



# Our roots are growing stronger!

*Third year of the Feminist Fund*

**FEM  
FUND**  
fundusz  
feministyczny



# Dears,

FemFund is 3 years old already!

After two intense and fairly crazy years, 2020 was a year of rooting and building strong foundations for the mature and stable organization that FemFund wants to be. 😊 We used the time of the pandemic to care for relations within the team, strengthen the organization's security, order our procedures and formalities, and to talk about our vision of FemFund and how to strengthen the feminist movement in Poland strategically and in the long run.

We feel that after three years we are standing firmly on two legs: the feminist community that uses the Fund's money keeps on growing regularly, and there are also more and more persons who support the Fund with monthly donations. We are an organization that specializes in providing grants and feminist philanthropy. We reach groups and organizations from all over Poland, from cities, towns, and villages; within the feminist movement, we support the voices of minorities, the excluded, and the marginalized. The persons who co-create this movement daily still decide whom to support.



**We invite you to read the summary of the year 2020 in FemFund!**

*Magda, Justyna, Gosia,  
Marta and Mona*

# Bigger and wiser FemFund!

We started 2020 as a stronger team, joined by Mona Szychowiak ♥ and Gosia Leszko ♥. A while later, we started a regular cooperation with Do Bregin ♥.

That way, we increased our inner strengths and skills, and created two key programs within FemFund: grants and fundraising, supported by the Board and administration.

The new shape of the team and division of tasks were combined with a conversation about how to work together in a way that helps us regenerate and save our nerves 😊.

We were supported in thinking about it by a wonderful workshop by Ilaj ♥

from Ulex Project. It was a much needed conversation, thanks to which we were able to critically look at our practices of overworking and (not) resting. In 2020, we wanted to take care of FemFund as a workplace, we created a social benefits fund and, for the first time in herstory, we went together for a trip to a forest. 😊

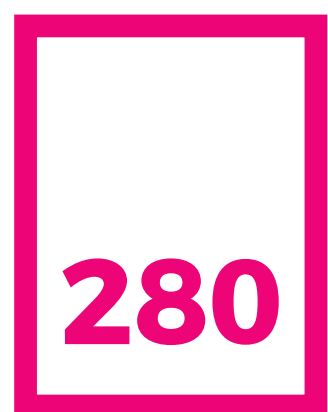
Throughout the whole year, thanks to the sisterly support of Prospera – a network uniting women's funds from all over the world – we worked on a **strategic plan for FemFund for the next few years**. As a team, we spent dozens of hours discussing where we want FemFund to head towards and the role we want it to play in the feminist movement in Poland. We talked

about our key values, about the current political context, about the needs of our community and its internal diversity. For many months we were methodically building our understanding of how we want to act and what we want to achieve. In the end, our plan will probably fit one sheet of paper, but it will be a very well thought-through sheet! 😊

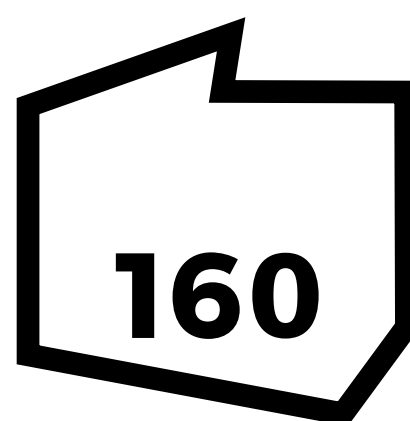
# More and more feminism!

Starting a year with an open call for proposals has become our tradition in 2020. We were delighted to see that the third call received a record number of applications for mini-grants.

**There were 280 of them, from 160 places in Poland!**



**applications**



**localities**

The great news was also that, compared to previous contests, we have seen the largest growth in the number of ideas by groups and organizations from Eastern Poland, specifically podlaskie, lubelskie, świętokrzyskie and podkarpackie voivodeships. What is more, over 30% of all the applications came from rural communities, and over half of the groups and organizations participating in the call said to have little or very little fundraising experience.

This data shows that the mini-grant program remain what they were meant to be from the beginning: an accessible and friendly source of financing for feminist activism, performed by very diverse groups

and organizations from all over Poland – also those far away from big cities, recently created, and debuting in our common movement.

In 2020, the money from the Fund supported a record number of 25 initiatives. Of course, most of them were chosen by the very same groups and organizations that had applied for the funds ♥.

**As a result, a lot of feminist goodness has been taking place →**



# Third edition of the mini-grants!



- Teenage girls from Wałbrzych organized an activist camp and study visits to feminist organizations in Poland and are now planning their own actions.
- Pink Boxes, filled with free menstruation products, were sent to various places in Poland, and animated videos about periods, created by MenstrUlka group, can be found online.
- Five girls from Brzesko started or continued learning how to program.

Odważne Dziewczyny (Brave Girls) from Wałbrzych during a camp in Mniszków



# Third edition of the mini-grants!



- Queer activists organized two trips to support the LGBTQPIA communities in Dębica and Tuchów, two towns where discriminatory resolutions had been passed (so-called “LGBT-ideology free zones”).
- Young refugees from Caucasus went together to Mieroszyno to meet feminist and migrant activists from Tricity, rest by the sea, and get to know each other better.
- Mothers of children with disabilities from around Bieńkowo regenerated thanks to massages, horse riding classes, and meetings in circles.

Queer Tour in Puławy



# Third edition of the mini-grants!



- Girls from the school in Suchorze learned the basics of self-defense and participated in classes about puberty. Hygiene packs for menstruating persons were provided for their school.
- A unique Women's Village Cinema was created in Wiązownica-Kolonia, where women can watch movies, chat, and take part in a yoga class.
- Participants of herstory workshops in Łódź restored the memory of forgotten heroines: Jewish caretakers of children from the Łódź ghetto.

Birthday of the PasjoDzielnia (PassionSharing) Foundation in Wiązownica-Kolonia



# Third edition of the mini-grants!



- A new short film premiered on YouTube: “Wiadomość” (“The Message”) was entirely created by a group and transgender persons from Zabrze.
- Over a dozen women with movement and seeing disabilities participated in classes of feminist self-defense and assertiveness in Cracow and Wrocław.
- Activists from the Workers' Initiative trade union have developed proposals for solutions in situations of conflict and violence – they will be submitted to a vote during the national Congress in March 2021.

Sonia and Tomek from the group Kadr na Równość (Frame for Equality), Katowice





Ada and Bożena from MenstrUlka group in Wrocław



# Third edition of the mini-grants!



- Women from Chełm area who had experienced violence took part in empowerment workshops.
- Women, non-binary persons and trans persons had an opportunity to play ball in a supportive atmosphere of sisterhood during open football trainings.
- Colorful Paramedics cared for protesters against the abortion ban and during the Climate Camp. They also prepared ICE cards, which they delivered to the organizers of the Equality Marches all over Poland.

Training of Kobiece\* Akademia Piłkarska (Women's\* Football Academy) in Warsaw



# Third edition of the mini-grants!



Ala Urwał during the QUEERZ GET LOUD Festival in Lublin

- Teenagers from Białystok took sex education into their own hands and organized open webinars on informed consent, HIV prevention, and heteronorm.
- Refugees from the Warsaw center in Targówek met during cultural outings, workshops and walks in a friendly, informal atmosphere.
- The first queer artistic festival, with voguing workshops, film screenings and drag shows, took place in Lublin.







Workshops with residents of the Center for Foreigners in Warsaw,  
conducted by the Informal Group Trzykrotność (Threefold)



# Third edition of the mini-grants!



- A group of self-advocates created suggestions on how to adapt WenDo self-defense workshops to the needs of persons on the autism spectrum.
- A group of mothers from the vicinity of Komorów met for several months with a psychologist, physiotherapist, and in so-called circles.
- 4 body-positive workshops, including one for parents who want to support a good relationship between a child and their own body, took place in Łódź.
- Women's Club, a safe haven where women can meet, have a coffee, read or – if need arises – take refuge and spend a night was created in Łapy-Dębowina.

Workshops for mums from Kiedy Rodzi się Matka (When a Mother is Born) group from Komorów



# Permanent cooperation

*or we act all the time*

Our three-year cooperation program is already one year old! There is no way to write about all the activities, so we present a very abbreviated and by no means complete overview of 2020 from our Grantees ♥.



# New spaces

- Thanks to Stowarzyszenie dla Ziemi (Association for the Earth), a tailor's workshop and a women's club were established in the center for foreigners in Łuków – a space for meetings and joint work of female residents, as well as the only place in the center with a well-functioning external Internet!
- The Kopacze-Diggers collective has been building a **space for development** and rest for activists in the Masovian countryside with their own hands. Works are still in progress, but already two collectives that act for social justice spent time in Kopacze in 2020.
- Deaf girls have better access to knowledge thanks to the work of the Różowy Orzech (Pink Nut) group. Its members organized workshops on sex education and emotional intelligence for the Deaf community and inaugurated the series "In the circle of women. Conversations of the Pink Nut".



Zmapuj Siebie (Map Yourself) camp for young girls in Izerskie Mountains



# We are growing deep

- There are two new organizations on the map of the Polish NGOs: two collectives supported by FemFund decided to associate! We welcome **Stowarzyszenie Kolektyw Kobietostan** (Association Kobietostan Collective) and **Stowarzyszenie Feministyczne Ciotki Klotki** (Ciotki Klotki Feminist Association). Fundacja Kobiety Wędrowne (Wandering Women Foundation)

Ciotki Klotki from Głucholazy



W(y)puszczone

organized the first program meeting in its herstory. Congratulations!

- Many organizations and groups have grown: for example, SexWork Poland and Prowincja Równości (Equality Province) were joined by persons who engage in their activities. Another group that acted for rooting were **Wypuszczone** – a collective that organizes forest camps for women and queer persons. The group got bigger, so her members put a lot of effort into strengthening relationships, consensual decision making, and discussing shared values, in order to return in 2021 with new, even better camps.
- There were also networking opportunities within the FemFund

community. Sułkowiczanki organized Chechnian cuisine workshops conducted by Khedi from Fundacja Kobiety Wędrowne. NOMADA Association takes care of the pink box with pads and tampons, which was placed next to its seat by MenstrUlka as a part of this years' mini-grant. Our feminist ecosystem is growing stronger and stronger through relations!

- The members of Klub Kobiet (Women's Klub) in Hańsk had a meeting with a psychologist, which helped them get through the isolation in the countryside and the fear caused by the pandemic. It was a year of mutual care and support ♥.



# New challenges – pandemic and politics

- Mindra, the Roma assistant working for Nomada Association, has **supported Roma children and families in virtual education** and communicating online with institutions and offices since the beginning of the pandemic.
- SexWork Poland created a **crisis fund for sex workers**, which supported 162 persons in difficult situations. A grant from the Fund helped pay for 11 psychological and gynecological consults.
- In response to the political hate campaign against LGBTQPIA people, Manufaktura Inicjatyw Różnorodnych (Manufacture of Diverse Initiatives) organized a supportive "Rainbow WenDo" training.
- Divers from the ecofeminist collective Bojka – that brings together persons with disabilities – not only performed their regular trainings, but also engaged in saving **the green areas around the river Bogdanka** in Poznań.
- Two FemFund grantees: To dla nas ważne! and Ciotki Klotki temporarily suspended their cooperation with FemFund, as they cannot perform their activities during the

pandemic. We are keeping our fingers crossed for them and **we await them with open arms!**



Bojka Diving Collective



**Solidarity**  
**and mutual help!**  
*or we are in this together*



# No one will walk alone!

The recent year saw the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which in Poland was accompanied by tightening the hostile policies against women and the LGBTQPIA community. Actions taken by politicians in response to rising health risks have endangered workers' rights, thus lowering job security and stability. At the same time, the hardship of adjusting to the new situation was borne primarily by those performing unpaid labor (mothers and childcare workers) and in feminized industries (cashiers, nurses, ward orderlies, lab workers, caregivers of the elderly, social welfare workers, etc.). The risks and constraints of organizing gatherings, public meetings, and simply meeting, have caused a great variety of

feminist plans to change or to be irrevocably cancelled. At the same time, feminist activism, solidarity during the pandemic, and mutual help became more necessary than ever.

At that time, our grantees – refugees from Fundacja Kobiety Wędrowne and from the center in Łuków, co-operating with the "Dla Ziemi" Association, as well as pensioners from the Ciotki Klotki group from Głuchołazy – started sewing and sharing masks. New financial aid initiatives supported – among others – by FemFund, were created: Nettle Solidarity Fund and Crisis Fund for sex workers. We shared information about two more, very important,

fundraisers: by Nomada Association, which prepared information about COVID-19 in two dialects of the Romani language, and by Workers' Initiative Nationwide Trade Union for legal aid for laid off employees.



FemFund team during a protest against tightening the abortion law



The year 2020 was also marked by intensive strike and protest actions in which we took part, just like thousands of other people in Poland. We did not close our umbrellas, we shouted “Black Lives Matter” in solidarity, we protested police brutality towards Stop Bzdurom, we attended demonstrations in defense of abortion (Koniec kompromisów! Legalna, dostępna na żądanie aborcja teraz! – No more compromise! Legal, accessible abortion on demand now!), and demonstrations in solidarity with those arrested (Nigdy nie będziesz szła sama! – You’ll never walk alone!); and, for the first time in history, we used the word “Wypierdalać”<sup>\*</sup> on our Facebook page.

<sup>\*</sup> “Get the fuck out!” – the slogan of protests against the Polish government (translator’s comment).

**FEMFUND.PL**

In 2020, we kept repeating – and we repeat it now:

**Do you need an abortion?**  
Call: +48 22 292 25 97  
or write to:  
[kontakt@aborcyjnydreamteam.pl](mailto:kontakt@aborcyjnydreamteam.pl)  
[administracja@maszwybor.net](mailto:administracja@maszwybor.net)  
**Are you looking for “day after” pills?** Write to: [dzienpo@riseup.net](mailto:dzienpo@riseup.net)  
**You are not and you will never be alone!**  
**#AborcjaBezGranic**

At the same time, we tried to make the extremely important voices of women with disabilities heard in the discussion about abortion and

embryopathological rationale. Our Deaf grantees from Różowy Orzech organized a discussion about abortion and protests in Polish Sign Language, and we were there. We have shared and continue to recommend conversations organized by Pełnoprawna and Article 6 – initiatives done by extraordinary feminists who have spent years fighting for accessible feminism, advancing our knowledge about breaking physical ability regimes, and building a collective struggle among women, queer communities, and people with disabilities.

**The accessibility of feminism, including information about abortion and protests, matters to all of us!**



# Continuous financial support is an invaluable strength in the present times!

Throughout the whole 2020 FemFund could count on the continuous support of our donors. The number of people who contribute to the Fund with a monthly transfer has **increased to 200**. In the last year – a time of epidemiological and economic crisis – some of you have increased the amount of your donations. And what is most incredible, when we ask what you expect in return, you respond with “keep doing what you do”, “FemFund’s values are my values” ❤️.

This year we also began cooperating with Polish ethical business. Balagan brand invited us to be one of the organizations they support financially – the cost of each product includes a percentage for social action. We are glad to be trailblazing business fundraising.

Supporting women's, transgender, non-binary and queer activism is closely tied to the Fund's financial independence as an organization. We do not use any public funds in Poland, and our long-term financial stability is built by individuals who support us with a regular, monthly transfers. Thanks to them, we are able to support groups that have no chance of getting money from other sources, but whose voice and activities are truly needed by all of us.

That is why, as long as FemFund exists, we will continue doing two things: asking for regular financial support and inviting you to use the money FemFund raises 😊. FemFund is the feminist movement's piggy bank that anyone and everyone can contribute to!



FemFund grants are not only a financial help for individual initiatives. By supporting the Fund, you support feminist philanthropy based on trust, solidarity, relations, and learning from one another. Here is what our grantees say about it:

“ *Participating in the project changed our stereotypes about the feminist movement. We see ourselves in this movement, we see there is a space for all of us here.* ”

“ *We've learned what it's like to pursue an idea when grant givers have confidence in us and we don't have to focus only on meeting result indicators.* ”

“ *During the whole duration of the grant, we were experiencing support from FemFund. The feeling of not being alone in the process gave us encouragement during difficult times – and we don't just mean financial support, but also responding to attacks on our group and community.* ”

“ *The Fund created a space where women can turn their dreams into reality. It gives flexibility, understanding, and direct contact, which are often lacking when it comes to grants.* ”



# Artists for feminism and feminism for everyone!

In 2020, we celebrated the diversity of feminism. With the help of dozens of amazing artists, we created the (**#KalendariumFemFundu**), celebrating holidays that are important for the feminist struggle.

By creating the #FemFundCalendar, we want to let it be known that our feminism is a legacy of the struggles of factory workers, trade union members, and suffragettes, it is a fight against racism and xenophobia, it is a united front with transgender persons, persons on the autism spectrum, lesbians, and anyone experiencing homophobia or biphobia. Our feminism is inextricably linked to an appreciation of the unpaid care work of women, the often invisible and

low-paid work of cashiers, saleswomen, nurses, social workers, day-care workers, or ladies responsible for cleaning. It is the feminism of mothers and of those who want to have children but cannot. It is also a fight for legal, accessible abortion. It is the activism of sex workers. It is standing hand in hand with migrants, refugees, and fighting for dignity of female inmates. It is caring for the rights of girls and elderly women, including those who live in rural areas, experience poverty, who don't have enough time or access to public services. Finally, it is the care for other species and the whole environment, therefore a fight against systemic sources of exploitation. Our feminism is an effort towards

full accessibility for Deaf people and people with disabilities. It is our common responsibility, just like anti-fascism and fighting any form of violence against women.

**This is the feminist we want to do with you!**





Special works were created,  
commemorating:

**International Women's Rights Day**

March 8

**International Day for the Elimination  
of Racial Discrimination**

March 21

**International Transgender Visibility Day**

March 31

**World Autism Awareness Day**

April 2

**International Lesbian Visibility Day**

April 26

**International Labor Day**

May 1

**International Day Against Homophobia,  
Transphobia and Biphobia**

May 17

**Mother's Day**

May 26

**International Day of Sex Workers**

June 2

**World Refugee Day**

June 20

**International Day for the Rights of Detainees**

July 18

**World Day of Environmental Debt**

August 22

**International Day of the Deaf**

September 27

**World Safe Abortion Day**

September 28

**International Day of Older Persons**

October 1

**International Day of the Girl Child**

October 11

**International Day of Women Living  
in Rural Areas**

October 15

**International Day for the Eradication of  
Poverty**

October 17

**World Feminist Day**

November 7

**International Day Against Fascism  
and Anti-Semitism**

November 9

**International Day for the Elimination of  
Gender Based Violence**

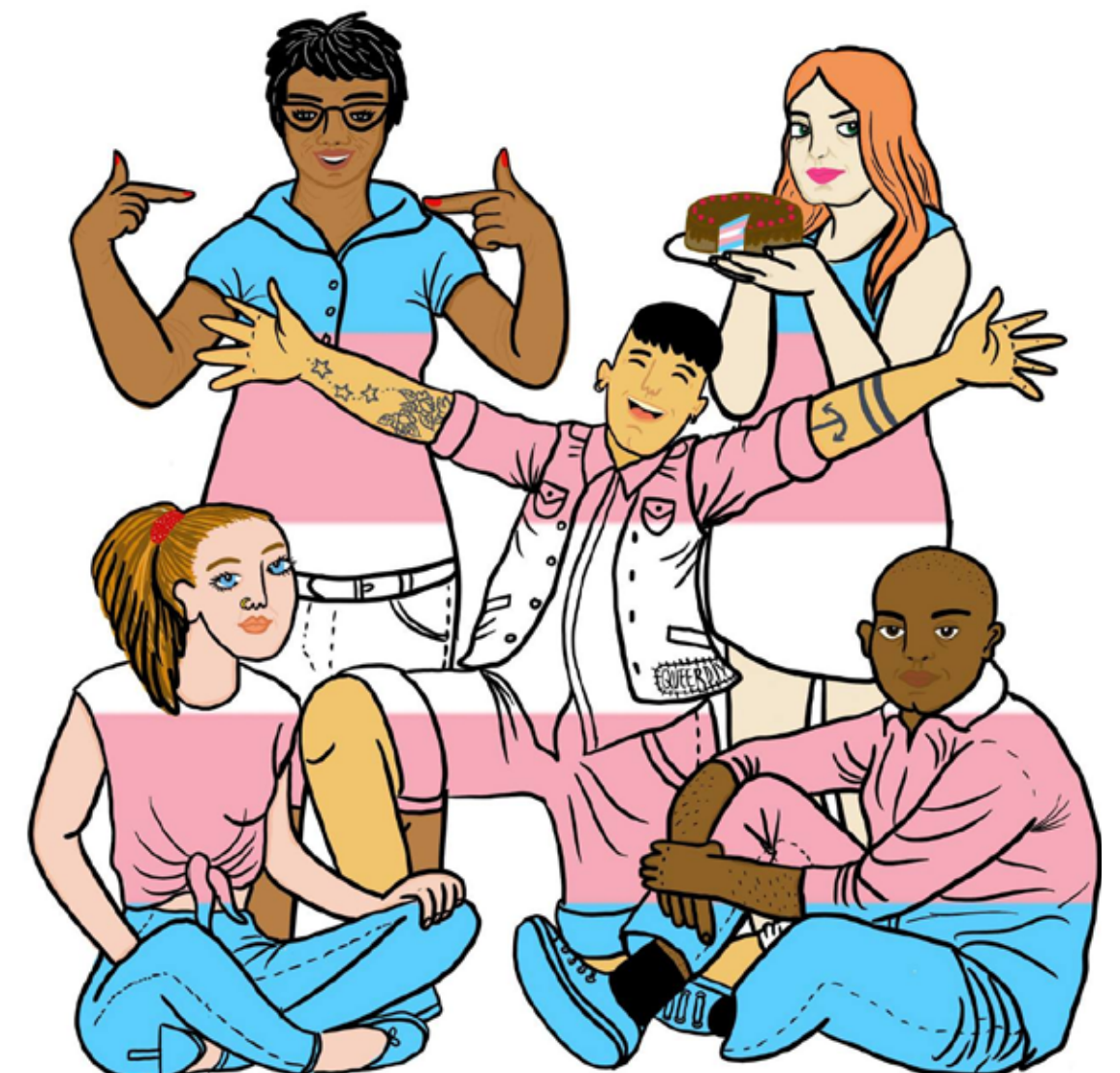
November 25

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

December 3

**International Migrants Day**

December 18



Art by Asia Bordowa



# Artists for feminism and feminism for everyone!

See all the works  
online →

Art by Jagoo Artystka





# Artists for feminism and feminism for everyone!

**See all the works  
online →**

Art by Yulia Krivich

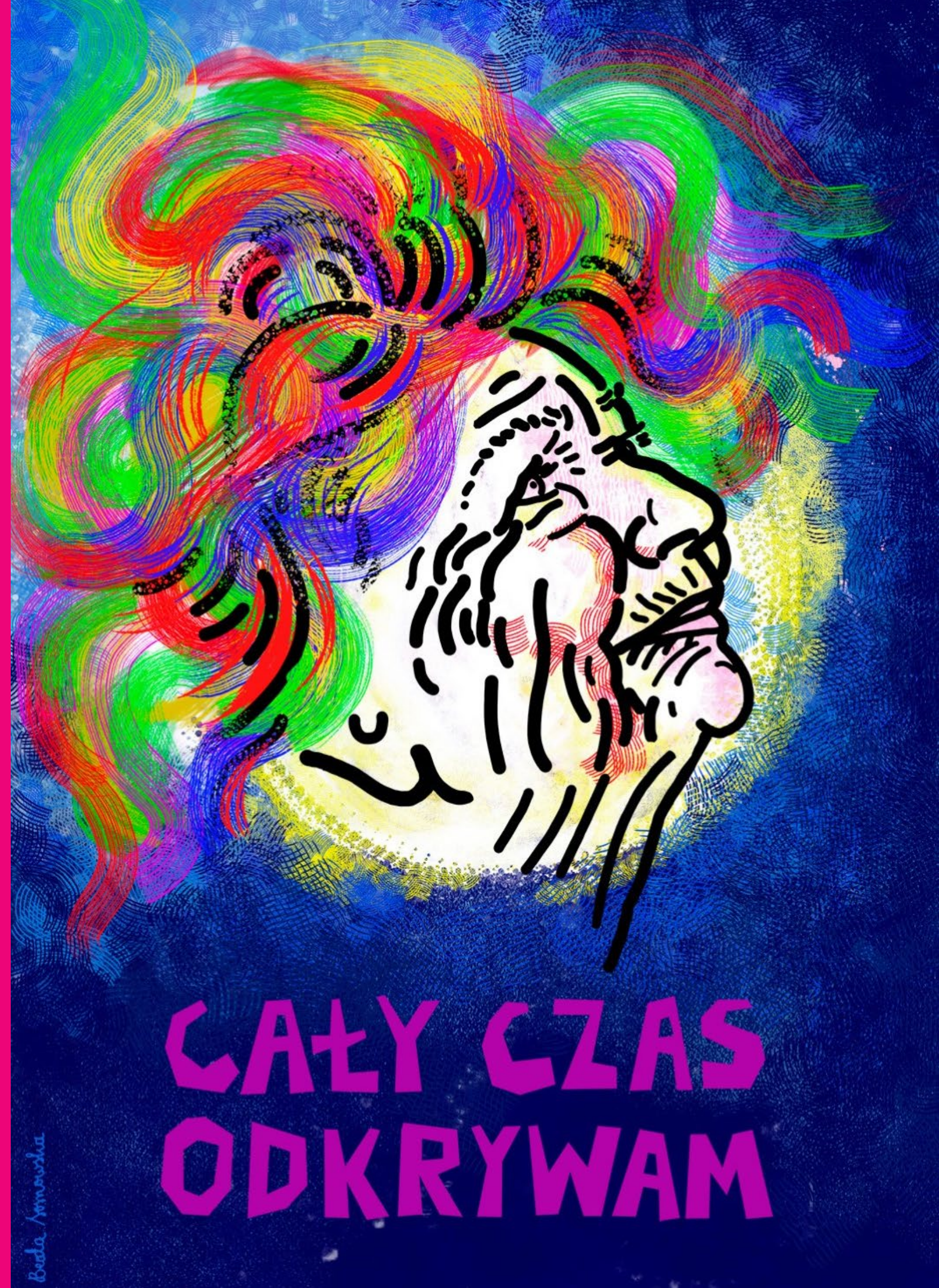




# Artists for feminism and feminism for everyone!

See all the works  
online →

Art by Beata Sosnowska





# Wearing masks, in person, online, but... we talk!



Members of KGW (Village Housewives Association) “Łapianka na obcasach” and PassionSharing during a networking meeting

Not being able to organize face-to-face meetings forced us to change many plans to see you, meet you and have a conversation. But... we had some ways of dealing with that.

Firstly, we started a new activity – FemFund’s Conversations! These are discussions on topics important to us with persons from the FemFund community, broadcast live on our social media channels. The first one was about activism of women living in the countryside – that is where many FemFund grantees live. We feel that their voice is not always heard or listened to during discussions about feminism. We want FemFund’s Conversations to build solidarity and mutual knowledge about the needs and strategies for acting in different communities. There are more episodes coming soon! The Conversations are accompanied by longer, more

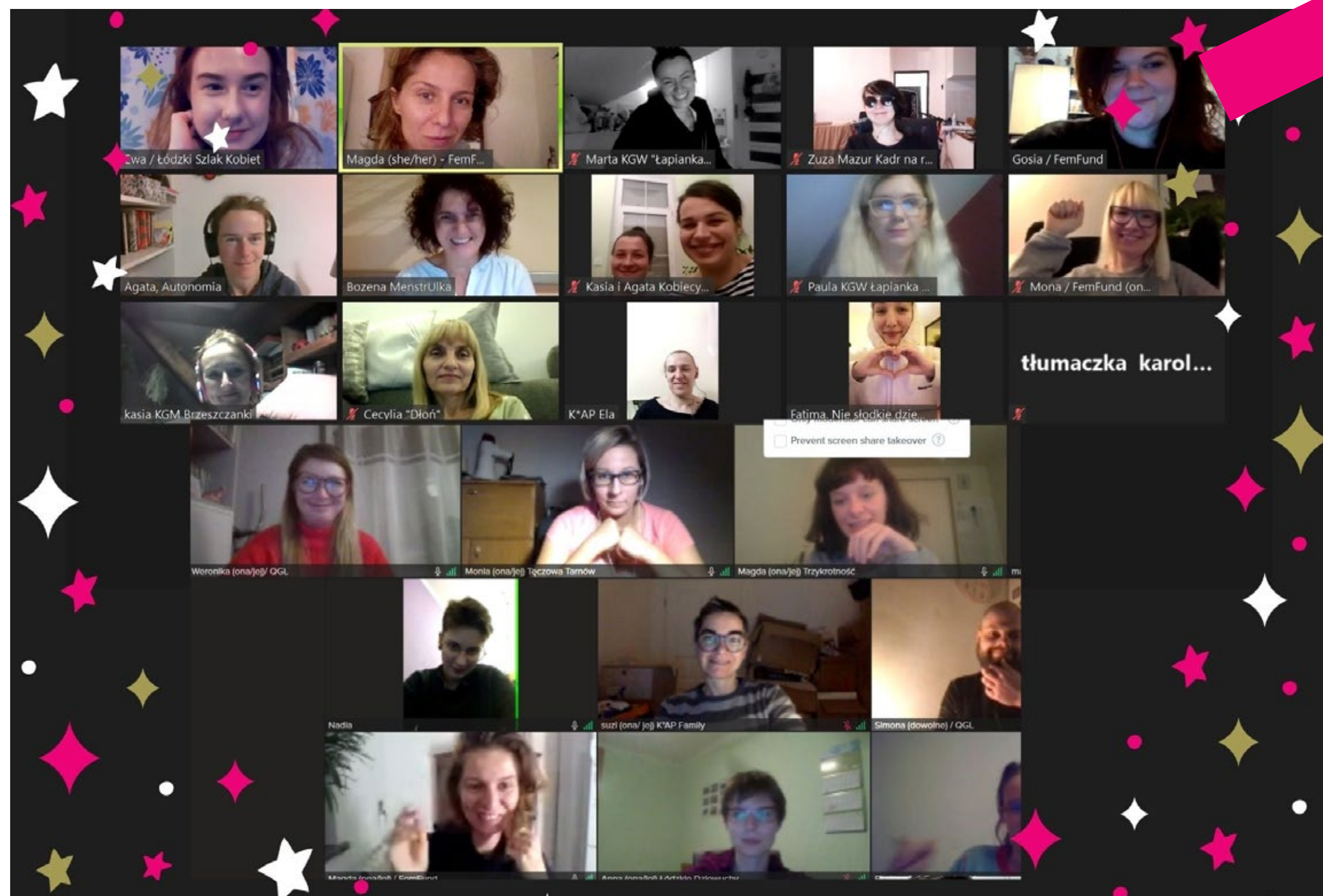
personal, live networking meetings – we do not broadcast those, but believe us, a lot of inspiration and exchange goes on there!

Secondly, we got in the car and... we took every opportunity we could to meet persons from the community in the safest possible environment. We visited **12 groups** and traveled the length and breadth of Poland – over **4780 km**! For us, these were the brightest moments of last year.



Thirdly, the mini-grant review meetings this year were held – like almost everything – remotely. We were concerned about online communication fatigue and the fact that, after all, you cannot replace an in-person meeting with a call on an online platform, but... it worked out great! There was wine and herbal teas, tracksuits, glitter, lots of cats and, most of all, long conversations about what worked, what didn't, and what activism in general looks like in different parts of Poland.

In order to regularly inform you about the effects of the feminist mini-grants and to introduce you to the wonderful grantee-partners, we began sending out an electronic Voice of FemFund. In our Voice we let you know about important events in the life of the Fund.





# Acknowledgements

*That would not have happened  
without you*



# Acknowledgements

Those 12 months would not have been possible without many wonderful persons. From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank:

Do Bregin ♥ and .kolektyw: Agata Kubis, Martyna Tokarska and Emilia Oksentowicz ♥

Wojtek Bogusz ♥, Ilaj from Ulex Project ♥, Ania Zajdel (Badylologia) ♥, Natalia Sarata (RegenerAkcja) ♥, and also:

Marianna Wybieralska, Ania Stolorz, Gośka Bywalec, Piotr Chojnacki, Karolina Pomarańska, Aleksandra Sobczak, Andrzej Pietrucha, Ola Miastowska, Marta Tomkiewicz, Justyna Bułdys, Grzegorz Wiaderko, Marta Cyran.

Artists who cooperated with us in creating FemFund Calendar: Natalia Jerzak, Atakamakata, Asia Bordowa, Karolina “Szarosen” Plewińska, Beata Sosnowska, Małgorzata Frąckiewicz, Pamela Bożek, Olga Wróbel, Jagoo Artystka, Karolina Kotowska, Karolina Szota, Magda Skrzeczkowska, Natalia Siuchta, Marta Frej, Agata Królak, Ewa Sumlińska, Martyna Matysiak, Dominika Wilczyńska, Barbara Nawrocka, Monika Drożyńska, Marta Zabłocka, Małgorzata Halber and Yulia Krivich.

The Audit Committee, consisting of: Aleksandra Muzińska, Aneta Kluszczyńska, Marta Henzler.

The whole team of the Prospera network, especially: Alexandra Garita, Fadekemia Akinfaderin (Kemi) and Katarzyna Pabijanek, María Eugenia

Olmos (Euge), Catherine Borgman-Arboleda.

Advisory Board consisting of:

Natalia Broniarczyk, Sylwia Chutnik, Małgorzata Fuszara, Magdalena Grabowska, Kinga Lohmann, Katarzyna Rakowska, Natalia Sarata, Kasia Staszewska, Maria Świetlik.

Facilitator of the networking meeting for grantees, Justyna Dubanik, Polish Sign Language translator Natalia Litwiniuk, Russian language translators: Karina Melnytska, Karolina Więckowska and Magdalena Kałuża.

Ania Deryło ♥, who prepares monthly English-language Facebook news summaries for us.



Ola Wiśniewska and the whole W Orbicie Słońca team, as well as Lulu Zubczyńska and Agata Długolecka, i.e. the great San Junipero Girls Crew DJs, for throwing a great party for FemFund's 2nd birthday,

Love Does Not Exclude Association, with whom we share the physical space of our office, especially Ola Kaczorek and Paweł Szamburski. Ms. Zoya and Jurek the Repairman for taking care of our space!

Fundusz Dla Odmiany for coming to life and joining the Polish donors!

We are also immensely grateful to our institutional partners who believed in us and made it possible for us to create the Feminist Fund!

Our thanks for a partnership based on trust and mutual understanding go to: The Sigrid Rausing Trust, Oak Foundation, MamaCash, Stefan Batory Foundation, Open Society Initiative for Europe and Open Society Foundation, Global Fund for Community Foundations and filia. diefrauenstiftung.

Our warm regards to all the people working in these institutions, who have generously given us support in more difficult times!

**With you, everything is possible!**





**With you,  
everything is  
possible!**





# Join us!

**FEMFUND.PL**

Help us support feminist activities that build a better world for all of us. Set up a monthly payment!

There are two ways to do it:

- Through the PayU system on our website:  
**femfund.pl/support**
- By bank transfer to our account:  
**79 9011 0005 3030 0080 2000 0018**  
Vistula Bank | transfer title: **donation for statutory goals**

And if you'd like to share your ideas for further development of the Fund, let us know at:  
**kontakt@femfund.pl.**

*Your money means more feminism!*

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