







Renovation and modernization of the building of Suwałki Cultural Center (SOK) at 71 Noniewicza St. co-financed by Regional Operational Programme of Podlaskie Voivodeship for 2014-2020. Priority Axis VIII Infrastructure for Public Services, Operation 8.5 Revitalization.

The aim of the project was to assign to the building new social, economic, educational and cultural functions in order to solve theretofore identified socio-economic problems within the area of revitalization by means of renovation and modernization.

Total gross investment for the project was PLN 6 694 955.51 including Regional Operational Programme Fund contributing PLN 3 252 628.82, Suwałki City Hall contributing PLN 2 977 665.52 and government budget contributing PLN 464 661.27. The renovation work has lasted for sixteen months including reconstruction and changing character of premises. The building regained both new front façade and illumination. It became handicap accessible. It got modern interior design and new technical equipment.

On 14th February 2020 took place the official opening ceremony. It triggered series of additional events incl. vernissage in Contemporary Art Gallery Chłodna 20 and six featured concerts in a music club. Among those present were also representatives of Board of Podlaskie Voivodeship, Plenipotentiary of the Voivode, Suwałki local government, representatives of local government units, priests, contractors for the renovation, local media, NGOs, artists and citizens.

Expected outcomes of the project are the following:

- growth of integration and socio-professional stimulation of people living in the area of revitalization;
- reducing social exclusion and dysfunctional behavior;
- growth of social capital of people living in the area of revitalization;
- increasing number of educational and cultural offerings for people with disabilities;
- development of new economic activities and new jobs;
- increasing level of environmental protection by means of improving quality of air and energy efficiency within the area of revitalization;
- improving spatial and functional arrangements within the area of revitalization;
- greater availability of the infrastructure and diminishing energy-usage of it.

All activities are non-profit and they are free of charge for users.

The new position was set up i.e. Coordinator for revitalization. Workrooms were moved into the building. Working hours were extended up to 7:00 pm including Saturdays and Sundays.

Performance indicators and outcomes of the project are under constant monitoring and evaluation.

On 18 March 2020 two offer contests were announced on BIP Suwalskiego Ośrodka Kultury:

- 1. For non-governmental organizations that operates within socio-cultural field focused on groups that are at risk of social exclusion incl. elderly and handicap people, kids and youths living in the area of revitalization;
- 2. For entities that would run a café in the music club.