

**Centrum Kształcenia Ustawicznego** – jednostka budżetowa (Centre of Continuing Education – budgetary unit) is an adult education provider. The Centre was established in 1980 and educates and trains people 17+ providing vocational education in economy and ICT fields for those who failed to get secondary education on time, do not have any vocational training and those who want to update their qualifications. About 90% of the students are women. All formal courses finish with exams and nationally recognized certificates and meet the needs of the regional economy. The centre has 115 staff members and train about 1500 learners per year.

In 1998, inside the Centre of Continuing Education the practice firm CKU Modex Ltd was established in order to provide practical training. The practice firm reflects the work of the real enterprise and as a trading company it “trades” with other practice Polish and foreign companies. Every course is preceded by the session with the psychologist to build self-esteem of ‘employees’. The practice firm is also a place where different local, national and international projects are carried out.

Active citizenship is implemented in the organisation through learners self government who participate actively in managing the organisation including financial management in the parts connecting with learners’ contribution. The centre takes part in civic activities i.e. name day of the street, clean the world etc. In non formal courses information are provided on human rights, tolerance and cultural differences in Europe and the world.

Since 2001, the centre has been taking part in or co-ordinating several projects under the Leonardo da Vinci and the SOCRATES programme such as Grundtvig, Accompanying Measures, Minerva and Youth and won a Grundtvig Award in 2003 (Socrates Grundtvig 1 – ‘Employing Women’s Potential’), e.g. *1st Summer School for Second Chance School* in 2001/02; *Inclusive Practices for Learners with Disabilities* in 2003-2005, *Developing Female Enterpreneurs* in 2002 – 2004; *Conceptual Learning Environments for sensorial impaired Learners* in 2003 – 2005; *Gender Specific Aspects of Violence Prevention* in 2003 – 2005; *Youth Work in Progress* in 2003 – 2005) etc.

**ACT! relevant projects:**

In the framework of ACT!, the project partners of the above mentioned project “*Employing Women’s Potential*” will involved in the project. The project directed to women from disadvantaged groups like long term unemployed, single mothers, victims of domestic violence seeking employment was dealing with the analysis of the specific needs of the target group in order to develop a pilot training course. The course consists of three modules: personal development course, IT and mentoring. The two modules: personal development and mentoring courses contribute greatly to ensure involvement of women threatened with exclusion in active citizenship. They learn about their and their children rights and to look for help in state and local institutions. The mentoring course shows them that to help others can be a way to become involved in social and civic life of local community. The second project which will be involved in the project is directed to NGO’s working with voluntaries and voluntaries themselves and is dealing with the assessment of the training needs of the organisations and voluntaries themselves with the help of questionnaires and with the elaboration of specific training modules. The voluntary work itself contributes to active citizenship. People who are ready to devote their free time to other people in need are active citizen themselves and spread this idea widely among their beneficiaries.