

**„THE SOCIAL ECONOMY IN CENTRAL, EAST AND SOUTH EAST  
EUROPE: EMERGING TRENDS OF SOCIAL  
INNOVATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT”**

Trento, Italy, 22-23 September 2005



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# Since 1989 a new system of support has been created by BARKA. The system consists of 5 programs:



1. The Community Program – since 1989, 30 new Communities have been established in south-western Poland



2. Socio-educational Program – since 1996 in urban and rural environments



3. Program of Creating New Work Places – since 1996 in all BARKA locations



4. Accessible Housing Program – “Darzybor Housing Settlement”



5. Program of Integration and Cooperation – since 2002 creation of new associations, national unions and European networks.

# 1. The Community Program

## Main principles of communities' functioning:

- . The familial life is normally organized in groups of 25- 30 persons and is based on the idea of mutual help;
- . Recovery (rebuilding and renewal) of old and ruined houses, adapting them for places to live and work;
- . Subsistence through own work (breeding of animals, cultivation of vegetables, services);
- . Living in solidarity with others in need;
- . The importance of a life in sobriety.

Presently 30 communities are functioning where about 750 formerly troubled persons live and work.

## **2. Socio-educational Program - The Barka-Kofoed School Association – Centre of Social Integration**

Principles of the socio-educational program and social integration

Philosophy of building community, participation, education and entrepreneurship - **philosophical change within the Polish system of social support**

Influence on the creation of the Law on Social Employment - beginning of life long learning process in Poland

Public-private-social partnership

## **2. Socio-educational Program**

### **– rural areas**

- **In a renovated manor, now a Socioeducational and Co-operation Center, training and conferences are carried out.**
- **A model ecologic farming was established on 450 ha of land of a former State farm. Here, among other activities, we are breeding goats, sheep, rabbits and a rare race of native pigs “in freedom”.**
- **Economic sustainability of these activities is achieved through investments in energy-saving environmentally friendly heating system and manufacture of bio-fuel, for example.**
- **Goat breeding conducted by BARKA is considered one of the best in Poland.**
- **The Center transfers its knowledge to other Central and Eastern European countries.**

### **3. Social employment and creation of work places**

The increasing unemployment in Poland (about 20%) and difficult life experiences of persons taking part in socioeducational programs reduce their chances on the work market. Therefore, they decided to create social enterprises in areas such as: second-hand shops, rickshaws, recycling, gardening, cleaning services, sale of products and services, childcare, care for the elderly and the handicapped, cooperation with the municipal services for maintaining green areas and with other companies with which Barka has already connections (i.e. employee leasing), etc.

# 4. Accessible Housing Program

## Objectives

- participation in the construction of the National Action Plan for the period 2007 – 2013 through co-creation and active participation in activities aimed at supporting the development;
- to build the principle of dialogue and partnership on behalf of development of housing;
- to shape the law in the framework of housing, accessible housing and protection of ownership rights according to the principles of subsidiarity contained in the present legislation;
- to search for European and other financial resources for the development of housing and accessible housing;
- to advocate the stabilization of relations between the public administration and the non-governmental sector by way of mediation and legal tools;
- to pursue the integration of diverse environments among housing and accessible housing programmes.



**We invite you to Barka**

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