



CRID
Centar za razvoj
inkluzivnog društva

ISDC
Inclusive Society
Development
Center

11000 Beograd
ul.Zahumska 23a

tel/fax:
+381/11/311-97-61
mob:
+381/64-1207265
e-mail:
office@crid.org.yu
web:
www.crid.org.yu

Project of the children playground in Bezanijska kosa, based on Design for all principles

Explanation

A great number of children live in the Belgrade settlement of Bezanijska kosa. Certain percentage of them are the children with disabilities. Due to a very poor existing condition of the playgrounds for the children of different ages, the need for reconstruction of this space has arisen. Inclusive Development Society Center, the initiator of this action, advocates for the reconstruction of the playground in Bezanijska kosa to be done based on the Universal design principles. This would enable the children with different types of disabilities to socialize with their peers, by visiting the playground, as well as to be included in the social life.

Location description

At the moment, the children playground in Bezanijska kosa settlement contains three fields: a basketball field, a children playground and a field for combined sports (mostly small football). All three fields are in the very poor condition as a result of which these spaces are not used for what they are intended.

At the moment, the basketball field is a paved surface with two baskets which are damaged as a result of which they, therefore the entire field, cannot be used. Due to this situation, the approaching paths for the basketball field are used by the lodgers of the neighboring buildings for parking their vehicles, in spite of the sufficient number of parking spaces projected for this settlement.

The field for combined sports (small football) is also paved and has one basket which is damaged and cannot be used adequately. In addition to this, in one part of this field water cannot subside due to the bad leveling. The field contains certain elements of urban furniture (benches) in correct condition.

The children playground is in the poorest condition. The structures for children to play are not projected but chosen from the catalogues, which influence their attractiveness very much. In addition to this, the lodgers from the neighboring buildings have damaged them on purpose, adjusting them to their needs, as a result of which the structures have lost their original intention. The surface of this space is made of asphalt and is also in a very poor condition. Even if the situation with the children playground is not like this, this space could not be used by the children with disabilities.

The rest of the space surrounding the above-mentioned playground areas is made of grass and contains the paths which should be repaired. The new ones should also be made for enabling the access to all the playground areas.

Project proposal

The Project of the existing playground reconstruction anticipates repairing and advancing the existing contents.

Repairing refers to:

- The basketball field, where it is planned to repair the damaged baskets, mark the ground and repair the existing urban furniture.
- The field for combined sports, where it is planned to level the ground adequately, repair the baskets, install the goals, mark the ground and repair the existing urban furniture. Since there is a basketball field nearby, intervention implies the reduction of the basket standard height to enable younger children to play this sport.
- The surfaces of the existing pedestrian paths.
- Surfaces for the vehicles parking and their adjustment to the needs of persons with disabilities (at least a few parking spaces near the field, that is, the access to pedestrian paths).

Reconstruction refers to:

- The children playground area, implying the construction of the new spaceship-like installation - system for the children to play outside. This solution is anticipated because this type of the installation is very interesting, especially to children, encouraging their imagination. The installation is also accessible to the persons with physical disabilities (wheelchair users) over a ramp which is the only way to reach the installation (in this way the children wouldn't be separated). As far as the equipment within the children playground is concerned, there are: swings, with three places for swinging, with specially projected sits, the area for playing and for walking with handrails and a slide within the installation. The surface this equipment is located on is planned to be covered by Ecoflex, the material resistant to different weather conditions, which is not slippery and has a certain level of flexibility which prevents injuries. Ecoflex is planned to be dark gray with the white lines drawn on it. The surface between the handrails on the ramp and the walking and playing area with handrails is colored, enabling the children with sight impairment to be better oriented in the space. A color is also planned in one part of the pedestrian path, going through a fencing part of the playground, leading to the area for the children to play. It is planned for part of the ground to be covered by sand and for the slide exit and the playing tables to be projected on this area.

The Project anticipates fencing one part of the area for its maintenance and protection. One part of the fence would be a 2m wall in the part of the area looking towards the large traffic artery and Bezanija graveyard. In addition to this the solid obstacles would be located at the exits which would be locked at night. The rest of the fence would be made of hedge.