

A Network of Community Centres - Gdynia, Poland



The network of community centres located in eight districts across the city of Gdynia are co-managed by the Social Innovation Lab (SIL) in collaboration with public libraires, both being public sector entities. These centres offer spaces for local communities to engage in various activities, including informal education, sports, hobbies, toddler clubs, and simply getting together with neighbours. In addition, they serve as hubs for city social services, providing access to free psychological support or legal advice.

WHY | Purpose



From March to September 2022, the community centres, along with their public administration staff, provided refuge for people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Subsequently, the centres offered spaces and opportunities for the social integration of the new citizens with the residents. The Social Innovation Lab (SIL) manages 4 out of 8 community centres. Being run by the local authorities, open to all citizens, and providing easy access to public services, the network of centres is ideal for testing and implementing new city services.

The pilot focuses on socio-cultural integration of the newcomers with the population of the receiving country, including the refugees and migrants from other countries who had moved to Gdynia before the Ukrainian war.

The goal is to:

- test and verify the application of the Public Interest Design (PID) methodology and the PID Charter in real life, in context of a real war refugee crisis;
- support inclusive and social integration with the values of the liveable city accordingly



HOW | Field of Action

Encouraging all stakeholders in the neighbourhoods to participate in creating tools and solutions that promote better mutual understanding of diverse backgrounds and enhance intercultural integration. All this to ensure open, friendly, harmonious, therefore liveable neighbourhoods, where all residents feel welcome, safe and are willing to co-act/co-operate and contribute to the common good. Fostering inclusive and social education and co-operation based on the Liveability values' through and by:

- inter-/cross-/multicultural co-education – participatory trainings and guidance
- co-active intercultural initiatives and events



WHO | Actors



- citizens/ residents of the neighbourhoods with SIL's coordinated community centres
- city administration employees working in the community centres, public libraries, social services, and The Emigration Museum in Gdynia
- local NGOs



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