



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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Civitates - A Philanthropic Initiative for Democracy and Solidarity in Europe

Foundations involved:

Adessium Foundation, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, Erste Stiftung, European Cultural Foundation, Fondation de France, Fritt Ord Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation, Körber Stiftung, Oak Foundation, Luminare, Mercator Stiftung, Nicolas Puech Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Porticus, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Rudolf Augstein Stiftung, Schöpflin Stiftung, Stefan Batory Foundation, Wille Finance.

Budget 2018-2020: 6.3 million EUR

Timeframe: 2018-2020 (current), 2021-2025 (next phase)

Civitates is a programme developed and fiscally sponsored 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. Since becoming operational in 2018, Civitates has provided 38 grants in 14 countries across 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 large group of diverse foundations, of different shapes and sizes, which bring in a wealth of expertise and different perspectives.

Latest developments:

New team member

After the departure of Leonie van Tongeren, in August 2020, a new fund manager, Marie Laure Muchery, will be joining Civitates as of January 2021. Her extensive experience as Programme and Funds Manager with Fondation de France will be beneficial to Civitates.

New foundations

Two new funders have joined the group since May 2020: Porticus and Wille Finance.

Strengthening public-interest journalism organisations across Europe

In June 2020, Civitates received over 300 applications for its request for proposals aimed to support independent public-interest journalism in Europe. The aim of this line of work is to provide core grants to strengthen journalistic organisations across Europe especially in countries where media-capture is high and freedom of expression is threatened. Civitates is currently in its second phase of the selection process for its future grantees engaging with independent public-interest journalism. After a careful consideration of the applications and consulting experts in the field, Civitates has invited 18 organisations to submit a full proposal, from which about 8 organisations are expected to be funded. The budget for this line of work is a bit over EUR 2 M. The grants are planned to go out at the beginning of 2021 and to be for a three-year period.

Extended support to coalitions strengthening civil society across Europe

Following an interim evaluation of the work on strengthening civil society across Europe, the working group reaffirmed its commitment to supporting coalitions in national contexts to strengthen civil society. Civitates invited 11 coalitions currently funded to submit a proposal and all applications were approved for an extension grant. The extension grants will run from December 2020-December 2021 for a total of €603 500. Individual grants range from €35 000 - €77 000.

It has been decided that 2 reports are to be commissioned to inform the next strategy period for this sub-fund: the first report will look at the impact the coalitions in the targeted countries and the second will an overview of

the state of the shrinking space for civil society in Europe and the strategies to address this issue. These reports will inform the decisions of the working group on the future strategy of this sub-fund.

Opportunities Fund for a healthy digital public sphere and a new strategic period

In January, the Opportunities Fund was created to increase the capacity of Civitates grantee partners to anticipate new challenges ahead and their readiness to address them. As of October 2020, 5 out of 9 grantee partners have applied and were granted funds under this scheme. Civitates has commissioned an evaluation of the grantmaking of this sub-fund. The report will provide the secretariat, partner foundations and grantee partners with an opportunity for reflection on the sub-fund’s initial assumptions, accomplishments and lessons learned. Civitates has also commissioned a policy brief to identify upcoming policy developments/ opportunities at EU level which will also feed into the decisions around the next round of funding.

Civitates approach to safeguarding

The Civitates secretariat started to reflect on its approach to safeguarding in 2020. This process was initiated by new donors who joined the fund and a discussion and training at the NEF level, involving other pooled funds hosted by NEF. Civitates adheres fully to the “NEF Safeguarding Framework”, which sets out the guidance regarding safeguarding applicable to NEF staff, which includes the Civitates secretariat and to grantee partners. In addition to this, Civitates has strengthened its due diligence processes to get to know its grantee partners better and work together to identify and address potential safeguarding risks.

European Artificial Intelligence (A.I) Fund

Foundations involved: Mozilla (Chair), Luminate (Co Chair), King Baudouin Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Stiftung Mercator, Oak Foundation, Mott Foundation. Ford Foundation and Bosch Foundation are about to approve their participation.

Budget 2020-23: around 4,6 million euros

Timeframe: 2020-2023

NEF is the fiscal sponsor of the European A.I. Fund.

Background :

The European AI Fund is a philanthropic initiative to shape the direction of AI in Europe. The long-term vision is to promote an ecosystem of European public interest and civil society organisations working on policy and technology, based on a diversity of actors and a plurality of goals that represents society as a whole.

Over the next five years the European Commission has ambitions to forge a plan for Europe’s digital transformation, including AI. But without a strong civil society taking part in the debate, Europe—and the world—risk missing opportunities to better society and instead, might choose a path paved with societal harm. These harms include but are not limited to pervasive state surveillance; manipulation of democracy; discrimination through automated decision making; profiling of individuals by private companies; and monopolisation and concentration of power.

This fund aims to strengthen civil society’s ability to take on this crucial role: to be a more visible and more effective voice in public and policy debates about the role, form and shape that Europe’s digital transformation should take. The fund’s goal is to bring in new actors to the debate, especially those that are working on issues affected by AI and Automated Decision Making (ADM) and who want to build their capacity in this domain.

The Fund is composed by a group of national, regional and international foundations working in Europe that are dedicated to using their resources—financial and otherwise—to strengthen civil society and deepen the pool of experts across Europe who have the tools, capacity and know-how to catalogue and monitor the social and political impact of AI and data driven interventions and hold them to account.

Latest developments:

The fund officially launched with a 1,000,000 Euro open call for funding in mid-September. The fund's first open call aims to strengthen the ability of civil society organisations in Europe to effectively shape and influence public and policy debates about AI and ADM in Europe. Similar to the fund's overall goal, the aim is to help build the capacity of those who already work on AI and ADM. At the same time, the fund wants to bring in new civil society actors to the debate, especially those who have not worked on issues relating to AI yet, but whose scope of work is affected by AI. Grants can be used for general operating support and for institutional strengthening and funding will begin in February 2021.

In response to the current climate, and the urgent need for leadership therein, the fund also decided to open a second funding stream that monitors and documents Europe's tech response to the ongoing pandemic. Funds will be made available in December 2020.

The fund is currently managed by an interim fund manager and is in the process of recruiting a long-term Programme Manager with knowledge of the field that will support the funding coalition. The group has finalised its strategy paper and formalised its governance arrangements.

The group will dedicate resources to embark already interested and potential new partners that will be able to join, depending on their internal timeline.

European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia

Foundations involved: King Baudouin Foundation (Chair), Compagnia di San Paolo, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Fondation Médéric Alzheimer and Porticus Foundations

Budget 2020: 137.000 EUR

Timeframe: 2010-2020

EFID is a programme developed and supported by NEF.

Background:

EFID's mission is to improve the life of people with dementia by enabling a dementia-friendly and inclusive environment in communities across Europe. The community's commitment and the mobilisation of societal resources are very important to structuring the social environment. Real improvements to the situation of people with dementia can only be achieved when forms of common ownership are developed and experienced in cities and communities.

EFID's 5th Phase (2019-2020) is focusing on the theme of valuing the expertise of people living with dementia in the community. EFID will end in December 2020. Foundations are exploring the possibility to insert the learnings gained on dementia into the broader concept of Integrated Community Care (TransForm initiative).

Latest developments:

The EFID toolkit for Planning, Reflection and Learning was published in April 2020 and presented during a Webinar with the EFID Awardees and stakeholders. The toolkit has been co-created with the EFID Awardees and a few experts through interviews, desk research, and a co-creation workshop in Brussels on 23-24 September 2019. It was ultimately fine-tuned at the EFID conference in Turin on 4-5 December 2020.

EFID organises a series of webinars on different dementia-related topics. Four webinars took place: 1. Spotlight on Rifugio Re Carlo Alberto – Co-creating the EFID quality framework, 2. Dementia and Migration, 3. Three steps for Planning, Reflection and Learning, 4. The challenges of COVID- 19 for people with dementia. A fifth webinar, in the format of an online policy debate was organised in collaboration with the European Policy Centre (EPC) on 28th September 2020. The event, titled 'Addressing dementia among people with a migration background – From diagnosis to EU policy actions' shed light on the prevalence and challenges of dementia into migrant communities and presented the legacy of EFID. A report on the 10 years of work on dementia has been published and launched

during this online policy debate. “EFID 2010-2020. A road well-travelled”, illustrates ten years of the EFID’s activities in support of a dementia-friendly and inclusive society.

A call for projects on dementia and inclusive communities was scheduled for April 2020. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this call has been put on hold. Instead, in the fall, EFID has launched a Call for Awards ‘Spreading a legacy for the future’, with the aims of identifying initiatives that have mobilised resources in local communities to support people living with dementia during the COVID-19 crisis and lockdown. 9 awardees were selected out of 12 applicants. A press release will be published to spread their work by mid-November.

European Fund for the Balkans

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

Budget 2020: Around 1 million euros

Timeframe: 2007-2025

NEF is registered in Belgrade and the EFB-NEF has an office in Belgrade.

Background:

The European Fund for the Balkans is a joint endeavour of European foundations (ERSTE Foundation, Robert Bosch Foundation and King Baudouin Foundation) that envisions 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 up-to-date 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 civil society on the basis of solidarity and demand-driven dialogue, as well as providing platforms for informed and empowered citizens to take action and demand accountable institutions and democracy.

Their effects are focused on continuous reforms of the Western Balkan countries’ policies and practices on their way to EU accession, by merging the region’s social capacity building with policy platform development, and a culture of regional cooperation.

Latest developments:

Balkans exposed to challenges due to the pandemic

French daily newspaper Le Monde wrote an article about the Western Balkans facing the pandemic and its implications on the countries’ economies and a possible recession.

More about this article: [Balkans exposed to challenges due to the pandemic](#)

EFB Director Aleksandra Tomanić in an interview for Albanian Daily News: [Enlargement Process Doesn’t Prevent State Capture](#)

EFB Director Aleksandra Tomanić in an interview for [EWB: Consequences of state capture in WB are now clearer than ever](#)

EFB Community Conference “Rethinking the Role of the EFB Community”, Online/Offline Edition, September 25, 2020

The EFB Community Conference gathered a network of EFB beneficiaries who jointly discussed and developed ideas for national or regional projects which served as an EFB community response to the most common problems occurring in their communities in “normal” times, but also now in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions.

EFB in support of marking the 20th anniversary of the Igman Initiative

The European Fund for the Balkans has supported the marking of the 20th anniversary of the Igman Initiative by funding an expert analysis, a book written by its initiators and an online event. This year marks two decades since the beginning of the normalization of relations between the countries of the Dayton Agreement (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia), as well as two decades of the Igman Initiative itself. The event was an opportunity to examine current relations, situation, problems and perspectives through a retrospective of these countries' relations.

EFB in support of independent Media in the Western Balkans

The European Fund for the Balkans has established media partnerships with several media agencies in the region, as part of its strategic approach to support independent media and raise awareness on the shared values of transparency, liberty, solidarity and openness. Media outlets Autonomija (Serbia), Tirana Times (Albania), SBunker (Kosovo), 360 Degrees (North Macedonia), PCNEN (Montenegro) and Buka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) agreed to work on the joint agenda so as to put the activities and campaigns supporting citizens' initiatives and democratization at the forefront.

Building the democratization pillar of the new EFB strategy- Engaged Democracy Initiative (EDI)

The European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) and the Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE) joined forces and created the Engaged Democracy Initiative (EDI). EDI aims to involve local movements and organizations, researchers, social businesses, engaged citizens and journalists in a hierarchy-less and horizontal regional network (rhizome) for supporting, promoting and pursuing values of open, solidary and democratic societies across our region.

This derives out of a need to empower citizens and strengthen voices coming from the local communities that are able to address and fight for common goals and public interest and pursue participatory democracy and accountable institutions. There is also need for tighter genuine cooperation throughout the region, shared knowledge and common tools, and valuable exchange of know-how. The main purpose of the EDI rhizome will be in jointly voicing common concerns – locally, regionally and towards EU counterparts, in order to create a democracy- and solidarity-based community in the region.

Joint initiatives

Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)

BiEPAG launched a series of op-eds contributing to the debate relevant for the region of the Western Balkans, looking into the legitimacy question of Serbian and Kosovo representatives in the ongoing dialogue between the two countries- Dialogue to Nowhere: The Lack of Legitimacy in the Serbia-Kosovo Dialogue. The broader perspective of the recent elections in Serbia: The Elections of Losers, as well as in Montenegro: Seizing the Democratic Opportunity in Montenegro.

BiEPAG Blogs: The blog section at the BiEPAG website is active with new blog posts.

Western Balkans Fellowship Programme at the Austrian Parliament

The European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) has closed its call for applications for the Western Balkans Fellowship Programme at the Austrian Parliament. EFB received 17 applications from the entire region.

Contribution by FES SOE to the Social Dimension Initiative: Social Rights are Fundamental Rights

On January 15, 2020, the European Fund for the Balkans signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Dialogue Southeast Europe in Belgrade. As partners, the group committed towards continuing and deepening collaboration on social policy development and raising awareness in that field. The latest contribution to the Social Dimension Initiative is a series of infographics and a publication related to the social dimension of EU enlargement, which were produced by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Dialogue Southeast Europe.

Upcoming activities

Trees of Friendship (October 30, 2020)

In accordance with its program of democratization and building local partnerships, EFB will support the "Trees of Friendship" planting activity in each of the six capitals of the Western Balkans, in cooperation with local partners.

The action will be held simultaneously in all regional capitals (Belgrade, Skopje, Pristina, Tirana, Sarajevo, Podgorica) on October 30, 2020 at 11 am. As part of the campaign, EFB will donate a total of 400 tree trunks to all six Western Balkans countries, to compensate for the damage done by EFB business related flights in 2019. It serves as an awareness raising campaign, as well as to take responsibility for its own actions.

Regional public opinion poll (October/November 2020)

The EFB and its partners initiated a survey conducted by Ipsos Agency in all 6 countries, covering 4 areas: EU and WB; elections; democratization and civic engagement; conspiracy theories. The results of the survey will be available in November. The four papers will be written based on the results and promoted separately through a series of events in the region, as well as in European capitals such as Berlin, Paris, Ljubljana (EU Council Presidency next year).

Vicinity Diary (starting October 28, 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic has reflected deficiencies in an array of sectors in all countries of the Western Balkans – from deprived health systems, weak democratic institutions, aid-dependent economies and unsustainable environmental and energy policies. Similar problems and challenges persist in all countries of the region – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo*, and Serbia. The European Fund for the Balkans and the European Movement in Serbia with partners from across the region will launch the “Vicinity Diary” project aimed at informing the public and institutions in the region, as well as the EU, about the significant social and political developments in each country on a weekly basis. Selected authors will give their contribution to the electronic diaries about the issues of importance to the different countries and the region as a whole.

The European Fund for the Balkans’ special event at the Belgrade Security Forum: Future of Europe and the Western Balkans (October 27, 2020)

The Future of Europe debate is set to close 2020 on a positive note; however, not everyone is convinced that concrete reforms and needed changes will be introduced to equip the EU for the many challenges it faces.

Civil Society Forum in Sofia (November 9, 2020)

The next meeting within the Berlin Process, which will bring together the leaders of the Western Balkans and the European Union, will be held on November 10 in Sofia, Bulgaria, where a plan for creating a common regional market is supposed to be adopted. The previous day, November 9, a Civil Society Forum and a Think Tank Forum session will be held, focusing on China’s geopolitical role and investments. As coordinator of the Civil Society Forum, the European Fund will host the session dedicated to the impact of Chinese investments on the concrete daily lives of citizens across 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, Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, 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, John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, Fondazione Con Il Sud

Budget: 7.7M EUR (2019-2023)

Timeframe: EPIM has existed since 2005. Its current strategy covers the timeframe 2019-2023.

EPIM is a programme developed and supported 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 from local, national, regional and EU levels. Funds are allocated through targeted Thematic Funds on Migration and Detention; Reform of the European Asylum System; 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.

Latest developments:

EPIM's Covid-19 response

In order to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on civil society working in support of migrants and the EU policies on migration and asylum, EPIM has put flexible funding measures in place to address: grantee (survival/adjustment) support, the emergency in Greece, and advocacy opportunities. Under this flexible response mechanism, several grants were made to: Diotima, HIAS Greece, Defence for Children International Greece, Safe Passage International, IDC, MPG, Progetto Diritti, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, ECAS, New Women Connectors, Share Your World (SPEAK) and International Council for Cultural Centers.

EPIM's Emergency response after the Moria fire

Following the fire that destroyed Moria camp on Lesbos (Greece), EPIM has provided emergency support to CSOs operating on the island. To date, grants have been awarded to METAdrasi, Lesbos Solidarity and HIAS Greece.

EPIM Strategic Review and funders' learning sessions

EPIM is currently reviewing its Funding Portfolio to ensure it is relevant to field developments, trends and opportunities on migration (policy) in the coming years. In this framework, EPIM organised two funders' learning sessions on 21 October in order to discuss insights on the trends, developments and opportunities in the migration field. 6 experts discussed key political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal drivers of change influencing migration today and tomorrow in Europe with an audience of 29 funders.

New EPIM interim Chair and Executive Committee composition

Tim Parritt from Oak Foundation is the interim EPIM Chair for a maximum period of one year after Sahar Yadegari has left her position at Adessium Foundation. Job Rijnveld from Adessium Foundation has joined the EPIM Executive Committee on 22 October 2020. The number of Executive Committee members will be expanded from 5 to 6 in order to encourage more rotation and to cover all responsibilities that emerge in EPIM's work.

Developments in Thematic funds

Thematic fund on Migration and Detention

Aim: Ensure that migrants who are subject to European migration systems to have access to fair, transparent and efficient procedures to resolve their migration case, so that detention is reduced to a tool of last resort applied only when it is legitimate, proportionate and necessary.

Grantee organisations in 2020: European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), International Detention Coalition (IDC), Cyprus Refugee Council (CyRC), Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Centre for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria, HumanRights360, Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD), JRS Belgium, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland.

Main developments:

- The implementation of a Belgian ATD pilot by [JRS Belgium](#) has started in September 2020. The Belgian pilot is the sixth ATD pilot currently (co-)funded by EPIM and will have a duration of 24 months.
- Following on a [first ATD evaluation report](#) which was published in 2018, EPIM has published a new [evaluation report](#) of ATD pilots in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Poland. The report provides additional evidence for the

effectiveness of community-based case management, based on new qualitative and quantitative data collected throughout 2019.

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 2020: Mentor-Escale; Minor-Ndako; Defence for Children Italy; Collegio del mondo unito dell'Adriatico; Cespi; International Centre for Policy Advocacy; Intersos; Esserci; Fo.Co; Oxfam Italia Intercultura; La Rada Consorzio di Cooperative Sociali; Centro Ambrosiano di Solidarietà Onlus; Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti; P.G. Frassati; Programma Integra; SEND; Società Cooperativa sociale Progetto Tenda; Velos Youth; The Young Republic; Oxfam Italia; Missing Children Europe; Defence for Children International Greece.

Main developments:

- In the context of the development of a new strategy for the Thematic Fund (2021-2023), the Fondation Abbé Pierre has joined the Thematic Fund Committee.
- A grant has been awarded to Defence for Children International Greece in the framework of the emergency support provided in Greece in the context of Covid-19. With this grant, DCI Greece has identified, informed, legally supported and empowered 143 migrant children in high protection risks as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown and the insufficient access to protection services.

Thematic fund on communicating migration in a changing environment

Aim: Increase the weight of their messages and recommendations and contribute to more nuanced political and public discourses as well as policy-making on migration in and across EU Member States as well as at Brussels level.

Grantee organisations in 2020: Migration Policy Group (MPG); Refugees Welcome Italia/Refugees Welcome International; Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM); European Network on Statelessness (ENS), International Detention Coalition (IDC).

Main developments:

- EPIM has renewed its support for the development of strategic communications capacities to [PICUM](#) and [ENS](#) for another year.
- [MPG](#) has been supported with an additional grant to set up the Welcoming Europe Alliance and to maintain their communications capacities in a moment of financial instability due to Covid-19 impacts.
- More than 50 representatives from civil society organisations, foundations and research institutes have been convened to discuss migration narratives in the current context in an Online Lab over two months.
- [IDC](#) has been supported with an additional grant for a project focusing on reframing narratives on immigration detention in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis and the Black Lives Matter movement's momentum.

Thematic fund on Asylum in Europe

Aim: To ensure that people in need of international protection are able to access European asylum systems that are humane fair, effective and capable of offering protection

Grantee organisations in 2020: European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), JRS Europe, HIAS Europe, Border Violence Monitoring Network (through Rigardu e.V.), Safe Passage International

Main developments:

- As a result of the first round of its [rolling Call for Proposals](#), EPIM selected 4 projects for funding. The 4 projects are led by [JRS Europe](#), HIAS Europe, [Border Violence Monitoring Network](#) and [Safe Passage International](#) and respectively address asylum reception and alternatives to detention, pushbacks along the Balkan route, family reunification from Greece to other EU Member States and migrants' situation on the Greek islands after the Covid-19 outbreak.

Thematic fund on protecting access to rights for mobile EU citizens

Aim: Ensure that 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 2020: European Citizen Action Service (ECAS); European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA); Médecins du Monde (MdM); European Alternatives.

Main developments:

- [ECAS](#) has received a top-up grant to conduct research on the impact of COVID-19 on EU mobile citizens. Based on surveys circulated among EU mobile citizens and human rights bodies, the research will map current obstacles and propose recommendations for safeguarding free movement rights in the context of the pandemic.

Thematic fund for building inclusive European societies

Aim: To help enhance community cohesion structurally in various European societies so that this leads to collective and individual improvements in the quality of life and social relationships of all members of the community, including migrants.

Grantee organisations in 2020: DUO for a JOB; Rising You; International Council for Cultural Centers; SINGA France; Womenability; Interventionbüro; SINGA Deutschland; Welcoming International; Artemisszio Foundation; MigHelp; ECRE; PICUM; SPEAK; Altekio, Asociación La Bolina, SOS Racismo Gipuzkoa; Saathi House; New Women Connectors

Main developments:

- EPIM awarded a [pilot grant](#) to [New Women Connectors](#) aimed to promote gender-sensitive responses to Covid-19 and its consequences, by and for migrant and refugee women across Europe.
- EPIM has provided additional top-up grants to inclusion grantee organisations to help them survive and adjust to the Covid situation, seize advocacy and communications opportunities, and continue their scaling efforts in this changed context.
- In partnership with Aga Khan Foundation Portugal and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, EPIM co-organised a series of four 'Rethinking Inclusion' webinars aimed to encourage exchanges between EPIM inclusion grantee organisations and inclusion actors in Portugal.

European Philanthropy Learning Initiative

Foundations: U.S. Embassy in France, Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, Fondation Ensemble, The de Groot Foundation, and After Fact.

Budget 2020: approx. 10.000 euros

NEF is the fiscal sponsor of the EPLI.

Background and Overview:

The European Philanthropy Learning Initiative was founded in 2009 with the objective of promoting research and learning in the European philanthropy sector. The Initiative has carried out this mission through the development of curricula and establishing courses and carrying out research projects in philanthropy and social investing. Since 2017 it has enhanced the Initiative with a complementary multi-year and multi-disciplinary research and field-building project, the Pursuit of the Common Good (PCG) in collaboration with institutions in Europe and the United States, initially funded by the Heron Foundation and continuing on a voluntary and project-supported basis. EPLI funding is dedicated to both the PCG and supporting innovation, outreach and debate related to philanthropy Master courses at Sciences Po, Paris.

Current Focus:

The arrival of the COVID 19 pandemic on a global scale shattered societal expectations of “normalcy” only to be surprisingly and dramatically altered by the spread of public protests, still evolving in this already disrupted era.

The search for the common good has become a rallying cry to respond to the dysfunctions in society, exposed by the pandemic and in books (Robert B. Reich, *The Common Good*, Michael Sandel, *The Tyranny of Merit: What has become of the Common Good?*), numerous references in the press, such as Thomas Friedman, (NYT).

EPLI decided to respond to this situation by accelerating its project for a new curriculum for the Pursuit of the Common Good and prepared a pilot syllabus which is being tested at Sciences Po in the School of Management and Innovation, Autumn 2020 Master Course, Philanthropy, Social Investing and Pursuit of the Common Good. This course is aligned with another School of Management and Innovation course, Trends in Private Funding for the Common Good, with the goal of creating a new concentration around the pursuit of the common good, operationalising a concept beyond the state it is trying to achieve. The PCG coalition of universities and institutions is participating in the development of the curriculum and in creating an international network of universities for its delivery.

The research focus moving forward is to explore cross sector and system-changing case examples to identify characteristics of the common good. The initial phase examined the cases through a philanthropy lens, primarily at the Rockefeller Archive Center. The intention is to continue the process with the market and public sectors. The initial findings are being used in the current course for “operationalizing” the common good at the School of Management and Innovation at Sciences Po, as mentioned above. The courses are informed, additionally by the papers commissioned by the PCG on how themes of the pursuit of the common good play out in specific areas of modern life, such as: democratic governance, digital transition, civil society and climate change.

Fundraising, research and coalition building continue.

The Evaluation Fund: Reducing Violence Against Children

Foundations involved: Oak Foundation (Chair) and anonymous donor

Budget: Around 4 million EUR for 2011-2021

Timeframe: 2011-2021

NEF has been involved in the development of the Evaluation Fund: Reducing Violence Against Children since its inception.

Background:

The Evaluation Fund: Reducing Violence Against Children is a pooled funding initiative aimed at reducing violence against children by supporting rigorous evaluations of childhood violence prevention interventions in low- and middle-income countries. These evaluations help us to understand what works (and what does not) in the prevention of violence against children across countries and contexts. The findings from these evaluations feed into national and regional policymaking and programming so that all children may live a life free of violence.

Since 2011, The Evaluation Fund has supported 22 research studies in 17 countries and is in its third phase of programming, which will continue through the end of 2021.

Latest developments:

East Africa: Project Updates, COVID implications, and capacity strengthening response

In June 2019, the Evaluation Fund launched its third Call for Proposals, which had a geographic focus in two path-finding countries, Tanzania and Uganda, along with three major ambitions:

- To be locally led, with research and practitioner leadership based in Tanzania or Uganda;
- To be very rigorous, with high quality research designs and an eye for implementation science;

- To feed into policy-making and programming at the national level on the prevention of VAC in these two countries.

[Four projects were selected for funding](#): **FAIR project**; **GST Agile project**; **UPRISE project**; and **ECPC evaluation project**, which began between the months of March and April 2020. With a diversity of research designs, complexity of partnerships, and differing scope and rigor, grantees were invited to identify areas where additional capacity was needed with support from the Fund. The current COVID-19 crisis has added another layer of challenges to the project teams and has sharpened the need for support to ensure adequate implementation and validity of findings.

Given the wide variety of needs and the impossibility to meet in person, The Evaluation Fund Secretariat and Steering Committee have had to think creatively about how best to deliver support. Working with grantees, we devised a series of **online learning sessions** that encompass a variety of topics relevant to the projects, as well as to provide a collaborative space for project partners to share learnings, challenges, and solutions. These sessions should address three key areas of need: **1) relationship-building** (both in terms of researcher-practitioner partnerships as well as among the 4 projects); **2) varied capacity support on evaluation, research design & methods**; and **3) research uptake**.

Each session includes a short, interactive presentation by a guest speaker and is facilitated by an external facilitator to ensure participation and engagement. These sessions are intended to be informal, relaxed settings that provide a space for collaboration and sharing. Project teams have proposed a core group of participants that represent the different organizations involved in their project and that commit to consistent participation in the learning sessions over the duration of the grant.

On the 21 of October, we held our first learning session to introduce the group, determine the group agreement, and expand on expectations for these sessions going forward. With over 40 participants calling in from around the world, we were impressed by the ease and level of engagement despite limitations of hosting workshops online.

Next steps: Prepare for next online session focusing on developing a research uptake strategy and finalise contract and workplan with the consultant leading this work.

Evidence Briefs

Over the last year, the Evaluation Fund has been working to disseminate the findings of past evaluations to practitioners and decision-makers to help inform evidence-based programming and policy-making. As part of this effort, we publish [evidence briefs](#) of each study – an at-a-glance review of the key findings related to the effectiveness and impact of a VAC prevention intervention.

To-date, 14 evidence briefs have been released highlighting the key learnings of evaluations conducted in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Jordan, Uganda, South Africa, Indonesia, Burundi, Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, Albania, China, Kenya, and Rwanda.

As we near the end of past project reviews, we are exploring how best to package the learnings from these briefs. This will include a summary to the briefs, which will draw learnings from across intervention types and sites to help us understand what has worked best to prevent violence against children from the case studies we have examined. We will also publish a meta-evaluation of the studies supported by the Fund to better understand what, from a research perspective, has contributed to greater validity and more robust findings.

Next steps Work with consultants to finalise the summary of the evidence briefs, as well as meta-evaluation of past studies.

Closing of the Fund

As the Evaluation Fund approaches the end of its final funding phase, we are working to determine a strategy for closure that ensures the sustainability and impact of this work over the last decade of operation. This includes determining how best to gather, collect and share learnings with both the Steering Committee and the field of VAC prevention. In order to have adequate time to prepare the closing of the Fund and to see the current cohort of grants through to their closure, the Evaluation Fund has received a no-cost extension through the end of 2021.

Next steps: The Secretariat and Steering Committee will work together with consultants to determine a closing out strategy for the Fund.

Fair Energy Transition for All (FETA)

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

Budget 2020-22: 1,9 million EUR

Timeframe: 2020-22

NEF is the fiscal sponsor of FETA.

Background:

The Fair Energy Transition for All project aims to improve the development of fair energy transition policies by providing national and EU policy-makers and stakeholders a better understanding on the perceived impact of energy transition policies on the living conditions of economically disadvantaged people. To do so, a consortium of European Foundations will organise a consultative and listening process with vulnerable people in Europe.

This project is a new addition to the NEF portfolio: it started in the spring 2020 and will last until 2022. The project will organise consultations and focus groups in nine European countries: Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Denmark and Romania.

The ultimate aim of the project is balanced energy transition policies that take into account the concerns of and solutions from disadvantaged people.

Latest Developments:

All national facilitation partners and policy experts (9 countries) have been selected and contracts have been agreed upon. The first training of the national partners will take place in October coordinated by IFOK as the lead project implementer with a support on methodology by Climate Outreach. It is not yet clear if the national consultations will rely on face to face focus groups that will unfold in each country at the beginning of 2021. Given the uncertainty of the period the partners are aware that online consultations might have to be scheduled. However considering the target groups (disadvantaged people) and the nature of the consultations, it is to be hoped that physical meetings can unfold.

Almost all foundations partners (7) have confirmed their engagement or are finalising their cycle of internal approval.

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

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

Budget 2020: Around 1 million euros

Timeframe: 2016–2022

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 grant making and capacity development with a geographic focus on Burkina Faso and Senegal, shifting its focus on the agroecological transition in these two countries in 2018.

Latest developments:

In this COVID-19 context, FOs have adapted their project activities by postponing trainings and sensitization sessions, while taking advantage of the time to develop procedures for equipment purchasing and the hiring of external expertise.

At the end of June, the markets and travel restrictions were mostly lifted (just before the start of the agricultural rainy season) and life in rural areas was almost back to "normal": agricultural activities were carried out as usual. Quite positively, the FOs that rely on market gardening and/or short value chains development, have developed new markets by responding to an increasing demand for healthy local food.

Agroecology has been relatively marginal in the debates during the crisis: most FOs interventions and advocacy strategies have targeted day-to-day emergencies for smallholders such as access to inputs, purchases and storage by the state of non-marketable products, food kits, and registration of family farmers on the lists of vulnerable households. JAFOWA's grantees joined global movements and actions at national or regional level which were not specifically focusing on agroecology but were looking at securing rights for smallholders farmers.

FOs have not made specific requests to JAFOWA during this period, but JAFOWA's steering committee decided to maintain flexibility in the budgets to cater for potential adjustments as a result of the pandemic.

Between March and October, all international travel has been postponed. The annual workshop with all FOs and partners will hopefully be held in February 2021, and JAFOWA's backstopping missions will be organized during the last quarter of 2020, most probably with the support of additional and locally based experts.

The Senegalese consultant engaged to reinforce FOs financial management and accounting capacities has been able to pursue his mission in good cooperation with the FOs Partners. Although delayed by difficult communication and contexts, JAFOWA's monitoring and evaluation system, which relies on change oriented approaches, will be operational at the beginning of November.

During this same period, the Foundation for a Just Society decided to contribute for two more years to the programme. Its substantial additional funding will allow more ambition for its gender-oriented approach.

Privatisation in Education and Human Rights Consortium

<u>Foundations involved:</u>	OSF, Wellspring
<u>Budget 2019-2020:</u>	\$300.000
<u>Timeframe:</u>	January 2019- Dec 2020

NEF is the fiscal sponsor of the PEHCR.

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's aim is 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:

PEHRC's Google Group remains active with members regularly sharing updates and identifying synergies. The Consortium continues to hold monthly global calls for all members to join as well as bi-monthly calls for the two working groups (Abidjan Principles and Alternatives and Counter Narrative). The coordinator shares a monthly newsletter where all of the updates shared via the Google Group by members, as well as upcoming events, proposals/calls, webinars etc. are shared with members as well as an update on joint activities.

The coordinator, with input from members, has been compiling a document that captures Covid-19 responses globally. This has led to the development of an extensive database for general education and privatisation monitoring, Abidjan Principles monitoring, positive examples of the monitoring of public systems as well as litigation monitoring, and a shared calendar.

The monitoring of COVID-19 responses in education has been used to pull together a blog which was published on the GEM website and translated into French and Spanish.

The Alternatives and Counter-Narrative Working Group has hired a consultant to conduct a case study research of positive public education systems, which is due for completion in October 2020.

PEHRC is in the development stages of a website.

The initiative has recruited a Fellow to support the Coordinator with the upcoming virtual meetings and development of the website.

A set of virtual meetings are currently being planned for November 2020 where the Consortium will be reviewing its strategy, providing a space for sharing, and mapping and planning for the year ahead.

Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care (TransForm)

Foundations involved:

King Baudouin Foundation (Chair); Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo; Fondation de France; Graham Boeckh Foundation; Robert Bosch Stiftung; Fund Danielle De Coninck (managed by King Baudouin Foundation), Conconi Foundation, St. Paul's Foundation

Budget 2020- June 2021:

3000.000 euros

Timeframe:

2017-2021

Transform is a programme developed and supported by NEF.

Background:

TransForm is a joint initiative of Foundations in Europe and Canada that aims to put the community at the centre of primary and integrated care. Integrated Community Care recognizes people and communities as co-producers of care. It seeks to examine how partnerships that engage and empower people in local communities can be developed through trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaborations.

The overarching aim of the Forum is to mobilize change at policy and practice level by engaging policymakers, practitioners and key stakeholders in knowledge generation and sharing of promising and best practices.

A series of transnational conferences on ICC and site visits form the backbone of the project. IFIC, the content partner, support the Forum through research and networking. Three transnational conferences took place in Hamburg, Turin and Vancouver and created a crescendo of learning on ICC as well as a community of practice.

Latest developments:

Following the expert workshop held in November 2019 in Brussels, TransForm produced the strategy paper “Integrated Community Care 4 all - New Principles of Care”. The paper represents TransForm’s positioning in the field and outlines the 7 Effectiveness Principles of ICC.

Due to the corona virus pandemic, the fourth conference has been cancelled. Transform is currently exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the ICC agenda. The COVID-19 crisis affects all aspects of society – political, economic, social, technological... however, given that we are dealing with a challenge specifically in the domain of public health, we expect that the impact on the health and care system will be particularly pronounced. More than ever ICC is on the agenda as a systemic approach that reinforces community strengths in the social and health sectors and emphasises prevention.

Two expert workshops are scheduled to feed this reflection. The first expert workshop took place on 8th September, based on the research and scenario framework developed by the consultancy firm, ShiftN. The second expert workshop will take place in November 2020, continuing the reflection with a view to the future of ICC in a post-Covid world. Community care is at the forefront of the public debate, and it should be leveraged to better grasp what is to be strengthened or re envisaged in our health systems. Results will be available on the TransForm website in early December.

TransForm is more present in the virtual space. A series of online communication are scheduled: a blog on the TransForm website, webinars, as well as digital compendium of case studies on ICC. The SC decided to extend the programming period which was supposed to end in December 2020 until June 2021. The role of the content partner and the idea of launching an Award scheme are under discussion. The future of Transform will be discussed in November 2020.