

PARTNERSHIP DATA SHEET for HUNGARY AND POLAND

Introduction

This partnership data sheet for the B3 – 4000 project has been designed in light of observations made by Dorotea Daniele and Pierluca Ghibelli on the current situation, characteristics and concerns in Poland:

- 1) Lack of awareness of social responsibility in business
- 2) Country with high emigration
- 3) Existence of illegal immigration
- 4) Existence of former Vietnamese immigration during the communist period

This partnership data sheet for the B3 – 4000 project has been designed in light of the observations made by Denis Stokkink on the situation of ethnic minorities in Hungary (Roms) and information provided by the Hungarian Embassy:

- 1) Presence of ethnic minorities (Roms)
- 2) Presence of Hungarian-born Hungarians who, due to border changes following various international agreements, hold non-Hungarian passports (this situation affects some 5 million Hungarians).
- 3) Return to Hungary of Hungarians who emigrated in 1956 (generally pensioners)
- 4) Former high levels of Chinese immigration (80,000 in Budapest) during the communist period and until 1998 (during the communist period the Chinese did not require a visa to enter Hungary)
- 5) Waves of immigration (Afghans, Africans from Black Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon, Guinea), former Soviet republics (Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldavia, Armenia, etc.)
- 6) Until recently, Hungary was a transit country towards western Europe. With its accession to the European Union, Hungary is now seeing a trend towards the sedentarisation of these waves of immigration.

This partnership data sheet will focus primarily on the partnership and its development in an attempt to monitor the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination. Social responsibility in business in these two countries remains largely non-existent. The areas of priority and urgent action lie in other directions. However, it is important to underline the importance of the social economy in Poland and Hungary. One question will therefore be devoted to business responsibility in its strictest sense.

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1. The partnership

Question 1 is designed to elicit an explanation of the nature of your partnership in concrete terms and of the factors which led you to form this partnership.

What was the starting point?

The co-ordinator organisation of the Development Association as the applicant together with the other regional organisations of the governmental employment service had had permanent contact with the Roma minority for almost a decade.

With which immigrants and ethnic minorities do you currently have contact or relations?
Roma.

What led you to take an interest in these immigrants and ethnic minorities?

The Roma population of Hungary and especially the region of our activities are in a very disadvantaged situation from the perspective of their labour market integration. There have been over-represented among the users of our services.

What is the social situation of these immigrants and ethnic minorities?

The Roma minority is characterised by the worst socio-economic situation among ethnic minorities in Hungary. In terms of their level of education, labour market participation, housing, health conditions as well as life expectancy, the Roma population is in much worse situation than the average Hungarian population. Roma people live in the most unfavourable labour market situated territories of the region. Those settlements are characterised by low infrastructural level, lack of national and foreign investments and limited number of work places. Most Roma people live on seasonal agricultural jobs or social grants.

What is the legal status of these ethnic minorities?

They are full citizens of Hungary.

Has the historical background of the host country influenced the situation of these immigrants and ethnic minorities?

Yes, the social and economic transition of the late eighties and early nineties hit the Roma communities very badly, as due to the structural changes of the economy (esp. the manufacturing industry) the majority of them lost their jobs and were not integrated into the new market economy.

Why did you launch the partnership?

The programme applies a complex approach to improve the labour market chances of the disadvantaged, mainly Roma employers. The industrial partners were selected on the basis of the high labour demand in the food-producing industry.

How would you define the partnership?

Joint application to the EQUAL program.

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Who are the players in the partnership?

“Hungerit” Poultry Processing and Food Industrial Ltd.Co. in Szentes, Poultry Processing Ltd.Co. in Kiskunhalas, "Roma" Minority Representation of Interest Organization in Kiskunmajsa, Foundation for Regional Skill Network in Békéscsaba

When did the partnership start (date)?

November, 2002.

When is the partnership scheduled to end?

April, 2004.

How did you launch the partnership?

On the basis of the earlier common work we invite the partners to co-operate with us.

Explain how the partnership operates?

We created two management groups. One of them included the top managers of the partners while the other the responsible persons for each main activity.

List the activities you have developed within the framework of the partnership?

Training employment programmes due to the labour demand, establish the network of the regional Roma programme organisers to ensure the sustainability.

What aims are you seeking to achieve in launching the partnership?

The aim is to help the Roma reintegration in the labour market and to improve their labour market chances.

Do you have an operating budget for the partnership?

Yes.

Have you received any public and/or private funding for the partnership?

Yes, from a PHARE EQUAL budgetline.

How many people are working on the partnership?

How many people are involved in the partnership?

113 trainees as beneficiaries of the programme.

Have you set up monitoring procedures to evaluate the partnership?

Yes, from the first step of the project to the end, continuously. Both in the meetings of the top managers and the activity responsible persons.

Is there any other important information not covered by the previous questions which you think should be mentioned? (Please answer yes / no and provide an explanation where necessary):

No.

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2. Details of the initiator of the partnership project

Question 2 is designed to elicit details of the individual/organisation whose idea it was to launch the partnership and which has been the driving force behind it from the outset.

Full name: Regional Labour Development and Training Centre in Bekescsaba (BRMKK)
Address: Kétegyházi út 1. H-5600 Békéscsaba
Telephone: +36-66-446-444
Email: brmkk@mail.brmkk.hu
Contact person: Dr.Lajos Kibédi-Varga, head of the Transnational Programming Office

3. Details of the other partners involved in the partnership

Question 3 is designed to elicit details of the individuals/organisation who accepted the initiator's invitation to join the partnership and to illustrate the basic principle which underlies this difference between the partnership project initiator on one hand and the other partners on the other.

Name: Hungerit Poultry-processing Joint-stock Company in Szentes
Address: Attila u. 3. H-6600 Szentes
Telephone: +36-63-510-540
Email: -

Name: Poultry Processing Public Limited Company in Kiskunhalas
Address: Vasút u. 21 H-6400 Kiskunhalas
Telephone: +36-77-423-655
Email: szamtech@kbfirt.datanet.hu

Name: Kiskunmajsa "Roma" Minority Representation of Interest Organization
Address: Fő út 130. H-6120 Kiskunmajsa
Telephone: +36-77-582-683
Email:

Name: Foundation for Regional Skill Network
Address: Kétegyházi út 1. fsz. 6. H-5600 Békéscsaba
Telephone: +36-66-446-444
Email: skillregnet@freemail.hu

4. Sector in which the initiator of the partnership project operates

Question 4 is designed to establish the economic and social sector in which the initiator of the partnership project operates?

Does the initiator of the partnership project operate in the primary / secondary / tertiary sector? (Please underline as appropriate and provide details):

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The initiator is a public authority, operating at regional level, providing labour integration training programmes and services.

Does the initiator of the partnership project operate in the third sector. If so, in which area?
See above.

Is there any other important information not covered by the previous question which you think should be mentioned? (Please answer yes / no and provide an explanation where necessary):
No.

5. Sectors in which the other partners in the partnership operate

Question 5 is designed to establish the economic and social sectors in which the other partnership project partners operate.

Do the other partners in the partnership project operate in the primary / secondary / tertiary sector? (Please underline as appropriate and provide details):

The partnership is based on the co-operation of governmental, local governmental, profit and non profit oriented organisations of the South Plain Region of Hungary. Therefore all these three sectors are represented in this complex network.

Do the other partners in the partnership project operate in the third sector? If so, in which areas?
See above.

Is there any other important information not covered by the previous question which you think should be mentioned? (Please answer yes / no and provide an explanation where necessary):
No.

6. Special characteristics of the initiator of the partnership project

Question 6 is designed to establish whether any factors either related or external to the launch and operation of the partnership - economic and financial situation, employment situation, geographical location - have influenced the launch and operation of the partnership project for and by the project initiator.

Do you think that the initial economic and financial situation of your organisation influenced your decision to form this partnership?
No.

Have you received funding? If so, from whom?
Yes, from a PHARE EQUAL budgetline.

Is external funding an important factor in the operation of our organisation?
Yes. Most of the budget is financed by the state budget.

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Is external funding an important factor in the launch and operation of the partnership project?

Yes, it was specifically designed to meet the criteria of being eligible for a PHARE EQUAL funding, which then provided the financial background of the operation.

Has the employment profile of your organisation - number of staff, nationality, age range, gender, employee status - influenced the launch and operation of the partnership project?

Yes. All of the necessary personal and technical conditions were at the disposal of the project activities in time.

Outline the profile of your organisation in terms of number of staff, nationality, age range, gender and employee status.

Our main profile is the adult training programs for unemployed persons, for persons with the risk of unemployment., included special trainings and services to give personal skills.

Number of the staff is 54. Besides abt. 230 teachers and experts who promote our activities.

All of them are Hungarian citizens.

Distribution of age:

20-40 yrs: 60%

40-60 yrs: 40 %

Distribution of gender:

60% female, 40% male

Do you think that the geographical location of your organisation - urban/rural location, area of high/low population density, high/low immigrant density - has influenced the launch and operation of the partnership project?

Yes, as already has explained, the region in which our training centre operates is among the most disadvantaged areas of Hungary in terms of employment and labour-market integration opportunities of the Roma minority. Therefore there was a strong perceived need on behalf of the target population of the programme, which lead us to initiate the partnership.

Outline the geographical profile of your organisation indicating whether it is located in an urban/rural location or in an area of high/low population density or high/low ethnic minority density.

It is located in a predominantly rural region of South-Eastern Hungary, where the population density is low, with a considerable presence of rural ethnic minority (Roma) communities.

7. The socio-political environment of the initiator of the partnership project

Question 7 is designed to establish whether any aspects of the socio-economic situation of the initiator of the partnership project favour or promote the development of the partnership project in terms of the integration of ethnic minority populations and the fight against negative discrimination. Question 7 is broad and general in its scope.

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Do you believe that there are conditions which control access to the employment market? If so, what are they?

Yes, qualification, age, gender and ethnic status as well.

Have these conditions which control access to the employment market affected the partnership project?

Yes, the project was especially designed to combat these conditions.

Is there a national, regional or local framework which shapes the fight against negative discrimination?

There is an anti-discrimination act in force.

Have you had recourse to this legal framework which shapes the fight against negative discrimination in launching and funding the partnership project?

No.

Is there a regional or local framework which promotes the integration of ethnic minority populations?

There is a mid-term government programme to target the socio-economic integration of the Roma ethnic minority.

Have you had recourse to this legal framework which promotes the integration of ethnic minority populations in launching and funding the partnership project?

No.

Are there any political, social, cultural or media factors which led you to launch this partnership project?

No. We launched this partnership project because we wanted to help the Roma minorities to reintegrate into the society through the labour market access.

Have you developed a social responsibility policy?

No.

What do you understand by a social responsibility policy?

See above.

Have you developed a social label, a code of good practice, social audits, a gender equality policy, etc.?

We developed some items of good practice to be summarised in the closing publication of the project.

Do you take part in social and economic benefit programmes at European, national, regional or local level?

No.

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Do the other partners in the partnership project inhabit a different socio-political environment to yours?

As all partners are from the same geographical region of the country, no. As they come from different sectors (government, business and NGO), yes.

Have your partners in the partnership project developed a social responsibility policy?

No.

Have your partners in the partnership project developed a social label, a code of good practice, social audits, a gender equality policy, etc.?

Yes, together with us they summarised a lot of items of good practice.

Do your partners in the partnership project take part in social and economic benefit programmes at European, national, regional or local level?

No

8. Benchmarking

Question 8 is designed to measure social, economic and environmental performance in terms of the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination.

Do you think that this partnership project for the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination has changed your social and economic environment?

No.

Do you think that this partnership project for the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination has changed the social and economic environments of your partners in the partnership?

No.

Do you think that this partnership project has influenced policies on the integration of ethnic minority populations and the fight against negative discrimination in terms of ethnic minorities?

Yes, the partnership provided us with new ideas on how to effectively co-operate between the three sectors, and how to co-ordinate labour market integration services targeting ethnic (Roma) minorities. The partners expressed their interest to continue the co-operation after the end of the project.

Do you plan to introduce a social responsibility policy in your organisation as a result of the launch of this partnership project?

No.

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Do your partners in the project plan to introduce a social responsibility policy in their organisations as a result of the launch of this partnership project?

No.

Has this partnership project led the emergence of solidarity networks? If so, explain how and detail the networks?

No.

Has this partnership project raised awareness of the issues involved in public authorities at European, national, regional or local level?

Yes, especially as the main partner belonged to the state sector, the awareness of the issues tackled by the programme has increased both at local and regional as well as at national level.

9. Social responsibility in business

Question 9 is designed to establish whether this activities carried out within the framework of this project has affected local businesses in terms of the integration of immigrant populations and ethnic minorities and the fight against negative discrimination.

Do you think that your partnership project has made businesses at local, regional and national level more aware of the issues of the integration of immigrant communities and ethnic minorities and the fight against negative discrimination involved or even led them to introduce these issues into their managerial policy?

Yes. The direct connection with the Roma beneficiaries, the actors of the business life learnt the worth of the Roma cultural traditions and habits. They understood, how to employ the members of this disadvantaged ethnic minority.

Do you think that the businesses in your country, whether at local, regional or national level, are ready to embrace a policy of social responsibility in business (creation of a social label, a code of good practice, social audits, a gender equality policy)?

No.

Do you think that the businesses in your country, whether at local, regional or national level, are ready to join you in forming a partnership in the field of the integration of immigrant populations and ethnic minorities and/or the fight against negative discrimination?

Yes, we are sure.

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