

FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST

Municipality **Rejowiec Fabryczny**

Country Poland

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Name project

"Civil society meeting – learning through experience"

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- Social cohesion (coesione sociale).**

Summary project

Project "Civil society meeting – learning through experience" was implemented by Dialogue Field Foundation together with the Rejowiec Fabryczny Municipality. It was implemented in the frame of "Citizen for the Democracy Program". Civil society meeting it is a tool to incorporate citizens to the city live – it is a kind of public consultation. It is based on involving a 20-person group of experts composed of inhabitants from Rejowiec Fabryczny – captured the possible picture of the all community. Their aim is to create recommendations on complex and often controversial matters. During the four workshops they will learn about the materials presenting a particular issues, discuss about it, getting to know the perspective of other participants, working with invited experts, who provide them with the necessary knowledge. During the public hearing, which is crowned by a council of civic, social recommendations can meet and discuss a broader group of citizens, the media and the authorities. Opinion formulated during a meeting of civic is not clear from the decision taken then, but rather a strong recommendation for the institutions responsible for solving the problem.

Goal project

The aim of the project was not only to conduct meetings civic socially important issue, agreed with the locals, but also to build in Rejowiec factory and Opole Lublin teams. Deliberation civic, made up of people who will have the knowledge, skills and competences to the future hold consultations social independently or with little support outside experts.

Result project

- In municipalities set important topics - in Rejowiec Fabryczny was the future of the old station building, in Opole Lubelskie what kind of features it has to meet the city center. Public interest in the topic has confirmed attendance at meetings and a public hearing.
- Civic meeting was organized and led by an interdisciplinary, 6-person-teams composed of civil representatives and representatives of agencies, institutions and non-governmental organizations. Teams in their work supports the Foundation for the Dialogue Field, successfully testing the transfer of knowledge and skills through the method of learning by experience.
- At the beginning of the project took place a training on the public consultation and practical course facilitation, conduct meetings. Before each of the four council meetings and a public hearing was held a meeting to prepare the team for the action, and after each event jointly discussed the course of the meeting, we talked openly about the difficulties of what was successful and the challenges of the next steps.
- In the course of the meeting the members of the team gains experience, more confident feel in the role of facilitators and moderators. They benefited from new skills in other situations. And at the end of the meeting eagerly declared to participate in the subsequent processes of this type. The project not only built expertise and developed the skills of individuals, but also strengthened teamwork, communication between various institutions. The teams that participated in the project are able to organize public consultations: they know what to look for in their organization, how to conduct meetings. Working in teams of people who belong to them, got to know better, they have created a platform to take further action in the future.
- The meetings involved a diverse group of citizens representing different social groups, experiences and interests. For many of them it was their first opportunity to participate in a strategic conversation about their place of residence.
- Authorities of both municipalities may know better and tested in practice a new form of public consultation. They received a broad set of recommendations that can measurably improve their decisions. Built the ground for the further development of dialogue with the residents.

Finance (costs and benefits)

The costs of the project - 234 000,00 zł
 The contribution of the Rejowiec Fabryczny - 35 000,00 zł

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

Meetings team counted 6 people. They work in the persons representing institutions from Rejowiec Fabryczny and non-governmental organizations. The tasks of the team are: recruitment of participants of meetings, ensuring the technical side meetings, conducting meetings and work in the subgroups, to collect handouts.

Additional information (if necessarily)

Link website - <http://www.rejowiec.pl/index.php/page/show/52>

(if available)

**Once filled in this form please send it to: info@cittaslow.net
- Participation Deadline 15 May 2016 -**