



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, Bodossaki Fondation, JP Morgan & Chase Foundation (final official confirmation by end of October 2022).

Budget 2021-2025: 7M€ (if JPMC funding approved)

Timeframe: 2021-2025

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

Background:

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe (the Alliance) was created in spring 2021 to support gender equality and women’s rights in Europe. The Alliance supports the strengthening of small, frontline organisations working on gender equality in Europe that are working to improve the lives of individuals, ensure that they have equal access to opportunities and help them to live free from violence, while also addressing the underlying structures and power dynamics that uphold inequality and exclusion.

Latest developments:

Follow-up of the current grantees

The Alliance is currently supporting 13 grantees, mainly small organisations, working on violence against women, economic opportunities, education and women’s rights in 10 European countries. The Alliance organised an online convening on May 10 and an in-person gathering on October 12. Check-in calls were conducted with all the grantees in July to disburse the second payment of the grant. The Programme Manager also conducted site visits to grantees in France, Belgium, Spain and Italy.

Structuration of the Alliance

2022 was also focused on structuring and growing the Alliance.

The steering committee discussed and finalised several structuring steps:

- Clarifying the governance and respective roles and responsibilities for steering committee, programme manager, Chair, NEF and approve the creation of an advisory committee (to start in November 2022).
- Establishing a Funding+ framework destined to provide peer-learning, networking and capacity-building to grantees
- Developing a communication strategy to position the Alliance within the sector and highlight the grantee partners’ accomplishments
- Approving a position paper detailing the Alliance vision, mission, objectives, funding approach and activities

A Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation framework is under development and will be finalised by December 2022. Through the last months, the Alliance was also busy with enlarging its membership of foundation partners. The Programme Manager held meetings with 18 potentially interested foundations. 1 new foundation joined: Bodossaki Foundation. JP Morgan & Chase Foundation is also in the process of committing 3.5M€ to the Alliance with a focus on ‘economic inclusion’. This will result in more than doubling the budget of the Alliance. 2 other foundations are also considering joining: Porticus and Fondation de France.

Preparation of a new call for proposals

On January 2023, the Alliance will launch a new call for proposals for **‘impactful and sustainable community-driven solutions to advance economic opportunity through gender equality in Europe (EU and UK) for marginalised women’**.

A total of 3M€ will be distributed in 2-years grants of between 30K€ to 75K€/year over 2 years (from 60K€ to 150K€ in total per organisation) to small grassroots organisations working on improving economic opportunity for low-income women from migration background and/or ethnic minorities in working age (16+), women victims of violence, women from rural areas, women in situation of disability, young and older women.

An additional 826 000€ will be committed towards implementing a Funding+ model of organisational development support and a learning community, including small organisational development grants. The Alliance expects to fund between 20 and 30 grantees. A recruitment for a Junior position to support the PM will be launched in the autumn.

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.

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:

Launch of Ukraine Solidarity Fund

Civitates foundation partner decided in May 2022 to set up a funding mechanism dedicated to providing additional support to Civitates grantees who are developing and implementing solidarity actions with Ukrainian civil society.

The solidarity fund operates along the following lines:

- An additional contribution from Civitates partner foundation has been pledged to the Solidarity fund (so far 410 000 EUR)
- Eligible organisations are current and past Civitates grantees
- Activities: coordination of civil society advocacy and solidarity efforts to respond to the situation, awareness campaign around civil society values and crucial role in the response to the crisis, programs to help civil society actors to prevent disinformation, etc.
- Size of grants: Between 10 000- 30 000 EUR

So far Civitates has approved funding for 7 activities that show solidarity with Ukraine.

Targeted call for proposals to support initiatives aiming at protecting civic space and an enabling environment for civil society at the European level

Since its inception, 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.

For the current phase (2022-2023), Civitates is supporting 14 coalitions from 10 countries, allowing them to tackle challenges and opportunities related to the shrinking space in their national contexts.

In addition to the current grants dedicated to supporting collective actions at the national level, Civitates has just launched a targeted call for proposals to support initiatives aiming at protecting civic space and an enabling environment for civil society at the European level.

The goal is to support several ongoing initiatives, mainly led by EU-focused and Brussels-based organisations with:

- excellent knowledge of the EU policy landscape

- well-established open lines of communication with decision makers
- experience and capacity to advocate for the EU institutions to take stronger actions to protect and support civil society across the continent
- experience to act as intermediaries to connect and coordinate the work of national civil societies, make their voices heard and have them feed into the European debate.
- the skills to share their experience and expertise with national actors, help them understand and break through the EU policy making ‘bubble’.

The total grant budget is 300 000 EUR, so Civitates is expecting to fund approx. 5 organisations. The final decision will be made in November.

Joint event with the European AI fund to foster reflections about the ecosystem of civil society advocates working on technology issues

In addition to the provision of grants to 8 organisations working on advocacy towards more regulation of the major platforms for more transparency, accountability and mechanisms that respect fundamental rights, 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 provide some flexibility to CSOs to anticipate or react to developments in a fast-evolving field. These grants are distributed on rolling basis. Civitates has already approved 6 grants for 30 000 EUR each so far.

Civitates is currently collaborating with the European AI Fund on designing a joint event in November 2022. Both funds strive 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 represent society as a whole.

As there is an alignment of mission, vision, and practices between the two funds, the event will allow grantees and funders to:

- learn about each other’s mission, vision and how they define their niche
- foster reflections on the ecosystem of civil society advocates working on technology issues
- celebrate ‘advocacy wins’ in view of the DSA and draw lessons learnt from what didn’t work well
- have face-to-face interactions and candid conversations

Strengthening public-interest journalism organisations through fostering connections

As of January 2021, Civitates is supporting 11 independent public-interest journalism organisations across Europe for an initial period of three years.

Independent public-interest journalism organisations need time and capacity to cope with the changing revenue situation for journalism globally. Being part of a network creates a structure for our grantee partners they can rely on even beyond the grant period. In this perspective, Civitates has been closely collaborating with the Reference Network – a self-organised journalistic network that aims to address the business matters of journalism together as well as to advocate for infrastructural funding of independent media on a European level.

The most recent grantee meeting was in May 2022 where Civitates grantees together with the Reference Network members addressed different issues related to managerial tasks in media organisations. Follow-ups on this topic will be organised in the coming months together with the Reference Network. Another in-person meeting is envisioned in December under the theme of “*Audience engagement beyond numbers and monetisation: how to assure continuous interest in the news*”. The goal of this meeting is for grantees to learn from each other, as well as from experts in the field, exchange experience and best practices, and develop relationships with their peers.

European Artificial Intelligence (A.I) Fund

Foundations involved: Mozilla (Chair), Luminate (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: 6 million €

Timeframe: 2020-2025

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 a resilient ecosystem of civil society organisations shaping policy on Artificial Intelligence so that it serves the needs of people and society, respects human rights and promotes fair, inclusive and sustainable democracies.

The development, use and regulation of Artificial Intelligence is largely shaped by the interests of governments and the tech industry without adequate concern for the needs of the individuals and communities it affects. This entrenches existing power imbalances and leads to AI that can exacerbate social injustice, amplify structural inequalities, infringe people's rights, undermine democracy and compromise climate action. It is now a critical time in the development of regulation that will set the direction of AI in Europe over the long term and civil society organisations need to be an active and effective partner in shaping policy so that AI serves the needs of people and society. The fund exists to empower a diverse and resilient ecosystem of civil society organisations to shape Artificial Intelligence policy and to galvanise the philanthropic sector to sustain this vital work.

Latest developments:

In March 2022, Catherine Miller started her role as the fund's Director.

There have been some changes on the governance level: Becky Hogge resigned the co-chair in May 2022 as she was leaving OSF. Carla Hustedt of Mercator will be proposed to the Steering Committee as new co-chair in October 2022.

During its last Steering Committee meeting (May 18, 2022), the group discussed the fund's growth strategy. There was an overall appetite to continue the participation in the fund, beyond the initial period of 2020-2023. Funders expressed interest to continue supporting the fund, in some cases with an increased contribution. The Fund will present a strategy for the period 2023-25 for consideration by the Steering Committee at the next meeting in October.

The group also took the decision to launch a new call. The application for the Open Call 2022 was launched in June 2022. The call invited applications for core funding of between €50,000 and €250,000 over two years that will support organisations to build policy and advocacy capacity. The grants will support specialist organisations working on digital issues to have greater impact, but also organisations focused on other issues such as climate, race, migration, labour rights or justice among others to better understand how AI affects the communities they represent and advocate for their needs.

Based on the feedback that the fund received from its grantee partners, the Open Call 2020 application process was perceived as onerous. The fund's management team took this feedback into account for the design of the 2022 edition of the Open Call (with a light weight first round application form). Additionally, during the call process, the fund organised weekly information sessions for potential applicants. In total the fund received 143 applications from 33 different countries. In addition to the geographic diversity, the applications also represented a thematic diversity. Most of the organisations that applied have previous experience in working on AI-related issues (90 out of 143). 63 applications were selected for review. The Selection Committee is composed of Mercator, Robert Bosch Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation, Mozilla, OSF and Bertelsmann Stiftung, with the support of experts. To date, 32 organisations are selected for the second round of the application process. To help smaller / volunteer-led organisations, the fund brought in a consultant to mentor the applicants and help review their application. The Selection Committee will decide on the cohort of new grantees at Mid-October.

As part of its working pillars, the fund also commissioned research in May to better understand where European investment into the development of Artificial Intelligence technologies and applications is directed. This research will support the fund's work to strengthen the civil society ecosystem by enabling civil society organisations to scrutinise and interrogate this spending and shape future investments.

Priorities for 2023 include:

- Onboarding of the fund's new cohort of grantees
- Renew the cohort of current grantees
- Focus on Objective 3 of the current strategy: Alternative Futures
- Further implementing the fund's communication, Funding + and growth strategy

European Fund for the Balkans

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

Budget 2022: 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, 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. The aim is to provide a flexible response to formal and informal groups fighting to contribute to their local communities and protect public interest. The goal is to have three calls every year (January, May and September). **In 2022, around 30 organisations are supported.**

Engaged Democracy Initiative

In the first half of the year, within the Engaged Democracy Initiative (EDI) five thematic regional meetings were organised across the region. The meetings enabled the networking and exchange between local initiatives and movements working on the same issues (public space, environment, human rights, media and decent work). As a follow up, a study visit for a selected group of eight individual changemakers was organised in Brussels, allowing them to meet and establish contacts with relevant EU and Brussels-based institutions and organisations. In Kosovo, a panel focused on rights of civil society activists was organised with the aim to highlight the intimidation that the civil society faces in the region.

Engaged Balkans Platform

The Engaged Balkans Platform is a safe online space where engaged citizens of the Western Balkans can easily connect with each other, share their experience and knowledge. The platform was launched at the beginning of

2022 and has gathered **more than 200 selected, trustworthy and engaged individuals and representatives of initiatives and movements**. The platform is a joint effort of the European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) and the Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE) and an integral part of the Engaged Democracy Initiative.

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, are undertaking from January – November 2022 a comprehensive research project, focusing on the Dutch attitudes towards enlargement and the EU. While many observers classify the Netherlands as fundamentally skeptical about enlargement, this is often attributed to a negative attitude among the Dutch population. However, the outbreak of the Russian war in Ukraine reinforced the European unity and placed the EU foreign policy and its instruments back in the center of public attention. Thus, the research project is trying to de-code how deeply rooted the skepticism and “rejection” in the population really is, whether this topic is of great importance to the population in the Netherlands, and how the negative attitude towards EU enlargement is related to broader perceptions of the European Union per se.

This comprehensive research is encompassing 3 phase methodology, public opinion poll, focus groups and interviews with decision and policy makers in the Netherlands. **The Final Study will be launched at Clingendael, on November 25**. Preliminary results have been presented on September 12, in a closed session at the European External Action Service, Western Balkans Corner, and at the EU Enlargement Think tank Forum, in Prague, October 13-15.

BiEPAG blogs are available at <https://biepag.eu/blog/> and the list of recent events <https://biepag.eu/events/>.

EFB Alumni Network

The beeEFB Alumni Network and its board, in coordination with EFB, have been focused on organising **national meet-ups** across the Western Balkans, 3 different joint cross-border projects initiated by the alumni and the preparations for a new beeEffect Programme. **The beeEffect programme is singled out as a flagship activity in the frame of the beeEFB Alumni Network**. It will gather a diverse group of young professionals with great impact-making potential. The programme will provide a carefully designed experience developed and led by beeEFB alumni members, with the goal to equip them with skills and networking opportunities and create pathways to have an impact in their communities. **The launching event took place in October 2022 in Serbia**.

The beeEFB, as the alumni network of 400+ senior and mid-career professionals from the Western Balkans and wider region will offer a contextualized and holistic programme for the new generation of change makers, building on their own experience and by employing and utilizing the capacity and resources built in the past 15 years.

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: 8.4 million euros in 2022

Timeframe: EPIM has existed since 2005. Its current programme strategy covers the timeframe 2019-2023, with funding committed to 2025.

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 across local, national, regional and EU levels. Funds are allocated through the following targeted thematic funds: 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. EPIM also has a Discretionary Fund, through which it has supported emerging needs in the past, and is currently funding projects that address the displacement from Ukraine.

Latest developments:

EPIM's response to the Ukraine crisis

EPIM has put forward its Discretionary Fund mechanism to pool additional funding to respond to the needs that are arising, and will arise, from the Ukraine crisis in Europe, aimed at supporting all those fleeing the war in Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, (dis)ability, sexual orientation, and migration status. Thanks to the trust and support of Open Society Foundations, Robert Bosch Foundation, Fondation de France, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Adessium, Compagnia di San Paolo, Kahane Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Porticus foundation, EPIM fundraised €4.8 million over the course of several months. Not focusing on emergency humanitarian aid, EPIM has focused its response on varying needs including those related to access to housing, education, employment, legal and psycho-social aid, supporting actors of all shapes and sizes, from tiny collaboratives to large umbrella organizations. So far, EPIM confirmed a total of 14 grants to local, regional, national and transnational projects in Central and Eastern Europe, Greece, the U.K. and France (ECRE, Safe Passage, Médecins du Monde Greece, Greek Forum of Refugees, Centre for Legal Aid (Bulgaria), Lighthouse Reports, From Streets to Homes Association, ERGO-European Roma Grassroots Organisations network, Union of Exiled Students, Next Step, Fédération de l'Entraide Protestante, Jesuit Refugee Service, International Women Space, International Child Development Initiatives), committing just under €2.1 million with several others in the pipeline. EPIM has also [published](#) its learnings on funding in emergency with Inside Philanthropy.

Process of Change

Anticipating the end of its programmatic cycle at the close of 2023 and accelerated by the context and implementation of its Ukraine Response, EPIM embarked on a far-reaching Process of Change in the Spring of 2022, fully supported by its Steering Committee. The Process will last 18 months, and will look at the why, how and what of EPIM as a collaborative fund – rethinking its mission and vision, grant-making and governance structures. The process is driven and managed by the EPIM team, with the support and expertise of an external advisory group as well as its Executive Committee, and other bespoke experts.

Convening conversations on systemic racism in migration policy

EPIM brought together civil society organisations from the migration, anti-racism and social policy spaces, researchers and journalists to exchange on the nexus between systemic racism and migration, including related opportunities, challenges and risks.

Changes in the EPIM team

In May, EPIM recruited Senior Programme Manager, Hrishabh Sandilya, to lead its work on narrative change, including also the Thematic Fund on Strategic Communications, as well as to engage in and co-shape EPIM's Process of Change. During the summer of 2022, programme managers Stephan Burger and Fanny Georges also left EPIM. The team decided to reshuffle operations and will be recruiting a Budget and Grants Manager to lead its budget, grant-making as well as learning frameworks as of November 2022.

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, Danish Refugee Council/PRAB, Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN)

Main developments:

- EPIM awarded two continuation grants to PRAB (Protecting Rights at Borders) initiative led by DRC and to BVMN (Border Violence Monitoring Network). The projects respectively aim to address rights compliance and accountability at EU internal and external borders, and provide insight evidence of the use of artificial intelligence at the borders in the Western Balkans, Turkey and Greece.
- As part of its strand focusing on the nexus between technology and borders, EPIM teamed up with the European AI Fund to host a first exploratory online convening between digital rights and migrant rights actors to connect and share in the Spring of 2022. EPIM is assessing the take-aways from that convening as well as other exchanges with actors in the field in order to strategically and meaningfully shape its support to the sector.

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; Utopia56.

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. On the basis of requests for proposals, grants have been approved to HumanRights360, Oxfam Italy, PICUM and most recently Utopia56.

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 was published in Spring 2022 and the final selection of grantees will take place before the end of 2022.

Main developments:

- The Thematic Fund adopted a new strategy for the period 2021-2024. It will support national coalitions, including organisations and movements (co-)driven by people with lived migration experience to strategically engage public discourse on migration within their national contexts, which EPIM will complement with exchange and peer learning at European level.
- An [open call to support projects to transform narratives](#) was published in Spring 2022, and EPIM is currently managing the selection process with the support of a Consultative Group of experts in the field. EPIM aims to select the grantees before the end of the year.

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 2022: European Citizen Action Service (ECAS); European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

Main developments:

- EPIM confirmed continuation grants to ECAS and FEANTSA. Their projects will respectively aim to remove legal and administrative challenges faced by mobile EU citizens and their non-EU family members and improve the situation of mobile EU citizens experiencing destitution across Europe.
- In September, EPIM brought together 20 civil society representatives from across the Channel in Brussels, to address the challenges that UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK face post-Brexit, and to mirror ongoing government engagement. This offered participants a chance to:
 - Make connections and explore partnerships that focus on issues faced by EU and UK citizens and their families
 - Share intelligence, challenges and learnings to ensure their rights
 - Identify and discuss action pathways to address challenges faced by mobile citizens, particularly those at risk of marginalisation

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; Chico Mendes, European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance; Fonds de Dotation Merci

Main developments:

- As a result of its [Call for Proposals](#) on 'Decent Work and Adequate Housing' for All', EPIM selected the following projects for funding. All focus specifically on ecosystem building and involve collaborations across sectors, as well as between CSOs and other actors, including local authorities, the corporate sector, and trade unions.
 - Chico Mendes, in collaboration with Associazione NO CAP, aims to enhance the collaboration throughout the agri-food chain between local NGOs, agricultural cooperatives, producer associations to end the labour exploitation of migrants in Calabria (Italy) and beyond.
 - Fond the Dotation Merci is piloting a project to revitalise the rural municipality of Callac (France) with the involvement of public authorities, citizen initiatives, and refugees to turn it into a model that could be scaled.
 - The European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance will establish multistakeholder dialogues to ensure the meaningful inclusion of sex workers in policymaking to improve the situation of those among them who are at risk of evictions, homelessness, exploitation and trafficking.

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 mid-2022.

Latest developments:

This project has been closed within NEF after completion of all its sunset activities. To close out the Evaluation Fund and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of its partners, the Evaluation Fund hosted a side event at the [SVRI Forum in Cancún, Mexico](#).

[The Evaluation Fund: Reducing Violence Against Children](#) was founded in recognition that violence prevention interventions should be evidence-based, culturally relevant and contextually appropriate. The final report, *Preventing violence against children: Building the evidence of what works. A snapshot of the Evaluation Fund's 22 supported studies in low- and middle-income countries* highlights the evidence generated over the last decade on what works to prevent violence against children.

When the fund was launched in 2011, it carried the name of the *Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund* – indeed because it faced the challenge that much of the evidence used to design childhood violence prevention programs in the Global South was derived from research developed in high-income countries and reflected Western settings. To address this evidence gap, the Evaluation Fund has supported 22 evaluative research projects in 18 low- and middle-income countries over the last decade.

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 2020-23: 1,9 million €

Timeframe: 2020-22

NEF hosts FETA administratively. It is implemented in collaboration with IFOK and Climate Outreach as well as with national facilitators and policy experts. Evaluation is carried out by ODS.

Background:

The Fair Energy Transition for All project aims to improve the development of fair energy transition policies by providing national and EU policymakers 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 has organised a consultative and listening process with vulnerable people in Europe. This project started in the spring of 2020 and will last until December 2023.

The project has organised consultations and focus groups in nine European countries: Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Bulgaria. 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 economic than ecological motives. A sense of existing unfairness, mistrust of political institutions and fears of losing the autonomy of choice were common across the continent.

The key results from the focus groups been presented to stakeholders via a webinar on March 17, 2022: **‘Energy Transition. What do vulnerable people say?’**

National Expert Meetings: The focus groups’ results have been discussed by 150 experts at a national level in National Expert Meetings between May and July 2022. The aim was to develop draft policy recommendations considering the voices of the vulnerable and unheard people.

Fair Energy Forums (FEF): The draft policy recommendations that were produced by national experts have been reviewed and prioritised in a Fair Energy Forum in each of the countries involved. Each Forum was comprised of representatives of the original focus groups.

National reports have been produced, presenting the final recommendations for each participating country. These reports are available on the FETA website. Policy partners at national level are disseminating and advocating the results via different medias and events in the participating countries.

EU Task Force: The EU Task Force is the European counterpart to the National Expert Meetings. It has been launched in October 2021 and has produced recommendations for EU policymakers. They will be presented to EU policy-makers early November 2022.

Under the coordination of IFOK and KBF, operational partners are starting a journey to capture the methodology learnings and develop a toolbox to reach out and give a voice to unheard people in policy development processes.

Evaluation is ongoing by ODS, as well as 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; published and presented via EPC/KBF/IFOK joint webinar on March 17, 2022; press release on the same day.
- National reports with final recommendations for fair energy transition at country level.
- Regular blog articles on the FETA website.

Next steps:

- Finalize the EU policy paper and present it to policymakers early November via a final event
- Ongoing advocacy at country level
- Finalize the methodology toolbox to capture and share the learnings, and inspire others to use it for collecting the voices of the unheard
- Final evaluation
- Workshop in January 2023 with partnering foundations to brainstorm about potential next steps

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 2022: 500.000 €

Timeframe: 2016–2023

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 renewed commitment of its partner foundations enables to launch a new call for projects in early 2023. The relevance of the choices made during the second call (2019) has been confirmed by the good results of the projects underway. But the context in which the agro-ecological transition takes place, has changed a lot over the last few years: new challenges are emerging with new types of crises....

While confirming its commitment to the FOs that propose solutions and fight for this transition, how can JAFOWA's support be made even more relevant and efficient and meet their expectations? The **guidelines for this next call** will be developed in the coming weeks. The project monitoring missions and the September 2022 workshop have paved the ground for a joint reflection with farmers' organisations. This analysis work will be deepened through new exchanges **with the FOs and with resource persons (experts, regional partners, advisory committee, etc.)**

The annual workshop for exchanging experiences and capitalising on the "**Promotion of agroecology - Scaling up agroecological practices**" was held in Thiès (Senegal) at the end of September. It provided an opportunity to explore two common themes with 10 FOs and their partners: solutions for better access to bio-inputs and the promotion of agroecological products on local and national markets. It will result in a **collective publication** at the end of the first quarter of 2023.

The JAFOWA Steering Committee has refined **its gender approach** and decided to start with **a pilot in Senegal**. Support to FOs should start in November in Senegal before a collective workshop with all partners to draw lessons in June 2023. Afterwards the approach will be adapted for deployment in Burkina Faso. The approach offers support via local coaches to FOs that wish to develop a gender strategy. Following this exercise and feedback from the field, JAFOWA also wishes to better integrate gender into its theory of change.

JAFOWA has also committed to support the 'Network of Farmers' and Farmers' Organisations in West Africa (ROPPA) for two years for the implementation of the advocacy dimension of its agro ecological programme.

Finally, in terms of communication, a short film (12 minutes) was produced to present the programme, with a particular focus on the partnership dynamics (video soon available on the [website](#)).

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:

The PEHRC network remains active with members regularly sharing updates and identifying synergies. There are 150 members from 85 organisations, from 22 countries. The Consortium holds monthly global calls, as well as needs-based sub-group calls on areas requested by members, as well as learning and sharing sessions. Examples of joint activities include joint statements, commissioning research, supporting local advocacy efforts, and arranging panels at international fora.

The network shares a monthly newsletter, weekly briefings, a shared calendar of events, monitors key issue areas, and creates opportunities for members to interact with each other on a regular basis. It has recently launched its website, and sub-network groups of academics and students working/interested in the field are currently being built. The network meets every 18 months in person to reflect on milestones achieved and devise a strategy for the forthcoming year.

This year the Consortium has been focussing on bringing together a number of areas of its work into one campaign (Campaign 2022). As part of this, a number of joint statements have been released throughout the year, leading up to a larger sign-on statement and launch at the end of 2022/start of 2023. The network is currently building out an extensive Handbook of its activities as well as a Toolkit for local organisations to have readily accessible in their advocacy efforts. PEHRC also launched its website. Each year an increased number of learning sessions have been organised for members, this year the topics have included litigation, EdTech, tips for building a campaign, and the Abidjan Principles (bilingual).

PEHRC has been working on strengthening ties with similar movements, including the Francophone network, and a wider public services network in the making, and it has created a side-network bringing together academics working in the field. The Fellowship Programme set up in 2019 has continued to grow with five students joining for a placement this year.

An external review of the Consortium was conducted this year to evaluate the progress made since its inception, and to document the story of the Consortium's evolution. The review will also be shared with similar networks which PEHRC has been supporting (health, public sector movement). In November this year the network will meet in Chile for its global meeting, and to join the Future is Public conference, in which PEHRC is part of the core organisational group. The conference aims to bring together 300 organisations working across ten sectors that are working on strengthening public services worldwide.

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:

In April 2022 the TransForm PM, Gefra Fulane, left for an international job opportunity in Geneva. This has triggered existential questions to the partnership which has been unsuccessful in stabilizing the programme management over the past months. SC members acknowledged in their June SC meeting that TransForm has been operating in an “emergency mode” that has made it difficult to develop a strategy, to implement activities smoothly and to involve new partners.

Against this background, foundation partners decided to review their ambition and plan the sunset of TransForm.

They agreed to design an exit strategy to successfully end this phase of the programme, producing a legacy that can be used to promote ICC also in the future. The “Legacy” should be ready by the end of 2022/beginning of 2023. To finalise the work, a consultancy has been activated: Nieves Ehrenberg, a former consultant to TransForm, could re-engage.

EFPC Conference 2022 and Changemakers’ Forum

In a first place TransForm talked with the EFPC so that TransForm is better integrated in their conference, through its keynote speaker Valeria Cappellato (board Member, Compagnia di San Paolo) and a dedicated workshop. The idea of a ‘back to back conference’ was hence abandoned. Instead, TransForm was given more space and visibility in the conference programming (ref to [program](#)).

The conference is also the opportunity to wrap up with the ChangeMakers. TransForm organised a dedicated workshop with them on September 27. All changemakers were also invited to the EFPC conference to be able to participate actively in the discussions and grow their network.

Organising TransForm’s legacy

In order to ensure the learnings from the Changemakers Forum are captured effectively so they can be shared as part of TransForm’s legacy, Nieves is working to identify and highlight, through real life examples, how to operationalize the integrated community care effectiveness principles, particularly on community engagement and involving experts by experience.

This seems to be the greatest area of interest identified throughout the Changemakers’ journey over the last couple of years. It was clear during the last workshop of May 23-24 in Brussels, that it is one thing to have an effectiveness principle, but what does it actually look like in practice and how do you get there? The task is

therefore to consolidate these findings and develop clear and pragmatic guidance on how to better engage the community and experts by experience in a way that allows for adaptation to particular contexts.

For this mission, Nieves will visit and interview the different Changemakers over the autumn. Ultimately, it is envisaged that a Q&A format will present practical solutions/ tools/ templates to common problems and share concrete examples. Additionally, the findings could turn into a chapter contribution to the next edition of Springer's Handbook for Integrated Care (<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-56103-5>)