



NEF

State of Play

Network^{of}
European
Foundations

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Philanthropy House – Rue Royale 94 – 1000 Brussels – Belgium

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation - Compagnia di San Paolo - Erste Stiftung
Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian - Fondation de France - Institusjonen Fritt Ord
King Baudouin Foundation - Open Society Foundation - Robert Bosch Stiftung

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Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe

– Supporting progress for gender equality and women’s rights

Foundations involved: Fondation CHANEL, Fonds l’Oréal pour les Femmes, King Baudouin Foundation

Budget 2021-2023: 1 830 000 €

Timeframe: 2021-2023

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe is a project hosted by NEF.

Background:

The newly created ‘Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe’ (the Alliance) brings together civil society actors to fund and support progress in the areas of gender equality and women’s rights in Europe. It aims to attract donors that are not currently contributing to this historically under-funded field in Europe.

It emerged from consultations with the women’s sector as a whole, women’s funds and civil society organisations, as well as corporate and private donors.

It is a two-part initiative comprising both a pooled fund and a knowledge platform, creating and sharing knowledge, building capacity and bolstering a culture of strategic philanthropy for gender equality issues in the European Union.

Latest developments:

Recruitment of the Programme Manager

Nadège Lharaig joined the Alliance in July 2021 as a Programme Manager and is based at the Philanthropy House.

Operationalisation of the Alliance

The partners to the newly established Alliance agreed with NEF on the modalities of the joint collaborative work, as far as governance is concerned. The first SC meeting took place on August 30, 2021 to agree also on the finalisation and unfolding of the call for proposals.

Until the end of 2021 the bulk of the work will be around the conduit of the first call, which also aims at mapping partner CSOs working on gender equality across Europe, through an open call with a broad thematic.

The Alliance launched [its website](#) during the summer of 2021.

Launch of the first call for proposals

On September 6, 2021, the Alliance launched its first call for proposals: “2021 Fund for Covid Solidarity” – Open call for proposals.

As a background, it is well documented that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted women and girls worldwide, including in Europe. As a result, women are losing traction in their quest for equality. Heightened poverty and a dramatic rise in Violence against Women (VAW) are two examples of this downward trend.

Health and legal protections may become even more limited as resources for organisations working in these fields become stretched to the breaking point. Strengthening the sector, including boosting capacity and sustainability, is therefore critical.

The Alliance recognises that civil society organisations in Europe continue to operate under exceptionally challenging conditions and that small frontline organisations working on women’s issues are facing particular difficulties. The Alliance aims to address these short-term immediate needs. The ultimate goal is to offer a unique opportunity to strengthen and support progress for women’s equality in the longer term, including creating networking opportunities for grantees and donors to engage in knowledge-building and sharing best practices.

The call for proposals will distribute 600 000€ in grants between 30 000€ to 50 000€ for initiatives contributing to gender equality and women’s rights. The selected grantees will be announced at the beginning of December 2021,

it is expected that the cohort of grantees for this first pilot phase will be composed of 12-15 grantees across Europe. Funding shall start at the beginning of 2022 for one year.

The discussions and reflections about the 2nd objective of the Alliance 'its knowledge platform' are programmed to take place in an SC meeting by the end of 2021 or the beginning of 2022. The Fondation CHANEL leading the gender equality group at the EFC reflects further on the added value and complementarity the platform would bring.

Contacts have been taken with the RAJA Foundation who could be interested in joining the Alliance.

Civitates - A Philanthropic Initiative for Democracy and Solidarity in Europe

Foundations involved: Adessium Foundation, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, Erste Stiftung, European Cultural Foundation, Fondation de France, Fritt Ord Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation, Oak Foundation, Limelight Foundation, Luminare, Mercator Stiftung, Nicolas Puech Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Porticus, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Rudolf Augstein Stiftung, Schöpflin Stiftung, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Stefan Batory Foundation, Wille Finance.

Budget 2021-2023: 9.3 million €

Timeframe: 2021-2025

Civitates is a programme developed and fiscally sponsored by NEF.

Background:

Civitates is a philanthropic initiative for democracy and solidarity in Europe. It provides funding for civil society actors to come together, revitalise public discourse, and ensure that all voices are heard. The pooled fund supports cross-sectoral coalitions that strengthen the resilience of the civil society sector, initiatives that push for a healthy digital public sphere, as well as independent public-interest journalism in Europe. Since becoming operational in 2018, Civitates has distributed around 7.5 million euros in grants.

In addition to providing funding, Civitates has a Funding Plus component, through which the fund provides capacity development and networking opportunities to its grantees. Civitates, which has an annual budget of approximately 3M EUR, is supported by a group of diverse foundations, of different shapes and sizes, which bring in a wealth of expertise and different perspectives.

Latest developments:

New grants to support civil society advocates for a healthy digital public sphere

Based on the new strategy and decision to sharpen the focus of the sub-fund, the key objective is to support organisations that push for policy approaches towards a healthy digital public sphere and build the capacity and constituency of civil society to engage in the debate and address the current, emerging, and future challenges of the digital public sphere.

Civitates invited 18 organisations to submit their proposals, which were then carefully reviewed by external experts and discussed with the selection committee. Ten organisations were invited for a short interview and finally [8 organisations were selected](#) that Civitates will support for the next two years an overall amount of 1.65 million euros. These grants are intended to empower the supported organisations and enable them to strengthen and operationalise their advocacy strategies and contribute meaningfully to the ongoing policy debates.

New strategy for strengthening civil society across Europe

After careful consideration of the reports commissioned at the beginning of 2021 ([mapping of the shrinking space](#) and [evaluation of our support](#)) and consultations with country experts and grantees, Civitates will continue to

support collective actions from national civil society organisations that aim at strengthening the field and its capacity to reclaim civic space and perform its watchdog role effectively.

Civitates will capitalise on the progress made by the national coalitions supported so far and will first consider renewing its support to its existing grantees to strengthen their work and further develop the defensive or proactive strategies that they have implemented to resist the shrinking space in their respective context. Taking into consideration the worsening situation for CSOs in Poland and Croatia, Civitates with the help of its foundation partners will identify organisations in those countries that will be also invited to apply. This cohort of grantees will reflect Civitates' commitment to acting as a catalyser to empower civil society and build both the resistance and resilience of CSOs in situations of closing space.

In addition to the work by the coalitions at a national level, Civitates will support initiatives that amplify the work and objectives of the supported coalitions at the EU level: European organisations have gained momentum and can help our partners raise awareness about the shrinking of the civic space at the EU level. This could include initiatives that organise actions in European and international forums to hold governments accountable, calling for EU action on civic space, sharing information and practices or carrying out research and producing tools that can benefit civil society across Europe in their work on civic space.

With a total grant budget of € 1,65 M to date, Civitates will dedicate € 1,35 M to the coalitions and € 350 K to "Europeanise the civic space debate".

Strengthening public-interest journalism organisations across Europe through peer-to-peer exchanges

Civitates would like to support its grantee partners in their way to sustainability by encouraging them to share with and learn from each other. Having identified concrete needs, the Secretariat will test several formats to build the capacity of the grantees from this sub-fund and enable them to learn from each other and deepen their relationship and trust and thus, enable them to identify potential opportunities for collaboration. Throughout the coming period, Civitates will further develop its capacity-building programme (Funding Plus). Civitates regularly convenes its grantees, but also provides additional financial support for their learning and capacity-building needs (Learning Initiatives).

A Monitoring and Evaluation framework is being developed for this sub-fund, with the help of external consultants.

European Artificial Intelligence (A.I) Fund

Foundations involved: Mozilla (Chair), Luminare (Co-Chair), King Baudouin Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Stiftung Mercator, Oak Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, Bosch Foundation, and Foundation Nicolas Puech.

Budget 2020-23: around 4,6 million €

Timeframe: 2020-2023

NEF is the fiscal sponsor of the European A.I. Fund.

Background:

The European AI Fund is a philanthropic initiative that aims to shape the direction of AI in Europe. The long-term vision is to promote an ecosystem of European public interest and civil society organisations working on policy and technology, based on a diversity of actors and a plurality of goals that represents society as a whole.

Over the next five years, the European Commission has ambitions to forge a plan for Europe's digital transformation, including AI. But without a strong civil society taking part in the debate, Europe—and the world—risk missing opportunities to better society and instead, might choose a path paved with societal harm. These harms include but are not limited to pervasive state surveillance; manipulation of democracy; discrimination through automated decision making; profiling of individuals by private companies; and monopolisation and concentration of power.

This fund aims to strengthen civil society's ability to take on this crucial role: to be a more visible and more effective voice in public and policy debates and shape the direction Europe's digital transformation should take. The fund's

goal is to bring in new actors to the debate, especially those that are working on issues affected by AI and Automated Decision Making (ADM) and who want to build their capacity in this domain.

Latest developments:

The fund's activities so far can be summed up in four distinct phases:

Phase 1 (August – September 2020) - setting up the fund

Based on an initial concept note, as well as further research and consultations with civil society organisations and experts, the fund's first two funding streams were developed: an open call, and a closed call on tech and COVID-19.

Phase 2 (September 2020 – April 2021) - grant-making

In September 2020, the AI Fund launched publicly with its first open call, which closed in November 2020 (see below for details). The closed tech and COVID-19 call grantees were announced in December. The open call grantees were announced in April 2021.

During this period, the European AI Fund also tested different convening formats, from individual welcome calls to informal online grantee meetings for both cohorts, as well as regular check-ins for the tech and COVID-19 cohort (see more below).

The fund's Director officially started in her position in February 2021. Together with the fund's co-chairs, she launched an internal consultation with each of the fund's partner foundations to take stock of the fund's work to date, identify room for improvement, and understand partner foundations' expectations, hopes and priorities for the fund going forward.

Phase 3 (April 2021 – July 2021) – operationalising the fund

With the Programme Manager joining in April 2021, the management team focused on further operationalising the fund's overall strategy.

A more detailed mission statement elaborates the fund's position on the main challenges and opportunities of AI, as well as its values on equity, both within AI and in its role as a funder (see above, under Our Mission).

A growth strategy outlines how, and under which conditions, the European AI Fund wants to grow over the next few years.

A communications strategy details how the fund communicates internally and externally to both existing grantees and funders, as well as potential grantees and funders. It also clarifies the fund's public voice and its role in amplifying the work of grantees among experts and policy makers.

A Funding+ (Funding Plus) strategy is designed to facilitate connections between grantees, as well as between grantees and technical/policy experts in the field. The strategy also outlines how the fund can facilitate learning and training.

The M&E framework is a working document that operationalises these strategies into clearly defined objectives and measurable indicators. It is also designed to contribute to the Fund's external transparency and accountability efforts.

Phase 4 (August 2021 – November 2021) – implementation of strategy and planning

The fund has launched a newsletter over the summer, as well as a LinkedIn profile. It held its first public convening around tech and COVID-19 in September. The fund also published its first annual report in September.

With the award of two different funding streams, the open call and the COVID-19 call, the fund has awarded 1.86 million Euros. That still leaves 1.7 million for grant-making until mid-2023. During the March Steering Committee meeting, the fund set up a working group for strategic planning, specifically around future funding activities.

In planning the next funding streams, the fund is working with three external consultants to conduct background research and mapping that will help identify possible funding options. The report will be published in October 2021. The fund will decide on grant extensions, as well as its future planning strategy at the November Steering Committee meeting. The Fund shall also revisit its governance structure. Luminare has announced that they will

reduce their engagement in Europe and is in the process of making an exit grant to the Fund. The co-chairmanship of the Fund will hence be discussed at the next SC meeting of November 4, since Luminate was a co-chair. The priorities for the rest of 2021 include:

- Finalising and announcing the fund's next funding round
- Revising the fund's governance structure
- Implementing the fund's communication, Funding Plus and growth strategy
- Further fine-tuning and operationalising the M&E framework

European Fund for the Balkans

Foundations involved: King Baudouin Foundation; Robert Bosch Stiftung (Chair); ERSTE Stiftung

Budget 2021: 1 million €

Timeframe: 2007-2025

NEF-EFB has a registered representation office in Belgrade, Serbia.

Background:

The European Fund for the Balkans is a joint endeavour of the Robert Bosch Foundation, the King Baudouin Foundation and the ERSTE Foundation, which envisions, runs and supports initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy, fostering European integration and affirming the role of the Western Balkans in addressing Europe's emerging challenges. The current programme strategy is focused on three overarching areas – fostering democratisation, enhancing regional cooperation and boosting EU integration. By implementing different projects, initiatives and activities, the Fund supports the process of affirming the political credibility of the enlargement policy across the Western Balkans region, improving regional cooperation among the civil society based on solidarity and demand-driven dialogue, as well as providing means and platforms for informed and empowered citizens to take action and demand accountable institutions and democracy.

Their synergetic effects are focused on continuous reforms of the Western Balkan countries' policies and practices on their way to EU accession, by merging the region's social capacity building with policy platform development, and a culture of regional cooperation.

Latest developments:

Response Hub

The European Fund for the Balkans has established the Response Hub as an instrument of micro granting. The aim is to provide a flexible response to specific and urgent needs of local organisations and initiatives, contributing to impact and sustainability, empowering the claim for accountable institutions, democratic policy processes and to defending the public interest. In the first cycle, the EFB supported 16 organisations. This September the second application round started. For more details click the [link](#).

Balkans united for Clean Air

The regional campaign Balkans United for Clean Air was aimed to inform Western Balkan citizens on the causes and consequences of air pollution, and the possible solutions which would improve air quality. This year, the EFB has published info on six important topics related to the air pollution in the #WesternBalkans promoting them via all the disposable channels, social networks and traditional media in the region, thus creating a network of 435 organisations, individuals and experts, reaching 650.00 citizens and getting publicity in more than 500 publications in the media. Download the collection of texts: [Collection of Briefs](#).

EDI Convention

Engaged Democracy Convention: Engage, Inspire, Empower!

Through Solidarity to Democracy in the Western Balkans - September 16-17, 2021 Belgrade

The European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) and the Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE) organised the first Engaged Democracy Convention: Engage, Inspire, Empower! Through Solidarity to Democracy in the Western Balkans, which was held in Belgrade on September 16 and 17, 2021. The Convention provided a space of exchange and unite diverse and innovative citizens, academics, journalists by delivering an agenda that has been co-created with participants to meet their needs. The event served as a kick-off for future work on joint regional issues. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to present the planned digital EDI platform as a safe digital space which will serve as an additional tool for exchange, cooperation and networking, which in the worsening political context is more important than ever.

Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)

New BiEPAG web page launched

In times when the EU enlargement is gaining less and less interest and obvious enlargement fatigue is widespread, the EFB designed a new way of presenting the work of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG) and its members, shedding new light on their expertise and efforts to promote the European integration of the Western Balkans and the consolidation of democratic, open societies in the region.

Please visit <https://biepag.eu/>. There you will also find the latest publications and blog pieces about this difficult and dangerous situation the whole region found itself in. The new homepage also hosts the well-recognised BiEPAG blog section: with a number of new pieces.

BiEPAG Publications

The policy brief *“Bouncing back: Completing the EU unification process”* (Authors: Zoran Nechev, Srdjan Majstorović, Jovana Marović, Donika Emini, Gjergji Vurmo, Nedim Hogić) was the first publication that could be presented on a real event in one of the most important neighbouring countries for the region – Croatia. In cooperation with the Foreign Policy Forum from Zagreb, the EFB has presented the latest BiEPAG policy brief with a *discussion* on the current state of play of the process of EU Integration of the countries from the Western Balkans. The policy event was held on 7 July at the Journalist’s Association in Zagreb, Croatia.

EFB Alumni Network

In 2021, the EFB Community formalised its work by establishing the EFB Alumni Network. The Network brings together alumni of different EFB programs and initiatives of the last years with the aim to connect the network members with common interests but different backgrounds and to foster cross-sectoral exchange and international collaborations.

EFB Alumni Network (beeEFB), was established under the new framework, and is represented by its Assembly and Board members. A Strategy Development Event (SDE) was organised in June 2021 with the objective to adopt the key strategic goals and outcomes it would like to contribute to through its activities. The Action Plan which was developed during the meeting is reflected in the beeEFB Development Strategy, and it is in line with the overall EFB Strategy 2020 – 2024.

European Programme for Integration and Migration

Foundations involved (Partner): Adessium Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation, Barrow Cadbury Trust, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Fondation de France, The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, King Baudouin Foundation, Oak Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung (Chair), Open

Society Foundations, Fondation Abbé Pierre, Porticus Foundation, Kahane Foundation

Foundations involved (Associate): Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Fondazione Peppino Vismara, John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, Fondazione Con Il Sud

Budget: 7.5 million € (2019-2023)

Timeframe: EPIM has existed since 2005. Its current strategy covers the timeframe 2019-2023.

EPIM is a programme developed and supported by NEF.

Background:

The European Programme for Integration and Migration is a pooled fund, currently supported by 24 private foundations with the goal to strengthen the role of civil society in building inclusive communities and in developing humane and sustainable responses to migration, based on Europe's commitment to universal human rights and social justice.

EPIM gives grants to projects led by civil society organisations across Europe and strengthens grantees and the wider field through capacity development, knowledge support and the connection of actors from local, national, regional and EU levels. Funds are allocated through targeted Thematic Funds on Migration and Detention; Asylum in Europe; Long-term Prospects and Protection of Children and Youth on the Move in Europe; Access to Rights for Mobile EU Citizens; Strategically Communicating on Migration in a Changing Environment; and Building Inclusive Societies.

Latest developments:

New leadership- new Programme Director

EPIM's previous Programme Director Sarah Sommer left EPIM at the end of June 2021. Milica Petrovic has joined EPIM as Programme Director since September 2021. Before joining EPIM, Milica worked with the European Commission as a Member of Cabinet and Communication Advisor for the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, and as a policy officer on legal pathways and integration policy. Prior to that, she worked as an associate policy analyst with the Migration Policy Institute Europe.

A change of leadership at the executive level of the Steering Committee was also agreed upon at the SC meeting of October in Lisboa, with the Robert Bosch Stiftung taking over.

Publication of recommendations to funders on closing the representation gap in the migration sector

On 21 April 2021, EPIM and the Diversity, Migration and Integration (DMI) Thematic Network of the European Foundation Centre jointly organised a learning session on closing the representation gap for people with lived migration experience in public and policy advocacy on migration issues. In the context of the event, more than 50 private funders and leaders with lived migration experience unpacked the lack of representation of people with lived experience in policy and advocacy work on migration and refugee issues and discussed potential next steps. The discussions culminated in a set of [recommendations to funders](#) to stimulate further reflection and action.

Developments in Thematic Funds

Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention

<p>Aim: Ensure that migrants who are subject to European migration systems have access to fair, transparent and efficient procedures to resolve their migration case, so that detention is reduced to a tool of last resort applied only when it is legitimate, proportionate, and necessary.</p>
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Grantee organisations in 2021: International Detention Coalition (IDC), Cyprus Refugee Council (CyRC), Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Centre for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria, HumanRights360, Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD), JRS Belgium, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland.

Main developments:

- In the context of the [2020 strategic review of EPIM’s thematic portfolio](#), the decision was made to merge the current Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention and the Thematic Fund on Asylum into one overarching Thematic Fund. In September 2021, the EPIM secretariat presented a draft strategy for a merged Thematic Fund on ‘Shaping the Future of EU Migration Governance’ to both Thematic Fund Committees. The new strategy, which will cover the 2022-2024 funding period, will be finalised and approved before the end of 2021.

Thematic fund on the long-term prospects and protection of children on the move in Europe

Aim: Children and youth on the move in Europe, regardless of origin, gender, status and age have access to their rights and are protected holistically with the highest possible efforts, equal to other children.

Grantee organisations in 2021: Mentor-Escale; Minor-Ndako; Defence for Children Italy; Collegio del mondo unito dell’Adriatico; Cespi; International Centre for Policy Advocacy; Intersos; Esserci; Fo.Co; Oxfam Italia Intercultura; La Rada Consorzio di Cooperative Sociali; Centro Ambrosiano di Solidarietà Onlus; Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti; P.G. Frassati; Programma Integra; SEND; Società Cooperativa sociale Progetto Tenda; Velos Youth; The Young Republic; Oxfam Italia; Missing Children Europe; Defence for Children International Greece.

Main developments:

- The Thematic Fund adopted a new strategy for the period 2021-2023. The Fund will support civil society organisations, including those led by young advocates with lived migration experience, to advocate at the EU and national level. Such support aims to ultimately lead to more attention and specific provisions to ensure that migrant children and youth across Europe have access to comprehensive, secure and sustainable solutions as a result of benefiting from quality alternative support before and after reaching their majority, and that for as long as they need in their transition to more autonomy and resilience. The Thematic Fund targets all children regardless of their migration status and whether they are with their family or not.

Thematic fund on communicating migration in a changing environment

Aim: Increase the weight of their messages and recommendations and contribute to more nuanced political and public discourses as well as policy-making on migration in and across the EU Member States as well as at Brussels level.

Grantee organisations in 2021: Migration Policy Group (MPG); Refugees Welcome Italia/Refugees Welcome International; Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM); European Network on Statelessness (ENS), International Detention Coalition (IDC).

Main developments:

- The Thematic Fund adopted a new strategy for the period 2021-2024. The Fund will support civil society organisations including organisations and movements led by people with lived migration experience, in strategically engaging in the public discourse on migration in Europe. The objective of this support is to contribute to an informed public discourse in which inclusive narratives play an important role so that policymaking and practice on migration can be constructive rather than fearful, and so that people who have migrated, in particular racialised groups and people who are read as of Muslim belief, and other groups particularly affected, are not confronted with discrimination and intolerance.

Thematic fund on Asylum in Europe

Aim: To ensure that people in need of international protection are able to access European asylum systems that are humane fair, effective and capable of offering protection.

Grantee organisations in 2021: JRS Europe, HIAS Europe, Border Violence Monitoring Network (through Rigardu e.V), Safe Passage International, Danish Refugee Council, Profundo Research Foundation, Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Main developments:

- This Thematic Fund is currently in the process of being merged with the Immigration Detention and Migration Thematic Fund into “Shaping the future of EU Migration Governance” Fund and its first strategy. The new strategy, which will cover the 2022-2024 funding period, will be finalised and approved before the end of 2021.

Thematic fund on protecting access to rights for mobile EU citizens

Aim: Ensure that mobile EU citizens and their family members are able to effectively exercise and enforce their free movement rights in law and in practice.

Grantee organisations in 2021: European Citizen Action Service (ECAS); European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA); Médecins du Monde (MdM); European Alternatives.

Main developments:

- Based on the Thematic Fund Committee’s interest in continuing engagement in the area of EU mobile citizens’ access to rights, the EPIM secretariat has developed a new strategy on EU Mobility over the course of 2021. A draft version was discussed with the Thematic Fund Committee in September 2021. The new strategy, which will cover the 2022-2024 funding period, will be finalised and approved before the end of 2021.

Thematic fund for building inclusive European societies

Aim: To help enhance community cohesion structurally in various European societies so that this leads to collective and individual improvements in the quality of life and social relationships of all members of the community, including migrants.

Grantee organisations in 2021: DUO for a JOB; Rising You; International Council for Cultural Centers; SINGA France; Womenability; Interventionbüro; SINGA Deutschland; Welcoming International; Artemisszio Foundation; MigHelp; ECRE; PICUM; SPEAK; Altekio, Asociación La Bolina, SOS Racismo Gipuzkoa; Saathi House; New Women Connectors

Main developments:

- The Thematic Fund adopted a new strategy for the period 2021-2024. The Fund will continue strengthening whole-of-society approaches to migrant inclusion in policies, practices, funding and discourses by:
 - strengthening the political and social participation and leadership of people with a lived experience in the area of inclusion;
 - supporting civil society advocacy and campaigning to ensure fair working and decent living conditions and advance the inclusion agenda in EU policy areas that are not systematically approached with a migrant inclusion lens but affect or offer the potential for enhanced impact on migrant inclusion; and
 - supporting civil society organisations, including those who directly represent people with lived migration experience, to enhance the inclusiveness and effectiveness of EU funding and its impact on inclusion.

The Evaluation Fund: Reducing Violence Against Children

Foundations involved: Oak Foundation (Chair) and an anonymous donor

Budget: Around 4 million EUR for 2011-2021

Timeframe: 2011-2022

NEF has been involved in the development of the Evaluation Fund: Reducing Violence Against Children since its inception.

Background:

The Evaluation Fund: Reducing Violence Against Children is a pooled funding initiative aimed at reducing violence against children by supporting rigorous evaluations of childhood violence prevention interventions in low- and middle-income countries. These evaluations help us to understand what works (and what does not) in the prevention of violence against children across countries and contexts. The findings from these evaluations feed into national and regional policymaking and programming so that all children may live a life free of violence.

Since 2011, The Evaluation Fund has supported 22 research studies in 17 countries and is in its third phase of programming, which will continue through mid-2022. Its closure is now programmed for half of 2022.

Latest developments:

East Africa: COVID-19 delays and capacity strengthening

In June 2019, the Evaluation Fund launched its third Call for Proposals, which had a geographic focus in two path-finding countries, Tanzania and Uganda, along with three major ambitions:

- To be locally led, with research and practitioner leadership based in Tanzania or Uganda;
- To be very rigorous, with high quality research designs and an emphasis on implementation science;
- To feed into policy-making and programming at the local and national level on the prevention of VAC in these two countries.

Four large-scale evaluative research projects were selected with start dates between March and April 2020 and end dates in Nov. 2021 or earlier. The current COVID-19 crisis has created several challenges to project implementation and has derailed timelines. Schools remain closed in Uganda, in-person meetings are logistically difficult to organise and both interventions and data collection efforts have faced numerous obstacles. As such, all projects have requested no-cost extensions into 2022 in order to ensure adequate and quality data and analysis.

Given these challenges, the Evaluation Fund has put in place an accompaniment process for grantees. This includes **bi-monthly online learning sessions** where all project partners (including local and international researchers as well as local practitioners) come together and explore a variety of topics they have pre-selected. These learning sessions have focused especially on research uptake – how to ensure that the evidence generated is understood, utilised, and owned by the stakeholders that need it. In addition to the online workshops on research uptake, all projects have received individual coaching with a research uptake specialist. This has been an incredibly fruitful process and all projects have now developed research uptake workplans and a monitoring plan, which will report on at the end of their grant.

Next steps: Finalise all no-cost extensions and revised activities/budgets for grantees; prepare final learning session in November 2021.

Programme extension & Closing of the Fund: mid-2022.

Due to the COVID-19 impacts on grantee project implementation, the Evaluation Fund has received an extension to June 2022. This will ensure adequate accompaniment and grant management for the Secretariat, as well as ensure quality data collection, analysis and reporting from the grantees.

As the Evaluation Fund approaches the end of its final funding phase, The Fund is designing several activities and outputs that ensure the sustainability and impact of the Fund's work over the last decade of operation.

This includes supporting current grantees to strengthen their final evaluation report through a **quality assessment process**, along with communications support to develop **evidence briefs** on their findings. This aligns with the process and outputs of the past 18 supported studies and will also support grantees in their research uptake efforts that will extend beyond the grant end date.

For the Fund, several learning documents are being developed for the funders and the wider VAC prevention field. This includes a **Donor Dos and Don'ts Guide** for establishing stand-alone evaluation funds, which explores the

operational and strategic learnings of the Evaluation Fund. A **legacy video** in 2022 will summarize some of the key outcomes of the Evaluation Fund and its studies. Finally, a **learning brief** connects all past supported projects and clarifies their collective contribution to the prevention of violence against children.

Next steps: On Oct. 7 2021, the consultants charged with developing the Donors Dos and Dots Donor Guide will present their findings to the Evaluation Fund Steering Committee for reflection and discussion.

Fair Energy Transition for All (FETA)

Foundations involved: King Baudouin Foundation (Chair), Mercator Stiftung, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, Fondazione Cariplo, IKEA Foundation, Schneider Electric foundation and Open Society European Policy Institute. It is implemented in collaboration with IFOK and Climate Outreach as well as with national facilitators and policy experts.

Budget 2020-22: 1,9 million €

Timeframe: 2020-22

NEF is the fiscal sponsor of FETA.

Background:

The Fair Energy Transition for All project aims to improve the development of fair energy transition policies by providing national and EU policy-makers and stakeholders a better understanding of the perceived impact of energy transition policies on the living conditions of economically disadvantaged people. To do so, a consortium of European Foundations will organise a consultative and listening process with vulnerable people in Europe.

This project started in the spring of 2020 and will last until 2022.

The project will organise consultations and focus groups in nine European countries: Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Denmark and Romania.

The ultimate aim of the project is balanced energy transition policies that take into account the concerns of and solutions from disadvantaged people.

A detailed description of the project- <https://fair-energy-transition.eu/>

Latest Developments:

Project modules

90 focus groups in nine EU member states involving 1000 citizens all over Europe. The member states are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain.

National expert meetings in the same nine EU member states and EU task force on EU level, involving 200 experts on national and European levels.

Citizens assemblies in all nine involved EU member states, finalising policy recommendations worked on in the expert meetings and EU task force on basis of the focus group results.

Advocacy phase with national and EU outreach events.

Measures implemented so far

Methodology and narratives (energy diaries) for focus groups (on-site as well as digital outlines)

Identification of focus groups participation by national facilitators.

Three pilots (Belgium, Germany, Denmark) for digital focus groups and decision to go for the physical version

Adaptation of planning because of COVID and amendments to contract with all national partners

Focus groups are underway in Belgium, Italy, Spain, Poland; contacts identified and mobilisation underway in the other participating countries

Literature review has been done by Climate Outreach

Identification of participants to the national expert meetings

Identification and invitation of members for EU task force.

Communication strategy developed
National communication strategies developed with Foundations and national partners when possible (Ex: DBU/IFOK/Mercator for Germany)
Methodology for the citizens' assemblies underway
Methodology for the impact evaluation

Summary of the results so far

Selection and mobilisation of local organisations for the focus groups in all the countries
First groups in Belgium and Spain were successful; good discussions, minor challenges
Policy summaries from the 9 participating countries
Coordination and monthly meetings with national partners (facilitators and policy experts) to create team spirit and exchange experiences
Website updates
Contacts with journalists at the EU level to raise awareness and interest (Reuter, The Guardian, Bloomberg)
KBF invited to be part of the sounding board set up by the Belgian Minister for Climate (Z Khattabi) who will launch a citizen's conference on just transition in 2022; identification of collaborations and synergies
Evaluation methodology, process, tools developed by ODS; national partners trained on data collection

The next steps

Finalise all the focus groups by end of October
Collect quotes and interviews with selected participants in all the countries
Collect, assemble, and analyse results from the focus groups
Finalise methodology for expert meetings
Finalise methodology for citizens assemblies
Launch of the EU Task Force by EPC
The EPC will publish a commentary on the fair energy transition in autumn in order to raise the profile of this project, to underline the importance of participatory processes and highlight the forthcoming recommendations
Mobilise the groups of experts in all the countries by end of 2021

Current timeframe

Phase 1 (Focus Groups): ca. May-October 2021
Phase 2 (expert meetings): end of 2021, beginning of 2022;
Launch on EU Task Force in October 2021
 Task Force 1: 15-16/02/22
 Task Force 2: 08-09/03/22
Final Task Force: 22-23/03/22
Phase 3 (forum/ assemblies): ca. April-May 2022

Joint Action for Farmers' Organisations in West Africa (JAFOWA)

Foundations involved: Compagnia di San Paolo; Fondazione Cariplo; Fondation de France (Chair), and Fondation for a Just Society (USA).

Budget 2020: around 1 million €

Timeframe: 2016–2022

JAFOWA is a programme developed and supported by NEF.

Background:

JAFOWA seeks to reinforce Farmers' Organisations who work with smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishermen, to manage good quality local food systems that benefit their families and communities in ecologically

sustainable ways. It aims to support a strong and equitable farmers' movement in West Africa. This movement proposes local and regional policies, promotes ecological solutions and enables the leadership of women and youth.

JAFOWA supports farmers' organisations (FOs) through grant making and capacity development with a geographic focus on Burkina Faso and Senegal, shifting its focus on the agroecological transition in these two countries since 2018.

Latest developments:

In JAFOWA's toolbox, the partners can rely on additional small grants ('coups de pouce') to support their emerging needs. The process of identification of needs and their approval was finalised last May. Five out of the 8 currently funded farmers' organisations undertake capacity development activities (field trips, trainings, counselling) that should be completed by November.

Last June, the French Association Quartiers du Monde led a diagnostic mission on the gender approach of the partners interested by deepening their gender lens, including the Farmers Organisations supported by JAFOWA in its first call (2016-2019). In total, 14 FOs could come up with their gender diagnostic through a participatory approach. Quartiers du Monde has strong expertise in gender and intersectionality in the 'Southern countries'. Its report points out recommendations to the FOs and to JAFOWA. The JAFOWA Steering Committee will reflect on those in the last semester of 2021 in order to design the appropriate tools or supporting processes, financial or technical so that FOs can gradually progress on their gender approach.

JAFOWA could also hold its **2nd workshop** for this 2nd funding period, in a face to face format, in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) - 28 to 31 September. The theme co-opted by partners to frame their exchanges was « Promotion of agroecology –Scaling up the agroecological practices ».

8 FOs and their main partners could vividly engage in the exchanges, with members of the Advisory Board and of the Steering Committee being present. Two main elements were identified as key elements in the transition to agroecology:

- Access to bio inputs (biopesticides, biofertiliser and seeds...),
- Local marketing of agroecological products.

The lessons learned from this workshop should be extended through capitalisation with the FOs and their partners. They should also be useful for JAFOWA in view of its next calls for projects, sharpening its positioning, its strategy and the quality of its partnerships.

Privatisation in Education and Human Rights Consortium

Foundations involved: OSF, Anonymous Donor

Budget 2021: 300.000 \$

Timeframe: January 2020- Dec 2022

NEF is the fiscal sponsor of the PEHRC.

Background:

Since 2014, a group of over 100 organisations from all parts of the world have been working together as part of an informal arrangement, the Privatisation in Education and Human Rights Consortium (PEHRC). In the current climate of increasing privatisation in education, the Consortium emerged from the need to strengthen joint and international collaboration to respond to challenges that may arise from the rapid growth of private actors in education and to raise the issue's profile as a human rights concern.

PEHRC aims to increase the collective impact of our organisations' work, through strategic coordination of advocacy activities, to enable civil society organisations to monitor and where necessary, address the impact of the

growing privatisation in education more effectively, and to reorient attention to the support and improvement of quality, accountable, public education systems that deliver on the right to education.

The Consortium provides practical support to collaborative work and to strengthening collaborations over the short and mid-term.

Specific objectives:

- To build a stronger, citizen-led movement critical of privatisation in education.
- To implement the Human Rights Guiding Principles on States' obligations and the role of private actors in education (Working Group on Guiding Principles).
- To define solutions: to develop a strong alternative (counter) narrative and to propose a viable alternative (Working Group on Positive Evidence-Alternatives).
- To take action to address key issues at national and international levels.

Latest developments:

PEHRC's Google Group remains active with members regularly sharing updates and identifying synergies. There are 143 members from 82 organisations and 21 different countries. The Consortium holds monthly global calls for all members to join as well as focus groups on specific subjects that members want to strategise on (e.g. the Abidjan Principles, building an alternative narrative, the World Bank Spring Meetings, Early Childhood, PEHRC's strategy, amongst others.) The coordinator shares a monthly newsletter where all of the updates shared via the Google Group by members, as well as upcoming events, proposals/calls, webinars, etc. are shared with members as well as an update on joint activities, and a weekly briefing, which shares the latest news in privatisation and education where the Consortium collates its weekly news monitoring.

PEHRC has an extensive database monitoring education and privatisation issues, which is continually being built out. This includes Covid-19 and general education and privatisation monitoring, Abidjan Principles monitoring, positive examples of the monitoring of public systems as well as litigation monitoring, a shared calendar, and an actor-system mapping.

The Alternatives and Counter-Narrative needs-based group hired a consultant to conduct a case study research of positive public education systems, which was completed in October 2020. The group now has a determined set of co-publishers who are moving these cases towards publication, and for dissemination at events and through advocacy materials. A policy brief on the case studies was circulated during the Global Partnership for Education Replenishment meetings in June, and they will also be presented at a session organised by PEHRC members at the World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum.

PEHRC is close to finalising its first website, which is currently being developed by a website steering committee, and PEHRC's Fellows.

The initiative has recruited two Fellows to support the Coordinator, who have been instrumental in keeping up the monitoring activities for the Group. Interviews are currently taking place for future Fellows. Strategies are also being developed to build side networks with students and academics.

The Consortium runs learning and exchange sessions on topics of interest for members. Four sessions have been held to date. The Consortium also holds bilingual meetings with its partner Francophone network, one recently took place on the Abidjan Principles, following a three-month campaign around the APS.

The Consortium is starting to build a strategy to raise voluntary contributions from members.

Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care (TransForm)

Foundations involved: King Baudouin Foundation (Chair); Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo (co-chair); Fondation de France, Conconi Foundation.

Budget 2021-2022: 330.000 € (2nd phase)

Timeframe: 2017-2022

Transform is a programme developed and supported by NEF.

Background:

[TransForm, the Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care](#), is a collaborative partnership of foundations from across Europe and Canada who share the vision of integrated, community-based care. In collaboration with its growing coalition of practitioners, researchers and advocates, TransForm has worked to put integrated community care on the health and care agenda, assembling national delegations of advocates from all disciplines and backgrounds to form a movement towards better community health and care.

Through its analysis of ICC practices, approaches, and case studies, TransForm has produced a core strategy that encapsulates the vision of Integrated Community Care: [ICC4All: Seven Principles for Care](#). As an international learning coalition, TransForm continues to explore how these principles manifest in existing and emerging practices across Europe and Canada that advance ICC.

Latest developments:

Wrapping up the 1st phase and looking ahead

In TransForm's first phase (2017-2021), the partnership achieved:

- Field-building for ICC: The organisation of three [international conferences](#) in Hamburg (2018), Turin (2019), and Vancouver (2019), and an expert workshop in Brussels (2019), bringing together policy makers, experts by experience, practitioners and researchers to share knowledge, exchange best practices and explore challenges and solutions in integrated community care.
- Transnational knowledge-sharing & exchange: Through conferences, site visits, and national field-building processes, TransForm developed over [30 case studies and approaches](#) to integrated community care, which capture a diversity of promising practices that align with ICC's principles.
- Development of a common language and strategy for ICC: In collaboration with its network of partners across Europe and Canada, TransForm developed a [strategic framework](#) for integrated community care through the ICC4All strategy and its seven effectiveness principles.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shook us all. Despite the enormous strain that the pandemic has placed on communities and on health and care systems, it has showcased the effectiveness of ICC principles in practice. Community-driven initiatives have been at the forefront of reaching and serving those most in need.

In **TransForm's second phase** (September 2021- December 2022- to start with), TransForm has set the following objectives:

- Strengthen the field of integrated community care by developing a Changemakers Forum for ICC, where 15 initiatives will serve as a learning community and international advisory group to advance ICC priorities and address its challenges across Europe and Canada.
- Grow the evidence base for ICC by investing in the development of a principles-based evaluation framework for ICC's seven effectiveness principles and offering evaluation into ICC-aligned initiatives.
- Seize opportunities for strategic communications and advocacy on ICC, so that evidence on goal-oriented, place-based health and care systems is taken up by policy-makers at the national and at EU level and is mainstreamed into primary care.
- Expanding the TransForm coalition through twinning exercises to engage diverse stakeholders, share knowledge, and identify promising practices in ICC across local and national contexts.

Progressively, TransForm has also evolved from a pre-designed project co-funded by the different donors, to a co-designed project/coalition where all SC members reflect on the strategy and on how to achieve its goals. During the course of the 1st phase, new activities were planned and added, principally due to the outbreak of Covid-19. This new orientation had to be factored in the new governance scheme for its 2nd phase.

Leadership of TransForm

In July, the departure of Giulia Barnhisel from the collaborative and as a NEF employee meant that another transition period had to take place in a short timeframe, putting the programme under strain.

During the SC meeting of July 4, SC members agreed on the adjusted profile of the Programme Manager given the ambition and new priorities of the Programme in its 2nd phase. While the position was publicly open, Marta Szulc who was a consultant to TransForm presented her application. Considering her seniority and good knowledge of

TransForm, the SC members decided to hire her during a transition phase (until December 2021). An officer at NEF could complement her by taking care of the events and administrative tasks (one day/week) since Marta works part time.

At the last SC meeting of September 21st, the partners agree to the new governance arrangements with NEF and confirmed their financial commitment. Compagnia di San Paolo, King Baudouin Foundation and Fondation de France will equally contribute for this first year in the 2nd phase with 100.000 euros each. Co-chairing between Compagnia di San Paolo and King Baudouin Foundation has been put in place to allow a better distribution of the workload. The Robert Bosch Stiftung informed the partners that due to a change in their strategic focus, they will disengage from TransForm for now. Coconi Foundation, following its strategic board of September, will renew its participation, since ICC remains a topic in their strategic plan.

Changemakers Forum on Integrated Community Care

This is the main pillar of TransForm for its 2nd phase. By creating and supporting an international community of changemakers, TransForm seeks to maintain the impetus towards driving progress and innovation in integrated community care.

At the beginning of 2021, TransForm launched a call for proposals for its newly designed 'Changemakers Forum for ICC'. In total 26 applications were submitted, of which 21 were eligible and subject to the jury's deliberations. In its meeting of June 22nd, the jury discussed the alignment of the applications with the Forum's criteria. Ultimately [15 initiatives were selected](#).

Ranging from mental health community centres to intergenerational housing projects, each initiative takes an innovative approach to address the key components of integrated community care.

A **first online workshop** took place on September 27 to build trust among Changemakers and identify areas of joint collaboration. Two other workshops are foreseen- one in February 2022 in person, and the other one in May.

Communicating and Advocating around ICC

The 2nd phase of TransForm should enable to position ICC more strongly on the political agenda at the national level and in the European sphere.

TransForm has been invited to work with the European Forum for Primary Care (EPCF) for their Conference of September 2022. The conference will be focused entirely on ICC, with the following working title '**Integrated Community Care: a new opportunity for Primary Care**'. TransForm would actively participate in their conference with a keynote speech on ICC and ICC-framework and contribute to the different workshops. Furthermore TransForm is invited to organise a 'back-to-back' conference on 27th (evening) - 28th of September 2022 with the Changemakers Forum for ICC.

The Pursuit of the Common Good (former EPLI)

Budget 2021: 8,000 euros (Dassault)

Exit from the NEF Collaboration Network

The Pursuit of the Common Good initiative and its antecedent projects at EPLI in pursuit of research and learning in the philanthropy sector are grateful to NEF, which has provided an incubator for the development of philanthropy curricula and courses around the 'pursuit of the common good'. At the closeout of the grant from the U.S. Embassy in France in November 2021, EPLI will transfer the remaining funds to the research hub the Sciences Po network of research institutions in agreement with NEF.

Development for the PCG

The European Philanthropy Research and Learning Initiative were established in 2009 with the objective of promoting research and learning in Europe. The following projects have been undertaken during the NEF period of stewardship of EPLI.

Curriculum and Course Development

Both the first course in philanthropy in France (2010) and the Chair in philanthropy research and teaching (2011) were established at ESSEC Business School. Since 2011 a series of Master-level courses in philanthropy, social

investment and civic engagement have been created and taught at Sciences Po in the School of Management and the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA).

Common Good Research and Learning Infrastructure Development

Concurrent with curriculum and course development, the Pursuit of the Common Good initiative (PCG) was launched in 2017. The goal was to establish a network to facilitate the development of a collaborative learning infrastructure, including new curricula at the graduate level in universities and other institutions to prepare students to resolve societal challenges. The Initiative is currently coordinated by a steering group from its founding institutions, including representatives from the Heron Foundation, Rockefeller Archive Center, Hertie School of Governance, Marshall Institute at LSE, Sciences Po, and Stanford University.

Future Development of the PCG

The PCG and Sciences Po are launching a collaboration with an expanded cohort at Sciences Po on 11 October with a brainstorming convening 'Towards an Agenda for the Common Good in an Interconnected World'. This is the first of a three-stage process to create a new learning and research infrastructure in concert with a diverse range of partners and sectors. Participants will explore the topic broadly with a view to setting an agenda for a stage two retreat workshop in 2022 (potentially at Bellagio) with the aim to design initial research and curriculum elements, and to agree on the proposals for publications and ways to move forward. The third stage is envisioned as the launch of an international research and learning network to catalyse and sustain necessary behavioural and institutional changes fit for purpose to pursue the common good.