



COUNTRY	Poland
CASE STUDY CODE	Poland_Good Practice_O.09_4
MAIN INFORMATION	
Title	Public consultations during creation of Zelów Municipality
Location	Zelów Municipal
Responsible Authority	Zelów Municipal Office
Link	http://zelow.pl/konsultacje-spoeczne/http://zelow.pl/prace-nad-strategia-rozwoju-gminy-zelow-na-lata-2021-2027/?fbclid=IwAR3gRzi_3kR3INol625iK6_mPeTdfbNN5TKgRaMfQIbKPKKvNnNPed41yfw0
Keywords	spatial planning, public consultations, Poland

IDENTIFICATION

Type	Case (plan, program, project etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders involved	Public institutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Method / Tool	<input type="checkbox"/>		Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>		Civil society organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Legal framework	<input type="checkbox"/>		Knowledge institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public or grassroots movements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy field	Urban planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timeline	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>		Start date	<input type="checkbox"/> 2020	
	Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>		End date	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	
	Rural areas and planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		On going	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Spatial level	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeated overtime	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				



CONTENT AND RESULTS

Purpose and context

In 2020, Zelów municipality decided to develop a strategic document for years 2021-2027. Process of creating the strategy included engaging local community through a series of consultations. The aim was to collect feedback, suggestions, and opinions. The consultation process was intended to lead to creation of final version of the strategy.

The quantitative and qualitative data obtained during workshop and consultation meetings allowed for formulation of strategic goals. These elements define a character of development and ways to achieve assumed mission and vision of Zelów municipality.

Problems and challenges

Low attendance and engagement of residents. Residents may not be interested in participating in public consultations for various reasons, such as a lack of awareness, lack of interest, or a belief that their opinions will not influence the final decisions.

Communication barriers. A low level of digital competencies (in the case of online consultations) or simply a lack of access to information and public communication can hinder effective dialogue between authorities and residents.

Lack of funds. Organizing effective public consultations requires financial resources, which can be limited in the case of rural municipalities.

Lack of appropriate tools and methods. Choosing inappropriate consultation methods can not only reduce their effectiveness but also cause frustration among participants. An improperly chosen methodology can lead to incorrect conclusions.

Problems with representativeness. Difficulties in ensuring that all relevant stakeholders and social groups are represented in the consultation process, which can lead to the omission of important perspectives and needs.

Organizing, Supporting and Funding Entities

The entity responsible for adopting the strategy is Zelów municipality, which commissions other entities to assist in this task. In creating the strategy and consultations, external companies also provided assistance: ResPublic and the Space Culture Foundation.

Process (including participant recruitment & selection) and Interaction/Participation (including methods/tools) used

The public consultations were divided in the following way:

- A survey preceding the consultations (August 14, 2020). Aimed to obtain responses on which aspects of municipal development should be focused on by local authorities and to engage residents in the document creation process.





- The first meeting (September 3, 2020). It included workshops as part of activities in one of the 3 working sub-groups (social, infrastructure and environment, economy and promotion). During the meeting, a survey on a quality of life of residents in Zelów municipality was conducted. Efforts were also made to identify main problems faced by the municipality's residents.
- The second meeting (September 16, 2020). Workshops and presentations. The main goal was to formulate the vision, mission, objectives, and tasks of the development strategy.
- Public consultations on possible changes to the document (lasting throughout January 2021). Residents could participate by filling out an online form, which could be obtained via email, personally collecting the application at the municipal office, and filling out the form directly on Zelów municipal's website.

Outcomes, Effects and Lessons Learned

The municipality's focus on participation allowed for:

- Conducting workshops. Aimed at engaging residents in participation process, workshops were held where residents described strengths of the municipality and its future (all notes taken were included as an annex to the final document).
- Compiling a report about quality of life in Zelów municipality. Residents responded to questions in survey studies.
- Identification of areas for enhancement. The residents have highlighted a necessity for advancements in road infrastructure, availability of employment opportunities, and provision of recreational facilities as critical components.
- Conducting online consultations. The initiative saw participation from 7 individuals, reflecting a modest engagement despite the extensive accessibility of the consultation forms. Notably, 2 participants submitted their surveys in person at the municipal office, while 5 opted for the online submission method.
- Implementation of amendments to the final document. The residents put forward a total of 19 proposals for consideration. Of these, 8 were fully accepted, 2 underwent modifications before acceptance, and 9 were rejected.

The final outcome:

- Identification of critical areas requiring enhancement.
- Determining strengths and weaknesses of the municipality.
- Formulation of Zelów Municipality Development Strategy for 2021-2027 through collaborative engagement with a local community and fostering resident participation in municipal affairs.
- Based on the 2021 Strategy Implementation Rationale Monitoring Report, several accomplishments were recorded in Zelów municipality: preparation of 8 recreational offerings, support for 130 cultural initiatives, backing of 13 local leadership programs, execution of 105 initiatives aimed at the social activation of residents, modernization of 62 kilometers of road infrastructure, and provision of employment intermediary information benefiting 860 individuals.

Bibliography

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