

GREEN CENTER

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Our team decided to join the idea of the competition to offer a venue for meetings, events and initiatives, which would be in line with the spirit of volunteering and tolerance. With the proposed conceptual project we would like to declare our empathy with the people with special needs and their families. We realize that there is a need for creating a new environment for sharing experience between children, their parents and the experts in the field. The established centre for exchange of knowledge and good practices demonstrates an alternative to the institutional care model, while providing accessible environment, which is safe and easy to get oriented in. Our desire is to express the principles of efficiency and sustainability in economic, social and environmental aspect. The high quality of our project ensures that the current and future needs of the children will be met, while striving to adapt to the dynamic environment.

The property's territory is in the central part of the city of Varna, close to some important public and residential buildings. The access to the terrain is facilitated, directly from "Tsar Osvoboditel" blvd, both for the pedestrians and for the cars. Presented are studies about the time necessary to reach the place walking or driving from some significant spots in the city – the Cathedral and the "Red Square". The pedestrian access is about 5 minutes walking from the closest public transport stops.

It was established with the round tour that the only access by foot and by car is from northwest through "Prilep" street. There is low level southward denivellation. The main entrance of the building is from northwest, from the adjacent street. The access to the building is directly from the ground level. In order to ensure the unproblematic use of all the auxiliary entrances – for the Montessori, for the hydrotherapy, from the yard, for the medical centre, there is leveling up proposed for the terrain in the southern part, limited by a supporting wall. The access to the underground level is through a ramp. Two short-term parking spaces are provided, next to the main entrance and the medical centre. After analyzing the existing vegetation, it was established that because of the new building construction, a part of it has to be relocated or removed, as it is envisaged in the presented scheme. There are green belts provided with high vegetations, located peripherally around the property fence. The situational solution ensures a maximum opportunity for

connecting with nature by establishing different types of gardens – lavender, sensor ones, etc. The various approaches for contacting nature enrich the sensor experience of the children. There is a solution found for two children playgrounds with specialized devices. Building a fence along the property borders is envisaged for the protection of the building, facilities and the park environment.

The project envisages place for all the functional groups, which guarantees the unproblematic use of the children's centre. All the requirements set in the competition terms of reference, as well as in the operating regulations have been observed. An appropriate number of parking spaces for people with special needs has been provided next to the vertical communication. On the ground level (elevation $+0,00=58,40$) there are located the Montessori center, reception, toy library, medical center, physiotherapy and hydrotherapy unit. On the underground level (elevation $-2,90$) there are indoor parking spaces provided for the visitors of the specialized centre. There is a possibility to use specialized transport. On the second level (elevation $+3,70$) there are the following functional groups specified: center for family-mediated intervention, center for diagnostics and therapy, early intervention center, administration. On the third level (elevation $+7,40$) there are located the training center, staff rest areas, two roof terraces and area with glass roof (Velux Modular Skylights). The roof terraces offer various options to have some rest, shading as well as possibilities for various activities. All the premises are in compliance with the set requirements and enable the installation of the envisaged facilities.

The communication between the different levels shall be carried out by two staircases – a main one (from the north) and an emergency one (from the east). A small winter garden with greenery is designed for the space between the arms of the main staircase, which is in the main lobby. The access between the different levels for the people with special needs can be done by lifts located next to the staircases.

The project strives to provide safety and security for the children. It creates an environment with a possibility for natural lighting, ventilation, thermal and hygienic comfort of the premises. The designing has taken into account the sun lighting on the building during the different seasons of the year to avoid overheating, following the energy efficiency principles.

The materials used for the interior are mostly natural in view of attaining a relaxed environment with reduced stimulation levels, suitable for the children. The presented interior solutions pursue the impression of a cheerful atmosphere with plain, subdued colours. Sound-absorbing materials on the walls and ceilings are recommended for achieving a good acoustic environment. The lighting is envisaged to be complied with the type of premises, the direction of the natural light and the orientation so that there should be no flashing reflections.

The structure of the main building is of solid reinforced concrete with brickwork surrounding walls and light partition walls. The inter-storey structure and the vertical communication are of reinforced concrete. The roofs are flat with internal drainage. The joinery is of hung windows with hidden profile. The swimming pool

