

**CASE STUDY TITLE:** FUNDACJA SENDZIMIRA [*SENDZIMIR FOUNDATION*] CASE STUDY DESCRIPTION

**AUTHOR:**

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**THEME:**

- *RENEWABLE ENERGY,*
- *SUSTAINABLE HOUSING,*
- *SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM,*
- *CIRCULAR ECONOMY:*
  - *DESIGN AND PRODUCTION,*
  - *CONSUMPTION,*
  - *RECOVERY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT.*

*Case study (350 - 500 words in total divided in the following elements)*

**Case study description:**

The Sendzimir Foundation is a non-profit organisation operating in Poland. Its activities focus on the adaptation of cities to climate change, including the adaptation of water infrastructure and the modernisation of buildings in order to apply solutions in cities to reduce CO2 emissions and slow down the process of global warming. The Foundation's activities stem from the mission of its founder, who was Tadeusz Sendzimir. He saw the need to look for solutions that took advantage of the environment in which the entities concerned operated. The original entity - the Sendzimir Foundation - was replaced several years ago by an organisation already established in Poland and, as the Sendzimir Foundation, the entity continues to pursue the mission established in the founder's vision. This mission is related to combating climate change, which the Foundation believes is a pressing problem. The Foundation seeks to address these issues through a variety of projects, both paid and unpaid, which stem from the Articles of Association or the implementation of economic activities. Statutory activities are primarily related to raising funds for training projects, for so-called networking for local authorities, for solution-seeking activities, e.g. through the dissemination of adaptation methods, seeking solutions that reconcile the different interests of groups involved in solving a problem. The business activity is largely related to contact with local authorities, to the implementation of projects or workshops for specific local authorities, for example to learn how to build rain gardens, a project the Foundation has recently implemented. The Foundation's target group is primarily professionals, urban planners, urban area managers and representatives of public administration. In addition, a sizable group consists of representatives of other non-governmental organisations. The Foundation is also open to students. Educational activities are, by definition, difficult to measure. When delivering training to, for example, local government employees, the Foundation assumes that what they learn will be implemented in their work, in their environment. When it comes to training, the Foundation tries to organise it in such a way that it works in a specific place, for example: in the thermo-modernisation of buildings, to work in the very building that needs to be modernised. As a result of the training, participants are left with concrete guidelines. In principle, the solution can be implemented and concrete ideas for action are already taken up by the trainees. The results of one training session included a concept for the construction of landscape retention infrastructure around a school. Funding has been obtained and the project is underway. The effects of the actions taken are difficult to measure and we do not have homogeneous yardsticks in this respect. For example, if the project is designed for a



population of 100,000, this can be assumed to be the number of people. Another element of measurement could be the number of editions, the number of leaders we have trained or the results implemented. The Foundation has a different operating formula. There are cities, institutions, actors who come back to it and propose another collaboration. It all stems from the way the solution is discussed. For example, when working in cross-sectoral competitions, there has been collaboration on increasing greenery in Polish cities. City managers met with each other and with the Foundation's staff, shared ideas and exchanged information on solutions that worked. Specific green maintenance standards were then realised on behalf of the cities. The Foundation's work is based on discussion, experience and the development of consensus. It works in a workshop format and has a working model based on inviting city representatives and experts. In this way, people often with opposing interests work out common solutions. The Foundation's main service delivery channel is workshops and one-to-one consultations. Foundation staff distribute knowledge in this way. They also organise conferences, issue publications or prepare articles in the Foundation's media and professional media. The Foundation has a steady, though not very large, income. However, they are important and secure. They come from annual donations from the Funder. The second source is publicly funded projects. In this case, the Foundation has a diversified source, as funds come from local governments, EEA funds or EU funds. As the Foundation is also active in business, this too is a source of financial resources. The Foundation undertakes paid activities (this is approximately up to 10% of the total revenue to the Foundation's budget). The Sendzimir Foundation is currently raising public funds.

**Environmental and/or social effects** (*preferably in bullet points*):

The following factors constitute important environmental and social effects for **local government**:

- implementation of investment projects in the field of environmental protection, sustainable development, combating climate change;
- producing concrete results in response to an individual problem;
- cooperation of multiple actors from different sectors to develop a solution.

Closure, with focus questions arising from the case / problem

The Sendzimir Foundation is involved in the implementation of specific investment projects that are carried out by other entities, most often local authorities. In this way, although it does not carry out technical activities and does not interfere in the infrastructure (e.g. by carrying out construction work), it influences the real shape of infrastructure solutions. A key area of expertise conveyed by the Foundation is the ability to develop a specific solution based on its knowledge of urban infrastructure in cooperation with the many actors (stakeholders) in such projects. It is worth noting the collaborative nature of green skills, which serve not only individuals, but entire communities.

**Discussion questions:**

1. What is the problematic situation the Sendzimir Foundation is trying to solve? (problem)
2. Why did they decide to solve it? What drives them? (purpose)
3. What are the Sendzimir Foundation's activities? What do they do to solve it/them? What other steps would you take to solve the problem? (solution)



4. What is their target group? Who are their clients? Who are their customers? (customer segments)
5. How will the Sendzimir Foundation’s activities change the world or the situation for the better? (impact)
6. And how will they know that they achieved that? (key metrics)
7. So what does the Sendzimir Foundation do differently? What do their customers perceive as the biggest value? (unique value proposition)
8. In which ways do they deliver their products or services (channels)
9. What are their main costs and what is the main source of their revenue? (revenue)

**STAKEHOLDERS:** (1) LOCAL GOVERNMENT, (2) DESIGN STUDIOS, (3) LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**ETHICAL ISSUES** (POSITIVE, NEGATIVE) IN RELATION TO THE SCENARIO:

- (1) A PROPOSAL FOR A KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM RELATED TO URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE.
- (2) THE WIDE-RANGE IMPACT OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF A POSITIVE NATURE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

GREEN SKILLS ADDRESSED: (KEEP RELEVANT ONES FROM THE LIST) DESIGN SKILLS, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, MANAGEMENT SKILLS, CITY PLANNING SKILLS, LANDSCAPING SKILLS, ENERGY SKILLS, FINANCIAL SKILLS, PROCUREMENT SKILLS, WASTE MANAGEMENT SKILLS, COMMUNICATION SKILLS

**SDGS ADDRESSED:** GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES, GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION.

CHOOSE FROM WEBSITE: [HTTPS://SDGS.UN.ORG/GOALS](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)

