

Bielsko-Biała, 5th of December 2016

LEVER, WP06: Initiate pilot work including local courses/training events, Status report in short

FAIE initiated cooperation with 2 groups of active people. With both of them we have met (we went to visit them). We discussed the LEVER project, their stories and their motivation to participate in it, their needs to work more effectively.

The groups and the training:

1. The Spichlerz Association from Czernica, a small village in the Silesian voivodeship. It is a group of active people, various age, both locals and people who moved in to Czernica from bigger cities. They work together for about 5 years now, for 3 years as an association. They are very active, and they care about good cooperation and understanding between the local people and the newcomers. Since last year they run, as an NGO, a culture house in Czernica (there was a competition for managing the culture house and they won). It is not common in Poland that NGO runs a culture house. They have also founded a social cooperative recently (runs cafe in the cultur house, plans to create touristic offer – the culture house is located in an old palace of the local aristocrat, with very interesting history). The association cooperates with local authorities, they have good relations. They have built those relations for years – and it can be shown as a good practice of inter-sectoral cooperation. Czernica is a village with a long history. Next year there will be 750th anniversary of founding the village. The Spichlerz Association is organising events for this anniversary (will be in June), inviting other local active groups and persons to cooperation. We will support them with it.

The training

Was done mostly as planned. We have focused on possible sources of co-financing cultural events, good practices on building networks, and marketing/promotion activities around it. We have also organised for the leader of the Spichlerz Association to take part in a training "Local brand building" in Bielsko-Biała, formally, as our volunteer. The training was 1 day long, took part in November.

2. A non-formal group of active people from a village Góra Ropczycka, Podkarpackie voivodeship. This is also a group of local people and those who moved in to the village from bigger cities. Not formalised yet. Góra Ropczycka organises a very well known event in the area, called "The Bread Festival". But there are no much more local events interesting to local community. They have a beautiful park with a space shaped as a natural amphitheater as an asset. They would like to use the park for organising some more events. Also have support of local authorities. Very motivated to work for the local community (creating things interesting also for themselves). Since they are not formalised yet, they have decided it would be the first step for them. They are discussing on the form: foundation or association?

The training:

We have agreed to run a webinar for them, showing the pros and cons (opportunities and weaknesses) of these 2 forms of formalisation: foundation/association. It will take part in December.

We think it would be very interesting to have these 2 groups meet within LEVER. The group in Czernica has already achieved much of this the other group (Góra Ropczycka) wants to achieve, they could share good practices.

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