, it is vital that the evaluation be conducted with a high level of cultural sensitivity and respect. In particular, the evaluation needs to make suitable plans for translations and interpreters for the data collection process, to ensure that participants are not excluded on the basis of language.

Most of the evaluation questions are quite broad; it is the task of the evaluation team to break them down as appropriate into more specific indicators, using the RNI Framework of Change as a guideline when appropriate. It is expected that the evaluation team will use initial key informant interviews or other qualitative methods to refine the specific indicators.

It is expected that the evaluation will apply a mixed-method approach using quantitative and qualitative data for data collection, analysis and interpretation. In addition, it should use existing information and data sources.

- Desk Review: Publically available information and data sources will be particularly important for the Needs questions. Also, each RNI partner office has produced reports of their performances over the years, which are available to be used for the Impact questions. There have been to date no baseline or other formal evaluations of the programme.
- Interviews and focus group discussions: In the absence of a baseline, qualitative information gained through interviews and focus group discussions may be a helpful tool to reconstruct the impact the CwD Programme has had since its inception.
- Surveys: Quantitative information relevant to both Needs and Impact questions may be collected through surveys.
- Use of replicable methods and indicators: The evaluation team should prioritize quantitative and/or qualitative methods to measure indicators which can be replicated in the future. Replicable methods and indicators will be the basis of the answer to the Baseline question.

7. Timeline

The evaluation is scheduled to begin in **January 2020** and to be completed within four months, so by the end of **April 2020** at the latest.

This timeline is foreseen as follows:

January 2020	Inception phase
February – March 2020	Data collection
April 2020	Submission and presentation of final report

8. Management

The evaluation team leader will report to the Research and Evaluation division of RNI, which is based in Vienna, Austria. A minimum of four meetings with the team leader are foreseen, which can be done virtually or in person depending on the location of the team leader:

January 2020	Kick-Off
February 2020	Draft Inception Report Feedback
April 2020	Draft Evaluation Report Feedback
April 2020	Final Presentation and Overall Feedback

The evaluation team leader must be available for additional meetings as required, and for general communication throughout the evaluation process via email and Skype.

9. Deliverables

- Draft inception Report (*due end of January 2020*)
 - Overview of research methods
 - Data collection schedule
 - Location of site visits
 - Sampling plan of participants
 - All evaluation tools (interview questions, surveys) in English
- Final inception report (*due mid-February 2020*)
 - Revisions and suggestions from RNI taken into account
- Draft evaluation report (*due end March 2020*)
 - Executive summary with key findings and recommendations
 - All evaluation questions answered
 - Inclusion of the most significant stakeholders
 - Inclusion of all project countries
 - Clear differentiation between findings, conclusions, and recommendations
 - Conclusions and recommendations based on findings
 - Information presented clearly and simply, avoiding unnecessary jargon
- Final evaluation report (*due end of April 2020*)
 - Revisions and suggestions from RNI taken into account
- Raw data (*due end of April 2020*)
 - All raw data collected as part of the evaluation (which will be the property of RNI)
- PowerPoint presentation of findings and recommendations (*due end of April 2020*)
 - Clear and visually engaging of key messages, suitable for a variety of stakeholders

10. Budget

A budget of 25,000 EUR is available. This budget includes fees for all team members, travel costs, translation costs, and any other incidental costs that may arise during any phase of the evaluation.

11. Evaluation Team

It is expected that a team will be needed to gather data in seven countries in the timeline available.

The evaluation team need to meet the following criteria:

- Master's Degree in a relevant field
- Experience managing impact evaluations (minimum 5 references)
- Experience conducting needs assessments
- Experience conducting research or other work with children with disabilities
- Experience in quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis (minimum 7 years)
- Experience or demonstrable interest in artistic interventions
- Excellent spoken and written English. Other languages spoken in the target countries are an asset

To apply, please send the following to maggie.roessler@rednoses.eu by December 17:

1. A brief conceptual note of your understanding of this evaluation and your methodological approach
2. A reference list of relevant assignments
3. Your CV or the CVs of the experts proposed for this evaluation.
4. Information on costs charged in EUR (daily rates, travel and totals).

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.