



Polish Professional Women
Silicon Valley



Re-Envision

2021

DEAR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

We are at the beginning of 2021, a New Year, new hopes, and new positive energy for a better future. It is a chance for pivoting, adjusting, and building on our momentum.

Here at PPWSV, we also faced a lot of difficulties in 2020. For most of us, adapting to new roles meant changing our lives in a way we had never imagined. We would like to thank you for supporting us during this unprecedented time.

Although we faced a lot of dispersion, we came into an even stronger awareness of how important it is to have a sense of belonging. That's why the role of organizations such as

PPWSV has become irreplaceable in creating connection, inspiration, empowerment, and motivation.

With this in mind, we're going to put in the hard work to develop our network of like-minded women and allies, facilitate knowledge exchange meetings, and provide a ton of motivation to help everyone re-envision their careers and self-development in 2021.

It's going to be a year filled with new programs and events. Join us. Together we can achieve more!

Joanna Lorincz, Magdalena Jaworowicz



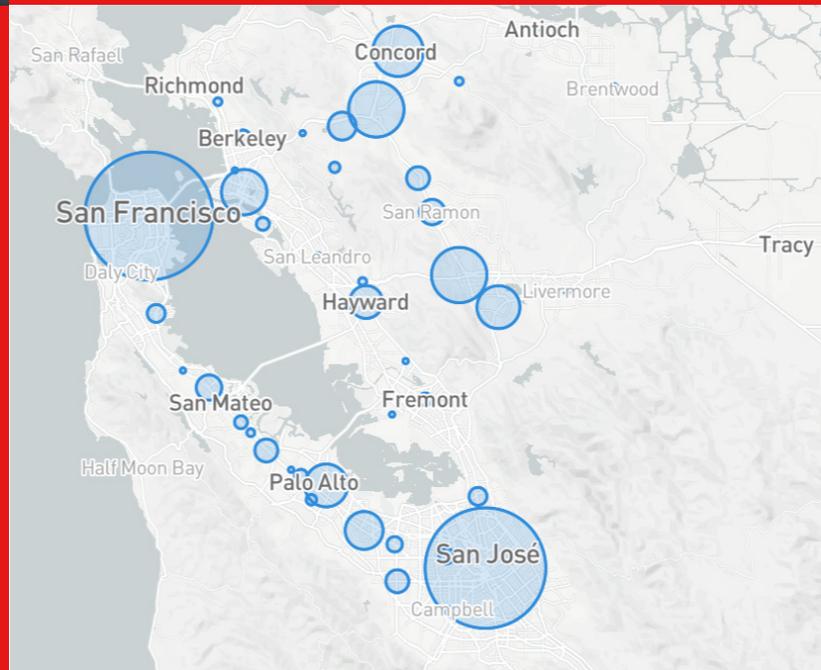
WHO WE ARE

The Polish Professional Women of Silicon Valley is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower women of Polish descent by providing support, training, and tools to elevate their careers. PPWSV also invites all allies willing to support its mission!



Together we are building a network of like-minded women and providing opportunities to connect, share and support each other to further professional growth.

Our members are located in all major cities of the San Francisco Bay Area, California.



Read more about us [here](#)

OUR STRATEGY

At the turn of the year 2020/2021, we shaped our new strategy for the next four years. Our strategy is based on the belief that we can gain more impact by bringing added value to our members. During the upcoming years, we will focus on impactful programs and valuable events.

The programs are focused on empowering women in their professional development and entering or re-entering the labor market.

Our flagship program “A Day in the Life of”, created in 2020, is aimed to showcase different professions and roles at reputable companies in Silicon Valley. The other program that kicked off in 2020 is “Startup Mixer”, dedicated to startup owners.

We are also proud to announce that we are launching new programs around career development:

- **Job Aid in a Box** (for switching careers)
- **Silicon Valley Starter Pack** (for building a career path after moving from Poland to Silicon Valley)
- **PPWSV Academy** (for developing professional skills and knowledge)
- **PPWSV Coffee Hour** (for discussing relevant topics in a casual atmosphere).

Through the events, we're going to connect with inspiring people from different business sectors (“Special Guest” events) and strengthen our relationship with our members, partners, and friends during special occasions and celebrations. This part of our strategy is aimed to build strong networking. We're also open to supporting charity causes.

The ultimate goal of our strategy is to gain impact and bring added value to our members.



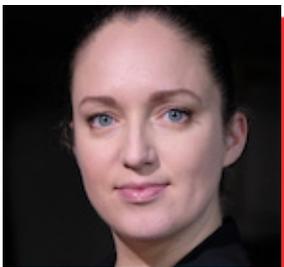
MEET OUR TEAM



Joanna Lorincz
Co-founder



Magdalena Jaworowicz, PhD
Co-founder



Izabela Stepniewski
Digital Marketing Manager



Piotr Jaworowicz, PhD
Strategic Advisor
& Creative Director



Karolina Mazaheri
Project Manager



Agnieszka Pradhan
Event Manager



Olimpia Kaniak
Social Media Manager
(starting January 2021)



Aneta Koźmińska
Social Media Manager
(until December 2020)



Joanna Broda-Schunck
Translator & Copywriter



Eliza Wysokiński
Treasury & Finance Manager

Read more about our team [here](#)

OUR 2020 SUCCESSES

85

In 2020 we had 85 registered members, and this number is constantly growing.

29

Growing website traffic: in 2020 we had unique website visitors from 29 countries (and from 231 cities!).

11

In 2020 we had 11 events (9 owned and 2 sponsored). We've successfully switched from live meetings to online events!

We successfully launched several new initiatives, aiming at delivering value to our members:

- "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF..." PROGRAM
- "STARTUP MIXER" PROGRAM
- EVENTS SUPPORTING CHARITABLE CAUSES

Our organization is growing! We have formed a team of nine talented experts and we are still expanding our network.

2020 IN SILICON VALLEY

What our members are saying about the challenges that 2020 presented

Karolina Dziadosz

Legal Tech Founder

[LinkedIn profile](#)

"The challenges of this year have confirmed the necessity of the legal tech industry. Early-stage companies automating legal services in a new world of remote work and innovative regulatory concepts introduced in 2020 have initiated a modernization process of the access to justice movement."

Natalia Kubik-Maćkowiak

CEO & Co-founder of Tutomy –
Software tools for tutors

[LinkedIn profile](#)

"Survival of the fittest requires adapting to a changing economic environment. After 10+ years of prosperity, we forgot about this basic principle. 2020 caused a major upheaval. Such an environment favors entrepreneurs who know how to adapt. Change feels uncomfortable - but it makes us stronger - and allows building businesses that last for decades."

Magda Gacyk

Journalist, Author, Silicon Valley

Trends Analyst

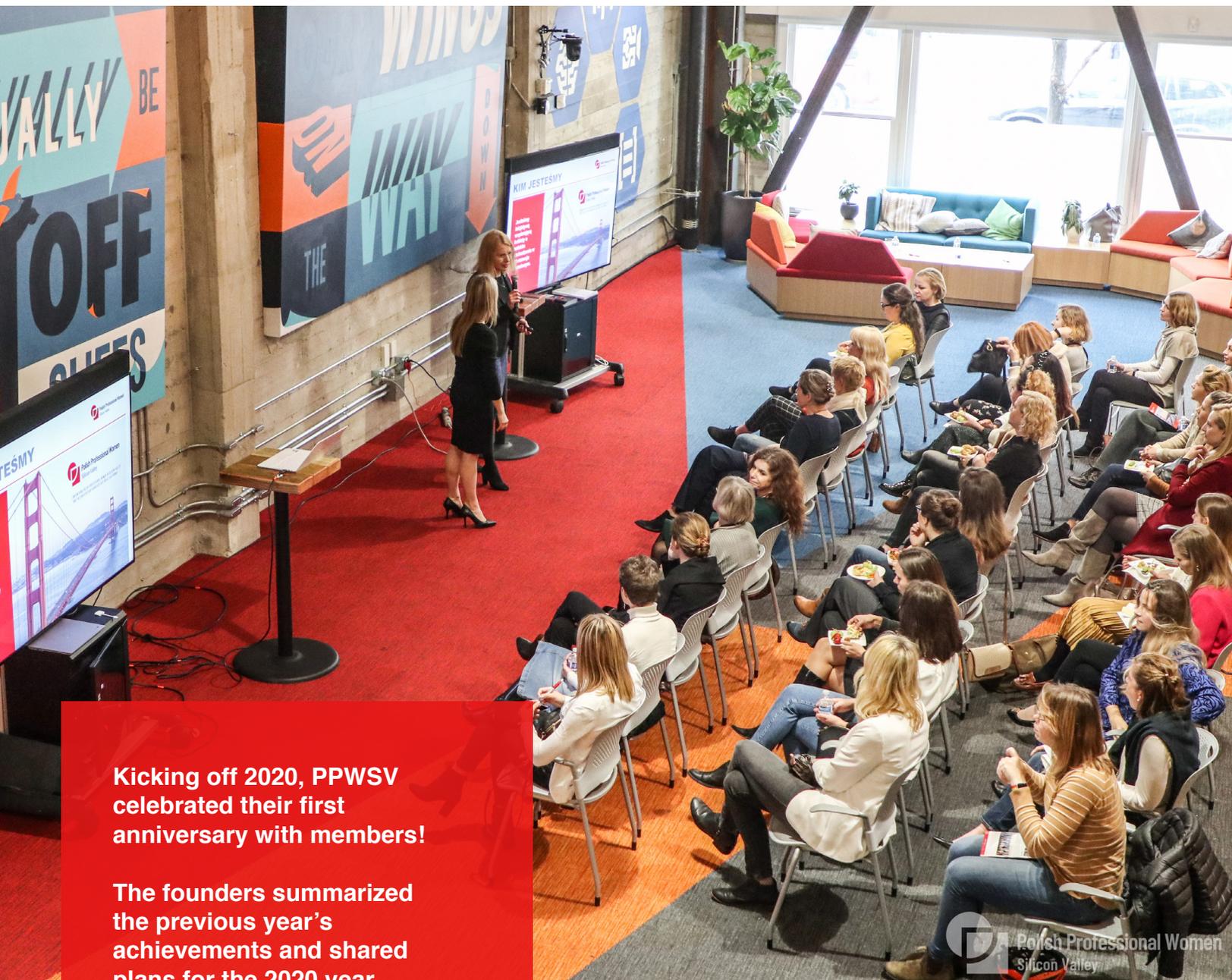
[LinkedIn profile](#)

"After the pandemic we will struggle to come back to normalcy, but we will reach that point. Still... 2020 leaves my profession deeply and permanently changed: press forced to switch from print to digital, publishers transforming from advertising-based business model to paying subscribers and paywalls, local newsrooms closing, international reporting in crisis. But reliable, solid journalism is now appreciated more than in recent years, so I look toward the future with hope."

OUR 2020 EVENTS

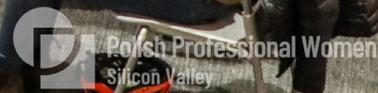
PPWSV ANNUAL MEETING

January 18th - San Francisco



Kicking off 2020, PPWSV celebrated their first anniversary with members!

The founders summarized the previous year's achievements and shared plans for the 2020 year.



Read the full event summaries [here](#)

OUR 2020 EVENTS

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH CHARITABLE HEARTS

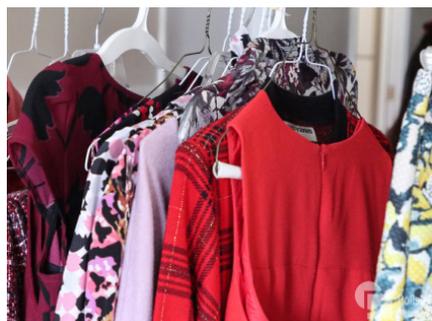
March 7th - Cupertino



Volunteering (yes!) plays a role in career development.

Speaker [Debbie Adams](#) discussed how volunteer roles led her to an exec-level career, while speaker [Adriana Veres](#) shared inspiration to launch her expat women's networking group.

Members participated in a networking session plus clothing swap with profits donated to Hospice in Poland.



OUR 2020 EVENTS



INTERACTIVE CLASS

“SPEAK FOR YOUR SELF”

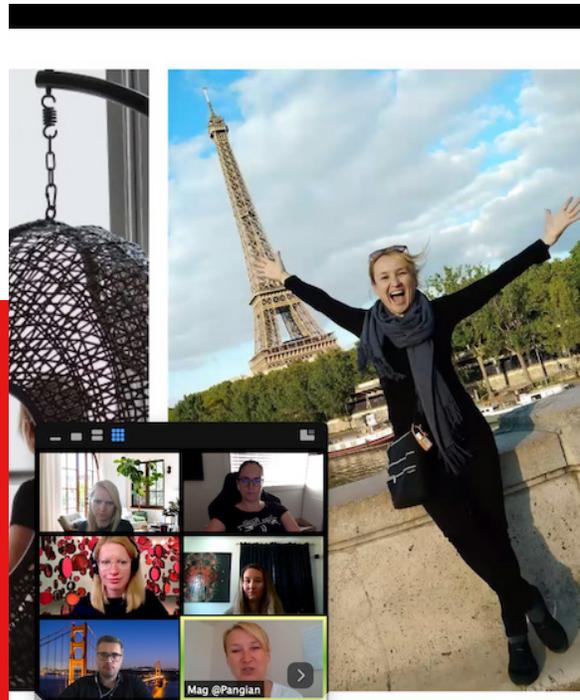
April 25th - Live web event

With the move to working from home in 2020, our first online class was led by [Lisa Betts-Lacroix](#), a speaker, actor, and speaking coach. We learned that articulation and pronunciation skills, connection on camera, vocal modulation, speed, and pacing are all crucial to communication, especially over video calls!

"CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND REMOTE WORK, IS IT POSSIBLE?"

June 27th - Live web event

Mag Boron, Founder and CEO of [Pangian](#), a remote work community for professionals and companies, shared tips on how to get a promotion while working remotely, unique opportunities of building your own startup, and her career path working remote roles.



BUSINESS INSIDER



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OUR 2020 EVENTS

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL

December 17th - Live web event



At our virtual holiday event, PPWSV invited members to a casual community gathering to share their holiday traditions, favorite places to spend a Christmas holiday, holiday dishes, partake in a game, and more!



12 | **VIRTUAL**
17 | **CHRISTMAS**
20 | **COCKTAIL**

ZOOM MEETING



OUR PROGRAMS

A Day in the Life Of...

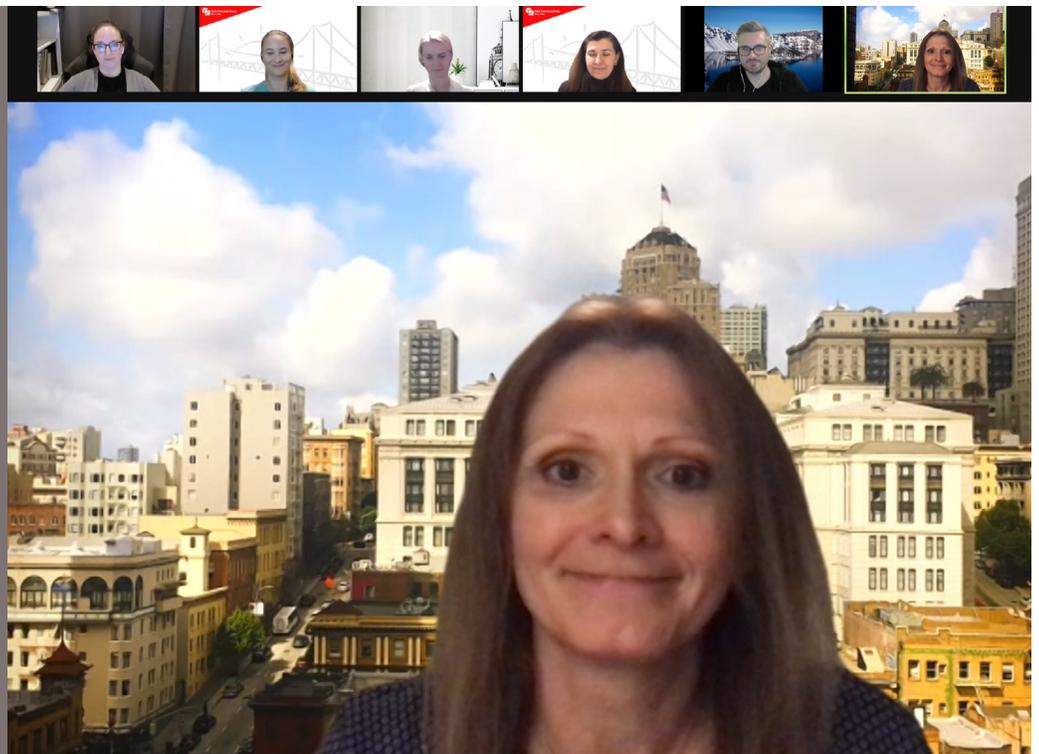
Though surrounded by Silicon Valley's Fortune 500 companies, the unique challenges and successes of Polish women are rarely shared. This live virtual event series sheds light on three professionals' unique career journeys, role and industry insights, and the skills to get hired plus succeed in their dream.

Read more about this program [here](#)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS BANKING RELATIONSHIP MANAGER, VICE PRESIDENT WITH PAULA SIERON - BANK OF AMERICA

December 3rd - Live web event

Paula helped us understand commercial business banking, explaining the team of specialists she is a “quarterback” for to understand each client’s unique needs and to deliver strategic financial guidance and solutions. Having remade herself more than once, her advice is to “Build your own tribe! Network, network, and network!”



OUR PROGRAMS

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN EVENT MARKETING MANAGER WITH PATRYCJA (PAT) RATAJEWSKA - WRIKE

September 24th - Live web event

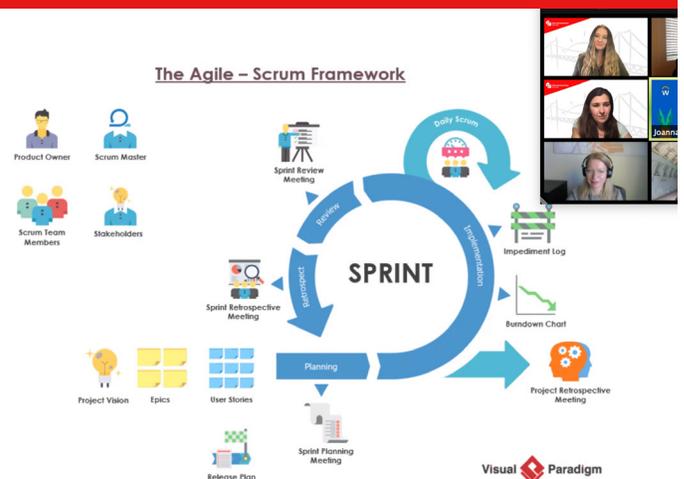


Patrycja outlined what it takes to plan a corporate marketing event. She explained the operational differences between physical events and virtual events, yet she's convinced that physical events will make a return again! She also shared her advice for returning to the workforce after a bigger break.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SCRUM MASTER WITH JOANNA LORINCZ - WORKDAY

August 27th - Live web event

A Software Quality Assurance Engineer and certified Scrum Master, Joanna shared the team experience that triggered her to pursue working with the scrum framework. She discussed how she structures the week to best lead her team's work, the skills, the software and tools she applies, and lessons learned.



OUR PROGRAMS

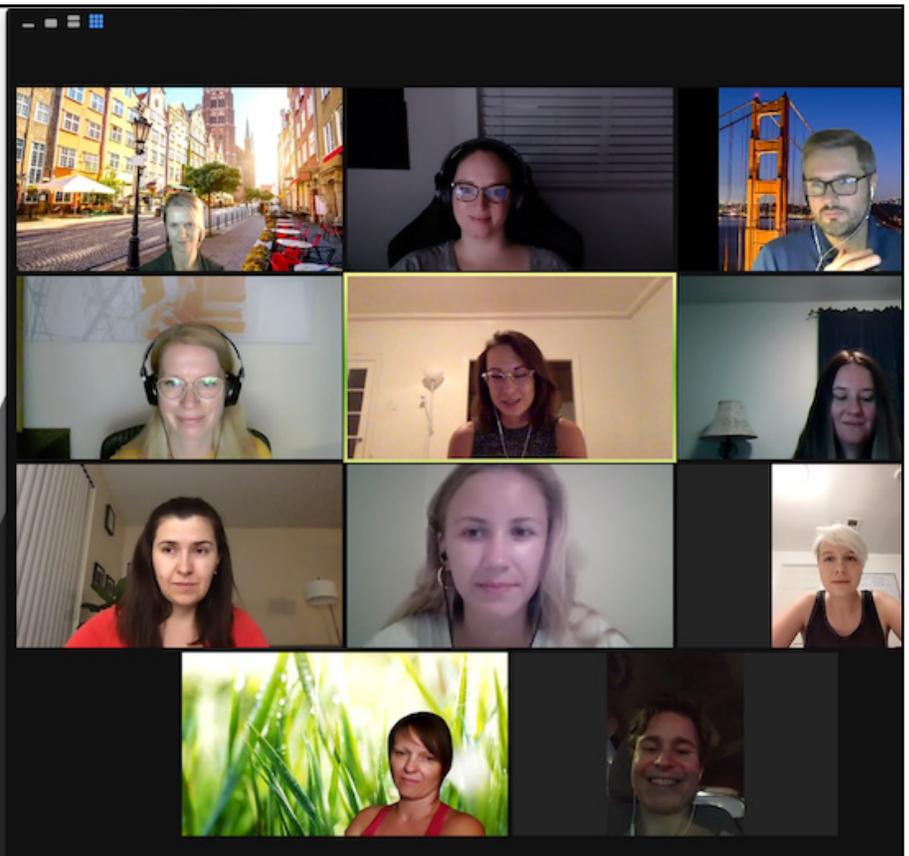
Startup Mixer

In 2020 PPWSV hosted the first meeting in the new program series “Startup Mixer” that provides a safe space for Polish professionals to connect and share their knowledge, experience, and challenges while developing and forming their startups.

1ST STARTUP MIXER FACILITATED BY KAROLINA DZIADOSZ

October 15th - Live web event

How to start?



PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS



Perspektywy Women in Tech inspires, connects and supports women in computing, technology and science all over Poland and now, thanks to the partnership with Polish Professional Women also in Silicon Valley.



Pangian is the fastest-growing remote-work community around the world with members in 121 countries and 6 continents, where you can find the best curated and verified remote jobs at reputable companies.



Cafe Kind is an Expat Women networking group, who organizes monthly events around the Bay Area. They are specialized in story sharing, conversation circles, debates, workshops and training and most of all #investinkindness.



Equally is an HR and recruitment platform that helps organizations to diversify hiring and build an inclusive culture.



Polish Professional Women in the Netherlands is a platform uniting Polish female professionals and entrepreneurs living and working in the Netherlands.



Projektantki Sukcesu is a Polish Project focused on inspiring and motivating Women in creating their definition of "success" and achieving their goals. The core activity of Projektantki Sukcesu is providing professional training and empowering women in building their professional network.

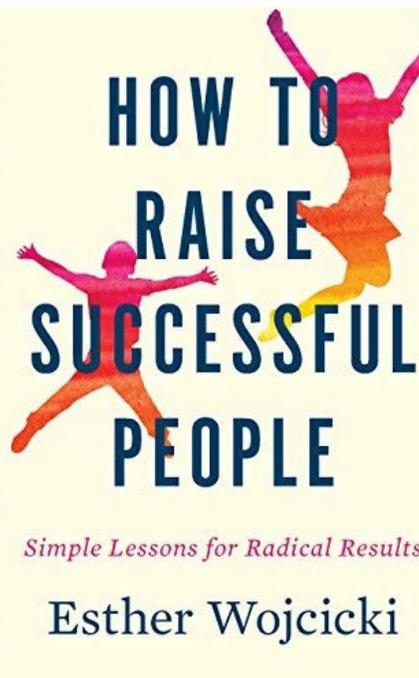
Find out more about our partners [here](#)

PARTNERING EVENTS

WOMEN IN TECH SUMMIT 2020

December 8th & 9th - Online

PPWSV had the pleasure of being a Partner of The Perspektywy [Women in Tech Summit](#) for the second year in a row! Being the most popular European event for women in the tech and IT fields, attendees were exposed to ideas, job opportunities, and deep networking. Women in Tech Summit brought together over 6,300 participants from 52 countries.



"HOW TO RAISE SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE: SIMPLE LESSONS FOR RADICAL RESULTS"

August 18th - Live web event

This was an event organized by the San Francisco-Kraków Sister Cities Association. Thanks to our member, Monika Burzyńska-Evje, PPWSV was honored to sponsor a webinar discussion with Esther Wojcicki, author of "[How to Raise Successful People: Simple Lessons for Radical Results](#)." She is also the mother of three highly successful daughters: Susan Wojcicki (CEO of YouTube), Anne Wojcicki (CEO and co-founder of 23andMe) and Janet Wojcicki (a Fulbright-winning anthropologist, UCSF doctor and researcher).

JOIN US

We are ecstatic that you have read our publication! We did have a lot of fun in 2020 (still). Stay excited for us as we work toward our 2021 goals.

And yeah, we would be thrilled to hear from you!

- Attend our events
- Come join our team as a volunteer - [see our open roles](#)
- Make an introduction to someone we should definitely talk with
- Collaborate and share your feedback with us [here](#)
- Or just follow us [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)!

**Sign up
today!**

[JOIN US](#)



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DONATE

If you appreciate our work and find it valuable, you can help us develop our organization. Please donate [here](#).

STAY IN TOUCH!

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