



“Cross-border Centers for Dialogue of Cultures Poland-Belarus-Ukraine” – work on the project

The end of March and the beginning of April proved to be a very intense time for representatives of the Municipal Office in Szczuczyn. After almost one-year attempts to select the contractor of the investment - on April 4, 2019, the bidding process was finally settled. As a reminder: Commune of Szczuczyn Agreement on co-financing of the Cross-border Centers for Dialogue of Cultures Poland-Belarus-Ukraine project signed on January 3, 2018, however, it was unable to take any action until the implementation phase of the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine program 2014-2020. The appointment took place only on 4 July 2018. From that date, we could officially start work on the project implementation.

In spite of this, by the decision of the mayor Szczuczyn, immediately after the signing of the contract for co-financing, we have carried out many activities so that, immediately after obtaining the designation, it would be possible to start a tangible implementation of the project. We have started a long-lasting registration process of the Project in Belarus. At the same time, taking responsibility for taking advance steps, on 16/04/2018, the Commune announced the first tender for the construction of the Cross-Border Center for Dialogue of Cultures in Szczuczyn at ul. Sports. The time of the tender procedure was set to 11/06/2018. Unfortunately, the contractor could not be selected due to the lack of offers. The next tender procedure was announced on 18/07/2018 and lasted until 14/09/2018 - no offer was received again.

On 19/10/2018, the third tender procedure was completed, aimed at selecting a contractor for construction works: Construction of a cross-border Center of Dialogue of Cultures in Szczuczyn. This time also no offer was received.

We have determined that the reason for the lack of bids in the next three tendering procedures is a significant difference between the value of the task specified in the investor's cost estimate and the amounts of offer quotes prepared by potential bidders. Conducted talks and analyzes with representatives of these companies have shown that in the recent months very important changes have taken place in the construction market.

The mayor of Szczuczyn decided to reduce the scope of the task by resigning from the construction of a water reservoir. This decision has been approved by the Managing Authority. During this time, we have changed the documentation and entries in the application. This allowed for the next - fourth tender. This time, the offers have already been received, but far exceeding the amount that we have planned for this task. Another - the fifth tender was announced on February 26, 2019. This time, the proceedings were settled - we can start the task!

According to the assumptions of the project, each of the three partner cities will build an infrastructure facility for their outdoor events, widely promoting the culture of the borderland. In each case it will be a place where a roofed concert stage, audience, tent square, new technical infrastructure and cubature buildings will be created, ie buildings with cloakroom and sanitary facilities, ticket office buildings, car parks. The facilities will be equipped with sound equipment, lighting, monitoring. The whole is adapted to the needs of people with disabilities. In each case, Dialogue Centers will be created on the basis of former sports facilities.



On 27-29 March representatives of the Szczuczyn Community visited the partner city of Szczuczyn in Belarus, during which talks on the cooperation project and development of cross-border perspectives in the socio-cultural field, education, sport and tourism were held. The main subject of the talks, however, was the reconstruction of facilities in three co-operating cities: Szczuczyn (PL), Szczuczyn (BY) and Kowel (UA).



The Belarusian project team (coordinator, heads of culture, construction and organizational departments) and representatives of Szczuczyn (Artur Kuczyński, Waldemar Filipkowski - public procurement, Anna Romaniuk - project coordinator, Emilia Zielińska - shaping cross-border cooperation) discussed in detail the sensitive points of cooperation. Above all, the schedule of construction works and their implementation, financing, communication during works and tasks of project coordinators. Pursuant to the provisions of the Contract for material co-financing, the project implementation begins on 1 April 2019.

However, on April 1-3, the Polish delegation visited Ukrainian partners to get acquainted with the progress of work in Kowel. There was also a division of tasks and a schedule for the implementation of individual project activities was agreed. We would like to thank Belarusian and Ukrainian partners for pleasant and substantive discussions.



Visits to Belarus and Ukraine are also a good time to strengthen the friendly ties of partner cities. During our stay in Belarus, our representatives had the opportunity to visit the stadium "Olimpus", get acquainted with the work of new enterprises in eastern Szczuczyn, as well as explore the culture and art of our neighbors. This is extremely important because the Center for Dialogue of Cultures is primarily an organization of joint cultural, sporting or educational events. The cooperation of twin cities does not end with the completion of construction works, and only then will it take on the right character.

Establishing friendly relations meant that the Mayors of twin cities decided to participate in the life of individual cities not only as part of the implementation of a joint project. During the mutual learning about the specificity, potential and development directions of individual cities, it turned out that they have similar problems but also ideas for the future. Each of the authorities wanted to present the values of their city to a larger group of people from abroad. Thus, the idea of organizing the Cross-border Motorcycle Rally was born, because there is a motorcycle group in each of the partner cities. The date of the motorcycle trip was set on May 24, 2019. Preparations began - planning a route running through three countries, making passports and visas, completing documents.



PL-BY-UA
2014-2020



On May 24, punctually at 8.00, Polish participants of the Rally - members of the MotoStars Szczuczyn motorcycle club, gathered at the Municipal Office in Szczuczyn. That is why in a twelve-person warehouse they set out for Belarus to the partner city of Szczuczyn. There, the mayors of Szczuczyn BY - Siergiej Łożecznik together with members of the motorcycle club "Crazy Wilds" were waiting for representatives of Poland.



PL-BY-UA
2014-2020



Polish expedition participants had a unique opportunity to visit the Grodno region. The culmination of the first day of the trip was dinner, shared singing, jokes and good fun until dawn, because how could not it be different among friends!





The next point of the motorcycle rally was the Kovel partner city in Ukraine. "Crazy Wilds" joined "MotoStars Szczuczyn". On their way to Ukraine, motorcyclists stopped in Różan, where they admired the splendor of the preserved ruins of the Sapieha Palace, testifying to the momentum and richness of this place and in the town of Kosów and the Pusłowski Palace located here. These places are witnesses of the common history of Poland and Belarus. In Kovel, the Rally participants were greeted by the deputy mayor of the city and a group of Ukrainian motorcyclists. A visit to the city began with a parade through its streets and then a visit to the Kovel Town Hall. It was not without visiting the Lokomotiv stadium, which as part of the implemented project will be adapted to the CDC. Motorcyclists were also invited to the coveted off-road motocross racetrack.



More information about the Rally on FB profiles of motorcycle club "MotoStars Szczuczyn" and on websites:

<https://dzyannica.by/content/na-karte-mezhdunarodnogo-motoprobega-shchuchin-dopolneno?fbclid=IwAR2VNgTeOE1KcrG8Gynr5WLGUkfwzmpzszsRy3lEqi3va3lFN5z77S53kiPM>

http://www.kovelrada.gov.ua/news-7512.html?fbclid=IwAR0G1zVdU4q3Lq0ZR2JYH1JOHcS6Vh4CrO8Z4gcRRRX0F_xRZ-3kQuNJo-A

While, on June 14, 2019, in Kovel - Ukraine, was held the Conference Inaugurating project: "Cross-border Centers for Dialogue of Cultures Poland-Belarus-Ukraine". The conference was devoted to the implementation of a joint project, which received funding under the Cross-Border Cooperation Program Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2014 - 2020. Delegates from Poland,



Belarus and Ukraine gathered in the meeting room of the Kovel Municipality. The conference was started by First Deputy Mayor of Kovel City - Mykhailo Hetman welcoming the guests, journalists and residents of Kovel. After the official opening of the conference and welcoming the guests, the conference was led by Mrs. Rusłana Prus presenting the general design assumptions. After a short introduction, she gave the microphone to Anna Romaniuk - the representative of the Main Beneficiary, who discussed the details of the project stressing that its aim is not only to build or renovate the facilities, but above all to establish cooperation, a specific "dialogue of cultures" aimed at the development of cross-border tourism, cultural exchange and culture, making friends, making friends and developing a common concept for further cooperation. To this end, Cross-Border Centers of Dialogue of Cultures will be built in each of the partner cities.

After this speech, each of the representatives of individual partner countries presented goals and assumptions, as well as the progress of work in their part of the project. During this meeting, the topic of cross-border cooperation and ideas for further EU funding were also discussed. There were also presentations of tourist and cultural values of individual cities. At the end, the interested parties went to the site to see the place where the Cross-border Center for Dialogue of Cultures in Ukraine will be created.

On June 15, representatives of twin cities and project coordinators met at a working meeting during which the next stages of work on the project were discussed in detail.



More information:

http://www.um.szczuczyn.pl/transgraniczne_centra_dialogu_kultur_polska_bialorus_ukraina.html

https://kovelpost.com/news/4860?fbclid=IwAR3YVzvQKmDGJjdg7cnEX-V1FTpaw6ykq1O3nlQTGD5nb_oYKQ1W1dVqY8k