

[View this email in your browser](#)

NEWSLETTER FALL 2020

Network^{of}
European
Foundations

1. EDITORIAL
2. HIGHLIGHTS
3. UPDATES
4. UPCOMING EVENTS

PARTNERING^{FOR}IMPACT

1. EDITORIAL



In this difficult period for Europe, we feel privileged to launch two new initiatives where we believe European philanthropy can contribute: on the one hand, the European A.I. Fund aims to strengthen civil society in ensuring Artificial Intelligence (AI) promotes equity and social justice. The Fund has just launched with its first call for projects.

On the other, the initiative Fair Energy Transition for All will unfold in 9 European countries: Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria and the Netherlands. Across these countries there is the same need to listen and integrate the voices of the economically disadvantaged in developing recommendations to policy makers on how pursue a clean energy transition. National dialogues with various groups will be organized in 2021.

The inception of these initiatives predate the outbreak of COVID-19. Maintaining civil society empowerment processes in the current context of physical distancing is challenging across our programmes: the relationships of grant maker/grantee (as a partner) has to be nourished with meaningful interactions so that trust can flourish and unveil needs or limitations. This crisis has caused us to critically evaluate what is essential to our work and what is not, and learning how to navigate relationship-building over distance has been one of the key lessons we can draw from during this challenging period.

Peggy Sailler, Executive Director

2. HIGHLIGHTS

European AI Fund



The European Union's recent digital strategy reveals its urgent ambition to harness the benefits of AI for our societies. In achieving this vision, a robust and effective ecosystem of civil society organizations and researchers can not only serve as a guiding light in areas of potential public interest use but also provide the essential

accountability check in monitoring the impacts of AI systems.

The conditions created by Covid-19 have made this need for civil society to shape the debate more urgent and challenging at the same time.

The European AI fund aims to strengthen civil society's ability to actively shape the role and form that Europe's digital transformation should take. Its first call has just been released. It will support organisations who want to build or strengthen their advocacy capacity on AI/ADM (automated decision making), even if they are not yet working directly on those subjects. Originally convened in late 2019 and early 2020, this fund is supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation, Luminate, Mozilla, Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundation and Stiftung Mercator.

European Programme on Integration and Migration – EPIM



Originally built to house 3,000 persons but hosting up to five times this capacity, living conditions in the Moria migrant camp have been alarming for many years. However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a new low was reached.

With support from EPIM, the Starfish Foundation initiated the emergency handwashing programme #SafeHands, installing handwashing stations and mobilising volunteers among camp residents to reduce the risk of infection. The project did not only contribute to the implementation of hygiene measures in the camp, but also gave volunteers a possibility to contribute to the protection of their communities. Since September, when the fire destroyed most of the camp facilities, rendering more than 12,000 migrants homeless, EPIM has renewed its funding for Lesvos Solidarity and METAdrasi to ensure emergency accommodation and continued support for particularly vulnerable groups,

In March 2020 EPIM introduced a new funding mechanism as a response to the rapidly deteriorating situation for migrants in Greece. To date, eight organisations Aitima, Greek Council for Refugees, Greek Forum of Refugees, Human Rights 360, Lesbos Solidarity, Doctors of the World Greece, METAdrasi, and the Starfish Foundation - have been supported. Together, these organisations have provided medical, legal, sanitary and psychosocial support to both children and adults on the Greek mainland and on islands.

<https://www.epim.info/spotlight/making-a-difference-in-a-challenging-context-epims-emergency-support-of-civil-society-work-in-greece/>

(c) Aris Messinis/AFP

3. UPDATES

Civitates



In June 2020, Civitates received over 300 applications for its request for proposals aimed to support independent public-interest journalism in Europe. The aim of this line of work is to provide core grants to strengthen journalistic organisations across Europe especially in countries where media-capture is high and freedom of expression is threatened.

This new line of work for Civitates comes at a time when the need for a reset in thinking about donor support to European journalism is increasingly recognised in the philanthropic sector. More foundations are interested in supporting the vital role that independent and reliable journalism plays in democracies, serving as platform for debate, and reporting on governmental and corporate (in)actions. Civitates is currently in its second phase of the selection process and after a careful consideration of the applications and consulting experts in the field, Civitates has invited 18 organisations to submit a full proposal. The grants are expected to go out at the beginning of 2021.

European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia - EFID

On 29th September, EFID and the European Policy Center will organise the policy debate 'Addressing dementia among people with a migration background – From diagnosis to EU policy actions' to raise awareness on the importance of creating dementia services and policies that are accessible to all, including people with a migrant background.

dementia-friendly and inclusive society. The EFID journey is winding down in 2020 but the road to inclusive communities for people living with dementia is still long. To support the EFID partner organisations that foster community actions and solidarity during the COVID-19 crisis, EFID launched a Call for Awards 'Spreading a legacy for the future,' which will close on 18th October.

www.efid.info

European Fund for the Balkans - EFB



In line with the new strategic goals, the EFB's Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG) has contributed to the debate within the Western Balkans with a detailed analysis of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in nine critical fields.

The BiEPAG's analysis "The Western Balkans in Times of the Global Pandemic" highlights the ways in which the pandemic and government responses pose particular challenges to: 1. The Role of the State, 2. Democracy and State Capture, 3. Geopolitical Shifts, 4. New Nationalisms, 5. Social Resilience, 6. Environmental Impact, 7. Migration and Health Care, 8. Health Care and Social Security and 9. Economic Implications. Specific interventions that could prevent the worst consequences for the region have been presented. The analysis is available in English, Albanian and Serbian and it can be found at the following link: <https://bit.ly/32OF3zS>

The Evaluation Fund



March and April marked the start dates for four research projects in Tanzania and Uganda, though they quickly encountered challenges due to COVID-19.

As these projects use implementation science to evaluate interventions designed to prevent violence against children, many of them work with parenting programs, in-school curricula, and community sessions in real-time. All four projects have had to redesign aspects of their data collection methods and address concerns of program fidelity and confounders associated to the pandemic.

learning sessions that address adaption needs due to the pandemic, as well as to provide a space for project partners to collaborate and share learnings. Three of these online sessions will focus on research uptake and data utilization to inform programming and policymaking on VAC prevention in Tanzania and Uganda.

Joint Action for Farmers Organisations in West Africa - JAFOWA

JAFOWA

Joint Action for Farmer Organisations in West Africa

West Africa has been far less impacted by COVID-19. On a positive note, local food systems have demonstrated their relevancy and in sub urban areas the demand for local and healthy vegetables from the garden has grown.

During that time, some farmers' organizations have joined national farmers' movements to increase their advocacy capacity (mostly in Senegal), while others have adopted new marketing strategies relying on the internet. JAFOWA partners have nevertheless not been able to deploy all the foreseen activities of their projects, which have been postponed or altered.

Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care - TransForm



Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care

The Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care (ICC) is exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the ICC agenda. The COVID-19 crisis affects all aspects of society – political, economic, social, technological... however, given that we are dealing with a challenge specifically in the domain of public health, we expect that the impact on the health and care system will be particularly pronounced. Results will be available on the TransForm website in the coming months.

www.transform-integratedcommunitycare.com

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

28 September 2020

28 September 2020 (2pm)

EFID policy Debate "Addressing dementia among people with a migration background - From diagnosis to EU policy actions -

virtual - online registration [here](#)

21&22 October, 4&23 November 2020

EPIM SC Meeting

virtual

18 November 2020

Transform expert meeting on Covid-19 and ICC

By invitation only

November 2020 (date TBC)

NEF Board meeting

Virtual or Brussels

28 September 2020

EFID Policy conference

Brussels

17 November 2020

Civitates SC meeting

Virtual

14 December 2020

EFB SC meeting

Virtual

Spring 2021 (date TBC)

Transform conference

Brussels

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)www.nef-europe.org

Tel: +32 (0)2 235 24 13

Email: [info\[at\]nef-europe.org](mailto:info[at]nef-europe.org)**Our mailing address is:**

Philanthropy House, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Network of European Foundations · Philanthropy House · Rue Royale 94 · Brussels 1000 · Belgium

