



Full legal name	Fundacja Cooperacja
Full legal name (English)	Foundation Cooperacja
Acronym	Cooperacja
Address	17 Stycznia 115/8
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Region	Wielkopolska
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Type of Organization	NGO (Foundation)
Is the partner org. a public body?	No
Is the partner org. a non-profit?	Yes
Activity level	Local, National, International
Accreditations	No
Short description of the organization	Fundacja Cooperacja was born out of the friendship and shared passions of its founders, combining their knowledge and experience. Established on 14.11.2019 in Leszno (Wielkopolska, Poland), our work is rooted in trust, mutual support and the pursuit of inclusion. We believe in the power of non-formal education, culture and community action as key tools for integration, intercultural understanding and social cohesion.

We support people with migrant and refugee experience through practical integration and adaptation activities (e.g., Polish language learning combined with cultural orientation, mobile information support and community events). We strengthen civic participation and democratic culture by creating spaces for dialogue between citizens, NGOs and local authorities (including long-term initiatives supporting structured civic dialogue and advocacy). We also deliver educational programmes for young people and adults focused on human rights, EU values, inclusion and well-being. In addition, we increase access to culture and heritage through educational trips, cultural workshops and community-based heritage projects using digital solutions (e.g., QR-based walks and multimedia storytelling).

Our local work is strengthened by international cooperation: we have implemented and co-implemented European projects (Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps), producing practical and transferable outcomes such as toolkits, educational games, recommendations and learning resources. Our overall goal is to build an open and inclusive society in which every person, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to find their place, contribute and grow.

Vision

We envision communities where inclusion, social cohesion and democratic participation are strengthened through education, culture and meaningful cooperation. We aspire to be a recognised actor that connects local and international perspectives, builds bridges between diverse groups and supports people to co-create solutions for their communities. In our vision, education and culture are universal tools that connect people and generations, reduce inequalities and enable active citizenship.

Mission

Our mission is to build bridges between diverse communities through non-formal education, culture and community-based support. We focus on integrating people with migrant and refugee experience, promoting social and cultural diversity, and strengthening civic participation, human rights awareness and democratic values. We work locally and internationally, creating partnerships and networks that turn learning into concrete action and long-term change in communities.

Objectives

1. **Community integration** – to support the integration of people from diverse backgrounds, especially those with migrant and refugee experience and from rural areas, through practical programmes and community-based activities.
2. **Access to culture and education** – to increase access to cultural and educational resources, including cultural participation for children and rural communities, and to use culture as a bridge between groups and generations.
3. **Promotion of diversity and tolerance** – to build a more open society based on respect for different cultures, identities and experiences, and to counter discrimination and exclusion.
4. **Social and civic activism** – to strengthen civic participation and dialogue at local level (young people, NGOs, citizens and decision-makers), supporting democratic values, advocacy and community cooperation.

5. **Supporting mental health and well-being** – to promote mental health and well-being, especially among children, young people and groups at risk of exclusion, through educational and supportive initiatives (including nature-based and community approaches when relevant).
6. **Developing international collaborations** – to build and maintain international partnerships and networks that help us exchange practices, co-create innovative educational tools and expand impact beyond the local level.

How do we achieve our goals?

Our work is based on engagement, participation and collaboration with communities and stakeholders. We design and deliver workshops, training cycles and learning programmes using non-formal education methods, supported by peer learning, mentoring and practical follow-up actions. We run integration and adaptation activities for migrants and refugees, combining language learning with cultural orientation and access to reliable information (including mobile support formats and community events). We implement civic dialogue and advocacy initiatives that strengthen cooperation between NGOs, citizens and local authorities, including consultation processes and the development of opinions and recommendations for local policies.

We also create and test educational resources that can be reused by others (e.g., toolkits, educational games, learning scenarios, publications, visual materials and digital content). In cultural and heritage projects, we apply community storytelling and accessible formats, including digital solutions (such as QR-based routes and multimedia maps). We work in partnership with schools, municipalities, libraries, cultural institutions, social services and grassroots groups to ensure relevance, outreach and sustainability. International cooperation strengthens our local impact by bringing new methods, building capacities and enabling the transfer of tested solutions across countries.

Our motto

“We open minds, we abolish borders.” This motto reflects our belief that education, culture and community action can broaden horizons and break down cultural, geographical, social and psychological barriers. It guides our everyday work and motivates us to continuously build more open, inclusive and connected communities.

Our target groups

Fundacja Cooperacja works with diverse target groups at local, national and international level, placing particular emphasis on inclusion, participation and equal access to education, culture and civic life. Our main target groups include:

7. **People with migrant and refugee experience**, including adults, young people and families, especially those living in smaller cities and rural areas. We support their integration and adaptation through language learning, cultural orientation, access to information, community activities and empowerment initiatives (with special attention to women and people at risk of exclusion).

8. **Children and young people** (including young people with fewer opportunities), whom we support through educational, cultural and civic participation programmes. Our activities focus on democratic participation, human rights and EU values, leadership, social engagement, well-being and mental health, as well as building bridges between young people and local decision-makers.
9. **Adults and seniors**, including people in transition phases (e.g. retirement) and adults seeking new social roles and competencies. We involve them in educational, cultural and well-being-oriented programmes that strengthen social inclusion, personal development and community engagement.
10. **Non-governmental organisations, activists and community leaders**, especially at local and regional level. We support their capacity building through training, networking, civic dialogue mechanisms, advocacy activities and cooperation with public authorities.
11. **Local authorities, public institutions and professionals** (e.g. municipal staff, educators, cultural institutions, social services), who engage with our projects as partners, beneficiaries of training or participants in dialogue and consultation processes aimed at improving public policies, inclusion and cooperation with civil society.
12. **Local communities in urban and rural areas**, including residents with limited access to culture, education and participatory processes. Through community-based cultural, heritage and educational initiatives, we aim to strengthen social cohesion, intergenerational dialogue and a sense of belonging.
13. **Youth workers, educators, trainers and facilitators** involved in non-formal education, integration, inclusion and civic participation, who benefit from our training activities, learning resources and transferable project outcomes developed through European and local cooperation.

Our approach is inclusive and flexible: many of our activities intentionally bring different target groups together (e.g. migrants and local residents, young people and decision-makers, NGOs and public institutions, different generations) to foster dialogue, mutual understanding and sustainable community development.

Fundacja Cooperacja has **over seven years of organisational experience**, supported by an even longer professional background of its core team in European cooperation, non-formal education and community development. Our work combines international project experience with strong local implementation, ensuring that learning and innovation are translated into practical and sustainable solutions.

Our activities, experience and expertise.

Integration, inclusion and community support

We design and implement integration and adaptation programmes for people with migrant and refugee experience, combining Polish language learning with cultural orientation, access to reliable information (including mobile information points), community-based activities and empowerment initiatives. Our expertise includes developing inclusive formats that lower participation barriers, with particular attention to women, families and people at risk of social exclusion. We also integrate nature-based and community approaches where relevant, supporting well-being and social cohesion.

Civic participation, dialogue and advocacy

A key area of our expertise is strengthening civic participation and democratic culture at local level. We facilitate structured dialogue between citizens, non-governmental organisations and local authorities through long-term processes such as the creation and support of civic bodies, training programmes, study visits, consultation workshops and the preparation of opinions and recommendations for local policies. We have practical experience in youth participation, cooperation with youth councils and building bridges between young people and decision-makers.

Human rights, EU values and democratic education

We design and deliver educational programmes focused on human rights, EU values, democratic participation and social responsibility. Our activities include training cycles, peer-led diagnosis, youth-led initiatives, creative educational formats (e.g. visual storytelling, comics, campaigns) and public dialogue events. We specialise in translating abstract values into accessible, action-oriented learning experiences.

Culture, heritage and creative education

We have extensive experience in increasing access to culture and heritage, particularly for children, young people and rural communities. Our activities include cultural education projects, educational trips, creative workshops and community-based heritage initiatives. We apply innovative and digital tools, such as QR-based routes, multimedia maps and audiovisual storytelling, combining respect for local traditions with creative and contemporary approaches.

Well-being, mental health and personal development

Our work increasingly integrates well-being, mental health and personal development as cross-cutting themes. We implement educational and support activities for young people, adults and seniors, focusing on resilience, identity, transitions in life (e.g. entering adulthood or retirement), and community-based support systems. We use non-formal, experiential and, when relevant, outdoor and nature-based methods to support well-being.

International cooperation and capacity building

At European level, we have implemented and co-implemented numerous Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps projects as beneficiary and partner. Our expertise includes international project management, quality assurance, intercultural learning, dissemination and sustainability of results. We have developed **transferable outputs** such as toolkits, educational games, recommendations, learning scenarios and audiovisual materials, which are tested locally and adapted across different contexts. Our team has long-term experience in Erasmus+ mobility projects, training courses and strategic partnerships.

Our team – skills, expertise and experience

Fundacja Cooperacja is built around a **stable core team** responsible for strategic management, coordination and administration, supported by a **network of experienced associated experts** who contribute specialised knowledge in education, integration, well-being, culture and community work. This structure allows the organisation to ensure

continuity, high-quality project management and flexible adaptation of expertise to the needs of each project.

The Foundation has **over seven years of organisational experience**, while the professional experience of key team members is significantly longer. Together, the team combines competences in non-formal education, international cooperation, public administration, integration of migrants and refugees, civic participation, culture, well-being and training. All key staff members are experienced in working in intercultural and international environments and contribute to the effective implementation and sustainability of projects.

Core team:

Monika Pawlak – President of Fundacja Cooperacja. Graduate in Sociology (Social Work) and Adult Education & Gerontology (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). Experienced project developer and coordinator of social and educational initiatives for adults and young people, with a strong focus on community animation and local development.

She has 13 years of experience in coordinating long-term international projects under the Erasmus+ programme (KA1 and KA2), including strategic partnerships and mobility projects. She also has 9 years of experience as a participant and leader of Polish groups in trainings and youth exchanges, and 4 years of experience coordinating POWERVET projects promoting international internships for students. Additionally, she worked for 2 years as a consultant supporting project management and quality assurance in a local NGO support centre (PISOP).

Monika gained international field experience as a Youth Worker in Bologna within the *Education Against Racism* project, where she contributed to the development of educational tools for teachers and youth workers. She also participated in the EVS programme and conducted non-formal human rights education classes for university students at API Madiun University in Indonesia

Ewelina Lasota – Vice President of Fundacja Cooperacja. Master's degree in Sustainable Tourism (AWF Poznań), Bachelor's degree in English Philology (Business English) (PWSZ Leszno), and postgraduate studies in Public Administration (University of Wrocław) and Cultural Management (Poznań University of Economics).

Since 2011, she has been involved in the coordination of long-term international partnership projects, including LLP Grundtvig and Erasmus+ KA2 partnerships. She has professional experience in public administration, which strengthens her understanding of public policies, institutional procedures and cooperation between NGOs and local authorities.

In 2012–2013, she participated in a long-term EVS project in Istanbul (Turkey), where she worked with several local NGOs and public institutions. Her work included direct engagement with Roma youth in a community youth centre, as well as activities related to environmental education, volunteering promotion and non-formal language learning.

Ewelina specialises in communication, promotion and dissemination of project results.

Wiktoria Zawada – Administrative and Project Support. Responsible for administrative and organisational support of projects, including documentation, logistics and day-to-day coordination. Graduate of an

economics-oriented secondary school, supporting financial and organisational processes.

Associated experts and specialists:

Sebastian Ciszewski – Trainer, Coach and Educator. Experienced trainer and coach specialising in personal development, well-being, mental resilience and competence development. Certified trainer (TROP) and coach, with extensive experience in working with young people and adults across education, civil society and professional sectors.

Jacek Boroń – Certified FRIS® Trainer. Certified FRIS® trainer and experienced trainer in communication, teamwork and competence development. He brings expertise in personal styles, cooperation and relationship-building, supporting leadership, team processes and individual development.

Radosław Polsakiewicz – Certified Outdoor Education trainer (Advanced Training for Trainers – Level 1, Outward Bound Romania). Youth worker and leader of the ESC project “Forest Buddy”, supporting the integration of Polish and Ukrainian youth through bushcraft and outdoor learning. Participant in Erasmus+ projects focused on migrants and refugees. He specialises in nature-based education, using outdoor and experiential methods to support social inclusion, environmental awareness, well-being and community integration.

Jacek Zacharski – Migration and Integration Specialist. Practitioner working at the Centre for Migrant Integration in Leszno. Within the Foundation, he is responsible for activities supporting migrants and refugees, cooperation with institutions and providing practical integration and information support at community level.

Renata Pawlak – Polish as a Foreign Language Teacher. Graduate in Polish Philology (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) and Philosophy (University of Warsaw). Qualified teacher with long-term experience in education, including work with young people and adults. She specialises in teaching Polish as a foreign language combined with cultural orientation and integration support for migrants and refugees.

Ilia Korniienko – Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Supervisor. Mental health professional supporting activities related to psychological well-being, resilience and psychosocial support, particularly in work with people with migrant and refugee experience and groups at risk of exclusion.

Barbara Prądzynska – Theatre Practitioner and Cultural Educator. Actress, director and theatre pedagogue with extensive international experience in independent and socially engaged theatre. Specialist in theatre-based and art-based methods used in multicultural, inclusion and community contexts. Expert in the project “*Theatre Connecting People*”, contributing artistic and participatory methodologies.

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Previous projects list:

No.	Programme or initiative	Year	Reference number	Beneficiary organisation	Project's website
1.	Erasmus+ KA3	2020	2020-2-PL01-KA347-082636	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Glos-Krzywinskih-Mlodych-Obywateli.html
2.	Erasmus+ KA1-TC	2020	2020-3-PL01-KA105-094641	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Well-being-in-youth-work.html
3.	Erasmus+ KA2	2020	2020-1-UK01-KA205-078252	GOLDSMITHS' COLLEGE	https://cooperacja.pl/Protect.html
4.	Erasmus+ KA210-YOU	2020	2020-1-ES02-KA227-YOU-016750	Asociación Parkeri	https://cooperacja.pl/reARTiculate-romantic-love.html
5.	Erasmus+ KA153-YOU	2021	2021-1-ES02-KA153-YOU-000019745	Asociación FOGART	
6.	Erasmus+ KA210-YOU	2021	2021-1-PL01-KA210-YOU-000031086	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/The-Choice-is-Yours .html
7.	Erasmus+ KA210-YOU	2021	2021-1-BG01-KA210-YOU-000033854	Association of Ruse in help for society and young people	https://cooperacja.pl/Employability-through-Arts-and-Culture.html
8.	Erasmus+ KA210-YOU	2021	2021-2-PL01-KA210-YOU-000048166	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/International-partnership-to-support-youth-initiative.html

9.	Erasmus+ KA210-ADU	2021	2021-2-PL01-KA210-ADU-000048191	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Take-Action-in-Integration_fb8.html
10.	Erasmus+ KA122-ADU	2022	2022-1-PL01-KA122-ADU-000079291	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Kurs-na-edukacje_db7.html
11.	Erasmus+ KA153-YOU	2022	2022-3-LV02-KA153-YOU-000102625	Europium	
12.	Erasmus+ KA220-SCH	2022	2022-1-FR01-KA220-SCH-000085607	LYCEE POLYVALENT CLEMENT ADER	https://cooperacja.pl/STEAM-to-tackle-polarisation.html
13.	European Solidarity Corps ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	2023	2022-3-PL01-ESC30-SOL-000099195	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Forest-Buddy_493.html
14.	European Solidarity Corps ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	2023	2023-1-PL01-ESC30-SOL-000139421	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Filmowisko.html
15.	Erasmus+ KA220-VET	2023	2023-1-BG01-KA220-VET-000157677	START	https://cooperacja.pl/STEAM---A-new-horizon-in-vocational-education.html
16.	Erasmus+ KA154-YOU	2023	2023-3-PL01-KA154-YOU-000182084	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Glos-mlodych-sie-liczy.html
17.	European Solidarity Corps ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	2024	2024-1-PL01-ESC30-SOL-000235337	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Przeszren-rozwoju---nasz-czas-na-sukces_0e9.html
18.	Erasmus+ KA153-YOU	2024	2024-1-ES02-KA153-YOU-000235026	Asociación Otra Escuela	
19.	European Solidarity Corps ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	2024	2024-1-PL01-ESC30-SOL-000231526	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/reSTART---odkrywamy-swoje-mozliwosci.html
20.	European Solidarity Corps ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	2024	2024-3-PL01-ESC30-SOL-000284054	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Mlodziezowa-moc-aktywnosci---razem-dla-gminy-Koscian.html
21.	European Solidarity Corps ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	2024	2024-3-PL01-ESC30-SOL-000291292	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Energia-pokolen---tradycje-najnowo.html
22.	Erasmus+ KA210-ADU	2024	2024-1-PL01-KA210-ADU-000245892	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Theatre---connecting-people_b25.html

23.	Erasmus+ KA210-ADU	2024	2024-1-PT01-KA210-ADU-000248753	Ama a Vida	https://cooperacja.pl/Bridges2Inclusion_418.html
24.	Erasmus+ KA210-ADU	2024	2024-2-PL01-KA210-ADU-000291338	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/From-solitude-to-solidarity_c43.html
25.	Erasmus+ KA122-ADU	2025	2025-1-PL01-KA122-ADU-000329474	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Kurs-na-edukacje-2-0_60b.html
26.	Erasmus+ KA154-YOU	2025	2025-1-PL01-KA154-YOU-000302494	Fundacja Cooperacja	https://cooperacja.pl/Mlodzi-w-dzialaniu-wzmacniamy-swoj-glos_fbf.html