



Lions Club International

District 104 K

Projecting group Minsk 2009 – 2010

N S R - 2010 Aalborg - State report

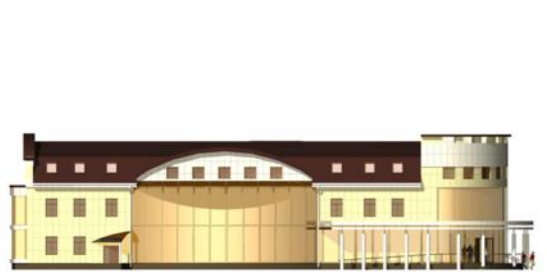
Project leader PDG Erik Evang

Short flashback.

HERE, THAT WE HAD ...



HERE, THAT WE WILL GET ...



2001-02: District convention 104 K April 2001 decided to plan a new international project after finishing the district project in Poland, which was run as a different charity project since 1983. PID Arve Fossum, Lions Belarus co-coordinator Einar Lyngar and PDG / PMD-IRC Erik Evang were elected to be a planning group, with Evang as project leader.

District Convention 104 K April 2002 decided to rebuild a former commercial health property to use it for rehabilitation towards children hit by cancer and their families. Formal cooperation with Minsk City council was an assumption, as well as the interim centre for rehabilitation of children, hit by cancer, and their families. DG, IPDG and IRC-in charge-were elected to join the planning group – as a projecting group.

Project leader visited Minsk in June. Original property was cancelled. A new property was presented. Space was 4-5 thousand square meters, with trees like a park. The building looked terrible inside, but walls seemed to be in good stand. A professional control would be necessary.

2002-03:Localization and discussion with Minsk City authorities, with the temporary centre and Lions club Minsk / Central took part through 02-03. The owner of the property – Belarus Tractors director – gave us the bid at € 100.000, but very soon this increased to € 1million! That bid was not at all acceptable. Just finishing our 2003 Lions District Convention in April, project leader and Belarus Lion coordinator wrote a letter to president Alexander Lukashenko and prime minister Gennady Novitski, asking for their help with this problem. Late November the property was transferred to Minsk City Council free! They transferred the property to Lions for rebuilding this new rehabilitation centre, only asking for transfer tax - € 100.

In June a group of “key persons” were invited to visit Norway to “learn” how leading central health authorities organized treatment and therapy concerning cancer, youth psychiatry, remedy (aid) centre, etc.

These persons took part in the excursion:

1. Irina Aleksanova, the Head of the Social Protection Department of Minsk City Council.
2. Viacheslav Shcherba, Central Zone Chairman, the building leader of the Project.
3. Andrei Turovets, Belarus Lions Magazine Editor, Director of the Minsk City Centre of the social help for families and children, psychologist, Belarus-Norway's Lions Project Manager.
4. Janna Mitskevich, Dr. of Pedagogy, family consultant, senior Lector of the Social Science University, vice director of the Family Centre.)

This excursion was very successful concerning further planning and co-operation.

2003-04: First version of "Agreement document" between Minsk City Council (MCC), Lions 104 K and Children Centre was made, and contractor – VOLIS - was engaged by MCC. Economical warranty was given – € 160.000 - and promising to try to help with more support from other partners – or Lion – were given. During the winter drawings and estimates were made, and even an update version of "Agreement document". This must be accepted in a legal sense by MCC legal department. Mid February the really (first) formal meetings with planning group from Minsk took place. Even the first meeting with TV and newspaper – journalists took place too.

2004-05: In October meeting with the contractor was held, as well as with our formal contact from MCC (The Chairman of The Committee of labour and social protection of Council of Minsk Irina A. Aleksanova). Sketches were discussed, and information given concerning needed inspections from State or engaged specialist to give license. At this time 104 K and the projecting group evaluated this project to be a very interesting NSR-project. A presentation was made to MD104 board of Governors. The board elected our Minsk project to be presented at NSR convention January 2005 in Torshavn. The NSR convention elected Project Minsk to be the new NSR-project, the first one, supported for two years. At that time the total budget was presented to be 544.000 EURO / NOK 4.460.800. April –05 we met with some of those specialists, bringing our own with us, PCC Torbjørn Nord. He made the conclusion that "renovation was possible, but would need detailed organizing and first-class workmanship". Belarusian specialists on pollution etc. at the structure / building need 1 month to make their analyses, they said. Some of them used nearly 6 months!

2005-2006: In October 2005 VOLIS has made upgraded building, with hip roof, 3 annexes, and a new 2nd floor. This would make the building looking new, not like those old, grey "Stalin" blocks. BUT – the estimates increased. The projecting group – "supported" by the board of governors - asked for total contract from VOLIS / MCC. Our first real problem with VOLIS started:

- a. VOLIS has to be reorganized, and then have new approval from the Government.
- b. The director of VOLIS – who was the economy director too, got heart failure.

NSR 2006 Kuusamo was presented state report. April 2006 total contract was available. The estimates change to USD, and increase to 804.673 corresponding NOK 5.177.750 (exchange rate 6,4345)

NB. EURO and USD have also increased since January 2005, and so has the level of prices.

2006-07: In November – 06 building drawings was 90 % finished. A new schedule of work was discussed with VOLIS. MCC asked for notarized "Agreement, added to the former. This warranty was signed by CC Bjorn Sætrum, DG Bjørn Egil Skar and project leader Erik Evang Dec. 2006. The Economical warranty increased to €190.000, thanks to extra support from MD104 and support from D 104 K until 2012-13. Because of stringent demands from the authorities, rebuilding works like this was very difficult in winter. March – week 10, 2007, – was expected to be the date of actuating.

2007-08: In autumn (Oct.-Nov) most of the building was "cleaned" by VOLIS workers. Walls and floors was removed, but for some joists / beams who should secure primarily external walls. MCC, techno division, finished their project, bringing tubs for gas, water, electricity, etc to the front of outside walls. Winter regulations concerning outdoors workings make problems for VOLIS. Perhaps next step will start in March?

Spring is coming, nothing happen. MCC make pressure on VOLIS, and at last VOLIS is taken off the project. They are even threatened with court! Only 50 % off their bill is paid by Lions account (ca. 17-18.000 €). The rest (ca.19.000 €) is on Lions project bank account, in Minsk.

The direktor of Partizanskij region, where this project take place, want to take responsibility, on behalf of MCC, and his techno chief- Director Alexander Gurin, is our new close contact rebuilding concern. A new contractor – "Stroytechosnova", and director Igor Lebedik are engaged.

VOLIS got the opportunity to allow “Stroytechosnova” to use their documents and drawings etc., and they even give help from their architects – free – and then releasing from court treatment.

2008 – 09: Optimistic start of this Lion year. With “Stroytechosnova” – a big and very serious contractor, and, very important, the director of Partizanskij region as our concrete partner, we had room for believing that the bureaucratic process would be more easy. But **no**. Late Nov. I had discussion with director Gurin and director Lebedik. Lots of documents were presented, and I could count 12 stamps and signatures on one of them. Still one signature was missing. It would take only some days, they said. It took 3½ week! – and Christmas, wintertime etc. were “just around the corner”. Lebedik gave the advice to delay start-up until spring (March). Winter workings would be more expensive, all “the bureaucratic regulations”, etc. would make problems in the proceeding of work.

Spring did not come in March! Very wet property made problems to use big excavators around the building. They had to renovate / restore the basement outside the building, and even make new basements, because of new 2nd floor, and annexes.

Late April they started, and we could see effective and smart workings and good proceeding. Working and payment schedule was presented. MCC should pay their part before Lions, as agreed.

Our first invoice – USD 99.085 = NOK 640.000, was paid July – 08.

We had in fact lost nearly 1 ½ year of work proceeding. However – no paid-up capital was lost!

2009-2010: September 14th and 15th project leader, Belarus co-coordinator and former IRC from 104 K met with key persons, Gurin, Lebedik, Turovets, Shcherba (Slava), and vice director Andrew Krikunov - from techno division MCC and Minsk City Family Center. The work was proceeding very well, but payment from MCC was delayed. Mr. Gurin was again threatening to withdraw his workers.

The world financial crises had hit Belarus too, and budget money for our project had been moved to other very important projects, as kindergartens and schools. Two tough discussions the week after our visit took place, and the result: “Our money” was removed back to Lions project, and the work quickly proceeded!

In Nov. 2008 dir. Gurin and Lebedik, Lion Turovets and Shcherba, and project leader maid a proceeding plan, with opening of the rebuild centre midsummer. *That was before we knew anything about more delaying problems, as mentioned above.*

September 2009 we had to realize that Dec. – 2010 hopefully would be more realistic.

We agreed that “quality was more important than speed”, and financial crises was not yet finished.

New invoice for Lions will be presented before Christmas, and the money is ready.

A PowerPoint program will be shown when NSR convention 2010 take place, to give more information, and it will be of importance for the delegates to have this document read in beforehand.

Economy: All “NSR-countries” have paid their parts. The NSR money is either paid or the rest is on bank account. We will try to bring forward the missing support too, which will be shown in the PP-program, USD 78.250. **NB: Even though the estimate has increased, Lions agreed support € 190.000 has not increased, but our partnership in % has decreased, and MCC support increased. PP-program will show this.**

Original estimate in 2002 – 03 on furniture was € 72.000 = NOK ca. 700.000. New estimate, with new 2.nd floor, is USD 116.000 = NOK ca. 750.000. UNICEF has promised ca. USD 40.000. When all documents and brochures is ready, LCIF proposal will be maid.

2005-06 a support – brochure was produced and distributed to all NSR clubs. “We wanted to get support which would be shown on a wall inside the building called “The wall of hope”. As far as I know only MD104 – clubs gave support. In 2008-09 MD-IRC and project leader again asked all MD104 –Club for extra general support. All together this gave extra ca. NOK 300.000 = ca. USD 45.000.

This will be marked in some way or other, if possible, for all the supporting clubs.

I look forwards to see you in Aalborg, to bring more updated information.

Kongsvinger, prime December 2009

Erik Evang
Project leader

