

## Cultural Center in Michałowo





### ☐ Description

The municipality of Michalowo is an urban-rural municipality. It belongs to Podlaskie Voivodeship, Bialystok District. The municipality of Michalowo has 6,565 residents, or 4.5% of the district's total population. The municipality accounts for 13.8% of the district's area. The seat of the municipality is the town of Michalowo. Michalowo is a municipality with a rich history. For years it has been a locality where different nationalities functioned side by side.

The Municipal Cultural Center in Michałowo is a municipal-communal cultural institution. The primary goal is to prepare the public for active participation and development of culture in the Municipality. There're 18 people working in the cultural center: Director, Deputy Director, human resources specialist, instructor of the Village Center in Hieronimow operator of maintenance and repair of technical equipment, economic employees, employees of the Youth Center.

We have different activities carried out by our different art instructors and managers, for example, art and art therapy instructor, arts and crafts instructor for cultural and educational affairs of the Village Center, for promotion and computer graphics, 2x for event organization.

Our main task is broadly understood cultural education and education through art realized through:

-  1 Creating conditions for the development of the amateur art movement;
-  2 Cultivation of multicultural traditions and activities to preserve folklore and folk handicrafts;
-  3 Documenting and providing access to cultural assets related to the Municipality of Michałowo and Podlasie;
-  4 Cooperation with border countries in promoting culture.

For years we have been organizing a variety of cultural events, workshops (in music, dance, handicrafts, theater, art, multimedia, photography, etc.) for all residents of our community. Also, We are organizers of outdoor ventures: cultural and entertainment events from local to international.

Examples of completed projects: every year we organize the International Belarusian Folklore Meetings in Mikhailov, we help our residents to create their own local initiatives, we organize an annual 7-day open-air painting meeting in Sokol, many small photographic and journalistic projects and workshops.

### ☐ Michałowo Culture Center as ESC Host organization

Our municipality is very open to other cultures and people, the Municipality of Michalowo is multicultural, Catholics and Orthodox live close to each other. That's why we want to meet new

people and new cultures, of which EKS volunteers are representatives. They can share their own experiences and competencies with us, and can promote intercultural understanding and acceptance in municipalities like ours.

Since 2014, we have worked very closely with foreign volunteers, hosted in our community by the ANAWOJ association and a local kindergarten. In 2017 we applied for our own accreditation as a host organization. In the past four years we have hosted four volunteers - from Austria, Italy, Russia and the Netherlands. We consider the cooperation with the volunteers to be very successful and we very much want to continue it.

Through the presence of foreign volunteers, we would like to develop the international tradition of Michalowo and also continue to open the local community to people of other nationalities, speaking a different language, coming from a different cultural background. The meeting of different nationalities is undoubtedly instructive for each party, and as a cultural institution operating in Michalowo, we feel obliged to provide conditions for this.

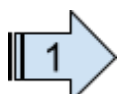
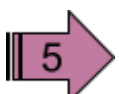






So far, the experience of European volunteering has been very positive. The animations conducted together with the participants were a good lesson in tolerance, openness and, most importantly, aroused cognitive curiosity and a sense of being a member of the European community.

#### - Volunteer profile

The volunteer should be interested in working with children, youth and/or adults, should be creative and have the ability to take initiative. It is important that the volunteer has his or her own ideas for creative activities and the motivation to implement them independently. He or she should be open to living in a rural and economically poor region without much comfort. Additionally, should be highly motivated to learn Polish, as few people in the community speak English.

#### - Main tasks:

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

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | Support in all regular activities, workshops and events;  |  | Conducting own workshops in fields of arts, theater, sound and music, photography, film, handicraft); |
|  | Support in preparation of cultural events and music festivals, exhibitions, conferences, etc;           |  | Support activities in the village centers by organizing games for kids and hand-made art activities;  |
|  | Support in administrative tasks (like creating posters, flyers, actualization on Facebook and website); |  | Support handicraft workshops in the Local product center in Sokole [CPL];                             |
|  | Organization of indoor and outdoor activities for children (during summer holidays);                    |  | Creating own events, circles of interests for kids, youngsters and/or adults;                         |

European Voluntary Service 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. Expected volunteers' working methods include preparation and organization of workshops, practices and games as well as individual action under the direction of the persons responsible for certain directions of activity of the organization. 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).
- Ability to activate and entertain others.
- Knowledge of the region, with particular emphasis on the cultural environment.
- Skills in project management, handicraft 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 Jasja from the Netherlands. She was supporting different activities and events, both in the cultural center and supporting the art work for Anawoj's activities, such as:

1. Conducting cyclic classes in the basics of English for different age groups.
2. Conducting cyclic meetings with tabletop games along with conversations in English.
3. Organization of drawing workshops of Japanese comics "MANGA".
4. Recording the performance of a volunteer in video form.
5. Participation in the Family Picnic, animations, etc.



Also, for the "Green Day" event Jasja made all the material by hand, painting on cardboard different scenes of the performance that the volunteers had to perform.

If you want to know a little more about our culture center, what we do, our previous volunteers, visit our facebook: [Gminny Ośrodek Kultury w Michałowie | Michałowo | Facebook](#) or our website: [Główna - Gminny Ośrodek Kultury w Michałowie \(gokmichalowo.pl\)](#). Also, you can find more pics and information in Anawoj's facebook: [Stowarzyszenie Międzynarodowej i Międzykulturowej Wymiany ANAWOJ | Michałowo | Facebook](#).