



doing democracy

connecting academia and civil society across borders

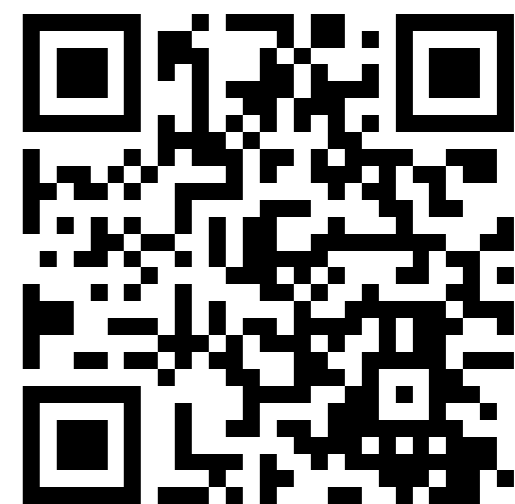
Civic Initiative Association Pro Civium

Civic Education | Community Building

Delete the topic(s) that are non-applicable to your organization.

Short (Research) Profile & Mission

The main goal of the Pro Civium Association is to prevent stigmatization and social exclusion, with a particular focus on current and former inmates. We provide free psychological, legal, and vocational support. We believe that effective reintegration requires professional assistance on one hand, and building an open, engaged civil society ready to give marginalized individuals a second chance on the other.



Current (Research) Project

Our core funded projects focus on building a strong civil society and changing the narrative around helping others. We train and professionalize "Volunteer Leaders," preparing them for conscious work within local communities. Simultaneously, through the "We Are All Supermen" project, we demonstrate that everyone—regardless of their past or life difficulties—has the potential to become a "superhero" in their environment and actively support others.

Current (Research) Project

Currently implemented as a grassroots initiative. Despite the lack of external funding, we continue to provide free legal, psychological, and vocational counseling because we see a massive, unflagging need among people at risk of exclusion. This serves as our "laboratory" of social problems, highlighting how crucial the often-underfunded NGO sector is in filling gaps left by the state system.

Questions to Academia

- What are the most effective, evidence-based methods for changing negative social attitudes toward former inmates?
- How can we scientifically measure and demonstrate the Social Return on Investment of free counseling to gain solid arguments for systemic funding discussions?

Questions to Civil Society

- How can we effectively prevent burnout among volunteers and social workers dealing with highly stigmatized and challenging groups (e.g., people with criminal records)?
- How can NGOs better network their operations to ensure the continuity of support during periods without grant funding for core projects (like counseling)?

Questions to (Political) Decision-Makers

- What systemic mechanisms should be introduced to guarantee stable, continuous funding for specialized counseling in the third sector, making it independent of short-term grants?
- How can the state facilitate and support the integration of former inmates not only into the labor market but also into civil society structures (e.g., as volunteers)?

Contact

Henryk Gawrecki, Director of Public & Social Programs
gawrecki@stopstygmatyzacji.pl
Julia Jakubowska, Program Manager
jakubowska@stopstygmatyzacji.pl