

DEVELOPING BILATERAL CO-OPERATION

Support was provided to activities designed to foster bilateral co-operation with Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and events were held to support this objective.

72 projects designed to help establish or expand partnerships with organisations from Donor States

82 thematic projects, partnerships were formed with different organisations from Iceland and Norway

399 representatives of Polish non-governmental organisations took part in meetings and study visits in Iceland and Norway

217 representatives of Icelandic and Norwegian organisations took part in events in Poland

Projects implemented by organisations

In total, 72 projects designed to help establish or expand partnerships with organisations from Donor States were completed: 38 initiatives aimed at forming relationships and developing joint thematic projects, and 34 activities which sought to expand or strengthen co-operation between programme grantees and entities from Iceland and Norway.

In 82 thematic projects, partnerships were formed with non-governmental organisations and informal groups, public institutions and companies from Iceland (26) and Norway (46).

Joint activities usually took the form of the exchange of experience: study visits, meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences. Altogether, 299 representatives of Polish non-governmental organisations took part in meetings and study visits to Norway and Iceland, and 182 individuals from Norway and Iceland visited Polish organisations.

Most bilateral projects focused on children and youth. A number of meetings, training sessions and conferences were organised which were not single events but part of a long-term process of adapting new practices, e.g. upgrading existing playrooms by creating FabLabs, which helped combine technical and digital skills development with ongoing support provided to children and youth from dysfunctional families.

Bilateral co-operation was important for Polish organisations that concentrate on combating discrimination because they could gain specific expertise and new skills, e.g. learn innovative workshop techniques or engage in joint research methodologies, e.g. a Polish-Icelandic comparative study of gender equality in the field of sport. Study visits gave Polish organisations exposure to equality standards in these countries.

The experience of partners from Donor States proved instrumental in other areas as well: producing joint publications, e.g. a good practice manual for the use of social clauses in public procurement, or tools, e.g. online application for public consultations of plans regarding transport infrastructure. Norwegian and Icelandic partners helped make preparations for the implementation phase (e.g. workshops for street-workers providing support to sex workers), shared their expertise, and offered consultation during the project implementation process (e.g. introducing a quality management system in small homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities).

Events

Two networking events were organised in Warsaw at the start of the programme and they were attended by 26 individuals from Donor States. Seven study visits were then arranged (six to Norway and one to Iceland) that

were attended by 100 representatives of Polish non-governmental organisations. Nine representatives of organisations and institutions from Norway and from Iceland facilitated sessions or workshops during meetings and NGO Forums organised in Warsaw.