

YOUTH CORNER PROMPTED A NUMBER OF IDEAS IN PARDIK



Marjan Ilic and Milan Markovic in Internet cafe



Youth corner in Pardik village was opened in July 2004 and it gathers about 40 youths

PARDIK, SERBIA – Thanks to support of the people of the USA through USAID and CHF’s programs for family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH), a program, involving youth and offering them a possibility to be informed about important topics in doctors-volunteers facilitated lectures, was implemented in 10 communities in Serbia. Likewise, the program enabled youth to interact with each other and discuss relevant issues. The so-called Youth Corner in Pardik community, in Razanj municipality, distinguishes itself by extremely active members who exploit potentials offered by USAID/CHF program and build up further activities of this special kind of club.

The first lectures were held immediately after the inauguration of the Youth Corner in July 2004, with support of doctors- volunteers of Nis Youth counseling. Afterwards, youth of Pardik took part in Summer school for peer educators that was organized by “Network” and supported by CHF. “The first step aimed at revitalizing Pardik was opening of the Community Center in 2002 and even more important step was opening of Internet café in 2003, in the same building”, speaks Milan Markovic and Marjan Ilic, one of main initiators of

further development of the program in Pardik.

“After that, we decided to take advantage of the overall capacities of the building that was constructed during the World War Two. We cleaned up, whitewashed and equipped the room which now hosts between 30 and 40 young people on a weekly basis”.

Motivated by the idea of this project, these ambitious youths invite doctors from Razanj by themselves; they alone organize educational programs and moreover they are about to set up an NGO at the local level, which would gather youths of neighboring villages– Vitosevac, Podgorac, Grabovo and others.

“Inaugural Assembly has already been held,” says Milan. “The Club of Razanj youth would have a serious program which, among many other things, would include tourist offers of our region. In addition to that, we plan to launch a local bulletin.”

Local papers named “Homeland papers” were already set off in Pardik. Youth are trying to fundraise for celebration of the 80th anniversary of the school so that they could reconstruct fields for basketball, volleyball and football. In meantime, Youth Corner remains the gathering point of youth in Pardik.