



Lifelong Learning Programme



Grundtvig Learning Partnership

„(Inter)Cultural Capitals across Europe - Intercultural approaches in adult education
in the context of European Capitals of Culture”

Meeting in Krakow, Poland, December 1th – 4th, 2010

Report of the meeting

In the meeting took part: From

Arbeit und Leben DGB/VHS NW e.V.:

From **Kosmopolis**: Ms Karen

From **Krakowskie Centrum Zarządzania i Administracji Spółka z o.o.**: Mr Czesław
K. Cieplik, Ms Maria Francuz, Ms Olga Adamczyk, Ms Agnieszka Ratajczyk,
Ms Zofia Mardula, Ms Dorota Pieniązek

Due the problems with the weather conditions all flights from Vienna to Krakow
were closed and therefore the representatives of **EDUCULT – Denken und Handeln
im Kulturbereich** did not participate in the meeting.

1th of December, 2010

Arrival. Guests checked in the hotel.

2th of December 2010

The meeting was take place in the office of Krakowskie Centrum Zarządzania i Administracji Sp. z o.o. (The Cracow Centre of Management and Administration Ltd) Krakowie, Plac Matejki 10/3. Meeting was starting from the short discussion about the meeting program and about project tasks, short summing – up of the previous meetings and decisions that have been made in then and how they have evolved.

The partners decided that the next meeting will be in Düsseldorf on May 2011. Unfortunately, some of guests could not make it to arrive to Krakow, and so the exact data of the next meeting will be known in later term.

Mrs Maria Francuz was presenting the agenda of the meeting: on Thursday (2th of December) there will be the meeting with Ms Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz - Małopolska Province Governor's Minorities Representative, and the representatives of Association of Improvement and Integration of The Youth (Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Integracji Młodzieży - STRIM). Next all group of the participants will take part in the traditional Cracow Puppet Theatres Show and the concert of the traditional Polish Christmas carols on the Main Market Square. In the afternoon the group will visit Daniel Warmuz's Photo Exhibition in Kazimierz District and will take part in the Jewish Afternoon.

During meeting with Ms **Elżbieta Mirga – Wójtowicz**, who is responsible for minorities' policy in Governor's Office, the group has learned about Roma minority in Małopolska, which – as turned out – is very numerous. Although in Krakow the problem is not apparently seen, in villages of the province may be described as a real challenge. Ms Mirga – Wójtowicz shared with the group with her experience in issue of main problems, that Roma have to handle with every day, of the most effective ways of help, that – thanks to her activity – is sent to those, who need it the most. The group had a chance to get to know how Roma families can get this help and it is used, where are the most problematic issues – point of territorial aspects, and also groups of problems – mostly in education and living conditions, but also with competition in work market. Moreover, we saw some statistics concerning others minorities and we were learned about social law and minority's law regulations. Ms Elżbieta Mirga – Wójtowicz was also presenting the educational projects for Roma community in Krakow and in Małopolska.

Meeting with **representatives of STRIM**. We had a chance to get to know about activity of STRIM in point of mobilizing young people to go abroad and participate in voluntary jobs. One of volunteers had come to the meeting and he told the group about his work in Poland. He helps in the kindergarten as a volunteer and the group had wondered how is handling on with it, especially, that he was Italian. Workers of STRIM explained to us, that the organization helps young people, who come to Poland with finding a place to stay, finding a voluntary job and with any kind of problems, that show up during their stay in our country. STRIM also organizes voluntary jobs for Polish people abroad - they are able to send program's participants anywhere they want, but Ms Izabela Górska - president of STRIM, underlined, that the aim country of the participant depends on age and experience: younger people rather go to warm, Mediterranean countries, while their older colleagues, who more often think seriously about job and staying in the country they go, choose countries with developed social system and growing GDP like Denmark or Norway.

After coffee break, the group went to the **Market Square** to see the traditional **Cracow Puppet Theatres Show** and the concert of the traditional Polish Christmas carols. Everyone was thrilled with it, we were wondering how is it possible to make such a beautiful, accurate and distinguished masterpieces. These puppet theatres take part in a competition for the most beautiful and original one, but age differences are obviously taken under considerations - there are categories for children and separately for adults. We have found it very interesting to make Christmas cribs -adults and children together and so we figured out that it has to be very inspiring for adults to take part in that kind of competition. It is like back to the past and surely gives so much joy.

The participants spent all afternoon in Kazimierz, historical Jewish district. They were visiting Mr Daniel Warmuz's Photo Exhibition in Staromiejskie Centrum Kultury. The main aim of this exhibition was to show the similar places in Cracow and Budapest (Hungarian capital city). In Staromiejskie Centrum Kultury the participants met the guide, who told them about the Jewish history in Poland and specially in Krakow. After this, by two hours, the all group was visiting the historic places on Kazimierz, which are connected with Jewish history and the places of their present activities.

In the end of the evening was the dinner in the Jewish Restaurant, connected with the Jewish music concert.

3th of December, 2010

The main part of the second meeting day was the meeting with **Ms Danuta Glondys**, former president of **Cracow Festival Office**, who organized Kraków 2000 events.

Ms Danuta Glondys, famous of her cultural activity and work for cultural organizations, had made for the group short, but very interesting lecture and discussion about idea, preparation and realization of **Kraków 2000 festival**. She pointed out, that – otherwise that in many different countries that had had organized festivals *European Capital of Culture* – Cracow, as the one of the post – communist capitals of culture – had no infrastructure, no developed administration, no funds to organized such an event – but despite of that, it had succeed. We were told about many difficulties that accompanied Cracow Festival Office – an institution that was created to take care of Kraków 2000 events – in realization of its job. During that time, in Poland there was no such developed consciousness of meaning of culture, there was no social and political will to take it seriously. It was also quite stormy political time, when the decision of making Kraków 2000 has been made. It all begun in fact 6 years earlier, during shaping of political system after collapse of communism – governments had been falling down and created new ones, and with every particular one Cracow Festival Office had to debate and make agreements over and over again. It made the whole process even more difficult. Ms Danuta Glondys – with her very critic point of view – underlined, that methods of organization, structure of festival's administration, rules and ways to agree everything – were actually very primitive. But even though – the festival had become a great success and everyone was thrilled – how to make something that impressive of something that small, poor and chaotic. After the event, Cracow Festival Office had survived and it still exists, having relevant influence on Cracow's cultural life. Ms Danuta Glondys, who is working in the European Commission now as an respected expert of cultural issues, had also spoke about nowadays in point of European culture. She explained to the group how does it work in EC structures – unfortunately, culture is still not taken as seriously, as it should be because of its impact on social life. The question, that is regarded – why is it happening so?

After discussion with Ms Danuta Glondys, the group had a meeting with **Ms Joanna Nowostawska – Gyalókay**, who is a member of **Malopolska Institute of Culture** (Małopolski Instytut Kultury – MIK). Ms Joanna Nowostawska – Gyalókay is coordinating the project *Malopolska – Land of Many Cultures*, that has been running already for few years and will be continued. The project is directed to adults of social and educational area of work – teachers, pedagogies, psychologists, who work with intercultural environments and minorities' children. They are learned to handle with it, to make it easier for these children to cooperate with Polish people. The program has

been divided into several parts, that concern others issues, so we can find subprogram of learning language and tradition, of art and manual activities – all committed to different cultures. Adults are also learned about how to talk to children about differences between them and underline, that they are not differentiating in a pejorative meaning, but also very valuable. During running the project, MIK in cooperation with chosen schools, that take part in the program, organized many fantastic events, like national days, integration plays, trips and competitions etc. It would be nice to come up with some other ideas how to make learning about other cultures, to integrate children more colorful, interesting and inspiring. The group was fascinated with the creativity of children, but adults also – with their energy to work and invent new ways to make intercultural issues even more important and regarded. Ms Joanna Nowostawska – Gyalókay pointed out – similar to what Ms Elżbieta Mirga – Wójtowicz had said the previous day – that the problem does not actually exist in Cracow – but in the Malopolska Province. As an example, she told the story of Spisz – intercultural, ethnographical region in the South of Poland. It is divided into Polish area and Slovak area, but children learn in common schools or go to play to the *other* side. MIK had also a lot to do in there so this word *other* was not negative and pejorative, as it has been – because of rich and stormy history of the region, geographical changes it has been changing hands through ages. Nowadays it is multicultural, and the work of the project was to make this fact taken as advantage. The group had many questions about MIK's activity and *Malopolska – Land of Many Cultures* program, especially, that Ms Joanna Nowostawska – Gyalókay had told the story of a little protestant church in the West of Poland that had been forgotten, and it turned out, that participants of our meeting also know this story. The conclusion was very general, but also very important – that there are still unknown issues to discover and work out in area of multiculturalism and it is so important not to forget about these intercultural differences, but to use them in a good way, to underline, that cultural separateness may be positive for both sides, it is just a matter to understand and accept that. When the debating part of Friday's forenoon has been closed, the group went for lunch to one of traditional restaurant, where they had an opportunity to taste real Polish cuisine.

The participants spent the afternoon visiting the underground interactive exhibition "Following the Traces of European Identity of Krakow".

Prepared by:

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