

Title: **Rehabilitation Center**

Country: **Poland**

Duration: **4'47''**

Insert: **Author:** **Beata Kaminska**
 Kamera: **Krzysztof Gietka**
 Cut: **Artur Owczarczak**
 Sound: **Grzegorz Gorski**
 Music: **CD= GUITAR; Track= HEART'S NOTE; Composer=PIOTR**
 BAKAL; Publisher=PARIS MUSIC; PM 020; Duration = 4'30''
 Place of shooting: Gdansk-Sobieszow, Poland

Content:

In a Rehabilitation Center is Sobieszow playground for blind children has been constructed by young group from Poland and Germany. Their stay was sponsored by Polish-German foundation for Youth Partnership. Playground for unsighted children contains audio toys, devices that activate other senses that children's sight. It works the way that to only one device, leads only one way. It is designed not only for fun, but for therapy of those children. It is already second playground of that kind in Poland. First was created four years ago in the city of Laski near Warsaw. Design and idea of both projects came from Albrecht Herzog.

Text:

0'05

Young people from Poland and Germany have built a new playground for blind children in Rest and Rehabilitation Center in Gdansk-Sobieszow. This idea of Polish-German cooperation came from Albrecht Herzog from Dresden, a member of a German church organization. The expenses of the project were paid by Polish-German Youth Cooperation. The blind children were given a beautiful gift and at the same time young people had an opportunity to work and entertain together. This is not the only place where young people from Poland and Germany get in touch. In 1992 in Gdansk St. Maximilian Kolbe's House of Reconciliation and Meetings.

0'42

Quote: Father Roman Ziolo-a Franciscan from Maximilian Kolbe's House in Gdansk

There was an idea by Franciscans to make us more open- minded to Germans in the spirit of reconciliation, in the spirit of meeting half way. And from the very beginning we wanted to invite young Germans to come to Poland and at the same time young Poles to go to Germany, in order they break down barriers, which are somewhere deep between the two nations.

1'14

Quote: Alicja Samolewicz- a volunteer

At the beginning ,you know, the integration is difficult, because the Germans have some stereotypes relating to us. At the same time we are not sure about them, how they will behave, what they will say and how it all will go. The Germans think Poland is an under-developed country. On the other hand Polish people consider the Germans to be very reserved, strict. During a week of such a meeting we try to show both faces of Poland- the new (spending free time) and the historical one. We try not to talk about barriers, but about our feelings and thoughts

2'00

Together young people visit concentration camps and museums. Their guide is most commonly a young volunteer from Germany, who has a different point of view on Polish-German history.

They are also looking for places, which give them a feeling of common, like Gdansk Shipyard's Museum where a piece of the Berlin's Wall is exhibited. In this way friendship between the young arises.

2'21

Quote: Alicja Samolewicz- a volunteer

After a week stay, at the end we summarize. The Germans usually say that Poland is a very nice country, that our youth is open- minded and tolerant and that they want to come here in a year to see us again.

2'36

Quote: Father Roman Ziolo, a Franciscan

Of course it is not easy to forgive, to break down the stereotypes which are between us. It is very difficult, but I think if we continue to live in the spirit of respect, in the spirit of acquaintance, we will come to common right.

2'56

The Polish-German understanding could come into being after the changes in both our countries. It needed the democratic transformation started by Solidarity, the crash of the Berlin Wall and the union of the two German states to come true. It was not possible before.

3'13

Quote: Grzegorz Borek- The European Youth Cooperation Center

I perfectly remember how difficult was the talking about cooperation, because the memories of the war were still alive, and in our Polish television scenes from these times were often shown. Polish- German relations were wrong. Polish people did not like Germans. Only young people broke down what seemed to be almost unimaginable. Today, after the Polish-German youth cooperation project has been working for some years, there is a change, a favourable one of course.

Some big German organizations want to cooperate with us, but not only in Poland. This is because Poland has recently made a big progress and now is a member of the European Union. So now, we want to cooperate with the Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia. We also want to cooperate with Ukraine, Belarus and every place where democracy is still far away and where there is still something to do for us. The Germans understand this perfectly.

4'24

More and more commonly the meetings are multinational. Youth from the East and from the West together learn how to observe our contemporary world, how to gain culture, economics and politics knowledge and how to draw conclusions.

Common experiences teach respect to the others and to ourselves. Similar aims, dreams- young people have a lot in common and only little to divide them.