

The concept of mentor Unified Schools (SO Serbia)



Background

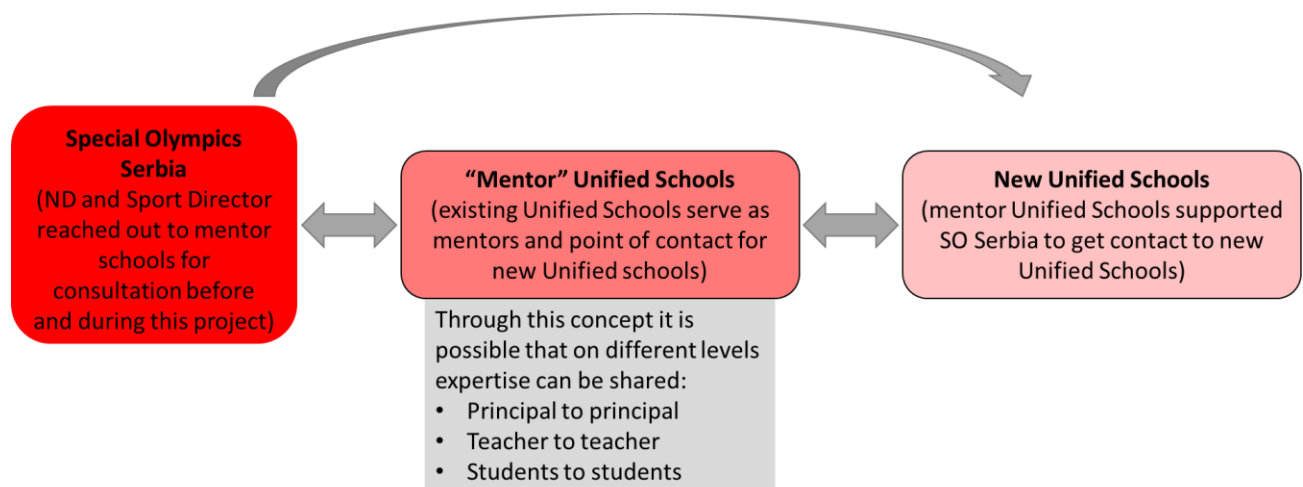
The school system in Serbia is segregated and therefore SO Serbia is cooperating with schools and local community sports clubs to promote Unified Sports. Before the SNF “Play Unified. Learn Unified.” project has started, SO Serbia already cooperated with 25 Unified Schools (mainly Senior High Schools) in different communities across Serbia. These 25 Unified Schools have been included in the project as “mentor” Unified Schools. With this project SO Serbia will increase the number of Unified Schools by including Junior High Schools to the project.

Why are mentor Unified Schools important?

The following points shall point out the beneficiaries for SO Serbia of including existing Unified Schools

1. In the planning phase of this project, SO Serbia worked closely with some of the existing Unified Schools. Due to that, **mentor Unified schools supported the Program to develop a comprehensive and applicable project plan** for new Unified Schools.
2. After the project plan was developed, the **mentor Unified Schools served as role model and shared their experiences to new Unified Schools**. Together with SO Serbia, the mentor Unified schools promoted the SNF project in front of other potential schools (regular and special schools).
3. During the project, the **mentor Unified Schools serve as point of contact for the new Unified Schools** in their communities. Therefore, SO Serbia has directly someone in the community **who can give guidance immediately on different levels** (principal to principal, teacher to teacher or student to student).
4. Additionally, the mentor Unified Schools are in close contact with SO Serbia over the course of the project. **With their expertise mentor Unified Schools will support SO Serbia and will advise on the future orientation of the project and consult SO Serbia concerning how to develop inclusive sports lessons in Serbia.**

How does the concept of mentor Unified Schools work?



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Quotes from principals of mentor Unified Schools and new Unified Schools

Principal of mentor Unified School
(Senior High School)

"Our school is encouraging one class to go to special school to join sport or art classes of special schools each week. It is important that young people are aware of persons with disabilities (intellectual as well as physical disabilities). To achieve the goals of this project, I offer to share our experience together with my staff."

Principal of new Unified School
(Junior High School)

"Besides getting the knowledge how to implement Unified Sports in our school, we also gain from the expertise of the mentor Unified Schools about inclusion of youth with intellectual disabilities in a segregated school setting in general."

Future plans

In future, SO Serbia will support the mentor Unified Schools to become a hub for Unified Sports in their community. Meaning, that these Unified Schools hubs will bring together schools in their city but as well outside of the rural area to do Unified Sports.