



Community foundations through and beyond the Covid-19 crisis

April 7th, 2020

A summary of views from community foundation support organisations (CFSOs) across Europe

The Coronavirus crisis is impacting on community foundations in two ways - it is realising their potential to mobilise resources and reach people in need quickly, but it is also seriously testing their resilience.

On 7th April, ECFI hosted an on-line gathering of 28 participants from 19 community foundation support organisations, and others involved in building the community foundation movement, to share experiences of how the current situation has been impacting on community foundations around Europe and to consider how can we support them through and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.



This paper presents a summary and visual harvesting of the discussion.

Austrian Association of Charitable Foundations

Community Foundation for West Flanders, Belgium

Tuzla CF, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Czech Association of CFs

Centre for Strategic Research and Development, Georgia

Alliance of CFs in Germany

Roots & Wings Foundation, Hungary

Assifero, Italy

CF Movement in Latvia

Local Funds Foundation, Netherlands

Academy for Development of Philanthropy, Poland

Federation of CFs, Poland

Association for Community Relations, Romania

Romanian Federation of CFs

Trag Foundation, Serbia

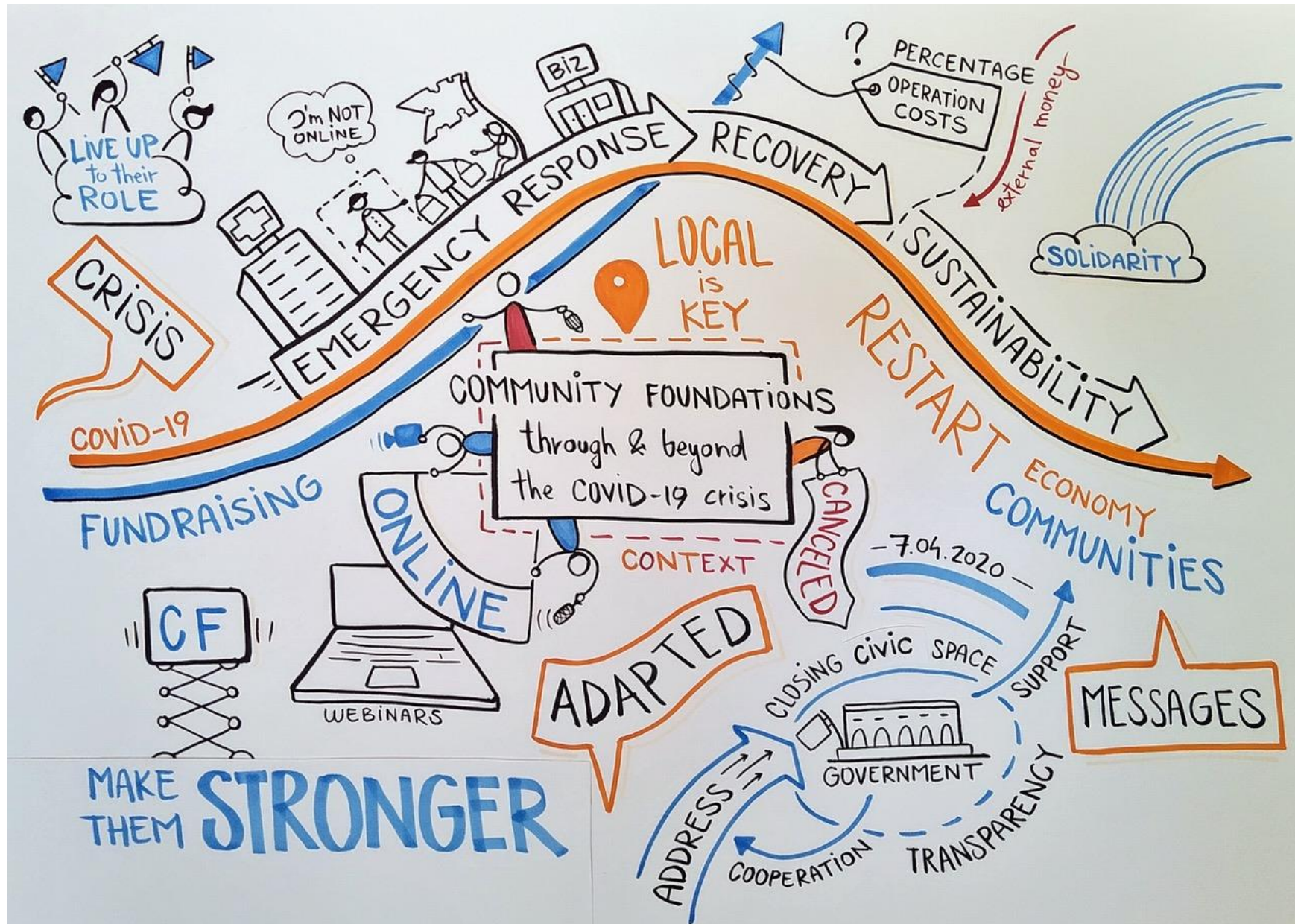
Zajecar Initiative, Serbia

Association of CFs, Slovakia

Association of Spanish Foundations

ISAR Ednannia, Ukraine

A visual overview of the discussion



Visual harvester: Adrian Popa.

Contextual Challenges and Key Issues Arising

Contextual challenges

Some of the factors that determine how community foundations perform throughout the crisis and emerge from it are within their own control, but others are not. Economic strength, the state of the healthcare system, and the nature and speed of the policy responses have all shaped the environment within which community foundations operate and their roles. In every country the state has had to act decisively and at scale - with impunity that has been uncomfortable for some, in particular where there is a propensity to close space for civil society. In some countries, the value and role of civil society and philanthropy is not being fully acknowledged, in others this has been seen to be critical and is being recognised and championed. We are all in a highly dynamic situation which will require acting with agility responding quickly to immediate needs and with foresight in order to help foster recovery.

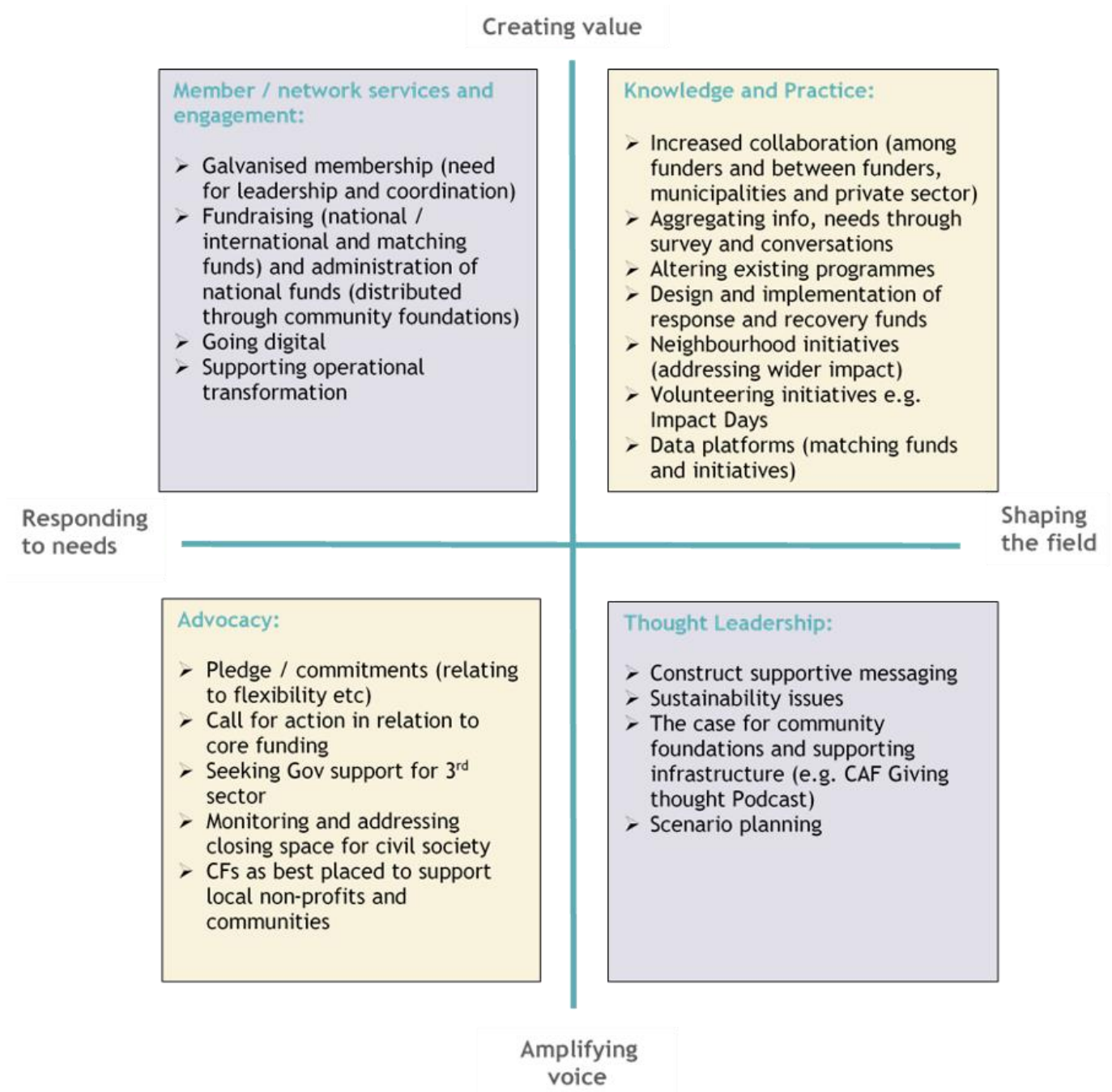
The role of Community foundations

Evidence from our discussion shows that community foundations have acted quickly - mobilising resources, connecting people and organisations, and inspiring action. The differential impact of Covid-19 is however highlighting deeply rooted social and economic disparities and reinforcing the need to recognise the interdependence between health and social and economic well-being. Beyond immediate emergency response it is evident that holistic approaches and neighbourhood initiatives - where “local is key”, will be an important part of longer-term solutions and community foundations will have a critical role.

Supporting community foundations

Below we have set out the key issues arising using the [WINGS framework](#) designed to help articulate value, voice and collective impact. This recognises four dimensions through which networks often create value and amplify voice. These activities can be catalysed in two ways (not mutually exclusive): responding to needs and shaping the field.

Value, voice and collective impact in the context of Covid-19



Next steps



- 2nd CFSO on-line meeting - 28th April
- Topics for working groups: collaboration, digital transformation, advocacy at national and European level, building a common message
- Scenario planning

Communication Channels



[Twitter @ECFINews](#)

[ECFI Facebook page](#)

[CF Practice Exchange Facebook group](#)

[ECFI Website resource page](#)

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