



Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title *School for Female Leaders of Local Development*

Theme *Training*

NRN *Poland* Coordinator *Regional NSU Wielkopolskie*

Partners *LAGs from Wielkopolskie Voivodship*

Period *September – December 2010* Resources *25 700 euro*

Geo-location *European Integration Centre in Rokosowo*

Beneficiaries *Housewives, village administrators, teachers, social activists, cultural centre manageresses, pensioners – women who live in the area of four LAGs, who are active in places of their residence*

Background

More and more often women become actual leaders of the development processes in rural areas. Initiative of the Regional NSU for the benefit of women in rural areas results from the diagnosis indicating that rural community's activity originates in women's activity. It is clear that women need support in order to act in a professional way, to have maximum satisfaction from their work for the local community.

The chance of using their potential has been provided by the School for Female Leaders. The main objective of the project was to improve competencies of active women in the scope of activities animation of people from the four LAG territories. The aim of the project was to provide female participants with such social skills and communication techniques within a group which will help them to run their public activity, which they can share with other people from local communities.

Main activities

The project consisted of two two-day modules, 16 hours each, for 80 women. The first module was devoted to rules of local animation (female animator, she-leader, encouraging people to action, recognition of local community resources) and practical workshops run by a make-up artist. Seminar for a group of 20 people was held in form of a workshop during which the group performed common tasks, solved problems, got to know one another, learned how to understand others and ask questions in a proper way. The second module was devoted to NGOs in rural areas – basis and forms of their functioning, setting them up, registration, basic accountancy and how to work with a project. Both modules as examples of good practices were associated with the meetings with the women who are successful activists in a community. The training was a chance to meet women who run NGO activities with success in rural areas (e.g. organisation of educational music concerts, music workshops, competitions on music knowledge, supplementing rural school education with elements of high culture, hardly accessible there or educational activity carrying out projects financed from the EU funds for the benefit of children and youth).





Main results/benefits

Within every training group there was a LAG representative who had a chance to get in touch with female leaders and to incorporate them into group activities. Participants of the training could exchange information. New contacts were made and ideas of common actions created (e.g. setting up new NGOs, motivation to start activity based on knowledge of grandma or mother on preparation of herbal mixtures and their sale). A support group with a tutor (LAG representative) was created. LAG offices became places of contact and meetings for rural women.

One could confirm the stimulating influence of the project during the 'Tour Salon 2010 Fair' carried out by Regional NSU together with the LAGs. Female participants of the training took part in the events organized during the fair, presentations of local products, folk groups and in seminar 'Tourism as a chance for local development'. Other LAGs expressed the need for a similar training and a willingness to continue this project, to deepen and expand the knowledge and skills. In 2011 the Regional NSU continued the project together with other 10 LAGs.

Thanks to participation in the project the social status of the female participants has improved. Cooperation between village administration, reactivation of singing groups, setting up NGOs and getting grants for activities became possible. Cooperation of female participants of the training led to creation of the club of leaders.

Contribution of the NSU

The Regional NSU (Wielkopolskie Voivodship) implements and finances the project. Its representatives participate in each of the trainings.

Contribution of the partners

LAGs cooperate in implementation of the project by organizing enrolment of the training participants. The LAG female representative became a tutor of the group giving grounds for activities of its participants.

Success factors

- The School for Female Leaders of Local Development project is an answer to the need expressed by the LAGs, which do not have their own training potential but are willing to carry out the Regional NSU initiative
- Potential of the most active women with good communication and organizational skills, who can involve local community in common actions, was successfully used

