



Cities for Active Inclusion



The active inclusion of young people: Krakow

**EUROCITIES NETWORK
OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
OBSERVATORIES ON
ACTIVE INCLUSION**

CITIES FOR ACTIVE INCLUSION

The EUROCITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) is a dynamic network of nine European cities - Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Krakow, Lille Métropole - Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm - each with a local authority observatory (LAO) within its administration.

Their aim is to share information, promote mutual learning and carry out research on the implementation of active inclusion strategies at the local level. The nine observatories are coordinated by EUROCITIES, the network of major cities in Europe, and supported through a partnership with the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion).

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1. Introduction

Krakow, in Poland's Malopolska region, has 755,000 inhabitants and is the third biggest city in Poland. According to the most recent data (2009), 12.6% of Krakow's population is 0-14 years of age; 12.9% of the population is 15-24 years old; and 18.4% is 25-34 years old. In line with Poland as a whole, the city's profile remains relatively young: this is mainly due to the baby boom from the end of the 1970s to the beginning of the 1980s (see Annex).

The availability of quality education is seen as a major advantage for Krakow, as the city has more educational institutions that are rated as good quality compared with the rest of the country. Moreover, Krakow, and the Malopolska region in general, invests in a wide range of scholarships for talented young people. A significant feature of the city is that it is considered a city of students. Many young people move to there to complete their higher education. However, these students are often not reflected as inhabitants of the city in the official statistics, because they are permanent residents elsewhere. In 2009, figures show that 212,015 students were studying at Krakow's higher education institutions, representing 10% of all students in Poland¹. In fact, during each academic year (October to June), the number of inhabitants in the city grows to approximately one million.

The unemployment rate in Krakow is relatively low at 5% (about 20,500 people). This compares with an overall rate of 11% unemployment for the Malopolska Region and 13% for the whole of Poland². In 2008, the unemployment rate in Krakow was as low as 2.6%, but by 2010 it had grown back to the 5% level that was last seen in 2006/7.

People in Poland have to be 18 years old or above to register as unemployed; and in 2010, when a total of 18,722 people were registered as unemployed in Krakow, 14% were aged 18-25 years (2,593 people), while 32% were aged 25-34 years. In fact, the share of unemployed people aged 25-34 years has been steadily growing in the city: from 25% in 2000 to 32% in 2010.

In an analysis made in order to prepare the city's Strategy for the Development of Krakow³, the lack of attractive jobs for young people was mentioned as a key weakness for the city. In addition, the outflow of talented graduates who leave the city after completing their education was also indicated as an issue. Krakow is perceived as a great city for studying, but the local labour market for graduates is rather stagnant. Therefore, one of the aims of Krakow's Strategy is to take more advantage of the fact that the city is an academic centre.

Another challenge for the city is the increasing social stratification and worsening living conditions of the city's poorest people⁴. Krakow's Municipal Social Assistance Centre reports that it provided 5% of the city's inhabitants with support in 2009, with 19,479 families in total receiving financial assistance⁵. In the light of the growing gap between those with low incomes and those who are well-off (see Annex for statistics on social assistance), the feeling of safety is becoming an issue for citizens, and young people are one of the main target groups to which crime prevention activities are directed. Although research from 2007 showed that citizens of Krakow feel fairly safe in the city, groups of aggressive young people and groups of football hooligans are still mentioned as threats to safety by Krakow citizens⁶.

¹ Municipality Statistics: www.bip.krakow.pl/zalaczniki/dokumenty/n/72774/0/karta.

² Statistics of the Municipal Employment Agency, March 2011: www.gupkrakow.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=6&Itemid=29.

³ Strategy for the Development of Kraków, Municipality: www.bip.krakow.pl/?mmi=209.

⁴ As above: Strategy for the Development of Kraków, Municipality: www.bip.krakow.pl/?mmi=209.

⁵ Municipal Social Assistance Centre in Krakow Yearly Report: www.mops.krakow.pl/statyczne/sprawozdania/2009/opisowe/2009.pdf.

⁶ Safe Kraków - research report from 2007: www.bip.krakow.pl/zalaczniki/dokumenty/21826.



A further specific group of young people who need to be supported are those who are referred to as street children: research into street children has shown that this is a significant problem in Krakow. In recent sociological research, 1,372 observations were made of children aimlessly hanging around on the city's streets. 60% of these observations were of street children seen for the first time; the remaining 40% were observed multiple times (www.archiwum.mlodziej.info/images/mpppm.pl/DZIECI_ULICY_30.11.pdf). The Rakowicka10 programme⁷ aims to take care of this group of young people.

Another group of children and young people at risk in Krakow are those who are begging in the city centre. To help combat this problem, a specific campaign with the message 'If you give money, you take away childhood' was organised by the city⁸: this mainly addressed tourists visiting Krakow, using signs placed in restaurants, hotels and cafes.

It cannot be denied that young people in Krakow are offered a wide range of activities, both free and paid-for, directed to different groups of young people in different areas of the city, and organised by different institutions and bodies. The major responsibility of the Municipality is education: approximately 29% of the city's budget goes on education and schooling. There is also other public funding in favour of young people within various budgets, in areas such as sport and recreation, culture and social care. In these areas, money is often allocated to projects that benefit a wider group of people; so it can be hard to estimate a total amount specifically spent on young people.

In addition to education, the following public sector organisations are also involved in supporting young people in Krakow:

- **The Municipal Social Assistance Centre:** this centre is responsible for the organisation of the city's 35 or so day centres which offer facilities for about 2,000 for children and young people, as well as organising places in foster families.
- **The Municipal Employment Agency:** this takes care of young unemployed people: as for all unemployed people registered with the Agency, unemployed young people can participate in professional courses and soft-skills training, and can apply for funds to support their entry into the labour market. In the job recruitment process, preference is given to young people up to 25 years old.
- **The Education Department:** this department organises the 14 Youth Cultural Centres in Krakow, which offer a wide range of activities.
- **The Sports Department** arranges multiple large scale events as well as regular training sessions for young people within the framework of the municipal sport and recreational programmes.

The activities mentioned above are organised within the statutory legal framework of obligations, which for example, cover exclusion prevention, sustaining families with the lowest economic status, and providing support to the unemployed.

In addition, various programmes are coordinated by public sector institutions which are especially for young people and which offer them additional activities. These programmes aim to empower young people, organise recreation and sports or provide counselling, and include the following:

- **Young Krakow (Młody Kraków):** The Young Krakow (Młody Kraków) programme is implemented by the Youth Unit, which is part of city's Social Affairs Department. Its three main objectives are: to strengthen the active citizenship of young people; to integrate socially excluded young people in the life of the city; and to create space where young people can engage in cultural expression.

⁷ Rakowicka 10: www.rakowicka10.pl/.

⁸ www.mlodziej.info/static/show/id=78.



- **Krakow Academy of Self-governance:** In terms of encouraging citizenship, an excellent example is the Krakow Academy of Self-governance which helps empower young people who are leaders in the school pupils' councils.
- **Śmigło:** The Social Affairs Department publishes a newspaper called Śmigło, which is for and by young people, with young people acting as the journalists; and this department also provides a dedicated website for young people in Krakow: www.mlodykrakow.info.
- **The Juliada:** A city sports and games event, known as the Juliada, is organised in July every year for young people who stay in the city during the summer holidays.

NGOs also carry out many activities for young people. These are supported by or commissioned by public institutions within a framework of grant programmes, or they are undertaken voluntarily. For example, day centre activities are contracted out by the Municipal Social Assistance Centre to local non-governmental organisations. As these organisations are rooted in the local community, they have a better knowledge of the needs of the community and in addition, some possess the space for such activities, including parish buildings. Furthermore, some organisations have contacts with specific groups: for example, the Umbrella Centre for Prevention and Social Education (Centrum Profilaktyki i Edukacji Społecznej PARASOL), due to its successful experience in providing support to women at risk of exclusion who work in prostitution, is also contracted to provide services for street children, which, as mentioned above, remains an issue in Krakow⁹. There are also church organisations which are strongly engaged in providing social assistance and support in Krakow. The religious orders and other church related associations (both formal and informal) offer a variety of activities to young people of different ages and provide social assistance to disadvantaged groups. One very good example is the 'Siemacha' association which is described later in this report.

In short, the activities aimed at the active inclusion of young people in Krakow are undertaken by various organisations and offer many different services and facilities, and there is no single central body to coordinate them. Diverse institutions have separate strategic objectives in which young people are often included as participants: these include most of the city's programmes and tasks, such as those connected to culture, sport and social care. There is the Youth Unit, which is part of the city's Social Affairs Department, but this body does not coordinate the city's activities for young people: it consists of a team of four people who run some specific projects in the city within the Young Krakow programme.

The sheer number of youth-focused initiatives can make it difficult to integrate all the projects, as it can be hard to ensure a smooth flow of information between different organisations. However, many youth-focused social inclusion programmes share the services of other organisations, and many programmes, including the street-based social work programme run by the Municipal Social Assistance Centre, often direct young people to other organisations. Furthermore, having a large number of initiatives located in a variety of different areas of the city means that perhaps a wider target audience of young people from different backgrounds can be reached. There is also a variety of different channels through which young people can learn about these youth inclusion initiatives, from schools and local communities through to street-based outreach workers.

⁹ Rakowicka 10: www.rakowicka10.pl.



2. Policy and practices for the active inclusion of young people

Young people are defined differently by different institutions in Poland. Even though, according to Polish law, a person becomes adult on reaching 18 years of age, the definition of a young person differs across different programmes. For many organisations, being in education appears to be, in addition to age, another indicator of being young. One example is Krakow's Municipal Social Assistance Centre, which offers support to all young people up to 21 years, but only if they are in education. Another example is scholarships for young people in foster care: as long as an 18-year-old leaving foster care is continuing in education, they receive an additional financial scholarship¹⁰. There are also programmes for young people that include those aged up to 26 years old and even those up to 30 years old.

Although students remain the biggest group of young people in Krakow, they are not a main target group for the city's policies for the active inclusion of young people¹¹. There may be two reasons for this: firstly, most of the students are not officially citizens of Krakow, as they are not registered in the city; and secondly, students may not be a main target group because higher education is not a local government core competence.

A special case in terms of active inclusion policy in Krakow comprises young people who are aged 18 years and above who are not in education employment or training (NEETs). They are perceived as adults and are usually left to fend for themselves. This group is generally not targeted by the city's social policies and some individuals who do not manage to find work can become at risk of social exclusion. The street-based outreach programme is one way to support this group.

According to municipal documents, many activities for youth inclusion are directed strategically towards young people with difficulties, even though the programmes are very often open to any young person who is willing to participate. In addition, educational activities in schools and cultural centres are also open to all young people. The meaning of the term 'young people with difficulties' is widely interpreted by participating organisations, but it generally seems to refer to young people who have problems with participating in education or in the labour market (depending on their age) and/or in civic life. These difficulties can be due to a wide range of causes: for example, psychological problems such as aggression or passivity; a lack of family support, for example, due to domestic violence, or generally poor relationships with family members, or a lack of trust; economic hardship due to unemployment and poverty; problems with the law; health issues; risky behaviours such as substance addiction; or being a member of an ethnic minority, for example, having a Roma background.

The main priority for work on the social inclusion of young people seems to be focused on the integration of young people into mainstream society, for example, by supporting them back into education or into employment, in order to prevent them turning to crime or drug abuse. Young people are very often perceived as a possible source of trouble by the city's policy makers¹². From 1999 to 2009, Krakow ran a programme called the Municipal Prevention Programme Against Youth Crime. This was the first city programme to focus mostly on young people, but, significantly, it was created within a wider initiative called Safe Krakow. The result was that most of the related projects defined young people negatively, as a threat or danger to the

¹⁰ Information from the Municipal Social Assistance Centre.

¹¹ There is one exception: over the next year the Municipality will produce a pocket guide for first year students arriving in the city. This project mirrors the project that provides a pocket guide for young people aged 18 years old: this is like a citizens' compendium and young people receive it with their ID.

¹² Young Kraków website: www.mlodziem.info/s4: In 2008, 863 under-age young people committed 1,626 crimes (according to Kraków Police). Additionally, research shows the number of young people aged 15 who have smoked within last 30 days decreased in the last 10 years from 40% to 20%; the number of those aged 15 who have drunk alcohol in the last 30 days remained more or less stable; and a higher number of 15-year-olds said that access to cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana is very difficult (www.bip.krakow.pl/zalaczniki/dokumenty/n/73129/0/karta).



public, rather than positively as a valuable resource. New programmes such as Young Krakow represent a step in the right direction, towards a new more positive approach, showing young people as citizens who are active, engaged, creative and willing to learn, with their own ideas and an ability to act for themselves.

An excellent example of the developments for the active inclusion of young people in Krakow is the group of about 35 day centres, led by local NGOs or church organisations, providing services and activities for about 2,000 young people. As defined by the city's Ministry of Labour and Social Policy¹³, these centres support families and children and young people with educational and behavioural problems, in order to prevent them from taking up negative behaviours such as crime and substance addiction. The centres work in collaboration with local schools and other institutions. Even if these centres have been designed with the objective of reducing the risks to society, they organise a wide variety of additional activities and become great places for engaging young people in city life, empowering them and supporting their grassroots activities.

Addiction prevention is also an important aim of the city's projects. One initiative concentrates on informative and educational campaigns directed towards children and young people. In addition, the project demonstrates that promoting active ways of spending free time, through participation in sport or cultural activities, lowers the risk of substance abuse¹⁴.

Activities and services are also organised for young people entering the labour market after graduating. The most active bodies in this area are still the career offices at the universities, which offer training and counselling to their students and graduates. Training and counselling are also available at Krakow's Centre for Information and Professional Career Planning, part of the Municipal Employment Agency¹⁵. There are also information centres in Krakow that provide career guidance to other young people, with special focus on secondary school pupils. One example is the Regional Centre for Youth Information which is a member of the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA), an international not-for-profit association which forms a network of youth information centres around Europe¹⁶.

When it comes to helping young people to enter the labour market after the age of 25 years, the Municipal Social Assistance Centre, thanks to European Social Fund money, offers a programme called 'Time for Activity'. This aims to support all unemployed people aged 25-55 to enter the labour market, and within the programme, an individual action plan is designed for each participant in order to meet their needs and expectations. An individual action plan might consist of: participation in a Social Integration Club; guidance from specialists; counselling; professional courses; and language courses¹⁷. In addition, the Municipal Employment Agency redistributes European funds that are designed to support entry into labour market: this funding has several groups of beneficiaries, but one of the priorities is to support the recruitment into work of young people up to 25 years old.

University graduates in Krakow can also participate in the national scheme supporting the transition from school to work, known as the graduate internship programme¹⁸. This programme is designed to help graduates gain work experience during an internship lasting from 3 to 12 months. The costs are covered by the Regional Employment Agency, so that the working graduate receives a salary of about €130 Euro (about 500 PLN). Unfortunately, this salary is so low that only those who live with their parents or have adequate savings can afford to take advantage of Krakow's graduate internship programme, as living costs are relatively high.

The city also offers labour market integration programmes to those young people who drop out of education at an early age or who do not receive family support. For young people who have had problems within the educational system and are 16-18 years old, there is the opportunity to apply for a place at the Ochotniczy

¹³ Municipal programme: Gminny Program Profilaktyki i Rozwiązywania Problemów Alkoholowych oraz Przeciwdziałania Narkomanii w Krakowie na rok 2011: www.mpips.gov.pl/index.php?gid=81.

¹⁴ Source: Gminny Program Profilaktyki i Rozwiązywania Problemów Alkoholowych oraz Przeciwdziałania Narkomanii w Krakowie na rok 2011: www.bip.krakow.pl/zalaczniki/dokumenty/n/73131/0/karta.

¹⁵ www.wup-krakow.pl/uslugi-ryнку-pracy/poradnictwo-zawodowe/spotkania-z-doradca-zawodowym-folder.

¹⁶ www.rcim.krakow.pl/main/wpis.php?id_g=47&id=166.

¹⁷ www.bip.krakow.pl/?dok_id=27833.

¹⁸ www.psz.praca.gov.pl/main.php?do=ShowPage&nPID=867713&pT=details&sP=CONTENT,objectID,867794.



Hufiec Pracy employment college¹⁹: this is a public institution which provides services such as professional and vocational training, education, social integration, and crime prevention activities. One of the aims of the Ochotniczy Hufiec Pracy college is to prepare young people for specific jobs such as chef, hairdresser, locksmith, carpenter or car mechanic. Young people receive a salary for their work, and, if they come from another area, they are also given a place in residential accommodation. Individuals can also educate themselves in vocational schools for adults.

For young people without the support of a family, there are the programmes organised by the Municipal Social Assistance Centre, which is responsible for organising foster care. This centre offers support programmes for young people when they leave their foster homes. Protected housing is available for those who are 18 years old, as well as early counselling while young people are still with their foster families, in order to smooth the process of becoming independent adults.

In terms of training for young people aimed at encouraging them to enter sectors where growth in demand is forecast, for example, the green sector, the digital sector, and the creative sector, training is mostly organised by the universities. Because of the fact that young people from the demographic boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s have now left education and entered the labour market, and the number of young people of educational age is now decreasing, in the next few years, the higher education sector is likely to face severe competition due to smaller numbers of potential students. This is why the universities are now trying to offer more innovative and attractive courses. One excellent initiative in this area is a project aimed at attracting women to study subjects that have traditionally been perceived as male. For example, the University of Science and Technology in Krakow has participated in a campaign called 'Girls - go for polytechnics, girls - go for sciences!' ²⁰. It is said that as a result of this campaign, the number of girls studying sciences in Poland has increased by 10,000 people in just three years. A second example of an initiative promoting new trends in education is the Doctus Scholarship programme. Directed towards doctoral students, this offers major scholarships for those involved in research in areas such as: technology, renewable energy, environmental protection, health and medical technologies, and information and communication technologies²¹. Also, to help develop opportunities in the creative sector, once a year Krakow offers about 15 scholarships for talented individuals to implement projects in theatre, film, literature, dance and other artistic sectors.

3. The main challenges for the active inclusion of young people

European funds remain a very important source of funding for youth activities in Krakow: these funds allow the city to meet statutory requirements as well as providing additional services for young people. The most important source of funding for organisations working to improve the active inclusion of young people has been the European Social Fund (within the priority of improving human capital). In addition, Krakow schools and universities actively participate in EU youth programmes under the umbrella of lifelong learning initiatives such as Youth in Action, Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus.

One of the main challenges in terms of the active inclusion of young people is the emergence of a new group of people that is now perceived as in need of active inclusion support in Krakow: football hooligans,

¹⁹ www.malopolska.ohp.pl/pl/24778/0/Hufiec_Pracy_6-8_Krakow.html.

²⁰ www.dziewczynynapolitechniki.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=208&Itemid=125.

²¹ www.stypendia.mcp.malopolska.pl/aktualnosc.php?id=199.



who can be aggressive and are often involved in fights. This group of young men aged between 15 and 30 or 35 years old is hard for organisations to reach as they are often opposed to mainstream organisations, and they are also not in education, employment or training (NEETs). They spend a lot of time hanging around in their neighborhoods and do not usually choose to participate in any positive activities. In addition to having personal issues such as violence, aggression, bad family relations, and problems with law, these groups of people are often very passive: they do not actively search for work. The only way to reach this group of people effectively is through street-based outreach work, which involves social workers working locally in their clients' neighbourhoods²² (this approach is described further below).

A second challenge for the active inclusion of young people may be a new group that is at risk of social exclusion, according to administrative workers: young people whose parents are absent because they are working abroad. As these young people are left alone without proper parental guidance, they may be at risk; however, this target group has not yet been formally identified as being in need of support, and they may have the skills and motivation to remain socially included.

4. Good lessons

4.1 'Streetwork - effective contact' project²³

Launched in January 2010, the 'Streetwork - effective contact' project is being funded by the European Social Fund, and is being implemented by Krakow's Municipal Social Assistance Centre. Its aim is to help young people who live without effective family support and who spend most of their time hanging around on the streets. These young people are often referred to as street children and they have multiple disadvantages. The project works with about 150 young people aged 15-25 years old in Krakow: some 70% of them are male. Nine street-based outreach workers are employed to go into the local neighbourhoods and make direct contact with groups of young people hanging around on the street, trying to engage them and motivate them to change their lives for the better and be pro-active. These groups are often quite passive and inward-looking: some rarely move from their own neighbourhood, which is why it is necessary to approach them in their own locality.

It has to be stressed that the work undertaken by the street-based social workers involves continued and regular contact with these young people, and sometimes also includes special workshops or psychological therapy. The target group consists of young people with risky behaviours such as aggression or drug abuse; football hooligans; young people with family problems; and those with economic or psychological hardships. The project does not offer young people ready-made solutions to their situation, but instead tries to motivate them to take action: to empower them to develop ideas for interesting initiatives and to help them implement these initiatives, also including the provision of financial support. These initiatives are typically sports activities or competitions, music events, cultural trips or other events.

The 'Streetwork - effective contact' project also tries to support young people in finding employment. This sometimes includes funding for professional courses. For example, a course in working at high altitude has resulted in young people setting up a high rise window cleaning company. Other young people have taken courses in forklift truck operation. Street-based social workers also provide young people with information on where to find professional help for their problems: they redirect these young people to useful organisations in the city. It is important to point out that this initiative does not organise activities or services for young people: instead, it tries to support them in carrying out their own projects.

²² www.mops.krakow.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=690&Itemid=149.

²³ www.streetwork.mops.krakow.pl.



4.2 Siemacha Association

The Siemacha²⁴ association is a very effective non-governmental organisation responsible for providing a range of day centre facilities for young people and foster families, including sports zones, and also protected housing for young people aged over 18 who have left their foster homes. This association is perceived by the Krakow authorities, and by the general public, as very well organised, professional and trustworthy, and it has many institutional and private partners. Its work has become a model for other cities: Siemacha centres have also been established, for example, in Kielce, Wroclaw, Tarnow and Katowice. The association has very strict educational aims and sets very high standards of work in taking care of a young person's cognitive, educational, social, emotional and physical development. The association is also quite innovative: for example, it has recently opened the first shopping mall day centre, because shopping malls appear to be a new area where many young people hang around and passively spend their time. Research shows that the Siemacha centres have a positive effect on the social integration of young people who have difficult family situations and few economic resources²⁵.

The organisation concentrates primarily on organising constructive ways for children and young people to spend their out-of-school time. The centres offer multiple activities for young people to develop their creative potential in music, art, film, sports and many other areas. In most of the day centres, young people are welcome to participate in any of the activities; however, they still need to commit to the process of being a Siemacha member. In addition, it is very important to work with young leaders and with those young people who are particularly active participants in the Siemacha youth centres. The group leaders motivate these young people to act independently and to be involved in the functioning of the centres. The centres also work with parents.

The most spectacular Siemacha initiative to date is the creation of the 6000 square metre Com Com Zone fitness centre, which is in the somewhat deprived Nowa Huta area of Krakow²⁶. It is a modern sports centre, offering a range of facilities including a swimming pool, fitness club, indoor sports hall and outdoor football pitch. However, it is not a regular commercial sports centre. Instead, for example, it offers the opportunity for young people to use the swimming pool for free in the summer and winter holidays, and the money earned from the sports centre is being used to fund other Siemacha activities. In the same building, there is also space for educational and care activities, including a day care centre, foster care centre and the Krakow Institute for Psychotherapy which offers free therapy or counselling for children, young people and families.

5. Future plans for promoting active inclusion of young people

As education remains Krakow's strongest asset, it appears crucial that in the coming years the city needs to concentrate on creating satisfactory labour market conditions for young people in order to make it attractive for them to stay in Krakow after completing their education. It is also important to provide them with good quality conditions for setting up a family. These actions are necessary because according to demographic projections, the population of Krakow is set to decrease in future years. It is therefore important for the city to retain graduates after they complete their education, by revitalising the labour market, as well as allowing more funds to support entrepreneurship among young people. However, it is not clear why preference is given to providing entrepreneurial support for young people aged up to 25 years, given that the biggest group of unemployed people appears to be those aged 25-34 years old.

²⁴ www.siemacha.org.pl.

²⁵ www.siemacha.org.pl/texts/Mlodziez%20w%20Nowej%20Hucie%20a%20Siemacha.pdf.

²⁶ www.comcomzone.pl/index.php?page=comcomzone-krakow_o-nas.



Unemployment is not predicted to become too great a problem in Krakow, as graduates who are more talented will simply leave the city in search of better job opportunities. However, even if unemployment does not become widespread, there is still the issue, already illustrated by the presence of groups of football hooligans, of poorly educated young people, predominantly male, who are not eager to actively look for a job. This group of young people will become recipients of social assistance and the focus for active inclusion programmes, as long as they remain a possible source of violence and crime.

Concerning young people still in school, there is a need for more programmes to promote active citizenship. What is necessary is to engage young people in bringing changes in their neighbourhoods, for example by creating events and by setting up relevant organisations. The first step would be to create a Krakow youth council: a body representing school pupils and submitting its own projects to the Municipality.



Annex 1: Data

1. Population data: National Statistical Office, Polish Demographic Yearbook:
www.stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xbcr/gus/PUBL_rs_rocznik_demograficzny_2010.pdf

		Total	0 years	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years
Krakow	2008	754,624	7,537	26,096	29,887	30,999	41,783	61,757	70,453	68,429
	2009	755,000	7,974	27,308	29,794	30,105	39,871	58,074	69,582	69,390
	Males	352,889	4,072	14,114	15,452	15,272	20,226	29,822	33,055	33,345
	Females	402,111	3,902	13,194	14,342	14,833	19,645	28,252	36,527	36,045

2. Social assistance benefits:
www.stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xbcr/krak/ASSETS_09m10_14.pdf

	2000	2005	2008
Beneficiaries	24,055	23,870	20,886
Benefits granted in PLN	31,932	48,402	62,442

3. Unemployment according to age:
www.stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xbcr/krak/ASSETS_09m06_11.pdf

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2010
24 years or less (persons)	6,416	3,701	1,492	1,376	2,593
25-34 years (persons)	6,427	7,300	4,009	3,237	5,928
24 or less (% of all unemployed)	26%	15%	10%	13%	14%
25-34 (% of all unemployed)	25%	29%	28%	31%	32%