



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, Fondation de France.

Budget 2023: 3.4 million €

Timeframe: 2021-2025

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe is developed and 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 improving 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:

Conclusion of the 2021 fund for covid solidarity and learnings

In December 2022, the Alliance concluded the partnerships of the 2021 fund for covid solidarity.

The Alliance distributed 600 000€ in grants to support 13 grantees, mainly small organisations, working on violence against women, economic opportunities, education, and women’s rights in 10 European countries. Grantees stated that the Alliance’s (core) funding supported their capacity and sustainable work as well as organisational development. For instance, they highlighted following benefits: contribution to the financial stability; recruitment of additional core staff; possibility to start working on an emerging topic; dedicating time to strategic planning; creating spin-off structures in under-served areas; developing new partnerships and visibility; etc.

Based on learnings from this first round of grants, the Alliance will continue offering core support and proposes streamlined applications, grants management and reporting processes. The program will systematise site visits and one-on-one engagement with grantees to build more meaningful relationships. Furthermore, the Alliance will start discussing how it could make its funding more flexible, especially providing applications in several languages, including the advisory committee at the scoping stage of the call for proposals and eventually piloting participatory grantmaking. [Annual report](#) for 2022 is here.

Growth and structuring of the Alliance

Since October 2022, the Alliance has continued developing its growth and structure. JP Morgan joined the Alliance, committing 3.5M€ with a focus on ‘economic inclusion’. Fondation CHANEL renewed its commitment for 3 years (2023-2025) with 4.5M€. Fondation de France has also recently joined the partnership.

In February Rinuccia La Ruina joined the Alliance as programme officer. Moreover, the steering committee reviewed governance rules to accommodate for the recent growth, and finalised the Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation framework. The Alliance is now concluding the Funding+ framework to support organisations with their organisational development and reflects on enhancing its advocacy/comms component.

Launch of a new call for proposals

In January 2023, the Alliance launched a [new call for proposals](#) for ‘**impactful and sustainable community-driven solutions that promote economic opportunities for marginalised women, transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people in Europe**’. The call for proposals targeted 17 countries across Europe: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The Alliance received 364 applications. There is a balance in terms of geographic distribution. More than half of the applications relate to jobs and skills, 18% to financial independence and finally 11% to entrepreneurship. Most of the proposals serve the intended various target groups: 64% target marginalised women, with the main group being Migrants and/or ethnic minorities.

A total of 3.5M€ will be distributed in 2-year grants of 60K€ to 150K€ in total per organisation. An additional 826 000€ will be committed towards implementing a Funding+ model of organisational development support and a learning community. The Alliance expects to fund between 25 and 30 grantees.

Civitates - A Philanthropic Initiative for Democracy and Solidarity in Europe

Foundations involved: Adesium Foundation, 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 2023: 2.7 million €

Timeframe: 2021-2023 (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:

Europeanising civic space

Civitates committed €400 K in grants to enhance collaboration and connections between the national and EU level.

Bringing in actors whose core mission is to help civil society better coordinate, carry the advocacy efforts in Brussels and offer opportunities for networking and convergence at a pan-European level is a valuable addition to supporting a strong and resilient civil society in Europe. The 6 organisations that Civitates will be supporting in 2023 act as intermediaries that connect and coordinate the work of national civil societies, have them feed in the debate at the European level, and make their voices heard, urging the institutions to take stronger actions to protect and support civil society across Europe.

The new group of grantees has very good knowledge of the EU policy landscape, the capacity to follow the policy debate, identify the right opportunities, and are with well-established lines of communication with relevant policymakers:

- Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties): € 60, 000
- European Civic Forum: € 60, 000
- European Centre for non-for-profit-law (ECNL): € 60, 000
- European Policy Centre: € 59, 400
- Social Platform: € 90, 000
- Hungarian Helsinki Committee: € 60, 050

All grants started in January 2023 and will be for one year.

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

In November 2022, Civitates and the European AI Fund brought together 40 people from their grantees that work on different aspects of digital and tech policy to foster connections and identify the best ways to support each other. Participants exchanged inspirational ideas for collective action from other sectors like the climate movement, gained insights into EU advocacy strategies, and reflected on the infrastructure that is needed to work better together.

The event (the first time many of the participants had been able to meet in person) created fantastic energy and generated a multitude of ideas to develop further. These are some of the most striking themes:

- the more civil society organisations that work on tech issues, the better
- investment in strategic communication can help to promote new ideas and alternatives for responsible and public-interest-driven technology
- organisations that don't traditionally work on tech should be part of tech conversations and gain a deeper understanding of the issues at stake
- it is important to have a strong connection between the local, the national level, where much of the enforcement of relevant legislation happens, and the EU level, where regulations are drafted

Civitates and the European AI Fund will continue to work as it proves beneficial of aligning forces.

Welcoming a new director

Elisa Peter joined Civitates as the Fund's new Director in January 2023. Elisa brings more than two decades of experience in fostering open, just and resilient societies through her work in multilateral organisations and civil society. She led the United Nations' Non-Governmental Liaison Service to strengthen public participation in the UN's deliberations to advance its international development agenda. She also spearheaded international civil society networks and multi-stakeholder coalitions in the pursuit of sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

Civitates strategic development

Civitates is going through a strategic refresh. Civitates Steering Committee is convening in April to re-commit to the vision and mission of the fund in a way that matches the aspirations and ambition of the group and to define and agree as a group on 3-5 overarching ambitious goals for Civitates that can guide and galvanize the energy over the next 5 years.

As part of the process, Civitates has commissioned consultants to extract lessons learnt for Civitates and draft concrete recommendations on how the fund, through its sub fund approach, can be more impactful in supporting civil society and independent media.

European Artificial Intelligence (A.I) & Society Fund

Foundations involved: Mozilla (Co-Chair), Stiftung Mercator (Co-Chair) King Baudouin Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Luminate, Oak Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, Bosch Foundation, Foundation Nicolas Puech, Limelight Foundation, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Porticus

Budget 2023: 1.9 million €

Timeframe: 2020-2025

The European AI & Society Fund is a project hosted and developed by NEF.

Background:

The European AI & Society 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:

Rebranding to better communicate the Fund's mission

In February 2023, the fund changed its name to European AI & Society Fund. The needs of people and society were at the heart of the fund's mission, but it wasn't always visible to everyone outside. The new name reflects better the fund's work: the European AI & Society Fund will continue to empower a diverse ecosystem of civil society organisations to shape policies around AI in the public interest and to galvanise the philanthropic sector: [website](#).

Internal updates

The fund's team recently grew from 2 to 3: in March 2023, Līva Vikmane has joined the European AI & Society Fund as Networks and Communications manager. She will work with our grantees to communicate insights from their work and amplify the impact of our community.

The governance structure has also seen changes: Carla Hustedt (Stiftung Mercator) has been formally nominated as the fund's Co-Chair.

During its last Steering Committee meeting (October 11, 2022), the group discussed and validated the fund's strategy for the period 2023-2025 - Read [Annual report 2022](#). This document also highlights the impact the fund's grantees have had over the past year, the contribution of the funding partners and the fund's current and future priorities.

Grant making and developments in the ecosystem

As of November 2022, [14 new organisations](#) are supported by the Fund with funding of €1.9 million over the two-year period – they were selected through the Open Call 2022. This new cohort includes organisations with skills such as algorithmic auditing, strategic litigation and investigative journalism that can take on the challenge of closely watching the implementation and enforcement of the latest legislation. They bring strong expertise on issues such as migration, health and criminal justice as well as work with marginalised communities and people with disabilities, among other groups.

Fund's Director Catherine Miller [wrote a blog about learnings](#) from the 2022 Open Call process, also sharing some reflections on the process that might be helpful to other funders.

In November 2022, the European AI & Society Fund [co-hosted a convening](#) with Civitates exploring how civil society collectively can take on the big challenges of digital policy. Participants voiced that for their work to have impact in the digital field, it needs to collaborate with other social rights movements and it needs to grow from all aspects - the number and diversity of organisations, the amount of funding, and the capacity of the organisations to do this work.

New Research: How public money is shaping the future direction of AI

As part of the previous strategy, the Fund commissioned to [Eticas Tech](#) and launched new [research](#) to better understand where European investment into the development of AI technologies and applications is directed. The report reveals a significant mismatch between the EU's ambition in leading on responsible AI and allocation of its own funds for this objective. Some of the main findings include the lack of systematic civil society engagement in design and receipt of the EU funds for AI, as well as no impact assessment mechanisms to evaluate the impact of projects on individuals and society.

Priorities for 2023 include:

- Offering small grants outside of the fund's current cohorts to respond to the high interest from CSOs to work on AI and grow the civil society ecosystem working on AI policy and advocacy.
- Philanthropic growth: engaging a more diverse range of philanthropic institutions in sustaining civil society work in Europe on policy related to AI.
- Launching the Future Narratives closed call: enabling organisations to develop new future narratives for technology that works for people.
- Further advancing on implementation of 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 2023: 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.

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/June and September). Up until now, around 50 initiatives/organisations are supported.

Engaged Democracy Initiative

The second "Engaged Democracy Convention vol.2 Engage, Inspire, Empower!" will take place on May 17 to 20, 2023, in Pristina, Kosovo.

The first "Engaged Democracy Convention" took place 2021 in Belgrade under the slogan "Engage, Inspire, Empower!" and was a starting point in creating a space of trust for sharing experiences and good practices and for establishing the Engaged Democracy Initiative (EDI) network. In the meantime, 5 thematic meetings (environment, public spaces, decent work, rights of activists, media/communication, all elaborated together with participants) across the region were organized. A study visit to Brussels took place in autumn 2022 and the work on the online platform Engaged Balkans continued. The "Engaged Democracy Convention vol.2" in Pristina will take the network a step further: besides providing a space for exchange, sharing experiences and good practices the network will work together towards creating and effectively connecting local-level needs and activities on the regional level. The main goal of the second EDI Convention is to gather members of the EDI network in one place, boost and energise the network and enhance the regional cooperation between individuals and organisations by giving them an opportunity to propose small projects prior the Convention that fall into one of the five topics and

have a regional dimension. During EDI Convention a competition will be organized to vote for specific proposals that will be financially supported.

Engaged Balkans Platform

The Engaged Balkans Platform is a closed online space, providing a safe space, where engaged citizens from the EDI network and upon recommendation 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 300 selected, trustworthy and engaged individuals and representatives of initiatives and movements. In 2022 around 10 online meetings were organised, covering topics related to thematic groups and around 28k messages were sent through platforms threads, inbox, etc. Since the main purpose is to be user oriented, members were sent an evaluation, that is currently taking place.

Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)

In January, BiEPAG had a successful event at the Danish Parliament. The event was planned and postponed for two years. In the end, it gathered around 150 people and showed the renewed interest of Denmark for the western Balkans. Additionally, to other regular ongoing activities, BiEPAG started a cooperation with the European Climate Foundation regarding the Western Balkans energy sector and geopolitics. A deep analysis including a baseline study, public opinion polls in all 6 Western Balkan countries, as well as 3 case studies in half of them, will try to answer the question on the blockages to green energy transition in the Western Balkans, the impact of the energy crisis and of the presence and influence of foreign actors with investments in the region's energy sector. The main goal is to advocate for increased EU support to green energy transition in the Western Balkans through the articulation of evidence-based policy recommendations.

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 Annual event was held in Skopje on 3-5 March 2023. The EFB alumni gathering brought around 70 people from the countries of the Western Balkans region and EU together, shedding a light on key achievements of 2022, but also enabling concrete planning of activities for 2023. The agenda was filled with inspiring talks, co-creation sessions and plans for joint efforts to move things forward and create an impact on individual and societal level in the region.

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 2023: 6.9 million €

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

EPIM is a programme developed and hosted 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 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 responded to 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, Agency for Migration and Adaptation (AMIGA), CILD, Consortium, Orbit vzw) committing over €3.1 million. EPIM also published its learnings on funding in emergency with [Inside Philanthropy](#) and on the [situation in Central and Eastern Europe with Forum 2000](#).

Process of Change

Supported by the Steering Committee, EPIM embarked on a wide-ranging Process of Change in the Spring of 2022, anticipating the end of the programmatic cycle in 2023 and accelerated by the changing European displacement context and the implementation of EPIM's Ukraine Response.

The POC will last 18 months, looking at the why, how, and what of EPIM as a collaborative fund, to rethink its mission and vision, grant-making and governance structures and build on the achievements of the past to strengthen its impact going forward.

The process is being driven by the EPIM team, with the support and expertise of an external advisory group, the Executive Committee, and other subject matter experts, including Modern Grantmaking, and external facilitators from the Open Space Collective.

Changes in the EPIM team

In November 2022, EPIM recruited Rosario Alioto as 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 2023: International Detention Coalition (IDC), Centre for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria, Cyprus Refugee Council (CyRC), HumanRights360, Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD), Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Danish Refugee Council/PRAB, Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN), Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC), European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Migration Policy Institute (MPI).

Main developments:

- EPIM awarded a continuation grant to the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC). The project aims to address the abuse of blanket security reasons in deportation and asylum procedures across the bloc.
- Centre for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria, Cyprus Refugee Council (CyRC), Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD) and HumanRights360, began the implementation of their Alternatives to Detention (ATD) initiatives which were approved in 2021. In parallel, International Detention Coalition (IDC) will continue steering the work of the European ATD Network to build on the work of the ATD pilots to date and ensure that they become embedded within national level migration management systems.

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 2023: HumanRights360, Oxfam Italy, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), The Young Republic, Utopia56.

Main developments:

- In the context of the Thematic Fund's 2021-2023 strategy, EPIM is focusing 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. Grants have been awarded to HumanRights360 in Greece, Oxfam in Italy, PICUM at European level and most recently Utopia56 in France.

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 2023: CISV, IMIX, Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen (VWV),

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.

- Supported by an expert consultative group, an open call to support projects to transform narratives around migration, was published in Spring 2022. Out of a 127 received applications, EPIM will ultimately support four projects - coalitions led by Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen in Belgium, IMIX in the UK and a coalition each in Poland and Italy.

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 2023: 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.

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 2023: European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Chico Mendes, European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance; Fonds de Dotation Merci, Next Step.

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.
 - In Belgium, ORBIT vzw will use the current momentum of civilian solidarity with Ukraine and seek to expand some of the innovative and advantageous policies to all of newcomers while also using the organisation's established methods in offering support in setting up new local refugee housing associations.
 - In Hungary, besides offering immediate support to children and families displaced from Ukraine, Next Step will address barriers to decent work and adequate housing, through collaboration with the private sector.

Fair Energy Transition for All (FETA)

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

Budget 2023: 407,110 €

Timeframe: 2020-23

NEF hosts FETA. It is implemented in collaboration with IFOK, EPC, 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 900 invisible, unheard and non-represented vulnerable people in 9 EU Member States. This project started in the spring of 2020 and will last until the spring 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:

The Fair Energy Transition for All (FETA) project is based on two years of listening deeply to the concerns and hopes of Europe's most vulnerable citizens on the transition to green energy. It offers a blueprint for change across the continent that can ensure wide public support and spread the benefits of renewal to those living in or close to poverty.

The approval of those least able to absorb the transitional costs of giving up fossil fuels matters profoundly. Without it, we face failure. Enacting such a programme would be difficult at the best of times; in the aftermath of a pandemic, amid a war with Europe's biggest gas supplier that is fueling a cost-of-living crisis, these are not the best of times. Yet making urgent energy savings, reducing waste and switching to a clean system with efficiency and renewable energy production at its core cannot be further delayed.

There is public acceptance of the need for sacrifices. However, to maintain and build this support, fairness and equity must be shown to be as much the ambition of the transition as its other aims. For that, FETA proposes an array of measures and tools for governments at every level.

Final deliverables of the program include:

- EU report with recommendations at EU level.
- 9 national reports with recommendations for each participating country.
- A final report which presents the key learnings from the FETA project on how to design a fair energy transition considering the needs of vulnerable people.
- A final EU event co-organized with EPC/IFOK/KBF to present the recommendations to EU policymakers.
- A presentation at the COP 27 EU/ILO Fair Energy Transition Pavilion
- Final events in the participating countries to deliver the recommendations to national policymakers.
- A video about the project and its methodology.
- Testimonies from participants.
- Project website.
- A method guide.

Next steps include finalizing the method guide and ensure its dissemination via Foundations. The future of FETA recommendations is still under discussion, the Steering Committee will decide in the next weeks.

Yet, the project is closing at the NEF level and final reporting is being finalised.

Healthy Food Healthy Planet (HFHP)

Foundations involved: Oak Foundation, Climate Works foundation

Budget 2023: around 2.000,000 €

Timeframe: April 2023- May 2024

Healthy Food Healthy Planet is hosted by NEF.

Background:

Healthy Food Healthy Planet brings together funders and organizations from different sectors (health, food, climate change, biodiversity, animal welfare, labour rights and just transitions) that share the belief that the current food system is unsustainable, unhealthy and unjust. The way animal sourced food is consumed is a major cause of this - HFHP's shared goal is to decrease the consumption of extractive animal sourced foods and to promote sustainable plant-based and pasture-based foods through changing our food environments.

As a group HFHP is inspired by the seven principles of the Global Alliance of the Future of Food, and aims to cultivate trust, collaboration and shared narratives. It builds capacity with others and shares experience, research, evaluation and learning. Where needed, it creates additional resources and infrastructure to strengthen the movement. To achieve its goals, it aims to build momentum towards transformative change at subnational, national and EU level, by supporting a grassroots pan-European movement.

HFHP also aims to facilitate joint learning, campaigning, strategizing or other forms of collaboration across national and sector-specific networks and initiatives.

Latest developments:

NEF is hosting this initiative since the beginning of April and is currently in the process of transferring contracts from its previous host ClimateWorks. Around 15 grantees are still funded through Climate Works or the European Public Health Alliance: the grantee partners will finalise their open contracts with both organisations. In 2023 HFHP will re-open grants through NEF through a participatory scheme called 'the Kitchen table', unfolding from the new governance model adopted last December by HFHP.

To learn more about the dynamics and strategy around movements building of HFHP please read the website- <https://www.healthyfoodhealthyplanet.eu/>

HFHP is also working on the reconfiguration of the team with the support of the [Leadership Team](#), in coordination of NEF and its governance.

The proposed journey for this year is grounded in a lot of reading about recent trends in movements, food environments, observations and reflections from over 170 conversations with funders and civil society from mainly Germany, UK, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands. These range from very local groups or community-based organisations to national-level NGOs and EU-wide organisations. It also builds on the work that has been done by the part-time contractors since the adoption of the strategic framework emanating from the Spring Forum held in May 2021 and the further strategic reflections held during the first face-to-face event held in Berlin in September 2022, called the Bike of Bees.

Accompanying the workplan is a total starting budget of approximately Euro 2.02 million (April 2023 – March 2024), of which Euro 1.37 million in grants.

In 2023, the Coordination Team will focus on the following three inter-linked objectives:

- **Living the Hive**

This includes the grant-making in service of movement building as well as any online and offline events. It also has a strong focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and ‘artivism’.

- **‘Movementalising’ the funded projects**

This includes the transformational learning and amplification of the existing projects which will inform the next series of funded projects as part of objective 1.

- **Strengthening the structure**

This includes the holacratic governance structure (including the National Weavers), the backstopping and HR structure with NEF as well as growing the pooled fund and overall resources.

HUB for Democratic Culture

Foundations involved: Robert Bosch Stiftung, ERSTE Stiftung, Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

Budget 2023: 676,000 €

Timeframe: 2023-2026

The HUB is hosted by NEF.

Background:

In the DACH region (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), there are many organizations, individuals and foundations that are working with innovative solutions, high motivation and resources to defend and develop democracy further.

However, these solutions are often thought of and executed nationally, their scaling succeeds too rarely, and there is a lack of a societal function that strategically brings actors together. This is precisely where the HUB for Democratic Culture (HUB) comes into play. It is a network that unites and strengthens democratic forces, a space that acts as an aggregator for new solutions and scaling, and a platform for shared learning. Ultimately, it is a place to make our democracies intersectoral, intersectional, and international.

The HUB focuses forces to achieve a self-confident and resilient democratic culture in the DACH Region. Its aim is to connect and coordinate different parts of society to arrive at a common cross-border answers to the challenges our democracy faces today. The HUB addresses itself to initiatives and organisations that can act as multipliers in their respective fields of work and can assume an activating, reinforcing and supporting roles in their sphere of influence.

The initiative operates through three implementing partners: Initiative Offene Gesellschaft e. V. in Germany, Stiftung Dialog - Campus für Demokratie in Switzerland and Demokratie21 in Austria.

Latest developments:

NEF is hosting this new initiative since the beginning of April, and the grant agreement has been formalized with the main implementing partner Initiative Offene Gesellschaft e. V. Disbursement of funds for the first year is expected by the end of April.

The implementation of activities in the first months of the initiative include setting up the operating system hub, soft launch, and designing of the thematic process. The partnership agreement between the different partners of the initiative is still under preparation and discussion.

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

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

Budget 2023: 1.3 million €

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:

2023 marks the closing of the second phase of JAFOWA and the launching of a new cycle. This is an opportunity to draw lessons on the programme and its partnership with farmer organisations (FOs). With the end of the funding, the supported projects were analysed in a participatory approach with the FOs and their partners to highlight their strengths, difficulties and perspectives.

The beginning of the year also focused on designing the next programme cycle and its roadmap.

JAFOWA's main added value remains at its core- JAFOWA will continue working with the partner farmer organizations from the previous cycle, to consolidate their agroecological transition and to promote widely the dissemination of agroecological practices.

Later during this year, it is foreseen to brainstorm with the JAFOWA Advisory Board so as to refine JAFOWA's strategy against the background of an evolving context with renewed challenges. The idea is to open the programme to new farmer organisations and new foundation partners. In this regard, the King Baudouin Foundation has recently joined the Steering Committee with a strong interest to support entrepreneurship in Africa and pilot new instruments/tools.

The work of the Steering Committee to refine JAFOWA's gender approach continues. After conducting a gender diagnosis of the farmer organisations, the Steering Committee initiated a reflection on how to promote a transformative approach to gender, without imposing a Western vision of gender. Exchanges are planned with the farmers' organisations to define where JAFOWA could be most relevant in supporting them in fostering gender equity.

In term of communication, JAFOWA reviewed its graphic chart and logo. JAFOWA will also finalise its capitalisation on agroecological practices, drawing from the different experiences and expertise amongst its FO partners.

Privatisation in Education and Human Rights Consortium

Foundations involved: OSF, Anonymous Donor

Budget 2023: 188,000 €

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 also works on developing affiliated networks with academics and students working/interested in the field to increase synergies and collaboration.

In November 2022 the network was part of the core organising group for a global meeting held in Santiago de Chile, Our Future is Public, where 300 organisations convened from 10 different public sectors. PEHRC was the education sector lead and organised the programme for 70 participants from across the globe in three languages.

Following this meeting PEHRC's newly rotated Facilitation Group is now planning a session of strategy sessions to determine the future steps of the network. At present key issues of interest include EdTech, Tax Justice and education, Early Childhood Education and the providing positive public solutions, and the implementation of the Abidjan Principles.

NEF has announced to the PERC that the project no longer aligns with the NEF mission and criteria to host a project. An exit phase has been planned until the end of 2023.

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 2023: 114,000 €

Timeframe: 2017-2023

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:

During the last quarter of 2022 and first of 2023, Nieves Ehrenberg along with the SC has continued to consolidate the legacy of TransForm, as the closure of the program is planned in the end of April 2023.

ICIC23 Conference and Changemakers' Forum

TransForm will participate in the [ICIC23 Conference](#) in Antwerp via the workshop “Bridging the gap between the conceptual and the practical – reflections on the opportunities and challenges of meaningful engagement of people with lived experience in the context of integrated community care”, with the aim of exploring the opportunities and challenges of meaningful engagement of people with lived experience in the context of integrated community care.

Three Changemakers have been invited as part of the workshop to present their innovative ICC practices as a way of co-production of wellbeing, as well as two people with lived experience.

Dissemination of TransForm's legacy

Learnings from the Changemakers Forum and examples on how to operationalize the integrated community care effectiveness principles, especially on community engagement and involving experts by experience are captured in TransForm's legacy paper “Engaging people with lived experience and community participation as the basis for Integrated Community Care - TransForm changemakers' experiences and joint reflections”.

Dissemination of the document is key- it has been translated into French, Dutch, Spanish, German, and Italian with the aim to reach a wide audience. Its publication is planned on TransForm's website and through Transform's various partners and networks. Additionally, the findings will turn into an article to be published by IJIC, and 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>).

In parallel, a review of the website will be carried to reorganize and refresh its content, as well as to launch the legacy and present the latest publications produced.