

Interdisciplinary Team for cooperation on the implementation of the
“Open Kraków” Programme

Minutes of the meeting: 18 Jan. 2018

5.00 p.m., room 303, Plac Wszystkich Świętych 3-4, Kraków

Course of the meeting:

The meeting was opened by the Secretary of the Team – **Mateusz Płoskonka**. He presented the agenda of the Team for cooperation on the implementation of the “**Open Kraków**” Programme, proposed by Chairman Andrzej Kulig:

1. Opening of the meeting of the Interdisciplinary Team for cooperation on the implementation of the “Open Kraków” Programme.
2. Multicultural education in Kraków and educational support for children of foreigners and children of those returning from abroad – a meeting with representatives of the Department of Education of the Kraków City Hall and the Małopolska Superintendent of Education.
3. Presentation of the Report – Book of Good Practices/Activities for National and Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners.
4. Presentation of an educational package for learning Polish for the youngest bilingual children (1-3 years of age) – PROLOG PUBLISHING.
5. Discussion on open invitations in the area of activities planned in the “Open Kraków” Programme in 2018.
6. The end of the meeting.

Members of the Team present did not make comments to the proposed agenda.

RE 1. Opening of the meeting of the Interdisciplinary Team for cooperation on the implementation of the “Open Kraków” Programme.

Vice-Chairman of the Team, Adam Bulandra, welcomed all those present at the 5th meeting of the Interdisciplinary Team for cooperation on the implementation of the “Open Kraków” Programme. He informed them that Director of the Department of Education, Anna Korfel-Jasińska, is taking part in the meeting and will present the city's educational activities for foreigners and people of different faith. In addition, he informed members of the Team that the Małopolska Superintendent of Education did not accept the invitation of the Team.

RE 2. Multicultural education in Kraków and educational support for children of foreigners and children of those returning from abroad – a meeting with representatives of the Department of Education of the Kraków City Hall and the Małopolska Superintendent of Education.

Anna Korfel-Jasinska, Director of the Department of Education of the Kraków City Hall – At the beginning, the Director presented a list of legal acts on the basis of which educational support is provided to foreign pupils

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and Polish children returning from abroad, as well as children of ethnic and national minorities. Until the age of 18, children are treated on a par with children with Polish citizenship, which means that education is completely free. In the context of the “Open Kraków” Programme, the issue of education in the field of various religions should also be taken into account.

After reaching the age of 18, as many as 14 categories of foreigners can benefit from education on terms applicable to Polish citizens, i.e. education in public schools for adults, public post-secondary schools, public art schools, public institutions and public colleges of social service employees, as well as lifelong learning in the form of qualification vocational courses. Other foreigners can benefit from education in public schools for adults, public post-secondary schools, public art schools, public institutions and public colleges of social service employees, as well as lifelong learning in the form of qualification vocational courses:

- as scholarship holders receiving a scholarship awarded by the minister competent for education,
- as scholarship holders receiving a scholarship awarded by the school's or institution's governing body, by the headmaster of the school or institution, on payment terms.

The amount of payment for benefiting from education in public schools, institutions and colleges of social service employees and for lifelong learning in the form of qualification vocational courses and the manner of payment was amended by Resolution No. XCII/2402/18 of 10 January 2018.

Another issue discussed by the Director were the forms of support for non-Polish citizens in schools. Additional free education of Polish of no less than 2 hours a week is organised by the school's governing body. In addition, assistance is provided by a person who speaks the language of the country of origin, employed as a teacher's help by the school's headmaster – this assistance is provided for no more than 12 months. Additional catch-up classes in the subjects of teaching may also be organised, but for the period no longer than 12 months. The total number of additional classes in Polish and catch-up classes may not exceed 5 hours per week. Another form of support for foreign children are preparatory units for pupils who require adaptation of the educational process to their needs and educational opportunities, as well as adaptation of the organisational form which supports the effectiveness of their education. The school's governing body may organise such a unit in the school in which these people pursue their education in accordance with the core curriculum of general education. The period of learning in the preparatory unit lasts until the end of didactic and educational activities in the school year in which the pupil was qualified to the preparatory unit. This period may be shortened or extended, but not longer than for one school year.

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For persons who are not Polish citizens subject to compulsory education, a diplomatic or consular agency of their country of origin operating in Poland or a cultural and educational association of a given nationality may organise in the school, in agreement with the headmaster and with the consent of the governing authority, education of the language and culture of the country of origin, if at least 7 people sign up for this education. The total number of class cannot be greater than 5 hours. The school provides rooms and teaching aids free of charge. From 1 September 2014, an inter-school team for teaching Ukrainian as a national minority language has been functioning in Primary School with Integration Units No. 12 (formerly ZSOI No. 1) in order to maintain a sense of national identity.

As of 30 September 2017, 9 pupils participated in Ukrainian classes, taught as a national minority language in the above-mentioned School.

The Kraków City Hall, seeing the significant increase in the number of foreigners in Kraków's schools and institutions, noted how important preparation to teach Polish as a foreign language at school is at every stage of education.

Since April 2015, teachers obtaining qualifications to teach Polish as a foreign language have been receiving 80% reimbursement of education costs from the Kraków City Hall, while since September 2016, the reimbursement of costs has increased to 95%.

Between 2015 and 2017, 93 teachers received funding for higher education in the field of teaching Polish as a foreign language for the total amount of PLN 220,598.

2015 – 5 teachers, 2016 – 36 teachers, 2017 – 52 teachers.

Since September 2017, pursuant to the Ordinance of the Mayor of the City of Kraków No. 2356/2017 on the amendment of Ordinance No. 80/2017 on determination of regulations governing the financing of certain forms of professional development of teachers employed in schools and institutions run by the Kraków City Commune, education in the area of multicultural and intercultural education was recognised as the priority direction of teachers' professional development. The amendment to the Ordinance was made as a result of both local needs and directions of the state's education policy adopted for the 2017/2018 school year (strengthening the educational role of the school).

This form of development is particularly recommended to educators and guidance counsellors.

Cost reimbursement for teachers obtaining qualifications in the field of multicultural and intercultural education is 80%.

Due to the growing number of foreign pupils in schools, since 1 February this year, a methodological advisor for multiculturalism has been appointed in the Kraków City Commune to support teachers working with classes in which

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children of nationalities other than Polish are learning. The advisor will carry out her tasks in the Specialist Clinic of Early Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance and the General Education School Complex No. 18. Member of the Interdisciplinary Team, Urszula Majcher-Legawic, was appointed the advisor. As the Department of Education was visited by parents who raised the lack of a public school which would be professionally prepared to receive foreign pupils, in the 2014/2015 school year, by the agreement between three partners – self-government schools in Kraków, i.e. Primary School No. 4, Middle School No. 2 (currently XLII High School) and V High School, an initiative that resulted in the programme and organisational innovation called “Multicultural Educational Kraków” was created. The programme is working very well and it is a response to the demand reported by parents of foreign children. Cooperation for the implementation of the “Open Kraków” Programme, among others, with the Centre for Development of Educational Competence, the Centre for Research on Education and Migrant Integration of the Pedagogical University of Kraków. It conducts training for pedagogical councils in the field of multiculturalism, individualisation of the didactic process and methods of work in a multilingual class. It uses several foreign languages, including Russian. From 1 February this year, Kraków's teachers working in classes mixed in term of nationality may use this knowledge and experience.

Then, the Director presented statistics on the increase in the number of non-Polish pupils. Currently, such pupils constitute about 2% compared to the entire population of pupils benefiting from education in the Kraków City Commune. The increase since 2013 has been very significant. In 2013, there were about 200 pupils like this, currently there are over 2,000 of them, of which around 500 are adults (over the age of 18). The statistics include self-government schools and non-self-government schools. The largest group (around 600 pupils) are primary school pupils (below the age of 18), about 500 people benefit from education in post-secondary schools for adults.

Rafał Grabowski (U-Work organisation), Aleksandra Zapolska – asked if the Department has information about the number of people – Ukrainians – who give up education in post-secondary schools. Information received by the organisation indicated that many people do not receive visas for the next year of education and have to stop it. Is it possible to determine what nationalities are represented in this group of nearly 2,000 pupils?

Director Anna Korfel-Jasinska informed that the Department does not have data on whether individual units of schools include people who continue their education and is therefore unable to conclude whether the phenomenon of school-leaving occurs. Moreover, the Department has no data on the nationality of foreign pupils. Headmasters do not provide such data.

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Then, the need to organise Ukrainian classes in schools with larger groups of pupils was discussed. This is related to the need of integration with their own environment, parents who still speak Ukrainian. The Director of the Department informed that such inquiries regarding education of Ukrainian were sent to several headmasters of schools with a large number of children from Ukraine. After consultation with parents, the answer came indicating that parents are more interested in activities for the integration in the school environment and learning another additional language, such as German.

Aleksandra Zapolska was of the opinion that her information indicates that there is such interest. However, there are no appropriate teachers. If the school wanted to organise language classes, this would only apply to 2 hours a week. However, it is difficult to find a teacher who would like to come to a given institution for 2 hours of teaching. The requirements for the teacher are very high and that is why it is difficult to find someone interested.

The discussion also concerned the cultural assistant for the Ukrainian community. Research shows that only 10% uses the opportunity. **Aleksandra Zapolska** also suggested that it is worth thinking about the availability of such assistants in schools – working in several schools.

The Director of the Department, responding to the questions of members of the Team, informed that teachers have not used the multicultural training yet, because the funding was activated recently. Data on this subject will be known in a few months.

Urszula Majcher-Legawic pointed out that the intercultural assistant should serve not only migrants but also the host society. This absolutely cannot be just an interpreter. Polish pupils should be taught Ukrainian culture, and a conscious policy of teaching cooperation between groups of Polish children and migrant children should be pursued. She asked for information whether the Department has any plans to employ assistants and to finance education of Polish in post-secondary schools.

The Department is ready to employ assistants. The City is aware of this need and is open to cooperation in this area. Supporting students in post-secondary schools is difficult, as the Kraków City Hall has public funds. This could be possible, but such a record would have to be a task included directly in the “Open Kraków” Programme. In the context of further training of teachers, there will be a change – the funds currently available to the Mayor of the City of Krakow for this purpose will be reduced to 0.08%. The Minister of Education will take over these funds and decide what kind of training is to be organised for teachers. This change will be introduced from the next year.

RE 3. Presentation of the Report – Book of Good Practices/Activities for National and Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners.

The Report – Book of Good Practices/Activities for National and Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners was presented by **Aleksandra Zapolska**:

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The aim of the study was to analyse the quality of cooperation between minorities, organisations working for minorities, and local and national authorities, and to identify the most important minorities and foreigners. As part of a project funded by the NDI, organisations in the coalition: the CZULENT Jewish Association (representing the Jewish minority), the Zustricz Foundation (representing the Ukrainian minority), the Jewish Community in Warsaw (representing the Jewish minority), and the Allerhand Institute (majority organisation) in cooperation with the Dialog-Pheniben Foundation (representing the Romany minority) and the Tatar Union of the Republic of Poland (representing the Tatar and Muslim minorities), undertook to examine the quality of cooperation in the area of representation of national and ethnic minorities.

The organisations formed a coalition whose purpose is to examine the quality of cooperation between minorities, organisations working for minorities, and local and national authorities, and to identify the most urgent needs of minorities and foreigners.

In order to achieve the assumed goal, a survey was carried out among self-government and government administration bodies, majority organisations working for minorities and foreigners, as well as minority organisations.

The results of the survey will be presented in detail in the Book of Good Practices/Activities/Projects/Grants/Programmes for National and Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners, which will promote cooperation, coalition building and present the best practices adopted by administration bodies. It will also enable local and international authorities to get acquainted with the needs of minorities and foreigners living in Poland. The Book was presented during a one-day conference organised together with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Book includes, *inter alia*, a description of activities under the Romany programme, which received a very good assessment of the researchers.

However, the lack of knowledge of the organisations in the area of possibility of cooperation with City Halls was indicated. The knowledge of offices about activity of national and ethnic minority organisations in specific communes is also limited. In some places of Poland, activities for the minorities are limited to a position for the Romany minority, and there is lack of knowledge about other active communities representing minorities.

Organisations taking part in the project hope that the positive message will lead to greater openness and activation of cooperation, providing useful tools in the form of projects and procedures already existing in various institutions and provinces. Dialogue will lead to partnership and mutual understanding. An important task for the project was to encourage minority organisations to cooperate with the administration and majority organisations, contributing to further development of an open, tolerant and diverse society.

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At the same time, the project strengthened organisations participating in the project, increasing their professionalism, allowing for the exchange of knowledge and experience. At the end, Aleksandra Zapolska assured everyone that the Coalition will be a platform for further cooperation between minorities and foreigners, creating a strong basis for self-help.

RE 4. Presentation of an educational package for learning Polish for the youngest bilingual children (1-3 years of age) – PROLOG PUBLISHING.

Justyna Krztoń, Editor-in-Chief of the PROLOG PUBLISHING, together with the owner of the Publishing House, **Mariusz Siara**, presented the products proposed by their company for children of foreigners and those returning from abroad. The Star from the Sky educational package has been prepared especially for bilingual children in the age from 1 to 3. As Ms Justyna Krztoń explained during the meeting, the presented language materials are addressed to Polish children who start their adventure with Polish at home in a multicultural environment. This package assumes help of a parent/adult in the teaching process and is based on several elements which should be performed with children systematically. The process of learning Polish by bilingual children takes place in these conditions differently than in the case of their peers living and learning their mother tongue in Poland. Learning Polish by children staying outside of Poland is also much more complicated. In the first place, it requires at least one person – a parent, one of grandparents or guardians – to offer to communicate with the child only in Polish consistently, and then – in subsequent stages of development (4+ years of age) – provide the child with the possibility of systematic learning and deepening the entire language system. The presenter also showed other products proposed by the Publishing House to people learning about Polish language and culture.

RE 4. The end of the meeting.

The discussion held as part of putting forward motions covered:

- the planned invitation related to the Information Service for foreigners and tasks to be carried out as part of invitations, concerning education and information;
- the task of learning Ukrainian as a way to integrate the Ukrainian community.

Jakub Kościółek asked for clarification whether it is possible that within the invitation to be announces for non-governmental organisations the premises for the operation of the Information Service be provided by the city. It is assumed that the Multicultural Centre will function, which would be worth locating in the same place as the planned Service.

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Mateusz Płoskonka, Director of the MOWIS, informed that the funds allocated for the operation of the Service allow only rental of rooms, which are intended for in this narrow scope. There is no possibility of having a large space, because the resources are limited.

Urszula Majcher-Legawic expressed her concern that the organisations which will have room facilities will not know how to run the Information Service. These skills are very important in this case, taking into account the challenge of communication with minorities and foreigners.

Then, there was a discussion about the place where the Service could be located, if it was to be a place provided by the city.

Ferdinand Wouters expressed his concern that members of the Team are once again resuming the discussion about the Information Service, which has already been the subject of the previous meeting. A moment ago, a very important topic of education was talked over and it did not provoke any discussion.

Adam Bulandra, Jakub Kościółek, members of the Team, once again discussed the invitation to set up the Information Service, the scope of operation, the place of its operation and the assessment.

Magdalena Furdzik appealed for the end of the discussion about the invitation. She reminded those present that the implementation of the invitation – the scope of activities and the assessment of the Information Service – cannot be determined in detail at the Team meeting, because members of the Team from the Kraków City Hall are members of the future Selection Board. At the same time, she reminded them that the assessment sheet has been changed and was the subject of consultation with NGOs. At present, the awarding of points and thus the funds is done in a manner favourable to receiving the full subsidy. She proposed that organisations participating in the invitation become acquainted with the new Ordinance of the Mayor of the City of Kraków.

Urszula Majcher-Legawic reopened the discussions on the location of the Service, the need to find a place which will be permanently associated with support for multicultural environment.

Mateusz Płoskonka again encouraged the creation of a consortium, which could include organisations with housing facilities, as it is done by organisations acting for seniors. Manager Magdalena Furdzik

Jakub Kościółek proposed that the announcement should not impose tasks the performance of which will not be possible due to the need to guarantee funds for the premises. Once again, representatives of the office assured that

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the announcement will be limited to the minimum specification of conditions,
giving NGOs the opportunity to propose their own vision of the operation of
the Service.

Aleksandra Zapolska, Adam Bulandra, Urszula Majcher-Legawic discussed
the financing of education of Ukrainian by the Commune. They referred to the
experience of Wrocław.

Vice-Chairman of the Team, Adam Bulandra, conducting the meeting closed
it at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman of the Team: Andrzej Kulig

Vice-Chairman of the Team: Adam Bulandra

Minutes prepared by: Danuta Czechmanowska

Appendix to the minutes:

1. Attendance list of 18 Jan. 2018