

ECFI impact since 2016



ECFI has contributed to building a vibrant community foundation movement in Europe

By strengthening, promoting and expanding the number of CFs and CFSOs, ECFI has built skills, knowledge and expertise, enhanced connectedness; and improved the visibility of the CF field. ECFI has built trusted relationships between people that have ensured they can remain connected and continue to share knowledge and experience; this connection did not stop in times of major challenges and social upheavals and was even intensified through online conversations.

ECFI has helped to expand the community foundation field

Through continuous involvement of those at the beginning of a development process, through individual conversations, involvement in activities with diversified participants and through creating of demand and need-driven activities for newcomers, ECFI has, since 2016, contributed to a further expansion of the field in terms of growth and development of community foundations and support organisations - in particular in countries where there are few or no community foundations.

ECFI has enhanced the visibility of the community foundation field in Europe

By having a locus for information about the field - what it is, what it does, and how, ECFI has ensured that there is credible and usable evidence about the work of community foundations and support organizations. This has contributed to discussions at local, regional, national and European levels around the impact and potential for community foundations to engage with the SDG Framework; to address contemporary challenges e.g. migration, resilience, peacebuilding; and to play a role in increasing civic participation and participatory democracy. This has led in some cases to community foundations being better placed to exercise their leadership role and becoming strategic partners along with public and private sector stakeholders.

ECFI has created a better-connected community foundation field in Europe

ECFI has established platforms for exchange - notably the Facebook CF Practice Exchange and stimulated interaction among practitioners and created a space where they can find and engage with peers to share knowledge, skills and passions. Feedback from participants in physical and online peer learning activities and their engagement in the CF Practice Exchange has provided evidence of inspiration and the application of learning from study visits and exchanges in their work in, for example, new approaches to fundraising, community engagement and leadership; needs analysis; innovative projects; communications and use of social media; understanding; alignment of the SDGs and adaption to changing contexts.

ECFI has improved capabilities within the field

The ECFI Knowledge Centre has ensured that intelligence about the field and learning from ECFI activity is open to all. ECFI offered where possible translation of learning material into national languages and helped by that to spread knowledge into the field.