

Partner search from Riga

The Welfare Department of Riga City Council is planning to take part in the new Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 and specifically is interested in finding partners to jointly participate in the relevant measure for the networks of twin towns.

Description of the project

***Title of the project:** Best practices and challenges in unemployment combating solutions in municipalities across Europe*

***Timetable of the project:** 1 year (January 2015 – December 2015)*

Theme:

Existing demographic challenges - exactly decrease in the proportion of the working population, migration, as well as high indicators of poverty and social exclusion and limited financial resources of local government bodies present challenges to the social security system and determine the necessity for such social service system that would focus on the individual's social and economic potential maximum recovery and person's integration into society and labor market.

Active labor market policy's targeted coordination with social services, social services' providers, social operators, associations and foundations will help to activate and involve in labor market long-term unemployed people and other non-working groups of people that are still able to work but are with a weak attraction to labor market.

Project objectives:

For local government bodies from different countries through discussions, seminars, workshops, best practices examples and so on, to strengthen inter-institutional and inter-professional collaboration in order to improve the quality of social services, jointly working on training programs and developing social work in the community.

In the long term continuing the cooperation between the local government bodies and using results of the project, social workers will be trained to work with actual social services' client target groups in order to improve the quality of social services, that will increase the employment of unemployed people who are now in unfavorable situation, and also will increase the number of people at risk of social exclusion and discrimination, who after receiving support will be involved in employment.

Project target group:

Groups of people at poverty, social exclusion and discrimination risks that are unable to integrate into society and labor market due to poverty, lack of education, ethnicity, sexual orientation, lack of language skills, geographic isolation, disability or other reasons, thus failing to implement their rights and use the opportunities.

Planned activities:

Seminars and workshops, experience exchange visits to see best practice examples, final conference.

Planned Project results:

- 1) *Representatives from local government bodies, social service institutions and non-governmental organisations through discussions, exchange of experience and good practices will gain learnings and see good practices, how to increase inclusion of disadvantaged unemployed employment, as well as increase population, who after receiving support are involved in employment.*
- 2) *Will be improved professional social work practice for working with people who are in risk situation.*
- 3) *Strengthening of the inter-institutional and inter-professional cooperation not only on the local, but also on all involved community level.*
- 4) *Local government bodies' working groups from during the project identified experience and best practice examples will set up a joint plan for the development of the project results in the long run.*

Role of the partner organisations in the project:

During the project preparation phase of involved partners, will designate, their participants and representatives from responsible municipal institutions, who will be responsible for cooperation with social services institutions and non-governmental organisations supporting and promoting civil involvement and interest in public issues. Local partnerships will propose activities that partners would like to carry out in their municipalities.

The schedule of activities will be prepared jointly!

Other comments:

Planned that the last event will happen in Riga and it would be conference or seminar!

About Riga City

Riga was officially founded in 1201 and currently it is the capital and largest city of Latvia. Riga historical centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, noted for its Art Nouveau/ Jugendstil architecture and 19th century wooden architecture. Riga is the largest city of the Baltic states (307.17 km) and home to more than one third of Latvia's population (at the beginning of 2013 was 650,5 thousand inhabitants living in Riga). The city is an important seaport and a major industrial, commercial, cultural and financial centre of the Baltic Sea region.

The city is the European Capital of Culture in 2014, along with Umea in Sweden.



Riga City Council Welfare Department

The Riga Municipality provides an opportunity for its residents to receive professional consultations, support and assistance of social workers to solve difficulties, in order to develop a person's abilities to support himself, to solve his and his family problems and to successfully adapt himself to society.

The Welfare Department of the Riga City Council:

- 1. Implements the social, healthcare and health promotion policy anticipated by the Riga City Council in the city;*
- 2. Plans and improves the volume and quality of healthcare, social services and social assistance for the city residents;*
- 3. Provides opportunities to receive equal social services and social assistance for residents of all urban districts (regions) of Riga at the institutions providing social services and social assistance, as well as secures availability of information on the social services and social assistance.*



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