

European Conference
Closing the empowerment gap through citizenship education
How to address educationally disadvantaged groups

17 – 19 November 2011
 Warsaw, Poland

Fact Sheet

Workshop III Learning Environment - Community and Urban District Work

	Section	Indications of content
1	Title of project	Library Development Programme
2	Location	Poland (nationwide)
3	Main topics/ key words	Citizenship education through small rural libraries
4	Brief description of project	<p>The Library Development Programme is a nationwide project aimed at strengthening the potential of public libraries located in villages and small towns. Thanks to the programme, modern and active libraries make it easier for residents to participate in social and economic life.</p> <p>The Library Development Programme is implemented by the Information Society Development Foundation (FRSI). The funds come from a grant received by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and are earmarked for providing libraries with IT equipment, a cycle of practical training courses, strengthening the librarian profession and promoting libraries.</p> <p>The programme is designed as a five-year project: it started in 2009 and will last until 2013. It will cover more than half of all the libraries located in villages and small towns: more than 3,300 libraries</p>
5	Objectives of project	<p>Libraries better address the knowledge and information needs of local communities.</p> <p>Residents have better access ICT-supported new services provided by libraries. Users, public opinion and policy makers perceive libraries and librarians as more important for individual, community and country development.</p>
6	Effect on the empowerment of educationally disadvantaged groups	Educationally disadvantaged groups have access to informal educational activities offered by libraries including improvement of digital literacy among 50+.
7	Target Groups	Librarians, users of the libraries
8	Project methods/ Project format	Equipment and Internet delivery, training, grants, projects offered to libraries through NGOs, consultations, support to development of the local partnerships.

9	Project results/ Project Evaluation/ Materials	<p>Libraries participating in the programme have received IT equipment. Library staff members have completed their library development-planning workshop. During five two-day sessions the participants learned how to plan their library's tasks so as to make them interesting for the residents and meet their needs, how to promote the activities of their libraries and how to enlist partners' cooperation. In addition to this, libraries that prepared their own development plan take advantage of special offers prepared by four NGOs: Center for Citizenship Education (CEO), KARTA Center Foundation, Comenius Foundation for Child Development and the Association of Creative Initiatives</p> <p>IT trainings have been completed. During such training, library staff members learned how to take full advantage of the equipment provided to libraries. Specialist training has been completed</p> <p>Apart from that, libraries can obtain so-called microgrants. These funds will be earmarked for meetings to be held by several libraries cooperating with each other, which will facilitate the integration of the librarian profession and the exchange of experiences.</p>
10	Project Duration	2009 - 2013
11	Range and sustainability of the project	Nationwide project
12	Contact information	<p>Jacek Królikowski Information Society Development Foundation Ul. Grójecka 1/3 02-019 Warsaw Poland E-Mail: Jacek.krolikowski@frsi.org.pl Phone: 0048 698 680 357</p>