**Success story of Community-based Action for a GREEN transition (CO-GREEN)**

**Introduction and summary**

Write a short, half-page “story” of the case study, making sure to include the following information in the story:

* The local community characteristics, e.g. size, rural or mixed, agricultural of commuter-village etc
* The main issues faced by the community, e.g. depopulation, migration of young people, lack of community spirit, reluctance to face green challenges etc
* The initiative on which the success story is based, and the issue it tried to solve.
* Who took the initiative
* How public participatory helped
* Lessons learnt

In every case: get the agreement of the stakeholders to be placed on the website of co-Green, and present it as a success-story. Without agreement, they cannot be shared.

**Keywords**: add here a couple (3-4 keywords) that can be used as a “search-term” for the library. **Please select from the followings the most suitable:** public participation, green deal, community engagement, green activators, green motivators, participatory processes, community activators, green transition, rural communities

*Place a photo here*

**Name of Community WIĄZOWNA**

**General information**

| Community Information | Write here |
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| Population | Wiązowna is a rural commune located in the northern part of Otwock County, in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship. It forms part of the Warsaw Metropolitan Area and is located approximately 30 km from the centre of the capital. It occupies an area of 102 km2 and is the largest commune in Otwock County. The commune consists of 26 villages and 4 settlements. It is worth noting that the commune of Wiązowna is adjacent to Warsaw, so it attracts a large number of new residents (including families with children), mainly due to the relatively low prices of plots and properties. In Wiązowna Municipality, an increase in population is recorded every year as the population ages. Women account for almost 51 per cent of the total population. In the group of people in the post-working age, women account for 55.71 per cent. In the context of participation in elections, the Municipality of Wiązowna stands out positively, both against the background of the Otwock district, the Mazovian Voivodeship and on a national scale (the exception to this rule was the European Parliament elections in 2019). Another measure of social activity is the number of functioning NGOs.  The information available on tuwiazowna.pl shows that the following associations, foundations, sports clubs, voluntary fire brigades are active in the Municipality. The commune's residents are very keen to get involved in pro-environmental activities. This is evidenced by the "Clean up the World" campaign and ecological picnics in which school children, young people, seniors and entire local communities join in. Most residents separate their rubbish. |

|  | Tree planting has become fashionable in recent times. Nature: More than 70 percent of the area of Gmina Wiązowna is covered by various forms of protection. These include nature reserves, the Mazovian Landscape Park, and a protected landscape area, which cover most of the forest, meadow and field areas located in the central and southern parts of the commune. The Świder and Mienia rivers, together with their valleys (238 ha in area), are also included in reserve protection.  The current number of people registered for permanent residence is 13,011 (as at 31.12.2021). During the year, the number of residents in our municipality increased by 321. This figure includes: 460 people who came to our municipality and registered permanently, 157 newborns, 191 people who checked out of our municipality and 105 people who died. |
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| Main occupation of inhabitants (e.g. agriculture, services, industry, mixed) | Wiązowna is a predominantly non-agricultural municipality; there are around 1,800 businesses involved in trade, services and manufacturing. Only 10-15 per cent of the population make a living from agriculture. The proximity to Warsaw and the confluence of international roads create conditions for investments related to servicing traffic - both passenger and freight (e.g. motels, logistics facilities). |
| What is the main comparative advantage/strength of the community? | The most common forms of social activity include: participation in local elections, participation in meetings with representatives of local authorities, and participation in village or settlement meetings. A strong feature are the local, village communities in the villages concerned, grouped in housewives' clubs, NGOs, sports clubs and also groups of people taking part in activities in day care centres. They are willing to help the weak, interested in their fate, also care about their villages and are the voice of the local community. |
| What is the main disadvantage/weakness of the community | The weakness of the community is the division between 'old' residents who have lived in the Municipality for many generations and incomers who settle in the Municipality of Wiązowna because of the low price of plots of land. |
| Has the community a history of public participation and engagement? | This is how, for many generations, the community of Gmina Wiązowna has constituted a territorially, but also belonging community. |

**initiative**

| Description of initiative | Write here |
| --- | --- |
| Objectives – main issue addressed | Protecting the environment in which we live and promoting eco-friendly behaviour. |
| Achievements- related to green transition | "Let's take care of the air quality in the area of Gmina Wiązowna".  There are eight sensors for measuring air quality in the area of the municipality. You can follow their measurements using the Syngeos mobile application and on the website https://panel.syngeos.pl/sensor/pm10.  The municipality of Wiązowna is implementing a programme for the removal of asbestos and products containing asbestos. On the basis of submitted applications, a specialist company collects dismantled asbestos from residents free of charge (100% financing from the municipal budget).  In 2022, 163.434 Mg were collected from 87 properties. |
| Achievements- related to community participation and engagement | Since 2015, Ecological Picnics have been organised in the area of Gmina Wiązowna. During the event, participants have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of ecology. Through fun, they learn why it is important to take care of the Earth and collect used batteries and electro-waste. There are performances by children and young people on ecological themes, competitions with prizes, and a collection of electro-waste. Everyone who brings in a used consumer electronics or white goods item on this day receives an ECO surprise. Organic food exhibitors are invited.  A communal environmental competition on the theme of air protection. It was organised in two categories for younger participants - an art work entitled 'Smog is not from a fairy tale' and for older participants - a literary work entitled 'Clean chimneys do not poison the municipality'.  The competition attracted 186 entries (156 artworks and 30 literary works). The Commission awarded prizes to 55 entries (29 art works and 26 literary works). |
| Who were the actors involved in implementing or animating the initiative? E.g. Local NGO, group of citizens, members of the local a local municipality, other | Local Primary Schools, the Volunteer Centre, the Senior + Day House and, above all, the environmental department of the Municipality. Local communities, green activists. |
| How was the community motivated and inspired to take part? What methods were used? | Promotion on social media, through local civic leaders, village leaders, Municipality authorities, public institutions. Panto mail. Competitions involved schoolchildren and their parents as well as the whole school communities. |
| What kind of resources were used? E.g. expert knowledge, financial support etc | The financial support of the Municipality and the knowledge of those involved in environmental protection in the Municipality on a daily basis. To model good practice in this area. |
| Has the initiative been sustained? How? | The aforementioned events take place on a regular basis and involve an increasingly wide range of people, residents of the Municipality. |
| Any other information you consider important for the successful completion of the initiative | It is important that this initiative responds to emerging green transformation needs. It should be expanded to include new initiatives and themes and build on it. |

**OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES FOR Community ENGAGEMENT**

| **Description of challenge** | **Write here** |
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| What were the main challenges/obstacles for the successful conduct of this initiative? | Convincing local communities to take care of the environment for themselves and new generations. Financial resources for initiatives. Acquisition of Green activist activities. |
| How were they overcome? All or some of them? | Through promotion, community awareness campaign. The funding for the first one was invested by the Municipality. |
| Who had a prime role in helping overcome the obstacles/challenges? | Employees of the environmental department of the municipal authority, local social workers and people who promote ecological lifestyles. |
| Any other information you consider important regarding the local community’s attitude towards the initiative | It is very important to organise local communities, to animate them to action and also to create the conditions for action by local authorities.  Training green motivators, preparing people to work in this field. |