



B- LAND

Promote and Strengthen Business Development Skills in Rural Communities

Module 5

Negotiations and problem solving

Developed by the Association ARID, Kraków, Poland



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Unit 10. Case study

Beginning of negotiations at the Gdańsk Shipyard

On August 23, 1980, talks between representatives of the communist authorities and the Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee began in the Gdańsk Shipyard. The negotiations lasted a week and ended with the signing of historic August agreements. The government commission was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Mieczysław Jagielski, and the strikers were led by Lech Wałęsa. The shipyard workers did not want to agree to transfer the negotiations to Warsaw; The meeting was limited to a speech by Mieczysław Jagielski. The workers made conversations with representatives of the Government Commission dependent on the resumption of telephone connections. By cutting off communications a few days earlier, the authorities tried to block reports of strikes. Officially, the government denied that it was running any information blockade. On August 23, when the authorities' negotiations with the Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee began, Zbigniew Zieliński, a member of the governmental committee, tried to explain the reasons for the telephone blockade by a powerful storm that passed over Warsaw.



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Two days later, telephone communication was restored, first between Gdańsk and Szczecin, then with the rest of the country. The talks of the Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee with the authorities continued. The first agreements were concluded on August 30 in Szczecin. The strike at the Gdańsk Shipyard ended the next day. The so-called "Gdańsk agreements" signed there provided for the implementation of the 21 demands of the workers. The first and most important was the creation of trade unions that would be free and independent of the authorities. These events initiated socio-political changes that led to the fall of communism.



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Unit 10. Case study

Round table deliberations

In 1989, between February 6 and April 5, the Round Table talks took place in Poland - negotiations of key importance for modern history, conducted by representatives of the authorities of the Polish People's Republic and the democratic opposition, with the participation of the Church.





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Round table deliberations

The deliberations were the beginning of the systemic changes in Poland, their result was to set the path to democratization. The direct arrangements made by the Round Table included, inter alia, setting the date of the first, partially free elections (in June 1989), establishing the Senate and the presidential institution. A total of over 700 people participated in the deliberations of all groups and teams, including psychologists prof. Janusz Reykowski (government expert) and prof. Janusz Grzelak (an expert in "Solidarity").





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Unit 10. Case study

Concordat

On July 28, 1993, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, and the Apostolic Nuncio to Poland, Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk, signed a concordat between Poland and the Holy See. Poland was the first of the post-communist countries to conclude such an agreement.

Negotiations between the government and the delegation of the Holy See began in February 1993. The government team was chaired by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, and the Church by the then Apostolic Nuncio to Poland, Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk. The contract was signed on July 28, 1993.





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The ratification of the concordat was then hindered by a vote of no confidence in the government of Hanna Suchocka. When the SLD-PSL coalition took power, it demanded that an interpretative declaration be entered in the concordat. The Vatican did not agree to this because - as it maintained - the document was clear enough. SLD deputies pointed to the necessity to pass the pre-conference bills (adjusting Polish law to the concordat). Ultimately, the concordat was adopted by the parliament on January 8, 1998, and six weeks later the then president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, signed the ratification document. The agreement entered into force on April 25, 1998.





Unit 10 References

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