

Social entrepreneurship - the possibilities and prospects
Belgrade, April 26th 2010

Economy of inclusion

**Experiences of the
Barka's Network of
Cooperation in Poland**

Background information about Barka

HOMELESSNESS, ADDICTIONS, DELINQUENCY, PASSIVITY: 1st step – creation of communities;

LACK OF SKILLS : 2nd step – socio-educational programme, inspiration for the act on social employment;

LACK OF LEGAL REGULATIONS: 3rd step – work places creation programme and social entrepreneurship – Barka prepared a proposal for a new law to give legal recognition to social cooperatives – law on social cooperatives;

SHORTAGE, OVERCROWDED AND DAMP HOUSING: 4th step – housing programme – act on financial support for creation of social housing, shelters and hostels for the homeless

- Equal Project 2005 – 2008

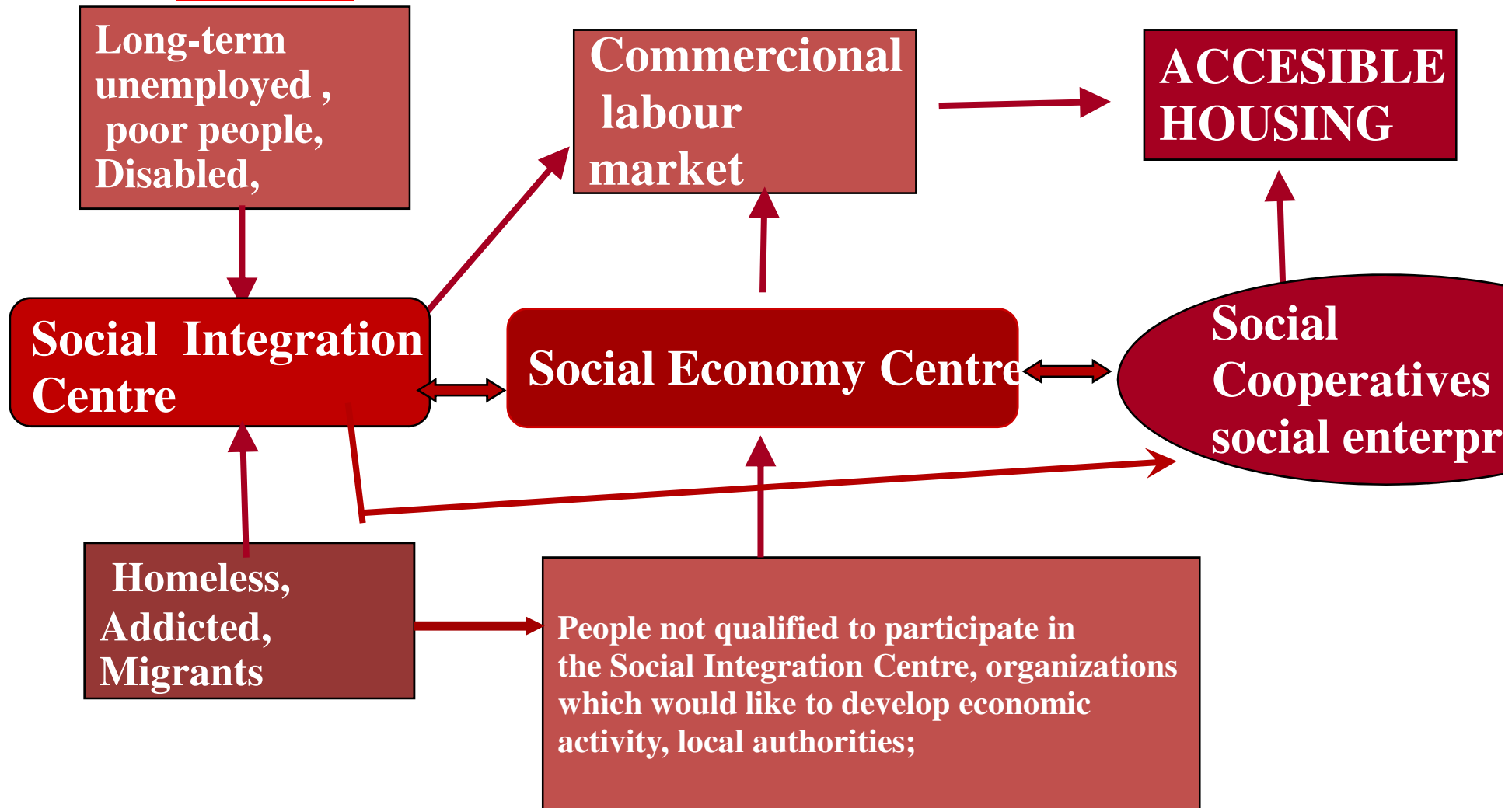
-Creation of the support structures called Centers o Social Economy in Poland

- Creation of Local Partnerships for Social Economy (in 100 local communities)

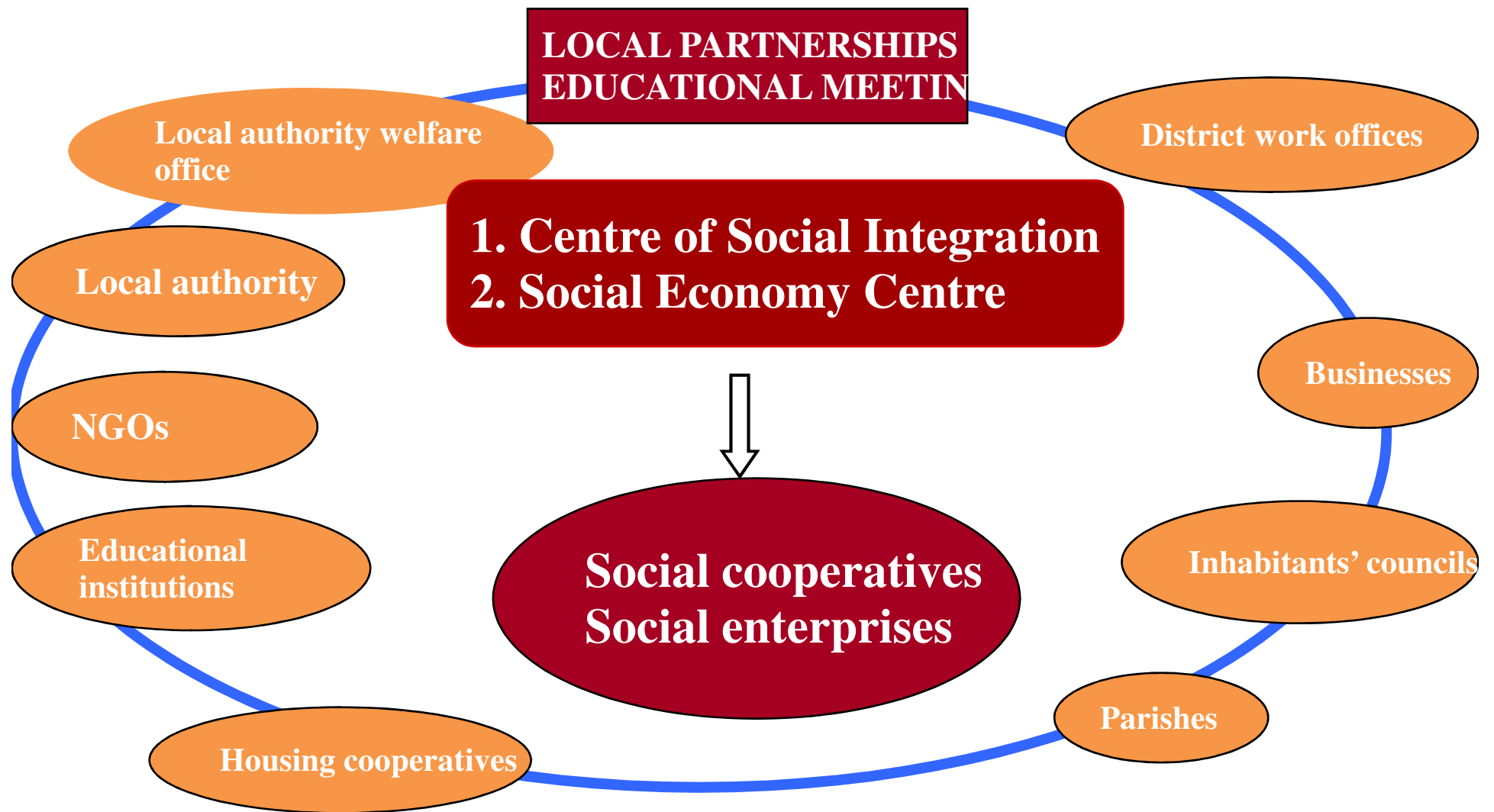
Background information

- **New Legislation 2002 – 2006**
- **Supporting disabled persons – Act on Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons, 1998**
- **Building public-social partnership – *Act on Activities of Public Benefit and Volunteerism, 2003 (about 1000 NGOs started economic activity)***
- **Social Integration Centres and Clubs of Social Integration – trade training and general education for long-term unemployed people – *Law on Education and Social Employment, 2003 (70 CSI)***
- **Emerging social cooperatives – *Law on Social Cooperatives, 2004-2006 (300 social cooperatives in Poland)***
- ***Housing for people with low wages – Law on Accessible Housing, 2005***
- ***Project of Law on Social Enterprise***

Support structures at local level



Networks & relationships



LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS - new mechanism of cooperation

- ▣ Local welfare institutions select the social clients for the integration programmes (CIS). Then instead of distributing social money, they order different types of services for the social cooperatives, which consist of former clients;
- ▣ Housing company in Poznan gave an order to take care of the green area to the people who have not paid the rent on their flats. This gave them the possibility to be self-employed and pay their debts

**Local Partnerships and institutions of social
integration and social economy**

**Poznań, The Borough of
Śródka - Zawady**

Śródka's revitalisation - dangers

- ▣ **Problem:**
- ▣ Srodka's unemployment is about 10% which is relatively high in comparison with other boroughs (300 persons);
- ▣ 30% of the borough residents use social welfare;
- ▣ The percentage of the addicted is relatively high;
- ▣ Due to a planned revitalisation, the owners of tenement houses increased the rent payments by 100%. This was followed by native residents leaving Srodka and more well-off population settling in the borough.

Revitalization of Srodka-Zawady- threats

- **Will the economic growth and increase of Srodka's attractiveness help overcome poverty, unemployment and addictions? What role can social integration and social economy institutions play?**
- **Can the balance between market rights and social integration be maintained in the borough which is being revitalised?**

Social Integration Centre of Barka– training and integration aspect

- Vocational and general education for the unemployed, the addicted, the homeless, ex- prisners, disabled etc.
- Vocational workshops: sewing, carpentry, cooking, cleaning, trade, publishing and computers.
- General education: ethics at work, social entrepreneurship (establishing social coops, own company), English language learning, self-educational groups.
- Presidency of workshops = participation in management process.
- Organisation of meetings of all partners and programs' participants- once a week

Social Integration Centre of Barka – enterprise creation aspect;

- ▣ Apprenticeships and hands-on-training in social cooperatives, social enterprises and businesses;
- ▣ Commissioning from outside – eg. taking care of the greenery in *Malta Lake* in Poznan by the gardening workshop;
- ▣ Carpentry services and building services commissioned by *Family Welfare Centre* and Poznan inhabitants;
- ▣ The sale of the workshops' products;
- ▣ Organisation of public works;
- ▣ Contract with *Family Welfare Centre* for a systematic-based project
- ▣ Establishing initiative groups to start social cooperatives

BARKA Social Integration Center in Poznan



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Participants of the CIS



The role of Social Economy Centre

Social Economy Centre (CES) is an institution of new generation whose aim is to build local partnerships for social integration;

CES integrates local partners (borough councils, NGOs and business companies) around the idea of including individuals and groups into socio-economic life of local community through establishing partnerships.

Social Economy Centre

- **CES initiates establishing social economy institutions: social integration clubs, social integration centres, centres for professional activity, social cooperatives and social enterprises (run by associations, foundations) and non-profit companies limited by guarantee.**
- **The main goal of is to trigger associations' establishment in towns where civic initiatives are not yet popular.**

Cafe opened by “WitajPL” Social Cooperative in the former bakery building in Srodka district



Srodka's parson with social cooperative members (former participants of CIS)



Chairman of the borough council Mr Gerard Cofta (first on the right) during official opening



CARPENTRY social enterprise

5 workers are engaged in renovation and production of furniture



Production done by the Carpentry: wooden houses (Recreation Centre in Chudopczyce)



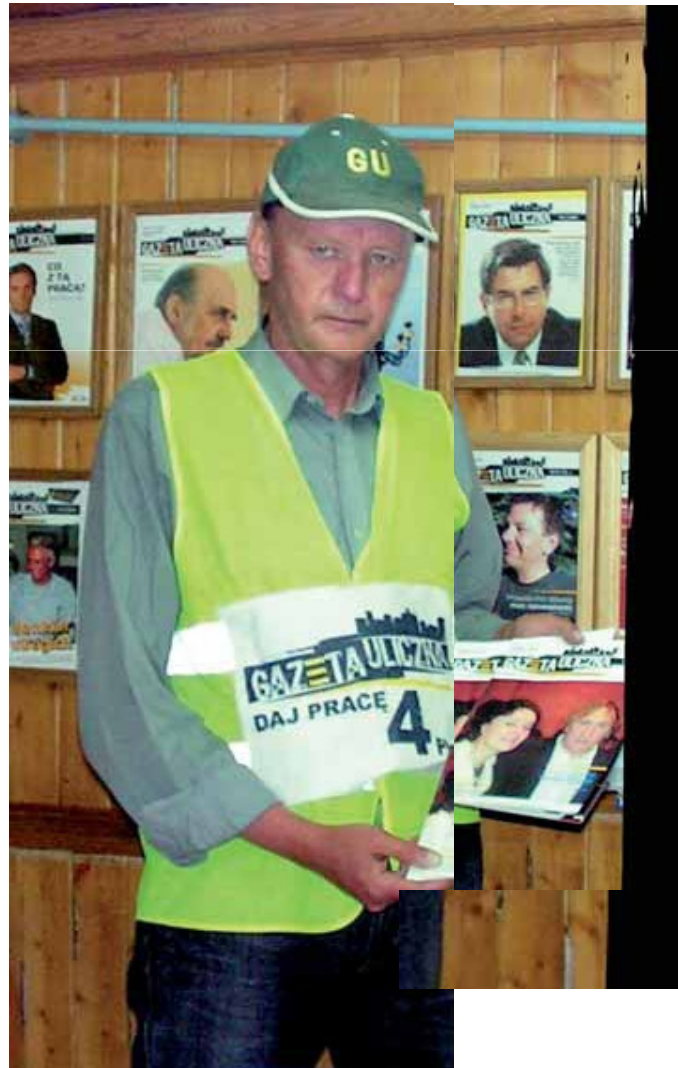
Opening of the Center with participation of the owner of the Velux Company (donator)



Street Paper – monthly on social economy

Street paper is sold by the unemployed persons (students of CIS who earn 50 % of the Paper's price;

Street Paper vendors



“CooP” Social Cooperative

Production of rehabilitation and tourist bicycles for the handicapped and the elderly , tandems, rickshaws, wheelchairs bicycles with electric drive, repair of bicycles;

(Three people employed);

Production of bicycles, Coop, Poznan; 5 workers



Barka's Social Enterprise, non-profit company limited by guarantee

- **Operates recreational and training
centres at the Baltic Sea**
 - **8 staff employed**

Centre for recreation and training in Ustka/ the Baltic Sea



Local Partnership Poznan- Piatkowo borough

▣ **Problem:**

- ▣ 400 families have debts and were in danger to be evicted;
- ▣ Housing cooperative tried to find place for them in Barka communities;

▣ **Solution:**

- ▣ Establishing the CIS in Piatkowo district and involving people who had debts (in the beginning 40 persons)
- ▣ Building local partnership
- ▣ Establishing social cooperatives;

Gardening SOCIAL COOPERATIVE

working in cooperation with housing company; 8 workers (former participant of CIS – Piatkowo)



Gardenning Social Cooperative



Social Cooperative - ARTSMAK, Poznan- Piatkowo

Serving food for students in schools and occasional events; 7 workers (former students of CIS-
Barka Kofoed School)



Partnership Darzybór borough

▣ **Problem:**

- ▣ Area of intensive social activity
- ▣ 2 hostel for homeless persons
- ▣ No perspectives for improving life conditions

▣ **Solutions:**

- ▣ Establishing CIS for homeless persons;
- ▣ Building local partnership/ CES
- ▣ Establishing social cooperatives
- ▣ Building social settlement and giving of homeless a chance to start independent life;

Darzybor Settlement – built in public-private partnership



32 social houses – the last step to start independent life; Poznan



First families living in the Darzybor Settlement;
150 persons



Local Partnerships in rural area

Hostels & Community houses and Centers of Social Integration for homeless



Social Cooperatives

RURAL AREAS



Direct results of cooperation

- 70 centers of social integration
- 40 centres of social economy
- 300 social cooperatives
- 50 centers for professional rehabilitation for disable persons
- 8% of NGOs run social enterprises
- Companies limited by guarantee (new possibility; initial fund 5000 PLN)
- social houses as a last step of integration (there are about 50 local communities run such projects)

www.barka.org.pl

THANK YOU