**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 communitiesObraz zawierający pojazd, Pojazd lądowy, koło, opona

Opis wygenerowany automatycznie

**Name of Community GÓRNO**

**General information**



| Community Information | Write here |
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| Population | Górno municipality is a rural municipality belonging to Kielce County in Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, it neighbours the city of Kielce and the municipalities of Masłów, Bodzentyn, Bieliny and Daleszyce. Based on data from the Statistical Office, the population at the end of 2022 was 15,110, while in the first half of 2023 it was 15168. The number of inhabitants is constantly increasing. |
| Main occupation of inhabitants (e.g. agriculture, services, industry, mixed) | A significant proportion of the inhabitants of the Municipality of Górno make their living from agriculture. Characteristic of the municipality is that there is a lot of strawberry cultivation, which is a seasonal income for many households. In addition, the inhabitants of Górno Municipality are involved in a wide range of services. Due to the municipality's tourist resources, there is a well-developed network of accommodation and catering facilities. In the area of the commune there are also over 700 business entities, which provide employment for over 1,000 people.  Due to the proximity of Kielce (the capital city of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship), some of the inhabitants of Górno Commune commute here. |

| What is the main comparative advantage / strength of the community? | The greatest resources of the Municipality of Górno:  - Large and growing number of inhabitants, positive natural growth (in the period 2011-2021 only 8 out of 102 gminas of the voivodeship recorded an increase in the number of inhabitants, including the Municipality of Górno, in which this growth trend has been maintained for many years),  - Low average age of inhabitants ("the youngest" municipality in the Świętokrzyskie voivodeship, the voivodeship average is 44, the average in the Górno Municipality is 38),  - Very good transport accessibility of the commune, which attracts new residents,  - High accessibility and high quality of educational services,  - Advantages of the natural environment,  - High tourist potential,  - Good prospects for the development of economic entities,  - Proximity to Kielce (easy access to labour market, services, culture, etc.),  - Social capital in the form of active inhabitants who unite into groups (Senior Clubs, Associations, KGW, folk bands, etc.)  - Openness of Górno Municipality to new challenges and stimulating innovative activities (e.g. transformation of GOPS into CUS ) |
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| What is the main disadvantage/weakness of the community | The biggest challenges in the municipality of Górno:  - Hidden unemployment in the countryside,  - Weak integration between indigenous inhabitants of the area and the incoming population,  - Lower level of education of the inhabitants in comparison to the voivodeship data. |
| Has the community a history of public participation and engagement? | Inhabitants of Górno Commune are experienced in getting involved in public/social activities, which is confirmed, for example, by the fact that non-governmental organisations operate in the commune. Particularly thriving are the Rural Housewives' Circles, which organise various social events. The longest history of operation can be boasted by the "Górnianecki" band, which has been functioning continuously since 1982. The above-mentioned are winners of numerous competitions, they cultivate regional traditions and represent the municipality throughout the country.  The Voluntary Fire Brigades are also very active. Apart from their basic statutory goals, which are saving property and human life, they undertake a number of activities animating the local community.  Since 2019, the Municipality of Górno has systematically taken steps to activate its residents and encourages them to take grassroots initiatives. As part of the projects: "Success in Górno Painted" and "CUS for Everyone", a model of Local Community Organising is being implemented, as a result of which, among other things, three Senior Citizens' Clubs have been established in the municipality, a Youth Municipality Council, a Senior Citizens' Council, youth volunteering, and activities with other groups are also being carried out. The aforementioned have already implemented various community initiatives. In 2023, the aforementioned groups successfully carried out a number of activities that were open and encouraged other residents to also get involved in grassroots activities.  The residents involved in the aforementioned activities show a high degree of ingenuity, self-reliance and readiness to act. These activities are very evident in the organisation of communal events, during which they actively cooperate with each other. Non-governmental organisations have the potential to contribute to the building of civil society and the activation of residents around activities for the realisation of local development. |

**initiative**

| Description of initiative | Write here |
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| Objectives – main issue addressed | The aim is to popularise and perpetuate the measures taken by the Municipality of Górno in the field of environmental protection, which have a positive impact on residents' quality of life. |
| Achievements- related to green transition | The Municipality of Górno is actively endeavouring to improve the quality of life of its residents, including through the implementation of numerous projects aimed at improving air quality, reducing smog and fume emissions. The most important projects implemented by the Municipality of Górno are:  - Górno Municipality was ranked 2nd in Poland and 1st in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship in a ranking compiled by the Polish Smog Alarm and the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management regarding the implementation of the "Clean Air" programme. In addition, the Head of the Municipality received an award from the Minister of Climate and Environment, Anna Moskwa, for achievements in the implementation of the "Clean Air" programme.  - Since 2023, the municipality of Górno, together with 29 provincial self-governments, has been acting as operator in the aforementioned programme. The tasks of the municipalities in the role of operator include support and service of the Applicants in the process of submitting applications for basic, increased and highest levels of co-financing under the Programme, obtaining and accounting for co-financing. The mayor of the commune has made efforts to make the project as accessible as possible, e.g. a consultation and information point has been set up, where commune residents can obtain information and assistance in submitting an application.  Thanks to our activities, 1,290 applications have been submitted, of which 602 have already been implemented and settled (data for Q4 2023).  - Thermomodernisation: the municipality is aware of the negative impact of heat loss - not only for the municipal budget, but also for the environment. Therefore, a decision was made to carry out thermal modernisation of the school buildings in Bęczkowo and Skorzeszyce, as well as the commune office. Funds for this measure were obtained from the European Regional Development "Energy efficiency in the public sector - ZIT KOF" "Urban Development" of the Regional Operational Programme of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship 2014-2020, with a total value of PLN 4,727,564.28.;  - Smog detectors: smog is a huge challenge of the 21st century. We believe that it is extremely important to raise awareness of how ubiquitous it is and to raise awareness of the importance of taking action to reduce it. Only complementary measures can have a long-lasting and measurable effect. Among other things, this is what the installation of smog sensors with LED displays serves to achieve. They have appeared at two locations in the municipality - at one of the schools (the school has joined the national ESA environmental education project) and at the Municipal Cultural Centre;  - Renewable energy sources: another step in the municipality's green transformation is the provision of 88 solar installations and 237 photovoltaic panel installations for its residents. The funds for this investment (PLN 4 381 474.27) were obtained as part of the "Renewable energy sources for the residents of Górno Municipality" programme, co-financed from EU funds of the Marshall Office of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship. For the first five years of the investment, Górno Municipality will be responsible for it, after which the installations will be handed over to residents;  - Purchase of zero-emission and low-emission vehicles: the municipality is striving to make its actions as holistic and complementary as possible with care for the environment. For this reason, funds amounting to PLN 8,010,000.00 were obtained from the Polish Order programme, while the total investment amounted to PLN 10,277,621.70. A total of 31 vehicles of various types were purchased (including 5 cars, specialist cars for the needs of the TSO, cars and other equipment for the needs of ZUK) and 3 free-standing charging stations for electric cars;  - Modernisation of street lighting in the municipality of Górno: between 2019 and 2020, a number of works were carried out to modernise the existing street lighting. A total of 1,523 modern LED lamps were installed. In 2019, the municipality received funding for this purpose in the amount of PLN 2,578,694.23 from the Regional Operational Programme of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship for 2014-2020 (the total cost of the investment was PLN 3,505,500.00), while in 2020 it allocated its own funds for this purpose in the amount of PLN 87805.05;  - Planting trees and shrubs: in the years 2021 - 2022, the Municipality of Górno planted a total of 1139 trees and shrubs on the site of the Sewage Treatment Plant in Skorzeszyce. During this period, the municipality received PLN 4400 from the Poviat Starosty, for which 1079 trees were purchased, while it received a total of 60 trees and shrubs from the Marshal's Office of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.  - The Górno Municipality is very often set as a good example in the implementation of sustainable development and environmental protection measures. This is evidenced, for example, by the fact that the mayor, Przemysław Łysak, was invited to take part in a nationwide debate on improving air quality and in a webinar by the Ministry of Climate and the Environment entitled "Improving air quality in Poland - the way forward". "Improving air quality in Poland - cooperation between government and local authorities". |
| Achievements- related to community participation and engagement | Since 2019, the municipality of Górno has been successfully implementing the Local Community Organising model and introducing activities that stimulate the activity of its residents. These activities were initiated through the implementation of the project entitled 'Success in Górno Painted'. The project was implemented using the innovative method of the Local Activity Programme - PAL, which was based on methods of community work, enabling the use of available resources of individuals, families, groups of residents of the municipality, including people at risk of social exclusion in the community. All PAL activities were implemented with the involvement and cooperation of residents, organisations, institutions, companies, and served to activate, educate and develop participants and their environment. PAL also served to build the social capital of participants and their environment, manifested in trust, solidarity and reciprocity, which in practical terms means, among other things, support and care from relatives, faster job search, help in case of financial problems or easier contact with specific institutions. The aim of the "Success in Górno Painted" project was to reduce areas of social exclusion through the social and professional activation of 20 people (19 women and 1 man) at risk of poverty or social exclusion and the social integration of their environment (40 people) - residents of the municipality of Górno. An important element of PAL was the creation of a Local Activity Place - MAL - a meeting place for UP and their surroundings, whose aim was social activation, creating belonging to a given place and local group and mobilising, revitalising and supporting the development of the local community.  Comprehensive and universal support for the local community in the municipality of Górno is provided by the existing Social Services Centre in Górno. The Centre provides model solutions for the integration and development of social services, addressed to all residents of the Municipality of Górno. Supporting the development of social services is community work, aimed at self-help and self-organisation of the local community provided, among others, thanks to community organisers and animators. These people introduce the field of OSL, but also advise, prompt, mobilise for action, support from a procedural point of view. Last year, thanks to the activities of the OSL, among other things, a neighbourhood initiative competition was held, which attracted a lot of interest. Out of 10 projects evaluated, five projects were awarded prizes. The initiatives were open and intergenerational. They were:  - May Day with dialect and music,  - An enchanted world of play - bringing generations together,  - Krajno - Łysica mountain hike with a historical theme,  - Multigenerational activities,  - Handicraft workshops.  The most important achievements related to the implementation of the above-mentioned initiatives were:  - bridging generations (the initiatives were intergenerational, allowing people of different ages to integrate, get to know each other and learn from each other and see each other's resources)  - increasing the level of integration between the inhabitants of the municipality,  - nurturing and passing on old customs, local folklore and traditions to future generations,  - counteracting loneliness,  - increasing knowledge and skills in the area of writing and accounting for projects,  - increasing self-confidence and skills in raising funds for initiatives.  In addition, a Council of Senior Citizens and a Youth Council of the commune have been set up due to interest from residents of the commune.  The young people living in the commune organised a quest, the aim of which was not only to have fun, but above all to integrate and educate (the quest took place in the area of the picturesque lagoon in Cedzyna, and the questions referred to the history of the area and the fauna and flora resources). The young people organising the event also gained experience in preparing such a large undertaking and establishing cooperation with a representative of the third sector, i.e. the 'Tropem Przygody' Social Cooperative.  In some of the village halls, green area clean-up actions were organised. The events had an integrative and educational value in terms of ecology.  In 2023, the first Senioriada was held, which was very popular. Another edition is planned for this year, to be hosted by the winners of the previous edition, the Senioriada - residents of Górno.  The grassroots activities carried out so far in the municipality are changing the awareness of the residents. It is a long and often stumbling process, but positive changes can already be seen. Residents are increasingly willing to join together, look for alternative solutions, less often expect "ready-made" solutions and learn to rely on resources. The good practices of some groups lead to the creation of others. In this way, the social capital of our municipality is being built up. The municipal leaders are aware that the future of the municipality lies in the hands of today's youth. That is why measures are being taken to shape in them a culture of participation, co-determination and involvement in the life of the municipality. Hence the idea to establish a Youth Commune Council, whose members contribute on many levels and encourage more young people to join in common activities. |
| 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 | The process of implementing the OSL model in the Municipality of Górno was initiated by the Social Services Centre (formerly the Municipal Social Assistance Centre) and the Municipality Office. At each stage of the activity, the community can count on help and support from the above-mentioned institutions. The people working within the OSL model in direct contact with residents were community organisers and animators.  During the implementation of neighbourhood initiatives they were involved in:  - "Emotion" Foundation (a local NGO)  - Village Housewives' Circles,  - Farmers' Circle,  - Senior Citizens' Clubs from the area of Górno Commune,  - Commune Youth Council,  - Senior Citizens' Council,  - schools,  - local entrepreneurs.  Systematic support for the local community (e.g. in the form of lending premises) was and still is provided by:  - Communal Cultural Centre,  - Volunteer Fire Brigade.  Residents have been able to count on the goodwill of local government authorities to carry out their activities. |
| How was the community motivated and inspired to take part? What methods were used? | The joint activities started with familiarising the residents with the community organising model. They learned about grassroots activities, how to work with resources, stimulate/increase their sense of influence and empowerment. A large group of residents participated in a series of educational meetings entitled 'School of social participation' and 'Active resident's academy', which further strengthened their personal, leadership and planning competences. The community was also introduced to good practices from other places, which provided both an educational and inspirational element. A number of the above-mentioned activities laid the groundwork for further grassroots activities by the residents. The community had the opportunity to test themselves in teamwork, planning and implementing initiatives and to experience success together.  A strong sense of belonging to the place where they live, their identification with it and the need to take care of it, is the connecting point for community residents. Therefore, joint initiatives responding to community needs are an attractive form of neighbourhood activity. |
| What kind of resources were used? E.g. expert knowledge, financial support etc | The following resources were used during the implementation of the initiatives:  - for substantive and educational support: trainers - experts from the CAL Local Activity Support Centre Association, the "Pestka" Foundation, the Social Economy Support Centre, the Foundation for the Development of Local Democracy, the Integration and Development Association, the Institute for the Development of Professions and Social Services, the POREW association, provided their knowledge and assistance. The aforementioned, inter alia, within the framework of a series of workshops "School of social participation" and "Active resident's academy", provided participants with information on the functioning of the group, acting as a leader, writing and settling grant applications, setting up non-governmental organisations;  - as part of its activities, the Social Services Centre planned funding for the implementation of social projects. |
| Has the initiative been sustained? How? | The initiative is sustained, among other things, by providing two community organisers. In the area of the Municipality of Górno there are and will continue to be activities in the field of OSL (inter alia, by carrying out activities with existing groups and, if necessary, creating new ones). Senior Clubs, the Youth Council of the Municipality, the Senior Citizens' Council and the voluntary sector, which closely cooperate with the OSL, are in constant operation. |
| Any other information you consider important for the successful completion of the initiative | It is crucial for the success of initiatives to give the 'first palm' to the residents and follow their voice. Of course, there needs to be a person (community organiser) who 'pulls the whole thing together', supports and helps in case of difficulties, but it is very important that they do not start to take over or impose their opinion. Community initiatives only work if the inhabitants have a sense of influence and ownership and responsibility.  It is important to accompany residents at every stage of the activity and to be attentive to the group's processes. It is important to bear in mind that the level of involvement can be variable, so it is important to maintain motivation. On the other hand, a great deal of sensitivity must be shown here - pushing the community too hard may result in disengagement and discouragement.  The OSL professional must always remember that the initiative is only a tool to achieve change. That is why it is so important what processes take place between the residents during its planning and implementation. The community organiser is the one who makes sure that "the people are not lost" during the implementation of the task, because they are the most important. |

**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? | The challenge in working with the community organisation model often lies in the lack of understanding of it (some residents are oriented to receive a ready-made offer, which they could be the recipients of).  In the course of planning/implementing initiatives, constraints arose due to, for example, unfamiliarity with regulations.  It also proved to be a challenge for residents to find additional time to engage in neighbourhood activities. Each of the groups that joined the activities had to 'weave' them into their daily routines (e.g. looking after grandchildren, school and work responsibilities).  In addition, a significant part of the community had not had to deal with writing and accounting for competition applications until the introduction of the OSL model of work in the municipality, hence it proved to be a major challenge to learn how to complete grant applications and then account for the initiative. |
| How were they overcome? All or some of them? | The activity involved people who found the idea of community organising interesting and valuable. It was accepted that there would always be some residents among the community who would not be interested in similar activities.  Limitations due to unfamiliarity with the regulations were resolved in cooperation with the Social Services Centre. Each initiative group could count on the support of an expert mentor, who consulted possible ambiguities, helped to solve them, and was the liaison between the group and the Social Services Centre. In addition, in response to emerging difficulties/challenges, the Social Services Centre organised a series of meetings and training sessions to equip group members with relevant knowledge and skills.  Residents willing to engage in community activities made efforts to organise their time in a way that allowed them to reconcile activities in different spaces.  Difficulties related to the application and settlement of applications were resolved by providing residents with substantive support in the form of meetings with experts from the Association for Integration and Development and the Social Economy Centre, who provided training in the above-mentioned areas. |
| Who had a prime role in helping overcome the obstacles/challenges? | Social Service Centre, community organisers, animators, government representatives - providing support according to emerging needs / challenges / difficulties.  Active citizens - showing willingness and commitment to implement activities. |
| Any other information you consider important regarding the local community’s attitude towards the initiative | It is very important, especially at the beginning of the community organization model (OSL) with the community, to create a space for the residents to get to know each other and to integrate. It is important that the inhabitants can be co-creators of these meetings, that they can influence them, and that they are co-responsible for what happens.  An aspect worth paying attention to when working with the community is the barriers they may encounter when implementing initiatives. It is very important to make community members aware that their appearance does not have to mean giving up and abandoning plans. It is then worth seeking support, and allies to help overcome difficulties. Only this kind of thinking can bring success.  From the OSL practitioner's side, it is important to agree on 'yes' and 'no' when working with communities and to be aware that conflict can arise at any time in groups, which is a difficult experience for both group members and the person leading the process. It is important to make residents aware that such situations will occur and are normal, to prevent (reduce) frustration and discouragement. In addition, it is important that the community organizer only introduces the activities and over time it is the residents who take the initiative. |