

„The Social Economy in Central, East and South-East
Europe: Emerging trends of social innovation and local
development”

OECD LEED International Conference

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Center of Social Integration in Olsztyn, Poland

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**Social cooperatives development in Poland
- new tool supporting social inclusion**

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Center of Social Integration

Founders:

- City Olsztyn
- Municipal Social Welfare Center in Olsztyn

Activity of the Center is based on Social Employment Law (June 2003) and is financed by City of Olsztyn

Participants:

- long-term unemployed longer than 24 month
- homeless people
- alcoholics, drug addicted people after therapy
- ex-prisoners

Legal form:

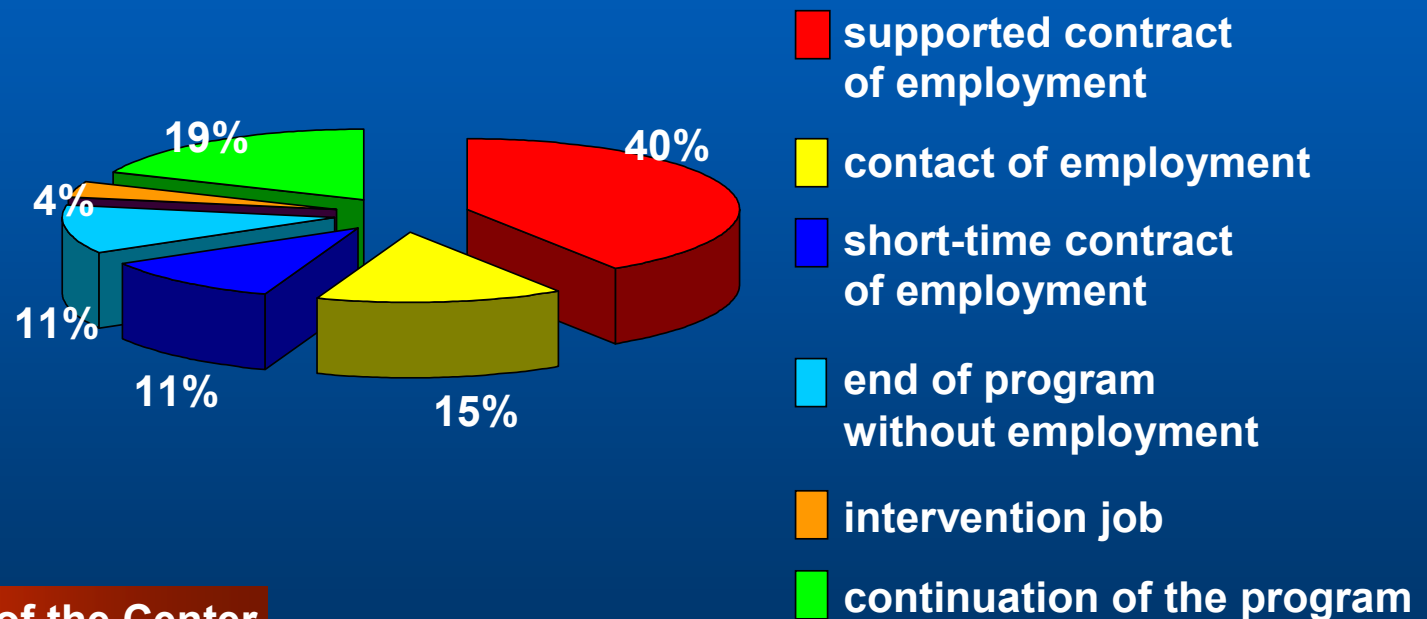
Auxiliary household of Municipal Social Welfare Center in Olsztyn

Center of Social Integration

We have 47 participants in two editions of The Center. 25 of them are woman. One edition is designed for period of one year. Each person in The Center takes part two days a week in educational and therapeutical workshops. Next three days participants have vocational workshops in 23 different institutions in Olsztyn. There are local authorities and municipal agendas, NGO's and private entrepreneurs. Each person studies according to a specially designed individual program for self-development and further employment. Team of The Center supports participants. Members of team are psychologists, therapist, social workers and vocational advisers. Each participant also receives social support of 400 PLN per month as a part of the social contract.

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Employment - first edition

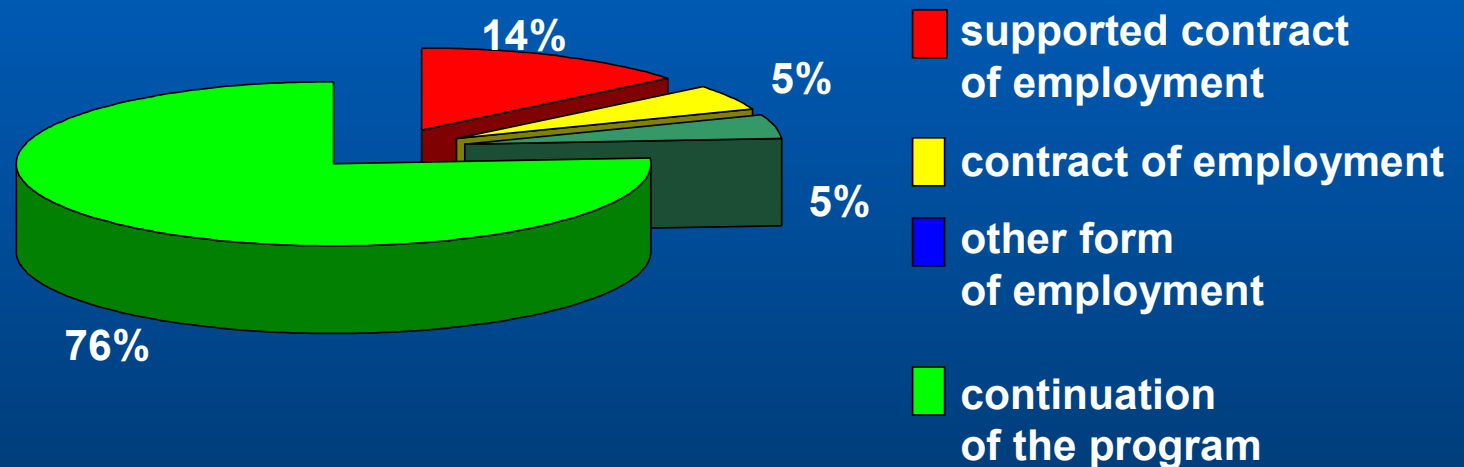


First edition of the Center

**73% of all participants in the first edition
have found job**

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Employment – second edition



Second edition of the Center

7 people from the 23 participants of second edition have found job

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Effects

- positive attitude of participants
- new social skills of participants

Threats

- unstable financial situation of the Center

Social cooperative development

- **Polish Cooperative Law - June 2004**
 - new tool for social inclusion
 - at least 5 to 50 people
- unemployed people
- disabled people
- homeless people
- alcoholics, drug addicted people after therapy
- ex-prisoners
 - public support – 7200 PLN per founder of coop
 - lack of detailed law regulation
 - bad image of cooperatives in Poland
 - new social cooperative law is preparing in parliament

Social cooperative development

Social cooperative „Rose” in Sorkwity - Warmia & Mazuria region - handcraft sewing, crochet, knitting and embroidery



New social cooperatives (July 2005):

**„WWWPromotion - Wroclaw, „Helpful Hand” - Mikolow,
„We thinking about you!” - Warsaw, „Good Beginning” -
Kedzierzyn - Kozle, „Cooperation” - Wroclaw**

Social cooperative development

Success

- Local coalition supporting social cooperative (local authorities, local Labor Office, Social Welfare Center, NGO's, church, local business)

Failure

- Lack of interest local actors, idea of people from groups of social exclusion not supported by anybody

Perspectives

Promotion of social coops is necessary

New clever law regulation are needed