



## EUROPEAN EDUCATION IN GDYNIA

**The European integration process in Poland formally began at the moment of signing the European Agreement in 1994. Generally the majority of Polish society approve the idea of joining the EU. But how much do we know about the integration process in Europe nowadays?**

The results of Centre of Public Opinion show that the average level of knowledge about European Union matters is very low. What could be done to increase the citizens' awareness and knowledge about Europe? In our opinion special attention should be paid to the education of young people through highly qualified teachers. This was the main reason why the project entitled: "Working out an educational model for European education and its implementation in the Gdynia's schools" was carried out by Gdynia City Hall. Its realisation was cofinanced by PHARE Fund for Small Grant Facility Fiesta II.

### Main goals of the project were:

- to work out a programme for European Education in the Primary and Secondary Schools in Gdynia during workshops for teachers,
- to inform the teachers about the joint cultural aspects of Europe, present integration activities, future plans and provide the teachers with a methodical knowledge enabling them to present the idea of an integrated Europe to their pupils,
- to prepare young people for Poland's entrance to the European Union through inspiring them to undertake European activities.

Within the project, during the workshops on European education organised for 38 of Gdynia's teachers, materials for European Education in the primary and secondary schools were compiled. The materials were selected and put together as a publication entitled "Gdynia's European Education". The publication was printed in 320 copies and distributed to the participants of the workshop as well as to Gdynia schools and libraries. Moreover, workshop participants decided

to set up an Association of Teachers in Gdynia for the purpose of coordinating the activities of schools and their cooperation with the local authorities in the field of European education.

Moreover since 1996, the City of Gdynia organises the event named "Gdynia's Ways to Europe". This year's competition titled "The knowledge about Europe is the basis of European integration" was directed to the youth in Gdynia. The competitors had three levels: school qualifying selection, municipality semi-final and final. The questions for the second level were prepared by the EU officer



in Gdynia City Hall in close cooperation with workshop participants and teachers. The competition aroused great interest in European matters among young people in schools and their teachers. 103 pupils from 35 schools in Gdynia took part at the second level of the competition. This is a proof that the implementation of pro-European initiatives is possible if the teachers are accordingly prepared to educate young people.

### Further information:

Mrs Krystyna Borkowska  
Foreign Relations  
City of Gdynia  
Tel. +48 58 620 83 12  
Fax +48 58 620 09 17  
e-mail: umgdyfor@miasto.gdynia.pl

## RETRAINING OFFICERS



**Kaliningrad City Hall has a new joint project with the County of Funen and Odense Technical College named "Retraining of retired officers in Kaliningrad".**

The agricultural sector of Kaliningrad region has been suffering from the lack of competent and skilled managers at the production and processing enterprises working with agricultural raw material. Many of the retired officers would like to be employed in this sector. So the project was designed to meet the requirements of the agricultural sector and the retired officers' employment. The project is of great interest, as it is aimed not only at the training but also at the same time at the adaptation to the new conditions and to the labour market.

The overall objective of the project is to retrain both retired officers and members of their families. It is of major importance that the target group can meet the demands of the markets. The development will be regarded as a process focusing both on the personal development and on the development of the companies. During the project a transnational network will be established for the planning and implementation of the experience exchange, partly through concrete education and training activities and partly through international activities.

The project will be organised, as an action learning course where the tuition carried through will be tested in concrete projects. The projects will be selected and implemented in cooperation with national and international companies. The project will be managed by representatives of employers, labour market organisations, companies, educational institutions, authorities, customers and specialists. The training will be carried out by the Kaliningrad Institute for Retraining Specialists for Agribusiness.

### Further information:

Mrs Natalia Khaliouk  
City of Kaliningrad  
Tel. +7 0112 228368  
Fax +7 0112 215395  
e-mail: ums@cityhall.koenig.su