

Student council support program # SU-w-ak

"Educational Foundation for them" P. Stanisław Konarski". Poland

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During the 2021/2022 school year, the "Educational Foundation for them. Stanisław Konarski" implemented the "student council support program # SU-w-ak"-a project under which 43 primary and secondary schools in Krakow:

- participated in 20 hours of inspirational formation;
- participated in 5 editions of grant competitions for the realization of a local government project (invented and implemented by students);
- implemented 42 local government projects with financial support in the total amount of almost PLN 70,000;
- had the opportunity to promote their local government activity.

In addition, 7,000 young people from Krakow participated in social and local government activities.

The program was and is a response to the needs of student councils in Krakow for financial and substantive support of social activities carried out by students in schools.

The objective of the program was to activate student self-governments, promote student self-governance in schools, provide financial support for student self-governments' activities in Krakow's primary and secondary schools, and improve the organizational skills of student self-governance bodies.

To achieve this goal, we initiated our cooperation with schools starting with formation. Although conducted remotely, we managed not only to convey the necessary knowledge, e.g. in the field of teamwork and local governance, but also to persuade participants to interact and ask questions.

The most important elements of the program were grant competitions and the realization of selected local government projects for which financial support in the amount of 500-2000 PLN was available.

In total, there were 5 editions of grant competitions in which 32 schools participated and submitted 70 local government projects (in the form of specially prepared applications). Each of them had to be prepared by the students' self-government and be the result of the real needs of the students or of the local environment closest to them. Forty-two local government projects from 25 schools in Krakow were selected for implementation. An amount of PLN 70,000 was allocated for their implementation. These projects involved students, stimulated them to social activity or charitable activities, or for the benefit of their school or the local community. The projects implemented concerned the following areas:-

integration of the student community,

- education in the field of students' rights and obligations,
- promotion of civic and patriotic attitudes,
- culture,
- ecology,
- healthy lifestyle,
- promotion of entrepreneurship,
- charitable activities,
- cooperation with the local community.

The realization of each of them involved not only students who are members of student self-government bodies, but also the school community (sometimes also teachers and parents).

In total, about 7,000 young people from Krakow took part in them. Descriptions of all projects (in Polish only) with photos can be found at: <https://oswiatowa.pjarzy.pl/ksiega-dobrych-praktyk-cz-i-i-ii-zainspiruj-sie-do-dzialania-w-ramach-su/>

During the implementation of the program, the Foundation's employees not only conducted formation courses and scholarship competitions, but also worked closely with the schools in the preparation phase of their competition applications and in the implementation of the projects. There were numerous consultations (by phone, online and live) and visits to the schools. This made us feel involved in these very important events for the schools and for the development of self-governance.

The program was carried out in cooperation with the Krakow city authorities as part of the program of active participation of young people in the life of the city "Young Krakow 2.0" and fully funded by them. We are pleased to announce that the Program will also be implemented in the next school year in cooperation with the Krakow City Council.

Who are we? We are an educational foundation for them. Father Stanisław Konarski is a non-governmental organization founded in 1998 by the Polish Province of the Piarist Order. The Foundation is a public benefit organization (PPO), i.e. it is entitled to receive 1%. The Foundation operates in the field of education and upbringing. It helps children, adolescents and the elderly.

