



NEF

State of Play

Network^{of}
European
Foundations

Update October 2023

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*

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| <u>Foundations involved:</u> | Fondation CHANEL, Fonds L’Oréal pour les Femmes, King Baudouin Foundation, Bodossaki Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Fondation de France, Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici |
| <u>Budget 2023:</u> | c.a. 3 million € |
| <u>Timeframe:</u> | 2021-2025 |

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe is cultivated through 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. In this context, they ensure that people 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:

Growth and structuring of the Alliance

In April 2023, Fondation de France and Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici joined the Alliance. Fondation de France committed to 50 000€ per year (2023 and 2024 – renewable) and Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici to 50 000€ for 2023 (renewable). Moreover, the Alliance Programme Manager visited Steering Committee members during the summer to discuss on different strategic questions, such as the Alliance’s ambitions for the next 3 years, the Alliance’s grantmaking practices, and its communication and growth plans. Against this background, the Alliance held a Steering Committee meeting on 18 September to continue the dialogue on these and other topics.

2023 economic opportunities fund

In July 2023, the Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe has **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 its [2023 economic opportunities fund](#). This was the second open call for proposals, yet more important in terms of overall funding. It aims at driving impactful and sustainable community-driven solutions that promote economic opportunities mainly for marginalised women, transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people living in Europe. The Alliance has been providing those organisations with grants up to 150.000€ and opportunities for networking, peer-learning and organisational development. For more insight on the call- please read the [article](#) or the reflections on the accessibility, equity and decision-making processes of the call for proposals [here](#).

In the meantime, the Alliance has already onboarded and contracted with all grantees. In October 2023, the team conducted a site visit to two new grantees in the UK (GirlDreamer and The Sororum) and met with partners there.

New partnership with FAIR SHARE of Women Leaders

In the context of its Funding+ program, the Alliance decided to support a 1-year pilot partnership with [FAIR SHARE](#) in the format of a **50.000€ grant**. Following this, grantees and foundations partners will have access to FAIR SHARE’s [leadership hub](#), a community-led and peer-to-peer learning and networking space for women leaders.

Alliance support to Choisir la Cause des femmes

The Alliance will support the conference «THE BEST OF EUROPE FOR WOMEN» organised by *Choisir la Cause des femmes* taking place from the 3rd to the 6th of December 2023 in Nantes (France) with a **grant of 85.000€**. The aim of the conference is to draw up a European citizens' initiative for the adoption, at European level, of a set of laws most favourable to the emancipation of women, based on the best laws existing in EU member states.

Alliance's learning event and grantee convening on 28 and 29 November 2023

To discuss impactful strategies to achieve economic gender equality in Europe, the Alliance will host a learning event for funders and policymakers as well as a grantee convening on 28 and 29 November this year. At this occasion, the Alliance's Steering Committee will meet on 29 November to reflect on the Alliance's recent developments and learnings as well as to further strategize on the Alliance's priorities and way forward.

Civitates - A Philanthropic Initiative for Democracy and Solidarity in Europe

Foundations involved: Adessium Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Erste Stiftung, European Cultural Foundation, Fondation de France, Fritt Ord Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation (Chair), Oak Foundation, Limelight Foundation, 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 cultivated through NEF.

Background:

Civitates is a philanthropic initiative for democracy and civic space 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:

Strategic refresh

Building on reviews commissioned earlier this year, which surfaced insights and lessons learnt from across Civitates' three portfolios (civic power, tech and democracy, media) since the establishment of Civitates, the Steering Committee committed to three new collective goals for the next five years:

- To strengthen the ecosystem for and space in which independent civil society and media operate as a means to promote collective engagement in public life.
- To foster a pluralistic public debate (online and offline), counter disinformation and address the impact of new technologies on democracy.
- To act as a catalyst for effective private and public funding for democracy and civic space in Europe.

Working groups are now discussing how these goals translate into new objectives and priorities for each of the subfunds or portfolios, with a view to having a final strategy approved before the end of the year. This new strategy will inform calls for proposals across all three portfolios in early 2024.

Partnerships renewals

The 2023 strategy refresh has been an opportunity for donors to renew their engagement in the collaborative. All the foundations partners but three (who have left the collaborative because of a change in their priorities) have expressed their commitment to Civitates for another 3-year period and new cooperation partnerships are being finalised for the coming 2-3 years. A few foundations, which have not been part of the collaborative thus far, have expressed an interest to join Civitates and those will be invited to participate as observers in the upcoming strategy meeting in Brussels at the end of November.

Grant renewals

All Civitates grants to organisations across all three portfolios are coming to an end this year. Decisions have been taken in principle by the three working groups to renew grants to existing anchor grantees for a year while Civitates finalises its direction of travel. That represents 12 grants in the civic power portfolio, 8 grants in the tech and democracy portfolio and 11 grants in the media portfolio. These decisions are currently being communicated to grantee partners, with a view to having all new grant agreements finalised before the end of the year. When possible, Civitates increases its support to grantees to adjust for inflation and enable them to operate at full capacity in what will be a pivotal election year in the European Union.

New team structure and changes in the governance

In order to ensure a fit-for-purpose team able to deliver on the refreshed Civitates strategy, three new roles have been created: Senior Programme Manager for Tech and Democracy; Senior Programme Manager for Civic Power and Media; Grants and Programme Officer. Samuel Sigere has joined the Civitates team as Programme Officer at the beginning of October, coming with a grant making experience at the Commission. Recruitment is still ongoing for two roles at the time of this report, with promising applicants. NEF team at large and consultants have been supporting Civitates during the transition since Roy and Katia have finalised their contract with Civitates in July.

It is expected that the new team will be fully operational by the end of the year. It was decided to pause the Funding + initiatives for the time being because of the lack of capacity to process these requests at this time.

In parallel it is time to renew the Executive Committee composition : with changes happening within foundations, a few representatives can no longer engage into the Civitates Executive committee. New members are expected to join to re activate this level of the Civitates governance.

European Artificial Intelligence (A.I) & Society Fund

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

Budget 2023: 2.05 million €

Timeframe: 2020-2025

The European AI & Society Fund is a project cultivated through NEF.

Background:

The European AI & Society Fund works to shape Artificial Intelligence to better serve people and society.

Too often the development, use and regulation of Artificial Intelligence is driven by the interests of governments and the tech industry without adequate concern for the individuals and communities it affects. This can lead to AI that exacerbates social injustice, amplifies structural inequalities, infringes people's rights, undermines democracy

and compromises climate action. It is now a critical time in the development of policies that will set the direction of AI in Europe over the long term. Civil society organisations need to be an active and effective partner in shaping these policies so that AI serves the needs of people and society.

The European AI & Society Fund exists to empower civil society organisations to engage in policy around AI and to galvanise the philanthropic sector to sustain this vital work, so that AI serves the needs of people and society, respects human rights and promotes fair, inclusive and sustainable democracies.

Latest developments:

Grant making and developments in the ecosystem

During summer the Fund run its first Ecosystem Grants Programme designed to support organisations to implement projects with AI policy focus, with a grant of up to €30.000, and a total programme budget of €200.000. [Seven Ecosystem projects](#) were selected in a strong competition among 159 applicants. They will work on AI policy from different angles, including on the protection of the rights of platform and data workers, conduct research on generative AI, build capacity of Muslim organisations to engage in advocacy around cases of anti-Muslim bias in algorithmic systems and forge connections between racial-justice activism in Europe.

The new grantees have joined the Fund's grantee community, and as of October 2023, the Fund is supporting a total of [37 grantee partners](#).

The European AI & Society Fund commissioned [a report](#), written by Centre for AI and Digital Policy, mapping capacities and resources that civil society organisations will need to support the implementation of the European Artificial Intelligence Act. The report outlines strategies for funders to make sure that the tremendous impact on AI accountability and safety achieved by grantee community through advocacy on AI regulation, is sustained throughout the implementation of the regulation.

Landscape review: Who is funding AI & Society work in Europe?

This [landscape review](#) undertaken by the Fund aims to understand how to engage more philanthropic organisations in supporting the field. In order to do so, the Fund has surveyed grantees to understand their needs, researched the current funding landscape and interviewed a number of foundations that are not yet Fund's partners to understand the opportunities and barriers to growing philanthropic engagement around AI. This research builds on the Fund's previous [mapping conducted in 2021](#).

Despite the growing interest in AI, the report reveals that the field remains under-resourced given the scale of the challenges it aims to address and there is far greater appetite in civil society to take on this work than the Fund is able to meet. It was also demonstrated by the vast amount of applicants for the Ecosystem Grants programme, where only 1 in 20 applications was successful in securing funding.

Internal updates

During its last meeting (May 10, 2022), the Steering Committee appointed Guillermo Beltrà (Open Society Foundations) as the new Co-chair of the Fund and thanked the outgoing Co-chair Mark Surman (Mozilla) for his work.

The group also discussed [the funding landscape in the field of AI & Society](#), Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) approach of the Fund, as well as building strategic communications capacity of the field.

The SC meeting was held on 24 October, with the discussions focusing on the future funding strategy.

Following the exchange in the Steering Committee and workshops organised by NEF, the Fund has published its [approach to DEI](#) on the website.

European Fund for the Balkans

Foundations involved: King Baudouin Foundation (Chair); Robert Bosch Stiftung; 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 improvement of genuine regional cooperation among 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.

Latest developments:

Engaged Democracy Initiative

Response Hub

The EFB established in 2021 the Response Hub, an instrument of micro granting. With the aim to provide a flexible and fast response to formal and informal groups fighting to contribute to their local communities and protect the public interest, EFB has now supported around 100 initiatives/organisations. The call is open three times per year.

Engaged Democracy Convention

Since the beginning of the Engaged Democracy Initiative and the need for engaged citizens to gather around the same topics and through discussion support each other, EFB and the Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE) recognized the opportunity and organized the second EDI Convention in Pristina in May. The regional format gathered around 100 representatives of local initiatives and NGOs from the Western Balkans, which were involved with issues of democratization, social injustice, and accountability of institutions. The gathering served as a platform to support their cooperation, networking, and joint work on preserving and promoting values of open, solidarity-based, and democratic societies. The second Convention in Pristina, with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, had a competition for each thematic group (public spaces, environment, human rights/rights of citizens, media, and decent work) where participants themselves voted for the best five regional projects. The importance of the EDI Convention in Pristina have been recognized and supported by the FES Dialogue Southeast Europe and the European Endowment for Democracy (EED).

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, and share their experience and knowledge. The platform was launched at the beginning of 2022 and until now gathers more than 400 selected, trustworthy, and engaged individuals and representatives of initiatives and movements. During this time, the platform served as a place for virtual discussions on the most important topics in the region, workshops, and lectures with skilled members of the platform about project writing, and media presentation, SLAPP lawsuits. Members from the platform have exclusive rights to apply for the Response Hub micro-granting. Twice a month, users are informed about the most interesting posts and activities through a newsletter digest.

Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)

The Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group is conducting a comprehensive study about the geopolitics of the green energy transition in the Western Balkans. The research is based on background desk research, public opinion polls conducted in March and April 2023; and case studies. The first output that set the base for the development

of the project was the background paper [Energy in the Western Balkans](#) that was presented and discussed at the event in EPC in Brussels on 23 May 2023.

More information on this project: <https://biepag.eu/geopolitics-and-energy-transition/>

BiEPAG's Publications

In the light of the 20th anniversary EU-Western Balkans Summit in Thessaloniki and the 'Thessaloniki declaration' the **Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)** organised the presentation of its latest policy brief '[Keeping the Thessaloniki promise: How to Make Enlargement Work for All?](#)' The closed event was held in the European Parliament on June 29th and in cooperation with the Enlargement, Western Europe and Northern Cooperation Unit of the Directorate General for External Policies of the Union of the European Parliament (DG EXPO). The previous BiEPAG publication on regional cooperation in the Western Balkans was presented at a [policy forum](#) in Tirana.

All BiEPAG publications are available at: <https://biepag.eu/publications/>

BiEPAG Reflection Board

BiEPAG welcomed its new Reflection Board which represents an additional pool of inspiration, advice, and reflection on current issues and strategic directions of BiEPAG as a group. Their bios are at the following [link](#).

BiEPAG Podcast

The premiere of the first episode of the **BiEPAG podcast series** [Seriously Balkans – The BiEPAG Talks](#) was in April 2023. The podcast is hosted by Florian Bieber (BiEPAG's Coordinator, Director of Centre for Southeast European Studies, Graz) joined by Tena Prelec (BiEPAG Member, Research Associate at the University of Oxford) and Damir Kapidzic (BiEPAG Member, Associate Professor, University of Sarajevo). So far, 4 episodes have been published and are available at all podcast streaming platforms.

Listen the podcast at: <https://shows.acast.com/seriously-balkans-the-biepag-talks>

beeEFB Alumni Network

The Launching Event of the second edition of the beeEffect Programme, as part of activities of the beeEFB Alumni Network, was held in Serbia from 27 September to 1 October. The gathering served as a peer learning and exchange with the members of the beeEFB Alumni Network and the new participants. The 5-day agenda was filled with mentoring sessions, lectures, and workshops, but also lots of networking and outdoor activities. The participants were introduced to the programme and the dynamic of the learning exchange and curriculum planning for the next few months, which include different online and offline activities. This was the first stop of the whole beeEffect learning journey for the participants from across the Western Balkans and EU. More info on the programme: <https://balkanfund.org/about-the-beeeffect-programme>

EFB 15th Anniversary in Belgrade

September 27th in Belgrade was all about the EFB 15. The European Fund for the Balkans gathered its friends, partners, alumni, beneficiaries, and collaborators from across the Western Balkans and EU to mark its 15th anniversary. Since 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. Until today, the EFB is working on the same goal.

Check the [photo gallery](#).

European Programme for Integration and Migration

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

Foundations involved (Associate): Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Fondazione Peppino Vismara, Fondazione Con Il Sud

Budget 2023: 6.9 million €

Timeframe: EPIM has existed since 2005. Its current programme strategy covers the timeframe 2019-2024, with funding committed to 2025. A strategy for 2024-2028 was recently approved.

EPIM is a programme cultivated through NEF.

Background:

EPIM 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 Political Response, Opportunity and Innovation Fund, through which it has supported emerging needs in the past and is currently funding projects that address the displacement from Ukraine.

Latest developments:

Process of Change and New Strategy

In October 2023, EPIM's partner foundations approved its new strategy for 2024-2028, bringing to a close the foundational phase of the Process of Change that has run since Spring 2022.

EPIM's new strategy offers a new Theory of Change, a renewed Approach and Priorities including four Action Pillars, the thematic Clusters, multiple Tools and Resources and Learning Framework, and a new Governance model, including the creation of a general body Forum, an expanded Executive Council and separate Committees of Practitioners and Experts for the Thematic Clusters, all of which will be comprised of non-funder participants in a 50% ratio.

The foundation partners also approved a change of name for the collaborative which will be announced in 2024, once the new strategy is deployed.

Changes in the Team and EPIM's Governance

Over the summer, Sophie Ngo-Diep and Hrishabh Sandilya took over as Co-Directors of EPIM, from Milica Petrovic who left to return to the European Commission.

The team is currently recruiting a Programme Manager to lead EPIM's future work on the migration governance thematic cluster, who is expected to start in December 2023.

Audrey Guichon (Porticus) and Ilaria Caramia (Compagnia di San Paolo) will officially join the Executive Committee as of November 2023.

Other Programme Updates

EPIM is working on a budget modernisation process and the adoption of a new automated financial management system for EPIM. The system has been developed in closed coordination with NEF.

EPIM's Response to the Ukraine crisis

Work on the Ukraine Response continued unabated, and the funding has transitioned from an emergency response to a focus on building inclusive societies in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), echoing EPIM's new thematic cluster on the subject. In collaboration with regional partners, in June 2023, EPIM organised a first-ever convening of actors working on migration and inclusion in CEE in Prague, with a focus on the mid-to-long term.

The next steps include the funding a CEE collaborative network infrastructure for long-term inclusion and migration governance building on the lessons learnt from the Ukraine response, the funding of an Online infrastructure for the CEE network going forward and funding the creation of a Slovak consortium/network interlocutor of migration-focussed organisations. This is in addition to bilateral grants that EPIM will continue to provide.

Updates from 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

Updates:

- EPIM's support to the 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, for Alternatives to Detention (ATD) pilots is slowly coming to an end in 2023.
- Reflecting this, EPIM will work with Eiri Ohtani from Right to Remain to identify learnings from this support and its meaning for EPIM's new strategy.

Thematic fund on 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

Updates:

- 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 through support for an advocacy coalition at EU and national advocacy coalitions in Italy, Greece and 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.

Updates:

- EPIM continues to support four narrative change projects across Europe - coalitions led by Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen in Belgium, IMIX in the UK, CISV in Italy and AIPG in Romania
- A Community of Practice led by Sophia Burton of Migration Matters will be launched in Fall 2023, to develop a common understanding of narrative change in migration in Europe, and to support the cohort of coalitions across Europe

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.

Updates:

- EPIM's funding to projects by ECAS and FEANTSA continues. Their projects 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.

Updates:

- EPIM continues to fund actors from chosen in 2022 from its open call on Decent Work and Adequate Housing for All. The projects focus 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.
- EPIM has launched a pilot to explore a systemic and more inclusive approach to addressing the deskilling and underemployment of professionals with a migration background. A Council of Practitioners has been formed to sense make, map systemically and discover levers of change, and to finally put forward recommendations for funding by the end of this year.

Healthy Food Healthy Planet (HFHP)

Foundations involved: Oak Foundation, Climate Works Foundation, Fourfold Foundation

Budget 2023: around 1.700.000 €

Timeframe: April 2023- December 2024

Healthy Food Healthy Planet was initially hosted by ClimateWorks Foundation and is cultivated through NEF as of April 2023.

Background:

Healthy Food Healthy Planet brings together funders and organisations from different sectors (health, food, climate change, biodiversity, animal welfare, labour rights and just transitions) who share the belief that the current food system is unsustainable, unhealthy and unjust. HFHP started in 2020, based on a sense of urgency about the impact of current food production, consumption and waste on both people and planet. Global food systems are responsible for between a third and a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions as well as environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and human and animal ill-health and exploitation. Europe was chosen as the initial focus of the initiative as there are signs across food systems and among policymakers of a desire for transformation, with the potential for standard-setting at a global level.

In 2021, together with over 150 CSOs and funders, HFHP co-created an HFHP Strategic Framework, embracing a desire for a Europe where healthy, just and sustainable food environments become the norm and harmful agriculture ends. The framework is based on three key levers for change: 1) retail; 2) sub-national action; 3) private finance. Narratives, strategic litigation and engaging the health sector are cross-cutting levers. While the levers provide a helpful framework for action, there is increasing recognition that solutions can no longer be developed in issue siloes, and that there is an opportunity to cross-pollinate, share learning and drive momentum.

HFHP strives to achieve its aims through three pillars of action: a) movement-building; b) grant-making and c) transformational (un)learning.

Latest developments:

NEF has been hosting this initiative since the beginning of April. 16 grantees are still funded through Climate Works or the European Public Health Alliance and/or have ended their projects under these grants and are in the process of reporting to CWF and EPHA. NEF has already issued grants for HFHP in service of the movement-building (2 re-granting agreements for micro-grants in the creative space and for local campaigns, respectively, and one to organise the HFHP Annual Forum in Hungary in November).

This summer also saw HFHP start the transition to more participatory grant-making, with a 'Kitchen Table' made up of 3 funders (Oak Foundation, European Climate Foundation and Moleskine Foundation) and 3 CSOs (Danish Vegetarian Society, Slow Food International and CECU – the Spanish consumer organisation) replacing a more traditional funder steering committee. Instead of a call for proposals like the one launched and completed in 2021-2022, HFHP is trying to foster collaboration and synergies among CSOs by supporting convenings and other activities for CSOs to produce joint proposals for campaigns and initiatives. The first pilot meeting of this kind took place in Switzerland in September and the Kitchen Table is expected to approve 3+ grants stemming from this event for a total of around €800,000 at its next meeting in November. The first HFHP Annual Forum will also take place on 15 November near Budapest in Hungary, on the sidelines of Agroecology Europe's annual gathering.

To learn more about the dynamics and strategy around the HFHP movement-building, please refer to the website- <https://www.healthyfoodhealthyplanet.eu/>, [sign up for the newsletter](#) and [consider joining the Hive \(HFHP's online social media-like community\)](#).

HFHP is also working on the reconfiguration of the team with the support of the [Leadership Team](#). By the end of 2023, HFHP will be staffed by a Director and by a Programme Manager.

HUB for Democratic Culture – Faktor D

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

Budget 2023: 676.000 €

Timeframe: 2023-2026

Faktor D 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 Faktor D - The HUB for Democratic Culture 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.

Faktor D 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. Faktor D 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:

New name: Faktor D

The Hub was renamed to “Faktor D – Democracy Hub”. Faktor D captures the purpose and story of the project in a meaningful way: Our democracies are faced with major tasks. The name, Faktor D, signals that, like in maths, the solutions we seek will always be the result of an equation of many parts: ideas, networks and committed actors. Each part of the equation is in itself an important factor for democracy. The hub's task is now to strategically bring them all together – beyond the boundaries of sectors and the individual countries of the DACH region. And finally, democracy itself is the decisive factor: Wherever we face the central challenges of our time, democracy must be part of the solution. Faktor D upholds this vital role.

Branding and Website:

A preliminary website for Faktor D was launched in June. Meanwhile a brand and logo are being developed and a new version of the website will be released in autumn.

Community Survey:

In order to engage the democracy community and to create activities with the Hub that meet their needs, a community survey was conducted in summer. The survey asked about topics and formats that are currently relevant for stakeholders. In addition to the online survey, 35 personal interviews were conducted.

The most important topics according to the survey are: Attractiveness of involvement in politics and administration at the local level; Political participation for disadvantaged people at the municipal level; Digital citizenship education; Access to political education for different target groups; Fake News; Bringing technologies for citizen participation and users together. In terms of formats, there is particularly high demand for science and democracy communication.

First outreach and events: Over the summer, Faktor D hosted its first events. Online and offline kickoff-events were held in Germany, Switzerland and Austria by the respective national organizations. In August, the team came together at European Forum Alpbach in Austria. During these days, the hub hosted a Democracy Social – a networking event during which the idea of Faktor D was presented to and discussed with more than 300 participants.

Preparation and launch of first thematic mission: A core goal of Faktor D is to improve collaboration and strategic learning on relevant challenges to democracy in the DACH-area. This is done through thematic missions, during which stakeholders working on a topic are brought together to share know-how, good practise and to work together on innovations in their area of expertise. During the last months, the concept and first pilot of the thematic mission were further elaborated. Based on the results of the community survey and the meeting of the

strategy committee, the topic for the first mission was selected: Youth participation on the local level. An open call for participation was published and is being distributed – the goal is to bring together a group of maximum 30 stakeholders from the field who are motivated to develop new strategies and solutions. In addition to the innovation process, Faktor D sheds light on local youth participation with a variety of events and communication activities. On October 30, the hub will host an event called “Im Diskurs – Research insights on youth participation”. Three scientists working on the subject in Germany, Austria and Switzerland will present and discuss their current findings and youth, democracy and participation.

Governance: The *strategy committee* (“Strategiegremium”), which has an advisory function for the hub, was formed over the summer with a total of 10 democracy experts Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The members represent different sectors and bring together a wide range of expertise. The committee met for the first time at the beginning of September. At the meeting, the results of the community survey were presented and discussed together, and the topic for the first thematic mission was selected on this basis. Moreover, the Supervisory Board (“Rat”), met with the operative team during the European Forum Alpbach in August. At the meeting, the milestones achieved so far were presented and discussed, and arrangements were made for communication between the Board and the team.

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

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| <u>Foundations involved:</u> | Compagnia di San Paolo; Fondazione Cariplo; Fondation de France (Chair); Foundation for a Just Society (USA), and King Baudouin Foundation. |
| <u>Budget 2023:</u> | 1.3 million € |
| <u>Timeframe:</u> | 2016–2023 |

JAFOWA is a programme cultivated through 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:

As part of its third project cycle, JAFOWA has spread its calls for proposals over 2 phases:

- First call for proposals restricted to partner farmer organisations (FOS) from JAFOWA’s second cycle to consolidate their projects.
- Second call for proposals in early 2024, open to new FOs.

Following the launch of the call for proposals open to farmer organisations previously supported in Senegal and Burkina Faso, 6 projects have been selected and are in the process of being contracted. This will allow their actions to be strengthened, promote the scaling up of agroecological practices and ensure their economic viability.

A second call for projects will be launched at the beginning of 2024, after the direction of the programme has been redefined.

JAFOWA wishes to update its strategy in order to adapt it to changing contexts, the challenges and trends of agroecology in its areas of intervention, and to respond as closely as possible to the needs of farmer organisations. A strategy workshop is planned for early December 2023. The aim is to revisit the issues, define priorities and refine the strategy.

The workshop will take place on 5 and 6 December in Paris and will be attended by the partner foundations, various West African experts on agroecology and farmer organisations.

JAFOWA is working to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation system, adapting it to the capacities of farmer organisations, while remaining in line with the methods for monitoring the agroecological transition. A working group is being set up with 2 international NGOs to support the development and implementation of this monitoring and evaluation system.

Privatisation in Education and Human Rights Consortium

Foundations involved: OSF, Anonymous Donor

Budget 2023: 188.000 €

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 currently around 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. At present key issues of interest that the group collaborates around include EdTech, Tax Justice and education, Early Childhood Education and the providing positive public solutions, and the implementation of the Abidjan Principles.

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 organisation and delivery of 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.

The group is currently working on an extensive background document bringing together all of our current work to date as a resource for the website, and a useful brief for members to use in their local work. The network is also close to releasing a global public statement advocating for the strengthening of public education. Smaller projects have also begun on local training on the Abidjan Principles for government officials in Kenya and lawyers in Nepal, as well as a research project looking into digitalisation in education and its impact in Latin America.

NEF is working with PEHRC to define the next steps on their exit strategy to happen by the end of 2023. The project will be hosted by the Right to Education Initiative (one member of the PEHRC), which now hosts the PEHRC coordinator and will ensure the coordination of the project. An MoU is being draft to ensure the appropriate transfer of funds and responsibilities. Finally, when open grants with funders can be closed, they will be: NEF works with the PEHRC coordinator on the final reports for a few grants that got multiple extensions during Covid.