

A Network of Community Centres - Gdynia, Poland



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The network of community centres located in 8 districts across Gdynia are co-managed by Social Innovation Lab with public libraires, both being public sector entities. The community centres provide the space for the local community to come together and engage in recreational and educational activities with their neighbours. They are also hubs for city services, where residents can locally find information on available social services, access a psychological support or legal advice.

WHY | Purpose

From March 2022 to September 2022, the community centres with their public administration staff provided refuge for hundreds of people who were fleeing the war in Ukraine. For the past 12 months, the community centres were hubs for the social integration of the new citizens with the residents. Social Innovation Lab manages 4 out of 8 community centres. The network of community centres are ideal for testing and implementing new city services. They are run by the local authorities, and they are open to all citizens and provide easy access to public services.

The pilot will focus on socio-cultural integration of the newcomers with the population of the receiving country, including the refugees and migrant workers from other countries who had moved to Gdynia before the Ukrainian war. The goal is to:

- test and verify the application of PID methodology and the PID Charter real life, in context of a real war refugee crisis.
- to promote social integration and the values of a Liveable city.

HOW | Field of Action

We would like to encourage all the residents and stakeholders in the neighbourhoods to participate in creating policies that would promote better understanding of diverse backgrounds and intercultural integration. All in order to ensure peaceful, liveable neighbourhoods, where all residents feel welcome, safe and are willing to contribute to the common good of the fellow citizens.

WHO | Actors

- Citizens/ residents of the neighbourhoods where the community centre is located.
- City administration employees working in the community centres.
- Social workers and NGOs working in the neighbourhoods.

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