



## **Sports Rehabilitation Association START, Poznan Poland**

Association registered at District Court in Poznan, VIII Economic Division of State Registry Office (Registry of Associations, other Social and Trade Organizations and Public Health Services no. 0000081612). Non-profit and Non-government association with status of a Public Benefit Organization, with roots in 1961. The area of its activity includes all territory of Poland with the seat in Poznan City.

The Association's aim is to provide disabled, addicts, abused, poor and socially disadvantaged with physical, mental and social rehabilitation by means of physical education, sports and tourism, social and educational activities. The essential goal is to challenge the athletic potential and enhance of life for people with disabilities through sports. START is the oldest Polish Paralympic movement organization. With over 50 years experiences, the START has become one of the leading providers in the nation of sports and recreation activities for people of all abilities. The Association cooperates with governmental authorities, national, local and international organizations and institutions.



### *Affiliations*

START Association is a member of :

- Forum of Wielkopolska Region NGO's for disabled people
- Polish Disabled Boccia Federation,
- Polish Sport Association for Disabled START,
- Polish Canoe Federation,

### *Size of the organisation*

START Association is managed by a Management Board consisting of a President, two Vice-presidents and 8 board members. The organization is associated around 150 disabled athletes, 50 support members and around 30 volunteers. START staff consists of highly qualified specialists of different branches: trainers, sport instructors, physiotherapists (graduates of Sports Academy in Poznan), pedagogics, office and administrative staff including accountant and lawyer, specialist in the field of social policy etc.; total of 8 persons full employed on a contract, 57 people on part time job contracts. Annual budget over 300 000 €.

### *Key activities cover*

START Association is leading sport sections (Boccia, swimming, paracanoeing, dancing, winter and water skiing, table tennis, bowling, track and field, archery) for professional and non-professional athletes, they achieve success on both the national and international tournaments, as eg. Paralympic Games.

The second most important field of activity is staff training. In addition to the above mentioned activities, START Association is responsible for organization of sport and rehabilitation camps for people with disabilities.



In recent years START was a partner in two EU projects :

2010-2012 Comenius Regio Partnerships Project “Olympism and the integration of young people in the education”.

2013-2014 European Social Fund, Human Resources Development Operational Programme, Republic of Bulgaria. Project “We Start with START” - improving the quality of life disabled people and overcoming societies’ prejudices and negative attitude.

During the period of accession to the EU the Applicant managed several EU projects. In the last three years was a Partner in two EU projects. The Applicant for a number of years, every day manages national and regional projects financed from the resources of the Government. The total amount of the projects of the past five years was 1 720 000 €. In each project the aims and results were reached. START belongs to the leaders of the Polish NGO, acting on behalf of the environment for people with disabilities. START as a founder of the Polish Paralympic Movement, have unique (more than 50 years) experience, infrastructure and human resources.

### *Examples of projects implemented by START the last few years:*

Project ACTIVE START - ACTIVE LIFE - program of learning courses driving, sports instructor and computer skills. The aim was to provide people with disabilities new abilities needed to employment or starting a business or social activity. Funded by the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Nationwide, implemented in the years 2010-2012. 120 beneficiary, budget over 380 000 €

Project ACCELARATOR OF EFFICIENCY - a program to obtain the independence and autonomy of the lives of people with disabilities. Participation in the over regional system of sports activities and rehabilitation, carried out systematically. The program was the objective of fostering, support and maintain the skills necessary for independent functioning of people with disabilities. Funded by the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Nationwide, implemented in the years 2010-2014, 300 persons with disabilities, budget around 290 000 €.



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START - public benefit organization is subject to the Act enacted 24.04. 2003r. about public benefit activities and volunteering and it works in accordance with the provisions of the law in force in Poland, with the statute and legal acts. The statute, annual reports substantive and financial and the information about the current actions are published on the pages of: [www.start.org.pl](http://www.start.org.pl) and [www.facebook.com/startpoznanpolska](https://www.facebook.com/startpoznanpolska) Actions are transparent.

START Association is acting on behalf of people with disabilities, so it has worked out working standards in the field of tackling discrimination and social inclusion. The team employs people with disabilities, the labour code is respected. The office Director, Accountant and the Board of the Organization cares about the correctness of the actions, clearing and reports. All controls have shown the correctness of the actions. We use the principle of confidentiality and gender equality.

