

LITHUANIA

Local development

Location

Tulpiakėmis

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Measure

M19 – LEADER/CLLD

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 42 817.00

EAFRD 28 253.07

National/Regional 4 985.84

Private 9 578.09

Project duration

2020 – 2020

Project promoter

VšĮ 'Užimtumo namai' (non-profit organization)

Contact

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Website

n/a

Setting up and expanding modular containers as workspaces where people from vulnerable groups in Lithuania carry out manual work, gaining an income and valuable social connection.

Summary

The Tulpiakėmis village is 30 km from the city of Ukmergė in Vilnius County, Lithuania. In this village there are many older people with low social skills, low income or no experience in the labour market and find it difficult to get into the city to earn an income.



In 2018 a workspace was opened in the village, offering people of different socially vulnerable groups an opportunity to work and feel useful. These workplaces are housed in modular containers where people carry out orders for various companies, in the form of manual work that cannot be done by machines. In 2019, using support from the LEADER programme, the premises were expanded by purchasing additional modular containers to provide more workspaces, a rest area, a storage room and an administrative workplace (containing a computer, printer and telephone).

Results

Two new full-time jobs were created.

The workspace now employs more than 20 people with business licenses: this is an increase of ten members of staff from before the project started.

The 'Užimtumo namai' workspace operates on the basis of business licenses, as the number of people who come to work every day varies, and their pay depends on the number of orders and the work done by each person.

Socially vulnerable people working with a business license can earn money, and as a result the number of socially disadvantaged people in the district is decreasing as through working, people can improve their financial and social situation.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The project was implemented with a financial contribution from the Ukmergė District Municipality administration. The project would also not have been possible without effective networking with local businesses and companies.
- ❑ In addition, the quality of work and increasing employment builds trust between all stakeholders.



Context

The Tulpiakiemis village is 30 km from the city of Ukmergė in Vilnius Country, Lithuania. In this village there are many older people with low social skills, low income or no experience in the labour market. They find it difficult to get to the city in search of alternative sources of income as buses only run three times a week during the summer and not everyone has a car.

In 2018, a workspace was opened in the village, where people living in rural areas and belonging to different socially vulnerable groups have the opportunity to work and feel useful. These are workplaces in modular containers where people of retirement age, part-time workers, mothers raising children and people belonging to other socially vulnerable groups carry out orders for various companies. The work consists of manual tasks that cannot be done by machine - such as sorting, processing, assembling or packing - depending upon the particular work package or commission.

In 2019, using the Ukmergė District Local Action Group measure ‘NGO Social Business Creation and Development’, the work premises were expanded (by purchasing additional modular containers) and equipped with a rest area, a sanitary unit and an administrative workplace containing a computer, printer and telephone.

Objectives

The main goals of this project were:

- implementing the concept of a social enterprise;
- increasing the diversity and quality of social services; and
- reducing the unemployment rate in Ukmergė district by creating jobs and giving socially vulnerable people the opportunity to earn money.

Activities

The main activities carried out under this project included:

- purchasing modular containers for creating more workplaces, a rest area, a sanitary unit, an office and a storage room;
- expanding the activities of the social business and involving more direct beneficiaries; and
- creating new job opportunities for socially vulnerable residents of the district.

The team of employees of Užimtumo namai finds customers who need manual workers. Today, seven different companies have subcontracted services to the social workspace. These include printing houses and furniture manufacturing companies. In the workspace, clients are provided with manual work services, tasks that cannot be performed by machines. In this way, they receive not only a high quality, inexpensive and fast service, but also the opportunity to reduce the administrative burden of hiring teams of temporary staff. Moving small aspects of their production offsite can also free up space at their own premises.

After the implementation of the project, and thanks to the increased working capacity and storage facility, the workspace enterprise was able to take on more customers and expand the range of services provided. Just a few months after the end of the project, five new subcontracts were signed with five different companies. This diversified the client base and enabled a more stable income for the rural population who were providing the services.

Main results

Two new full-time jobs were created.

The workspace now employs more than 20 people with business licenses: this is an increase of ten members of staff from before the project started.

The ‘Užimtumo namai’ workspace operates on the basis of business licenses, as the number of people who come to work every day varies, and their remuneration depends on the number of orders and the work done by each person.

Socially vulnerable people working with a business licence can earn money, and as a result the number of socially disadvantaged people in the district is decreasing as when working, people can improve their financial and social situation.

Key lessons

The project was implemented with the financial contribution from Ukmergė District Municipality. The project would also not have been possible without effective networking with local businesses and companies such as printing houses, traders and furniture dealers.

In addition, the quality of work and increased employment, as a result of the project, has built trust between all stakeholders.

Additional sources of information

www.facebook.com/U%C5%BEmtumo-namai-104757191222265

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV7uX-

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