

Young Entrepreneurs Support Network

Country seminars in Poland

The Country Seminar in Poland took place in Warsaw at the Hotel Marriott venue on September 25, 2007. The first part of the seminar was devoted to the presentations delivered by the representatives of the institutions and organizations supporting development of entrepreneurship. The Country Report "Youth on the labour market in rural areas in Poland" was also presented.

FDPA President, Monika Szymanska opened the conference and welcomed all participants and lectures. Next the representative of the Unidea Foundation – Barbara Grzywacz – presented the UNIDEA background and history, its programs and areas of expertise. The next lecturer was Tomasz Sypula from the Polish Agency of the Entrepreneurship Development who presented the role and activities of the Agency in the field of supporting young entrepreneurs. Elżbieta Kernafel – Wyka from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development described the instruments of support for entrepreneurs in rural areas. Aleksander Kornatowski from the Voivodship Labour Office has presented the institution's experiences in implementing programs aimed at development of entrepreneurship financed from the Structural Funds 2004-2006.



The second part of the seminar was devoted to the presentation of the report „Education of young people at the labour market in rural areas”. The presentation was delivered by Jarosław Domalewski from the Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development. Later on, Inga Kolomyjska – Rural area development programs and promotion coordinator from FDPA – talked about entrepreneurship in rural areas and she presented available tools and measures to support young peoples' entrepreneurship in rural areas.



Within the frames of the Country Seminar, there were organized two workshops:

- Obstacles in entrepreneurship development in rural areas – moderator Zenon Lewandowski.
- Instruments and measures of entrepreneurship support and its adjustment to the young entrepreneurs needs – moderator Marek Hola.

The most important results and recommendations from the workshops were presented during the last part of the conference moderated by Andrzej Hałasiewicz from FAPA (Foundation for the Assistance Programs for Agriculture).

Among obstacles participants listed mostly legal and organizational barriers in registering businesses and investments in companies as well as local authorities' attitudes toward entrepreneurs. The infrastructure in rural areas is not suitable to the entrepreneurship development. Very important factor that could limit the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas is the stereotypical image of rural areas and people living there. In Poland, for majority of people villages are only places of farms and agricultural productions and people living in rural areas could be only farmers. The stereotype is also very harmful for the idea of sustainable development.

During the second workshop, its participants underlined the importance of the quality of human capital involved in the implementation of any assistance program, especially at the administrative and governmental level. The very important issue is constant evaluation and adjustment of projects' objectives to changing environments and needs.