

## Lublin Good Practice Case Study 2

### Creativity and participation Workshops!

#### *Participation playground*

C4i also offered an opportunity to experience the power of creativity through participation: discovering the way the project is implemented when basic decisions and the direction it takes are defined by a group of people.

The first 'body' behind the wheel was our C4i Local Network. The ideas implemented throughout the project were those of the people working with us in our C4i Local Network. But this was quite safe, as Local Network consisted of people who work with people professionally, even if they are not experts when it comes to intercultural integration. We can call our Local Network our 'C4i participation playground'. Over eight months of the project in Lublin we managed to move to a 'participation university'... How did we do this?

Coming up with a message that will address the needs of the campaign, and spread that message in a way that engages people, is not an easy task. The Local Network in Lublin found it more and more difficult to identify a 'right slogan'.

Could it be because we are all too deep in the subject and care personally about the idea? Has the involvement, knowledge and expertise been slowing us down? Not only did we reach a point where we found it impossible to invent anything ourselves, but we also did not like anything suggested to us by experts on communication. This was the time we had to act and find new methods of working with the topic.

#### *Creative Writing with Loesje Poland*



During the *Anti-rumours Training for Trainers* one of the ideas for the campaign was to organize Creative Writing Workshop. This is precisely what we needed now! Unfortunately it became obvious after searching for some time, that finding the right person to conduct a workshop that would meet our expectations would be difficult. We needed someone who knows how to do it, but also had an idea about what we do and why.

And this is how we discovered *Loesje Poland*. Loesje Poland is a part of constantly growing international organisation and network of local groups present in over 30 countries all over the world. The network, created by a

group of freethinkers who express their ideas and opinions through posters, publications and actions in public spaces, has become very popular in Poland. Short messages on the posters are sometimes ironical, sometimes funny, but always bringing and inspiring and a positive message.

This was precisely a perspective we needed!

The workshops took place in Labirynt Gallery – another public space for C4i activities - and attracted over 20 people, students as well as Local Network members. Not only was it a great way to free our minds and bring creativity back to our team, it also helped to spread the message about C4i and anti-rumours to a broader audience. Engaging an outside organisation proved to be a great idea. Though we didn't end up using the slogans created during the workshop, this was the energy boost that we all needed and a chance to gain new followers of the anti-rumours campaign.

### **Media Workshops: Lublin Rumours-eaters**

Lublin has been a home for the Golden Anteater Short Videos Festival for many years now. Searching for a creative way of combining what is already done in Lublin with the anti-rumours message, we came up with another workshop idea: A Media Workshop during which participants will not only get to know the secrets of filmmaking, but will also create short videos promoting integration. And this is the participation university mentioned above.

We teamed up with Golden Anteaters creators, KinoTeatr Projekt, and 'Lublin Rumour-eaters' was born. After recruiting workshops participants, the C4i team experienced a panic attack. The participants were mostly teenagers; the workshops were... well, workshops; and the ideas were supposed to emerge from the process - which meant we had absolutely no control of what was going to come out of it – a daunting prospect for the Team!



## Lubelskie Plotkojady

anticipated or had previous experience of. Participants needed more time to work on their ideas, too. But the result was absolutely phenomenal!

During the official 'Lublin Rumours-eaters Gala' evening, not only the participants and teachers – the creators of the videos - were happy and proud. So was the entire C4i team! And the faces of the people who attended the show best describe this Friday evening atmosphere.

All the videos will be available at C4i website soon!

Each workshop included an introduction to anti-rumours and C4i, but we were concerned that this might be too little to provide participants with the tools needed to create visual anti-rumour messages. Furthermore, the high-school participants proved to be a quite difficult group to work with – too little experience to be able to share it and work on it, and insufficient knowledge on migration or integration not to mention the problems migrants can face...

In the end, a total of 14 people took part in over 25 hours of Workshops, and more than 10 others were engaged as actors in the productions created.

The lesson learned from the process is never to assume that the initial plan is the right one. It was necessary to remodel the programme to better suit the needs of the groups. The style of work of the groups was entirely different to what the teachers had