



SB YCGN
South Baltic Youth Core
Group Networks



Change is up to **YOUTH!**

NEWSLETTER SB YCGN – SECOND PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Elbląg, 25.10.2018



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European
Regional
Development
Fund

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT



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The SB YCGN PROJECT – The South Baltic Youth Core Groups Network Project was approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg South Baltic Programme on 8-9 November 2017 in Gustrow (Germany). The project has a total budget of 565 642,00 EUR and is implemented by 8 formal and 6 associated partners from 4 countries (Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania).

The core partnership is represented by local communities, an international association of Polish communes for cross-border cooperation (EUROREGION), academic sector and two local community foundations and that support youth engagement. Project implementation period is January 2018-December 2019.

The overall idea of YCGN is to increase youth participation in the decision-making process at local level, and to strengthen local and regional actors' capacities in the fields of youth policies and sustainable development in the South Baltic Programme area. In its whole lifetime, the project has the ambition to create a youth cross-border network through the organization of joint capacity-building events. The latter will be launched on the basis of international participatory campaigns- through the research and analysis of partner countries.

SB YCGN aims to increase capacity building for local actors working with youth, demonstrating the benefits of soft cross border cooperation to solve youth issues. Enhancement of young people's cross-border cooperation in partner countries will be sought through civil dialogue, improvement of local governments and their representatives' capacities, and dissemination of project results. The final outcome will consist in the development of future plans for an increased youth participation in local and cross border issues in the South Baltic region.

2. SECOND PHASE OF THE PROJECT ACTIONS 05-11.2018

07.05.2018 – PARTICIPATION IN 16TH INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2018 – SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “AREAS OF COMPETITIVENESS IN THE COMPETITORY ECONOMY IN SIEDLCE



Professor Rimantas Stasys, from our partner Klaipėda University, promoted YCGN among university and scientific staff during a scientific conference dedicated to citizenship and civic participation in the Baltic Sea, in early autumn 2018. Presentation made about project SB YCGN titled “South Baltic Youth Core Group Network project for solving local issues”



18.05.2018 - SECOND SB YCGN WORKSHOP FOR POLISH ASSOCIATE PARTNERS IN GDYNIA

Polish municipalities, Associated partners of SB YCGN, gathered for their second meeting in Wymiennikownia - Youth Center for Social Innovation and Design in Gdynia. The seminar, led by Joanna Pietrasik (Civis Polonus Foundation), focused on:



- Actual participation of young people in decision-making processes – Inspirations, good practices
- Support and development of project network: what can we do together in this project?
- Which decision-making processes are suitable for young people.

A representative of Gdańsk University of Technology presented the assumptions of this pilot research conducted in the project, implementation plan and result expectations.. During the seminar other aspects were discussed, like the identification and recruitment of "Youth Core Groups" in municipalities' teams, or mutual understanding of the cooperation opportunities in the municipalities.

12.06.2018 – JOINT WORKSHOP OF CASYPOT AND SB YCGN PROJETS DURING UMBRELLA AWARENESS RAISING EVENT “ON THE WAY OF COOPERATION IN SOUTH BALTIC SEA”



During Umbrella project's first Awareness Raising Event (<http://umbrellaproject.eu/>) in Gdansk (11-12 June), a joint clustering project action was possible during one of the parallel workshops on Youth-dedicated issues.

Representatives of the Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic working in SB YCGN and CASYPOT shared good practices from both projects in order to inspire those participants who consider to develop new project concepts dedicated to youth issues.

This was an occasion to discuss about potential partnership, synergies and sharing experiences in order to extend the range of project ideas and improve their capabilities of solving local problems by international cooperation. Volunteers of ERB, taking part in Interreg Volunteer Youth programme, presented their experience in ERB association, useful example for future activities about youth exchanges and international voluntarism.



16.06.2018 - A YOUTH CORE GROUP LAUNCHED ITS ACTIVITY N TELŠIAI



Over 20 people, representing Telšiai's municipality and several non-governmental organizations and the Schoolchildren-Parliament, took part in Telšiai municipality and Samogitia Community Foundation's initiative to establish a Youth-Core group.

Organizers of the event invited Telšiai's young people to share their thoughts, regarded as important for various youth groups: schoolchildren, residents of rural areas, employed and unemployed young people, young people with family members living abroad, etc. A good number of young people stated that they would like to become members of the informal Youth Core Group and further initiatives will be devolved to the involvement of more youth, who will be actively involved both at local and international

Project partners presented the idea and goals of the SB YCGN project, described its participants and major activities which will be carried out in the course of the Project (seminars, meetings, training, study visits, a research, conferences, and on-line discussions involving youth from all partner countries. A decision was made to organize several more youth discussions involving over 10 young people.



20.07.2018 – THIRD SB YCGN WORKSHOP FOR POLISH ASSOCIATE PARTNERS IN EELBLĄG

Polish municipalities, Associated partners of SB YCGN, gathered for their third meeting in Elbląg Old Town City Hall.



The seminar, led by Joanna Pietrasik (Civis Polonus Foundation), focused on:

- good practices for real participation of young people in decision-making processes
- assumptions and objectives of an international training that will be held in Gdynia
- future of Youth Councils in connection with the upcoming local elections and the end of the term of the functioning of existing YC Boards.

The main aim of the meeting was to develop a preliminary training-plan for the upcoming international project team workshop in Gdynia.

20.07.2018 – SB YCGN PROJECT PARTNER MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES AND AUTHORITIES OF ELBLĄG MUNICIPALITY

YCGN's Lead Partner (STG ERB) and Civis Polonus Foundation met representatives of Elbląg local government- Municipality, local government's employees and a representatives of individual city departments.) The purpose of the meeting was to identify the needs of the local community and the possibilities of satisfying them as part of the project. During the meeting, the direction of future work was defined as the reactivation of the youth council, which will be one of the pillars of the Polish YCG Network group in the future, besides those activities devoted to the development and coordination of project activities in Elbląg city area, discussions about the scope of tasks carried out in Elbląg commune and the appointment of city's project coordinators.

16.08.2018 - DANISH PARTNERS' VISIT IN TELŠIAI



Two partnership's representatives from Køge Kommune (Denmark) - Eric van Leenen and Jon Pejtersen- visited Telšiai with the purpose of meeting municipality's administration and, most importantly, visiting several youth organizations. Guests visited Telšiai group of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union (a paramilitary non-profit organization supported by the state) taking part in a summer camp in Tryškiai; Open Youth Centre in Telšiai town and its Experiential training site in Džiuginėnai; a Youth Football Training Centre; and a Mummy's Club in Telšiai town. Representatives of the organizations gladly described what are their main activities, how they implement them and how they get eventually funding support. Target group of all the organizations is composed by young people from regular, as well as socially disadvantaged, groups. The organizations showed their proud for their volunteers - important assistants and sometimes real leaders who are able to attract and involve young people in various cultural, sports, educational, social or, simply, entertaining and leisure-time activities.

Danish representatives' feedback was really positive, even though they spent just a couple of days in Telšiai, and they expressed their positive surprise and appreciation for the fact that the majority of young people in the city could speak pretty good English, and seemed to have had several international experiences.



25.08.2018 - A YOUTH DISCUSSION IN ŠILUTĖ (Laučiai community)



Laučiai community has an active board, and regularly organizes various activities and events for its residents, and youth in particular. The community has been participating in a project funded by the Interreg South Baltic Programme Baltic Stories. On August 25th the community celebrated the end of summer works, and paid a tribute to former teachers of a school in the village that

was, unfortunately, closed ten years before. Event attracted several municipality representatives, former school students and teachers, as well as one university's student who had recently moved to the capital city of Lithuania. A discussion with a youth group and two former teachers disclosed young people's concerns regarding employment opportunities and their life in the countryside with "many good things that people living in towns and cities would hardly have"

30.08.2018 – SB YCGN PROJECT PARTNER MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES AND AUTHORITIES OF GDYNIA MUNICIPALITY



A project partner meeting was held at the City Hall in Gdynia and besides the authorities and representatives of the City Council, also local youth organizations and institutions acting for the benefit of youth participated. This meeting was devoted to the development coordination of YCGN project-related activities in Gdynia Municipality. During this event, local authorities decided to appoint their coordinators and youth representatives to be involved in the project. All parties discussed about the occurring needs in the cooperation with young people.



01.09.2018 - A YOUTH DISCUSSION IN RASEINIAI



Samogitia Community Foundation organized a discussion with a group of young people living and working in Vilnius, who were visiting Raseiniai in the South Baltic programme area.

The discussion was different from a few other discussions in that all the young people were ambitious, employed and they liked their jobs. They also enjoyed living in a big city, and were visiting the countryside to spend a weekend.

The participants of the discussion gladly shared their views of challenges and advantages of youth in general, the importance of education, government's support to young families, and many other things. Majority of the group admitted, however, that they did not regard themselves as "active citizens" – "we participate in elections, but that is probably not enough". Luckily, one of the participants listed quite a number of various initiatives that he and his family participated regularly or even organized some activities in their neighbourhood community themselves. Finally, the young people said they would gladly join an on-line discussion with Baltic youth – they would gladly consider and draft a list of serious issues or questions to ask and discuss.

06-09.09.2018 – PARTICIPATION IN NECE CONFERENCE 2018 - BRAVE NEW WORLDS ?! THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN MARSEILLE



YCGN's partnership took part in the NECE- Networking European Citizenship Education Conference, held in Marseille (France) - <http://www.nece-conference.eu/>

Individual workshops/ panels and discussions aimed at contributing to the better achievement of YCGN project results, concerning civic education of young people, raising awareness, knowledge and skills of project participants about civic participation, and democracy for young people.

NECE is an initiative that aims at creating a civic education network in Europe, and it can be considered highly educational and valuable for YCGN' partnership, in terms of inspiration and ready-made solutions.



Issues related to the challenges of democracy and civic education in our rapidly changing world, crises of Western liberal democracies, and technological transformations were also tackled. Plenary sessions, lectures, discussions, workshops and study visits, implemented during NECE Conference, created the assumptions for a platform of exchanging experiences, strategic approach, readiness in social action for the defense and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.



09.09.2018 - SB YCGN STERRING COMITTE AND PROJECT TEAM MEETING IN MARSEILLE



Current project management and successful implementation required an additional meeting of the majority of the project team PT and SC Meeting was held in Marseille during NECE Conference. The aim of this activity was to monitor the progress of the implementation of the Partner's part of the project in relation to the content of the Application Form.

Project members updated LP about implemented project activities and achieved indicators. After this partner worked together on development of Project SB YCGN. Detailed Work Plan referred to as Calendar sets all the deadlines that need to be met in order to achieve the agreed outputs and deliverables in accordance with the Application Form.

During this meeting partner's had discussion about the next project activities and planning of the scientific conference in Klaipėda and the partner meetings in Telšiai and Køge

19.09.2018 – SCIENTIFIC SB YCGN PARTNER MEETING AND CONSULTATIONS IN GDAŃSK



Klaipeda University and Gdansk University of technology consulted on the preparation of a scientific research foreseen by the project. A joint conference in Klaipeda is expected to complement the existing scientific knowledge about decision-making processes for local authorities and regular citizens on youth issues in each country.

Joint work of Lithuania and Poland scientific teams from aimed at preparation of a joint inter-event and research elaborations prepared as part of the project and other related tasks from WP3 expected to complement the existing knowledge form the scientific approach, perspective of regular citizen and local authorities which act as decision makers on youth issues in each country to a slightly different degree

21-22.09.2018 - YCGN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL PARTICIPATION TRAINING AS A PART OF YOUTH CORE GROUPS TRAINING



On 21-22 of September 2018 r. the Civis Polonus Foundation has organized in Gdynia a Training within activity 4.2. The main goal of this action was to prepare teams from the municipalities for the implementation and realization of the project in their own local communities.

The training had place in Wymmienikownia - the Youth Center for Social Innovation and Design (ul. Kartuska 20b, Gdynia) and was organized with the help of the representatives of the City of Gdynia.

Goals of the whole training were:

1. Discussing different dimensions of youth participations.
2. Sharing experience and good practices.
3. The preparation for further work in local realities.



It was in important training for adults (authorities and youth workers) and young people (including youth councils). We worked on increasing civic involvement in our communities, on the challenges facing us in our project and on how to conduct a dialogue between youth and representatives of municipalities.

In content of the workshop was taken under the consideration that theoretical approach of this topic is relatively new for the participants especially for the young ones. So the first day of the event was focused on entering the participants into the subject of youth participation and involving young people in decisions making process in their communities.

Firstly the trainers wanted to start the group process by few integrating exercised and getting to know each other. We established together the plan and rules of our shared work. After the coffee break we got to know the place: Wymiennikownia, which was presented by Magdalena Dębna. The Youth Center for Social Innovation and Design occurred to the participants as very innovative and inspiring place which is worth to take example from.

In the next trainings block partners sheared the differences between our countries in approach to youth participation. Each nation had a task to describe law and definition regarding youth, youth structures, general context for youth participation and some good practice.



30.09.2018 – PREPARATION OF QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH- DEVELOPMENT OF TWO FINAL VERSIONS OF QUESTIONNAIRES FOR YOUTH AND INSTITUTIONS



The aim of this survey is to identify the local needs related to Youth problems and their civic participation in the opinion of young people, including the structures in which youth can get involved and make the decisions concerning the local social, economic, cultural, ecological and political environment.

This research will allow to compare the situation of young people and opinions on a cross-border scale in Lithuania, Poland, Denmark and Sweden. This quantitative and qualitative analysis will be base for international report describing youth participation expectations, barriers, tools, examination of resource needed for improvements of local situation and will be used to developing rules and standards for cross-border networks, participatory process examples, case descriptions based on experience from each municipality, establishing youth core groups;

Planned start of implementation in every involved project partner and associated municipalities is beginning of the November. The survey will take two weeks and its results will describe the situation of young people in 4 countries; Poland, Denmark Sweden. Lithuania

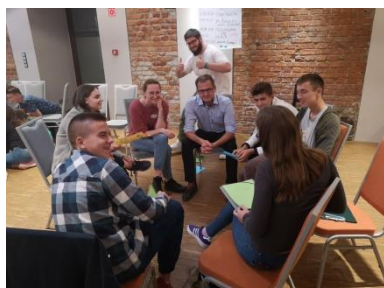
18-19.10.2018 – PARTICIPATION OF POLISH ASSOCIATED PARTNERS IN EXTERNAL TREINING IN IŁAWA



Two-day training organised by Civis Polonus Foundation in agreement with the local authority of Iława Municipality as a part of the project "Young people in Dzierzgoń, Elbląg, Gdynia, Iława and Nowe Miasto Lubawskie participate in the decision-making process (public)" co-financed from the funds of the civic initiative fund program 2018 in which all Polish representatives of the affiliated partners of the SB YCGN project took part

This event was convergent with the activity 4.7 of the SB YCGN project - modelling of examples of citizens' participation processes and the aim was increasing the knowledge and abilities of both carers and members of youth cities and communes councils about the functioning of youth boards, good practices and joint solving problems through the exchange of experiences.

Almost 40 people, including adults and youth, participate in dedicated trainings, during which they discussed the challenges and problems of life of the indigenous people in local communities, the possibilities of cooperation with rulers and the local self-government



MORE INFO: <http://www.eurobalt.org.pl/> on Facebook <https://bit.ly/2s6YwYV>

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You are receiving this email because you are part of a stakeholders' list built for SB YCGN project purpose. We remind you that SB YCGN is co-financed by Interreg South Baltic Programme and aims at boosting cross-border cooperation capacity of local actors in the South Baltic Sea area.

Nasz adres e-mail:

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