

## Modell Lichtenberg: Arbeit und Sport pro sport – anlage lichtenberg

The 22.000 m<sup>2</sup> sport facility lies 7 km north of Linz.

Football, baseball, volleyball fields as well as tennis courts, archery facilities for children, and a camping area are offered. A restaurant, fitness centre, sauna and gym complete the facilities.

Pro mente Oberösterreich leased the facility in 2000 for 25 years, with the aim of providing work places and facilitating social integration for persons with mental health problems.

In Lichtenberg 3 clients are employed. In the state of Upper Austria as a whole 40 such jobs have been created, the project is called the Verbund- or united-project.

The concept of the Verbund-project is to employ clients with 50% handicap with respect to their employment performance for a period of one year, before they go on to regular employment. Concrete aims are

- Support and improve health and social stability
- Financial security
- Integration in the labour market

The target client group are persons who, because of mental or physical disabilities are unable to fulfil the requirements of the employment market place.

These persons fall under the handicapped employment law: There is a prospect of rehabilitation, and the possibility of attaining 50% of the performance level of a normal worker at the same job after completing the scheme. The target group also includes drug addicts and alcoholics, provided they are in a (Upper Austria) treatment programme

Finance is provided by the state social security department for the handicapped, wages are payed according to the type of work performed. Employer is pro Mente.

Pro Sport also offers a regular weakly activity programme for clients. In summer: tennis, minigolf, football, beachvolleyball, jogging, cycling, gymnastics, walks and sport trips. In winter: skiing-downhill and cross country, swimming, badminton, table tennis and visits to the thermal baths.

Participants pay an annual fee of 48 € and take insurance themselves.

A spokesman is elected every 2 years, to represent the interests of users. The spokesman also influence the programme, and prices, as well as a code of conduct.

The Lichtenberg sport facility is used by both clients and the general public, thereby offering an ideal opportunity for social integration. Regular users from the local population include football, baseball and tennis players, and visitors to the sauna.

The contacts which are formed here – and in the restaurant – strengthens the self-confidence of our clients.

The pro Sport facility in Lichtenberg conforms very closely to the guide-line of “Mental Health Europe” (Hrsg. 2001):

- Employees should be payed a fair wage for their work
- Access to extra-murial activities should be available without hinderance
- Persons with mental health problems are normal citizens and enjoy basic Human Rights
- Every effort must be made to combat indirect discrimination

In this spirit I wish you all a successful symposium and the strength necessary on the way to integration.

Josef Pree  
pro mente Oberösterreich Tagesstruktur pro sport Linz Österreich