

# Stichting Walk21 Europe (Foundation)

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**Chamber of Commerce: Gemeente Amsterdam**

**KvK nummer: 77903072**

## **A. Introduction and Background**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Stichting Walk21 Europe (translated as Walk21 Europe Foundation) is the European division of the Walk21 Foundation, the leading international non-profit organisation, that is registered in the UK, dedicated to ensuring the right to walk and opportunity to enjoy it is supported and encouraged for everyone across the world.
- 1.2 The objects of the Walk21 Foundation are, for the benefit of the general public in the UK and internationally:
  - A. the promotion and protection of public health and public safety, by promoting and encouraging walking as a means of transport, mobility and recreation, promoting the safety of the walking public, and promoting improvements to the comfort and general amenities of the walking public and the environment experienced by the walking public; and
  - B. the promotion of the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting the contribution of walking to environmental sustainability, improvements in air quality and as a means of mitigating climate change.
- 1.3 Walking is the foundation of how we move and the most accessible and affordable way to get exercise and promote mental and physical health. All our journeys begin and end with a walk. It is socially equitable and the essential ingredient in an integrated, multi-modal transportation system, enabling access to local neighbourhoods services and to public transport for destinations further away. By giving people, the right to walk we can make a major contribution to tackling climate change and improve the quality of life in our communities all over the world.
- 1.4 Walk21 Europe aims to coordinate a network of European researchers, health and transport professionals, governmental and international statutory bodies, non-profit organisations and the wider civil society. It aims to foster global collaboration by growing European capacity for walking, providing knowledge, coordinating actions and initiatives and raising awareness.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Walk21 has led the walking movement globally since organising the first international conference on walking and liveable communities in the year 2000. The Foundation manages a network of more than 5,000 people globally, organises an annual international conference and provides training, knowledge products and project support to cities around the world.
- 2.2 Originally a private enterprise, managed as a not-for profit - The Walk21 Foundation became a registered charity in 2017 and is based in the United Kingdom. The Foundation is overseen by a Board of Trustees.
- 2.3 In 2019 the international Foundation agreed to create a European division, to make sure the shared objectives, mission and vision of the Foundation could be delivered most effectively in the European region.
- 2.4 Walk21 Europe was officially founded on 24 April 2020. Since then, it was accredited and registered as a not-for-profit entity under Dutch law. As a Foundation, Walk21 Europe is now a financially and otherwise independent regulated entity.

## B. Mission and Objectives

### 3. Mission

#### 3.1 The mission of Stichting Walk21 Europe is:

To ensure walking is measured, valued and appropriately provided for so that everyone can choose to walk and enjoy the experience.

### 4. Objectives

#### 4.1 The objectives are, for the benefit of the general public in Europe:

- The promotion and protection of public health and public safety, by promoting and encouraging walking as a means of transport, mobility and recreation, promoting the safety of the walking public, and promoting improvements to the comfort and general amenities of the walking public and the environment experienced by the walking public; and
- The promotion of the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting the contribution of walking to environmental sustainability, improvements in air quality and as a means of mitigating climate change.

#### 4.2 In accordance with the Foundation's **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION** in order to realize its objects, the foundations is authorized to:

- (a) provide and assist in the provision of money, materials or other help;
- (b) organise and assist in the provision of conferences, courses of instruction, exhibitions, lectures and other educational activities;
- (c) publish and distribute books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, films, tapes and instructional matter on any medium;
- (d) promote, encourage, carry out or commission research, surveys, studies or other work, making the useful results available;
- (e) provide or procure the provision of counselling and guidance;
- (f) alone or with other organisations seek to influence public opinion and make representations to and seek to influence governmental and other bodies and institutions regarding the reform, development and implementation of appropriate policies, legislation and regulations;
- (g) enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies;
- (h) borrow or raise and secure the payment of money for any purpose including for the purposes of investment or of raising funds, including charging property as security for the repayment of money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation;
- (i) set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;
- (j) invest the foundation's money not immediately required for its objects in or upon any investments, securities, or property;
- (k) open and operate bank accounts and other facilities for banking and draw, accept, endorse, issue or execute promissory notes, bills of exchange, cheques and other instruments;
- (l) accept (or disclaim) gifts of money and any other property;
- (m) raise funds by way of subscription, donation or otherwise;
- (n) trade in the course of carrying out the objects of the foundation and carry on any other trade which is not expected to give rise to taxable profits;
- (o) incorporate and acquire subsidiary companies to carry on any trade;
- (p) establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of any other organisations and subscribe, lend or guarantee money or property for charitable purposes;
- (q) become a member, associate or affiliate of or act as trustee or appoint trustees of any other organisation (including without limitation any charitable trust of permanent endowment property held for any of the charitable purposes included in the foundation's objects);
- (r) pay out of the funds of the foundation the costs of forming and registering the foundation;

- (s) insure the property of the foundation against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies as are considered necessary by the management board to protect the foundation;
- (t) provide indemnity insurance for the directors or any other officer of the foundation; and
- (u) do all such other lawful things as may further the foundation objects.

4.3 In all European countries, Walk21 Europe will work to ensure the needs of people walking are understood, given adequate policy, investment and priority so that the efficacy, efficiency and financial viability of the entire transport system, the vibrancy of city life and the health of the population benefits.

4.4 The Foundation strives to fulfil its purpose by executing the following:

- Coordinating Knowledge to inform the development and delivery of effective walking policy.
- Promoting Walking at the annual international Walk21 conference, and at other workshops, events and projects to inspire more action.
- Leading an interdisciplinary European Network of organisations, experts, researchers and advocates to increase the global capacity to meet the needs of people walking.

4.5 Walk21 Europe has set several objectives for the short and long term.

1. To act as a focal point for effective partnerships with stakeholders in Europe with the aim of encouraging more walking and supporting an improvement in the walking experience in Europe to help deliver the targets of several sustainable development goals.
2. To advocate for walking in Europe by providing a strong, visible and consistent voice to represent the needs of walkers at European meetings, events and actions.
3. To provide the platform for progressing the European movement at the annual international Walk21 conference every year.
4. To grow capacity for walking in Europe by running dissemination workshops for advocates, practitioners and politicians.
5. To ensure there is knowledge and expertise for walking in Europe by stimulating and performing cutting-edge research, national and local projects.
6. Performing any other actions, in relation to supporting and encouraging walking in Europe in the broadest sense or that may be conducive to the global imperative.

4.6 The Foundation shall be non-profit making and the Foundation's resources will come from:

1. The financial contributions of participants attendance at conferences and meetings;
2. Funds received on statutory grounds;
3. Donations, inheritances, legacies;
4. Return on capital;
5. Contributions and subsidies;
6. Capital amounts made available by the government or other bodies and amounts made available in operating costs;
7. All other assets and income.

## C. Governance of the Walk21 Europe Foundation

### 6. Directors

- 6.1 The Board of Directors represents the Foundation and is responsible for the management of the Foundation and are the legal representatives as per the articles of association. Board Directors have the authority to engage the organization in its entirety, including the power to sue and be sued. Each director's duty towards the Foundation is to duly fulfil the task assigned to her or him. Board Members meet periodically to discuss and vote on the affairs of the organisation. The Foundation's Board of Directors shall consist of at least three (3) directors, of which at least one board member must also be a director or employee of Walk21 Foundation (Charity Registration number 1174564) and who has been appointed as such by Walk21 Foundation.
- 6.2 Board directors are appointed for an indefinite period. None of the directors can position the assets of the Foundation as if it were her/his own assets as the Board of Directors consist of 4 members who are independent from each other and none of the members have the decisive vote.
- 6.3 All board directors are entitled to compensation for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- 6.4 As per 25 July 2025 the Foundation Board of Directors consist of:

#### 1. Maria Vassilakou - appointed as Chair of the Foundation

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E: [maria.vassilakou@vienna-solutions.com](mailto:maria.vassilakou@vienna-solutions.com)

Maria is an Austrian politician who served as Vice-Mayor and Deputy Governor of Vienna (2010 – 2019), as well as Councillor for City Development, Transport, Climate Protection, Energy Planning and Women's Involvement. Maria brought the importance of walking strategies to the centre of political debate and made it crucial to Vienna's integrated mobility strategy. She coordinated the delivery of a 1% increase in walking mode share after a Year of Walking campaign and inspired the national government to develop a Walking Strategy that connected both environment and transport departments.

#### 2. Helge Hillnhütter - appointed as Treasurer/Deputy Chair of the Foundation.

Residential address: General Buddes gate 6, 7014 Trondheim, Norway  
M: +47 9248 9520  
E: [helge.hillnhutter@ntnu.no](mailto:helge.hillnhutter@ntnu.no)

Helge is Associate Professor at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. He is an expert in pedestrian access to public transport.

#### 3. Heather Allen - appointed as International Advisor to the Foundation

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M: + 32 489 899820  
E: [heather@heatherallen.co](mailto:heather@heatherallen.co)

Heather is an expert in low carbon transport, sustainable development, gender and climate change with 25 years of experience as an independent consultant. Her client list includes the FIA Foundation, European Commission, Asian Development Bank and Sustainable Low Carbon Transport partnership. She was previously Programme Director for Sustainable Transport with the UK's Transport Research Laboratory which included developing the international Low Carbon Transport and Climate training module.

#### **4. Catharina Louisa Clemens Maria (Ineke) Spapé - appointed as Secretary to the Foundation**

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Ineke is Professor Emeritus at BUas (Breda University of Applied Sciences) and a sustainable mobility consultant in the Netherlands. She is a traffic and transport planning engineer with extensive experience of translating mobility, public space and human behaviour theoretical concepts into implemented improvements in partnership with communities.

#### **5. Advisory Council**

5.1 An Advisory Council is established and the number of members is determined by the Board of Directors. The Advisory Council shall give solicited and unsolicited advice on the Foundation's policy and the effect thereof. Joining the Advisory Council is only on invitation by the Board of Directors and only when supported by the majority of the members of the Advisory Council. Potential new Council members must fit pre-determined criteria including shared interest in Walking issues and the mission and vision of the Foundation.

5.2 As of 1st February 2020, the Advisory Council consists of:

1. Daniel Sauter (Switzerland)
2. Dimitra Kanellopoulou (France)
3. Dulce Marques de Almeida (Portugal)

The members of the Advisory Council do not receive any remuneration for their general activities and advice to the Foundation.

#### **6. Activities and Projects**

- a. The Walk21 Europe Foundation unites the necessary and complementary components, (e.g. walking expertise, research leadership and knowledge, practitioners, advocates and politicians) with the ultimate aim of making sure everyone walks and is able to enjoy it.
- b. The Foundation has inherited strong partnerships with many stakeholders, that were built by Walk21 Foundation over 20 years, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment and Habitat agencies; International Transport Forum and World Resources Institute as well as the European Commission, many European cities, academics and relevant companies.
- c. Walk21 Europe has access to a strong network, across Europe, which has been active in the development of new walking research, policies and projects.
- d. Walk21 has developed a knowledge library and several tools, including a mobile application (Walkability) App for walkers and professionals. Previously, scores to assess walkability problems were designed for transport professionals only and now with the Walkability App, walkers are able to participate in documenting and reporting their walking experience.
- e. Walk21 is actively involved in research and supporting policies and projects in Europe. As well as participating in the COST 358 Scientific Research project 'Pedestrian Quality Needs, Walk21 has also supported the Active Access, Switch Travel, Flow and Partnership for Urban Mobility initiatives.
- f. Walk21 engages in various other activities, including publishing relevant papers, organising educational activities and major conferences, including "The Walk21 International Conference on Walking and Liveable Cities".

- g. Walk21 Europe is engaged in several specific projects to further the objectives of the Foundation. These include:
- I. **Active Cities:** Active Cities is an Interreg North Sea funded project which brings together 8 municipalities, 3 Knowledge Partners and citizens to prioritise active mobility (walking, cycling) in North Sea Region Cities to create stimulating, liveable and human-scale streets with zero-carbon multimodality. Through tactical urbanism, multimodal mobility hubs, awareness campaigns and co-creation schemes, the project aims to re-design cities and policies to encourage active mobility and reduce the negative impacts of car-centric urban planning. More information: <https://www.interregnorthsea.eu/active-cities>
  - II. **City Move:** City Move is a European Commission Horizon 2020 Programme funded project which seeks to research the impact of active and healthier urban environments on reducing the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases. City Move studies the impact of 13 physical activity interventions in six cities across three continents, using the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (GAPPA) as a guide, and will develop an evaluation framework to promote the scalability and transferability of the elements that support and accelerate physical activity in the least active or vulnerable groups. More information: <https://citymove.info/>
  - III. **STEP UP:** Strengthening The Effectiveness of Policies for eUropean Pedestrians (STEP UP) is an innovative European project, funded by Interreg, and supported by eight city and regional partners, aiming to ensure the many walking policies that are emerging at all levels are as effective as possible at delivering the shared vision for a safer, healthier, cleaner and more sustainable Europe. More information: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/step-up>
  - IV. **MyMobility:** An Erasmus + European funded project which aims to engage youth in participatory research and hands-on training on participatory mapping and urban planning to inspire long term active and sustainable mobility habits in Malta and Cyprus. Youths will be introduced and trained to use digital tools such as the Walkability app, Streetmix, and Canva. They will gain STEM competences and improve their problem-solving and interdisciplinary working skills. As a result of the training sessions, the youths will create re-imagined street design proposals and an opportunity to present their ideas to local decision-makers. More information: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

## D. Financial Responsibilities

### 7. Financial Management

The Foundation Board of Directors is responsible for managing its financial(s). The Foundation keeps track of finances through accurate and complete financial administration. The financial administration of the Foundation includes the nature and scope of:

1. Foundation income;
2. Expenditures in the context of objectives, activities and projects;
3. Any (running) costs incurred for managing of the Foundation;
4. Any expense allowances spent on Board directors or third parties.
  - a. The Foundation Board of Directors will prepare and report the balance sheet and income statement of the Foundation within six months after the end of the financial year. Where necessary, the Foundation Board of Directors will engage an accountant to conduct an audit and/or consult concerning financial

statements.

- b. The Foundation will keep the financial administration clear and accessible and keep it available for at least seven years.

## 8. Financing the Foundation

The foundation generates its income for its activities in the following ways:

1. Sponsorship contracts with different stakeholders for organising conferences, workshops and other events;
2. Conference fees from participants
3. Initialising and supporting research in walking
4. Providing advice during the set-up and performance of walking research, policies and projects
5. Providing educational activities and training
6. Funds received on statutory grounds
7. Donations, inheritances, legacies
8. Return on capital
9. Contributions and subsidies
10. Capital amounts made available by the government or other bodies and amounts made available in operating costs
11. All other assets and income.
  - a. The assets of the Foundation are managed by the treasurer of the Board, in collaboration with the other Board members, and where necessary supported by financial experts.
  - b. The Advisory Council members of the Foundation are volunteers and receive no compensation for carrying out the activities on behalf of the Foundation.
  - c. It is not allowed for one person or legal entity to manage the assets of the Foundation. The assets of the Foundation are strictly separated and are managed under the responsibility of the entire Board of Directors. The Foundation has no profit motive.
  - d. The Foundation does not own more capital reserve than is reasonably necessary for the continuity of the work performed for the purposes of the Foundation. The Foundation will always check whether the costs are in reasonable proportion to the goals of the Foundation.
  - e. The Foundation keeps the right to have an operating reserve for unexpected cash flow shortages, expense or losses. These might be caused by delayed payments or unexpected economic conditions. Reserves should be enough to cover at least 6-12 months' expenses. The Foundation also reserves the right to set aside (part) of the surpluses from conferences or other income as funding for the support given by the Walk21 Foundation internationally including the preparation costs of the next annual Walk21 conference.
  - f. The Foundation funding is spent in a variety of ways to support the delivery of the organisations mission. This includes funding: new research; network collaboration activities - including conferences, meetings, workshops and events; the development and publication of walking design guidance, strategic and local policy advice, and policy and project case studies; methodologies and tools to support practitioners and advocates; and technical and administrative expertise as and when required.

## 10. Dissolution and Liquidation



- 10.1 If the Board decides to dissolve the Foundation, or in other cases of dissolution, any credit balance left by the defunct foundation will be distributed to an institution referred to in section 5b of the Dutch State Tax Act ("Algemene Wet inzake Rijksbelastingen") ('Algemeen nut beogende instelling'), of which institution the objects are in conformity with the foundation's objects, or to a foreign institution which exclusively or virtually exclusively serves the public welfare and which has similar objectives as the foundation.
- 10.2 Firstly, the foundation has no paid up capital. Secondly, if assets are contributed to the Foundation, these should be distributed to an ANBI (or foreign organisation) as well, all in accordance with the suggested provision. Under the rules and regulations applicable to an ANBI, it is not possible to distribute assets to certain board members.
- 10.3 In these events the Board members may not receive more than the paid-up capital and the value of the assets contributed by them from the entity.
- 10.4 The Board and those involved in the Walk21 Europe Foundation make every effort to optimally support and achieve the objectives. We are available to provide additional information and further explanation if required.

Signatures

For the legal entity

**Ineke Spapé**

25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

