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Prague, May 28th, 2013

EDA organized a seminar on new trends in individual care

Under the project "Current trends and social innovation in the long term and direct care" European Development Agency organized on May 28th, 2013 a seminar on the topic *Social innovations in practice: New trends in social care*.

The seminar was held in the Community Centre Prádelna and was primarily intended for people caring for a close person. The aim of the seminar was to inform participants about the various possibilities of individual care and about the possible coordination of institutional, community and individual care.

The seminar was opened by the representatives of the City District Prague 5 who introduced the concept of community care in the district, together with the current situation in social services planning in Prague 5. Practical insight was presented by the social worker who talked about the field work. The director of the civic association *Pohoda* presented possible alternatives to institutional care, above all protected housing, personal assistance or educational programs. Šárka Petrášová, manager of *Club Pohoda*, completed the presentation of Lucie Mervardová with further remarks. This presentation was followed by a film screening *Manual of assistance* that showed practical examples of personal assistance to physically disabled people.

The afternoon part discussed further possibilities of individual care. Jan Šlosárek from the civic association *Společnost Duha* talked about various aspects of protected housing. Ivana Pešatová from the same organization focused on the issue of independent living as one of the possibilities of providing assistance to mentally disabled people. Their presentation was followed by an interesting discussion on the obstacles of further development of individual care in the Czech Republic, such as lack of public awareness about the issue, lack of the support from the public sector and incomplete coordination among different service providers. The participants also discussed the issue of care allowances, especially in the context of their (in)effective use and (in)efficient follow-up controls.