

The inauguration of the European Regions for Social Inclusion project

Citizenship plays an important role in raising people awareness about European identity and creating the feeling of belonging to the European community. It empowers the process of European integration and that is why active participation and promotion of EU citizenship is stated as one of the main goals of the European perspective. The Europe for Citizens program was created in 2006 to promote active citizenship in Europe. Since then it plays an important role as it fosters the process of getting Europe closer to its citizens.

Lodzkie Region is a leader in the European Regions for Social Inclusion project which gathers 28 entities from all over the Europe (Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Montenegro, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom and Poland). The goal of the project is to promote common understanding, European affiliation, debate on EU values and active citizenship as well as creating a multilevel network of local and regional governments and CSOs, which would still function after the project conclusion. All the activities are correlated with local and regional development strategies of the entities engaged with the project as well as inter alia Europe 2020 Strategy.

During the kick-off meeting that was taking place from 26th to 28th March 2014 in Lodz, the partners arranged the working plan, the exact content of each meeting, as well as the financial plan and cooperation strategy via e-tools, inter alia via MyEuropa Platform and other social media. What is more on 27th of March 2014 took place the study visit to the City of Uniejow, where all the partners had the opportunity to find out more about the achievements of local and regional authorities from Lodzkie Region towards social inclusion. The project is implemented with the support of the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union

The agenda of meetings 2014-2015

Event	Date	Place
The kick-off meeting.	26 - 28 March 2014	Lodz, Poland
The seminar and workshops on the role of CSOs in the local, regional and EU development.	7 - 9 May 2014	Madrid, Spain
The seminar and workshops: Social economy boosting regional development.	15 - 17 October 2014	Lodz, Poland
Study visit and seminar: Youth policy. Mobility, employability, family education- challenges and solutions.	15 - 17 April 2015	Malta
The conference on the future of the EU social inclusion policy and the role of local authorities.	14 - 16 October 2015	Brussels, Belgium

Participants o the project

01. Lodzkie Region (coordinator), Poland
02. General Directorate of Immigration and Community of Madrid, Spain
03. Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, Montenegro
04. Old Royal Capital Cetinje , Montenegro
05. Csongrád County Government, Hungary
06. Territorial Employment Pact in La Libera, Spain
07. Municipality of Alfas del Pi, Spain
08. Association for Social Welfare Offices Irurtzun, Spain
09. Covasna County Social Care and Child Protection General Directory, Romania
10. Lyaskovets Municipality, Bulgaria
11. Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, Latvia
12. Kraslava Municipality Council, Latvia
13. Local Councils' Association, Malta
14. City of Mechelen, Belgium
15. WSX Enterprise, United Kingdom
16. The European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy, Belgium
17. Commune of Rogow, Poland
18. Urban Commune of Brzeziny , Poland
19. Commune of Nowosolna , Poland
20. Commune of Belchatow , Poland
21. Commune of Aleksandrow Lodzki, Poland
22. City of Lodz, Poland
23. City of Uniejow , Poland
24. Foundation for European Studies - European Institute, Poland
25. Regional Center of Social Policy in Lodz (RCPS), Poland
26. Social Support Association „Me-You-Us”, Poland
27. Centre of Promotion and Development of Civic Initiatives OPUS, Poland
28. Foundation for Education and Development of Civil Society FERSO, Poland