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Results of the survey „Let’s create Micropolis together” run in Wawer district in August-September 2023

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For more information, see the project portal: <https://micropolis.club/>

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I. Methodological approach

Objectives of the survey

The aim of this Survey Summary Report is to present the Survey Results and to make conclusions showing the needs and problems of Wawer local community -as a starting point for the next project step – that is naming the “Micropolis Guidelines” for the local community in Wawer and making a plan how to make a positive change that will make the local bonds and local identity stronger.

The name “Micropolis” is used to describe a city district or a town that has successfully created a strong, inclusive local identity and an active participation and cooperation of inhabitants, so that they can function as the ancient „polis” – the fully democratic, local community where everybody is involved.

Wawerskie Centrum Kultury has decided to run a survey among the local inhabitants, the participants of our cultural initiatives with a purpose:

1. To know better the **inhabitants who are participating in our initiatives; to check:** do they feel the connectedness with their community, what role do they have, if they feel their influence and possibility to be an actor, do they feel local identity, etc
2. To **find the guidelines for Wawer** that can be tested and can bring the change
3. To test **if the survey may be used as an universal tool**

From the survey we intended to learn:

1. Do the local inhabitants have the sense of connectedness?
2. Do local inhabitants have strong local identity?
3. Are the local inhabitants satisfied with the community’s life, what are their most important needs and expectations and does our job fulfil them? Is an offer for various groups enough and inclusive?
4. If they don’t participate – what is the reason; if they participate – in which role?
5. Do local inhabitants have the will and the possibility to co-create the community? be active participants and authors of cultural life in the community

The respondent groups

We have prepared two versions of the survey – one printed and one on-line and distributed them among:

- Participants of the huge local picnic in Wawer
- Participants of our workshops or parents of the kids participating in the cultural activities

- Various people visiting all 7 branches of our Wawer Cultural Center, also our employees living in Wawer
- Recipients of our Facebook profile and other social media popular in Wawer district

In that ways we gathered 141 surveys that were put in the online database and statistically analysed.

The questionnaire

The questionnaire was thoroughly discussed with the Polish Micropolis Team and with some professional researchers, so that it can bring valuable data.

Here is the English version of the questionnaire together with the instruction:

Let's create a MICROPOLIS together! Survey for Wawer residents

Dear Residents! The Wawer Cultural Center takes part in an extraordinary, international EU project entitled "Micropolis - the Power of the Local Community". As part of the project, we want to find out to what extent we can build a strong local community in Wawer and whether, as participants in our activities, you also have the willingness and ability to actively co-create it and to feel your influence on the way of life in our district.

We will be very grateful if you complete a short survey that will allow us to get to know the Wawer community better. The survey is addressed to people aged 13 and over, it is fully anonymous, and we will inform about the results in Kurier Wawerski and on our Facebook. Every voice is valuable and can contribute to positive changes! We invite you to participate in the survey!

1. Which Wawer estate do you live in?

Anin/ Marysin/ Radość/ Międzylesie/ Marysin/ Zastów/ Miedzeszyn/ Falenica/ Aleksandrów/ Zerzeń/ Las/ other

2. How long have you lived here?

- Less than 5 years/ 6-15 years/ 16-30 years/ over 30 years

3. What nationality are you?

.....

4. How old are you?

13-17/18-25/26-35/36-45/46-55/56-65/66-75/over 75 years old

Select the answers that apply to you.

I am: A student/employee/entrepreneur/unemployed/on maternity or paternity leave/pa-
rental leave/pensioner/other answer..... [multiple choice]

5. Do you have children? If so, at what age?:

- I have no children
- YES, aged 0-6
- Yes, aged 7-13
- Yes, aged 14-18
- Yes, older than 18 years

6. Are the following statements true about you?

1 - true, 2 - false, 3 - hard to say

1. I spend most of my time in Wawer
2. I work outside Wawer and/or I spend little time here
3. I come from Wawer
4. I like living here, Wawer is my place
5. My friends live here.
6. My family lives here.
7. I feel part of the local community.
8. I know my district well and I know what is happening there.
9. I don't know many interesting places here.
10. I believe that Wawer is special and unique.
11. It's easy to meet new people here.
12. I have a lot of nice neighbors.
13. I care about my neighborhood and feel responsible for it.
14. I have time and resources to develop my interests.
15. I have time to participate in the culture and/or life of the local community.
16. I am actively involved in the local community.
17. I do not belong to any local community

7. How important are the following needs/values to you currently? 1 - very important, 2 - im-
portant, 3 - not very important, 4 - not important

1. education and acquiring knowledge
2. working and gaining a better financial status
3. spending time with family
4. relaxation and peace
5. development and education of my children
6. meeting new people
7. spending time with your closest friends

- 8. taking part in cultural activities
- 9. activity in local organizations and communities
- 10. improved health
- 11. individual sport and/or outdoor activity
- 12. sport (in an organized group or team)
- 13. development of artistic passions
- 14. intellectual activity

8. Is the offer of cultural, educational and community-building activities in the Wawer district satisfactory to you? Select 1 answer.

- YES, I have many activities to choose from
- YES, there is even too much choice of activities.
- NO, the activities offered do not fit my needs.
- NO, there is too little activity

9. What educational, cultural and community-building activities are missing?

.....

10. What activities organized at Wawer do you take part in?

- single workshops
- regular workshops
- free picnics, concerts and large outdoor events
- large free events in community centers
- large paid events such as concerts, performances
- discussion clubs and closed groups
- Local Activity Spots and Neighborhood Cafes
- online groups and events
- other...

11. Which of the activities organized by the Wawer Cultural Center do you consider the most inspiring and valuable for the local community?

.....

12. Do you feel you have an impact on the local community?

YES NO

13. What is an obstacle for you to be more active in the local community? You can mark several answers.

- No time
- I am not interested in local activities

- There are no groups or communities I would like to join
- Lack of knowledge on how to join and how to act
- I live far away and it is difficult to get there
- Another answer

14. What support would you need to actively act locally, create what is missing, build a local community around what is important to you? You can mark several answers.

- inspiration on how to be active in the local community
- advice on how to implement the idea
- support in building a team and recruiting people to help
- places for team meetings
- assistance in organizing the project and obtaining material resources
- room for project implementation
- assistance in promoting the project and reaching recipients
- another answer.....

Thank you very much for completing the survey!

II. Survey results

Background information

Profile of the respondents

For the group of all 141 respondents, the following can be mentioned:

- They represent all Wawer estates, the biggest percentage came from Marysin and Międzylesie
- 27% lives on Wawer less than 5 years, 26,2% - 6-15 years, 13,5% - 16-30 years, 20,6% - more than 30 years [so there is **almost one third of the new inhabitants** and more than one-third of inhabitants who live here more than 16 years)
- 96,5% of respondents were **Polish** (with scarce amount of Ukrainian, American and German respondents)
- Respondents represented all age groups with the biggest group of people aged 36-45 (43,3%). Counting three biggest groups – **the majority of respondents (78,1%) was between 26-55**, with the small percentage of adolescents and youth between 13 and 25 (5,6%) and small group of adults over 56 years (16,2%):
 - **43,3% - 36-45**
 - 21,3% - 26-35
 - 13,5% - 46-55

- 9,9% - 56-65
- 5,6% - 66-75
- 3,5% - 18-25
- 2,1% - 13-17
- 0,7% - 75+

The vast majority of respondents was **professionally active**

74,5% - employee

13,5% - retired/pensioner

6,4% - entrepreneur

4,9% - student

5,6% - maternity leave

0,7% - unemployed

About 80% had kids aged:

32,6% - small kids 0-6

30,5% - school kids 7-13

23,4% - adult kids 18+

20,6% - no kids

7,1% - teenage 14-18

Content questions

1. Sense of connectedness and local identity

In the first part of the survey, asking if following statements are true about the participants, we could build the knowledge about the Wawer inhabitants in terms of their various emotions and reflections connected with living on Wawer.

Here are the statistics of the responses:

- **I spend most of my time in Wawer** TRUE – 79%, 11%- NOT TRUE, 10% - HARD TO SAY

- **I work outside Wawer and/or spend little time here** – TRUE – 39%, NOT TRUE – 49,6%, HARD TO SAY - 11,3%
 - **I come from Wawer** – TRUE – 29%, NOT TRUE – 70%, HARD TO SAY – 1%
 - **I like living here, Wawer is my place** – TRUE – 79%, NOT TRUE – 8,5%, HARD TO SAY – 12,5%
 - **I find Wawer special and unique** - TRUE – 82%, NOT TRUE – 4%, HARD TO SAY – 14%
 - **My friends live here** TRUE – 56,7%, NOT TRUE – 32%, HARD TO SAY – 11,3%
 - **My family lives here** – TRUE – 47,5%, NOT TRUE – 49,5%, HARD TO SAY - 3%
 - **I feel that I am a part of the local community** – TRUE – 64,5%, NOT TRUE – 14%, HARD TO SAY – 21,5%
 - **I don't belong to any local community** - TRUE – 35%, NOT TRUE – 20%, HARD TO SAY – 45%
-
- **I know my district well and I know what's going on here** TRUE – 56,7%, NOT TRUE – 16,3%, HARD TO SAY – 27%
 - **I don't know many interesting places here** – TRUE – 16,3%, NOT TRUE – 62,4%, HARD TO SAY – 21,3%
 - **It's easy to meet new people here** – TRUE – 48,2%, NOT TRUE – 15,6%, HARD TO SAY – 36%
 - **I have many nice neighbors** - TRUE – 63%, NOT TRUE – 8%, HARD TO SAY – 29%
 - **I care about my neighborhood and feel responsible for it** – TRUE – 87,2%, NOT TRUE – 2,8%, HARD TO SAY – 9,9%
 - **I am actively involved in the local community** TRUE – 31,2%, NOT TRUE – 38,3%, HARD TO SAY – 30,5%
 - **I have time and resources to develop my interests** – TRUE – 64,5%, NOT TRUE – 13,5%, HARD TO SAY – 22%
 - **I have time to participate in the culture and/or life of the local community** - TRUE – 68%, NOT TRUE – 11,3%, HARD TO SAY – 20,7%

Sense of identity&connectedness – reflections

1. **The local identity and connectedness with the district is strong and doesn't come from the fact that somebody was born here. People like the district and find it special and unique.**

[79 % of respondents spend most of their time in Wawer, **only 29% originally comes from Wawer, but generally great majority of respondents feel connected with the district and have a local identity:** 79% likes living here and thinks that Wawer is their place; 82% finds Wawer special and unique.]

2. There is generally a **positive spirit in terms of social bonds among inhabitants** – the slight majority likes their neighbours (what is not obvious in a big city), the half of

respondents have friends here and also the half – has a family. Also around 50% of respondents have an ease to meet new people in the district. **But on the other hand, it indicates that the other half doesn't have locally strong social bonds** with friends, family or neighbours. And around 16% claims to have difficulties in meeting new people – so **it seems like an important challenge for local organisations as ours to help the inhabitants to meet new people and to make closer bonds with other inhabitants of the district.** That will help to create the stronger local community.

- [56,7% has friends in Wawer (32% - doesn't), 47,5% has family in Wawer (49,5% - doesn't), only for 48,2% it's easy to meet new people here (for 15,6% isn't easy)
- BUT: **63% likes their neighbors** (and only 8% dislikes)!]

3. **The local identity and interest in the issues of the district are strong and substantial** – more than a half of respondents knows their district well, 62,4% know many interesting places and a great amount (87,2%!) claims to care about their neighbourhood and feels responsible for it. There is only a small percentage of respondents (16%) who claim the opposite – that they don't know the district and interesting places there – but it may be connected with the fact that around 20% of respondents doesn't spend most of their time in Wawer (as they work outside or have family and friends in other districts) and may be not interested in the district's life and uniqueness.

- [56,7% know their district well (and know what's going on here) – only 16% doesn't.
- 62,4% know many interesting places here (only 16% doesn't)
- 87,2% care about their neighborhood and feel responsible for it – (only 3% doesn't)!]

4. **There is a huge potential to develop a strong community and active participation of local inhabitants** (as around 65% of the declares to have time and resources to develop their interests and to participate in the culture and/or life of the local community and also similar percentage claims to feel a part of local community), **but... there is a problem with the real involvement.** Only 20% belongs to a local community and only 31% feels actively involved. On the opposite – 35% doesn't belong to any community and 38% declares that doesn't feel actively involved. The rest chose the answer „hard to say” what also indicates either very rare or very weak involvement in the community life.

- [64,5% have time and resources to develop their interests and 68% have time to participate in the culture and/or life of the local community
- 64,5% feel a part of the local community, BUT: only 20% belongs to a local community, 31% feel actively involved in the local community (but 38% doesn't)

2. Most important values, needs and expectations

The second part of the survey analyzed what are the values, needs and expectations of the inhabitants. We were checking the needs and values with the question **“How important are the following needs/values to you currently?”**

Here are the statistics ordered from the most important and crucial:

1. Spending time with family - VERY IMPORTANT: 83%, IMPORTANT -17,3%, NOT IMPORTANT – 0,2%
2. Relax and tranquility – VERY IMPORTANT: 78,4%, IMPORTANT – 20%, NOT IMPORTANT – 1,6%
3. Education and acquiring knowledge – VERY IMPORTANT: 73%, IMPORTANT -22,7%, NOT IMPORTANT – 4,3%
4. Health improvement - VERY IMPORTANT: 66%, IMPORTANT -29,7%, NOT IMPORTANT – 4,3%
5. Intellectual activity - VERY IMPORTANT: 55%, IMPORTANT -42%, NOT IMPORTANT – 3%
6. Working and gaining a better financial status - VERY IMPORTANT: 53%, IMPORTANT -33%, NOT IMPORTANT – 14%
7. Individual sport and/or movement on a fresh air – VERY IMPORTANT: 52,5 %, IMPORTANT - 40%, NOT IMPORTANT – 7,5%
8. Spending time with closest friends - VERY IMPORTANT: 43,5%, IMPORTANT -45,6%, NOT IMPORTANT – 10,9%
9. Meeting new people - VERY IMPORTANT: 43,5%, IMPORTANT – 41,3%, NOT IMPORTANT – 15,2%
10. Participating in cultural activities – VERY IMPORTANT: 37,5%, IMPORTANT – 50,3%, NOT IMPORTANT – 12,2%
11. Development of artistic passions - VERY IMPORTANT: 27,3%, IMPORTANT -46%, NOT IMPORTANT – 26,7%
12. Sport in organized group or team - VERY IMPORTANT: 24,5%, IMPORTANT -41,7%, NOT IMPORTANT – 33,8%
13. Being active in local organizations and communities - VERY IMPORTANT: 20,8%, IMPORTANT – 44,6%, NOT IMPORTANT – 34,6%

Above answers may have an interesting conclusions:

1. For the inhabitants of Wawer district the key values are: Spending time with family; Relax and tranquility and Education and acquiring knowledge. Near the top of the list are also Health improvement and Intellectual activity. Working and gaining a better financial status is on the 6th place, it's not a key value, what can indicate that inhabitants of Wawer are rather intellectual and educated people, whose financial status is rather good and stable, most of the responders are professionally active and have kids, so they put a great value to both family life and some rest and relax. But they also have quite a lot of „higher-level” needs (according to

Maslow's pyramid of needs) – education, intellectual activities are on top, but also participating in cultural activities and development of artistic passions are valued as important or very important for 87,8% (cultural activities) and 73,3% (artistic passions) of respondents.

2. The 7-th place on the list is connected with individual sports and activities on fresh air (it's much higher in comparison to organized group sports) and it shows that for Wawer inhabitants it's a very important value to be active, to take care of health and have some relax – by walking in the forest or riding a bike (these data come from other part of the survey) – this is also one of the unique features of Wawer district that is surrounded by the forest and two rivers and where people look for a more quality life, their consciousness in this matter may be higher than in other districts of Warsaw.
3. The 8th and 9th places on the list are showing that slightly bigger group prefers spending time with closest friends (only for 10,9% it's not important) than meeting new people (it's not important for 15,2%), but still – both values are very important (for 43,5%) or important (45,6% vs 41,3%), more important than cultural activities and artistic passions.
4. The most conspicuous result from this question according to the goals of the whole survey is the last place where is **the need of "Being active in local organizations and communities"**. **No other value had such small recognition** – only for 20,8% it's very important and for 34,6% of respondents – completely unimportant. It's quite crucial result showing why people are not actively participating in the community life - because **they don't have the consciousness that it's something important and valuable**, that it will give them more than it will take from them. So there is a **huge challenge for the local organisations – to educate local inhabitants why the active participation in the local community is important and that gives huge profits for everybody** – for the activists, for the recipients and for the whole community.

Other questions were investigating in which cultural activities the respondent participate, what does he or she choose and also what perceives as missing.

It turned out that the most popular are big events, especially open air picnics, concerts, etc. About one-third invests in more inspiring activities as one-time workshops or paid events like concerts or theatre. Only 19% goes to regular workshops where they meet the same group of participants and can make some closer bonds with them. And unfortunately, very few respondents participate in more active and integrating activities as discussion clubs, closed groups or Local Activity Spots (they are the great initiative but still a bit unknown and not popular). So it confirms that the community life is quite vibrant and full of positive emotions (built during free picnics and concerts where the local community meets but in an anonymous way) but not very in-depth in terms of active participation or creation of strong community bonds and it doesn't enable local respondents to discuss about what is important, what are the problems and challenges, what are they needs. Here it's visible as well that **there is a good starting point to build the local community (as people are positive, open, willing to go out of their houses and participate in something interesting) but there is a need to attract people to more quality community-building activities instead of only the anonymous mass events.**

[answers for the question: What activities organized in Wawer do you take part in?

- 67,4% - free picnics, concerts and big open air events

- 48,9% - big free events in the cultural centres
- 36,3% - one-time workshops
- 33,3% - big paid events in the cultural centres (concerts, theatre, etc)
- 19,3% - regular workshops
- 10,4% - online groups and events
- 7,4% - free events in the libraries
- 5,2% - discussion clubs and closed groups
- 3% - Local Activity Spots]
- 2% - others: nature walks, sport activities]

The next question – “What cultural, educational and community-building activities are missing?” was an open question and showed two important results – **firstly, it showed what people are longing for (so what are their needs and expectations) but also secondly – how much information of our cultural offer is lost in the everyday life – as they point out mostly for things that are regularly organised by our institution** (and they probably missed this information).

The answers pointed out the great variety of activities that the respondents are theoretically missing (I use the word theoretically as most of these activities are in fact organised quite often and are easy accessible). Here are the answers – we bolded these ideas that re the valuable information for us (as it's true that they are either not organised or organised rarely):

*[Joint **forest clean-up**; exchanges; **garage sales***

Intergenerational integration

*special classes for hyperactive and hyperactive children and psychological support for children and adolescents, **gardening classes for children and adults, creating gardens or neighborhood vegetable gardens.***

*active classes in the local forests, outdoor activities, **field games**, activities for entire families with children*

Sports

there is no joy, dancing parties, cabarets, anything to laugh at and relax

Meetings with people of the mountains and cinema

field games

Lectures

*free sports and **dance classes for adults 30+***

*events and classes for children aged 2+ during "after work" hours, **classes developing foreign languages** for children and parents with children,*

learning to play bridge

a place for e.g. barbecuing, feasting and chatting

building social relationships for young people

Concerning the development of new technologies and dealing with them (e.g. fake news, individual cybersecurity) as well as mindfulness and future literacy training

Too few children's and sports shows and concerts

there is **no cooperation between clubs, no neighborhood meetings with cheerful music or cabaret** for children 0-5 on the weekend or in the evening

Lack of cooperation between local clubs. **Residents of the estate have no influence on what happens in their local club. There used to be entertainment events held regularly, it was noisy and fun, now it's a rarity.** Mostly there are boring meetings and zero attendance.

Places to conduct scientific experiments - a well-equipped science center open to schools and students who could pursue their scientific passions

Acting classes, discos for adults

For a retiree, there is enough choice :)

More cultural events such as concerts and performances. I don't like the fact that everything interesting that's happening lately takes place on a romantic beach... which is a long way from Międzyzlesie. Access by public transport is difficult, the only options are a car or a bicycle. **Playgrounds are modest** (see, for comparison, what is happening in this regard outside Warsaw, e.g. in Pruszków) and there are not enough of them for the number of inhabitants... **There is no place for meetings, e.g. a park or a garden with playgrounds. It may be green, there are a lot of forests, but the relationship with neighbors is often poor, because everyone is locked in their homes and gardens...**

lack of communication between individual centers, when something happens, it happens in all of them at the same time on the same date, and then there is a break and the same activity date again

More information

nothing is missing :) possibly something aimed at young people, 20-30 years old without children

Groups for mothers and their children

SPORTS THEATER, FILM, HISTORICAL

discussion clubs and closed groups

more concerts, **summer English courses for children with native speakers** -> in Otwock they study with US soldiers

offer for middle-aged women

Family picnics, health education

Places to meet friends and children, e.g., restaurants, cafes and places where you can have a picnic

Sports activities, **trips around the area**, returning to inviting children's theaters

Organized picnics, recreational meetings for families, joint workshops, cleaning the district, sowing seeds, I myself applied to run free zero-waste cooking workshops for residents and **garden and greenhouse development for and by residents**

I WOULD LIKE MORE WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN IN A ONE-TIME, NOT CYCLICAL FORM

language courses

addressed to people 36-40

*I would appreciate a **book fair**, a park, more trash cans, picnics]*

The most recently appearing needs show that people are especially missing or just wanting:

- **Group activities enabling simple being together connected with joy, laugh and mental relax**
 - picnics, cabarets, concerts, sports, trips around the area, disco, theatre, etc
- **Events targeted on taking care of the district and creating nice common spaces** – forest clean-up, creating gardens, garden and greenhouse development for and by residents, parks with playgrounds, barbecuing spaces – where people can meet instead of staying locked in their own homes and gardens.
- **More targeted developing events for particular groups** – connected with learning languages, new technologies, special classes for hyperactive and hyperactive children and psychological support for children and adolescents, gardening classes for children and adults, meetings with interesting people, dance classes for adults 30+, building social relationships for young people, mindfulness and future literacy training, groups for mothers and their children
- **More intergenerational integration and community events** – as garage sales and exchanges, book fair, neighbourhood vegetable gardens, field games, activities for entire families with children
- **More information about the cultural offer, better cooperation between various local organisations, more influence on what happens in the local culture houses, better communication between individual centers, as “when something happens, it happens in all of them at the same time on the same date, and then there is a break and the same activity date again”**

The most important feedback for us is the repeating need of better synchronization of cultural offer in various culture houses and local organizations in the district.

3. Satisfaction with the community life and our offer, inclusivity of our offer

The survey confirmed that the most of the respondents are either satisfied with the offer of cultural, educational and community-building activities in the Wawer (56%) or they even have a feeling that a choice is too big (16,3%). 22,7% of respondents complains on the offer

pointing out that there is too few activities (12,1%) or that the offered activities don't suit their needs (10,6%).

[For the question "Is the offer of cultural, educational and community-building activities in the Wawer district satisfactory to you? Select 1 answer." There were following answers:

56% - yes, I have a lot of activities to choose

16,3% - yes, the choice is even too big

12,1% - no, there is too few activities

10,6% - no, the offered activities don't suit my needs]

We also enquired „What activities organized in Wawer do you find most inspiring and valuable for local community?" – it was an open question.

[the answers are following:

Meetings at the Wawer Cultural Center with inspiring people

Choir, theater, dance, concerts, picnics

Intergenerational activities; events for families

theater, dancing and singing together

YOGA, TAICHI, GYMNASTICS, DANCE

Body and family movement workshops in August on Zeganska

concerts, lectures, theater performances, outdoor picnics

concerts and theater for children, book discussion club, concerts and theater for adults, women's discussion club, regular classes, dances, painting

ALL FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN 0-3

Small cultural events, neighborhood meetings.

Forest Bathing seems to me to be a very interesting project

Activities organized by Branches Radosć, Sobótki in Ferio

auditorium - performances, concerts, science cafe, Saturdays in ferio

Cinema concerts

EDUCATIONAL, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

large events combined with family activation

farewell to summer

PRACTICAL CLASSES SUCH AS SEWING, CERAMICS, CULINARY WORKSHOPS

dance workshops for adults

Social Inventory of the Wawerski Bend organized by WCK Zastów, Bookworm Library organized by WCK Marysin Wawerski, events on the Romantic Beach, outdoor picnics and concerts organized in WCK Międzyzylesie, Film Discussion Club in WCK Międzyzylesie

Meetings with interesting people from various walks of life - artists, writers, doctors, scientists.

exhibitions, performances, concerts, exercises

promoting Urzecze, an event on the Vistula River.

workshops for children, theaters, concerts

bicycle rallies, large outdoor events

workshops for women

robotics programming for children

activation classes for seniors

concerts, scientific contributions]

There was a great variety of answers showing that in fact each person has a different needs and experience, but it also shows that each form of cultural activities that we organise finds it's fans and meets some important needs.

4. Active participation and the obstacles

As the answers for previous questions indicated that the active participation in the local community is one of our biggest challenges and the value that is weak and unrecognized in Wawer, it can be very important to understand – what are the main obstacles for the local inhabitants to participate more and if there is a will for it.

The answers from this part are really interesting and valuable. **Overall, a majority of 61,7% of the respondents feel that they don't have an impact on the local community** (and only 38,3% feels the opposite).

[Do you feel that you have an impact on the local community?

NO – 61,7%

YES – 38,3%]

When we asked „**What is an obstacle for you to be more active in your local community?**” we got following answers:

- 61% - lack of time
- **29,8% - lack of knowledge how to join and how to act**

- 15,6% - lack of groups or communities where I would like to join
- 4,3% - I live far and have difficulties with transportation
- 4,3% - I am not interested in being locally active

It's quite understandable that significant number of people (61%) chose the answer „lack of time” – especially that being locally active was in fact pointed as the last value on the list 😊 and if something is not very important for us, we mostly don't have time for it.

But it's also interesting that almost one third of respondents pointed out that the big obstacle is **lack of knowledge how to join and how to act. And this is what we found significant and valuable – it may be a huge educational need in our district to teach and inspire local inhabitants – not only about why it's important for local inhabitants to be active but also how can they act, how to start, what are the possibilities.** Especially that the third most popular answer was „lack of groups or communities where I would like to join” (15,6%) what means that **either they don't know local groups and communities or there is not enough such groups. And this is another topic to research and to take care in our project – to make a stronger network and promotion of local organisations – so that they are more visible and can inspire local inhabitants to join and be more active.**

What is also interesting, that there was a very scarce percentage of people who said that they are not interested in being locally active (so there is theoretically a huge will to be more active or at least potential for a positive change!:) Also the difficulties with transportation were not an obstacle in this case.

Another question investigated **“What support would you need to actively act locally, create what is missing, build a local community around what is important to you?”**

The answers were following:

- **44% - inspiration how to act in a local community**
- 24,8% - advice on how to implement the project
- 24,8% - assistance in organizing the project and obtaining material resources
- 19,9% - assistance in promoting the project and reaching recipients
- 17% - support in building a team and recruiting people to help
- 17% - space for team meetings
- 11,3% - room for the implementation of the project
- 10,6% - other help
- 10,6% - other help (open question):
 - some good training on how to do such things, what are the best practices, I also lack a bit of courage and perseverance in pursuing the goal, some local "support" group would be useful for me
 - emerging projects are poorly advertised by the commune office, lack of support and promotion in social media, what is happening in cultural homes is little visible, little interest on Facebook pages

The results of this question indicate that in fact **the biggest need is the most basic one to start - 44% respondents needs simply „an inspiration how to act in a local community”**. So in fact a huge number of respondents is just behind the first step to act locally – they need to find inspiration, the ideas showing the possibilities and success stories. Then they will be ready to think about the next step that is the plan – what can I do and how to implement it. **24,8% of respondents have such consciousness that they need also** advice on how to implement the project and the same number needs also assistance in organizing the project and obtaining material resources.

Only 1/5 of respondents pointed more detailed aspects of organizing the local initiatives - around 20% of respondents is also looking for the assistance in promoting the project and reaching recipients, 17% - would like to get support in building a team and recruiting people to help and the same number – needs a space for team meetings. 11,3% wanted room for the implementation of the project and 10,6% chose the option „other help” meaning for example „some good **training** on how to do such things, what are the best practices, I also lack a bit of **courage and perseverance in pursuing the goal, some local "support" group** would be useful for me” or “emerging projects are poorly advertised by the commune office, lack of **support and promotion in social media**, what is happening in cultural houses is little visible, little interest on Facebook pages”

Overall, these answers confirm what was pointed in previous questions about the active participation of local inhabitants:

- **the general attitude is positive and there is a slight interest in the concept of being locally active. Probably quite a lot from these 61% who feel the lack of impact on the local community would like to have it**
- **but there is too few experience connected with it and it has following consequences: the respondents don't know that being active is valuable (so they don't find this need as very important); because it's not a key value, they also don't find enough time and interest for it and most of them is not involved in any kind of local organisation or projects for the local community; even if they find this idea interesting and may be open for trying to be more active, they don't have enough competences to do it. That's why so many of them points the lack of knowledge how to act and the need to get some more inspiration, some training, some support from outside. And in fact it seems that 44% of respondents who needed more inspiration how to act – after they get it, they will need another types of support from the list – so that they can step by step build all the competences to have power of building and shaping the local community.**

Summary of survey results

1. Sense of connectedness and local identity

The survey disclosed that:

1. The local identity and connectedness with the district are strong and don't come from the fact that somebody was born here. People like the district and find it special and unique.
2. There is generally a positive spirit in terms of social bonds among inhabitants – the slight majority likes their neighbours (what is not obvious in a big city), the half of respondents have friends here and also the half – has a family. Also around 50% of respondents have an ease to meet new people in the district. But on the other hand, it indicates that the other half doesn't have locally strong social bonds with friends, family or neighbours. And around 16% claims to have difficulties in meeting new people.
3. The local identity and interest in the issues of the district are strong and substantial – more than a half of respondents knows their district well, 62,4% know many interesting places and a great amount (87,2%!) claims to care about their neighbourhood and feels responsible for it.
4. **There is a huge potential to develop a strong community and active participation of local inhabitants** (as around 65% of the declares to have time and resources to develop their interests and to participate in the culture and/or life of the local community and also similar percentage claims to feel a part of local community), **but... there is a problem with the real involvement.** Only 20% belongs to a local community and only 31% feels actively involved. On the opposite – 35% doesn't belong to any community and 38% declares that doesn't feel actively involved. The rest chose the answer „hard to say“ what also indicates either very rare or very weak involvement in the community life.

2. Most important values, needs and expectations

1. For the inhabitants of Wawer district the key values are: Spending time with family; Relax and tranquility and Education and acquiring knowledge. Near the top of the list are also Health improvement and Intellectual activity. Working and gaining a better financial status is on the 6th place, it's not a key value, what can indicate that inhabitants of Wawer are rather intellectual and educated people, whose financial status is rather good and stable, most of the responders are professionally active and have kids, so they put a great value to both family life and some rest and relax. But they also have quite a lot of „higher-level“ needs (according to

Maslow's pyramid of needs) – education, intellectual activities are on top, but also participating in cultural activities and development of artistic passions are valued as important or very important for 87,8% (cultural activities) and 73,3% (artistic passions) of respondents.

2. The 7-th place on the list is connected with individual sports and activities on fresh air (it's much higher in comparison to organized group sports) and it shows that for Wawer inhabitants it's a very important value to be active, to take care of health and have some relax – by walking in the forest or riding a bike (these data come from other part of the survey) – this is also one of the unique features of Wawer district that is surrounded by the forest and two rivers and where people look for a more quality life, their consciousness in this matter may be higher than in other districts of Warsaw.
3. The 8th and 9th places on the list are showing that slightly bigger group prefers spending time with closest friends (only for 10,9% it's not important) than meeting new people (it's not important for 15,2%), but still – both values are very important (for 43,5%) or important (45,6% vs 41,3%), more important than cultural activities and artistic passions.
4. The most conspicuous result from this question according to the goals of the whole survey is the last place where is **the need of "Being active in local organizations and communities"**. **No other value had such small recognition** – only for 20,8% it's very important and for 34,6% of respondents – completely unimportant. It's quite crucial result showing why people are not actively participating in the community life - because **they don't have the consciousness that it's something important and valuable**, that it will give them more than it will take from them. So there is a **huge challenge for the local organisations – to educate local inhabitants why the active participation in the local community is important and that gives huge profits for everybody** – for the activists, for the recipients and for the whole community.

Among all cultural activities offered in the district, the most popular are big events, especially open air picnics, concerts, etc. About one-third invests in more inspiring activities as one-time workshops or paid events like concerts or theatre. Only 19% goes to regular workshops where they meet the same group of participants and can make some closer bonds with them. And unfortunately, very few respondents participate in more active and integrating activities as discussion clubs, closed groups or Local Activity Spots (they are the great initiative but still a bit unknown and not popular).

So it confirms that the community life is quite vibrant and full of positive emotions (built during free picnics and concerts where the local community meets but in an anonymous way) but not very in-depth in terms of active participation or creation of strong community bonds and it doesn't enable local respondents to discuss about what is important, what are the problems and challenges, what are they needs.

The next question – "What cultural, educational and community-building activities are missing?" showed two important results – **firstly, it showed what people are longing for (so what are their needs and expectations) but also secondly – how much information of our cultural offer is lost in the everyday life – as they point out mostly for things that are regularly organised by our institution** (and they probably missed this information).

The answers pointed out the great variety of activities that the respondents are theoretically missing (I use the word theoretically as most of these activities are in fact organised quite often and are easy accessible). The most recently appearing needs show that people are especially missing or just wanting:

- **Group activities enabling simple being together connected with joy, laugh and mental relax**
- picnics, cabarets, concerts, sports, trips around the area, disco, theatre, etc
- **Events targeted on taking care of the district and creating nice common spaces** – forest clean-up, creating gardens, garden and greenhouse development for and by residents, parks with playgrounds, barbecuing spaces – where people can meet instead of staying locked in their own homes and gardens.
- **More targeted developing events for particular groups** – connected with learning languages, new technologies, special classes for hyperactive and hyperactive children and psychological support for children and adolescents, gardening classes for children and adults, meetings with interesting people, dance classes for adults 30+, building social relationships for young people, mindfulness and future literacy training, groups for mothers and their children
- **More intergenerational integration and community events** – as garage sales and exchanges, book fair, neighbourhood vegetable gardens, field games, activities for entire families with children
- **More information about the cultural offer, better cooperation between various local organisations, more influence on what happens in the local culture houses, better communication between individual centers, as “when something happens, it happens in all of them at the same time on the same date, and then there is a break and the same activity date again”**

3. Satisfaction with the community life and our offer, inclusivity of our offer

The survey confirmed that the most of the respondents are either satisfied with the offer of cultural, educational and community-building activities in the Wawer (56%) or they even have a feeling that a choice is too big (16,3%). 22,7% of respondents complains on the offer pointing out that there is too few activities (12,1%) or that the offered activities don't suit their needs (10,6%).

We also enquired „What activities organized in Wawer do you find most inspiring and valuable for local community?“ – There was a great variety of answers showing that in fact each person has a different needs and experience, but it also shows that each form of cultural activities that we organise finds it's fans and meets some important needs.

4. Active participation and the obstacles

Overall, a majority of 61,7% of the respondents feel that they don't have an impact on the local community (and only 38,3% feels the opposite).

The main obstacle to be more active in the local community is supposed to be the lack of time. It's quite understandable that significant number of people (61%) chose the answer „lack of time” – especially that being locally active was in fact pointed as the last value on the list and if something is not very important for us, we mostly don't have time for it.

Almost one third of respondents pointed out that the big obstacle is lack of knowledge how to join and how to act. And the third most popular answer was „lack of groups or communities where I would like to join” (15,6%) what means that either they don't know local groups and communities or there is not enough such groups.

What is also interesting, that there was a very scarce percentage of people who said that they are not interested in being locally active (so there is theoretically a huge will to be more active or at least potential for a positive change!:) Also the difficulties with transportation were not an obstacle in this case.

Another question investigated “What support would you need to actively act locally, create what is missing, build a local community around what is important to you?” The results of this question indicate that in fact the biggest need is the most basic one to start - 44% respondents needs simply „an inspiration how to act in a local community”. So in fact a huge number of respondents is just behind the first step to act locally – they need to find inspiration, the ideas showing the possibilities and success stories. Then they will be ready to think about the next step that is the plan – what can I do and how to implement it. 24,8% of respondents have such consciousness that they need also advice on how to implement the project and the same number needs also assistance in organizing the project and obtaining material resources.

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III. Challenges and Recommendations

The survey disclosed following challenges that our organisation should meet:

1. Many local inhabitants don't have closer bonds with neighbors and the local community (even if their attitude is positive) and just the easiness to meet new people. Our challenge may be to help the inhabitants to meet new people and to make closer bonds with other inhabitants of the district. That will help to create the stronger local community.
 - Generally, there is **a good starting point to build the local community (as people are positive, open, willing to go out of their houses and participate in something interesting) but there is a need to attract people to more quality community-building activities instead of only the anonymous mass events.**
2. The inhabitants are generally satisfied with the cultural offer in the district, but they see the need of better synchronization of cultural offer in various culture houses and local organizations in the district. Also not for everybody our offer is visible and well promoted, quite often they miss the information about the activities that are the most interesting for them (maybe they are not well targeted).
3. The survey disclosed that the active participation in the local community is one of our biggest challenges and the value that is weak and unrecognized in Wawer. Even if

most of respondents feels a part of the community, there is a problem with the real involvement. Only 20% belongs to a local community and only 31% feels actively involved. On the opposite – 35% doesn't belong to any community and 38% declares that doesn't feel actively involved. The rest chose the answer „hard to say“ what also indicates either very rare or very weak involvement in the community life.

It turned out that the main reason for it may be the lack of knowledge how to join and how to act (and what for). So our huge challenge is **taking care of a large educational need in our district to teach and inspire local inhabitants – not only about why it's important to be active but also how can they act, how to start, what are the possibilities.**

As another obstacle was „lack of groups or communities where I would like to join“ - that means that either they don't know local groups and communities or there is not enough such groups. So another important challenge for us is to make a stronger network and promotion of local organisations – so that they are more visible and can inspire local inhabitants to join and be more active.