

INFOPACK



new community art



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BEMOWSKIE
CENTRUM
KULTURY



ZAGREB CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT CULTURE AND YOUTH
www.pogon.hr



new community art

CULTURAVIRUS IN WARSAW 20.-26.07.2022

Bemowo Cultural Centre (Bemowskie Centrum Kultury) was a host of the 2nd mobility, as a part of the project "Culturavirus - the art of new communities". The mobility took place in Warsaw from 20th to 27th of July 2022 with participation of 12 people from Zagreb's organizations: Pogon - Zagrebački centar za nezavisnu kulturu i mlade, Udruga Cirkorama, Autonomni kulturni centar Attack, Živi Atelje, Are You Syrious, Galerija 90-60-90 and Lisbon organization Associacao Renovar A Mouraria. The project is a response to the challenges and needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the implementation of program activities of cultural institutions and social inclusion. It is financially supported by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

The aim of the entire Culturavirus project is to exchange practices and select methods and tools in the field of "community arts" that will be integrated into the daily work of the team of employees and collaborators of partner organizations in the time of social crisis. The overarching goal is to strengthen the sense of empowerment of the recipients of the institution's activities, increase their participation in the activities and build leadership potential. The main objective of the mobility in Zagreb was to get inspired with practices used by Zagreb's independent scene working in culture, peace building, intercultural dialogue and youth activities, learn about new methods of work that could be applied in our daily work, exchange on topics of migrant/refugees integration, artistic residences, communication and promotion of our activities, engaging new publics. What is more, we aimed at creating new alliances and the foundation for future collaborations.

This mobility introduced us to projects, institutions and organizations of Bemowo, Warsaw district, partners and collaborations of Bemowskie Centrum Kultury. We learned about: Bemowskie Centrum Kultury, Dwa Jelonki and its projects - Community Choir Wrzawa, Pottery classes, Ceramic Doves Of Peace, Civic Budget. We visited OPS Bemowo, Mal Pałacyk Konopackiego, Przyjaźń Neighbourhood And Were Introduced To The Neighbourhood Of Friendship Project/The Osiedle Przyjaźń Initiative.

Our first exchange of good practices was in Zagreb in May, when we visited, and learned about organizations of independent culture, youth and human rights which are part of the Pogon ecosystem. The third mobility activity will take place in Lisboa, where host organization **Associacao Renovar A Mouraria** will present the most interesting local projects, activities that can be implemented in other countries.

Below you will find short information on all the partners and organizations that took part in the mobility in Warsaw.

PARTNERS OF THE PROJECT

BEMOWSKIE CENTRUM KULTURY

Bemowo Cultural Center in the Bemowo District of the Capital City of Warsaw began operating in March 2006. The offer of the Center is addressed primarily to the residents of Bemowo, but also to the whole of Warsaw, to recipients of all ages and social groups. Since 2014, the community center has been an institution changing its character. Its employees are focused on working with the local community. In various parts of Bemowo, he runs the Design Laboratory (regranting project combined with a series of workshops), supports activities aimed at increasing the level of readership in the district, organizes neighborhood dinners, music and theater workshops, and discussions about the most important problems of the residents. He studies the identity of the district as part of the series of Historical Lectures on Bemowo. Cooperates with, among others with the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the National Center for Culture, Theater Institute Zbigniew Raszewski, the Festival of New Jewish Music, the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Docs Against Gravity, the Orange Foundation, the Warszawa Czyta Festival, the Institute of Polish Culture of the University of Warsaw. At the Bemowo Cultural Center there are, among others, 3,275 kg Orchestra, Radio Jazz.fm or Teatr Zgoda.

<https://bemowskie.pl/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Bemowskie.Centrum.Kultury>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM-IliTVc07hjoyo3NnVbog>
https://www.instagram.com/bemowskie_centrum_kultury/
https://twitter.com/bemowo_kultura?lang=pl

RENOVAR A MOURARIA ASSOCIATION

The Renovar a Mouraria Association (ARM) was formed by a group of residents who considered urgent the intervention of the authorities, officials and civil society in the neighbourhood of Mouraria in March 2008. As locally based organization, it has a very wide range of action diversified, operates in several areas: production and cultural dynamization, social intervention, support community, inclusion of migrant communities, economic development, preservation of the territory, education for global citizenship, etc. With a team with very diverse skills, it is currently a reference in local development and integration of migrants in the neighbourhood and in the city.

Its projects and activities range from free community based support, to the community newspaper, guided tours, community composting network, cultural events, to multidisciplinary projects, for times of European basis.

www.renovaramouraria.pt
<https://www.facebook.com/renovar.a.mouraria/>
<https://www.instagram.com/renovaramouraria/>

POGON – ZAGREB CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT CULTURE AND YOUTH

Pogon is a cultural institution based on the new model of civil–public partnership. In 2008 it was jointly founded and is managed by the Alliance Operation City and the City of Zagreb. The main function of Pogon is to provide the use of its facilities for cultural and youth programmes of the Zagreb based organizations free of charge.

Pogon is not defined by any aesthetic criteria or an articulated programme/curatorial concept, but functions as an open platform. Any NGO, art association and informal group can use Pogon's resources for the implementation of programmes in the field of contemporary art and culture, as well as for various activities aimed at young people.

The users of Pogon's resources implement their programmes in the following areas:

- contemporary art and culture;
- educational and information programmes vital for improving the quality of life of young people and youth work;
- educational programmes aimed at the development of capacities of civil society organizations in the culture and youth sector.

POGON is the direct result of the advocacy and activism of the organizations focused on finding the solution to the problem of insufficient infrastructure for independent cultural activities in Zagreb.

It was initiated by the coalition of NGOs consisting of two national networks; one independent culture network – Clulture Network, and the other made up of youth organizations – Croatian Youth Network, the local collaborative platform Zagreb – Cultural Capital of Europe 3000, and three independent cultural clubs: *Močvara*, *Attack!*, and *MaMa*. The coalition initiated a comprehensive advocacy process in early

2005, few months before the local elections. For the first time, the needs of independent culture and youth in Zagreb were clearly articulated, publicly discussed, and defined in a policy document signed by the future political decision-makers. In parallel with public discussions, media activities and protest actions, the coalition organized a series of events, *Operation:City*, which every year focused on a different specific issue important for the urban development of a modern city. Through various formats and forms of artistic expression, *Operation:City* temporarily occupied various abandoned locations and, among other things, promoted the idea of a cultural centre which Pogon was modelled after. The first *Operation:City* was held in one of the few remaining former factory sites that had not fallen prey to commercialization (the industrial site of Badel-Gorica). Over the period of ten days the space was temporarily occupied by over 50 programmes from more than 30 independent cultural organizations, drawing over 15,000 visitors. On the occasion, the city mayor promised to save the space for public use and use it as a cultural and youth centre.

<https://www.pogon.hr/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PogonZagreb>

https://www.instagram.com/pogon_zagreb/

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pogon-zagreb>

ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS THAT WE WERE INTRODUCED IN WARSAW

DWA JELONKI

The Place of Local Activity Dwa Jelonki. Dwa Jelonki is a place where the entire space is devoted solely to the activities of residents, and the main goal of the activity is to support local initiatives and neighbourhood integration. There is no pre-defined curriculum? It is the ideas of residents, informal groups and non-governmental organizations that make up the plan of action for this place on an ongoing basis. In Dwóch Jelonki you can, among others, meet your neighbours, learn new things for each other (neighbourhood workshops and training), organize meetings or just spend time together.

<https://www.facebook.com/dwajelonki>

PROJECT COMMUNITY CHOIR WRZAWA

The project involves the development of the Warszawa choir, which was established on the initiative of residents in 2018. It is an ensemble that performs songs related to the folklore of Warsaw. The members of the ensemble are residents of Bemowo and the surrounding area. The band's activities are in the form of open workshops. Any willing person can join the band at any time.

As part of the new local initiative, we plan to: develop the existing activities with more residents and their integration, expand the choir's repertoire, numerous concerts presenting Wrzawa's activities to a wide audience, mainly from the Bemowo district, but also beyond, spreading the idea of community, neighbourhood singing that unites generations. We are collecting repertoire for recording an album in the future.

The choir "Wrzawa" brings together several generations of inhabitants. It performs an integrative function, as it facilitates the getting to know each other of seemingly very different people. They can talk about their needs, support each other, expand their circle of interests and acquaintances. Anonymity and loneliness afflicting people of all ages is leveled. For some, the meetings are an opportunity to get out of the house, meet with friends, make friends, for others it is a form of therapy to push away stress and professional burnout. For some members, it's a form of realizing dreams or discovering/developing their abilities. The unquestionable joy of being useful regardless of age or health status is provided by the concerts.

An important element of the project is the assumption that the group is open. As a result, in a short period of time the choir has increased its ranks by 100% from an assumed 20, to now about 40 people. The number of regular attendees at rehearsals and concerts continues to grow. The estimated number attending a single rehearsal is about 35 people, and the audience for a single concert can be as large as 100 people.

Recipients of the concerts are also beneficiaries of the initiative. Performances are held in places such as the Veteran's Home, the Social Welfare Center, and bring the joy of contact with music that evokes memories of yesteryear. They dispel monotony, the sadness of worries or loneliness, and give a moment to forget illnesses. Often the audience sings, claps and, if possible, dances. It happens that these people

learn about the choir's activities and start coming to rehearsals. After concerts, the choir is anticipated and invited back (we already have concert plans for 2020). In addition, the concerts show that at any age you can act for yourself and others, be active. This prevents loneliness, depression, teaches self-control and creativity.

Concerts in other places of local activity also bring new members to "Wrzawa", provide an opportunity for residents of neighboring neighborhoods to get to know each other, to play together. The intense development of the choir goes hand in hand with the emergence of new neighbourhood initiatives. Bemowo is becoming a singing district. Music is a universal language - it unites people regardless of age and place of residence. This is why we see the need to open new directions of our activity.

<https://www.facebook.com/wrzawawarszawa>

PROJECT POTTERY CLASSES

Pottery workshop "Tratorria" is a part of Bemowskie Centrum Kultury since the very beginning of existing of our institution. It provides classes for kids, adult and elderly people of our community as well as family classes where people can come with their kids and bond together during classes.

Participants can familiarize themselves with the workings of the studio with ceramics, try sticking with different types of clay, use a variety of ceramic tools, or learn the basics of turning on the wheel. They can learn to create both utilitarian objects as well as decorative or sculptural objects.

During the classes, participants can learn basic ceramic techniques such as slice-pasting, roller-pasting and kneading. Participants can experiment with a variety of decorative techniques, such as glazing, bubbling, engraving, imprinting (e.g. popular and usually loved imprinting of plants), versatile use of engobes: scratching with sgraffito technique, monotype, stamping, use of stencils, drawing with ceramic pastels and many others.

In class, they discuss current exhibitions, interesting events, artistic events; especially those related to ceramics, but also those concerning art in general. They are introduced to the latest trends in ceramics, and discuss how to make work in techniques seen on the Internet. For participants are organized outdoor trips near Warsaw for the firing of Raku (to the creative work center Akademia Łucznicza)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100054271011357>

CERAMIC DOVES OF PEACE (art movement)

The project was created as a result of disagreement with the current war in Ukraine, but it is also a universal project, which is an expression of contestation of the situation of war and aggression. The project started in March 2022, after the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and it develops further, it is an open composition.

The project consists in creating ceramic doves, which are later stuck to the building boards and create a large mosaic. Mosaic is an open composition, on which everyone can attach objects at any time.

In order for the composition to be consistent, doves are created according to several rules:

- doves should BE DIRECTED HEAD TO THE RIGHT.
- doves will be glazed in WHITE.
- doves are flat - they will be part of the mosaic and will be glued on top of boards
- the thickness of the dove should be at least half (0.5) cm to max 2 cm. Preferably about 1 cm thick.
- the shape of the doves can be invented by the participants or they can use ready-made drawings.
- cabbage rolls can be freely decorated - engraved, stamped, plants, lace, glue elements
- components must be burned at about 1200C

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083002857010>

PROJECT CIVIC BUDGET

A civic budget, also known as a participatory budget, is a democratic process in which residents co-determine public spending in the city in the run-up to the next fiscal year.

In telegraphic terms, this means that:

residents submit task proposals for the budget, which are then analyzed by officials for feasibility; task proposals that have successfully passed the verification are put to a popular and direct vote; as a result, the projects that achieved the best result in the vote until the pool of funds is exhausted are allocated for implementation - entering them in the budget resolution.

<https://bo.um.warszawa.pl/site/welcome2>

<https://www.facebook.com/budzetobywatelskiwwarsawie>

OPS BEMOWO

Social Welfare Center for the Bemowo District of the Capital City of Warsaw is an organizational unit of the Capital City of Warsaw, which carries out social assistance tasks for the residents of the Bemowo District of the Capital City of Warsaw.

The main tasks of the Center include:

- organizing social assistance in the Bemowo District of the Capital City of Warsaw based on the provisions of the [Act of March 12, 2004 on social assistance \(i.e. Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1508, as amended\)](#)
- organizing and conducting support for families experiencing care and educational difficulties in the form of a family assistant and family support services on the basis of the provisions of [the Act of 9 June 2011 on supporting the family and the foster care system \(i.e. Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1111\)](#))
- counteracting domestic violence by providing various individual and group forms of support to people experiencing violence on the basis of the provisions of the Act of 29 July 2005 on counteracting domestic violence (i.e. Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1390 as amended)
- determining the right to healthcare services financed from public funds under [the Act of 27 August 2004 on healthcare services financed from public funds \(i.e. Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1373\)](#)

The center operates on the basis of the statute given by the Council of the Capital City of Warsaw by Resolution No. XXIX / 918/2008 of April 17, 2008 on granting statutes to social welfare centers of the Capital City of Warsaw. Warsaw, as amended. Consolidated text of the resolution, including the changes introduced until October 14, 2021 inclusive, to be downloaded: [Resolution No. LV / 1738/2021 of October 14, 2021.](#)

<http://www.opsbemowo.waw.pl/>

<https://www.facebook.com/opsbemowo>

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF FRIENDSHIP (OSIEDLE PRZYJAŻŃ)

The Osiedle Przyjaźń initiative brings together residents and supporters of the "Przyjaźń" estate in Warsaw

There is a place in Warsaw where wooden buildings displace concrete, the public space is dominated by greenery, and children from half of the estate play along narrow streets without a name. Although the quarters of identical houses are a legacy of times that you do not miss, the unique atmosphere and coherence of this place, distinguished among contemporary trends in urban planning, can really delight. Przyjaźń estate has survived unchanged for 70 years.

The Neighbourhood of Friendship was established in 1952 for Soviet workers and engineers who came to Warsaw to build the Palace of Culture and Science. When the Palace of Culture and Science was finished in 1955 the estate was given to the universities of Warsaw to be turned into dormitories.

Members of the neighborhood make tours around the neighborhood, share parts of its diverse history collected and allow you to experience the active local community committed to preserving their estate.

<https://www.facebook.com/InicjatywaOsiedlePrzyjazn>

MAL PAŁACYK KONOPACKIEGO

In 2021, after many years of revitalization, the Konopacki Palace became the second seat of the "Praga" Cultural Center. "Konopacyk" is a modern designed interior that serves as a cultural meeting place for the residents of Prague.

We want to see the "Praga" Community Center as a friendly, open space for every inhabitant (not only) of Praga, regardless of age. We are changing all the time. Currently, we primarily educate through art, we carry out artistic and social activities, also of integrative importance. We are looking for professional and creative ways to develop our pupils, including those with disabilities. We focus on locality, supporting grassroots initiatives, building Prague's identity and creating bonds with residents. We actively cooperate with institutions and non-governmental organizations, we co-create the cultural life of the district. With good energy.

The Praga Cultural Center is a local government institution that has existed since 2002. We are located at ul. Dąbrowszczaków is a tenement house built in the 1950s. We operate on 4 floors of a building with an area of only 800 m². In 13 small rooms, we persistently organize a space for the creative work of

residents. The door of our house is open to Warsaw residents for approx. 70 hours a week. Currently, about 20 employees and over 30 animators organize the local community the opportunity to actively participate in culture. Everyone can visit us, regardless of age (today the youngest participant of the classes is only 0.2years, and the oldest is 92).

In 2021, after many years of revitalization, the Konopacki Palace, known as the "Praga Palace of Culture", was handed over to the House of Culture "Praga". "Konopacyk" has modern interior and equipment designed. We invite you to ul. Strzelcka 11/13.

We are waiting for you from Monday to Friday from 9.00-20.00, and on selected Saturdays and Sundays - during the event hours . In summer, in addition to classes at our own headquarters, we invite you to a series of events in the Praga Neighborhood Garden at al. Solidarności 55 and to the Concert Shell in Park Praski.

<https://www.dkpraga.pl/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PalacykKonopackiego>

CULTURA VIRUS

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