

CASE STUDY TITLE: **SOCIAL COOPERATIVE KOMUNALKA RZGÓW**

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THEME: WRITE DOWN ONE OF OUR 4 THEMES: RENEWABLE ENERGY, SUSTAINABLE HOUSING, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM, **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

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

Case study description:

The Komunalka Rzgów is a social cooperative that was established in September 2016 by two entities of local government - the County of Konin and the Borough of Rzgów (approx. 7,000 inhabitants). The cooperative has been formed by legal persons. The aim of the cooperative is the social and professional reintegration of people at risk of social exclusion and the provision of public services to the local community – for the well-being of the whole community. They include municipal services commissioned by the Borough of Rzgów and neighbouring local authorities, including primarily waste collection, as well as street and pavement repair work and green area management (including mowing, weeding, raking, pruning). Private companies and residents are also clients. The co-operative employs 15 people, mainly long-term unemployed, people in crisis of homelessness, alcoholics after undergoing treatment and people with disabilities. The income in 2021 was approximately PLN 1.7 million (approximately €400,000), and the cooperative also records profits that are further allocated to the social and professional reintegration of its employees.

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

The following factors constitute important environmental and social effects for... :

- Educating residents on proper waste separation and rational waste management (the Cooperative conducts such campaigns in schools and communities)
- Reducing the negative impact on progressive climate change (the challenge is the long distances that the Cooperative's rubbish trucks travel on a daily basis - especially as this is a rural area and the municipality is large; empty runs are also a problem)
- Reducing the consumption of fossil fuels

Closure, with focus questions arising from the case / problem:

The Komunalka Rzgów Social Cooperative is a thriving social enterprise which pursues social and economic objectives - for the benefit of local community residents. Climate change and an energy crisis caused by the unavailability/high price of solid fuels will pose a challenge for the cooperative. Therefore, one of the main goals is to switch (eventually) to the use of zero-emission vehicles and equipment, such as rubbish trucks powered by hydrogen or electricity (which may be difficult due to the long distances between sites). However, this raises specific problems: where to get the funds to purchase such equipment (very large investments) and where to get clean fuel to power them (Konin area is powered by electricity from brown/lignite coal). Therefore, it is worth considering a common purchasing platform for social enterprises wo provide public services in the area of purchasing of clean energy, as well as subsidies for the purchase of zero-emission equipment.

Low public awareness of waste separation is yet another problem. The Co-operative runs educational campaigns on the subject, but they are limited and should be supported by the public administration (at every level). Similarly - residents use a lot of waste bags (which are provided by the Co-operative) - it should be considered whether it is possible (e.g. through educational campaigns) to reduce the number of bags. Another issue is the high number of so-called empty rubbish truck runs - a solution could be an app for residents through which they indicate that waste is ready for collection (buckets and bags are full).

Questions arising from the case / problem:

- What is the problematic situation the SE is trying to solve? (problem)
- Why did they decide to solve it? What drives them? (purpose)
- What are the SE's activities? What do they do to solve it/them? What other steps would you take to solve the problem? (solution)
- What is their target group? Who are their clients? Who are their customers? (customer segments)
- How will the SE's activities change the world or the situation for the better? (impact)
- And how will they know that they achieved that? (key metrics)
- So what does de SE do differently? What do their customers perceive as the biggest value? (unique value proposition)

- In which ways do they deliver their products or services (channels)
- What are their main costs and what is the main source of their revenue? (revenue)

STAKEHOLDERS:

- (1) BOROUGH OF RZGÓW
- (2) COUNTY OF KONIN
- (3) BORORUGH OF SOMPOLNO
- (4) INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS
- (5) PRIVATE COMPANIES FROM THE DISTRICT OF KONIN

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

- vocational activation of people at risk of exclusion
- high-quality social services provided by local government
- bottom-up activities aimed at environmental protection

GREEN SKILLS ADDRESSED: (KEEP RELEVANT ONES FROM THE LIST)

1. DESIGN SKILLS,
2. LEADERSHIP SKILLS,
- 3. MANAGEMENT SKILLS,**
4. CITY PLANNING SKILLS,
- 5. LANDSCAPING SKILLS,**
6. ENERGY SKILLS,
7. FINANCIAL SKILLS,
- 8. PROCUREMENT SKILLS,**
- 9. WASTE MANAGEMENT SKILLS,**
10. COMMUNICATION SKILLS

SDGS ADDRESSED: 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 17. PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

