



PARTNER IDENTIFICATION PIF

Name of Organisation	Fundacja Wspierania Więzi Lokalnych "Linking Foundation"
PIC Number	906837190
Organization ID (OID)	E10060655
Full legal name (National language)	Fundacja Wspierania Więzi Lokalnych "Linking"
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Foundation in Support of Local Ties "Linking Foundation"
Acronym	Linking Foundation
Full Address	Czarnowiejska 22, 33-100, Tarnów, Polska
Website	http://linkingfoundation.org/
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Telephone	+48784602007
Type of organisation	Foundation
Public body	No
Non-profit profile	Organising cultural activities and involvement possibilities with local communities
Have you received any type of accreditation	No
Newcomer organization	No
Less experienced organization	No
First time applicant	No

Associated persons

Legal Representative	
Title	Mr
Gender	Male
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Family Name	Iwan
Position	Board Member
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About Us

"Linking Foundation" was established in 2014. Since the beginning of its existence, the foundation has been implementing various educational, cultural, ecological and technological projects, the common denominator of which is the integration of local communities and the improvement of the quality of life in the place of residence.

The Foundation has an office in the centre of Tarnów and employs four people to ensure organisational stability. The Foundation permanently cooperates with 7 specialists and about 30 volunteers.

The establishment of the foundation was guided by specific goals aligned with its expertise and demonstrated project work. Key among these objectives are:

- Addressing social issues through creating social innovations, as well as teaching how to implement innovative solutions
- Supporting social inclusion and the development of competences in entrepreneurship and professional development.
- Addressing gender disparities and empowering women.
- Supporting migrants' integration and skills development.

Linking Foundation actively participates as a coordinator or partner in many national, European and international projects. The common denominator of these projects are social innovations in various areas of life, assistance to marginalised and excluded groups, as well as the use of cultural heritage to integrate local communities and migrants.

Several projects serve as exemplars of the foundation's expertise and commitment. As an annual highlight, the foundation organizes the "Social Innovation Brokers" international conference every March. This event serves as a platform for discussing social innovations and their applications. Some other projects include "EdU - Education for Refugees," "TourismLED," "Digital Learning in the Family," "Women Future Entrepreneurs", or "Women Inspired Support Entrepreneurship" projects.

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To elaborate, the international WISE project "Women Inspired Support Entrepreneurship", where the Foundation was the coordinator, addressed the problem of developing entrepreneurship and digital skills among women from less privileged or provincial backgrounds. In 2021, the foundation implemented the "Women Innovation Network" project, co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to support professional activation and entrepreneurship of young women in Georgia, Belarus and Ukraine. In the field of culture and social integration, the Foundation was the coordinator of the innovative project of integration of immigrants through art and creativity "INTEGRART", in which partners from Norway, the Netherlands and Ukraine participated. In recent years, the foundation was also a partner in the international project "heriTRAINage", which addressed the exchange of experience in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.

Due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the influx of refugees to Poland, the Foundation intensified its activities supporting migrants in various ways. As part of the project "EdU - Education for Refugees" (Project "Chance"), we conduct training for 80 people from Ukraine in the field of language and basic skills. Foundation participates in the "TourismLED" project, which promotes the use of the cultural capital of immigrants to develop the tourist offer in a new place of residence. In the "Digital Learning in the Family" project, the organization supports the development of digital competences in immigrant families through a holistic support system for parents, children and teachers. As part of the "Women Future Entrepreneurs" project implemented as part of the Visegrad fund, we participate in the training of 60 migrant women from Ukraine in the field of entrepreneurship development and starting a business. As part of the "Social Innovation Brokers" project, of which the Linking Foundation is the leader, together with the Norwegian partner (ECWT), we create an original training program for leaders of social innovations, based on Nordic and European experiences.

List of Relevant Activities

- **"Women Inspired: Supporting Entrepreneurship" (WISE) project** - aimed to develop the skills of female entrepreneurs in digital marketing and e-commerce. By participating in the project, women develop their businesses and open such to new markets to function in the global economy. WISE provides the participants with space to connect with other female entrepreneurs and support each other in building successful businesses.
- **Digital Learning in the Family project** aims to support underqualified women with a migrant background in gaining digital skills and qualifications to provide them with professional perspectives and support their integration into the host societies. This project offers three courses - a basic course for women, an advanced course for women, and a module for the children of the participants.
- **IntegrART project** is designed to create a new innovative digital solution and foster active learning among migrants. It aims to encourage the migrants to seek for new, modern, and interactive methods of learning through peer-to-peer learning and cooperation. The main goal of the IntegrART project is to improve and support migrant integration through creativity and art. To be more precise, IntegrART aims to support and encourage integration and skills development through music-driven artistic workshops and creation of the Community of Learning and Art. Special focus in this project is given to support of the migrant women and girls.
- **"Women Innovation Network" (WIN) project** is aimed at strengthening the competences of women looking for support in finding themselves in the labor market or looking for inspiration to start their own business. WIN contributed directly to the increase of participants' competences through the diagnosis of their potential, various group seminars, a series of individual and group consultations, a joint study visit, and a professional network built around the project activities.
- **"Social Innovation Brokers" Project** aims to develop a pilot version of vocational training for Social Innovation Brokers. This training will be the first in Poland and in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in general training preparing people to work in this new and unique profession. We plan to train a group of 50 brokers. The benefit of the project is a support, development and dissemination mechanism for social innovations and for social dialogue at the local and regional levels.
- **"Education for Refugees" project** aims to help refugees from Ukraine improve basic skills (understanding and creating information, mathematical reasoning, digital skills and social competence) and basic knowledge of the Polish language. To achieve this goal, we will provide diagnosis of needs, training, counseling and, for willing participants, psychological and legal assistance and subsequent validation of the acquired skills. The project is being implemented from December 2022 to April 2023.

Our Team

- **Piotr Olszówka** - Linking Foundation President, sales manager, coach and social relations specialist. He successfully managed sales teams in Poland for the American concern Kimberly Clark, a leader in the FMCG industry. For many years he built the market and dealt with operational management for the courier tycoon of UPS. Sociologist, MBA in General Management - University of Economics in Krakow.
- **Stanisław Iwan** - IT and digital business specialist with a background in operational management, planning and project management. A proven leader in establishing business, staffing and motivating employees. Works collaboratively with key stakeholders to define, deliver and constantly review the product experience. Executive MBA graduate from Stockholm University. R&D manager in various technological projects co-funded by EU funds.
- **Katarzyna Pilch** - Principal Investigator, Research Assistant and Peer-Reviewer, Project manager. MPhil in Education from University of Cambridge, BA in Cognitive Science from University of Southern California. Experienced in educational and cultural projects: The Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge), Joint Educational Project – JEP (Los Angeles).
- **Natalia Iwan** - associated with various industries, she has always oscillated in the areas of team management, work organization, projects and marketing. She has experience in creating an action strategy based on numbers, process optimization, team building and motivation, and success orientation.
- **Stanisław Alwasiak** - Project development and social innovation practitioner and manager. He implemented several projects supporting migrants from Ukraine coming to Poland. He was engaged into development of the social innovation supporting women education using ICT in the National Program of Social Innovation, Youth Development and European cooperation efforts.
- **Krzysztof Kunc** - Product Designer and UX Specialist in the field of interaction and user interface design. He gained many years of experience in the IT industry in designing and project management, among others in Onet.pl, where he was the Head of Web Architect & Design Studio for many years, and in Barcelona in the Intercom Group. For several years he has been working in the gaming industry.
- **Paulina Heizer** - Experienced Researcher with +10 years of professional experience in finding, preparing, and presenting various kinds of data. Proven experience in delivering training, facilitating events, and conducting coaching sessions.
- **Anna Lewicka** - Psychologist, psychotherapist, consultant, analyst, career counselor, coach, university teacher. Founder of the Academy of Transformation and Human Development, which is accredited by SUS 2.0.

Areas of Expertise

- **Community Integration and Development:** Leveraging modern information and telecommunications technologies to foster local ties and civil society.
- **Technological Empowerment:** Using technology to support the development of local communities.
- **Quality of Life Improvement:** Enhancing the quality of life, safety, and development of local and self-governmental communities.
- **Economic Empowerment and Innovation:** Creating and promoting modern and innovative solutions supporting local communities in the fields of economy, culture, education, and communication.
- **Social Inclusion and Support for Marginalized Groups:** Supporting social inclusion and the development of women's competences in entrepreneurship and professional development.
- **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** Addressing gender disparities and empowering women through projects like "WISE" and "Women Future Entrepreneurs."
- **Cultural Heritage Preservation and Promotion:** Exchanging experience in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.
- **Event Management:** Facilitating and delivering events including all aspects of programme planning, site management, post event review and follow-up.
- **Technology:** creating IT solutions, websites, learning platforms, interactive tools and applications
- **Entrepreneurship & marketing:** creating online courses, webinars, training activities and workshops, especially for underprivileged target groups, migrants, rural areas.

**We invite you to
collaborate with us!**

