

Young Entrepreneurs Support Network

Organization of series of informal meetings with nongovernmental institutions in Poland

Project staff started to cumulate data on the non-governmental organizations in Poland that have been involved in the support of youth, young entrepreneurs and unemployed people from the beginning of the project. Recognized organizations were invited to the informal meetings planned in Phase I, organized in July and August 2007.

The first meeting

The first meeting (informal seminar) was organized on 4 July 2007 in Warsaw in the Polish Academy of Science. The seminar was held with the name "Entrepreneurship and reduction of unemployment of young people" and it raised wide interest among organization and institutions dealing with the issue of entrepreneurship of young people, animation, support and promotion of entrepreneurship of young people. In the seminar participated representatives of following organizations and institutions: Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, Fundacja Wspomagania Wsi, Akademia Filantropii, Forum Młodych - Polskiej Konfederacji Pracodawców Prywatnych „Lewiatan”, Europejski Fundusz Rozwoju Wsi Polskiej, Fundacja Edukacyjnej Przedsiębiorczości, Stowarzyszenie „Wolna Przedsiębiorczość”, Fundacja Idealna Gmina, MANZANA- Fundacja Rozwoju Umiejętności Psycho-Społecznych, Pasma Stowarzyszenie Wspierania Państwowej Wyższej Szkoły Zawodowej w Chełmie i Regionu, CIVIS POLONUS. In the meeting took part representatives of organizations originating from Northern, Central and Eastern regions of Poland.



The second meeting

The second meeting (informal seminar) was organized by FDPA on 7 August 2007 in Krakow. Organizations from Southern and West-Southern regions of Poland were invited. These regional and local partners based in southern regions of Poland are organizations and institutions familiar with the situation on the labor market. In the seminar participated representatives of following organizations and institutions: Fundusz Pożyczkowy dla Małych Firm – Inicjatywa Mikro, Małopolska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego, Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie Pracowników Instytucji Rynku Pracy, Fundacja Rozwoju Regionu Rabka, Stowarzyszenie „Samorządowe Centrum Przedsiębiorczości i Rozwoju”, Stowarzyszenie Wspierania Inicjatyw Społeczno - Gospodarczych „Klub Sądecki”, Fundacja Wiedza i Rozwój przy PWSZ w Nowym Sączu, Europejskie Centrum Edukacyjno-Usługowego.



The conclusion of the seminars organized in Poland were as follows:

Discussed subjects:

- the experiences and knowledge of each participating organization, how it contributes to the employment possibilities of youth within the frame of its activities;
- experiences and achieved results in this field, examples of projects carried out, achieved outputs;

- issues concerning entrepreneurship, lack of data and connected to that problems with comparison of employment possibilities in urban and rural areas, relation of young entrepreneurs to the gross number of entrepreneurship in the region,
- instruments of support of entrepreneurs, also young entrepreneurs, their effectiveness and adjustment to the needs of beneficiaries t;
- situation of entrepreneurship in Poland, difficulties that entrepreneurs face in their every day work and activities;
- necessity of updating and actually realized monitoring and statistical data on the unemployed as well as situation of entrepreneurs in Poland;
- introduction of YESN project – its activities and objectives – organizations expressed their interest for participation in this project activities
- issue of networking – the benefits for Network members as well as the synergic effect related to the joint cooperation, also the issue of trust between partners of Network was raised by participants.

Outputs:

- the issue of entrepreneurship is treated very seriously and is found as a very important subject that should be further developed;
- every organization and institution has its specific field of activities and in this field can support differently beneficiaries (e.g. young people), thanks to that various support to the beneficiaries can be delivered;
- organizations welcomed the idea of networking. It was stated that this idea of establishment of the Network needs further joint work and e.g. the rules of the Network, its targets etc. should be developed jointly by all interested organizations that would like to establish and be a member of the Network
- the following conclusions were gathered:
 - o the type and structure of qualifications of young people in most regions does not correspond with the need and concerns of employers;
 - o lack of experience and not appropriate type of education and qualification of applicants – need for providing consultation and advisory services;
 - o there is a great need of carrying out good monitoring and collecting statistical data and information on the unemployed as well as situation of entrepreneurs in Poland;
 - o there is no data on entrepreneurship of young people not only in rural areas but also on the regional and national level. It causes problems with comparison of employment possibilities in cities and rural areas as well as relation of young entrepreneurs to the gross number of entrepreneurship in the region,
 - o available instruments of support of entrepreneurs, also young entrepreneurs, are not very efficient and very often are not adjusted to the needs of beneficiaries;
 - o the situation of entrepreneurship in Poland is very difficult due to the very high labor costs as well as high costs of running business in Poland, lack of qualified staff and the issue of emigration;
 - o participants expressed their interest in the YESN project activities. The issue of networking – the benefits for Network members as well as the synergic effect related to the joint cooperation, also the issue of trust between partners of Network was raised by participants.
 - o the level of interest among young people to establish own business in Poland is very low. The image of entrepreneur in Poland is very bad, which is also the result of the

Communism time and historical lack of the development of middle class involved in the business ;

- young people (especially graduates) are often classed as a “endanger group of employees” – therefore various supporting instruments are provided (financial assistance, non-reversible financial subsidies, micro-grants, free of charge courses, trainings etc.)
- after joining EU structures a lot of people have chosen the possibility of free movement of labor force. A lot of people from Poland, have emigrated to the Great Britain, Ireland as well as to other MS of the “old” EU. Additional difficulty is that there is no actual data on the emigration scale available.