



18 September 2013

**General Assembly of the founding members of INISE – International Network for Innovative Social Entrepreneurship**

**Venue: Wielkopolska Solidarity Economy Centre, ul. Sw. Wincentego 6, Poznań, Poland**

Attendance list (a copy of the original attendance list with hand signatures of the members present has been attached to this report).

<b><u>Founding member organization</u></b>	<b><u>Name of representative</u></b>
1. Harambee (CIC) Uganda	Mr Godwin Ovie Bateren
2. Chara Trust, UK	Revered Steven Gitonga
3. Kenya Community Association	Mr Baiba Dhidha Mjidho
4. Barka UK	Miss Ewa Sadowska
5. Barka Foundation for Mutual Help	Mr. Tomasz Sadowski
6. Barka Cooperation Network	Mrs. Lidia Węsierska
7. Stichting Barka, NL	Miss Magdalena Chwarścianek
8. Barka IE <b>Proxy given to Sr. Brygida Jałowa).</b>	Mrs. Dagmara Szlandrowicz sent apologies.
9. Merseyside Association of Ghanians apologies. <b>Proxy given to Lidia Węsierska).</b>	Mr Farouque Napson of MAG sent



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 10. Nkeme Foundation of Cameroon<br><b>given to Ewa Sadowska</b>          | Mr Jerzy Mańkowski conveyed apologies. <b>Proxy</b> |
| 11. Mukuru Promotion Centre<br><b>Proxy given to Baiba Dhidha Mjidho.</b> | Sr. Scholasticah Nganda sent apologies.             |
| 12. Mekelle University<br><b>proxy given.</b>                             | Dr Tadesse Dejene of MU sent apologies. <b>No</b>   |
| 13. Barka Association in France<br><b>No proxy given.</b>                 | Mrs. Martine Wendzinski sent apologies.             |
| 14. Harambee (CIC) UK<br><b>No proxy given.</b>                           | Apologies were sent by Mr John McPhie.              |

### **Proposed Agenda**

1. Introduction, welcoming remarks.
2. Attendance, apologies for non attendance
3. Selection of the new Board of INISE /or approval of the interim Board of INISE
4. Analyses of the Statute of INISE
5. Presentation – summary of what has been achieved so far /in chronological order/
6. INISE - vision for the future
7. Appointment of the secretariat – coordinating team
8. AOB

### **Welcome, general remarks by Tomasz Sadowski:**

*Welcome everybody to the first General Assembly of the International Network of Innovative Social Entrepreneurship. This is an important historical gathering. INISE will most likely need another meeting later this year after the project proposal submitted by Filip Kaczmarek, MEP has been evaluated and decided upon by the European Commission. We first met 3 years ago. It was Mr Godwin Bateren who organized first study groups of African representatives to Barka Poland.*



At this point Mr Godwin Bateren and other members confirmed that there were 10 study visits within the “Steps to Success” program, 4 visits within Leonardo Mobility program and some other visits. The members confirmed that participants of the visits came from the following countries: Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ghana, The Congo, etc.

### **Apologies**

Apologies have been sent by the Mekelle University, Harambee UK, Barka France, Merseyside Association of Ghanians. Jerzy Mańkowski of the Nkeme Foundation apologized in person the day before the General Assembly informing that he would not be able to attend the INISE meeting.

Tomasz Sadowski proposed that before we move to a more formal part of the meeting it would be important to go through the process which led to the establishment of INISE as well as understand the situation of the “INISE proposal” submitted by Filip Kaczmarek, MEP.

**Ewa Sadowska** - on the “INISE proposal” and the evaluation process of the EC:

*The proposal submitted by Filip Kaczmarek, MEP is now being evaluated by the Budgetary Committee of the European Commission. The assistant of Filip Kaczmarek, MEP said she would find out how many project proposals have been submitted in total, how many proposals received an A-grade and what is the total budget for the proposals. Once the evaluation process is completed, the Commission will select the best service providers through a bidding competition. INISE should enter the bidding process however it does not mean that it would be selected as a final service provider.*

**Tomasz Sadowski:**

*The study visit of Barka to Kenya and Ethiopia were very important as it is then when we realized that we need to jointly work “with” Africa, and not “for” Africa. Initially we were planning to conduct study visits to 5 African countries. Because of the financial constraints we went mainly to Kenya. The total cost of the visit was 5.000 pounds. 90% of the costs were covered by Barka (mainly by Barka NL). Kenya Community Association contributed 500*



*pounds. Barka NL and Barka IE run so called solidarity fund. The solidarity fund of Barka NL covered most costs of the study trip. Also Basia, Ewa and I covered costs of medicines and vaccinations ourselves.*

*It could be unpleasant for many of us to note that the pilot is to be based in two East African countries only. However, the goal of the pilot is to work out a system which could then be replicated in other countries in Africa and around the world. Yesterday, during the event of the Opening of the Wielkopolska Solidarity Economy Centre, we witnessed the outcomes of such system-based approach in Poland. At the beginning Barka worked in Poland alone without any allies. We managed to work out a methodology for local partnerships creation within the EQUAL project. We would like to share it with Africa. EQUAL means 'equal opportunities', 'equal access to labor market', 'equal treatment in the work place', etc. EQUAL project was designed in Brussels, and not in Warsaw. Now INISE is in the position to replicate the EQUAL project in Africa. When Barka Foundation was involved in the realization of the EQUAL project in Poland during 2004 – 2010, Lidia Wesierska was in charge of the administration of it.*

**Lidia Wesierska:** *That's right. Our EQUAL project was divided into 3 stages. At first the partnership was established between 14 organizations and institutions. The process of building the partnership lasted 8 months. At some point the partnership decided that some partners must be excluded from the group as it became apparent that they were not involved in the project for the right reasons. They were focused mainly on the financial gain and not on the implementation of the mission. Once the partnership grew mature, it made a strategy for action. Implementation of the strategy took 2 years. As a result, established were 6 partnerships in 6 local communities. Within those partnerships 20 social enterprises were created and 100 people gained employment. Most important was that the partnerships influenced entire local communities and many groups and environments benefited from the project and made a significant progress. In 2003 we started to promote the model.*

**Tomasz Sadowski:** *Currently Barka Network consists of 30 member organizations and around 100 local communities are part of the Network informally. EQUAL project in Africa can result*



*in such a positive explosion as well. The submission of the proposal by Filip Kaczmarek is only the first step. INISE, although based in Europe and preparing to work in Africa, has a limitless geographical scope and can work around the world. For example in countries like Myanmar (formerly Burma) which only gained freedom two years ago (Ewa visited there). EQUAL will contribute to an equal world and sustainable development. So we have discovered where we are at. We need to elaborate on what we can or should do, adequately to our capabilities and finances available. We need to be responsible for our Burma brothers but also for our Canadian and Polish brothers. I am trying to instill this responsibility in Ewa as her father as well as in others. Here crucial is freedom, especially freedom from fear and disasters.*

**Tomasz continues:** *We are now moving to the item of ‘selection of the new Board of INISE /or approval of the interim Board of INISE’.*

The current interim Board of Trustees of INISE consists of the following representatives:

1. Godwin Ovie Bateren
2. Baiba Dhidha Mjidho
3. Sr. Scholasticah Nganda
4. Tomasz Sadowski
5. Ewa Sadowska

**Tomasz Sadowski:** *Do the founding members approve of the current interim Board of Trustees of INISE to become the fixed Board?*

11 votes were gathered for the approval of the interim Board and its transition into a fixed board, meaning that the members voted unanimously.

**Reverend Gitonga:** *Once we have approved of the board, we also approve of Tomasz as a our chairman.*

Unanimous agreement by members was reached.



**Ewa Sadowska:** *Sister Scholar Nganda asked to step down from the Board due to commitments and responsibilities bestowed on her by the Congregation.*

The members noted and accepted Sister Scholar's resignation from the Board. Sister Scholar representing Mukuru Promotion Centre, will now become an ordinary member of INISE.

**Tomasz Sadowski:** *Who would volunteer to fill the place of Sister Scholar in the Board then?*

Mr Godwin Bateren and Baiba Dhidha Mjidho proposed that Reverend Steven Gitonga enters the Board and fills the space left by Sr. Scholar.

Reverend Gitonga agreed to enter the Board of trustees of INISE.

The Members present voted unanimously for Rev. Gitonga to become the Board member and 11 votes were gathered.

**Baiba Dhidha Mjidho:** *The Statute of INISE indicates that the Board of Trustees has at least 7 members and up to 25 directors. Therefore, having currently 5 directors on the Board, we would still need 2 additional directors so that that there is 7 trustees in total).*

Mr Godwin and Reverend Gitonga proposed that a representative of the Nkeme Foundation joins the Board of INISE. All other members accepted the proposal. At this point a telephone call was made by Tomasz Sadowski to Jerzy Mańkowski to discuss the matter. Jerzy promised to consult the matter with Marie Belek who is the Chair person of Nkeme Foundation. Jerzy phoned back after 10 minutes saying that Marie suggested that it is Jerzy Mańkowski that would represent the Nkeme Foundation in the Board of INISE.

Then Reverend Gitonga proposed that Lidia Węsierska of the Barka Network joins the Board of INISE. Lidia agreed. All other members accepted the new candidate to become a Board member of INISE.

**Tomasz Sadowski:** *I want to congratulate everybody on the final composition of the Board of INISE. [Members made an applause congratulating one another]. We don't need to hurry with admitting new members. However we can keep in mind the organizations, institutions*



*or individuals who would be interested to become involved and whom we would like to recommend to become members. For instance I know an organization established by a Polish Cardinal Adam Kozłowiecki which actively works in Zambia. They have been interested to work with us, to join INISE and have invited us to a number of events. I would like to stress that it is important that INISE has a variety of members from a variety of countries, not just mainly from Poland.*

At this point Ewa Sadowska, at the request of the members, read out the categories of membership described in the INISE statute:.

Category A: full members: civil society organizations and platforms

Category B: associated members: local authorities

Category C: individuals supporting social economy initiatives

**Tomasz Sadowski:** *Now, coming back to the agenda. The analyses of the Statute we have done. The next item is the summary of the up-till-now achievements of INISE. Could we treat Baiba's presentation conducted at the INISE workshop during the opening of the Wielkopolska Centre as the summary of INISE achievements?*

There were no objections from the members to follow such arrangement.

**Tomasz Sadowski:** *Good. The next item on the agenda is the vision for the future of INISE. We have discussed it broadly today unless anybody would like to add anything? OK. Then let's move to point number four: appointment of the secretariat. Does anybody have any proposals?*

At this point Baiba Dhidha Mjidho proposed that Ewa Sadowska fulfills the role of INISE's secretary general.

Ewa accepted the proposal. Members conducted the voting. 10 votes were gathered as the approval for Ewa Sadowska to fulfill the role of Secretary General of INISE. During the voting one of the members, Lidia Węsierska, had to leave the gathering to print out the Statute of INISE and so she did not take part in the voting.



Tomasz Sadowski stressed that the secretary would need an assistant to support her with the works. Mr Godwin Ovie Bateren proposed that Baiba Dhidha Mjidho becomes an assistant to the secretary general. Baiba accepted the proposal. All members voted for Baiba to become the assistant of secretary general. 11 votes were gathered which means that members voted unanimously. Tomasz Sadowski congratulated the newly chosen secretariat of INISE. The applause was vigorous.

### **AOB**

Reverend Gitonga proposed that we send a thank-you note to Gerhard Braunling and Filip Kaczmarek to show appreciation for their engagement and support. Tomasz agreed it was a good idea and said that it would be important to meet with Gerhard Braunling and Filip Kaczmarek soon to speak with them in person.

The formal part of the meeting came to end.

[Immediate action points]:

1. Ewa Sadowska and Baiba Dhidha Mjidho: to send out the updated Statute to the INISE members.
2. Ewa Sadowska and Baiba Dhidha Mjidho: send out thank you notes to Gerhard Braunling and Filip Kaczmarek, MEP

Report by Ewa Sadowska, INISE Secretary

Report made on 22 September 2013.