

Lead Partner visit to Lomza, Poland

Diet for a Green Planet practice transfer

June 16 - 18, 2014

Participants from Södertälje:

Sara Jervfors, project coordinator and head of Diet Unit, Södertälje
Helena Nordlund, lead expert.

A peer exchange visit from Sweden took place at the same time with Bengt Åke Andersson, Adam Fridlund, Magdalena Kondratowicz, Violeta Filipzak and Krystyna Andersson. They met Polish kitchen staff and had a practical food preparing exchange. This will be reported separately.

Local coordinators in Lomza:

Daria Lutrzykowska, project leader in the City of Lomza
Agnieszka Buckowska, project leader, kindergarten director and project initiator

Objectives of the visit:

1. Continuing Diet for a Green Planet practice transfer
2. Elaboration general work plan for Handbook
3. First step Diet Policy transfer and planning international Diet Policy conference in September in Mollet

Summary: Process status and actions needed

- Coordination and cooperation functions well, the team of two coordinators is a positive factor. A closer communication between Sweden and Poland is needed for planning the coming meetings and Handbook production.
- Local Support Group, LSG, is formed with 14 members. Six of them took part in the Södertälje conference in May, and the aim is to widen the group with new interested stakeholders. Coordinators handle this issue well, and the political level is better involved here than in the other partner cities.
- Diet for a Green Planet transfer process was started at the Södertälje Conference in May and was continued at this visit. A big audience got the concept presented, but discussions in smaller groups to really see how deep the concept understanding is, was missing. Nevertheless the coordination team seems to have a good knowledge and the situation under control. Follow up will be needed during Lead expert's visit in the autumn.
- The Work plan for the Handbook is now established on a general level. It needs follow up according to project plan with personal contacts between local coordinators and Lead expert. Principally to assure that the involved parties have understood the concept and to decide which texts will be included.



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- No Diet Policy work is going on yet, but planning of the participation in the Policy conference in September has begun. The coordination team has a clear idea of how to succeed to involve the right people.

Analysis and conclusions

Coordination and cooperation

The coordination team in Poland is composed by two persons, which seems to be a success factor. Agnieszka is the initiator and the enthusiast, and the one who already is on track with organic and local food in the kindergarten she is managing. Daria is the good administrator/organizer and seems to have good contacts in the municipality. Their combination has been successful in engaging politicians and civil servants and other important stakeholders at the right level. Daria speaks English but Agnieszka unfortunately not, which is a pity as we cannot communicate directly with her.

Our cooperation has been good, although there could have been a closer communication about the visit program. And the visit was too short, we would have needed some more hours both the first and the last day.

Local Support Group, LSG

The Local Support group is formed and Daria is well informed about the URBACT recommendations. The Lomza LSG is divided in subgroups according to professional sector. The aim is to widen the LSG when new interested stakeholders show up.

We met part of the group at a dinner and the impression is that the political level is seriously interested and involved. Also the organic agriculture representatives and the kitchen educators both from WETA high school and PWSiP University are engaged and were represented at the Södertälje conference.

WETA High school and PWSiP University

These two institutions, situated in Lomza, have Food technology and Gastronomy education programs, and teachers from both of them are represented in the LSG. They were also present at the Södertälje conference. They may be important actors in the future and they have a positive posture towards organic and quality food.

Rural areas and traditional small scale farming

In this part of Poland the agriculture sector has always been small scale, and the majority of the farms are still small, in average 10 hectares. There are quite some organic farms in the region, but as they are so small they are lacking a cooperative market system. One farm is delivering directly to the Kindergarten no 8 which Agnieszka is managing. Some farms that we visited have such small production they sell mostly to neighbors and do not have the capacity to deliver to town. There is still a living small scale farming culture near the Lomza city, but young people are not interested in farming. If they go into farming they are more interested in the industrial way of agriculture. Obviously there would be a



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need for new initiatives to make the organic farming sector and the whole organic food chain more creative and vivid. Entrepreneurship is needed.

Diet for a Green Planet transfer process

For the Lomza partner the practice transfer visit came after the Södertälje transnational practice transfer conference. The two coordinators and the rest of the group that visited Södertälje had therefore been quite well informed already at the conference. At this visit we had no opportunity to present the Diet for a Green Planet concept and discuss it with the nearest stakeholders in the LSG, but we had a presentation at a big conference organized by our partner in cooperation with the PWSiP University. We had an audience of more than 100 persons and many of the LSG members were present. But the situation with simultaneous translation and headphones and the distance to the audience, made it difficult to come into discussions and to really feel if the message was understood by the audience. From what we heard afterwards there were positive reactions, but it is difficult to judge. The genius arrangement was that the kitchen exchange group had prepared the lunch for all the participants according to the Diet for a Green Planet concept. So after all the theoretical explanations everybody could see and taste the result when the concept is implemented. This was very positively received and created interest among persons who had been hesitant in advance.

According to Daria and Agnieszka the concept is well understood and they are able to carry out activities on their own to spread its message further.

Work plan Handbook

The Polish version of the Handbook will have kitchen staff and parents as its target group. The recipes will be collected from the kindergarten and school canteens in Lomza. The recipes that the Swedish kitchen group used for the conference lunch will also be included and recipes from the Swedish handbook might be used. A local artist is already contracted to make pictures.

We discussed the texts. There will be a Polish expert writing the introduction, but we recommended that some of the original texts from the Swedish version should be translated and adapted to Polish circumstances. We want to see all texts before final decisions, to ensure that the concept is understood by the authors. The recipes can be discussed with the Swedish kitchen people who participated in the exchange visit.

The handbook production has the following plan:

June: Collecting recipes and choosing the best ones

August-September: Writing and revising the texts

September- October: revising material and follow up visit by lead expert

November: Printing

Diet policy transfer and planning Policy conference in Mollet del Vallès

The Polish partner is aware that it is good to involve different political parties and the coordinators turn directly to the city council to involve politicians. Politicians



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from the Commission of Education and the vice mayor are already members of the LSG. There will be elections for a new mayor in September so at that level they have to wait and see who will be elected. It seems as the coordination team has succeeded well to involve the political level. They are already planning for who will go to the transnational Policy conference in Spain in September, and there might be a possibility to include the boss of the control authority for hygiene and nutrition in the public canteens, which would be a good idea. Due to budget limits they plan for five persons to go, in order to have money left for journeys to the final conference.



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