

STUDY VISITS DESCRIPTION

**SOCIAL SEEDS 3rd Project Partner and Steering Committee Meeting
24-25 May 2017
Rzeszow, Poland**

24 th of May 2017 Strug Valley, Trzezwa Gmina Occupational Therapy Workshops and Eco Education Center, Chmielnik- Blazowa near Rzeszow, Poland



Strug Valley, Eco Education Center and Occupational Therapy Workshops as well as Local Action Group Strug Valley cooperates together to involve all local society to the process of shaping and developing the area. All includes people with disabilities, people who suffered several addictions and are after therapies are having chances to work and feel like a part of society. Several institutions in the whole region of Strug Valley are supporting modern education for disadvantaged children, eco production of local citizens, promotion of the region and its traditions. It's a great example how to cooperate on different levels. ZAZ DRUK is a company working as an example of Occupational Therapy Workshops. The main goal of the Department is to employ people with disabilities, their professional and social rehabilitation, tailored to their individual needs. The plant is a place that creates opportunities for the professional and personal development of every employee. Currently, we employ 35 people with significant and moderate disabilities (with special illnesses) and

their work is supported by 11 persons employed as staff of the Department. They offer professional printing services having modern machines and computers.

http://www.zaz.trzezwagmina.pl/?page_id=23

25 th of May 2017 Association DOBRY DOM (GOOD HOME) and Occupational Therapy Workshops ZAZ Nowa Sarzyna

The main idea around which Professional Activity Establishment (also called ZAZ as a polish shortage and will be used further in the following document) works from the beginning is multi-level support of disabled people under the Center of Independent Living where the ZAZ is an element of the supportive system. ZAZ aimed at activation of disabled in various dimensions: professional and work ability development, workplace creation and rehabilitation support. The ZAZ status is given to autonomous units (not legally separated organisations) of local authorities, NGOs or social cooperatives: Their primary objective is rehabilitation of disabled, especially with severe disabilities. ZAZ carry out rehabilitation activities along with economic activity. In this case Professional Activity Establishment created association "GOOD HOME" ("Dobry Dom" original in Polish) which is also the founder of protected training houses where people with disabilities can start independently their living.

ZAZ carry on its professional activities in 3 fields:

- Carpenter's workshop (Manufacture of wooden goods and furniture boards including wood logs, canvas, special furniture orders like: kitchen, wardrobes, beds ect.)
- Wickery workshop (wicker furniture, fences, baskets)
- Handcraft and other kinds of craftsmanship and services: recycling of paper and documents ect

Professional Activity Establishment of Nowa Sarzyna employs 72 people including 52 with disabilities (as beneficiaries in economic activity) and 20 people in services- rehabilitation activities (including also 2 disabled but without having beneficiary status).

ZAZ of Nowa Sarzyna develops its activities and experiences from 10 years already and its very constant process having in consideration the changes in policies and socio-economic conditions. ZAZ was establish and officially titled as Professional Activity Establishment with the decision of the Governor of the Province no ZAZ/01/2005 dated 20.12.2005. This form of assistance is directed only to those with the most difficult status not only on the labour market but also excluded from the society and social life because of disabilities: severe physical disabilities, autism, mental illnesses and mental disabilities. Through the over 10 years of activity ZAZ Nowa Sarzyna has been awarded in various contest and fair trades as a company with great impact on society and reduction of inequalities as well as for a great quality of produced goods. In the area, before ZAZ was opened, it was impossible to find any workplace for people with disabilities. Private and public insitutions still have some limitations to hired and adjusted their work environment to people with fisical problems or other illnesses. This is due to the variety of reasons not only from the employer side but also law regulating

employment as well as from the disabled perspective who are mostly too shy and not believing in their own abilities. Therefore, people with disabilities after finishing any kind of education had very limited opportunities to check themselves in the workplace and gain professional experience. It is worth to mentioned that creation of „Good Home” ZAZ of Nowa Sarzyna reduced this problem to the minimum. The chance created there is based on gaining social and profesional development. The workers also improve their financial situation and having salaries without losing the right of obtaining the disabled- pension. Also the wide local society raised its awareness that people with disabilities deliver an exelent, properly done products and they are valuable part of the society. <http://www.dobrydom.org/>





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25th May 2017 Bajkolandia Social Cooperative

Social cooperative „Bajkolandia” was established in 2010 with the initiative of District Labour Office in Lezajsk. The initiative group consisted of 4 woman and 1 men who were united by the strong willing to come back to the labour market and also by passion of doing something together which will be useful and needed on the market. The Labour Office was a financial and training support institution where the group was formed. The first idea was to create a space for children where they can play and integrate as there were no place like this in Lezajsk and surroundings. They wanted to offer something different than simple kindergarden: flexible hours of taking care of children, modern interiors, children at the age of 2 also welcome (in polish system kindergarden is above age of 3). The first the most important stage was to find a right place and right property which was difficult as the ones which were suitable and brightly nice for children were to expensive to afford them. At this stage the great help came from the director of District Labour Office in Lezajsk, who negotiate to settle the new bussiness in the properties attached to hospital in Lezajsk. The place needed to be renovated as it was after a hospital loundry so needed also to be adapted and re-built. The negotiations led to quite low rent fee and after spending own money for renovation also 6 years suspension of payment. The financial support- dotation gained from the Labour Office wasn't sufficient for all the adaptation process. When account was almost empty the young social entrepreneurs turned to potential sponsors, donors and owner of companies from the region to ask for help. Director of Vocational Training School let the students to help with rebuilding works as a voluntary work, some of the financial help came from companies as well as some kind of material contribution (paints, bricks, sand ect). Due to the problem with financial liquidity the renovation took 7 months and after starting and discovering the conditions of the building it was necessary to built completely new walls, CO intsalation, sewerage, current instalation. 1.09.2011 the entitty officially started. The beginings were very hard as only 5 children were signed on and the local kindergardens changed the policy and started also to offer a day care for children under age of 3. The crisis came and it was very hard especially when first bills to pay came, and first salaries needed to be paid. They cannot resigned as a dotation was only under a rule to carry on with the entity at least 12 months. If not all the dotation would have been withdrawn. 2012 was a year of changes and new opportunities. In the frame of the project realized in Rzeszow Regional Development Agency they could received a financial support and increase employment. But to increase the staff arragement the development of the offer was needed. The chance was ahead and the good plan was elaborated to use the financial resources as efficiently as possible. The new idea was not only to buy new equipment and toys for children at different age, but also to extend the offer and new services: organising and animating birthday parties and other events for children, childbirth clases school for future parents- the only one in the region, and also carnival costumes rental for children and partents. What is very important and very worth to emphasise that thanks to the project the social cooperative could afford the efficient PR, marketing and promotion activities which attracted more and more parents with children, the social entity was also hired as local animatiors for children during the weddings, companies events. The childbirth school was a great decision as also the hospital started to cooperate to provide the best services as possible. From 2013 Bajkolandia received the order from Municipality of Lezajsk to carry on the Center of Sociotherapy for Lezajsk children. The efforts led to other kind of constant, formalised cooperation: with Labour Office of Lezajsk and Municipality Social Welfare Support Centre. In example, when the unemployed parents take some courses or trainings they can leave children in Bajkolandia with no extra fees ect.

In 2013 the social cooperative Bajkolandia won the prize in the national contest „A way to sucess” funded by President of Poland, prize of President of Podkarpackie Region and Mayor of Lezajsk, and also was awarded as a women-friendly bussiness.

<http://bajkolandia.lezajsk.pl/>

25th May 2017 Raftsman Association Social Cooperative of st.Barbara in Ulanów

The Flisican Brotherhood of St. Barbara in Ulanow was established on September 8, 1991. The main objective was to cultivate the Ulanow Flisician tradition and the cultural development of Ulanow. Already in 1993 was organized for the first time since 1939 float raft from Ulanow to Gdansk, called "Flis Prairie Road" (724 km in 26 days). The next flis on the same route was held in 1996 and in 1997. In total since 1993, the Fraternity has participated in several dozen Floating Floats across various Polish rivers. The main idea is to involve local society to cultivate traditions and care more about environment and its potential. The Route and Association is a UNESCO Cultural Heritage attraction.

<http://www.flisacy.ovh.org/>

