

Culture Center in Gródek

☐ **Description**

Gródek is a small town located in the northern-eastern part of Poland, named "Podlachia". Gródek is a part of the Białystok district and the town itself is located 36 km east of Białystok and 16 km from the border with Belarus. The town has around 3500 inhabitants, in the whole municipality more than 5000.



The Communal Culture Center in Gródek is a municipal cultural institution. The main aim of the Cultural Center is to prepare the society for active participation in Culture and the development of culture in the Community. We want to create space for people with passion, for people of different ages and interests. We want the offer to take into account the expectations of the people and give them the opportunity to pursue their interests and personal development.

The main task of the Communal Culture Center is to promote cultural education and art education through:

- Creating conditions for the development of amateur artistic movement;
- Cultivating the tradition of multiculturalism and promoting the preservation of folklore and folk handicrafts,
- Documentation and sharing of cultural goods connected with Gródek and Podlasie Communes,
- Cooperation with our neighboring countries (especially Belorussia) in the field of cultural promotion.

Our program and offered activities include art classes and workshops, as well as exhibitions, seminars and conferences. The regular forms of our activity include vocal classes, fitness classes, plastic circles, learning to play instruments, activities for small children and hip-hop dance groups. Furthermore we are the organizers of many outdoor activities: cultural and entertainment events, on local, regional and international level.

We also cooperate with other cultural institutions, associations and individual animators of cultural life. And we support the creation of innovative projects for local people and help them to present their forms and ideas at our events.

☐ **Gródek Culture Center as ESC Host organization**

For many years we have been organizing a lot of different cultural events, workshops (in the field of music, dance, handicraft, theater, art, multimedia, photography, etc) - for all groups of inhabitants of our community.

Some examples of realized projects: we are organizing every year International Festival “*Siabrouskaja Biasieda*”, “*Days of Gródek*”, we are helping our inhabitants to make their own local initiatives, we are organizing many small projects and workshops about photography, journalist, history of our town and handicraft. Many volunteers have been actively involved in all our events.

The commune Gródek is intercultural, mostly living here close together with catholics and orthodox people. We are also open to new people and new cultures, that’s the reason we’re hosting European volunteers since 2020. European volunteers are representatives of these new cultures for us and they can share with us their own experiences and competences, they can promote intercultural understanding and acceptance in communes like ours.

- Volunteer profile

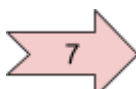

The volunteer should be interested in working with kids, youngsters and/or adults, needs to be creative and to have the ability to take initiative. It is important that the volunteer has his/her own ideas for creative activities and motivation to realize them independently. He/she should be open to live in the rural and economically poor region without a lot of comfort and typical city life style. Also, should have a high motivation for learning Polish, because not so many people in the community are speaking English.

The recruitment of the volunteers is organized in cooperation with supporting organization. The volunteers introduce themselves and their motivation using a special application form. After the recruitment based on application form and skype interview, the coordinating organization will inform all the candidates about the decision with the justification.

- Main tasks:

We want to involve the volunteers in all our regular activities and propose the following tasks:

-  Support in all activities, workshops and events.
-  Support in preparation of cultural events and music festivals, exhibitions, conferences, etc.
-  Support in administrative tasks (like creating posters, flyers, actualization on Facebook and website).
-  Organization of indoor and outdoor activities for children (during winter and summer holidays).
-  Conducting workshops in fields of arts, theater, sound and music, photography, film, handicraft or language lessons.
-  Support activities in the village by organizing games for kids and hand-made art activities.

-  Creating own events, circles of interests for kids, youngsters and/or adults.
-  Support handicraft group in GCK.

A voluntary project in the framework of the European Solidarity Programme is a period of education for young people, so we will try to implement the activities of a variety of methods and make it possible to acquire new skills by working in our Center. During the project, volunteers are expected to acquire in particular the following competencies:

- Development of their creativity and entrepreneurship.
- Ability to work in a team.
- Ability to be flexible during the ongoing task.
- Experience working with children and young people (with fewer opportunities).
- Knowledge of the region, with particular emphasis on the cultural environment.
- Skills in project management, different kinds of workshops, etc.
- Development and response of new challenges (like for instance leading your own workshops, creating your own creative activities, but also how to deal with life in a small community).

☐ **Previous volunteer experience:**

Last year we hosted Lesya from Spain, but born in Ukraine. She has been very active in supporting the activities of the Communal Cultural Center in Grodek. From the beginning of her stay in Grodek, she became a well-known person to most residents.

She was a support during art classes, independently organized her own classes: yoga in the village of Sluchanka, English for adults, English for seniors. Also she taught language classes in all kindergarten groups in Grodek.



Lesya's work was invaluable in organizing outdoor events: Days of Grodek, Siabrouskaja Biasieda, Kupala Night or smaller festivals in the villages.

During the organization of semi-colonies during vacations, days off from school and vacations (Summer in the Theater), she assisted our work as a supervisor.



When the war in Ukraine began, GCK started collecting clothes, food and also assisted the Municipality Office in finding housing for refugees. She proved assistance in terms of translation, psychological and language support for children and young people.

She also helped prepare exhibitions and other events organized by the GCK and supported the Municipality Office in organizing the Local Government Spartakiada. She participated in the organization of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity.

She was also a participant in internal training, including Invite Us to You 2021, Summer at the Theater training (Zaproś nas do siebie 2021, szkolenie Lato w Teatrze).



If you want to know a little more about our GCK, what we do, our previous volunteers, visit our facebook: [Gminne Centrum Kultury w Gródku | Grybów gmina | Facebook](#)