

# STORYSAVERS

A Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Partnership

**MEETING 5**  
**WARSAW,**  
**POLAND**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**28TH - 1ST**  
**DECEMBER**  
**2013**



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme



## NOTES

## Grundtvig. Practical learning for adults

Launched in 2000, Grundtvig aims to provide adults with more ways to improve their knowledge and skills, facilitate their personal development and boost their employment prospects. It also helps to tackle problems associated with Europe's ageing population.

It covers not only teachers, trainers, staff and organisations working in the sector, but also learners in adult education. These include relevant associations, counselling organisations, information services, policy-making bodies and others such as NGOs, enterprises, voluntary groups and research centres.

The programme funds a range of activities, including particularly those supporting adult learning staff to travel abroad for learning experiences, through exchanges and various other professional experiences. Other larger scale initiatives involve, for instance, networking and partnerships between organisations in different countries.

The specific aims of the Grundtvig programme are to:

- increase the number of people in adult education to 25 000 by 2013, and improve the quality of their experience, whether at home or abroad
- improve conditions for mobility so that at least 7000 people per year by 2013 can benefit from adult education abroad
- improve the quality and amount of co-operation between adult education organisations
- develop innovative adult education and management practices, and encourage widespread implementation
- ensure that people on the margins of society have access to adult education, especially older people and those who left education without basic qualifications
- support innovative ICT-based educational content, services and practices

## **A project to use the medium of story-telling to explore/record and exchange/compare important local stories across Europe.**

By doing this we hope to explore and discover stories that are common to us all. We hope to share issues, problems, difficulties, perspectives, wisdom, humour and triumphs in a way that helps to build lasting understanding between all of the individual contributors and partnership members.

Each partner will identify a local need or story and a group of story-recorders that will engage in the detailed work. Activities will include development of StorySavers on Social-Network sites and setting up of physical StorySavers groups in each partner's region.

As part of our regular learning partnership meetings we will organise training in story-gathering techniques and regional StorySavers exhibitions which will bring in the public and many other organisations into the region, especially those working with older people and families.

At the completion of the project we will record and disseminate the stories and memories of our friends and contributors in our various areas and industries before they disappear for ever. We then hope to share those stories in a lasting way using a wide variety of methods and media.

The educational approach will be non-formal and inclusive, using the existing skills and talents of the participants as well as developing new skills. We will encourage the whole community to engage in the project and hope to use their collective knowledge as an important project resource.

The project provides, in each partner's context, flexibility to develop appropriate action and allow participants with a range of identified needs, to develop managerial capacity both of the project and of their own personal needs and requirements.

**W**ARSAW



## NOTES



### **The Dorożkarnia Children and Youth Culture Centre**

is the heart of the amateur movements for children and youth. It is a place where young people from all over Warsaw (in particular from the Dolny Mokotów district) can develop their passions and talents, making their dreams come true.

In Dorożkarnia groups from all over Poland and Europe can present their achievements. The Centre organizes theatre, song, film and dance festivals as well as art contests. We work together with the Byelorussian art schools from Vitebsk and Minsk as well as cultural centres from Germany, Finland, Austria, Turkey, Slovenia, Croatia, Great Britain, Italy and Portugal. We have also carried out projects with South Korea and Japan.

Dorożkarnia is also an active actor in the local community and works with the inhabitants, NGOs and the local institutions. This cooperation started in 2002 when the project “ROOTS of SIEKIERKI” came to life.



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Dorożkarnia is located in Siekierki, a housing estate in the Dolny Mokotów district. We wanted to get to know the history of this place, but all we found were a few mentions in publications about Warsaw and only a few sentences in the archives of Warsaw. That is why from the very beginning of **DOROŻKARNIA** we knew that Siekierki should be rediscovered not only by us, but by the whole city.

We worked together with the Primary School no. 3 and organized workshops for children on how to explore the history of their home and community. We reached out to the community around the Sanctuary of the Piarists and gradually encouraged the inhabitants to collect photos hidden in drawers and recorded their memories. When visiting different houses of the inhabitants of Siekierki, we



learned the history which had been neglected in various publications about Warsaw. We found out that there used to be a manor and a manor farm in Siekierki, that the German army had stationed in the Siekierki school, that there had been an execution by a firing squad. We also learned how its inhabitants took part in the Warsaw Uprising and as a result Siekierki was burned down in 1944. The inhabitants were expelled from their homes and after the war “Bierut’s decree” issued by the Communists made it impossible for those who came back to rebuild their houses.

All the gathered materials have served as an inspiration for further actions and the website [www.korzeniesiekierok.pl](http://www.korzeniesiekierok.pl) became a kind of the archive of the project. The research of the local history translated into art projects: a plein-air painting, photo workshops, a theatre play, an audio walk, a walk around Siekierki, a city game and a Siekierki Galery of Forgotten Places.

Siekierki also includes new residential estates surrounded with security fences. Such gated communities have been popping up since the 1980s. On one of the estates an informal group “Ku Wiśle” (Towards the Vistula River”) was formed. Among its members are inhabitants and fans of Siekierki and, most important of all, artists. The group organizes art events integrating the local community - fêtes, exhibitions, installations, games and workshops for children and meetings for the local inhabitants. Neighbours,

**Warsaw is among the greenest metropolises on the continent, with Europe's wildest river flowing through the center of the city. During World War II Warsaw was reduced to rubble, nonetheless the city was brought back to life and continues to flourish.**

It is a city with the tallest four-faced clock tower in the world. Its faces are 6 m in diameter, making it the largest clock of its kind in Europe. The tower sits on one of the youngest, yet one of the most prominent, symbols of socialist architecture – the Palace of Culture and Science built in 1956.

Paradoxically, Warsaw's Old Town is only 50 years old. After World War II it was proudly and laboriously reconstructed to its present form.

In 1980 it was placed on the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

Monumental and lapidary socialist realism sits alongside the subtle and ethereal Art Nouveau architecture, and modern-glass skyscrapers tower over apartment buildings. Every day Varsovians walk by the multitude of commemorative sites, and after work they relax in numerous parks and gardens. The modern office building designed by a famous architect Foster and Partners beautifully blends in with the neighboring Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was part of the arcade of the Saxon Palace before WWII.

The historic Praga district, which for decades was in the shadows of cultural life, is going through a revitalization process and is

becoming the 'promised land' for artists and an oasis for creative endeavours.

An actual rooftop garden has been cultivated atop one of the largest university libraries in the capital. While within the historic walls of Łazienki Palace on the Lake, you can listen to hip-hop and the ever-present Fryderyk Chopin, where the famous composer himself used to play. Now that is an interesting contrast.

Warsaw is a city full of astonishing contrasts and it never ceases to amaze with its magnitude of dimensions and themes, which are there to be discovered, absorbed and understood by the inquisitive.

Popularly known as tourist attractions, Warsaw's aforementioned gems can be discovered in several different ways. On foot,



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friends, children and adults are invited to open up to art and experience the creation of their own “works of art”, and thus the creative spirit strengthens the community life.

In 2012 Dorożkarnia joined an international project StorySavers. We invited the Ku Wiśle Group, the local Foundation Bo Warto and the Parish Club Falconia to work with us. We want to get to know the stories of those who are not the indigenous inhabitants of Siekierki. Why have they decided to settle here, what are their stories, and how have Siekierki changed according to them? The memories we unravel later translate into such actions as exhibitions, stories and workshops. Together with the Bo Warto Foundation and the Parish Club Falconia we organize festivals of Siekierki and series of seminars devoted to Siekierki, their inhabitants, their customs, culture and new local stories.



## Thursday 28th Staff

### Morning

**Welcome**

*Maryna, Ric*

**Short introduction to Reportage**

*Ric*

**Oral History Workshop**

*Maryna*

**Lunch**

### **Afternoon**

#### **Business**

**Story updates from each Partner**

*All*

**Progress reports on project tasks**

Coordinator

Data

Dissemination

Reportage

### **Evening**

**Exhibition of the Polish part of  
project in Theater Baza**

## Friday 29th

### **Morning**

#### **Business**

**Exhibition**

**Our Book and Stories**

**Reportage**

### **Afternoon**

**Storytelling**

**Museum visits**

## Thursday 28th Learners

### Morning

**Welcome**

*Maryna, Ric*

**Short introduction to Reportage**

*Ric*

**Oral History Workshop**

*Maryna*

**Lunch**

### **Afternoon**

#### **Culture**

**City discovering with some help of  
Malgosia**

**Reportage**

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#### **Business**

**Exhibition**

**Reportage**

### **Afternoon**

**Storytelling**

**Museum visits**

**Saturday 30th**

**Morning**

City Tour

Lunch

**Afternoon**

**Business**

Reportage

Next meeting

**France**

Dates, Location & Travel

Preparation

**Wales**

Dates, Location & Travel

Preparation

**AOB**

Final report

**Sunday 1st Dec**

Travel Day

**Saturday 30th**

**Morning**

City Tour

Lunch

**Afternoon**

**Business**

Reportage

Next meeting

**France**

Dates, Location & Travel

Preparation

**Wales**

Dates, Location & Travel

Preparation

**AOB**

Final report

**Sunday 1st Dec**

Travel Day

## Digital Dissemination

### Website

<http://www.storysavers.eu>

### Blogs

[www.storysavers.tumblr.com/](http://www.storysavers.tumblr.com/)

[www.storysaverscz.tumblr.com/](http://www.storysaverscz.tumblr.com/)

[www.storysaversgr.tumblr.com/](http://www.storysaversgr.tumblr.com/)

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[Www.letsbloginenglish.wordpress.com/](http://Www.letsbloginenglish.wordpress.com/)

### Facebook

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### Wiki

<http://www.storysavers.wikispaces.com>