



ETNO LIGA

est. 2005





CROSS-CULTURAL FOOTBALL PROJECT

Football is the most popular game in the world.

It connects people regardless of skin color, gender
or religion. This is the kind of football we play.

We integrate migrants, support women, promote fair play,
break stereotypes and learn from other cultures.

OUR HISTORY



In 2005 we invited refugees from Chechnya and Africa to a one-off tournament with Polish students. Shortly we grew to 12 teams with Vietnamese and Jewish communities, and Legia Warszawa supporters among others. We started to cooperate with women amateur teams. Due to the great interest, in 2010 the events transformed into a solid league - the first cross-cultural football social programme in Poland.





BASIC FACTS

- 2 seasons and 200+ official league games per year
- 500+ regular adult players from 113 countries, of all ages, professions and genders
- Mixed teams: no national rosters, men and women play together (parities)
- Individual applications and extra integrative sessions for newcomers

MORE THAN FOOTBALL

- Every team hosts a match day: provides logistics, prepares contests, refreshments, thematic presentations...
- The scoring system rewards fair play, volunteering and off-pitch activities
- Players discuss and establish extra rules
- Participation is free of charge





FAIR PLAY EDUCATION



- We train young women to become coaches and work in football industry
- We organize charity tournaments and international youth exchanges
- We promote diversity at conferences, festivals and other events
- We create innovative educational tools for sports clubs



FOR REFUGEES

On the basis of Etnoliga and other best European practices, we have built a program combining sport and education in two refugee centers in Warsaw.

In 2020, 58 children and 37 women participated in our activities. We improve their emotional wellbeing, enhance bonds with peers, increase self-confidence, teach Polish language, improve communication and other skills.





PARTNERS

Etnoliga is a longterm member of Fare network. In recent years we have been working with the Royal Belgian FA, Sport & Citizenship Think Tank and Fundación LaLiga among others.

Locally we cooperate with the Polish FA, Warsaw City authorities, schools and clubs. Etnoliga takes place under the honorary patronage of the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Warsaw.



HONORARY PATRONAGE
OF THE MAYOR OF WARSAW



DZIELNICA
URSYNÓW
M.ST. WARSZAWA





AWARDS

2020

UEFA Best Grassroots Project: Winner

2019

#BeInclusive EU Sport Awards: Shortlister

2019

Fare Network 20 Years Awards: Winner

2017

Beyond Sport Global Awards: Shortlister





Etnoliga is managed by the Foundation for Freedom – a nonprofit organisation established in 2004 and based in Warsaw, Poland.

Our mission is to empower and integrate different groups at risk of exclusion.

CONTACT

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All photos by Albert Zawada (c)