



# NEF

# State of Play

Network<sup>of</sup>  
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

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 '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.

As a joint funding and learning initiative, it enables foundations and other partners to collaborate at the European level through a streamlined and transparent process. Its goal is to increase resources for those organisations most in need while also generating learning which will boost stakeholder engagement.

### Latest developments:

#### ***Selection of the first grantees' partners***

In December 2021, the Alliance selected the grantee partners of its first call for proposals "2021 Fund for COVID Solidarity". The grantee partners were proposed by a selection committee composed of 6 gender experts from different backgrounds (philanthropy, CSO, women's fund, private sector, academia) and expertise; and validated by the steering committee.

As a result, 13 organisations from 10 different countries across the European Union are supported with core grants or project grants between 30 000 € and 50 000 € for a year (January-December 2022). They work on a variety of issues such as violence against women, health and social protection, access to education and training, access to economic resources and entrepreneurship. Specific illustrations are support services for women victims of domestic violence in Hungary, self-led advocacy from refugee women in Germany, grants to feminist social entrepreneurs in Spain and empowerment of Roma activists in Latvia.

#### ***Structuring the Alliance further***

The Alliance is currently working on several tracks:

- The development of the Alliance gender approach
- The elaboration of a Learning, Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy following Evaluation for system changes methodologies
- The development and implementation of a communication strategy and in particular the writing of communication products highlighting grantees' work
- The development and implementation of a Funding+ framework
- The refinement of the governance

#### ***Growth and outreach strategy***

One of the priorities for 2022 is to bring in new members to the Alliance to grow and sustain the initiative. For that, the Alliance has developed a growth strategy. Outreaching to potential new funders is ongoing.

The Alliance will also organise its first online convening (half-day meeting, on May 10) to connect with its grantee partners.

## 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 (current)

Civitates is a funders' collaborative developed and hosted 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:

#### ***Setting up a new opportunity fund for a healthy digital public sphere***

In August 2021, Civitates committed a total of € 1.65 million to support 8 organisations working towards a healthy digital public sphere over a period of two years. These core/programmatic 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.

In addition to the provision of these grants, Civitates allocated € 500 000 to launch funding for ad-hoc projects aimed at fostering a healthy digital public sphere. This additional grant mechanism commonly referred to as an 'Opportunity Fund' aims to complement and expand the work currently supported by Civitates and its potential for impact on the digital public sphere and provide some flexibility to anticipate or react to developments in a fast-evolving field.

#### ***New grants for strong and resilient civil society***

Since 2018, Civitates has been committed to supporting open civic space and an enabling environment for CSOs in Europe.

Our goal is to strengthen the field of civil society actors in Europe and its capacity to reclaim civic space and perform its watchdog role effectively, by supporting collective actions from national civil society organisations and initiatives working towards an enabling environment for civil society at the European level.

After two selection meetings, the Working Group decided to support [14 national coalitions in 10 countries](#) with a total grant amount of € 1,15 million. Each coalition's approach – reactive or proactive - depends on its country's context. All of them are working towards addressing the challenges and opportunities related to the shrinking space in their respective contexts.

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.

## *Creating spaces for exchanges of expertise and building relations for more sustainable journalism*

Creating spaces for exchanges of expertise and building relations among our grantee partners is an essential part of Civitates' strategy for supporting independent public-interest journalism. We convene our grantees twice per year and provide funding for individual capacity-building opportunities.

We convened our grantee partners in November 2021, when discussed the topic of sustainability and viability of journalism. In 2022 we continue exploring new ways to explore their capacities through individual and collective exchanges to address the organisational and managerial side of their work.

## 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

The European AI Fund is a project hosted by NEF.

### 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:

During the last couple of months, the fund has been undergoing changes. The fund's inaugural Director, Frederike Kaltheuner, left the European AI Fund at the end of 2021 to pursue other professional opportunities. We appointed Peter Bihr to serve as interim Director until the new Director, Catherine Miller starts at the end of March 2022. Catherine is an experienced executive with highly relevant expertise to guide the fund through its next chapter.

There have been some changes on the governance level as well: Becky Hogge (Open Society Foundations) replaced Swee Leng Harris (Luminare) as co-chair when Luminare wound down their European operations. Becky is working with Mark Surman (Mozilla) to co-chair the Steering Committee.

We also had the pleasure to welcome two new foundation partners at the European AI Fund: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Porticus Foundation joined the fund in December 2021.

After the fund's initial phases of activities (setting up the fund, developing and launching our funding streams, operationalising the fund's overall strategy and implementation of the strategy), in September 2021, the fund entered its operational phase.

During its last meeting (February 15, 2022), the Steering Committee signed off on the fund's updated governance structure, as well as on the extensions of the current Open Call grants from 18 to 24 months. We have also discussed the fund's refreshed Theory of change, and the revised M&E strategy.

The members also signed off on the funding strategy. In planning our next funding streams, the fund worked with three external consultants to conduct background research and mapping that will help us identify potential funding options. We published the findings as a three-part report in November 2021. Those recommendations were discussed and reflected upon by the Strategic Planning Working Group with a view to refine and expand the Funding Strategy for the next programming period (January 2022 - September 2023).

Based on these recommendations, we have agreed to pursue a two-fold strategy:

- Refining our current funding strategy by filling gaps and adding bridge-building organisations to our existing open call cohort.
- Expanding our current funding strategy to cover additional functions of the AI and Society ecosystem, in particular around research, as well as developing alternative visions for Europe's digital transformation.

#### **Refining our current strategy:**

**We want to continue to strengthen the policy and advocacy function of the AI and Society ecosystem to make sure civil society is well-resourced to advocate on the AI Act.** We think that it is crucial to support new voices that bring broader human rights and social justice perspectives to the table, as key transversal topics emerge through cross-sectoral cooperation between existing and new voices in the AI debate that hold agenda setting, watchdog, research and bridge-building expertise.

#### **Expanding our current strategy:**

**We want to support actors that can envision alternative futures for what Europe's digital transformation can look like.** We found that although demonstrating harm is important, it is insufficient on its own and civil society also needs to be creating alternative models for how to do things democratically. This is not limited to thinking about public interest technology but should also focus on an alternative to the dominant logic that AI is needed to streamline processes, increase efficiency and reduce costs.

**We also want to bring greater transparency and accountability to 20 billion that Europe is planning to invest in AI annually.** While other functions will be needed once the AI regulation is in place, there is already an urgent need for civil society to act as a watchdog to the money that is invested in Europe on AI, in particular on public sector use, consumer AI, industrial AI and infrastructure.

The priorities for 2022 include:

- Onboarding of the fund's new Director
- Publishing the fund's new funding rounds
- Further implementing the fund's communication, Funding + 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: 1.2 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, that 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:

### **Engaged Democracy Initiative**

#### Response Hub

The European Fund for the Balkans established in 2021 the Response Hub, an instrument of micro granting. More than 25 organisations were supported. 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. At the beginning of March 2022, a new call was published and EFB selected 13 organisations from the WB region who will be supported through the Response Hub.

#### Balkans United for Clean Air

The Balkans United for Clean Air regional campaign started as a pure awareness-raising campaign during the winter of 2020/2021 and continued this winter additionally offering solutions and advocating for an energy transition in line with an EU backed document signed by all governments of the region – the Green Agenda, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050.

The campaign is open and can be joined by organisations and individuals. As the current campaign is still ongoing, data from last year are very promising, as last year's edition has been joined by more than 520 organisations, initiatives and individuals, who received all materials and shared it through their networks. The social media reach could be monitored only for the EFB and its initial 8 partner organisations, but even that result is impressive with a reach of more than 650.000. The campaign is furthermore getting big attention from traditional media, where it was covered through more than 500 articles and interviews, which we aim to surpass this year. Its regional focus not only nurtured regional solidarity, but also highlighted the fact that we are all in this together and that sustainable solutions can only be found through joint efforts.

#### Engaged Balkans Platform

Engaged Balkans Platform is a safe space where engaged citizens of the Western Balkans can easily connect with each other, sharing and creating their experiences and knowledge. Communities are for people who are passionate about making their community a better place, mobilising others, and engaging for solidary and democratic societies. The platform was launched at the beginning of 2022 and has already gathered more than 100 members. The platform is a joint effort of the European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) and the Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE) and a result of the Engaged Democracy Convention held in 2021.

### **Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)**

The Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG) and its prominent policy researchers from the Western Balkans and the EU were involved in the analysis of the newly formed context and with a policy focus on EU, External Actors and Citizens' Trust.

#### EFB and BiEPAG public opinion survey: The Western Balkans in times of Pandemic: EU, External Actors and Citizens' Trust

The European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) commissioned a survey among residents in all six Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) on 3 key topics: EU, External Actors and Citizens' Trust in times of the Pandemic. The opinion poll was conducted on a nationally

representative sample consisting of a minimum of 1000 respondents aged 18+, by means of telephone and online interviews.

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of public opinion surveys that encompass the entire Western Balkans and allow for comparisons between countries in the region. The members of the EFB's Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG) have produced policy briefs on their assessment of the data's implications on the key topics, which were presented at policy events on regional and EU levels.

- ◆ [Outta Trust? \(Post\) Pandemic Trust and Democratic Resilience in the Balkans](#)
- ◆ [Geopolitically irrelevant in its 'inner courtyard'?](#)
- ◆ [Escaping the Transactional Trap: The way forward for EU Enlargement](#)

BiEPAG **briefs** and **blogs** are available at <https://biepag.eu/>.

### **EFB Alumni Network**

In 2021, the EFB Community formalised its work by establishing the beeEFB 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.

7 National Gatherings, 4 joint initiatives, setting the advanced group at the Bosch Alumni Network platform, finalisation of the Alumni Network Strategy, selection of new Board Members and planning the Annual Event are the key milestones of 2021. The Annual Event which was organised in Tirana in January 2022 was an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the successes of 2021 as well as to co-design the 2022 programme and continue to nurture the connectivity and collaboration sparks among the EFB community of great people with different backgrounds and careers interested in fostering a cross-sectoral and cross-regional exchange of know-how.

## **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, 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, Fondazione Con Il Sud

Budget: 7.8 million € (2019-2023)

Timeframe: EPIM has existed since 2005. Its current programme strategy and funding cycle cover 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 Shaping the Future of European



Migration Governance; 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:

**EPIM's response to the Ukraine crisis**

EPIM is putting forward its Opportunity Funds mechanism to pool additional funding to respond to the needs that are and will be arising from the Ukraine crisis in Europe, aimed at supporting all those impacted by and fleeing the war, both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian nationals, including people fleeing Russia where applicable. EPIM is in direct and ongoing contact with civil society organisations on the ground as well as networks and umbrella organisations across Europe and at EU-level to assess those needs on a continuous basis. In addition, EPIM is in constant contact with other relevant actors, including EU institutions and agencies as well as international organisations. EPIM's Ukraine response aims to be flexible, nimble as well as long-term. While being aware of immediate humanitarian needs, EPIM's response will focus on addressing short, mid to longer-term needs that are not supported by public funds and other private large fundraising efforts.

**Developments in Thematic Funds**

Thematic Fund on Shaping the Future of European Migration Governance

Aim: Support civil society organisations in co-shaping viable and effective alternatives to migration governance defined by deterrence, ensuring alignment with existing EU law and international human rights standards

Grantee organisations in 2022: 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 EPIM's previous Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention and the Thematic Fund on Asylum into one overarching Thematic Fund. In October 2021, EPIM adopted its first strategy for a new Thematic Fund on 'Shaping the Future of European Migration Governance', which will cover the 2022-2024 funding cycle.
- In the context of the strategy's thematic strand on Alternatives to Detention (ATD), continuation grants were approved in December 2021 for the European ATD Network and for existing national ATD pilots in Italy and Greece. Closing grants were approved for existing national ATD pilots in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Poland.

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 2022: 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; METAdrasi; Merimna.

**Main developments:**

- In the context of the Thematic Fund's 2021-2023 strategy, EPIM focuses on supporting advocacy coalitions of CSOs to address obstacles and promote best practices around migrant children and youth's transition to adulthood. In addition to supporting an advocacy coalition at EU level, EPIM will support national advocacy coalitions in Italy, Greece and France. A Request for Proposals has been launched in February 2022.

Thematic fund on communicating migration in a changing environment

Aim: The Thematic Fund on Strategic Communications supports CSOs, including organisations and movements (co-)driven by people with lived migration experience, in strategically engaging in the public discourse on migration in Europe.

Grantee organisations in 2022: An open call will be published in Spring 2022.

#### **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 (co-)driven 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 protecting access to rights for mobile EU citizens*

Aim: All 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)

#### **Main developments:**

- The Thematic Fund adopted a new strategy for the period 2021-2024. The Fund will support civil society organisations in addressing obstacles to free movement rights, including those resulting from Brexit, to guarantee mobile EU citizens' and UK citizens' access to rights, and address situations of destitution and irregularity.

#### *Thematic fund for building inclusive European societies*

Aim: All people with lived migration experience, regardless of their ethnic origin, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, (dis)ability, and migration status have equal access and fair outcomes in terms of rights and opportunities to participate economically, socially and politically in European societies that are cohesive and offer a high level of well-being for all.

Grantee organisations in 2022: Next Step; ECRE; PICUM; SPEAK

#### **Main developments:**

- EPIM launched a [Call for Proposals](#) on 'Decent Work and Adequate Housing' for All'. Through this call, EPIM seeks to support civil society initiatives aimed to ensure decent work and adequate housing for all in the European Union, with a specific focus on people who have migrated to/within the EU regardless of their ethnic origin, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, (dis)ability, and migration status.

## **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:

### **Research Uptake Accompaniment Programme & lessons learned**

Understanding what works to prevent violence is a rapidly growing research area. However, the dissemination of this research beyond academic circles remains limited, leading to poor uptake of findings in policy and practice. To address this gap, there has been a shift from dissemination to '*research uptake*' -- but what does research uptake mean in practice and how can we ensure that evidence reaches and enables the right audiences to affect change in violence prevention outcomes?

The Evaluation Fund sought to clarify the pathway from evidence generation to its translation into policy and practice by developing a research uptake accompaniment programme for its current cohort of grantee partners. Between 2020-2021, researchers and practitioners from Tanzania and Uganda met virtually with a research uptake expert and a trained facilitator for a series of workshops and one-to-one mentoring. These sessions covered both the theory and practical implementation of research uptake where each partner designed a research uptake plan.

Following these 15 months of training and mentorship, this capacity building process has "changed [grantee organisations'] approach to designing research projects" and all four research and practitioner organisations have integrated research uptake processes into other projects and at organisational level.

**Next steps:** Together with the research uptake expert who designed and delivered this training, the Evaluation Fund will be developing a short learning brief on this accompaniment programme and, if the abstract is accepted, will be presenting on these lessons during a panel at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in Sept. 2022.

### **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, we are 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, we are developing several learning documents for our 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. We are also developing a **learning brief** that connects all past supported projects and clarifies their collective contribution to the prevention of violence against children.

**Next steps:** In May 2022, drafts of these learning products will be presented to the Evaluation Fund Steering Committee for review before being published and disseminated to partners in the violence prevention field.

### **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 hosts administratively 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:

- Focus Groups: 93 Focus groups with 917 vulnerable people took place at the national level (9 countries). The aim was to understand the challenges faced by ordinary people in their everyday lives and to understand what they need from the energy transition.

As a synthesis of those focus groups - Europeans with very limited financial means have little doubt about the dangers of climate change and believe in the need to tackle it. But few feel that they themselves have the ability – or the responsibility – to respond. It is for governments, businesses, and the wealthy to find fair solutions, most believe. Many disadvantaged Europeans are, however, trying to cut their energy consumption, though more from motives of the economy than ecology. A sense of existing unfairness, mistrust of political institutions and fears of losing the autonomy of choice were common across the continent.

- National Expert Meetings: The focus groups' results are currently discussed by stakeholders and policymakers at a national level in National Expert Meetings. The aim is to develop policy recommendations.
- Fair Energy Forums (FEF): The policy recommendations that were produced by national experts will be reviewed and prioritised in a Fair Energy Forum in each of the countries involved. Each Forum will be comprised of representatives of the original focus groups. The methodology for the FEF is almost finalized.
- EU Task Force: The EU Task Force is the European counterpart to the National Expert Meetings. It has been launched in October 2021.
- Ongoing evaluation by ODS, data collection via the national partners (facilitators and policy experts)
- Deliverables:
  - Synthesis notes with the results of the focus groups, per country
  - Briefing paper 'Fair Energy Transition for All: what vulnerable people have to say ' with a global analysis of all the focus groups; it will be published and presented via a EPC/KBF/ifok joint webinar on March 17, 2022; press release on the same day.

#### The next steps:

- Finalise the meetings with experts and develop draft recommendations at national and EU levels

- Discuss and validate the recommendations with vulnerable citizens in each country
- Deepen communication channels: videos, social networks, contacts with local journalists
- Advocate at EU and national level
- Develop a methodology toolbox to capture and share the learnings, and inspire others to use it for collecting the voices of the unheard

## 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 grantmaking 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:

The last quarter was largely devoted to deepening the recommendations of the diagnosis carried out by the Association Quartiers du Monde on the gender approach of the 14 Farmers Organisations supported by JAFOWA in Burkina Faso and Senegal since 2016.

Drawing from this work, JAFOWA has decided to mainstream a more transformative gender approach in its work. JAFOWA is currently negotiating an accompaniment with Quartiers du Monde which aims to:

- Strengthen the gender strategies of the interested FOs. The strategies can already exist, or JAFOWA can support the FOs to co-construct it when they do not exist, and then strengthen their capacities in the operationalization of these strategies (through training and coaching),
- Deepen JAFOWA strategy, re-thinking its theory of change, its monitoring tools, its capitalization...

The period was also dedicated to the follow-up of the 8 running pluriannual projects, monitor their developments from the angles of the agroecological transition and of the organisations (FOs and their partners). An essential element to assess is the partnership dimension of the projects and how much it has triggered effects and dynamics. The two backstopping missions will be essential to nourish JAFOWA's thinking for its 2023 call for proposals. Local expertise is associated with those. The Senegalese mission has just ended with positive findings. The mission in Burkina will be geographically contained due to security restrictions and should take place next month.

JAFOWA has also strengthened its partnership with the French organisation CFSI (Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale). The JAFOWA Programme Manager participated in its working group "Coup de pouce CFSI 2022" that seeks to upscale local small and medium enterprises and cooperatives to develop local and sustainable agricultural value chains. JAFOWA FOs partners should be invited to apply for this call for proposals.

JAFOWA inputs into the preparation of the next CFSI - ROPPA<sup>1</sup> publication on African sustainable feeding solutions (as FOs could contribute to it), and also exchanges regularly with CFSI and ROPPA through biannual online thematic forums.

## Privatisation in Education and Human Rights Consortium

Foundations involved: OSF, Anonymous Donor

Budget 2021: 300.000 \$

Timeframe: January 2020- Dec 2022

NEF hosts administratively 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 150 members from 89 organisations and 22 different countries. The Consortium holds monthly global calls for all members to join which also leads to topic-specific calls on areas that members want to strategise on (e.g. the Abidjan Principles, building an alternative narrative, the World Bank Spring Meetings, Early Childhood, EdTech, PEHRC's strategy, amongst others.)

The coordinator shares a monthly newsletter where all 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.

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<sup>1</sup> ROPPA : Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

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. These cases were published by a set of co-publishers in 2021 and were launched at a panel event during the World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum.

PEHRC has set up a Fellowship to support the Coordinator and has so far worked with six students from a range of universities. PEHRC. Strategies continue to be developed to build side networks with students and academics. The Consortium runs learning and exchange sessions on topics of interest for members, as well as bilingual meetings with its partner Francophone network.

The Consortium is starting to build a strategy to raise voluntary contributions from members. At the start of 2022, the network held a mid-term review to reflect on progress since its virtual conference in December 2020 and to set priorities for the year.

## 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:

#### **Changemakers' Forum**

The [Changemakers' Forum](#) has developed into a learning community of practice embedded in three main workshops: a first online workshop in September 2021, a second online workshop in February 2022 and a third to be held in Brussels in May 2022.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop Change makers brainstormed on what is needed to attain the ICC effectiveness principles in their different practices. It was helpful to reconnect them with the ICC framework. The pathways to turn the 7 principles to practice are still to be reflected, as well as how ICC could become part of the health system strengthening.

The third and final workshop will take place in Brussels on 23-24 May. For the first time Change makers will meet face to face, an essential gathering which has been missing in the process, due to the sanitary requirements. The workshop will capture key considerations for a principle-based evaluation and reflect on how to engage Change makers in the programme of the TransForm conference, organised with the European Forum on Primary Care in September 2022 in Ghent.

To prepare for this 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop, TransForm is developing a series of webinars to build Change makers' confidence and competence in developmental evaluation and principles-based evaluation. This should help Change makers

better grasp how to apply ICC effectiveness principles in their practice. The first webinar will take place online in April.

In addition, building on the feedback from the second workshop in February, TransForm reflects on designing mechanisms for Change makers to visit each other and be inspired by the work of other Change makers' Forum initiatives through exchange visits.

### **TransForm 2022 Conference**

TransForm organises a 'back-to-back' conference on 27 (evening) - 28 September 2022 within the framework of the [European Forum on Primary Care Conference](#), with a focus on systemic and policy changes to advance ICC in Europe and beyond.

The SC members are progressing in the drafting of the content and on the audience for the conference.

### **Programme Management**

In February 2022, Gefra Fulane joined NEF to work as full-time Programme Manager for TransForm. Another transition has to be managed.