

Equal at work – it pays

In Poland the United Nations Development Programme proves that shared UN and EU care for socially excluded people can bring real benefits if the two organizations team up.



"Equal at work. It pays" - billboard from the public campaign of the Gender Index project



LEFT: Ecochance project in Wandzin centre, Donat Kuczewski/Wandzin
RIGHT: Participants of the Black Sheep project receiving job training, Krzysztof Konieczny/PTPP "pro Natura"



192 countries and their nations already committed to eradicate extreme poverty and improve life quality of billions of people worldwide – by signing up to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. This pledge puts people with their individual skills, needs and challenges at the centre of development work and makes it *human development*.

Global promises would not be kept unless they are met by concrete implementation instruments such as the European Initiative EQUAL. Poland is an example where global concepts of the United Nations and care for labour market meet the European Union's social inclusion priorities. The United Nations Development Programme, the largest UN agency supporting poverty reduction, is involved in implementation of 10 projects and leads 5 of them which make the biggest number of Equal projects implemented by one organization in the European Union. Thanks to its legitimacy, neutrality and independence, UNDP is an effective broker of partnerships - foundation of the programme. Through cooperation with national partners UNDP enhances their capacities and skills and disseminates UN standards related for example to gender mainstreaming or human rights.

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Give yourself a job – Ecochance

The project in innovative way supports people living with HIV and former drug users in Poland, who are marginalized at the labour market. The objective is being achieved with the use of *ecological tool* in 13 centres throughout the country, which means: development of biodiversity subprojects like green-legged chickens breed (traditional Polish type), renewable energy sources (use of biomass) or horse riding.



As a result patients of the centres acquire professional skills as well as "soft" skills of efficient communication, job search, computer use, basic foreign language and work habits that increase their chances at the labour market. At the same time, the project promotes legal regulations of the Polish "Action Plan for Development of Farms, for the years 2007-2013" to inspire establishment of local ecological projects. In this way, the project will positively influence competitiveness of Polish farms, improve natural environment and help diversify economic activities of the Polish countryside.

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Life Skills Programme for Mentally Competent Youth and Young Adults with Physical Disabilities - MISARN

misarn

More than 3,000 young people live in Warsaw with physical disabilities. They face a wide range of barriers in their social, public and in private life. Due to the lack of educational and