



Center
for Leadership

Leadership Academy for Poland

Class of 2021

Poland, August 2021.

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Leadership Academy for Poland Class 2021

Fellows

Name	Job Title and Organization	Sector
Anna Adamska-Gallant	Head of Judiciary Component EU Pravo Justice Project Ukraine	Public administration
Piotr Arak	Director Polish Economic Institute	Public administration
Piotr Babicki	Starachowice District Head Starachowice District Office	Public administration
Nina Bąk	Cooperative Leader CoopTech Hub	Non-profit
Krzysztof Brzózka	Chief Scientific Officer, EVP Ryvu Therapeutics	Business
Jakub Gorski	Primary School and Preschool Director Lokomotywa	Non-profit
Dariusz Jemielniak	Head of MINDS dept. Kozminski University Wikimedia Foundation Trustee	Academia
Joanna Kalinowska	Development Director Copernicus Science Center	Culture
Edyta Kąkol	Director of Accounting and Controlling Grupa Pracuj	Business
Myroslava Keryk	Head of the Board "Our Choice" Foundation	Non-profit
Alicja Knast	General Director Narodni Galerie Praha CR	Culture
Wiesław Kotecki	Partner, Customer Strategy & Applied Design Leader for Central Europe Deloitte	Business
Grzegorz Kubalski	Deputy Director Association of Polish Counties	Non-profit



Marcin Makowski	Journalist Wirtualna Polska	Media
Rafał Marszewski	Director Intel	Business
Łukasz Michorowski	Audit Partner Deloitte	Business
Roman Namysłowski	Managing Partner Crido	Business
Agata Oktawiec	Partner PwC	Business
Agnieszka Orłowska	Software Engineering Manager Intel	Business
Karolina Ostrzyniewska	Director Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland	Public administration
Katarzyna Podgórna	Partner PwC Poland	Business
Adam Pustelnik	Deputy Mayor City of Łódź	Public administration
Joanna Różycka-Iwan	Principal Investment Officer MDIF	Media
Tomasz Rudolf	Co-Founder & CEO Doctor One	Startup
Monika Sadkowska	Coordinator of the Forum of Mayors WWF Poland	Non-profit
Dominika Sikora-Malicka	Deputy Editor in Chief Dziennik Gazeta Prawna	Media
Joanna Plona	VP Product Wirtualna Polska Media	Media
Piotr Smoleń	CEO Symmetrical.ai Ltd	Startup



Robert Socha	Google News Lab Teaching Fellow, CEE (incoming)	Media
Kinga Stanisławska	Founder, GP Experior VC and Founder of European Women in VC	Startup
Magdalena Stobińska	Professor of the University University of Warsaw	Academia
Mateusz Strzelecki	University Professor, Head of Polar Station University of Wrocław	Academia
Michał Szolc	General Manager Dziki Warszawa	Sport
Areta Szpura	Freelance	Non-profit
Marek Talarczyk	CEO Netguru	Business
Marta Titaniec	Chairwoman of the Board Saint Joseph Foundation of Polish Bishop Conference	Non-profit
Lidija Vukic	Managing Partner/Board Member LTTM	Startup
Damian Zieliński	VP Business Development CEE Mastercard	Business

Leadership Academy for Poland Class 2021

Teaching Assistants

Name	Job Title and Organization	Sector
Olga Brzezińska	President, City of Literature Foundation Program Director, Leadership Academy for Poland <i>LAP Alumna Class of 2018</i>	Culture/Academia
Szymon Czyszek	Director Knights of Columbus <i>LAP Alumnus Class of 2019</i>	Non-profit
Julian Dworak	CEO Advertising Producers Association <i>LAP Alumnus Class of 2019</i>	Media
Anna Gromada	Researcher Polish Academy of Sciences <i>LAP Alumna Class of 2018</i>	Academia
Marcin Kowalczyk	Membership Strategy Director Polish Scientific Publisher <i>LAP Alumnus Class of 2018</i>	Business
Katia Roman-Trzaska	Co-founder Recipe for Independence Foundation <i>LAP Alumna Class of 2016</i>	Non-profit



Leadership Academy for Poland Class 2021

Key Statistics

LAP Class 2021 Evaluation	% of Fellows
Gender	
Female	50 %
Male	50 %
Organization Type	
Academia	8%
Business	29%
Culture	5%
Media	13%
Non-profit	18%
Public administration	13%
Startup	11%
Sport	3%
Age	
Average age	39.6
Max age	48
Min age	28
Median age	40.5
Age Intervals	
18-29	3%
30-40	47%
41-55	50%
Application Type	
Open application	21%
By nomination	79%



Leadership Academy for Poland Class 2021

Fellows



Anna Adamska-Gallant

Head of Judiciary Component at EU Pravo Justice Project Ukraine

After 17 years of service as a judge in Poland and international courts, she transformed her career to play an active role in promoting rule of law and judicial independence as universal values. She leads the biggest EU project for judicial reforms in Ukraine. She has built a community of judges and court employees committed to reforms that aim to create a transparent, accountable, and effective judicial system and judicial independence there. She provides strategic advice to Ukrainian and international stakeholders supporting the country on its path to the EU. She applies an innovative approach to the project's implementation, based on respect, inclusivity, and sustainability. She is open-minded, ready for new challenges.



Piotr Arak

Director of the Polish Economic Institute

A social and economic analyst, he previously worked at Deloitte, Polityka Insight think-tank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Ministry of Administration and Digitisation, and the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. He graduated in social policy from the University of Warsaw, followed by further studies on using statistical methods in business and an MBA at the Warsaw School of Economics and Université du Québec à Montréal. He is writing a Ph.D. on public policy at the University of Warsaw. He has written numerous studies on digitization, the economics of health, and economic policy.



Piotr Babicki

Starachowice District Head, Starachowice District Office

Political scientist and internal security specialist (University of Warsaw), executive MBA. Currently serves as Starachowice District Head chosen from non-party, social election committee.

The founder of several non-governmental organizations strengthening civic activity in local communities. A graduate of the program "Leaders of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation". The tutor in two editions of the "Leaders for Youth" program in the Świętokrzyskie Region, run by the School for Leaders Foundation.

Local government activist. Vice-Chairman of Starachowice Town Council 2014-2018. Currently also the councilman of District Council.

His life would be empty without family and music. A lover of skiing and swimming.



Nina Józefina Bąk

Cooperative leader at CoopTech Hub

Propagator of the cooperative movement and social economy in Poland. Founder and long-time leader of social enterprise 'Dobrze' Food Cooperative that promotes sustainable food and agriculture. A founding member of the Food Sovereignty Movement "Nyeleni" and the "Living Earth" Coalition. Since the beginning of 2021, she is working in CoopTech Hub where she supports the creation of new cooperatives from various industries. Currently, she is working on developing know-how to establish the first citizen-based energy cooperatives in Poland.

She is a certified coach specializing in the area of leadership and cooperation for social change. As part of her training and coaching activities, she conducted workshops, incl. on eco-feminism, the economy of commons, and social entrepreneurship. She is the leader of the hip-hop band KOMPOST. In April 2021 she was included in the Forbes Women ranking of 20 sustainable development leaders.



Krzysztof Brzózka

Chief Scientific Officer, EVP at Ryvu Therapeutics

Krzysztof Brzózka is the Chief Scientific Officer at Ryvu Therapeutics. He has joined Ryvu Therapeutics in 2007 and has applied his interdisciplinary expertise ever since, to build a broad pipeline of small molecule oncology therapeutics and a high throughput discovery engine platform. Dr. Brzózka is responsible for the management of the early pipeline candidates, covering their full development until the clinical phase. He is also responsible for bringing into the clinic two Ryvu first-in-class oncology programs: dual PIM/FLT3 inhibitor SEL24/MEN1703 and SEL120, CDK8 inhibitor. Dr. Brzózka is also a member of the board of Ardigen, a bioinformatics and precision medicine company, and contributed to the founding of NodThera, a biotechnology company focused on therapeutics related to inflammasome biology.

Krzysztof Brzózka holds a Ph.D. degree from Ludwig Maximilian University. He also earned an MBA from the Stockholm University School of Business and the Krakow University of Economics Business School. Dr. Brzózka contributed to over 20 peer-reviewed publications in areas including intracellular signaling, immunology, and medicinal chemistry.



Jakub Gorski

Primary School and Preschool Director

Co-creator of Towarzystwo Edukacyjne Lokomotywa, president of the board for 10 years, currently Lokomotywa Primary School and Lokomotywa Preschool director. Specializes in designing educational, training, and teambuilding programs. Initiator of social and charity actions engaging young volunteers. Producer of the Heroes Gala, a concert devoted to the memory of distinguished Poles combined with a screening of films about the meritorious characters.

Gdańsk leader of the Extreme Way of the Cross, which since 2014 has gathered nearly 1000 people each time on the 50 km long route. Privately happy husband and father of six children, avid skier, and sailor.



Dariusz Jemielniak

Head of MINDS dept. Kozminski University, Wikimedia Foundation Trustee

Dariusz Jemielniak is Full Professor and head of Management in Networked and Digital Environments (MINDS) department, Kozminski University, and faculty associate at Berkman-Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University. He is a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. His recent books include *Collaborative Society* (2020, MIT Press, with A. Przegalinska), *Thick Big Data* (2020, Oxford University Press), *Common Knowledge? An Ethnography of Wikipedia* (2014, Stanford University Press). His current research projects include climate change denialism online, anti-vaxxer internet communities, and bot detection. He serves on the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees. He also founded and led several tech startups, including *ling.pl*, the largest online dictionary in Poland, and *instaling.pl*, a free educational platform for teachers, used by over 200 thousand users weekly.



Joanna Kalinowska

Development Director at the Copernicus Science Center

I am the Director of Development in the Copernicus Science Center. I graduated from Inter-Faculty Studies in Environmental Protection at Warsaw University and started my career working in the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds. I worked there for five years as the Project Coordinator and Director of Development before joining the Copernicus Science Centre team before its opening. I have collaborated with all the CSC sponsors in joint events and activities ever since. My earlier professional experience in the field of fundraising resulted in setting up the Copernicus Club membership program for the Centre's regular visitors, and further in creating a new fundraising strategy for the museum. I was a member of the Programme Committee of the European network of science centers and museums (Ecsite) annual conference (2013 - 2019), and now I am the Chair of the Programme Committee for the Polish network of science centers and museums (SPiN) annual conference.



Edyta Kąkol

Director of Accounting and Controlling at Grupa Pracuj

Holding currently the position of Finance & Accounting Director in Grupa Pracuj S.A., she is responsible for the direct management of several key accounting and reporting functions within the organization, including budgeting, forecasting, financial and regulatory reporting, procure-to-pay, general ledger, and order to cash cycles, compliance with tax regulations. She is also involved in supporting presentations to the Supervisory Board of Directors, assisting the CFO with treasury and cash management duties. She also leads, coaches, and mentors a team of 20 staff members. She is a partner with the group CFO, senior managers, and information technology staff to enhance and better integrate finance and IT functions. As a problem-solving mindset leader and results-driven person, she provides tools and processes improvement successfully. She is a co-inventor of the Order to Cash automatized process and the Purchase to Pay process with workflow system which was awarded the Digital Finance Award in 2018, for promoting innovative culture and the implementation of new solutions in managing finance.



Myroslava Keryk

Head of the Board at "Our Choice" Foundation

Myroslava Keryk, MA in History, historian, sociologist, a specialist in the field of migration of Ukrainians to Poland. Head of the civic organization Foundation „Our Choice” and Chief-editor of the newspaper “Nash Vybir.” In her daily work, she combines designing and implementation of integration activities directed to Ukrainian migrants in Poland with research projects in the field of migration studies. She is the author of numerous articles and reports on the situation of migrants in Poland. She is also a member of the Commission for Migration organized under the auspices of the Spokesman for Citizens' Rights in Poland. She has received the award "Golden Fan" established by the International Organization for Migration Poland for the activities directed on the integration of migrants in Poland. She has also received the Badge of Honor of Merit for Warsaw.

The organization that she is in charge, has established the Ukrainian House in Warsaw. This House is the cultural and integration center for the Ukrainian diaspora in Warsaw, but also a meeting point for Ukrainians and Poles and a place for their common projects.



Alicja Barbara Knast MA, HAE

General Director at Narodni Galerie Praha CR

Museologist, graduated from Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań in musicology. During her professional career as a museum professional, she managed, curated, or collaborated in over one hundred temporal exhibitions. Her area of specialization is capital projects in museums, accessibility, programming, and strategies. She led and completed Chopin Museum's permanent exhibition, Polin Museum's core exhibition in Warsaw, and Muzeum Śląskie's in Katowice new seat and revitalization projects. In 2020 she won a competition for the position of general director in Narodni Galerie Praha, which she holds since January 2021.



Wiesław Kotecki

Partner, Customer Strategy & Applied Design Leader for Central Europe at Deloitte

Leader of Customer Strategy and Applied Design Offering in Central Europe. During his 16 years of career, he supports clients in the field of experience strategy. In his work, he focuses on building a competitive advantage based on the customer's perspective and its use in the digital transformation of enterprises.

He has carried out projects in 30+ countries. He has cooperated with clients in Poland, the USA, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Mexico, Belgium, France, Russia, Slovenia, and Montenegro. He specializes in the financial, telecommunications, automotive, and health sectors. His projects have been awarded many times.

Originator and co-founder of the largest user experience conference in Europe - UX Poland (12th edition in 2021). Lecturer at the most prestigious industry conferences in Poland, but also in Argentina, Great Britain, Portugal, and Turkey.



In 2016, after 10 years of running the first Polish company specializing in UX - Uselab, he joined Deloitte Digital with the whole team - currently, he leads the Experience Design team in Central Europe.

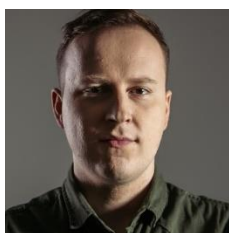
Since December 2019 he's broadcasting one of the most popular business podcasts in Poland - Człowiek Biznes Technologia (70 episodes+).



Grzegorz Kubalski

Deputy Director at Association of Polish Counties

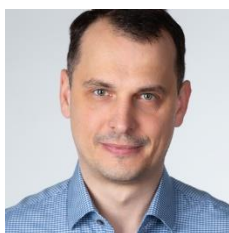
Grzegorz P. Kubalski - lawyer, an expert in public management in local government, active local government member. Graduated from the Faculty of Physics and the Faculty of Law and Administration – both at the Warsaw University. Self-government expert working mainly in the Association of Polish Counties (since 2008), currently as the Deputy Director in this organization. He regularly participates in the Joint Commission of the Government and Local Government and in parliamentary works. Expert in works on the creation of the Public Services Monitoring System. In recent years, he has provided expert support, inter alia, The Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, the Central Statistical Office, and Małopolska School of Public Administration of the Cracow University of Economics. He lectured at the WSB University in Warsaw, currently the main specialist at the Department of Economics and Finance of the Local Government of the Warsaw School of Economics. Member of the THINKTANK Council of Experts. He participated in the work on the local government alerts of the Open Eyes Economy Summit, co-author of commentaries to acts, author of scientific articles. In his self-government activity, he was, inter alia, Chairman of the Legionowo County Council and the Mayor of the Jabłonna Commune. Currently, a Member of the Legionowo County Board.



Marcin Makowski

Journalist at Wirtualna Polska

An experienced journalist working for the largest media in Poland. Editor of the Wirtualna Polska portal, author of hundreds of interviews with the most important politicians in the country, as well as the United States and the European Union. Multiple journalist award winner, US State Department scholarship holder, author of two books. A historian and philosopher by education.



Rafał Marszewski

Director at Intel

Poland site leader of Intel Optane Firmware organization with 17+ years experience in all aspects of technology products. Actively supporting local site growth by start up multiple projects, organization creation, process development, and optimization, culture mindset shift, brand enabling, hiring, leading, and inspiring the best in class engineers and managers. Recently involved in the joint creation of the "Leadership Lab" program for leaders of Intel Poland, the main goal of which is the culture mind-shift.



Łukasz Michorowski

Audit Partner at Deloitte

Lukasz started his career at Deloitte's Warsaw office in September 2006. Between 2011 and 2013 he worked in Deloitte London office holding a manager role in the Infrastructure and Real Estate Audit Department. He is experienced in auditing large and complex international groups and public companies listed on Warsaw Stock Exchange. In Deloitte, he is also responsible for providing various advisory services (non-audit) to real estate and construction clients. He is the author of the well-recognized Deloitte annual publication Polish Powers of Construction.



Roman Namysłowski

Managing Partner at Crido

He is a Managing Partner at the Tax Advisory Services Department at CRIDO Taxand. Earlier, since 2014, he has headed the Indirect Taxes Team. As part of his professional practice, he has coordinated a number of tax reviews and prepared reports and opinions on a diversity of legal and tax-related issues. For twenty years he has been specializing in VAT and excise tax advice for Polish and foreign entities. He has also prepared proposals for changes to the tax law for executive and legislative authorities. He is a recognized VAT expert and a laureate of industry rankings. In 2015, 2017, and 2019 he was named the best VAT advisor in the Tax Advisory Firms Rankings by daily newspapers Rzeczpospolita and Dziennik Gazeta Prawna. He is an initiator and creator of a number of innovative projects and solutions for Polish taxpayers, including a concept of modern IT tools controlling the correctness of tax accounting. This solution was recognized in a ranking by Rzeczpospolita in which CRIDO Taxand was the winner of the category "Innovative solution of 2016". He is the author of numerous interviews and press publications on VAT as well as expert opinions for the Parliament, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Economy. For many times he has served as an expert at the Parliamentary Committee for Public Finance and Senate Committee of Budget and Public Finance during works on projects of amending the VAT act. In 2014-2016, he was a member of the Tax Law Consultative Committee in the Ministry of Finance and a member of the VAT Expert Group in the European Commission.



Agata Oktawiec

Partner at PwC

Agata Oktawiec has been working in PwC since 2002. From the beginning of her career, she has been specializing in corporate income tax and international tax law. Agata leads ITS and AoT practice in Poland and is also ITS leader for CEE.

Agata was involved in numerous tax projects covering M&A deals, tax restructuring within the capital groups, tax reorganizations, permanent establishment issues, and other tax aspects related to international transactions, including the ones concerning withholding tax, DAC6, and GAAR.

Agata received a commendation in the Ranking of Tax Firms and Advisors in Gazeta Prawna Journal 2020 in the category International Financial Law.

Agata gained valuable experience in running international tax structuring projects during a secondment to PwC's center for international tax services situated in Zurich (Switzerland).

Agata is also a member of the EUDTG network, a pan-European network of EU tax law experts who provide assistance to organizations, companies, and private persons to help them to fully benefit from their rights under EU law.

Agata graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics, specialization: Management and Marketing, as well as the Faculty of Law and Administration of Warsaw University, specialization: Financial Law.

Agata is a licensed tax advisor. Agata speaks English and German and basic French.

Agata loves sports (skiing, tennis, and windsurfing are top ones).



Agnieszka Orłowska

Software Engineering Manager at Intel

20+ years of experience in IT and aviation business. Proven track record in managing teams in a matrix and not-matrix organization. Gain experience with the transfer of highly specialized services. Able to provide an added value by combining both my MSc in Computer Science and multidisciplinary leadership experience (IT, HR, Finance, Aviation) gained in multicultural global organizations. Specialize in ensuring efficiency through hands-on management practices. Interested in business psychology.

Love backpacking around the world - visited 80+ amazing countries and looking forward to exploring the globe. Keen on trekking - proud of independent (without guide and sherpa) Everest Base Camp trek.



Karolina Ostrzyniewska

Director at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland

Senior civil servant and diplomat with over 20 years of varied and practical experience in national and international administrations, including the European Commission, Council of the EU, and Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2014 Secretary of the Committee for European Affairs. Served for 5 years as Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the European Union. Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Deep understanding of public sector decision-making processes at the national and European levels. Experienced negotiator with a proven track of delivery. Academic background in law and international economic relations.



Katarzyna Podgórna

Partner at PwC Poland

Leader of the Broader Assurance Services team in PwC Poland focusing on wider CFO agenda (Finance transformation, Modern and technology-enabled reporting, Accounting and integrated reporting advisory). She is also a People Partner in the Assurance Line of Service of PwC Poland.

On a day-to-day basis, she is leading the DataApps! the team developing IT solutions supporting finance functions, such as IFRS 16 compliant, MyLease Manager, and XBRL Reporter.

She has gained over 18 years of professional experience in audit and review of the financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS and PAR.

Kasia has also spent a year in PwC UK Capital Markets Group advising clients on IPOs, debt issues, and deals.

Her area of expertise is also accounting advisory, operating processes, and internal controls.

Kasia is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). She is also an ACCA member as well as a statutory Polish Registered Auditor.



Adam Pustelnik

Deputy Mayor City of Łódź

Adam Pustelnik holds a degree in law and international relations. He studied, among others at the University of Łódź, the European Academy of Diplomacy and the University of Oxford.

He worked at the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, the City of Łódź Office and Savills consulting company. At the City of Łódź Office in 2015-2019 he was the Director of the Investor Service Office. He was responsible for the implementation of the city's development strategy, attracting investors, economic promotion of the city and international cooperation.

In September 2020, he was appointed the first Deputy Mayor of the City of Łódź.

Within his duties, he supervises the Department of Planning and Business Development and the Department of Property Management.



Joanna Różycka-Iwan

Principal Investment Officer at MDIF

Principal Investment Officer at MDIF investing in media outlets in emerging markets. Joanna has 15 years of experience in investment, consulting, and financial management. She oversees a portfolio of debt and equity investments in Central Europe, the Balkans, and Central and South East Asia. She has advised, assessed, and developed business plans for scores of news outlets of every form in dozens of emerging markets. Serves at the Supervisory Board of Eurozet, the second radio group in Poland.

Prior to joining MDIF, she advised companies in Deloitte and Crido Taxand. During her consulting roles, she obtained over EUR 150 million financings for projects in different sectors (environmental protection, intermodal transport, renewable energy, innovation, training, SSC, R&D).

Joanna holds FCCA since 2019, being an ACCA member since 2014.



Tomasz Rudolf

Co-Founder & CEO at Doctor One

Serial entrepreneur and innovator. As Co-Founder and CEO at Doctor One, he is preparing the launch of a digital health startup with a mission to provide private doctor care to everyone. He also co-founded and serves as Chairman of Supervisory board at company builder The Heart, co-creating new digital ventures with Mastercard and other leading corporations. He has over 20 years of experience in working with multinational organizations in the USA, Europe, and Asia on business models and product innovation. He is recognized as a "Visionary" Digital Shaper and a frequent speaker on strategy, technology, and innovation. In his free time, serves on the board of K.I.D.S. Foundation, transforming children's hospitals.



Monika Sadkowska

Coordinator of the Forum of Mayors at WWF Poland

Just transition expert and climate activist in WWF Poland. Currently studying at Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG). Graduate of the Warsaw School of Economics - Culture Manager- postgraduate studies and the University of Warsaw - Master of Cultural Studies. My previous workplace: Foundation ClientEarth Prawnicy dla Ziemi as Bełchatów Campaign Officer and many climate NGOs and grassroots movements. Earlier: POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and Theater Institute in Warsaw as an event producer and a project coordinator.

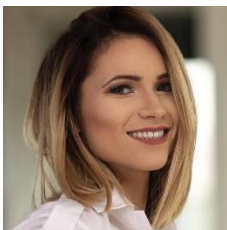


Dominika Sikora-Malicka

Deputy Editor in Chief at Dziennik Gazeta Prawna

Since 2003 I have been associated with Gazeta Prawna. As a journalist, I specialized in the field of health protection. After the merger with Dziennik in 2009, I was the deputy head of the legal department and then became its manager. From April 2014, deputy editor-in-chief of DGP. Responsible for the substantive and conceptual coordination of book publications, e-books, newspaper supplements as well as audio and video content.

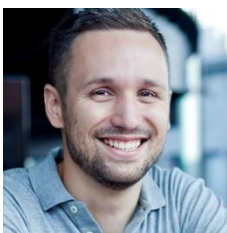
I am a graduate of the Faculty of Journalism at the University of Warsaw, specialization: social policy. Twice awarded in the media category in the Health Manager competition. In 2010, I was awarded the Konfederatki award in the media category by Employers of the Republic of Poland.



Joanna Plona

VP Product at Wirtualna Polska Media

I had a quick career. While being 31, I became a VP responsible for: Ad Product Dev., the biggest Polish Email Provider and Radio&TV Online in Wirtualna Polska Media. For that to happen I worked hard, learning not only by experience and taking new responsibilities but also by finishing post-grad. studies in project mgmt & working with a coach for a year. Today my scope of responsibilities is wider - I got two new departments - Media Product and Business Intelligence. I know that with such a career jump I skipped some important lessons. That's why I still focus on my strengths and work on weaknesses, taking every opportunity to learn more about leadership. I have 10 years of experience in digital media, I'm responsible for all products&business growth in Wirtualna Polska Media and leading a team of more than 150 people now.



Piotr Smoleń

CEO at Symmetrical.ai ltd

CEO of symmetrical.ai - rapidly growing global fintech startup. Builder, fintech nerd, and framework thinker. Really excited about building great product, brand & growth hacking from 0 to 1 and onwards! (with focus on B2B). Active angel investor. Privately, avid traveler and happy father.



Robert Socha

Google News Lab Teaching Fellow, CEE (incoming)

Robert Socha is a journalist, lawyer, and communications consultant. Robert spent 18 years (2003-2021) at TVN Discovery where he worked as an investigative reporter, managed a team of journalists, and produced dozens of documentaries with significant news impact on topics ranging from judicial corruption and pharmaceutical lobbying to an international IT bribery scandal. In the fall he starts as the new Google News Lab



Teaching Fellow in the CEE region, training journalists in data, fact-checking, and visualizations. Robert has also started his own boutique communications consultancy advising individuals and companies how to tell their story in the best possible way and how to get their message through. In the 2016/2017 academic year Robert was awarded the Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University where he was researching the intersection of media, law, and technology. He graduated from a law faculty (Jagiellonian University). In addition, he is a trained prosecutor (passed a bar exam for prosecutors in Poland). He has authored two non-fiction books. An avid runner, has finished three marathons and a dozen half-marathons.



Kinga Stanisławska

Founder, GP at Experior VC and Founder of European Women in VC

Kinga has been working in investments and finance for the past 20 years. She sits on boards of private and public companies.

Prior to Experior, she was the Global Head of TMT at Raiffeisen Investment in Vienna from 2007 to 2009. She started her career in banking at Salomon Smith Barney (Citigroup, London) and followed on to become a Manager in Equity Capital Markets team of ING Barings, with responsibility for the EMEA region. In 2001-2007 she was a Principal Banker at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London and Warsaw), where she led investment and financing projects across the TMT and infrastructure sectors. She was responsible for supervising selected assets of EBRD's equity portfolio as Supervisory Board member.

Kinga was the Vice President of the Polish PE/VC Funds Association (PSIK) for 5 years. She is active in supporting women-led companies – Kinga is a mentor in Vital Voices and Foundation for Women Entrepreneurship. She established the European Women in VC platform with the aim of increasing the number of female partners at venture funds across Europe from the current low single-digit percentage number it is today.

Kinga is also a member of the European Innovation Council Advisory Board to the European Commission's EIC.



Magdalena Stobińska

Professor of the University, University of Warsaw

Magdalena Stobińska received her Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Warsaw (Poland). She was a postdoc and the Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light and the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany). Since 2012 she has been a PI of several international research projects funded by the European Commission, Foundation for Polish Science and National Science Center as well as a visiting professor at the University of Oxford. Currently, she leads the Quantum Technologies Research Group (www.stobinska-group.eu) and coordinates the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Innovative Training Network “AppQInfo” with a consortium of 15 institutions from Europe, Canada, and Japan (www.appqinfo-itn.eu). Her research focuses on quantum optics, quantum information processing, and quantum communication. She closely collaborates with experimental teams.



Mateusz Strzelecki

University Professor, Head of Polar Station, University of Wrocław

Prof. Matt C. Strzelecki - polar researcher and cold region geomorphologist, Head of Stanislaw Baranowski Polar Station of the University of Wrocław in Spitsbergen, Member of Polish Young Academy of the Polish Academy of Sciences. His research concentrates on the transformation of polar landscapes in response to rapid climatic changes. He completed his Ph.D. at prestigious Durham University and worked as postdoctoral fellow and visiting researcher at University Centre in Svalbard (Norway), Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (Germany). He led a number of field campaigns in islands of Scandinavia, Svalbard, Greenland and the Antarctic region concentrated on geomorphological processes operating on paraglacial and rocky coasts. He was a pioneer in investigations of weathering processes along Arctic rocky coasts exposed by the retreat of tidewater glaciers. Achievements in rock coast studies resulted in a nomination for Co-chair of Rocky Coasts Working group of International Association of Geomorphologists. His recent research focuses on the effects of tsunamis and storms on paraglacial coastal environments of Arctic and sub-Arctic regions and prediction which sites are most vulnerable to their impacts in a warmer future. His ambition is to transfer new knowledge to help Arctic communities reduce the geohazard risk as most of their activities are concentrated along the coast. He is also the initiator of the Alfred Jahn Cold Region Research Programme at the University of Wrocław designed to strengthen excellence in permafrost and periglacial research in Poland.



Michał Szolc

General Manager at Dzikie Warszawa

Founder and General Manager of Dzikie Warszawa - basketball club like no other with an ambition to become the best sports organization in Poland. Country Manager of Storytel Poland - Polish branch of the most dynamic audiobook streaming service in the world. Ex-Citi, PwC, Deloitte, Michelin.



Areta Szpura

Freelance

Mission impossible specialist. Started working at 16, Areta spent her first 10 years in the fashion industry. From styling celebrities, working in magazines like Elle or Glamour, to starting up her own clothing business at 20. After very successful 6 years as a CEO and creative director, she decided to leave the industry and take up another challenge, saving our Planet. And she's been doing that ever since. Her first book, 'How to save the world' is a bestseller, it even was put on a list of mandatory school readings. She was awarded the Glamour Women of the Year and put on the Forbes 30 under 30 list, twice, both for her fashion and sustainability accomplishments. Currently, she's working on a new book about the future and trying to find her place in the world.



Center for Leadership



Marek Talarczyk

CEO at Netguru

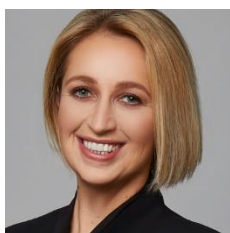
Marek serves as the CEO of Netguru, a rapidly growing software consultancy. His role is to lead the team in fulfillment of the company's mission - helping innovators and entrepreneurs shape the World through beautiful software. Prior to joining Netguru, he was the COO at Videntifier, where he transformed the business from a startup to a company serving customers of the highest-profile in the law enforcement and security market. He also started his career with a bang by traveling to and studying or working in Finland, India, Iceland, and the US. Marek is passionate about technology, leadership, and startups. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, traveling, running, and learning new things.



Marta Titaniec

Chairwoman of the Board of Saint Joseph Foundation of Polish Bishop Conference

Member of the Presidium of the Board of the Club of the Catholic Intelligentsia in Warsaw. A graduate of political science at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. From 2000, secretary general of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews. In 2010-2018, responsible for the implementation of humanitarian and development projects at Caritas Polska. Since 2010, co-organizer of the European reconciliation workshops in Oświęcim, together with the Foundation of Maksymilian Kolbe from Germany. From 2016, a member of the Development Cooperation Program Council at the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee of the 10th (2016) and 11th (2018) Gniezno Convention, vice-president of the Foundation St. Wojciech-Adalbert in Gniezno. Member of the "Więź" Laboratory Team. Co-founder with another layperson from Warsaw "Wounded in the Church Initiative", a helpline for people affected by sexual abuse in the Church in Poland. Lives in Warsaw.



Lidija Vukic

Managing Partner/Board Member at LTTM

Managing Partner and Board Member at LTTM, the largest group in Central Europe providing video and influencer marketing services, YouTube, TikTok, and Facebook certified partner. The group includes agencies: TalentMedia, LifeTube, and Gameset.

In 2015, together with Krystian Botko and Piotr Tytyk, she founded an agency dedicated to YouTube - TalentMedia. In 2018 TalentMedia acquired LifeTube and Gamellon partner networks (main competitors on the influencer marketing market) and together they created LTTM Group. She has been associated with the marketing industry for over a decade. For 8 years she was responsible for the sales and marketing of companies in the fashion and furniture industry. Gained her professional experience, among others, in Italy, Australia, and the USA. She also worked for the largest MCN (multi-channel network) in Europe - Divimove in Berlin. For several years, he has been co-creating the video and influencer marketing market in Poland and the region of Central and Eastern Europe. From September 2020, she is also responsible for the international development of the LTTM group.



Mentor in the Shesnnovation Academy program (supporting women in establishing their own start-ups) and Mentors4Teens (part of the Mentors4Starters program).

She is a laureate of the "Złota Dziesiątka Kobiet Sukcesu Warmii i Mazur 2018" award and was nominated for the "Sukces Pisany Szminką" award twice.



Damian Zieliński

VP Business Development CEE at Mastercard

Manager with over 15 years experience in product management and business development in the payments sector gained at Citibank, HSBC, and Mastercard. Currently as a VP, Core Business Development at Mastercard, Damian is heading Fintech business development and core products and services business growth in Central Eastern Europe. The key area of experience includes product strategy development and implementation, fintech business development, product and project teams management and project management in the field of product development, processes improvement, and marketing.

Leadership Academy for Poland Class 2021

Teaching Assistants

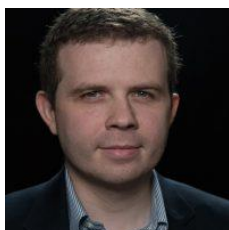


Olga Brzezińska

*President, City of Literature Foundation
Program Director, Leadership Academy for Poland*

LAP Alumna Class of 2018

Olga is Program Director of Leadership Academy for Poland, President of the City of Literature Foundation, and Programme Director of the International Miłosz Festival. She is a cultural manager, initiator, and producer of festivals, theatre performances, music events, and radio shows, educational programs, and publications. Recipient of Creative Scholarship of the City of Krakow in the field of arts management and member of the Council for Equal Treatment under the Mayor of Krakow. Lastly, Brzezińska is a long-term lecturer at the Jagiellonian University, and a publicist in the fields of arts and culture.



Szymon Czyszek

Director at Knights of Columbus

LAP Alumnus Class of 2019

Szymon serves as the Director of International Growth in Europe for the Knights of Columbus, the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world with more than



two million members in the United States, Canada, Poland, Ukraine, France, South Korea, and other countries. After working in the United States for almost seven years, he moved back to Poland to be responsible for the overall growth of the Knights of Columbus in Europe. In 2016, he served as the executive director of the Mercy Centre, the international site for the English-speaking pilgrims attending the World Youth Day in Kraków that hosted over 100,000 participants, including Pope Francis, making it the largest WYD event outside of the main stage papal events. He also serves on the Advisory Council of the Jagiellonian Club, an independent NGO, and think-tank established in 1994 in Krakow. He is a lawyer and a graduate of the Jagiellonian University School of Law and the UConn School of Law. He has been married for over 13 years and is a father of three children.



Julian Dworak

CEO at Advertising Producers Association

LAP Alumnus Class of 2019

Julian is a television producer, marketing industry activist, change manager, and coach. Lodz Film School graduate and alumnus of Leadership Academy for Poland. In the process ICF and EMCC coaching certifications. His career in media and communication started in the late 1990's. Worked as a commercial producer both for advertising agencies and production studios providing communication solutions for a vast number of major brands. Industry expert for developing marketing communication golden pitching standards. Created and currently runs the polish Advertising Producers Association (Klub Producentów Reklamowych SAR).

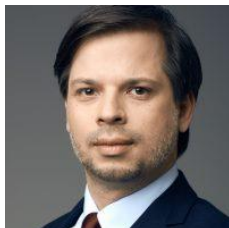


Anna Gromada

Researcher, Polish Academy of Sciences

LAP Alumna Class of 2018

Anna is a lead author of high-impact UN reports, eg. "Worlds of Influence". "Unequal Start" and "Are the World's Richest Countries Family Friendly?" (recently quoted by the European, the Dutch and the British Parliament as a basis for new legislation; subject of the press conference of Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern; covered by thousands of media outlets around the world, including the front pages of the Guardian and Financial Times). A researcher at the Polish Academy of Sciences and a co-founder of the Kalecki Foundation. A former social policy advisor-analyst at the Chancellery of the President of Poland. Anna has prepared policy recommendations for the Polish and the French government, the OECD, and a myriad of research institutes around the world. She holds degrees in Economics, Development, Psychology and Politics from the University of Cambridge, Sciences Po Paris and Warsaw School of Economics as well as a Ph.D. in Sociology from the Polish Academy of Sciences.



Marcin Kowalczyk

Membership Strategy Director, Polish Scientific Publisher

LAP Alumnus Class of 2018

Marcin is a Media and Publishing industry expert with a strong focus on Membership / Subscription Economy and Corporate Transformation. AI & Smart Actionable Data practitioner in audience acquisition, engagement & monetization strategies. Currently leading the 70 years old prestigious PWN Group (Polish Scientific Publishers) into digital transformation, building a lifelong-learning ecosystem for a wide range of professions, serving as acting Membership Strategy Director. He is a shareholder and vice-President of Subscription Solutions of Deep.BI - an American AI-powered Big-Data digital subscription intelligence platform for media brands working with international companies on tech-led audience localization. He is involved in the projects as a digital transformation consultant, having among clients FT Strategies (digital growth consultancy boutique from The Financial Times), D-Share S.p.A. (technology used by thousands of editors, in more than 100 organizations in 7 countries), and a vast number of media companies. Former Board Member of several start-ups and C-Level executive, working as General Manager, Business Operations and Head of Digital of Gremi Media S.A. (Rzeczpospolita, Parkiet) responsible for Gremi's Group digital transformation and all media group's commercial operations. Professional with 25 years of experience in the media and digital sector, combining expertise as a journalist and editor, marketing leader, and e-commerce expert. Over 17 years of continuous extensive senior executive management experience. The alumni of Warsaw University of Technology (Executive MBA), Clark University (US), Oxford Brookes University (UK), and digital programs at IESE Business School - University of Navarra and London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Privately a fan of all-kinds theatre.



Katia Roman-Trzaska

Co-founder, Recipe for Independence Foundation

LAP Alumna Class of 2016

Katia is a former corporate lawyer, founder of Little Chef Cooking School for Kids, Poland's first and largest cooking school. Since 2007 Little Chef taught over 100,000 children about the importance of healthy eating, seasonal foods, culinary history, and cooking skills. Established innovative hands-on cooking programs for schools connected with school curriculum (history, geography, math). Co-founder of the Recipe for Independence Foundation (Fundacja Samodzielność od Kuchni) which helps teenagers from foster care gain independence and a sense of self-worth as they start adult lives. Mentor at Women's Enterprise Foundation (Sieć Przedsiębiorczych Kobiet) helping women start their own business and lead with integrity.