

2021 ECFI LEARNING LAB:

Community Foundation Sustainability Revisited



[ECFI Learning Lab for Changemakers](#) enters its second year, after a [successful pilot](#) in 2020. The central theme of the Lab, which runs from July until December, is “Community Foundation Sustainability”.

The Learning Lab is a distant learning concept designed by ECFI for practitioners from the community foundation (CF) field in Europe to enhance their working, thinking and making meaning of social change in their communities.

The Lab is based on three assumptions:

- There is value in interaction, diversity and practice.
- Experimental mindset is the norm in a social context in which there are no pre-conceived right/wrong approaches or universal models.
- The responsibility for learning rests with the individual.

Learning Lab Collaborators continue their employment relationship with their “mother” organization to which ECFI provides a grant contribution to Collaborator’s salary. In addition, Collaborators are required to produce a publishable report by the end of the year and commit to applying their work findings in their organizational setting.

The 2021 Collaborators will engage with the theme of Community Foundation Sustainability through various dimensions that scratch the surface of this broad theme. These include community relations dimensions of sustainability such as community engagement and the new generation in a CF sustainability, organizational and management aspects of sustainability touching topics of inquiry such as factors of adaptivity and strategic responses on the level of CFs vis-à-vis the pandemic challenge, the role of organizational culture and networking propensity as factors enhancing CF organizational sustainability, realignment of operational and strategic management in a CF and specific country-contextual issues such as the nature of unique value proposition of CF in oppressive and closing civic space as a precondition to CF sustainability or testing the dimensions of sustainability in the Spanish context.

The 2021 Learning Lab cohort consists of practitioners from community foundations and support organization practitioners from six countries:

- **Dragan Sreckovic**, Community Foundation Pancevo (initiative group) / Trag Foundation, member of the initiative group (Serbia),

- **Gyuri Hámori**, Roots and Wings Foundation , Community foundation support program lead (Hungary),
- **Ilaria De Cave**, Assifero - The National Membership Association of Italian Grant-Making Foundations and Private Institutional Philanthropy, coordinator of institutional activities (Italy),
- **Irina Serban-Atanasiu**, Galati Community Foundation, Grant manager (Romania),
- **Kostandina Keruti**, Partners Albania, Program manager of philanthropic activities and support infrastructure (Albania),
- **Valentina Ferrara**, Spanish Association of Foundations, Coordinator of the Community Foundations Program (Spain)