

case study:

Exceptional Student Project



PCG | **International**

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CLIENT

The City of Lodz

PROJECT

Organization of extracurricular classes
for the students of grades 1 to 3

07.2013 – 07.2014

93 schools, 9,758 students, 690 teachers

66,180 study groups

2,450,000 PLN / 790,000 USD

CHALLENGE

The European Union, as part of the Human Capital Operational Program has committed financial resources for equalizing educational opportunities for students with limited access to education and improving the quality of special educational services. The City of Lodz has received funding for the realization of the project concerning the individualization of curriculum.

The beneficiaries of the project are students of grades 1 to 3 of primary schools, for whom the access to additional forms of educational support is of particular importance since it prevents significant differences in the quality of knowledge and skills acquired during the further stages of education. The City of Lodz Office decided, according to the Polish law regulations, to identify an external partner responsible for organization of the project by means of RfP.

PCG'S SOLUTION

PCG decided to offer its services and assistance in carrying out the project. Initial analysis performed by the company confirmed that the project is within its long-term development plans on the educational market. The offer introduced by PCG stood out from the other due to the quoted price, experts with whom the company cooperates and its experience. All the above factors led to PCG's offer being the one chosen.

PLANNING

First step made by PCG was the preparation of a detailed project plan. It incorporated particular stages of the initiative, results that the company was obliged to produce in each of them, as well as the resources needed for the achievement of these results. The thorough list of project stakeholders was also drawn up, which included, apart from the client, all the schools that take part in the project along with the teachers and students who work and study there.

IMPLEMENTATION

Within the two subsequent months PCG faced the challenge of preparing the resources and documentation required for the launch of first classes. Efficient realization of the project entailed the cooperation with a number of teachers and specialists, frequently from different regions of the city and not working primarily in a school, in which they were to run classes. With the intention of preparing exemplary documents essential in the process of the realization of the project, trusted experts on psychological and pedagogical support and on curriculum planning were engaged by PCG. They were also available for the project participants during its entire duration. One of the prerequisites connected with the financing of the project from European funds is a on going analysis of a massive amount of data, making quick decisions and precise reporting of the information concerning company's performance and the achieved outcomes. With this goal, detailed procedures of gathering, processing and analyzing data as well as specially tailored electronic tools were prepared.

Simultaneously, the company decided to implement EdPlan, a proprietary web-based system, free of charge for schools that participate in the project. Thanks to EdPlan, teachers and specialists cooperating on the project received a safe remote access to the sensitive data connected with the classes they run. At the same time, the client had a chance to monitor the progress of the project realization and to make current decisions thanks to access to aggregated data within dedicated EdPlan module. An adjustment of the system to the specific requirements concerning documentation and procedures was necessary. A series of intensive training sessions adjusted to the needs of different groups of stakeholders, namely teachers, specialists and coordinators of the project – frequently school principals, were conducted.

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EVERYDAY OPERATION

During the project run, besides the meticulous, monthly reports for the client about a service progress, PCG was obliged to provide continuous and high quality support for all of the stakeholders. PCG's experts were available all the time for the project members and helped them in case of change in classes schedule, teachers' substitution or any problems concerning EdPlan system. At the end of the first quarter of the classes, there was an external project control conducted by the Marshal's Office of the Lodz Region. Thanks to the good cooperation between PCG and the Client, all of the documents were prepared and the audit itself proved the highest quality.

THE RESULT

- 26 269 hours of classes conducted
- 755 active EdPlan users
- 1 522 project documents
- 2 166 classes' programs, schedules and change logs
- 28 606 student evaluation sheets
- Increase of IT skills among the teachers
- Significant students' educational improvements, assessed via evaluation sheets

„Enormous Exceptional Student project [...] was won by a private company, and for me it is an example for the rest of the education system. [...] Documentation in the EdPlan system, very professional trainings before the project, all the provided plans, materials and guides. Kind and friendly consultants from the company, always available for us online, via phone or in person. [...] In my opinion such a professional approach towards teacher and student can change a lot.“

Anna Grzegory
(speech-language pathology expert,
conducting classes within the project,
national Superteachers community member)

