

D.T1.1.4

STUDY TRIP REPORT

Activity A.T1.1.

Date 31.10.2019

Name of Partner: Westpomeranian Region (PP11)

Contact Person: Paulina Chmielowska (pchmielowska@wzp.pl)



Study trip report

Study trip has been organized within a framework of the project titled “***Exploring social innovation approaches for the social and economic integration of non-EU nationals ARRIVAL REGIONS***”.

- **This form is designed to capture the social innovation approaches for the social and economic integration of non-EU nationals.**
- **The responses from this survey will be collected, analysed and used to prepare the pilot action concepts.**
- **In order to improve the readability of the questionnaire, please delete options that don't apply to the visited initiative.**

Practice summary	
1. Title of the good practice	THE UKRAINIAN WOMEN CLUB
2. Geographical Coverage <i>(underline the right answer)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European • <u>national</u> • regional • local
3. Location of the practice (city, country)	Warsaw (Poland)
4. Main institution involved	Foundation „Our choice“
5. Visit agenda <i>(people met, institution visited)</i>	<p><u>Representative met:</u> Myroslava Keryk (Chairman of the Board), Foundation „Our choice“</p> <p><u>Institution visited:</u> Headquarters of the Our Choice Foundation, Warsaw</p>
6. Dates of study trip	23.10.2019
7. Thematic area <i>(Intercultural dialogue, Social innovation, Migrants' Economy)</i>	Social innovation, Migrants' Economy
8. Type of practice visited <i>(delete options that don't apply)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing integration measures in the countries of origin before they arrive (e.g. language courses, information about destination country) • introducing or improving integration programmes for immigrants upon arrival (orientation courses, providing basic information on the way of life, values and norms of the society or various forms of training) • offering or improving language courses to immigrants upon arrival • making integration programmes and language courses mandatory for immigrants upon arrival • providing measures for job finding (training, job matching, guidance, recognition of qualifications etc.) • promoting intermingling of nationality people and immigrants in schools and neighbourhoods • countering disinformation
9. Participants (PPs + stakeholders)	LP (1 participant), PP11 (2 participants), PP13 (2 participants) stakeholder (PP13, 1 participant)
10. Reporting Person	Paulina Chmielowska (PP11)

Practice description

11. Introduction (include any relevant pictures)

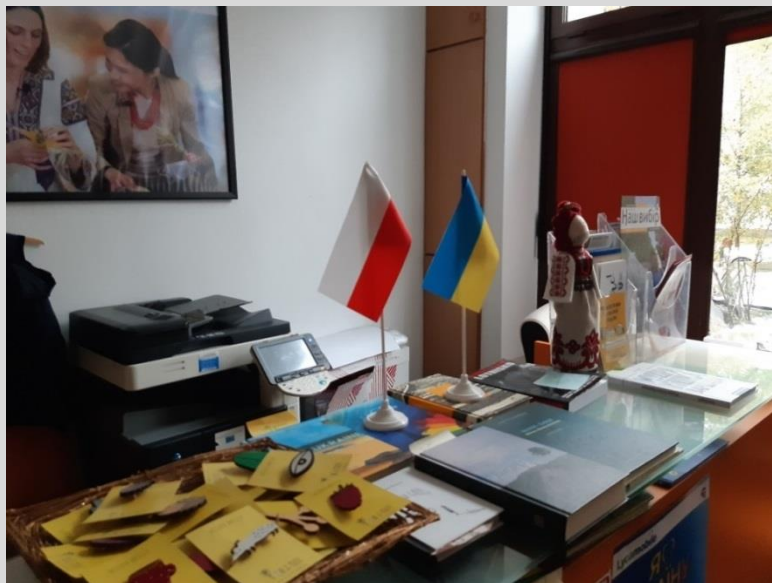
background information, aim/purpose of the study trip, objectives

In 2004 the group of Polish and Ukrainian friends who supported the “Orange Revolution” in Kyiv decided to create common organization in Warsaw. During this time, not only in Ukraine but also all around the world, Ukrainians began to unite and work to create an open civil society. Active Ukrainians from Warsaw, supported by Polish people also undertook similar activities.

The “Our Choice” Foundation was founded in 2009 in order to support Ukrainian migrants in Poland. The main goal of the Foundation is to support integration of Ukrainian migrants in Polish society, support the development of cultural, educational, economic and political contacts between Poland and Ukraine, and promote democratic values and civil society.

Most of the activities are addressed to migrants from Ukraine in Poland, but the Foundation regularly joins activities and projects concerning other groups of foreigners staying in Poland. The various initiatives implemented by Foundation are directed to various auditorium. Over the time the Foundation expanded the group of recipients of its activities to citizens of other countries.

It is worth emphasizing that all the activities of the “Our Choice” Foundation focus on helping foreigners in Poland in everyday life and reaching them with the necessary information and support.



Pic. 1, Headquarters of the „Our Choice“ Foundation

One of many interested and successful projects implemented in May 2014 by Foundation was the “The Ukrainian Woman Club” project. The Ukrainian Woman Club was open to representatives of different nationalities and ages.



Pic. 2 The end of the study visit

12. Implementation of the study trip

The following issues were discussed during the study trip:

The meeting was organized at the headquarters of „Our Choice“ Foundation, located in the center of Warsaw. During the meeting participants had the opportunity to find out the information regarding the Foundation's activities, projects implemented, problems that the institution must overcome.

1. Short description of „Our Choice“ Foundation's activities

The Foundation conducts an active information activity by regularly publishing the newspaper „Our Choice“ for Ukrainians staying in Poland and running the portal www.naszwybir.pl, organizes informational and promotional meetings (regarding for example education, insurance, legalization of stay). Moreover there is available the consultation point, where people can find out information regarding schools, change of employer, possibility of family reunification, etc.

Additionally, The Foundation organizes regular experts meetings and reading clubs where topics relevant to Ukrainians in Poland are discussed or interesting people appear, for example famous Ukrainian writers. The Foundation also encourages to participate in the celebration of Ukraine Independence Day which is organized in Warsaw.

The Foundation is involved also in a lot of charity work, appearing as the initiator or co-organizer of numerous fundraising events for Ukrainian Army and needs of domestic refugees. The most successful action was the campaign “Dressing for the bag”, where the organizes sold ecological bags with Ukrainian embroidery and transfer the funds to the medicines for Ukrainian soldiers. The ‘our Choice” Foundation also co-organize the “Help Ukraine” project.



Fig. 3 The Newsletter "Our Choice"

The Foundation conducts sociological research. In cooperation with the Foundation of Socio-Economic Expertise Institute, the Foundation implemented the project *"Immigrants with high qualifications on the Polish labor market. Social research"*. The main objectives were to provide knowledge about the labor market situation of immigrants with higher education diploma, and reveal obstacles in the integration of immigrants on the labor market, especially those related to the social image of immigrants as well as employees and employers.

2. Ukrainian Woman Club project

Ukrainians are the most numerous and growing group of immigrants in Poland. The most of them are women. The club was the place of meetings, cultural events and legal assistance. Symbolically it is located next to the Museum of Polish Jews.

Immigrants work mainly in the sphere of domestic services and other branches of service sector, but the number of those started to work as qualified employees is increasing. Warsaw city has the largest number of migrant women. Observing the organization and signals from immigrants shows that there is a lack of measures stop their social exclusion.

The aim of the Ukrainian Women Club project was to increase social activity among immigrant women from Ukraine and integrate them into social life by creating a group where they can share their knowledge, qualifications and experiences.

Thanks to the project, 50 immigrants women from Ukraine living in Warsaw acquired new competences and started the activity for their community within the Ukrainian Woman Club.

The objectives of an informal women's association created in Warsaw was primarily:

- helping Ukrainian middle-aged women who come to live and work in Poland to integrate in a new country,
- finding them place in the new reality,
- working for education, integration of the Ukrainian community and promotion of Ukrainian culture in Poland.

The club meetings were held regularly, every Sunday and each meeting was devoted to a different topic or problem. In the framework of its activity were various activities, for example: cooking and craft workshops or personal development training (workshops). Practical knowledge obtained there such as planning various types of events, time management, planning budgets, processing ideas into mini-projects could be used in everyday life. The group organized study trips (to Kraków and Orońsk), concerts and other socio-cultural events.

Recently the Academy of Managers has also started the activity, where members of Ukrainian Women Club are organizing workshops for others woman.

3. Short discussion about the projects being in progress completed/ by the Foundation

Weekend Club for children „Glove“ - integration of children and parents and familiarizing them with Ukrainian culture and language as a part of interesting and creative activities.

Ukrainian House in Warsaw - was established to facilitate integration and support of the Ukrainian community in Warsaw. At the moment it is open for all foreigners and offers space for activities and possibility for experience exchange. Moreover Ukrainian citizens can feel like at home.

Saturday Ukrainian School in Warsaw - a school for Ukrainians where the participants can learn the Ukrainian language, history, culture and geography.

Literation Club - literary meetings available to Poles and Ukrainians during which books from both countries are discussed.

Art Gallery - an exhibition of Ukrainian artists in Warsaw.

Polish-Ukrainian youth exchange - integration meetings for young people from Poland and Ukraine.

Support Group for Women - support group for women with high professional qualifications and small opportunities on the labor market (doctor, lawyer).

4. Future activities

In order to integrate migrants and local society in the frame of artistic and cultural activities carried out by the Foundation, the Ukrainian House Gallery in Warsaw organizes a competition for painters, performers, photographers, sculptors, and people associated with visual art for an exhibition at the Ukrainian House Gallery in Warsaw in 2020.

The curators are open to Polish and Ukrainian as well as other nationalities with ideas for projects related to the Ukrainian theme.

The Foundation plans to establish closer cooperation with National Labour Inspectorate (Polish supervisory and control body over compliance with labor law) and Social Insurance Institution (Polish state organization responsible for social insurance matters) and with 10 non-governmental organizations that work for foreigners.

The Foundation also plans to establish cooperation with the honorary consuls of Ukraine based in other voivodships.



Pic. 4 During the meeting in „Our Choice“ Foundation

13. Evidence of success (results achieved)

Through actions for education, integration of the Ukrainian community and promotion of Ukrainian culture in Poland, a lot of women living in Warsaw had the possibility to acquire new competences and started to be active. As part of the project, many initiatives have been taken and thanks to these activities many women with low self-esteem returned to the labour market or started growing their own business.

Finally in the project attended 1236 participants which took a part in the meetings, workshops, trainings and events organized by the Club. Moreover thanks to the project the headquarters of the Club could be renovated and equipped which allowed its further functioning after the project implementation. Currently the Ukrainian Women Club work actively in the Ukrainian House in Warsaw, and invites everyone to cooperate.

An important result of the project is also the fact that the network created during its implementation is still functioning and the women are still supporting each other both in the business world and in everyday life.



Pic. 5 At the entrance of foundation headquarters

14. Difficulties encountered

The „Our Choice“ Foundation deals with many problems both in the implementation of the project and in a daily work. The biggest problems identified by the President of the Foundation are following:

- financial instability, the consequence of which is the lack of strategic planning options
- the high staff turnover, which will reduce the quality of work
- employment instability
- difficulties in accessing activities under the project for people outside Warsaw
- stressful working environment
- lack of funds for new initiatives
- lack of funds to hire a lawyer
- inability to provide psychological support for immigrants

15. Which structural funds support this good practice?

The Ukrainian Women Club was founded by the „Our Choice“ Foundation as part of the „Citizens for Democracy Program“ financed by the EEA Funds. In addition the Foundation uses sponsorship.

16. Is there any cost to participate in engaging with this good practice?

If yes, what are additional costs incurred by project participants?

The participation in the Ukrainian Women Club project was for free. Many workshops, consultations, meetings etc. were free of charge for participants. However, as part of the project two study visits were organized. The participants had to carry small costs regarding transport and alimentionation.

The Foundation organize language trainings too, but the participation fee is relatively low.

17. What is new and/or innovative about this good practice?

Ukrainian Woman Club created a group of women who want to develop their competences and find their place in the Polish society and labor market. Most Ukrainian migrants take up jobs that do not require high qualification in Poland. However recently, more specialists like IT specialists, doctors, engineers and numerous students are coming to Poland. Within five years, the number of Ukrainians students in Poland increased from 10 thousand to almost 40 thousand. A relatively new group of migrants are woman with high qualifications who are moving to Poland with their husbands and children. Many had a good job and career in Ukraine, but decided to come to Poland in search for better live and future.

Ukrainian Women Club also implemented also the “Career Coaching - professional development” project, which was directed to young mothers, who intend to return to the labor market, people who want to change the workplace, but are unable to identify areas in which they can realize themselves, to people who are ready to changes their lives.

Moreover the Foundation began cooperation with polish public institution (National Labour Inspectorate and Social Insurance Institution). The results of that is the ability to settle official matters in Ukrainian language.

18. How has this good practice boosted immigrants integration?

The Ukrainian Woman Club project is the great example showing how people can achieve success through cooperation. The Club organizes workshops, meetings and trainings for immigrant women from Ukraine living in Poland, strengthened the integration of immigrant communities threatened by exclusion or marginalization among the host society. The good practice also shows the great potential of Ukrainian women.

Moreover friendships and relationships were also established as a result of joint project activities, which even though the project was completed, are continue to this day.

19. What lessons did you learn? What are your overall conclusion?

The results, involvement of the participants show that there is a need to implement such projects. Unfortunately in the Polish society the ethnic intolerance is still a current issue. That is the reason why integration and facilitation of contacts between the Ukrainian and Polish communities, promotion of Ukrainian culture in the European Union is very important. It is also important to create a positive image of third- country nationals in the host countries of the European Union.

It is really important to recognizing the potential of migration at the right time in order to actively and successfully use the migrants' potential.

20. Outreach and dissemination

Newsletter, useful websites, mailing group, local government

- ✓ Newsletter "Nasz Wybór" (monthly)
- ✓ FB www.facebook.com/fundacjanaszwybor/
- ✓ Website: www.naszwybir.pl

- List of the attached document(s): List of attendance.
- Link to website: <https://naszwybor.org.pl/>
- Contact information of the good practice:
Myroslava Keryk, Chairman of the Board, m.keryk@naszwybor.org.pl,
Oleksandra Iwaniuk, project manager oleksandra.iwaniuk@naszwybor.org.pl
Fundacja, biuro@naszwybor.org.pl

D.T1.1.1.4 – STUDY TRIP REPORT: Ukrainian Women Club

WARSAW (POLAND) 23.10.2019

List of Study Trip Participants

Organisation	Last Name	First Name	Signature
LP – Leibnitz Institute for Regional Geography	<i>Sygnarets</i>	<i>Serhi</i>	<i>C. Booc</i>
PP11 – Województwo Zachodniopomorskie	Chmielowska	Paulina	<i>Pauline Amelowska</i>
PP11 – Województwo Zachodniopomorskie	Ciesielska	Marta	<i>Ciesielska</i>
PP13 - Województwo łódzkie	Kurniawka	Katarzyna	<i>Katarzyna Kurniawka</i>
PP13 - Województwo łódzkie	Grzelczak	Bogumiła	
PP13 - Województwo łódzkie	<i>Klimaszewska</i>	<i>Renata</i>	<i>Renata Klimaszewska</i>
PP13 - Województwo łódzkie <i>Stacholater</i>	<i>Stuch</i>	<i>Eliwa</i>	<i>Eliwa</i>