

TEMPLATE FOR GOOD PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

Please use separate template for every project you try to introduce to the RARE team

Project title: Community Work at Zárubek

- Main focus of activity

Background: History of Zárubek Community

Community was originally built for mining engineers of Zárubek mine before WWII. High society people lived here in luxury flats. After the closure of Zárubek mine the original residents have started to move away because of the lack of employment opportunities. The community has started to be problematic when poor and less educated people replaced original residents.

Households in community are mostly composed by widened family. A generic relation of community members is characteristic – basically 3 family clans inhabit the community nowadays.

Project: Community Work at Zárubek

The project at Zárubek (community) is not focused directly on employment policies as the project is based on the idea that the most severe issues (housing, debts, social exclusion, etc.) have to be dealt first to allow people focus on job search.

Community organizing

Meetings of inhabitants are joint encounters of community members and community worker. Furthermore representatives of involved organizations and institutions may be invited to:

- Define problems which community members want to solve,
- Initiatives to change recent situation,
- Opportunity to express opinion on which activities they want to focus,
- Finding out how and who will be actively involved on changes, problem solution,
- Rules for joint community work, clarification of role of community worker and community inhabitants,
- Active participation.

When organizing community meetings it is important to address most people belonging to the community. During the discussion participants present in the form of brainstorming current situation and define problems. At the beginning mainly strong personalities take part in the discussion step by step also others, shy, are involved. Every opinion is important. Simultaneously it is important to ensure that discussion wouldn't convert into personal attacks or conflicts.

Priorities selection

Problems defined by the community are selected into categories according time needed to solve specific problem: 1. Problems that may be dealt easily and quickly, 2. Problems of average difficultness and 3. Long-term problems which are difficult to solve.

Priorities selection: each meeting participant has opportunity to mark given number of topics that he/she considers as the most important from community point of view. Subsequently lists of priorities are draw up. At the beginning problems from first category (possibility to solve them easily and quickly) or more complicated but can be dealt quickly are addressed to support and motivate community members. It is important to stress those problems addressing whole community needs to be supported (and not to seek personal benefits).

Working plan

Next step after priorities selection is preparation of detailed working plan. Firstly the most prioritised problems are dealt – step by step the meeting participants suggest different problems' resolutions (it is important to make sure that feasible ideas and suggestions are adopted). Usually an implementation of chosen solution is executed by a working composed from active members of the community and other stakeholders interested to participate on the problem's solution. Working plan for adopted activity is prepared in the following method:

- List of tasks which are essential to execute chosen activity,
- Schedule and deadline to achieve a result,
- List of material resources,
- Responsibilities of concrete persons (not only members of working group but it can be any community member appropriate for an execution of specific activity);
- Financial sources and who will be responsible to ensure activity's financing.

Working group

To fulfil certain task working group is created. Working group is composed not only from community members but also representatives of institutions interested to solve specific problem. In the process of working group composition reactions of community members on the meetings and their concrete constructive suggestions, ideas, leadership abilities are taken into account.

- Labour market situation of the activity/project (open, protected)

Almost all families are reliant on social benefits which is their only legal income. Unemployment rate in the community is approx. 95%. Only 1 woman-inhabitant of Zárubek community runs her business – she owns food store in other city quarter. 2

persons are employed in local Community center for children and youths. Some inhabitants (mostly men) have unregistered/illegal jobs (e.g. auxiliary labour in building construction, digging work, collection of brash or metal). Only 14 community inhabitants are employed on legal basis (they are working either for Roma entrepreneurs or main iron and steel companies Nová huť and Vítkovické železářny). Education level reaches level of elementary school. Only 3 men have achieved higher level of education as qualified workers (mason, painter, and gardener), 1 woman (seamstress) and 1 young woman (glassmaker). Recently 5 young people attends secondary education; out of them one girl as cook and others are boys attending the qualifications: steelworker operator, security man, mason and joiner).

- Specific target group (if any, such as young adults/women/men/with no educational background/ with entrepreneurial skills/rural/urban etc including the size of the target group, number of people reached directly)

Civic organization “Vzájemné soužití” (in English: Life together) operates in the locality and runs local Community centre Zárubek. Community centre’s activities are oriented mainly on youth.

- Durability, security of the service: legislative background, duration of the project (ex: 3 year long project, included within national service provision, experimental project, etc)

The complex development programme started in 2009-2010, and today its effects and results are visible.

- Who is involved in service provision/initiative (list of institutions and their cooperation in 2 sentences)

Local self-government

NGOs

Public institutions

Community worker

Active members of local community

Stakeholders are involved on the basis of invitation which is suggested by community leaders. Each invited member can freely decide to accept the invitation or not.

- Financing source (where the money comes from: Institution's own budget, project funds)

- Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Inter-ministerial Commission for Roma Community Affairs – programme Social exclusion prevention and community work
 - Civil foundations: OKD Foundation, Arcellor Mital Foundation, VIA Foundation
 - Civil donation fund: Donation Fund ERA of Czech-Slovakia Commercial Bank
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- Recommendation (for visit/for DR adaptation) Yes
 - If not: Why it did not work, why has it failed?
 - If yes: Why is the initiative innovative or interesting: (special focus, special cooperation among institutions, etc)

Interesting example of involvement of different stakeholders for community development and local governance focused on Roma minority.