

POZNAŃ

* Miasto know-how



Benefits from the AWAKE project

**The Centre for Senior Citizens Initiatives
Poznań, Poland**

**AWAKE Partnership meeting
6th – 9th June 2013
Jelgava, Latvia**

Benefits from AWAKE

AWAKE was Centre's first Grundtvig project and as a new institution (without any precursor in the whole country) we were searching for new directions for proper development, inspirations and effective actions. We did it.

Our mission was, and still is, to improve the quality of life of senior citizens in Poznań by showing them that they can and should be active.

One of our main goals is to raise awareness among the elderly about the significant benefits that they may obtain from learning process. We are sure we did it well.

Benefits from AWAKE

Involving senior listeners in the project helped us to see with their eyes and **understand the whole adult learning process.**

Our staff and senior listeners had an opportunity to **improve their language skills.** For many of us it was the first occasion to meet people from other countries and cultures, which left us with lots of impression.

Due to deep engagement of actively involved **senior listeners they became our best spokesman:** not only for the project but also for the Centre.

Benefits from AWAKE

We met not only European trends in 50+ education but also good practises and instructive examples. Thanks to this knowledge we did not need to break down open doors and we could derive inspirations from others' experience.

We acquired new organizational skills connected with planning, communication, dissemination and evaluation of the project. Moreover we were able to clearly divide tasks and roles in our future work, to build trust and in-depth understanding and to create stable relationship, which all lead us to **fluent and effective cooperation.**

Our staff is also equipped with a vast knowledge on non-formal education and has a good grasp of the elderly's European reality. Because of that our **Centre became a leader in this field on the local market.**

Benefits from AWAKE

Being the part of the project in which partners don't know each other presented a big challenge for us, especially because of the fact that the Polish Centre was the coordinator of the whole undertaking. I believe **we have created a strong partnership by establishing friendly atmosphere of mutual respect, equality and openness.**

Despite the differences between nations we found out that we have similar problems, we experience the same emotions and **we can be mutually a great inspiration.**

It was also nice to get to know we all – even those less experienced - have something to share, that **every partner can be an inspiration for others.**

Benefits from AWAKE

On many occasions **we could act as the experts at conferences** presenting our own best practices, on national and European level and we also **took part in the creation of national and regional policies for the elderly**. In 2012 our activities were appreciated by the European Commission, which awarded us second prize in the "Towards Age-friendly Environments" category.

We have overcome our complexes, we gained a new perspective and a fresh look at our institution and now we are more aware of our position in Europe.

The project inspired us to create, together with local voluntary organizations, **„The Strategy of volunteering development of 50+ people in Poznań”**.

Benefits from AWAKE

The greatest value of the project was certainly a greater insight into the process of education and a sense that there are no such initiatives or ideas for motivating the elderly, which would not be connected to learning. On this basis we develop our projects e.g. „Senioralni”.

The AWAKE project opened us more to the needs expressed by seniors and convinced us that even the niche activities, which would benefit only a small group of customers, also need support.

We manage to attract attention of the local communities and the media to the needs of senior citizens connected not only with the education.

Benefits from AWAKE

One of the greatest merits of the project is **the recognition of the value of partnership and sharing resources at local, national and international level.**

We became an inspiration for other NGO's to participate in Grundtvig programmes, we gave other organizations advice on creating ideas for the new projects.

Due to the inclusion in the network of organizations carrying out various Grundtvig actions **were given the opportunity to develop and maintain international relations,** and thus the chance for future projects and further development of our unit.

Benefits from AWAKE

We were able to **achieve the main objective of the project and to develop concrete proposals for educational products that can be used in practice:**

- Questionnaire of educational needs of 50+ people, the spreadsheet, survey report
- Concrete tips how to organize educational activities for senior listeners, which improved our way of working
- Collection of best practises in elderly education
- Initiation into IT for adults 50+. Practical support
- etc.

We also **implemented one of the good practise in IT learning for our volunteers.** Seniors who have acquired e-skills train other seniors.

* Dziękujemy