

The Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme  
Minutes of the meeting of 24 MAY 2018, from 5 p.m. until 8 p., held in the Portraits  
Hall, Plac Wszystkich Świętych 3-4, Kraków

**Proceedings of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka, Director and Group’s Secretary. He presented the agenda for the meeting of the Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme, as proposed by Mr. Andrzej Kulig, Chairman.

1. Opening of the meeting of the Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme.
2. Implementation of the “Open Kraków” Programme:
  - the meeting with the Chairman of the Group for Eliminating Scrawl in Kraków,
  - the cooperation with non-governmental organizations – creating a network of multicultural organizations in Kraków,
  - multicultural education - competitions.
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 12 April 2018.
4. Matters raised.
5. Closure of the meeting.

**Ref. 1. Opening of the meeting of the Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme.**

Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka, Director and Group’s Secretary, welcomed all the participants to the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme. He introduced the proposed agenda of the meeting to the participants. No comments were reported to the agenda of the meeting.

**Ref. 2.**

**Implementation of the “Open Kraków” Programme:**

**- the meeting with the Chairman of the Group for Eliminating Scrawl in Kraków,**

Mr. Waldemar Domański, Chairman of the Group for Eliminating Scrawl, presented the activities of his Group. He outlined the members of the Group the history of the Scrawl Busters initiative which is a civic initiative and is supported by the city services. Combating scrawl is promoted to be a patriotic activity. The main activities comprised picnics organized in housing estates where it was necessary to take up joint action to paint over inscriptions and contaminated walls. The Scrawl Busters initiative does not have legal personality. They do not have their own budget, but are assisted both by private and municipal donors.

The Scrawl Busters, represented by Mr. Waldemar Domański, Chairman of the Group for Eliminating Scrawl, correspond with the President of Poland and ask him to come up with a legislative initiative to introduce penalties for those damaging walls with inscriptions. The current legislation is powerless against vandalism. The penalties are

The Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme not proportionate to the social costs of this phenomenon. Furthermore, it was requested to change the law in a way which would allow the municipality to invest in repairing elevations, if necessary due to an important social interest, as well as to introduce such provisions which would allow owners of tenement houses to deduct the funds spent for painting over inscriptions for tax purposes. The Busters also appealed to the President of the Polish Football Association to engage football players in the action promoting the fight against scrawl. Unfortunately, as results from the response of the Polish Football Association, they do not recognize any relationship between the inscriptions for supporting sport clubs and sport.

**Mr. Waldemar Domański, Chairman**, also mentioned his activity of organizing the events under the auspices of the Library of Songs. He invited the participants in the meeting to cooperate in the action of singing: on 6 August to celebrate the departure of the First Cadre Company, on 11 November, and on other public holidays. He also invited them to join the collective and multicultural singing of carols.

**Mrs. Urszula Majcher-Legawiec** asked if such activities of the Busters would not result in doing the work of the competent services as the Municipal Police.

**Mr. Waldemar Domański** explained that the Municipal Police was not responsible for removing scrawl. However, the city can manage the problem as in case of municipal buildings. If reported, scrawl is removed immediately. As far as housing cooperatives, associations or private owners are concerned, the Municipal Police can do not nothing more than encouraging to remove scrawl. It cannot order to do that as it does not have such tools. The *Raspberry Front* competition was established by the Busters to address the situation. Its awarding is supported by the media and exercises a kind of social pressure on the owners of the building covered with inscriptions - scrawl. The Busters collect reports from residents and submit a reminder to the owners of the neglected elevations. Should the owner not react, the Chief of the Municipal Police gives him a kilogram of lemons. It happens very often that if the owner is informed about the situation, he or she reacts and removes the scrawl. If a helpless person - pensioner is involved and he or she cannot afford to renovate the elevation, the Busters propose their assistance. The Busters do not intend to annoy anybody. The *Fans' Whip-Round* action, organized during the visit of the Pope, followed the same objective. The action was promoted by football clubs, which was highly successful. Money was paid to an account and used to purchase paints and brushes afterwards.

**Mrs. Urszula Majcher-Legawiec** asked to explain who took care of removing inscriptions from buildings of the municipality. She also asked to explain why the cleaning costs were so high, i.e. PLN 6 million, if as the Chairman had said, inscriptions might be removed for little money.

**Mr. Waldemar Domański** explained that the urban authorities removed inscriptions not only from walls, but also from the fleet of the Municipal Transport Company the very costs of which amounted to approx. PLN 1 million. The actions organized by the Busters would not save the whole city, but if the very residents took care of small inscriptions, the inscriptions, swastikas and racist slogans would cease to be a problem. Therefore, it is of such great importance to engage the residents of the city.

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**Mr. David McGirr** expressed his concerns as to whether the Group would manage to discuss the following points of the agenda. He claimed that the Interdisciplinary Group should make use of the experiences of Mr. Waldemar Domański. He also asked to explain why the two topics “Open Kraków” and “The Scrawl Busters” were combined.

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** explained that the tasks of the Group for Eliminating Scrawl were part of the “Open Kraków” Programme.

**Mr. David McGirr** read out the points of the “Open Kraków” Programme which referred to caring for public space, and asked who performed them.

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** informed that the very part of the Programme was performed by the Group for Eliminating Scrawl, as specified in the Programme.

**Mr. Ferdinand Wouters** concluded that the Group should focus on those tasks which referred to the “Open Kraków” Programme. He also asked how the members of the Group might contribute to strengthening the fight against scrawl.

**Mr. Waldemar Domański** proposed that the ethnic and national minorities and the communities of foreigners could engage at least in writing a letter of support for changing the law, as proposed by the Busters.

**Mr. David McGirr** asked if it could be understood that the provisions of the Programme about caring for the aesthetics of the public space had already been implemented.

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** explained that the whole Programme was intentional, but expressed the will of the city to address the problems. The tasks listed in point 6 of the schedule for the implementation of the “Open Kraków” Programme belonged to the activities of the Group for Eliminating Scrawl, chaired by Mr. Waldemar Domański, and were performed on a continuous basis.

In response to the doubts raised by the members of the Group as to the inclusion of the matter of scrawl in the agenda, **Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska** explained that point 6 had belonged to the scope of the “Open Kraków” Programme right from the beginning and was added to the schedule of the Group’s activities after the workshops of multicultural organizations. During the preceding meeting, the speech of hatred, including the one expressed on the walls around the city, was discussed. Mr. David McGirr came up with a proposal at that meeting that the “victims” - eg the citizens of Ukraine who felt offended by the inscriptions (21 inscriptions were reported by the Municipal Police) - could work to remove them. The presence of Mr. Waldemar Domański was an opportunity to establish cooperation. The members of the Group would need to decide on its continuation.

At the end of the discussion, **Mr. Waldemar Domański** proposed that the community of foreigners living in Kraków could write a common statement. He asked the members of the Group to express their opinion. He simultaneously informed that the Group did not cooperate with the community of foreigners or minorities, due to which such initiative would be highly indispensable. To exemplify, he mentioned the cooperation with the Jewish Community which was not well understood by the Group.

**Mr. David McGirr** referred to the problem related to the non-existence of an umbrella organization which would facilitate such activity. He also asked to be informed about a concrete action - a picnic, he would engage his community then. The idea to write a

The Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme common statement was not ultimately confirmed by the members of the Group participating in the meeting.

That was the end of the discussion about the activities of the Group for Eliminating Scrawl in Kraków.

Moving to the following point, **Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka**, Director and Secretary of the Group, explained that the proposal to establish a network of organizations working for foreigners, national and ethnic minorities was an outcome of the studies conducted by the following organizations: the “ZUSTRICZ” Foundation and the Jewish Association “Czulent”. From the project recommendations included in the Book of Best Practices results that it is necessary to consolidate not only the community, but also the organizations working for its interests. Such networking could result, inter alia, in exchanging experiences and strengthening the message and the implementation of common objectives and common actions in what is important for the community of foreigners, and national and ethnic minorities. That would refer not only to the community gathered around the Group, but also to extending the Group by the organizations which are not represented therein.

**Mr. David McGirr** informed that he had a list of organizations from his former actions. He would be happy to make it available. He claimed that a good starting point would be to make the list available on the “Open Kraków” portal. However, it seemed at the current stage that the Internet website was not friendly for that community. The matter was what we expected from this group, these organizations. If we wanted to gather them or expected something else. The starting point should be to make a list of such organizations and to work out a way of communication for such a group. That would become particularly important, if faced by a language barrier. It would be recommendable to learn the expectations of that organizations. It intuitively seemed that we knew what they needed, but it would be worth asking them directly.

**Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska** of the City Hall of Kraków possesses a list of approx. 40 multicultural organizations which operate in Kraków. This exchange of information reveals that the city does not possess an exhaustive list. The organizations included in the list applied for funds from the city or received them from other organizations operating in the same field. The city is interested in the needs of the communities represented by the organizations; from the studies mentioned by Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka, Director, clearly results that the very organizations report the need to network and cooperate with each other.

**Mr. David McGirr** emphasized that he had experienced problems to establish contacts himself, being a person facing a language barrier. He emphasized that it would be important the informal organizations he represented could establish contact with the Municipal Centre for Supporting Social Initiatives, which proposals they could benefit from and why they would need to formalize their operation.

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** pointed out that the matter was not a topic of the discussion. Networking was to refer to the organization which already operated. The topic concerned the networking, and not the services or proposals of the city.

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**Mr. Rafał Grabowski, representing the U-Work**, explained by supporting the opinion of Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka that there was a project of the MOWES Centre for Supporting the Social Economy in Lower Poland <http://mowes.tozch.edu.pl/>, which provided assistance in the registering of new organizations, and it might be used.

As far as the networking was concerned, there were European funds available for such projects. One of the projects was proposed by the Civitates Fund for Democracy and Solidarity in Europe which announced a call for proposals (<http://fundusze.ngo.pl/wiadomosc/2177632.html>). It would be worth organizing a meeting on that matter. It would also be possible to refer to the MOWES Centre which assists the preparation of proposals. It would be recommendable to meet and discuss that outside of the Group.

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** was of the opinion that it would be worth combining the addresses of Mr. David McGirr and organizing the meeting. It was established in the course of the discussion that it would be a good idea to engage the very MOWES Centre as moderator of the meeting.

**Mr. David McGirr** added that he had participated in a meeting on a project similar to the “Open Kraków” Programme. He was of the opinion that it would be worth combining efforts.

It was established in the course of the discussion that the project proposed by the U-Work required consolidation and a meeting of the very organizations which could jointly apply for funds.

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** opened a discussion on the competitions planned to support foreigners.

- multicultural education - competitions.

**Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska** commented on the planned competitions. The amounts guaranteed in the programme for cooperation with non-governmental organizations amounted to PLN 50 thousand, to be spent for educational projects and the Multicultural Festival.

**Mr. Rafał Grabowski** expressed his conviction that it would be better to conduct both of the competitions: the Multicultural Festival and the educational projects still during the current quarter. The performance could start in September then.

**Mr. David McGirr** asked about the relationship between the competitions and multicultural actions under the “Open Kraków” Programme.

**Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska** explained that the competitions were a way for non-governmental organizations to perform tasks of the “Open Kraków” Programme. That referred both to the educational actions and information actions with regard to foreigners. The tasks were the content of the “Open Kraków” Programme.

She appealed to submit information on the activities oriented towards foreigners and focused on the topic of multiculturalism at the e-mail address: [otwarty@um.krakow.pl](mailto:otwarty@um.krakow.pl). She also informed about the competition organized with the support of the city and

The Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme financed by ArcelorMittal Poland, also oriented towards groups of activists. All the information is available on the following Internet website: [www.ngo.krakow.pl](http://www.ngo.krakow.pl).

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** informed about the completed translation of the procedures selected by the Group. The procedures would be published on the following Internet website: <http://obywatelski.krakow.pl/> (otwarty.kraów.pl). Furthermore, the Centre would make use of the idea and proposal of **Mr. David McGirr** to prepare instruction videos which would facilitate foreigners to learn the selected basic procedures in a friendly way. He also presented the city’s activities with regard to the civic budget for which foreign nationals living in Kraków would also be allowed to vote that year. Materials would be prepared in four languages so that foreigners could learn the voting rules in their own language.

**Mr. David McGirr** made some comments on the communication between the members of the Group. He claimed that he did not receive all the information and he would like to get a greater overview of the actions undertaken.

**Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska** proposed to create a group on Facebook to facilitate the communication between the members of the Group. However, she pointed out that would be an informal group only and it should be treated so by its members. It was agreed that the group would be created by Mr. David McGirr.

### **Ref. 3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 12 April 2018**

**Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** proposed to vote on the minutes of the meeting of 12 April.

**Mr. David McGirr** reported that he had a remark to the minutes of the meeting as he had an impression that an important statement had not been included.

**Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska** asked to write the remarks in English in the minutes to submit. It was agreed in the course of the discussion that an informal meeting of the members of the Group would be scheduled to agree on the topics of the following meetings not included in the schedule.

### **Ref. 5. Matters raised**

In this respect, **Mr. David McGirr** made some comments on the way the information on the activities of the Information Point had been promoted. He informed that he would submit his concrete comments to the organizers of the Information Point.

He presented his objections to the communication with the City Hall. During the last week, he had devoted a lot of time to the “Open Kraków” Programme. He felt that his messages had been left unanswered and had asked to provide an explanation. He had not received an answer to his proposed changes to the draft “Logo of Multiculturalism” yet.

**Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska** stated that the remarks submitted had been included in the draft resolution. The corrected version had not been sent out as the draft had been modified all the time. The Association “Czulent” had also reported that they would like to present its proposals yet. They had not been delivered to the Municipal Centre for

The Interdisciplinary Working Group for the “Open Kraków” Programme Supporting Social Initiatives yet. The draft would be consulted with a lawyer and the department responsible for submitting draft resolutions to be discussed by the City Council of Kraków. It would also be consulted with non-governmental organizations, which would allow the registered organizations to submit their remarks. She assured that the draft would be sent out to everybody for renewed consultations and approved at the following formal meeting.

To explain, **Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** reminded that there had been a meeting between Mr. David McGirr and the Manager of the Municipal Centre for Supporting Social Initiatives, Mrs. Magdalena Furdzik, Member of the Group, during which the preparation of instruction videos on the selected translated procedures had been discussed. With regard to the production of the videos, the meeting with **Mr. David McGirr** would be held in June.

During the discussion, he also explained that his absence during the meeting with the Director had been due to fact that he had been summoned by the Mayor of the City to an important meeting. He also expressed the hope that the meetings outside of the Group, as proposed at the meeting, and the informal communication would facilitate to clear the communication channel.

The matter of the Information Point was raised at the end of the meeting. **Mrs. Olha Menko** took the floor and explained the promotion of the Information Point. She regretted that Mr. David McGirr had published the survey which had been aimed at establishing whether foreigners had been aware of the opening of the Information Point. As agreed with the City Hall of Kraków, the official opening would take place in June and the information would be promoted afterwards. Publishing the survey with a comment that there was no correct information might imply that the “Open Kraków” Programme did no work.

To answer, **Mr. David McGirr** explained that he had not received any information despite his requests. Therefore, he had placed it by copying the content of the Facebook website. He also pointed out that the information published on the Internet website of the “Open Kraków” Programme was in Polish.

**Mrs. Olha Menko** asked again to give time to establish the content of the communication, as agreed with the City Hall of Kraków. The official opening was scheduled to take place in June. The Point was operating and assisting foreigners, but it did not publish complete information externally as there were many formal matters to agree with the City Hall. The employees of the Information Point also assisted the crowds of clients. The information was delivered to the persons through the community and that stage of the slow introduction of the Information Point to the public space was necessary to ensure its correct operation.

**Mr. David McGirr** returned to the matter of the incorrect promotion of the Internet website and of the very Information Point and the feeling that the information was not sufficient and unprepared.

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**Mr. Ferdinand Wouters** pointed out that it might have been better to postpone the opening of the Information Point until the Internet website for promoting the information had been prepared completely.

**Mr. Rafał Grabowski** confirmed the will to cooperate with Mr. David McGirr, asked all the members of the Group to visit the Information Point and to learn the nature of this work place. He additionally asked to consult the information published on other Internet websites so that it would be coherent with what had been worked out by the employees and volunteers of the Information Point. He simultaneously pointed out that the Information Point had assisted many persons so far, and he did not see any reason to withhold the opening - even in the form which had not been promoted fully. He also informed that one of the most severe project risks referred to the excessive number of persons to service. Therefore, he appealed to other entities to provide assistance and support.

To end the discussion on the Information Point, **Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka** confirmed that the public task had been performed in accordance with the contract. It was not a problem to publish information on the activities of other entities on the Internet website run by the Municipal Centre for Supporting Social Initiatives, or to extend the current threads, therefore Mrs. Danuta Czechmanowska asked to submit information. If somebody were willing to manage the Internet website of the “Open Kraków” Programme, it would also be possible. The City Hall of Kraków might grant authorizations to such a person.

#### **Ref. 6 Closure of the meeting**

It was agreed that the following meeting of the Interdisciplinary Group would take place on

**6 September 2008 at 5 p.m.**, as scheduled (in the Portraits Hall). The date of the informal meeting would be agreed on the Facebook website. No additional date for the meeting of the Group was agreed until the date specified in the schedule.

The meeting of the Group was closed by Mr. Mateusz Płoskonka, Director and Chairman, at 8 p.m.

Chairman of the Group: Andrzej Kulig

Deputy Chairman of the Group: Adam Bulandra

The minutes of the meeting were prepared by: Danuta Czechmanowska  
Annex to the minutes of the meeting:

1. List of attendees at the meeting of 12 April 2018