Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Lokalnych w Żeszczynce (SILWZ)



Żeszczynka is a village located 20km from the eastern border of the European Union (Poland-Belarus borderline)



The association was created by local inhabitants to support their initiatives.

The direct cause of it was a shutdown of the only local school by the government in 2007.



Inhabitants of Żeszczynka formed the association in 2008 and regain possession of the school building as a legal seat of SILWZ.

The association has established a Center for Tradition, Culture and Education at the building.



SILWZ is a non-profit volunteer-based organisation.

We are active in area of adult education workshops, various nonformal educational actions and preservation of the local cultural heritage.

Recently we have organised not only our statutory cultural events (e.g. Milk Festival) but also actions within our 2 international Grundtvig and one national domestic projects



Milk festival is held each year at the seat of the association in Zeszczynka. It gathers large number of people from neighbouring villages.

The main idea of the event is to let everyone to present his own homemade diary products, taste other ones and take part in a competition for the best ones. The event is enriched by traditional games and folk shows.



One of our Grundtvig projects is "Questing – adult education in the open air" 2012-2014 funded by the European Commission within Grundtvig Learning Partnership under LLP.

One of the aims is to create by each of partner organisation a quest i.e. educational field game which indirectly promotes unique cultural heritage of each partner's region.



The other of Grundtvig projects is "ACtIV" 2012-2014 funded by the European Commission within Grundtvig Senior Volunteering under LLP.

The point of the project is to host 4 volunteers 50+ from the partner organisation for 3 weeks and include them into the statutory works.



Our national project funded by Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy within ASOS programme is "Folk University of Zeszczynka".

Within this project 25 local people at the age of 60+ take part in various educational workshops such as ICT, law, psychological consultations etc.



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Rządowy Program na rzecz Aktywności Społecznej Osób Starszych na lata 2012-2013 Upon request, SILWZ provide questing game "Milky Way" addressed at youth and adults and a relaxing folk dinner under the open sky.

The quest consists of riddles refering to old customs and learning traditional crafts.



There is a rich cultural heritage in the region which needs to be preserved and promoted.

It is a region where three different religions (Catholic, Orthodox and Jews) and several ethnic groups coexisted for centuries and have left many records.



Thank you for your attention