

# FUTURE-PROOFING ADULT LEARNING IN CITIES



## GDANSK, Poland

### So Stay Hotel

#### Key facts

The Municipality of Gdansk, Poland, established the So Stay Hotel in 2016 to improve the economic prospects of young people who grew up in care homes. The case is an example of how social enterprises and social economy actors can play a key role in the provision of adult learning.

#### Timeframe and funding

The programme started in 2016 and is still in place. It was established with support from the Municipality of Gdansk, the Social Innovation Foundation and business partners.

#### City population

582,205

#### Governing body

Gdansk City Council

#### Link

[So stay hotel | URBACT](#)

#### Main objectives

The key objective of the programme is:

- To address the challenges of young people who face barriers in accessing education and vocational training in the public school system.

## Content and mode of delivery



The So Stay Hotel is located in the centre of Gdansk and is the first socially responsible facility in Poland. The hotel operates on an innovative model, which combines a market approach with social responsibility to support young people who grew up in care homes in gaining work qualifications and experience through internships and job programmes in the hotel. In this way, the hotel invests in their education, and creates internships and first workplaces. Participants learn from and are guided by professionals in the hotel, gaining relevant skills that enable them to gain employment outside the hotel.

Moreover, in a holistic approach, the programme provides these young people with housing support as they learn and earn income. Participants in difficult housing situations are able to rent accommodation on favourable terms, managed collaboratively by the foundation, the Gdansk Municipality and business leaders.

## Stakeholders



The programme builds on a strong cooperation between three key sectors:

- Local businesses
- The Municipality/public sector
- The civil sector/social economy actors

## Key challenges, success factors & transferability



After two years (2018), five people have found employment outside the hotel. In addition, ten 16 to 18-year olds completed internship programmes and continued their formal education. Additionally 50% of the participants (10 people) have gained employment in the hotel, through the hotel's professional development programme. In this way, the programme lives up to its motto – “Responsible for Business – Responsible for the Community” and the socio-economic strategy of Gdansk.

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