

European Conference
Closing the empowerment gap through citizenship education
How to address educationally disadvantaged groups

17 – 19 November 2011
 Warsaw, Poland

Fact Sheet

Workshop V Learning Environment – Non-formal Citizenship Education I

	Section	Indications of content
1	Title of project	Civic Money. Participation in budgeting on the local level.
2	Location	Rural areas in many regions in Poland
3	Main topics/ key words	Civic participation, solectwo, rural areas, public money, involvement
4	Brief description of project	The project aim is to support people who work with Solecki Fund in rural areas. Solecki Fund is a new tool, dedicated to rural communities, that gives local authorities a possibility to share power and money, giving people a statutory amount of money to decide on what they want to spend it on. The idea of Solecki Fund arose from a diagnosis that rural communities in Poland are particularly passive considering civil matters, and that their activity is still decreasing. The idea was to give power also to the groups traditionally excluded from the public debates in rural communities (women, elderly people, young people etc.). Taking part in the Solecki Fund implementation process requires knowledge on the law, civic rights, local authorities duties, local budget. The aim of the Civic Money project was to support the process of the Solecki Fund implementation by educating residents and local leaders. This support is particularly important when the work with groups is traditionally passive and excluded from the civic activities in their villages. The idea of the project was learning by doing – acquiring civic capacities by discussing and making decisions on how the public money should be spent.
5	Objectives of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment of rural-area residents, who take part in the Solecki Fund implementation process • Development of training curriculum dedicated to people working with the Solecki Fund • Support of the Solecki Fund implementation – civic education, advice • Monitoring of the Solecki Fund implementation process
6	Effect on the empowerment of educationally disadvantaged groups	Increase knowledge on civil rights in general and Solecki Fund particularly, among people included in the project. People from disadvantaged groups acquired not only knowledge but also specific tools, enabling them to exercise their rights.

7	Target Groups	Residents of rural areas, groups traditionally excluded from the public debate (women, elderly people, young people), heads of villages.
8	Project methods/ Project format	Workshops, debates, website development, legal advice, articles, monitoring how laws are implemented
9	Project results/ Project Evaluation/ Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.funduszesoleckie.pl website • training curriculum • increasing amount of legal advice on the subject • gathering of good practices
10	Project Duration	April 2009 – January 2012
11	Range and sustainability of the project	Project has been dedicated to all environments and people working with the Solecki Fund (www.funduszesoleckie.pl website, legal advice, seminars, discussion on the subject), locally we have been working with a few communities (workshops, tutoring, advice), aiming to work out model training curriculum, and good practices concerning informing, executing village assembly, discussing the proposed projects and distributing funding.
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