

About project

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The initiators of the Partnership for Development **TOWARD THE POLISH MODEL OF SOCIAL ECONOMY - WE ARE BUILDING THE NEW LISKÓW** are: the Institute of Public Affairs (the managing organisation) www.isp.org.pl, the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland www.filantropia.org.pl, and the Working Community of Associations of Social Organisations www.wrzos.org.pl. The character of this Partnership could be defined as sector and geography-specific.

The project's objective is to develop and test in practice the model strategy of stimulating local communities to create social enterprises. This strategy is being implemented in local communities of former State-owned Farms (PGR), located in 4 administrative districts [poviats], inhabited in majority by villagers. Such former PGR communities are usually agglomerations of poverty, unemployment, marginalisation and delinquent behaviour. Regular problems in rural areas include poor education and mobility, a low degree of preparation for the market economy, as well as no technical, financial or educational infrastructure. The project is focused on local communities as a whole for the benefit of a future goal: stimulation the communities for social economy. The Partnership undertakes steps to launch 7 enterprises and to help them enter the market. It is necessary to identify potential stakeholders in social enterprises and to analyse their social and educational needs, as well as undertake promotional activities aimed at reaching the local community and potential beneficiaries.

The village of Liskow, near Kalisz, which we commemorate in the name of our Partnership, personifies the successful activation of the local community for the purpose of a greater integration and development. Within less than 20 years a poor village, plagued by different social calamities associated with poverty, was transformed by one co-operative activist - a parish priest - into a dynamic and prosperous community. By motivating and engaging in co-operation his parishioners (and therefore creating the prototype approach, which we now call the strategy of partners intervention) the vicar founded co-operative stores, banks, a dairy co-operative, schools, and a brickyard. The main feature of the economic initiatives in Liskow was their cascade character: one initiative instigated another and another. Liskow is the symbol not only of the tradition of business co-operation, but it is also the symbol of change the social and economic transformations, achieved thanks to the leaders and by joint forces of the local community.

During the first stage (**Action 1**) of the project, which began in December 2004, a strong and effective structure of the Partnership and an inventory of the resources of social economy in two Polish regions was created. The Partnership consists of 42 national Partners including 3 regional and 39 local Partnerships from the following regions: Bilgoraj, Lublin, Nidzica, Elk. An important task within the project is the cooperation of experts and animators, local institutions, NGOs, business sector, community leaders and persons active in marginalized circles, which organized themselves in the form of Local Committees. Local Committees, supported by experts, play key role in defining the barriers and development potential of local enterprises, activating local community and initiating actions aimed at creating of the social enterprises.

The second stage (**Action 2**) of the project began in July 2005 and includes:

gathering, analysis and presentation of systematized knowledge concerning resources of social economy in Poland, against good practice in EU member states,

increasing the level of social capital around social enterprises and the level of human resources that would enable activation of marginalized groups in communities involved in the project,

establishment of 7 social enterprises in communities involved in the project and assistance in

launching them on the market.

Third stage (**Action 3**) of the project lasting from January 2007 till March 2008 will focus on dissemination and mainstreaming of innovative results worked out within the project.

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More about the Project:

The geographical aspect of the Partnership has a local scope; 4 local partnership subprojects will be carried out under the Partnership in two provinces (Voivodeships) of Poland: Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Lubelskie. During Action 1 the structure of Partnership will be extended over the local partners. The local partners will organise themselves in poviats in the form of Local Committees. Their members will be: representatives of local authorities, local government agencies, educative institutions, business sector and the third sector. Due to the open formula of the Committees and their inclusive character they will also take account of the representatives of small local organisations and informal initiative groups, local leaders, and persons who represent marginalised environments. Local Committees, supported by experts, will play key role in defining the barriers and development potential of local enterprises, activating local community and initiating actions aimed at creating of the social enterprises.

The general objective of the project, which is in line with the D theme, is to develop the Polish model of social economy. The specific objective of this project is to work out and verify in practice the model strategy of activating local communities to create social enterprises. This strategy will be implemented in local communities threatened by marginalisation and social exclusion , located in poviats with rural inhabitants prevailing. This strategy is briefly called the strategy of partners intervention, or to better emphasise the connection between this strategy and the best, specific patterns of social economy in Poland the strategy of "new Lisków".

The results of the project shall be:

Social enterprises established in 4 poviats, in organisational forms adapted to the needs and the potential of the particular communities,

Published guidebook on establishing social enterprises in rural communities by method of "partners intervention,"

Lobbying for the inclusion of instruments of promotion of social economy in local milieus in the legal and institutional systems of social policy in Poland.

Innovativeness of this project is embedded in:

The new formula of partnership,

The new approach to local development,

Innovative methods (strategy of partners intervention),

The new approach to the social activation of marginalised groups,

The employment of EU members experiences.

The work plan of Action 1 is directed to the creation of a strong and effective structure of Partnership, which

will allow for an successful execution of the tasks in Actions 2 and 3. As a result of this work a Partnership will be established on three levels: local, national, and international.

The proceedings scheduled to be performed during Action 2 will include:

Gathering, analysis and presentation of systematised knowledge about the resources of social economy in Poland, against good practice in EU member states,
Increasing the level of social capital around social enterprises and the level of human resources that would enable activation of marginalised groups in communities involved in the project,
Establishment of social enterprises in communities involved in the project and assistance in launching them on the market,
Participation in domestic and European theme networks.

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The proceedings scheduled to be performed during Action 3 will include the comparative analysis of the results of the project and their evaluation, dissemination of the project results, through incorporating them to the national policies, presenting and transferring of good practice. These actions will be addressed to the government, the parliament, the public administration of all levels, opinion-making bodies and the media.

TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERS

The international co-operation will be an important element of the project, because one of the Partnership's tasks is to apply the good practice already existing in the social economy of EU member states. We intend to test the models of social enterprises generated in other countries and actively use the models of social enterprises applied for example in the Scandinavian countries, Italy and France. We also want to get to know better the legal and financial context of social economy functioning in the EU. The use of foreign experience and good practice is an innovative element in our project. It will not only be limited to learning about good models. We want to employ the franchising formula and include our Partnership for Development in the global network of social enterprises. We will also export the solutions referring to the partners' intervention strategy for the creation of local economy, produced in the course of our project. Such an approach will contribute to obtaining a significant added value in the project. The common ground in the international co-operation will be most of all the realisation of the common theme.

The co-operation will be realised in the form of:

Exchange of information and expertise in the field of strategy and context of action, and seeking the common scope of work. This model will prevail in Action 1 and will be connected with the initial phase of co-operation.

Simultaneous working on the innovative approach. We are going to complete our approach i.e. implement the strategy of partners' intervention. At the same time we will systematically transfer our knowledge and the produced solutions and receive the input from our partners.

Import, export and adaptation of new solutions. This formula will be applied in the mature phase of the international co-operation. The exchange of expertise will serve the improvement of products, for instance we intend to use the experiences of our partners in writing the guidebook of our strategy of partners' intervention.

The designed activities will comprise study visits of the partners and members of the local community, the exchange of persons engaged in the project's implementation, for example the coaches, the trainees and the employees, as well as the participation in seminars, meetings and conferences, and contacts through the Internet.

The result of this will be the model of strategy of partners intervention, enriched by international expertise.