



European Commission
Directorate General Enterprise and Industry



Trans-regional Cooperation and Innovation in the Environmental Sector

Minna Pasila-Lehtinen
Bartosz Sokol

Cooperation Parties

The cooperation agreement is signed between two parties:

- Podlaska Regional Development Foundation (PRDF), established in Bialystok, Poland
- Kouvola Innovation Oy (KINNO), established in Kouvola, Finland

Kouvola Innovation



- Regional development organization
- Established in the Town of Kouvola, Finland
- Founded 2008 (former Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities; Expertise Center)
- Implementing the strategy of the economic life of Kouvola
 - Forrest, energy and environment is one of the main clusters in the region!

KINNO: Environmental Projects 1

- TAP-project
 - Development of regional attractiveness from the environmental point of view
 - New businesses from the environmental sector, engineering firms
 - Sustainable development among the existing businesses
 - Establishing a regional Environmental Expertise Center: Ekopark
 - Consultant services
 - Project management
 - Pilot actions and incubators for businesses in the environmental sector

KINNO: Environmental Projects 2

- TYP- project
 - Systematically and jointly developing the three sectors
 - Forestry, energy and environment
 - New products and technology related to forest industry
 - Focus on bioenergy: gas, diesel, forest and field biomass
 - business
 - research
 - education



Podlaska Agency for Energy

- Established in 2003 as a department affiliated entity to Podlaska Regional Development Foundation;
- The main goal: promotion of rational energy consumption and renewable energy sources in Podlaskie Voivodeship;
- Activities: seminars, conferences, radio broadcasts, promotion campaigns, publishing of guides on renewable energy sources, projects implementation, support for self-governments in energy management, consultancy;
- Cooperation: self-governments, energy companies, ecology organizations (NGO's), SAVE agencies in Poland, Portugal and Italy;



What had we done



15 LAT PARTNERSTWA
DLA SUKCESU

- Promotion of renewable energy sources (RES):
- Energy Forums – topics: sun energy, wind energy, gas and RES in energy management in Podlaskie Voivodeship
- BioConference – conditions for biofuels production in Podlaskie Region
- Seminars on utilization of RES in Podlaskie Region
- Elaborations
- Data base for energy plan for Podlaskie Voivodeship
- Data base of energy infrastructure and supplies connected with energy in all gminas in Podlaskie Voivodeship
- Data base of wooden wastes production by wood branch
- Energy Plan of Podlaskie Voivodeship
- Guidebook: “Practical aspects of renewable energy sources utilization. Energy Plan of Podlaskie Voivodeship”





15 LAT | PARTNERSTWA
DLA SUKCESU

Projects



- “Green energy in Bialystok” – promotion campaign on rational energy consumption among Bialystok inhabitants (Internet, newspaper, drawing competition for primary school students) – financial support of City Major of Bialystok
- „VI Energy Forum - Truth and fouts about gas” (financial contribution of Voivodeship Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management),
- “Energy planning on regional level with RES utilization” – project had been realized in partnership of Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Markets – financial contribution of Phare Programme
- "Renewable Energy Sources in Hajnowka District - stocktaking, utilization" project had been realized in partnership of Foundation of Environment Economists and Natural Resources – financial contribution of Global Environmnet Facility
- “Clean Podlasie – partnership for environment protection” project had been realized in partnership of Foundation of Environment Economists and Natural Resources - – financial contribution of Phare Programme

Project title

**€co-Clubs of Entrepreneurship – promotion of
ecology awareness among students of high
schools**

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:
Podlaska Regional Development Foundation**

**PROJECT PARTNER:
Impetus Europe Consulting Group Ltd.**

**HONORARY PATRONAGE:
Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshall**

Podlaskie Education Officer



PROJECT GOAL

**To raise ecology awareness and promotion of
entrepreneurship among students of high schools**

How to do it?

Project activities:

- 1. Identification of schools from Podlaskie Voivodeship,**
- 2. Preparation of materials for students,**
- 3. Training session – 8 trainings in each school,**
- 4. Workshops – 6 in each school,**
- 5. Seminar for all students from Eco-Clubs,**
- 6. Evaluation of business plans,**
- 7. Conference,**
- 8. Study visit.**

Results:

- 1. 100 students involved into the project,**
- 2. 10 Eco-Clubs established,**
- 3. 10 Business plans prepared by students,**
- 4. 80 trainings sessions,**
- 5. 60 workshops,**
- 5. Seminar,**
- 6. Conference,**
- 7. Study visit.**

Background of the cooperation agreement

- The mutual interest was found through INNO-DEAL workshops and working sessions
- There was a need to find a practical way to enhance cooperation → sector based innovation target seemed like a good opportunity to start with
- There are similar development targets in both regions on the environmental and energy sector

Objectives

- To maintain and enhance international connections created during the INNO-DEAL project
- To promote innovation through cooperation
 - Mutual interest
 - Different background
- The common interest is to find financing for the SMEs interested in environmental projects
 - bio-energy
 - waste management

Cooperation activities 1/2

- Promote and reinforce the joint participation in different kinds of international financing programs
- Investigate and identify financial resources (public and private) in all involved regions
- Promote other organizations in the region

Cooperation activities 2/2

- To share information related to congresses, trade events and conferences in involved countries
- Promote transfer of good practices between the parties involved
- Promote project actions concerning renewable energy and management

Current situation: Ongoing Actions 1/2

- Common project proposal submitted:
 - **Promotion of RES utilization in Podlaskie Region**
 - Financing: Norwegian Financial Mechanism and EEA Financial Mechanism in Poland
 - 90% of expenses will be covered
- Project duration: September 2009-December 2010

Current situation: Ongoing Actions 2/2

- The bases of the funding is that the project is planned to promote development in Poland
 - the main beneficiaries will be the polish municipalities
 - the activities will be mostly carried out in Poland
 - the role of the partner is to provide experts, knowledge and know-how

...still something for everybody ?

- Benefits for Finnish operators:
 - Opportunity to network with Polish colleagues
 - Different environment and ways to do things can refresh creativity
 - Small projects are a good “trial run” for companies

Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

Minna Pasila-Lehtinen
Kouvola Innovation Ltd.
Tel. +358(0)2061 58729
minna.pasila-
lehtinen@innokouvola.fi

Bartosz Sokol
Podlaska Regional
Development Foundation
Tel. +48 85 740 86 83
sokol@pfr.pl