



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE LOCAL, REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPEMENT”**

MADRID- 7, 8 and 9 May 2014

As a part of ‘European Regions for social inclusion’ project- Europe for Citizens program

The Directorate General of Immigration of the Ministry of Social Affairs in Madrid, has organized from 7 to 9 May 2014, the international conference on "THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE LOCAL, REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPEMENT", which goal was to present good practices in social inclusion from the perspective of different international partners, within the "European Regions for Social Inclusion" project.

The event referred to European project of 2 years duration, co-financed by the European Commission under the Europe for Citizens program. The project leaded by the Lodzkie Region (Poland), brings together professionals and experts from 10 European countries (Poland, Montenegro, Romania, Hungary, Latvia, UK, Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria and Malta), among which there are 28 participants - governmental and private entities as well as NGOs involved in the social inclusion issues in Europe as well as in general problems like population and inclusion of minorities.

The Directorate of Immigration has participated in this project in cooperation with the project leader and the rest of the partners. They conducted the study on the best professional interventions on the population issues and especially on the most vulnerable groups and the methods of inclusion of those in the European society and therefore in the Community of Madrid. The desired outcome was to make contributions in order to improve subsequent actions to the needs of each situation and/or country. For this reason 18 presentations of good practices and three roundtables were conducted.

The Deputy Minister of Family and Social Affairs of the Community of Madrid, the Director General of Immigration, the Secretary General of Immigration and Emigration, the Ministry of Employment and Social of Spain as well as various public and private entities that work with the immigrant population in the Community of Madrid, attended the conference.

The event took place in the Cervantes Institute in Madrid and at the Hispano-Dominican Center of Participation and Integration for Immigrants (CEPI), with the participation of about 300 invited experts on integration and immigration, as well as 45 foreigner representatives, the project leader (Lodzkie Region, Poland) and other European partners. The Director General of Immigration, Gonzalo Ortiz D. Lazarus, handed out the certificates for the participants of the International Conference and closed the whole event successfully.



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.	October 2014	Lodz, Poland
Study visit and seminar: Youth policy. Mobility, employability, family education- challenges and solutions.	April 2015	Malta
The conference on the future of the EU social inclusion policy and the role of local authorities.	October 2015	Brussels, Belgium

Participants of 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