

# „Taking care of those who care” –an international conference dedicated to supporting the care of people with confused behaviours.



23.06.2026 Krakow



# Taking care of Those Who Care International Conference

*Supporting People with Challenging and  
Difficult-to-Understand Behaviours*

## Conference Description

We invite you to a unique event that combines scientific knowledge with the practical experience of specialists and caregivers from Poland and across Europe.

“Caring for Those Who Care: An International Conference Dedicated to Supporting People with Challenging and Difficult-to-Understand Behaviours” is organised as part of the SUPPORT project co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme. The conference provides a space for inspiration, exchange of experiences, and learning about effective tools for supporting people who work with individuals in crisis, from mental health and addiction support to elderly care.

It is an opportunity to gain practical knowledge, broaden your perspective, and feel that you are not alone in this.

More information can be found on the project website: <https://support-project.eu/>

## Conference Programme

Time	Session
10:00 – 10:15	Opening of the Conference – Artur Buszek, Plenipotentiary of the President of the City of Kraków for Non-Governmental Organizations
10:15 – 10:35	Introduction to the SUPPORT Project – Ivo van Dongen
10:40 – 11:00	Analysis of the Needs of Caregivers of People with Behavioural Disorders: Findings from Original Research and Literature Review –

Time	Session
	Aleksandra Mykowska and Julia Matuszek, Understanding Foundation
11:05 – 11:25	Self-help and Stress Reduction through Bodywork Exercises within the Erasmus+ SHSR Project (Holistic Stress Reduction Methods) – Nadia Kirova
11:30 – 11:50	Support for Parents of Children with Disabilities – How the ‘We Are Important’ Foundation Helps – Joanna Kaleta
11:50 – 12:15	<b>Coffee Break and Networking</b>
12:15 – 12:35	‘Paradise Bird Houses’ (Paradijsvogelwoningen) – W.M.J. (Jack) ten Haaf
12:40 – 13:00	‘Education – The Foundation for Living an Independent and Self-Determined Life’ – Gabriele Witschorke, Jörg Engelmann, Anna Korneluk-Essa
13:05 – 13:25	‘Modern Technologies for People with Disabilities and Wellbeing’ – Domenico Popolizio
13:30 – 13:50	SBSW: Safe Foundations, Strong Future – Rebuilding Lives through Holistic Support – Tim Hoffmann
13:50 – 14:00	Conference Summary
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Lunch</b>

*Please note: The organizer reserves the right to modify the programme.*

## Meet our speakers!



**Aleksandra Mykowska**- Social psychologist at Jagiellonian University, MBA graduate, and expert in adult education and online learning. She has managed large educational projects for over 10,000 learners, co-developed online teaching methods, and presented at international conferences including Online Educa Berlin. She is currently training in Integrative Somatic Trauma Therapy and specializes in wellbeing and stress reduction.



**Ivo van Dongen**- As a project coordinator and developer at Surplus Foundation for over 30 years, he has designed and managed projects in adult education, social inclusion, and community development. He believes strong collaboration creates more inclusive communities where adults can learn, participate, and contribute meaningfully



**Jack ten Haaf**- My name is Jack ten Haaf, founder of the Surplus Foundation, active in the Twente region of the Netherlands for 30 years. He believes everyone should have the opportunity to participate in society and feel a sense of belonging, with the right support and environment.



**Tim Hoffmann**- Managing Director of SBSW e. V. since 2013. His work focuses on employment support for long-term unemployed people in Brandenburg, vocational training, and German language courses for immigrants. He also oversees a women's shelter, reflecting his commitment to social inclusion and community support.



**Joanna Kaleta**- Coach, crisis intervention specialist, and psychology student. She leads a support group for parents of children with disabilities at the Fundacja Jesteśmy Ważni. As a parent of a child with a disability herself, she supports caregivers facing depression, exhaustion, and the challenges of long-term care.



**Gabi Witchorke, Anna Korneluk-Essa, Jorg Engelmann**- The team combines expertise in management, psychology, and social sciences. For years, they have supported people at risk of social exclusion in accessing employment and navigating the labour market. As GVFB, they also help organizations become more inclusive and support employers, employees, and retirees through the digital transformation of the labour market.



**Domenico Popolizio**- Computer engineer specializing in assistive technologies for people with cognitive and physical disabilities. He currently serves as ICT Manager at CSCI, an Italian organization implementing European projects focused on inclusion, digital innovation, sustainability, and social impact.