



## Warsaw Case Study for the My Generation Partners Meeting (Glasgow, 14-15th May 2009)

### 1) Name of the case study

**„I want to want... know my district”** - photographic workshops for young people from Praga North District

### 2) Lead and supporting actors involved

- SPOZA (NGO working with young people)
- Educational Department of Warsaw City Office
- Praga North District Office
- Schools from the Praga North District

### 3) The problem which was addressed

- Children from poor families with a lot of social problems (alcoholism, unemployment, family violence)
- Truancy
- Lack of interesting possibilities for spending free time
- Young people looking for illegal entertainment



#### 4) The development process

The idea was from the NGO (SPOZA), which worked for few years with the young people from Praga. The problem of those children was the lack of interesting activities in the area. The idea was to give them opportunity to make something different than getting drugs and drinking alcohol.

Organizers have collected two groups of youngsters from the schools of Praga. Both groups were given a digital cameras. Each group had a tutor who taught them how to make a good pictures.



## 5) The approach in practice – how does it work?

Two groups of young people were meeting each other every week and spending time on activities connected with photography. Each week different activities were planned:

- lessons of photography
- sightseeing of historical buildings
- a trip to the townhall
- trips to the galleries
- meeting with artists



Young people had also their homework. They had to make some pictures on some topic for the next week.

At the end of the project, young people had an occasion to present their work. A huge exhibition was made for a lot of people. Their photos were published also on a website.



## 6) What are the distinctive features?

- In a very poor district with no attractive offer for young people
- a lot of unique historic buildings which are forgotten and in a poor condition
- a lot of interesting places to see in the area, which aren't well known
- youngsters didn't know before anything about the history of their district



## 7) What has it achieved (however defined)?

Young people have learned that their district has a lot of interesting places and is well known not only for the criminal point of view. They have get a lot of information about the history of their neighbourhood.

They have get known better how does the District Office works and how the authorities can help them.

Young people have found that there are different possibilities to spend they free time on doing something interesting.

They have seen a lot of interesting places in their neighbourhood, where they can spend their time.

They have met a new friends during the project.

They've started to be more interested in the social life of the neighbourhood and in the history of their city.

## 8) Key lessons for the various actors

Young people do not have ideas to spend their time – they should be given some alternatives.

It is important to change attitude of young people to their neighbourhood, which seems for them boring.

### 9) Development potential including transferability of the approach

There will be next editions of the project for more groups of youngsters, also in other districts of Warsaw.



*All the photos used in this case study were made by the youngsters involved in the project.*