



## The Elderly Care Homes in Kosovo

### Legal basis

*Administrative Instruction on Activities and Requirements of Placement of Residents in the House for Elderly without Family Care*

### *Internal Regulation on Elderly Care Homes*

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on 1 April 2011 adopted Administrative Instruction on Activities and Requirements of Placement of Residents in the House for Elderly without Family Care. This Administrative Direction sets forth the requirements for placement of elderly persons in such institutions.

The Ombudsman Institution of Kosovo has been monitoring these homes since many years. Following the new Law on the Ombudsman adopted in 2015, the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) has been established within the Ombudsman Institution of Kosovo.

So far, in Kosovo there are 4 Elderly Care Homes. The Elderly Care Home in Prishtina takes care of elderly persons without family care. This is an institution of social character and is supervised by the Social Care Division of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Three categories of people that are placed in such homes: dependent, semi-dependent and independent persons. Internal Regulation on Elderly Care Homes defines the aforementioned categories: **dependent persons**- are those persons who are not able to fulfil their daily needs independently, but only when helped by others, therefore, they need permanent care and help from the others. They also receive special medical care. **Semi-dependent** persons are those to whose ability to fulfil daily needs has been decreased and receive special medical care. **Independent persons** are those who although are aged people, they are still able to fulfil their daily needs without being helped by others.

**The NPM identified the following problems in this Elderly Care Home: old infrastructure, 2 residents transferred from the Mental Health Institute, lack of needed medical staff.**

Three other Elderly Care Homes are located in Skenderaj, Gurrakoc and Gračanica. During the monitoring the NPM noticed that these homes have good internal infrastructure and the homes provide enough medicaments for the residents.

**The NPM identified the following problems: There is no doctor in the house, lack of adequate infrastructure for persons with disabilities, lack of psychologist, physiotherapy, lack of daily activities and anti-decubitus bed.**

In October 2015, following the continuous monitoring of such intuitions, the Ombudsperson of Kosovo organized a national conference and issued a legal opinion.

**The Ombudsperson emphasized that other municipalities should establish such homes since currently Kosovo has only four, otherwise such situation leads to discrimination of other people since not all of them in Kosovo have access to these homes.**

**The main remarks of the Ombudsperson as regards this issue were:**

**-Non-inclusion of the Convention on Social and Economic Rights in the Constitution of Kosovo**

**-The national level authorities should establish such houses in the other Municipalities of Kosovo as well**

**-No unique policy at the national level as regards treatment of elderly persons, since the Elderly Care Home in Prishtina is managed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare; other Elderly Care Homes are managed by the Municipalities.**

The NPM continues to monitor Elderly Care Home in Prishtina and another three homes, since it considers that they are in the hands of the authorities and their freedom of movement is limited.