

Working Community of Associations of Social Organisations (WRZOS)

Working Community of Associations of Social Organisations (WRZOS) in Poland is a non-governmental organisation created in the year 2000. Its objective is to represent interests of individuals and groups of people who are socially marginalized or excluded from the society –by providing services to organisations and institutions which are concerned with social issues.

WRZOS has been created as a community of social organisations operating on the whole territory of Poland. Currently it associates 9 regional communities of social NGOs which act at regional level (one community per region) in Dolnośląskie, Lubelskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Mazowieckie, Śląskie, Zachodniopomorskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Wielkopolskie and 3 national level federations: Christian Charity Service (Chrześcijańska Służba Charytatywna), Community of Associations of Families and Guardians of Persons with Mental Illnesses POL-FAMILIA (Związek Stowarzyszeń Rodzin i Opiekunów Osób Chorych Psychiczenie POL-FAMILIA), The Polish Federation of Food Banks (Federacja Polskich Banków Żywności).

WRZOS, as a federation, exerts influence on more than 1000 social organisations with various types of activities.

Mission of WRZOS

Representing interests of individuals and groups of people who are socially marginalized and who are facing the threat of exclusion from the society – by providing services to organisations and institutions addressing social issues.

The following values are important for all of us:

Independence – freedom in deciding about the mission, objectives and methods of work, diversification of sources of finance; apolitical attitude which means that we do not identify with or act under the influence of any political option or party,

Tolerance – based on the respect to any person, institution, organisation or partner within or outside the federation,

Transparency – the program, statute, plan of actions and principles of work of an organisation should be publicly available and after completion of a task, reports on actions that have been carried out as well as financial reports should be made public.

Reliability – undertaking activities according to actual financial capabilities and competence; fulfilling contracts and meeting the responsibilities which have been undertaken; evaluation and checking of the results as a common element of every activity, focus on learning and development as well as on the highest quality of work.

Open attitude to co-operation – seeking partners in the society in order to solve existing problems, equality of rights and partnership between parties which means, among others, the ability to reach an agreement.

Main objectives of WRZOS include:

- Representing interests of its members before other civil partners (state administration, business sector, politicians),
- Supporting activities of member organisations with regard to their statutory objectives as well as methods of working
- Co-ordination of exchange of experience and information among the members of the Community,
- Advocacy for active participation in the processes of creating law regulations and social policy,
- Stimulation of co-operation and exchange of information with foreign partners,
- Supporting and developing civil activities, for example, by providing help in creation of new regional federations

WRZOS is also a member of several international platforms:

European Anti-Poverty Network - The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network of national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grassroot groups as well as European Organisations, active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Social Employers - The Federation of European Social Employers represents the voice of employers in the field of social services at European level.

European Social Action Network – was established in 1991 in Brussel and by the associations and foundations working in the social field in Europe.

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