

SROI analysis of the "Casa Abraham" project

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The NPO Institute, Competence Centre for Non-Profit Organisations, was tasked by the Essl Foundation with the evaluation of the "Casa Abraham" project. The project, which was launched by Father Georg Sporschill, received the Essl Social Prize in 2008, which awards sustainable support and assistance for people in distress.

The evaluation was done by way of a Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis with the goal of assessing the added value for society generated by the project in an as comprehensive as possible manner. The method is intended to measure, aside from the financial effects, explicitly also the social effects of the project. For this analysis, the model developed by the New Economic Foundation was applied, which means that, in a first step, the most important stakeholders and their objectives must be identified. After that, the input invested is compared with the output achieved and the outcome per stakeholder in an impact value chain. Subsequently, the outcome must be translated into suitable indicators, which in turn must be corroborated by data so that, in the end, the SROI value can be calculated.

Casa Abraham is a residential and vocational training centre accommodating up to 48 youth; it was established with the prize money earned. The project is part of the Organisation Concordia, which has been in existence for 16 years and is aimed at helping former street children, who have found a new home here. Many of the approximately 500 children and youth who receive care within Concordia are now at an age when they have to choose a career. The objective of the vocational training school Casa Abraham is to offer the youth a modern vocational training to improve their chances in the job market. The male and female students are trained as bakers, carpenters, gardeners, cooks, waiters/waitresses or child care workers. Apart from the residential units and a chapel, Casa Abraham also provides an area for a model kindergarten and rooms for work training.

This analysis principally refers to the year 2010 and covers only the "Casa Abraham", not the entire Organisation Concordia. Nevertheless, long-term effects have also been considered in the calculations. For example, the value of the training or the integration into the job market of some of the graduates has been extrapolated to retirement age. In 2010, an average of 18 youngsters lived in Casa Abraham, some of whom did not complete their training, while others completed two or even three trainings. To be able to calculate the benefit in a differentiated manner, a weighting was done according to which 16 youth have received a complete vocational training. Apart from this outcome, however, the former street children also benefit from issues such as an improved health condition, psychological stabilisation or an active spare time programme, some of which can only in part be attributed to Casa Abraham.

When comparing the impact in monetary terms of all stakeholders amounting to 606 405 Euros with the entire investment of 174 775 Euros, a **Social Return on Investment value of 3.47 results. This means that every invested Euro created effects equivalent to the monetised value of 3.47 Euros.** The number of youth who enjoy care and vocational training at Casa Abraham has the major effect on the calculated final value. For this reason, a scenario was calculated within the framework of a sensitivity analysis which was to demonstrate the effects of a full capacity utilisation of Casa Abraham on the SROI value. As, at full capacity, the building provides 48 places, all calculations were based on 48 youth *ceteris paribus* in this scenario. The percentage of the students who failed to complete the training was extrapolated based on the initial situation, and also the number of staff was increased accordingly. Under these conditions, a SROI of 9.3 was calculated for the "full capacity utilisation" scenario, which is a significant increase over the value recorded in the database of 2010. Once it became apparent that training was a significant factor for the high SROI value in all calculations, the training effect was reduced in a second scenario. On the assumption that the value provided by the training would not endure until retirement age but only for 20 years, the SROI decreased to 3.10. Considering that the impact period has been reduced by half, this signifies a very low decrease, which, however, can largely be attributed to the deduction of accrued interest that was done.

In summary, Casa Abraham is a very good project producing effects that, in relation to 2010, were three times as high as the investment made.

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The entire study is available in German at www.wu.ac.at/npo/competence