

# (dis)appearing (dis)abilities

with Schuman Volunteers

## 5.

Receiving organization: **Special Kindergarten No 245 for Visually Impaired Children Warsaw**

PIC number: 944042801

Number of volunteers: **2 from Programme Countries**

Project duration: **1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019**



### Description of Organization:

The special kindergarten no. 245 takes care of visually impaired children from 3 to 6 years of age. At present there are 54 children with various visual defects in the kindergarten. They are divided into 4 age groups: 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, 5-year-olds and 6-year-olds. Imagine a regular kindergarten full of children with glasses :) Apart from the didactic and educational functions the kindergarten also fulfils prophylactic and therapeutic functions. We perform oculist diagnoses and provide visual treatment for our children. We provide oculist treatment for children who have been diagnosed with different visual defects, squint eye or lazy eye. We have a well-equipped room in which children under professional supervision perform their orthoptic exercise using specialist equipment. We also provide professional psychological, logopedic and educational therapy. Apart from regular activities we also organize extra activities, e.g. musical lessons, gymnastic, art, dancing, English and dog therapy classes.

### Description of volunteers tasks at organization:

Volunteers work in group and, should the need arise, also directly with individual children that might need more assistance. They teach the children to use the equipment available on the premises, assist during the teacher-managed group classes, additional activities, help with typical self-care activities, such as personal hygiene, help at eating and dressing. Since this is a kindergarten that prepares children for school specifically, children's time is full of activities prepared by the teachers. There is little time for playing, which is the time volunteers are welcome to propose their own activities and can count on teachers to support them.

Considering the described activities in which the volunteers would be executing or participating in we believe that they would have the possibility to develop their pedagogical skills in the area of working with children with special needs, as well as participating in various workshops and trainings organised by and/or in the kindergarten. We are also aware of the fact that working with visually impaired is very demanding and that volunteers would need specific guidelines and training to prepare them and help them with their work. Verbal communication between the volunteers and the children is very important, especially that our children due to their visual impairment cannot rely on non-verbal communication so much. It is for this reason as well that we would put special attention on the knowledge of Polish language of the volunteers. Polish language course would be provided with the mentioned goal as well as the aim to make the interaction and communication between the volunteers and the kindergarten staff easier.

