

ASOCJACJE

Report of the outcome of the project

“The Transparent Commune An Instrument Supportive of Societal Control Over Operation of the Public Administration in Poland”

Short description of the realisation of the project:

The realisation of the project started on 12 November 2001.

The following steps were undertaken:

1. Preparing of the instrument – on the base of the information about law, public finances, and about other subjects pertinent to the instrument’s development.
2. Execution of the pilot programme in selected communes towns – Cieszyn, Gliwice, Jelenia Góra, Szczecin, Tychy, Żary, villages – Kobiór, Strzyżewice, gminas – Warszawa-Centrum (and districts Mokotów, Ochota i Wola), Warszawa-Białoleka. Execution was preceded by training of the partners.
3. Improvement of the instrument basically on the experiences of the pilots.
4. Drawing up of the report including analysis of results from the perspective of the information assembled and concerning assessment of the procedures for extension of grants to non-public entities and their settlement employed by Polish communes – *Przejrzysta gmina (Transparent Commune)*.
5. Drawing up of the report including analysis of the pilot programme results from the perspective of the finished instrument’s utility *Od usankcjonowane go zwyczaju do modelowych rozwiązań (From usual customs to model solutions)*.
6. Preparation of the manual on *How to Handle Grants? An Instrument for Monitoring the Grant Extension and Settlement Procedures Employed by Polish Territorial Self Government Entities vis a vis Non-Public Entities*.
7. Presentation of the project results during the conference held on 12 September 2002 in Warsaw in cooperation with Anti-Corruption Programme, during the 3rd all-Polish Forum of Nongovernmental Initiatives in Warsaw on 20-22 September and in radio programme on 27 September.
8. Editing of the publication *Przejrzysta gmina. Organizacje pozarządowe. Korupcja (Transparent Commune. Nongovernmental Organizations). Corruption* including report *From usual customs to model solutions*, manual *How to Handle Grants*, models *Transparent Commune* and *Handling grants and ISO standards* and other articles connected with this subject prepared during the realisation of the project in 500 copies. Now the publication is distributed to all interested and involved parties
9. The programme was mentioned in our magazine „Dziękuję” (Thank You) on page 59.

An assessment of lessons learned

The most important lesson we learned during the realisation of the project is the necessity of societal control over operation of the public administration in Poland.

We were interested in the grant extension procedures used in Polish communes. Though the grant extension are only small part of all local governments' spendings (average 1,0%, but in Warsaw they are equal 33 mln PLN – 8 mln USD in 2001) it occurred that no one of the inquired local government operate properly. Even those which implemented model solutions. So we have to say that no field of operation of public administration can be free of the societal control.

This kind of activity should deal with every sphere – the creature and evaluation of the politics, the creature and observance of the procedures, the access to the public information and others.

The performance of the control needs sources – people who would like to be engaged, instruments they could use. It is important to stimulate the rising of such groups and the preparing of instruments helpful in societal control.

The another learned lesson is the necessity of implementation of models, examples of good practice of operation of the public administration in Poland like *Transparent Commune*.

We are convinced that this two elements – models of operation and societal control over it - should improve standards of operation of the public administration and diminish high level of corruption in Poland.

Next steps

The prepared and piloted instrument will be used by Anti-Corruption Programme during the training cycles preparing Local Civic Groups. The expert study on the law backgrounds of the instrument supporting control over operating of the public administration “Transparent Commune – Models of Grants Giving” by Andrzej Szeniawski was included as a part of the instrument “The Model of Transparent Commune” by Anti-Corruption Programme. You can find it here: <http://www.przeciw-korupcji.org.pl/> . Our activity was involving four such Local Civic Groups cooperating with Anti-Corruption Programme and three Partners from Local Partnership Network. Two of Local Civic Groups will carry on activity based on the experiences of the project *Transparent Commune* and using the instrument. We expect that our cooperation will be successful in creating the network of watchdogs. The first step – starting of operation of the NGO Watch – an internet site – will come soon.

The instrument with some necessary changes can be used in observance of operation of public administration in other range than the grant extension procedures. So now our association is preparing a new project – based on experiences from *Transparent Commune* - observance over processes of location the new investments. There are many cases of corruption in these procedures also involving ecological organizations – so called “eco-tribute”.

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