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Network^{of}
European
Foundations

Partnering For Impact

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



Edito



Throughout the course of this year, the NEF board has engaged in strategic discussions with the aim of clarifying NEF's approach to philanthropy and how it translates into practice. This reflection unfolded at an opportune time given the growth of the collaborative projects at NEF.

A result from these discussions is the definition of NEF's two operating models: on the one hand, NEF plays the role of an 'hosting platform', providing purely administrative and financial support to hosted projects. On the other hand, NEF acts as a 'cultivation hub', where it plays a more extensive role with funder collaborative projects aligned around field or movement building. A 'cultivation hub' approach supports funder collaborative projects in learning from a community of projects and can offer more hands-on support. This role of 'cultivator' is also better connected to the heart of NEF's purpose: collaboration and 'partnering for impact'.

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Highlights

The European Fund for the Balkans turns 15



... and is more needed than ever.

Back in 2008, when the EFB was founded by the Robert Bosch Foundation, the ERSTE Stiftung, the King Baudouin Foundation and Compagnia di San Paolo, the aim was to bring the Balkans closer to the European Union. After two successful rounds of enlargement of the European Union back in 2004 and in 2007, it seemed that the integration of the region was a question of boosting administrative capacity and a few years of committed work.

The EFB contributed to this drive forward by unfolding great capacity building programmes targeting bright government officials or changemakers with its flagship programmes “Fellowship programme for governmental officials” and “Leadership Development Programme”.

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NEF's journey into DEI



Back in December of last year NEF embarked on a process to explore how to better implement Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) principles in the workplace and its grant making practices. Throughout four sessions facilitated by [Le Next Level](#) during the first half of the year, we jointly reflected on what our blind spots are and what an ongoing effort to address them looks like, learned how to identify, interrupt,

and prevent discrimination in the workplace, imagined what an inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment looks like and the specific changes needed to achieve it, and discussed how to move forward in our context.

The overarching objective was to get started on the process and to foster exchanges to ultimately come up with an individualized roadmap for each of the collaborative projects and for NEF in order to collectively embrace DEI in day-to-day operations.

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Updates

Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe is pleased to announce that it has just selected 26 small and medium-size frontline organisations in 16 countries across the European Union and the United Kingdom to receive 3.470.000€ in two-year grants as awardees of our [2023 economic opportunities fund](#).

Civitates

To mark its five-year anniversary, Civitates has been undergoing a strategic refresh to hone its focus and inform its next chapter. It is expected that the new strategy, including priorities for its three portfolios (civic power, tech and democracy, media) will be finalised and widely disseminated by the end of the year.

EPIM

EPIM, in cooperation with regional CSOs AMIGA and Mareena, co-hosted a Ukraine Response CEE Convening in Prague on June 21-22. The two days provided space for 40+ civil society, government, philanthropic, private sector actors and migrant-led organisations from across the region to address issues of integration and inclusion...

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European AI and Society Fund

The European AI & Society Fund recently published a new landscape review '[Who's Funding AI & Society Work in Europe?](#)'. It aims to understand how to engage more philanthropic organisations in supporting the growing field. The findings reveal that more organisations...

JAFOWA

JAFOWA completed its second cycle this year. The period was devoted to evaluation, analysis and preparation of a new call for proposals. An initial call for proposals was launched in June, targeting partner farmers' organisations from the previous cycle with a view to strengthening...

Healthy Food Healthy Planet

In July, HFHP organised the first meeting of the new 'Kitchen Table', which replaces a more traditional funder steering committee with one comprising equal numbers of foundations and CSOs (3 each). The Kitchen Table sets the strategic direction of HFHP and takes the ultimate decisions...

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