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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

Network^{of}
European
Foundations

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PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

1. EDITORIAL



This NEF spring newsletter will reach you in exceptional days. We report on what we have achieved in the first months of the year and what we plan for autumn. Between the two, there is a gap. A gap called "confinement" when we try to offer flexibility and timely support to our current partners who face huge challenges in their operations and, when we can, we react with new projects in the face of emergency.

For example, EPIM examines the situation of migrants in camps in Greece where the spread of the virus should be contained; Civitates fears that the shrinking space for the civil society sector will be reactivated when a few European governments propose 'exceptional measures' during the 'sanitary war' which could last after the crisis.

In these days, we will reflect on where and how our collective action makes sense. We are currently suffering from global interdependence. All the questions that arise today arise at the time when our societies were *already* deeply questioning our societal, environmental and economic choices. If we go back to the essence of philanthropy, the capacity of human beings to engage out of solidarity, to consider the common good before their own interest, we can open new tracks, be creative and have the courage to get through this period. Our programmes will collect these stories of civic engagement. Now more than ever, we shall cultivate the stories where human action has met the challenges.

2. HIGHLIGHTS

Civitates



In December 2019, the Civitates Steering Committee approved a third line of work within [Civitates](#) which aims to support independent public interest journalism in Europe. After a series of strategic meetings and consultations with experts, Civitates issued a request for proposal in early March 2020. Civitates will provide core grants to strengthen public interest journalism organisations across Europe. The geographic scope of this line of work has also been extended to the Balkans.

Link to the RFP: <https://civitates-eu.org/request-for-proposals-independent-public-interest-journalism/>

Civitates also commissioned an early evaluation of its grantmaking in the line of work, which addresses shrinking the space for civil society. The report was generally positive and contains some recommendations for the working group on the way forward. As it points out, *“for the most part, coalitions are up and running, with work plans in place, and buy-in from partners. This should, generally speaking, be a matter of satisfaction to the Working Group, given its assumptions and approach going in. Accordingly, it should, with the exceptions noted, consider some level of renewal support for most grantees going forward.”*

3. UPDATES

European Programme on Integration and Migration – EPIM



As part of its efforts to support migrant-led advocacy and initiatives aimed at greater ownership of and influence over the policy agendas that concern them, [EPIM](#) commissioned the research report '[Migrant-led advocacy across Europe](#)'.

The report by [MB Capacity Development](#) identifies barriers to the participation of migrant advocates in policy making and makes recommendations to policy makers, non-migrant-led civil society organizations (CSOs), funders and migrant advocates: what are the challenges that migrants face in influencing decision-making? How could these be addressed? What could collaboration with other CSOs look like? How can funders help create an environment conducive to migrant-led advocacy in Europe?

Recommendations to funders include calls for greater involvement of migrant advocates in grant-making processes and strategies, calls for proposals dedicated to actions led by migrant-led initiatives, greater flexibility in funding applications as well as core support to migrant-led organisations.

The Evaluation Fund



In February 2020, [the Evaluation Fund](#) selected four research projects to be supported under the East Africa call for proposals. These four projects assess the effectiveness of various children violence prevention programs in Uganda and Tanzania, and the findings generated by these projects will enable researchers, practitioners and policymakers to better understand what works in reducing violence against children.

With durations between 1 to 2 years, these are rigorous research projects that bring together program implementers and research teams to explore context-specific violence prevention programming. Many of these projects isolate and examine specific elements related to an intervention, such as costing or facilitation, to understand how these elements impact the effectiveness of a program. Through these impact evaluations and implementation research projects, these findings will feed to the local and national levels to end violence against children in Tanzania and Uganda.

The “Three Steps for Planning, Thinking and Learning” webinar will take place on April 2 at 1:00 p.m. CET. You can register [here](#). The [EFID](#) toolkit will be presented through the experience of three EFID partners.

In April, EFID will launch a call for projects promoting inclusive communities for all, with special attention to people with dementia. And finally, EFID will celebrate 10 years of work on dementia at a final policy event on “Dementia and migration” to be held on September 28, 2020 in Brussels.

European Fund for the Balkans - EFB

The decline of democracy and the rule of law over the past 10 years, along with the halt of the Western Balkans’ European integration have led to the conclusion that the [EFB](#) needs a new strategic framework to tackle challenges ahead. The Fund’s ultimate goals has been adapted: "Contribute to vibrant democracies and liberal societies in the region by means of increasing citizen engagement and improved regional cooperation". So, how will this new goal translate?

Activities with, and towards high-level regional and European decision-making institutions and individuals, will be further strengthened, with the aim to prioritise the EU integration policy and help put it back on track to functioning in accordance with the Thessaloniki Agenda.

A stronger emphasis will be placed on the EFB community, built through the EFB various programs, bringing together more than 500 well-trained, motivated and skilled individuals for exchanges and debates. This will add to regional, demand-driven exchange, which is a prerequisite for stronger regional solidarity. A new feature in the programming of the EFB will be the support to democratisation processes through empowered citizen’s and civic initiatives.

Joint Action for Farmers Organisations in West Africa - JAFOWA



Last December, [JAFOWA](#) signed 8 agreements with Farmers' organizations in Burkina Faso and Senegal to support their transition to agro ecology. These 8 projects started in early 2020 for an average duration of 30 months. They are particularly rich in terms of variety of approaches and partnerships - they involve research centers, international

A workshop of JAFOWA stakeholders was organized in February in Thiés (Senegal) in order to strengthen the JAFOWA community around a shared vision. The workshop aimed at exchanging experiences and tools on how the agroecological transition could translate into their different territories and how to measure it. Participants could work on the co-construction of a common monitoring and evaluation system.

Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care - TransForm



Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care

The 4th and final transnational Conference on Integrated Community Care (ICC) "**ICC for all - New principles of care**" will take place on 8 and 10 September 2020 in Brussels. During the first 2 days, a set of "effectiveness principles on ICC" will be tested.

On September 10, TransForm will launch the "Brussels Declaration on ICC" at a Policy Conference scheduled at the European Committee of the Regions. Periodic e-news, ICC resources and blog articles will be published in the coming months on the new website <https://transform-integratedcommunitycare.com/>.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid April - date to be confirmed

NEF General Assembly 2020

virtual

22 April 2020

Civitates SC Meeting

virtual

30 May 2020

EPIM SC Meeting

virtual

8-10 September 2020

TransForm conference

Brussels

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EFID Policy conference
Brussels

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