

Women Return to Work International Project Meeting in Poland 12-14 October 2017

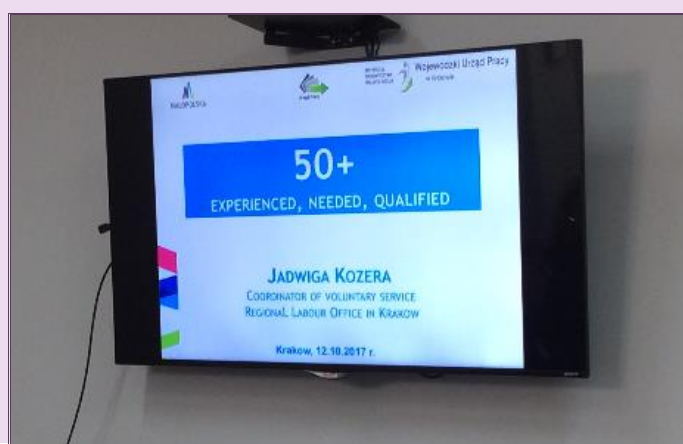
The '**Women Return to Work Project**' is an EU project with partners from Sweden, Poland, Turkey and Northern Ireland (UK)
The project is funded under Erasmus+ Programme

The aim of the project is to prepare women of all ages (local, migrant, refugee, and with disabilities) to return to employment or entrepreneurship after a period of economic inactivity by developing their skills and competencies to improve labour mobility. Each partner will host a study visit to their region based on their expertise in specific areas: Sweden will present ISO 9001 certified mentoring programme; Northern Ireland (UK) Training, networking and setting up Business; Poland, Support for women returning to work after childcare and women with disability; and Turkey, its training programmes and initiatives for job seekers, especially women.

Panel 1. Young parents and seniors

Invited speakers presented their experience and best practice examples, which helped women return to work. During this meeting we discussed practise methods, "learning by doing" and international project implementation. Members of the meeting listened to presentations about two projects:

- "Be right back - a program supporting return to work after a break related to the birth and upbringing of children" Project implemented by the City Council of Krakow (<http://www.krakow.pl/>) in the years 2013-2014 with the support of the European Social Fund.
- "50+, mature, needed, competent". Project implemented in the years 2013-2015 by the Labour Office in Krakow (<http://wup-krakow.pl/>), co-financed by the Human Capital Programme of the EU, activities for "Professional and social activation of persons threatened with social exclusion"



Panel 2. Immigrant woman job opportunities in Poland – Focus Ukraine

There are already over a million Ukrainians working in Poland and their number could grow. It is the biggest foreign group living in Poland. Almost 1.3 m Ukrainians last year received the temporary work registrations that Poland grants to citizens of its eastern neighbour, and 116,000 more received longer-term work permits. The number of Ukrainians in Poland has soared since fighting began in eastern Ukraine in 2014. There is no definitive figure, but around 1m are estimated to be working in Poland at any given time. Most did not flee the war but its economic consequences: a recession that lasted two years, unemployment and a plunging currency.

“Before 2014, many Ukrainians went to Russia to work. Now the majority come to Poland. It’s six months working, then back to their family with the money, to renovate the apartment, or help children with their education.”



Presentation by Mr Stanislaw Alwasiak, consultant and international expert working in the field of social innovations specializing in projects supporting women in the Ukraine.



Presentation of Ms Irina and Mr Ihor Hreskiv who together emigrated to Poland from the Ukraine when they opened a small business - the company iTechcloud coworking)

“Here, earnings are more than enough and I can visit home every few months. There’s no place like home.”

“Maybe you can earn more in other EU countries, but it’s further away”.

Panel 3. People with Disabilities

Personal stories of disabled women, who despite many obstacles manage to return to job market.



Meeting with Ms Katarzyna Goncz - Psychologist, therapist. After the accident she moves by wheelchair but managed to return to work.



Meeting with Ms Beata Zelek - former consultant of the National Museum in Krakow. After working for 7 years at the Krakow University of Economics she plans to start her freelanser career.



Presentation about Ms Angelika Chrapkiewicz - a motivational speaker with spinal muscular atrophy. She would not take NO for an answer: *If you have days when you think "I am not good enough for it" learn from here how to push the limits of the possible.*

After climbing the Rysy the highest peak of the polish Tatra Mountains Angelika published the book entitled "Get your peak. Believe in yourself"

Public institutions in the city of Krakow supporting projects for women returning to work.

Meeting with Mr Bogdan Dąsal
Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Krakow for Persons with Disabilities.



We are creating a frame to make it easier for non-governmental organisation to work for the benefit of people with disabilities living in the city of Krakow.

Ms Magdalena Furdzik
made an introduction to the work of the Department of Social Initiatives Support Centre in Krakow.



*Discussing project management and administration
during the meeting in Zbydniów, the headquarters of the Foundation Institute
for Human Development.*



Women Return to Work Project Meeting in Poland Participants: Heather McLaughlin & Dympna Armitage Europe Direct NI (UK); Marianne Lundberg & Kristina Nasenius, Stiftelsen Minerva Foundation (Sweden), Ahmet Koseoglu, Gülaydın Bayraktar, Zeliha Uzumcu & Suleyman Keceli, KOMEK (Turkey), Grzegorz Kot, Lidia Koziel-Siudut, Joanna Niewidok & Jagoda Dłużewska, Foundation Institute for Human Development (Poland)