

Case study

Comprehensive School Support in Łódź



PCG | *Development Center*

CLIENT

Łódź Center for Teacher Training and Vocational Education

PROJECT

Conducting trainings, workshops, individual meetings, group consultations, and organization of cooperation and self-development networks for teachers and school principals within the 'Comprehensive School Support – Success of Education' county introductory project

- Two tenders concerning teachers' development system and one concerning an organization of cooperation networks won by PCG
- A total of 1883 hours of trainings
- 120 experts
- 17 subject areas
- April 2013 – August 2014

CHALLENGES

Almost every country is undertaking wide-ranging reforms to better prepare children for the higher educational demands in a rapidly changing world. One of the biggest challenges in meeting this goal is teacher preparation and their continuing professional development. The Polish government helps to address these and other key issues by implementing a systemic project of Comprehensive School Support (CSS) and placing teachers and school leaders at the center of improvement efforts.

The main purpose of this project is to create cooperation circles involving schools, psychological and pedagogical centers as well as teachers' training centers. The project is coordinated by the county on the local level. In addition, school principals and teachers will be supported by School Organizers for Education Development, whose role is to:

- Identify schools' and teachers' needs in terms of development
- Plan a development process

- Coordinate cooperation between educational institutions, the local government, contractors and external experts
- Arrange meetings for cooperation networks participants and workshops with experts

The whole project entails a massive administrative burden: establishing cooperation with experts and signing contracts, coordinating meetings' schedules, ensuring effective information flow between institutions involved in the project, preparing reports and bookkeeping as well as evaluating the effectiveness of implemented forms of development.

Due to the limited resources (financial capacity, human resources, timelines), the majority of local governments seek an external partner in the tender procedure, who will support the county in performing all tasks.

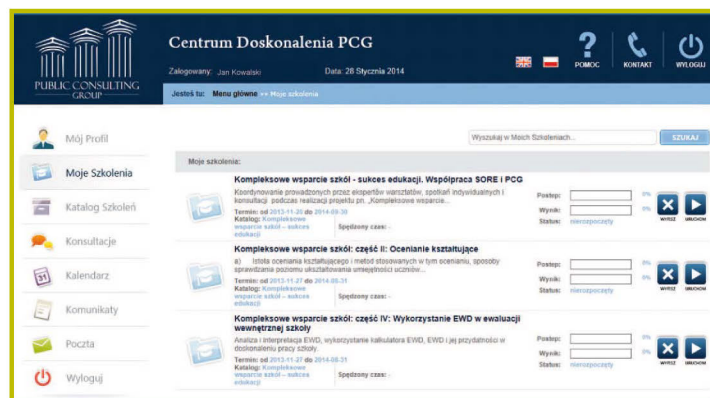
PCG SOLUTION

PCG Polska Sp. z o.o. [Ltd.] (Public Consulting Group – PCG) is an international company offering consulting and training services, which employs over 1500 consultants who support public institutions, including education, human services and healthcare sectors in the implementation of the systemic projects and innovative solutions. Within 'Comprehensive School Support – Success of Education' project the PCG Team has been involved in performing tasks assigned within three tender procedures. These tasks consisted of multidimensional support for development forms implemented in K-12 schools in Łódź. In pursuance of delegated duties the following activities have been performed:

- Recruitment of 120 experts from the database of over 1000 experienced experts and practitioners in the area of the Polish education, in order to conduct meetings and workshops in 17 subject areas consistent with the identified schools' and teachers' needs
- Organization of trainings for experts in both traditional, as well as an online form concerning the specification of the project, roles, responsibilities and expected work standards
- Organization of meetings for experts, networks' coordinators and SORE initiating the collaboration within the project
- Coordination of communication
- Planning and conducting meetings and workshops
- Mediation in the process of communication between experts, coordinators and School Organizers for Education Development

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- Ensuring effective information flow and effective use of the involved parties' time



PCG Professional Development Center's e-Platform, My courses



PCG Professional Development Center's e-Platform, Live consultations

- Developing consistent templates for documents, including among other things: meetings and workshops scenarios, evaluation tools, attendance lists, reporting documents
- Reliable preparatory and financial documentation maintenance
- Coordination of the exchange of reports between: networks' coordinators and School Organizers for Education Development, the company and a project coordinator
- Preparation of comprehensive reports for the Client

RESULTS

The PCG Team made its best to make the collaboration between the Client, coordinators, School Organizers for Education Development and experts efficient and effective for each of the parties. Not only have the goals

established during the tender procedure been met, but also an added value has been attained thanks to:

- Reduction of administrative and operational spending on the part of the Client through the cooperation with the company that provides experts in a variety of subject areas
- Establishment of an internal cooperation network between experts, networks' coordinators and School Organizers for Education Development - introductory trainings and meetings enabled experts to get to know each other, exchange their experience and prepare curricula cooperatively
- Optimal selection of highly qualified, experienced experts, which enables flexible, efficient response to the teachers' current needs
- Development of the project beneficiaries' skills of using information and communication technology through the use of e-Platform, video conferences and the tools provided by Microsoft Office Suite (templates for documents and presentations, reporting sheets) designed to be used in the project

OPINIONS

Experts who conducted meetings and workshops were excellently prepared and proved to have a vast knowledge in the subject area. The content of the meetings and workshops, as well as the manner, in which they were carried out met the participants' expectations – they were thoroughly prepared and professionally conducted. They also enabled the participants to achieve the established goals. This was confirmed by the results of the evaluation of participants' satisfaction with the contents of the training and with the experts' qualifications. PCG Poland organized and carried out all the trainings effectively and accordingly to the schedule. In our opinion, PCG Poland is a reliable and fair business partner, the cooperation with whom stands for success.

Karolina Południkiewicz
Coordinator of the Project,
Łódź Center for Teacher Training
and Vocational Education

PCG Team provides a massive support for SORE in the realization of the project in schools and kindergartens in Łódź. PCG professionals help recruit the staff who has substantial knowledge and experience answering the school's educational needs, handle the administrative and financial aspects of experts' work and ensure that complete scenarios and training materials prepared by experts conducting trainings are delivered on time. The e-Platform used in the project facilitates remote cooperation between SORE and experts, enables files exchange and communication. The system also allows to organize training materials and reports in such a way that they are always close at hand.

Ewa Sprawka
School Organizer for Educational Development

