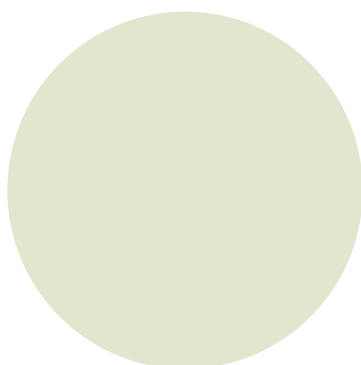
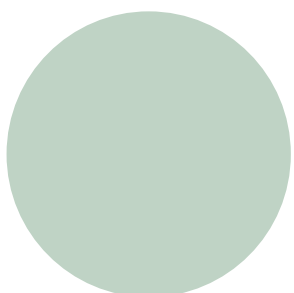
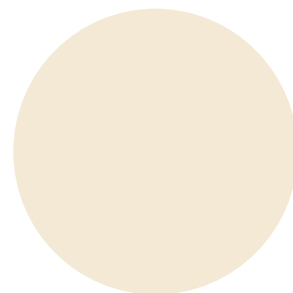
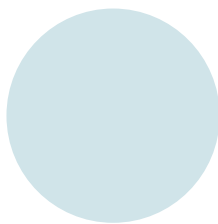
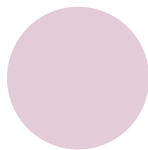
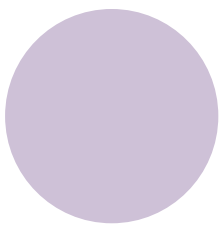
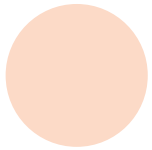




COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
IN EUROPE
STATE OF THE FIELD 2022



IMPRINT

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FOREWORD



Pandemic, climate change and now war in Ukraine. The challenges that are having a global impact on civil societies, economic systems and politics are becoming greater and greater. It is increasingly apparent how much these global crises require both committed local action and, at the same time, thinking in international contexts.

The more than 850 community foundations in 22 countries across Europe are impressive proof of how philanthropy and local action can generate approaches and solutions in a wide range of contexts. ECFI as a network of these actors helps them to exchange ideas across countries, learn from each other, think and work in international contexts, and grow in importance in their own locality and as a movement in Europe.

This State of the Field report shows how community foundations from Spain to Ukraine, from Latvia to Sicily, have evolved in their respective national contexts. It serves to demonstrate the richness of the

diversity of the field in Europe and provides valuable intelligence for those who want to understand, support, or work with community foundations.

As the Association of German Foundations, with over 4,500 member foundations, we are committed to contributing to networking, information, education, understanding, and research at both the national and international levels. That is why we are pleased that, as host of the European Community Foundation Initiative, we can make a contribution to strengthening community foundations as a growing form of civic engagement and philanthropy both nationally and internationally. The impulses that arise locally strengthen a Europe of citizens and strengthen the foundation sector as a whole.

Kirsten Hommelhoff
Secretary-General, Bundesverband Deutscher
Stiftungen
(Association of German Foundations)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of extensive field research based on consultation with national support organisations across Europe. It offers an overview of the community foundation field in Europe along with detailed profiles which provide information on the historical development and current state of the field in each country. This highlights the diversity that exists within Europe, in respect of the context but also in the form and function of community foundations.

Looking through our kaleidoscope (described below by Tobias Jung) we present a movement based on a particular form of institutional philanthropy in Europe that mobilises and invests technical and financial resources in a specific geographical area. The concept of community foundations, which took root in Europe in 1980s, has steadily developed into a dynamic movement that puts geographic communities, philanthropic giving and localism at its core, with a rich diversity of organisations that take various forms and functions, shaped by their local context.

The adaptability of the community foundation concept makes it possible for each country and local area to mould it to fit its unique circumstances. The socio-economic, political and legal environment, together with the history and attitude towards philanthropy determine their particular form and function, however across Europe they generally share characteristics in common.

Characteristics of European community foundations:


- independent and governed by a board of citizens broadly reflective of the communities they serve;
- seek to build, over time, assets and funds from a wide range of donors, including local citizens, other foundations, businesses, and public bodies;
- accumulate and deploy capital (in various forms – human, financial, physical, intellectual, social and cultural) to make grants or implement activities that address a wide variety of needs in the locality;
- engage in a range of community leadership and partnership activities, serving as catalysts, convenors, collaborators and facilitators to solve problems and develop solutions to important community issues.

Importantly they form part of the philanthropic institutional fabric of the area adding value to donor funds through a profound knowledge of the locality, and through leverage they have in connections with others.

Based on national-level understanding of the characteristics of a community foundation our research shows there are 851 in 22 countries with 32 infrastructure organisations serving the field.

Development continues through both improving the professionalism and effectiveness of existing community foundations, where the field is more mature e.g. UK and Germany, and establishing new ones where the field is less well developed or the concept is relatively new, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe. There has also been a renewal of interest in Italy, Spain and Belgium, for example, where national foundation support organisations have realised the potential for growth in this type of institutional philanthropy.

This development has been encouraged by recognition of the role that community foundations have played, often in response to local crises, and more widely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, where they were positioned as trusted, dynamic and effective local institutions that had the leadership, connecting and organisational capacity to utilise philanthropic resources to meet local need. There is evidence of greater national and international collaboration in the community foundation field and with others, in particular in relation to the connection between local and global levels e.g. with regard to the SDGs and Climate Action.

This report serves as a resource for those wishing to develop an understanding of the movement and to engage with it as appropriate, capturing the 'state of the field' in 2022. Information on community foundation support organisations in Europe is maintained in our [online Atlas](#). 

ECFI team.

Field development highlights:

- the field is continuing to grow with active development in countries where there are few or no community foundations (e.g. Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia and Spain);
- the role of community foundations has been highlighted and valued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and following the war in Ukraine, with their crisis response and relevance at local level being recognised;
- there is evidence of greater national and international collaboration in the field and consolidation of their leadership, convening and connecting roles;
- through addressing a complex array of issues and their intersections as they impact on a given locality, community foundations make an important global to local connection in relation to the SDGs and the climate crisis;
- while most are very much operating in the present, in the here and now, increasingly there is an appetite to look towards a 'third horizon', systems change, and new ways of working.

THE COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY KALEIDOSCOPE

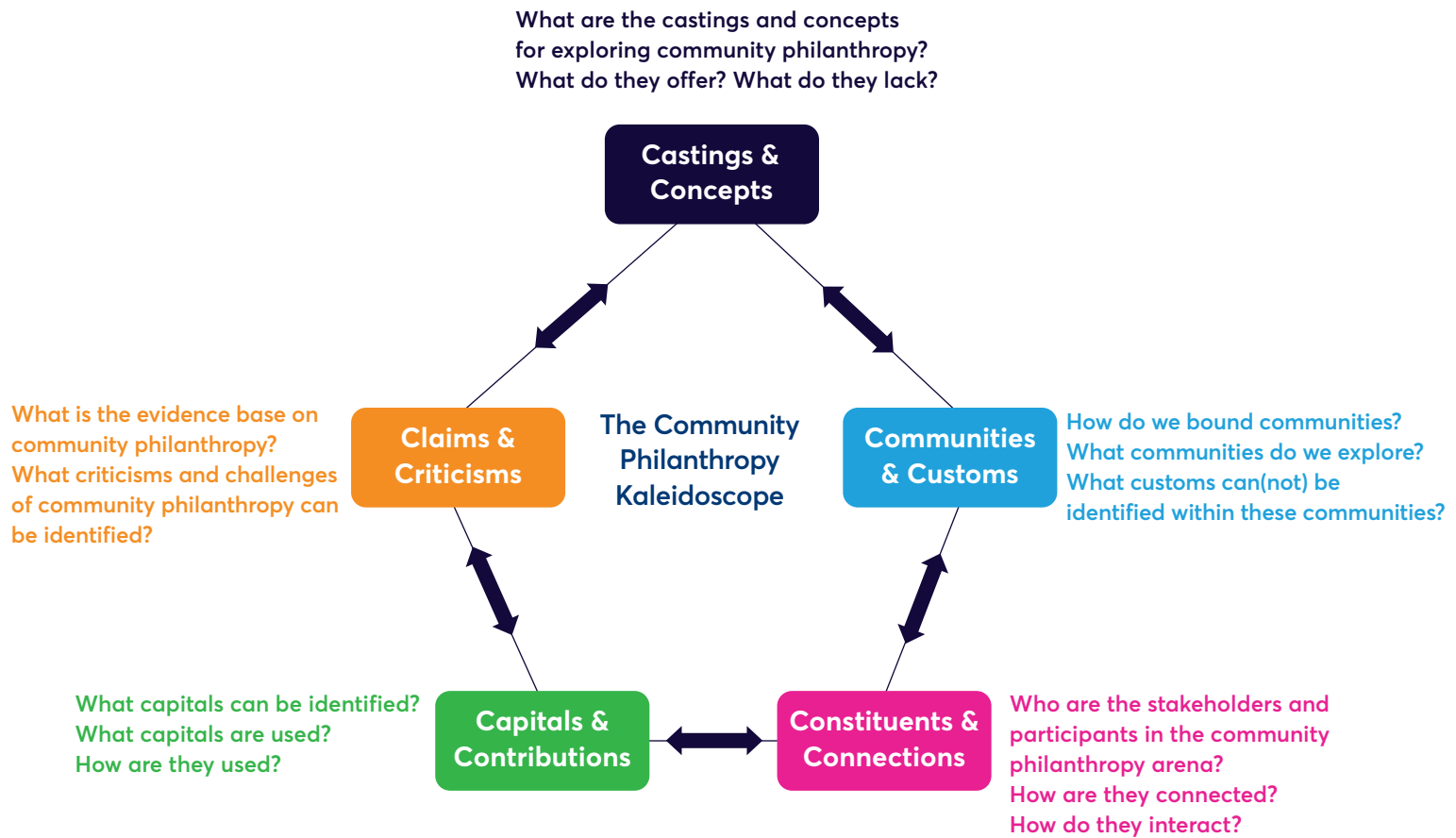


An ever-changing arrangement of principles, practice, patterns and perceptions

An 'optical instrument for creating and exhibiting beautiful forms'^[1], a kaleidoscope offers a seemingly endless variety of patterns by rearranging the position and reflection of different items. For this to work, care needs to be taken. Noticing a growth in spurious forms of kaleidoscopes, its Scottish inventor, Sir David Brewster, felt compelled to write a treatise explaining a kaleidoscope's underpinning principles, construction, and forms, and offer guidance on how to employ it in a creative and useful way. This equally applies to community philanthropy.

Spread across multiple settings, fields and disciplines, the notion of community philanthropy is appealing and multi-faceted. It presents an ever-changing arrangement of principles, practice, patterns and perceptions that cover a diversity of interrelated ideas and ideals.

Notions of 'grassroots'^[2], 'horizontal'^[3], 'indigenous'^[4], 'participatory'^[5], 'place-based'^[6], and 'social justice' philanthropy^[7] sit alongside more institutional castings of community philanthropy as 'community chests'^[8], 'community foundations'^[9] or 'giving circles'^[10]. In short, there are as many expressions of community philanthropy 'as there are civilisations and ages in human history'^[11]. However, with a US-centric discourse, and academia and practice often operating in silos, inclusive and robust knowledge and understanding of community philanthropy remains emergent; there is a need for more diversity in views and voices, as well as for better critically reflective synthesis of empirical and theoretical insights. Accounting for community philanthropy's kaleidoscopic nature, we thus need to consider a number of facets, including community philanthropy's: castings and underpinning concepts; communities and their customs; constituents and their connections; capitals and contributions; and reflections on claims and criticisms.



Definitional diversity

With a diversity of areas engaging with community philanthropy, from community development to social policy, a bewildering set of definitions has emerged. Some emphasise factors such as 'assets, capabilities and trust'^[12], others portray it as 'essentially fund development for the strengthening of civil society'^[13], or cast it as 'a practice' rather than an organisational form^[14]. Such definitional diversity sits alongside a plethora of perspectives through which community philanthropy can be approached. However, approaching it from colonial or feminist

perspectives that highlight and challenge issues of domination and oppression differs markedly from taking a neoliberal stance interested in the transfer and application of business ideas to improve community philanthropy's efficiency and effectiveness. Asking what is highlighted or masked, what can or cannot be gleaned from the different castings and concepts that are, have been, or should be used to examine community philanthropy is thus an important starting point. Having clarified the lenses through which we approach community philanthropy, we need to unpack its various facets, starting with the idea of community.

Shared narrative

Community implies unity, cohesion and belonging, a 'shared narrative'. Such shared narratives are not singular but represent a spectrum of degrees, variations in strength of belonging to different communities. Communities thus need to be perceived in multi-dimensional ways: they might be real or virtual, close or far, present or absent, spatial or emotional, physical or psychological, and can include ethnic, faith, cultural and social lines, to name a few^[15]. Mapping and identifying different communities in relation to community philanthropy and the customs that accompany each of these is thus a second step in building more nuanced understanding of community philanthropy. As part of this, we need to remember that community philanthropy can be philanthropy for, in, by or with communities and encompasses numerous stakeholders.

Beyond usual suspects

The community philanthropy universe is composed of a plethora of individual, collective and organisational participants. In relation to community foundations and giving circles debates about their lifecycles, structures, activities and forms are commonplace. However, we also find other players that offer donations, volunteer contributions, community projects and community partnerships that are less frequently thought of in the context of community philanthropy, particularly corporations^[16]. Alongside asking us to move beyond the usual suspects when exploring community philanthropy, thinking about

the various constituents involved also points to the need to reflect on the constellations that they present. For example, potential constellations of community philanthropy include one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-many, and many-to-one ways of engaging in philanthropy^[17]. The first two emphasise an individual and direct control of resources; the latter two a more collective and indirect one. As the focus shifts towards these actors' interactions, power and control, the various resources in community philanthropy and how they are distributed warrant attention.

Diversity of capitals

Mirroring philanthropy discourse, community philanthropy is often seen as a transfer of resources from those better off to those less so. This, however, does not have to be the case. Community philanthropy can be approached from a vertical perspective, one that is top-down or even bottom-up, or from a horizontal one, where the relationship between giver and recipient is more eye-to-eye^[18]. In the context of indigenous philanthropy it is often highlighted that 'nobody is too poor to give'^[18], raising questions of whether and how we should cast our understanding of resources available to community philanthropy. Particularly in the Anglophone discourse on community foundations the emphasis has historically tended to be on financial resources. However, bringing in a multiple capitals framework from the community development field that acknowledges the diversity of community capitals – natural, human, social, cultural, political, financial and built^[19] – to explore what and how resources are or could be used in, for and by community philanthropy

would, once again help to build more nuanced understanding of the field.

Rebalancing power

One final thing needs consideration when looking at community philanthropy: a lack of robust discourse on the values and impact of community philanthropy. Advocates of community philanthropy suggest that community philanthropy is at least complementary, if not preferable, to other philanthropic approaches, particularly as it provides a rebalancing of power^[11,20]. The extent to which the claims and expectations of community philanthropy live up to their promise, whether community philanthropy does indeed shift any power, and whether there are any darker sides that community philanthropy might present or create, all need further exploration and require stronger collaborations between academia, practice and policy.

Joining the dots

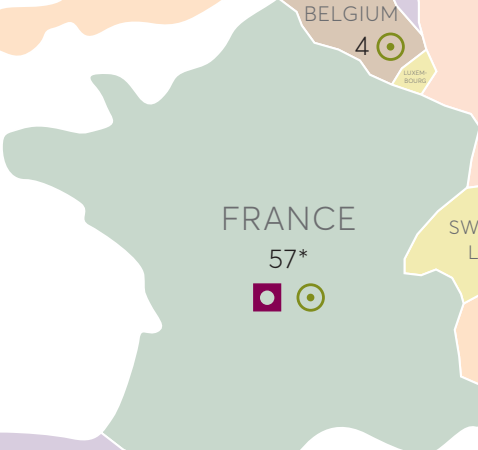
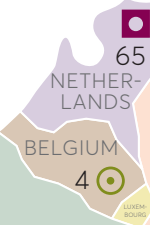
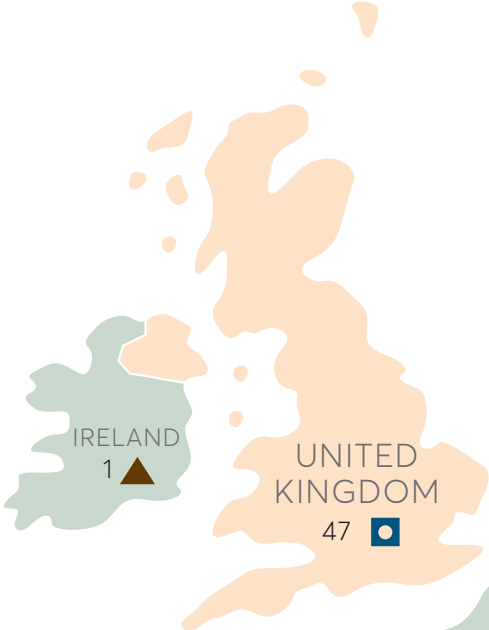
Acknowledging that community philanthropy is a kaleidoscope, and looking at the various facets presented and how they relate to each other, allows us to gain a more nuanced and critically reflective perspective of the field, helps to strengthen practice, and hopefully encourages academics and practitioners, empiricists and theorists to join up their expertise and experiences.

Dr. Tobias Jung
Head of School, School of Management
and Director of the Centre for the Study of
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THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FIELD IN EUROPE



Source:
Based on surveys and interviews in the framework of the 'State of the Community Foundation Field in Europe 2022' research



CHRONOLOGY OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT IN EUROPE

Below is a table presenting the year of establishment of the first community foundation by country

COUNTRY	FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT
United Kingdom	Wiltshire Community Foundation	1975
Slovakia	Healthy City Banská Bystrica	1994
Ukraine	Princes – Benefactors Ostrozky Foundation (no longer active)	1995
Germany	Gütersloh Community Foundation	1996
Czechia	The Ústí Community Foundation	1997
France	Lille Community Foundation	1997
Poland	Snow Mountain Community Foundation and Community Development Foundation "Nad Symsarna"	1998
Russia	Tolyatti City Foundation	1998
Italy	Community Foundation of Lecco	1999
Ireland	The Community Foundation for Ireland	2000
Belgium	Community Foundation West Flanders	2001
Bulgaria	Gabrovo Community Foundation	2002
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Tuzla Community Foundation	2003

COUNTRY	FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT
Latvia	Talsi District Foundation	2003
The Netherlands	Texelfonds	2004
North Macedonia	Local Community Development Foundation Stip	2006
Spain	Ciutat de Valls Foundation (originally established as a Foundation in 1984)	2006
Croatia	Slagalica Community foundation	2007
Turkey	Bolu Community Foundation	2007
Romania	Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation and Cluj Community Foundation	2008
Hungary	Ferencváros Community Foundation	2011
Serbia	Step Forward in Zaječar	2013
Albania	-	-
Austria	-	-
Georgia	-	-

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPE

Community foundations are supported in their work by various types of infrastructure organisations. Based on WINGS^[1] definition of infrastructure organisations we have extended the categorisation of membership organisations - (which includes associations of donors and grant makers) into 'dedicated to' community foundations and 'including' community foundations and have added a fourth category of national champions, which are those single organisations that act as points of contact in those respective countries.

Membership organisations dedicated to community foundations (7)

- Czechia, **Czech Association of Community Foundations** (established in 2006)
- Germany, **Alliance of Community Foundations in Germany** (established in 2001)
- Poland, **Federation of Polish Community Foundations** (established in 2008)
- Romania, **Romanian Federation of Community Foundations** (established in 2012)
- Russia, **Association Partnership of Community Foundations** (established in 2003)
- Slovakia, **Association of Community Foundations in Slovakia** (established in 2003)
- United Kingdom, **UKCF** (established in 1991)

Membership organisations including community foundations in their membership (7)

- Austria, **Association of Charitable Foundations** (started activities in the CF field in 2020)
- France, **French Foundation Center** (started activities in the CF field in 2002)
- Italy, **Assifero** (started activities in the CF field in 2003)
- Netherlands, **LSA Bewoners** (started activities in the CF field in 2020)
- Spain, **Spanish Association of Foundations** (established in 2003 and started activities in the field in 2020)
- Turkey, **Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (Tusev)** (established in 1993)
- Ukraine, **National Network of Local Philanthropy Development** (established in 2020)

CF support initiatives in other organisations – *have professional staff that deliver services to a range of philanthropies*

(12)

- ⦿ Albania, **Partners Albania** (established in 2001 and started activities in the CF field in 2020)
 - ⦿ Belgium, **King Baudoin Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 1999)
 - ⦿ Bulgaria, **Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 2001)
 - ⦿ Georgia, **The Center of Strategic Research and Development of Georgia** (started activities in the field in 2020)
 - ⦿ Germany, **Foundation Active Citizenship** (established in 1997)
 - ⦿ France – **Fondation de France** (established in 1969)
 - ⦿ Hungary, **Roots and Wings Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 2014)
 - ⦿ Poland, **The Academy for the development of Philanthropy in Poland** (established in 1998)
 - ⦿ Romania, **Association for Community Relations (ARC)** (started activities in the CF field in 2009)
 - ⦿ Russia, **Charitable Foundation for Philanthropy Development** (started activities in the CF field in 1998)
 - ⦿ Serbia, **Trag Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 2011)
 - ⦿ Ukraine, **The Initiative Center to Support Social Action (ISAR) Ednannia** (started activities in the CF field in 2009)
-

Networks – *rely heavily on peer-to-peer exchange and learning and do not necessarily have formal membership structures or professional staff to service them* (2)

- 🏠 Bulgaria, **Bulgarian Association of Community Foundations** (established in 2005)
 - 🏠 Latvia, **Community Foundation Movement in Latvia** (established in 2006)
-

National champions – *act as points of contact for their country*

(4)

- ▲ Bosnia & Herzegovina, **Tuzla Community Foundation** (established in 2003)
- ▲ Croatia, **Community Foundation Slagalica** (established in 2008)
- ▲ Ireland, **Community Foundation for Ireland** (established in 2000)
- ▲ Republic of North Macedonia, **Local Community Development Foundation** (established in 2006)

Source:

[1] <http://wings.issuelab.org/resources/19395/19395.pdf>

COUNTRY PROFILES

Below are descriptions of the evolution and current state of the community foundation field by country with the number of community foundations and type of support organisation marked in each map.



ALBANIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 0

Partners Albania has been leading an initiative since 2020 that is:

- working to deploy public awareness and education tools for increasing awareness and understanding of community foundations;
- undertaking research to better understand the characteristics of community foundations;
- generating dialogue and building bridges among sectors for boosting the development of community foundations in the country.

In an informational video <https://partnersalbania.org/Gallery/community-foundations-informational-video/> community foundations are identified as being independent, locally based philanthropic institutions, and that they are foundations of people for people

(harnessing time money and ideas), to address community issues.

There are three community foundations in development under the initiative led by Partners Albania, one is an existing informal NGO, and two are new initiative groups.

Partners Albania is providing mentoring and capacity building in relation to their development (e.g. legal / institutional support, communications, fundraising, strategic planning etc), and is helping with partnership building and regional networking. It is encouraging each to produce their own promotional video and is also offering connections to potential donors. It is anticipated that the first community foundation in Albania could be established by the end of this year.

Interviewees:

Kostandina Këruti and Jonida Alite, Partners Albania

CFSO:

Partners Albania

<https://partnersalbania.org/>



PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

AUSTRIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 0



Though there are no community foundations in Austria to this date, there is an emerging effort to build a community foundation movement in the country led by the Austrian Association of Charitable Foundations (“Verband für gemeinnütziges Stiften”). The association is a young, membership support philanthropy organisation founded in 2014 which currently brings together over 100 members - foundations and funds that support charitable causes. The Austrian Association provides benchmarking, raises awareness about the foundation sector and contributes to creating an enabling environment.

In 2020, with the support of the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Austrian Association launched a multiyear programme to promote the concept of community foundations in Austria and build new organisations of this type. Previously the concept of “community foundations” did not exist as such in the country. Firstly, there was lack of information of community foundations as a framework for local civic engagement, secondly – there is a negative image of major charitable giving along with charged connotations of the term “Stiftung” (foundation) among the Austrian society. For

this reason, there are quite a small number of charitable foundations in the country. However, according to the feasibility study, there is an appetite for building a community foundation movement: solidarity and participation in the Austrian society are on the rise with 43.8% of the population engaging in volunteering activities and 64% of Austrians donating money for charitable causes. At the same time, community foundations represent a model that is needed in the society: it will allow democratising philanthropy, increasing ownership of the changes to be implemented on the local level, and bringing more financial sustainability and professionalization to charitable organisations. Following the stakeholder interviews, the Association has selected regional leaders — well-connected local people who are encouraged to build initiative groups and hold regional roundtables to gather knowledge on the needs and priorities of their communities. At the end of the capacity building programme envisaged for 2022, several groups will be selected to support them with a match funding programme. The initial capital that is required for the creation of a charitable foundation in Austria is €50,000.

Interviewees:

Ruth Williams and Silvia Mayrhofer, Association of Charitable Foundation

CFSO:

Association of Charitable Foundation

 <https://www.gemeinnuetzig-stiften.at>



Verband für
gemeinnütziges
Stiften



BELGIUM

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 4

The development of community foundations in Belgium is strictly connected with the The King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) which acts as a legal hub in which community foundations can be set up, managed, and supported. The closing of the Levi's factory in Gits and Wervik in 1998 lead to the creation of the first community foundation in the country, in West Flanders in 2001. While being set up as a regional fund within KBF, the hybrid model of community foundation makes decisions with the help of an independent local committee (includes one staff member from KBF). As the first community foundation in Belgium, West Flanders strived to develop strong ties to the local communities, to donors, to develop their own operational projects and build local engagement and participation. Three more community foundations followed in East Flanders, Limburg and East Belgium, without having a proactive, carefully designed development strategy. Inspiration, opportunity, and local leadership were factors for development, coupled with legal and operational support from KBF.

In 20 years of activity the Community Foundation for West Flanders demonstrated the importance of local community knowledge and of local donors giving through their community foundation as opposed to approaching a national foundation directly. Its activities are focussed on three pillars: running their own projects, fund development for local individuals and

companies as well as acting as a local/regional grant-maker for national KBF funds. The Community Foundations for East Flanders and East Belgium are on a similar path, while the Community Foundation for Limburg is currently focussing on fundraising for children's needs.

Now, KBF is moving towards a more proactive approach to development of community foundations in Belgium, potentially envisioning the existence of community foundations that would serve all eleven provinces. To support this endeavour there is also a working definition of the concept and a dedicated staff member.

In terms of challenges and questions for the future there are three areas of reflection:

1. Should all regions have a community foundation? - reflecting on the idea of economies of scale, local identity, and culture.
2. The principle of subsidiarity – how best to manage collaboration between KBF and the regional funds/community foundations.
3. Financial independence and the tension between fundraising and fund-development and the implications this brings for the organisation.

The big opportunity is that community foundations are the missing pieces from the puzzle of philanthropic tools of KBF. And as Jan Despiegelaere puts it *"we may be small pieces, but we shine a lot"*.

Interviewee:

Jan Despiegelaere, Community Foundation for West Flanders

CFSO:

King Baudouin Foundation

 <https://kbs-frb.be/en>





BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 2

The national context of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been quite challenging for developing a culture for community foundations. The historic background and the consequences of the war in the 1990s, harsh economic conditions and complicated political system are causing a low level of trust and perceived safety, high level of emigration and brain drain of young people. *"A large number of international development organisations and foreign funding have created dependency of the civic sector on external donors, and led to the lack of initiative and lack of awareness that is possible to lean more on domestic and diaspora resources. When we started our grant making programme to community projects we had the approach where those supported, contribute either financially or non-financially with local resources – we wanted to create a sense of ownership and responsibility for sustainability of supported projects"*, says Jasna Jašarević, Director of the Tuzla Community Foundation.

The Tuzla Community Foundation was the first community foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, founded in 2003 by 18 citizens of Tuzla. They were supported by the Freudenberg Foundation through the initiative "Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme" based in Berlin. Though the Tuzla Community Foundation was funded by external sources, it was still a bottom-up process of mobilization of local resources. Its mission is to support citizens'

participation in the democratic development of the community through networking and partnerships, inclusion and empowerment of young people. By promoting the culture of giving and volunteering, they match donations and support activities to improve quality of life in their community. The foundation is predominantly funded by international donors, while 9% is funded by local individuals and companies, and 5% by local and cantonal government. The second community foundation – the Gradačac Community Foundation is not a grantmaking organisation but was implementing its own activities for improvement of life conditions for the vulnerable groups in the community.

With the new programme "Our Local Foundation - Community has a say!" aimed at building a community foundations movement across the Western Balkans region, the Trag Foundation (see more details about the foundation and the programme in the Serbian country profile) has proceeded with Bosnia and Herzegovina as the second pilot country. Supported by the Porticus Foundation, it launched a call in December 2020 and received 60 applications from 41 communities across the country. Trag selected five informal groups representing Sarajevo, Bijeljina, Zenica, the region of Birač and the municipalities surrounding the mountain of Borja. They are challenged to raise €15,000 from individuals and companies that the Trag foundation will double.

Interviewees:

Jasna Jašarević, Tuzla Community Foundation
Marija Mitrović, Trag Foundation

CFSOs:

Tuzla Community Foundation

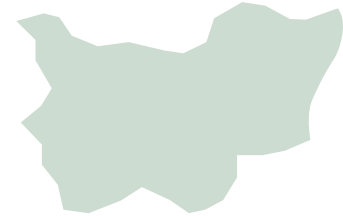
<https://www.fondacijatz.org>



Trag Foundation

<https://tragfondacija.org/en/>





BULGARIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 14

The community foundation concept was initiated in Bulgaria in 2002 by the Community Foundations Development Programme, implemented by Counterpart International, and funded by USAID. From 2006 to 2009, community foundations were strengthened as local grant-making organisations with the support of the CEE Trust and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. From 2009 to 2019, the Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation hosted the national programme for the development of community foundations, co-funded by the CEE Trust, Mott Foundation, and the America for Bulgaria Foundation. Community foundations evolved to manage portfolios of donor-advised funds, corporate philanthropic programmes, and multiple donors' field-of-interest funds. The network of the community foundations was enriched by 13 YouthBanks established in 2012, and the introduction of Giving Circles.

Since the completion of these programmes, offering financial support, the community foundation field in Bulgaria has however struggled, and has contracted. The ending of development support through the Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation in 2020, although planned, came at a bad time for the field. Strategies that community foundations had in place to provide for their sustainability were badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Public

fundraising events could not be held and corporate donations which were directed to Covid emergency relief eventually dried up as a result of the economic impact. The Bulgarian Association of Community Foundations, although still in existence, has not been active for some time and the Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation no longer provides specific support to community foundations.

Nevertheless, community foundations have continued to be active and important players in their local communities in different ways. Of the 14 community foundations, four (Gabrovo, Sliven, Stara Zagora, and Varna) are considered to be active as community foundations with the remaining 10 being more 'hybrid' organisations, some working ad hoc on a campaigning basis, raising funds towards specific needs and projects, and implementing actions in response. *"The 'hybrid' approach, that involves acting as a philanthropic institution (utilising assets and receiving / raising and distributing funds) and operating as an NGO (implementing activities), seems more appropriate in the current social and economic environment in Bulgaria, than the classical, imported, 'financial intermediary' model of a community foundation. Currently we do not have the capital nor scale for this to be viable."* Monika Pisankaneva, Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation.

Interviewees:

Daniela Dimitrova and Katya Dyankova, Association of Community Foundations in Bulgaria
Monika Pisankaneva, Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation

CFSOs:

Bulgarian Association of Community Foundations

<http://www.acfb-bg.org/>

Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation

<https://frgi.bg/en/>



WORKSHOP
FOR CIVIC
INITIATIVES
FOUNDATION

supporting initiative communities



CROATIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 4

The first community foundation in Croatia, Slagalica, was founded by the Osijek based Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights and the Organisation for Civic Initiatives. The National Foundation for Civil Society Development has supported the community foundation field as part of its work in developing philanthropy (including establishment and facilitation of the Croatian Philanthropy Forum) and civil society.

The approach to community foundation development shifted with membership of the EU in 2013, with EU and EEA funded national programmes for civil society development favouring more topical and regional development. Slagalica Community Foundation continued to play a lead role up until a few years ago to 'improve cooperation and networking with relevant national, regional and international foundations, CSOs and other key stakeholders for exchange, learning and joint actions on promotion and advocacy, re-granting, new grant-giving programmes and supporting new

community foundations'. It is doing this less so now as it is occupied managing its own operations and programmes, nevertheless it remains a contact point for the field.

Despite the small size of the field the form and functions of community foundations in Croatia are extremely varied, operating at national, regional and local level with the common characteristic being citizen involvement. There is a focus on neglected rural areas. The National Foundation for Civil Society launched the 'Active in the Community' programme in 2020 and is encouraging a broader interpretation of community philanthropy that 'creates new synergies in communities based on social capital'. This is being supported through the Impact Euro-Med Academy for Philanthropy and Social Development, in Zadar. A recent development is the establishment of the platform ZADobroBIT! <https://www.zadobrobit.hr/filantropija> which brings together and lists philanthropists and foundation partners who help implement ideas for the common good.

Interviewees:

Branka Kaselj, Slagalica Community Foundation

Cvjetana Plavsca-Matic, National Foundation for Civil Society Development

CFSO:

Slagalica Community Foundation

[🌐 https://www.zaklada-slagalica.hr/en/](https://www.zaklada-slagalica.hr/en/)



CZECHIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 5



Following the establishment of the Ústí Community Foundation in 1993 a programme for supporting community-based organisations was implemented in 1998, followed in 2004 by a more ambitious plan to build the community foundation movement. It was administered by the Via Foundation and funded by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe. 2006 saw significant developments to the sector with the launch of the [declaration](#) on basic characteristics and requirements for community foundations in the Czechia and the establishment of the Czech Association of Community Foundations (AKN). AKN's objectives are to disseminate the model across the country, support the development of community foundations and organisations striving to become community foundations, strengthen their cooperation and peer exchange. It brings together five members: the Ústí Community Foundation, the Community Foundation Blanicko – Otavská, the South Moravian Community Foundation, the Three Gates Community Foundation for Knowledge, Art and Civilization and the recently joined Veronica Foundation. The community foundations are mostly based in small and medium-sized towns and operate in rural areas. They tend to have a small number of employees and limited financial resources, with an exception of the Ústí Community Foundation, which runs an endowment fund and has an extensive donor network.

Although the number of community foundations in the Czech Republic is low, they

cooperate quite intensively with each other, carrying out joint training and peer learning activities several times a year. In addition to this, three Moravian community foundations, which operate in the adjacent regions, have initiated several joint projects in recent years, focusing on sustainable development, recycling and upcycling and reviving folklore. AKN plans to revive cooperation with Slovak community foundations and organize a joint Czech-Slovak meeting later in 2022. In 2022, AKN published a ["Compendium of Case Studies"](#) – a collection of key moments and outcomes of a two-year effort of Czech community foundations in embracing empowerment and leadership roles in their community. Alongside AKN, the Via Foundation supports philanthropy and community development in Czechia, offering philanthropic tools and raising awareness about the role of endowments.

In recent years, the culture of giving in Czechia has been growing steadily, and the Czech civil society is witnessing an upsurge in the emergence of various initiatives. *"Local funds initiated by various actors and aimed at the local community are particularly popular at the moment. Most of these funds operate in a really small area. They are not able to sustain themselves in this form, but they are a testimony to the changes taking place in the Czech society. They are characterised by their strong grassroots character, the concentration of local donors and issues, which creates a potential for further development of local philanthropy."* Zdeněk Mihalco, Executive Director at the Via Foundation.

Interviewees:

Tomas Krejci, Czech Association of Community Foundations

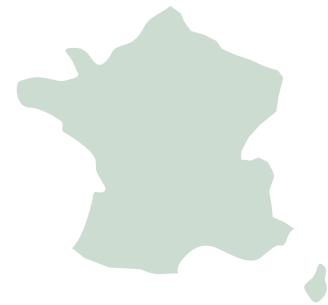
Zdeněk Mihalco, Via Foundation

CFSO:

Czech Association of Community Foundations

<https://www.akncr.cz>

 **CZECH ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS**



FRANCE

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 57*

Fondation de Lille was the first community foundation (territorial foundation) to be established in France in 1997 by the mayor who wanted to create a legal framework for citizens to engage in acts of solidarity. Modelled after the Anglo-Saxon concept of community foundations it acts as a 'link between private donors, enterprises, local communities, and recipients.' While there are a couple of other active and well-known community foundations, like the one in Metz or Dunkirk there is limited information on the phenomenon of 'fondations territoriales', the term used in French. This makes it difficult to state with confidence how many such organisations currently exist in France and how they might equate to understandings of community foundations in other European countries. The number of organisations listed above is based on figures from 2018.

There are two support organisation with an interest in community foundations, but with various degrees of capacity to monitor developments of the field, which also change from time to time: Fondation de France (FdF) and the French Foundation Centre (CFF).

Fondation de France was established in 1969 as an independent, private foundation and was inspired by the US model of community foundations. Nowadays it has

six regional bodies and 916 donor advised funds. Some of the foundations that it shelters consider themselves as community foundations, while others take a local approach to their work.

The French Foundation Centre was established in 2002. Its mission is to support and develop endowment funds and foundations in France through different actions including advocacy, seminars, publications, and field trips. The CFF has pioneered the transposition of the community foundation concept in France through workshops since 2008 and a publication in 2013, interpreting "community" in a geographical way, more appropriate to the French culture and reality. Community foundation is not a legal status in France, but a way of acting with and for a territory.

From conversations with representatives of FdF and CFF there is an increased appetite towards understanding better the value of working at a local level. More so CFF is opening a working group, entitled "Territories and Foundations" that will focus on local action and commitments, partnerships and coalitions open to all foundations interested in this topic and not exclusive to community foundations, and Fondation de Lille intends to take a lead on establishing a network.

Interviewee:

Anne Fleury, French Foundation Center

CFSOs:

Fondation de France

 <https://www.fondationdefrance.org/en/>

French Foundation Centre

 <https://www.centre-francais-fondations.org>



GEORGIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 0



While there are around 10-12 small organisations based in rural areas which refer to themselves as “community foundations”, they regrant funds from local development organisations, which in their turn get funding from the EU, the UNDP and other development organisations. The socio-economic background of the country along with the available international funding have created dependency on external resources and have hampered citizens’ ownership and individual responsibility.

Currently Georgian support organisations, Center of Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG) and the East-West Management Institute (EWMI), are refining and gaining understanding on what community foundations are and what their role could be in the civil society landscape in Georgia. In 2021 EWMI, with the support of USAID launched a five-year “The Civil Society Engagement Program” aimed at strengthening Georgian civil society through building the capacity of new and existing civic actors to act as trusted, legitimate, and effective representatives of citizens’ interests, empowering and mobilizing communities to advocate for their rights, and building an ecosystem for civic actors to diversify their resource base.

CSRDG promotes good governance, stable and inclusive economic development, and the formation of an active civil society for the welfare of Georgian society. With 23 years of experience in community development, it embarked on the promotion of the concept of community foundations and carried out a

feasibility study on the prospects of building community foundations in Telavi and Lagodekhi municipalities, both in the region of Kakheti. The objective of the feasibility study was to choose the first pilot, however the findings encouraged them to proceed with both.

In 2021, with the support of the EU and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung it launched a project “Civil Society STAR Initiative: CSOs as Sustainable, Transparent, Accountable and Resilient Development Actors in Georgia”. Under this programme, CSRDG set an objective to adapt the model of community foundations and develop the culture of giving.

The initiative groups are required to continue the communication campaign about a community foundation as a concept, gather insights on the needs of their communities, build a supporter database and identify the priorities of their soon-to-be foundation. They will soon be awarded 10,000 Georgian Lari (€3,000) by CSRDG as core funding which they will need to match via their fundraising efforts.

According to Nino Vasadze, CSRDG Community Development Programme Coordinator they currently see “*increasing solidarity, increasing crowd funding and local giving effort. Many young people establish self-organising initiatives which will assist in the development of the community foundation movement in Georgia. But we need some more practical assistance from other countries who have already paved this way*”.

Interviewee:

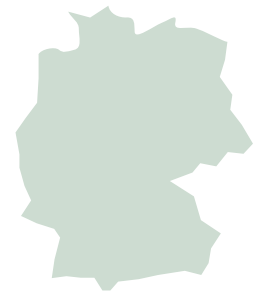
Nino Vasadze, Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia

CFSO:

Center of Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG)

<http://new.csrDG.ge>





GERMANY

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 420

The community foundations field in Germany has been developing for more than 25 years. Businessman Reinhard Mohn in Gütersloh and Prof. Christian Pfeiffer were instrumental in the establishment of the field. Just a couple of years later, Bertelsmann Foundation, Klaus Tschira Foundation, Körber Foundation and Association of German Foundations launched a new programme, called "Community Foundations Initiative", to spread the word. In 2016 the "Alliance of Community Foundations" emerged from this programme. The Alliance lobbies for the interests of German community foundations, informs, connects and supports community foundations, initiative groups and individuals. 14 regional ambassadors across the country help the Alliance by sharing their experience and advice with community foundations in their region.

Ten 'characteristics' constitute the formal framework of a community foundation in Germany. A 'Seal of Approval' was created by the Association of German Foundations, which is awarded to community foundations that fulfil the requirements for a period of two years. 263 community foundations carry the seal at present. According to Stiftung

Aktive Bürgerschaft (the Active Citizenship Foundation), a partner of the Alliance, which also offers services to community foundations and publishes data on the field in Zalen und Fakten <https://www.aktive-buergerschaft.de/buergerstiftungen/buergerstiftungen-in-zahlen/>, there are 420 community foundations (covering about half the population of the country) that adhere to the characteristics.

Although community foundations have managed to become a permanent fixture in the landscape of social actors in Germany over the last 25 years, it remains important to carry out lobbying activities, especially at the federal level. A strong ally is the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, which has been supporting the work of the Alliance of Community Foundations for years. A new development in the field is the emergence of the federal German Foundation for Civic Engagement and Volunteering in 2020 which was established to strengthen and promote civic engagement and volunteering, especially in structurally weak and rural areas. The foundation can provide additional resources to community foundations.

Interviewees:

Dr. Marie-Luise Stoll-Steffan and Ulrike Reichart, Alliance of Community Foundations in Germany

Jonas Rugenstein, Active Citizenship Foundation

CFSOs:

Alliance of Community Foundations in Germany

<http://www.buergerstiftungen.org/de/>

Active Citizenship Foundation

<https://www.aktive-buergerschaft.de>



STIFTUNG AKTIVE
BÜRGERSCHAFT

HUNGARY

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 7



The Hungarian community foundation field is going through a renaissance with the establishment of a number of new foundations, despite the current context that surrounds the civil society in Hungary. Since 2010, the shrinking civic space in the country has been characterised by campaigns discrediting the NGO sector and threatening those who dare to be critical and act independently from the government. While foreign funding has been important in supporting civil society, it carries additional risks for the NGOs that are dealing with the excessive scrutiny from the government and the growing mistrust from the society. In this context, community-based initiatives propose an alternative that enables people to have a direct impact on their own environment and contribute to local action in order to advance their communities.

The first community foundation in Hungary, Ferencváros Community Foundation, was established in 2011 following three pillars: local fundraising, grant making and community building. This success proved that the community foundation concept is viable in Hungary. It also inspired the birth of Roots and Wings Foundation (R&WF) in 2014, a support organisation, with the goal of initiating profound social change in Hungary by supporting bottom-up initiatives that increase individual initiative and responsibility, as well as strengthen trust and solidarity in society. R&WF's Community Foundation Support Programme promotes the community foundation concept in Hungary and provides financial and

professional support to start-up groups and registered community foundations. Between 2014 and 2019 there were multiple attempts to launch new community foundations with various and limited success.

A renewed effort was launched in 2020 with the selection of six community development professionals and two initiative groups. They went through a comprehensive capacity building programme, formed groups around them and five of them were set up officially as community foundations by January 2022 — in the 2nd and 3rd districts of Budapest, and in Nyíregyháza, Eger and Nagykanizsa. *"We supported the selected professionals financially. We were very intentional; they are not just volunteers: they are experts in what they are expected to do and we pay them for their professional and committed work: to understand the concept, promote the concept in their city, find the people who are interested in the concept, and motivate them to become a group"*. György Hámori, Roots and Wings Foundation.

While the impact of the re-election of Orban's government is still uncertain on the newly established foundations, they managed to translate the external challenges into opportunities. It was the case during COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine likewise mobilised the Hungarian community foundation movement. One of the foundations is located in the county on the border with Ukraine, dealing with the refugee crisis and coordinating the efforts with the other six community foundations.

Interviewees:

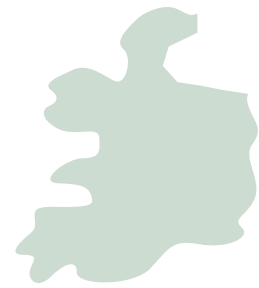
György Hámori and Tamás Scaurszki, Roots and Wings Foundation

CFSO:

Roots and Wings Foundation

 <https://gy-sz.hu/en/>





IRELAND

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 1

The Community Foundation for Ireland was established in 2000 with support from Government and the business sector. Since then, it has built an endowment of €45m and operates 87 donor-advised funds, thematic funds and a range of flow-through funds. In 2021 it awarded over €18m in grants. In addition, the community foundation plays an important advocacy role and contributed to the development of National Policy on Philanthropy.

While there is economy of scale and efficiency in operations and in establishing and maintaining government and some donor relations, through operating at a national level, the need to find ways of ensuring local level connectivity and engagement was recognised. The Community Foundation for Ireland has addressed this by establishing various local funds. The County Monaghan Fund was established in 2004. It was the first county philanthropic fund in the Republic of Ireland. It was set up with the support of the Community Foundation for Ireland and a committee of 12 civic minded Monaghan people representing all areas of the county. Over the years there have been discussions regarding the establishment of other county funds and recently the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Community Fund was set up, with another Fund focussed on 2 counties in the west of Ireland likely to be established in 2022. The Community

Foundation for Ireland believes that there is a real opportunity to encourage more county funds and that it could be a driver in growing philanthropy across Ireland to benefit local communities and causes.

Success factors for the establishment of county funds include:

- **Leadership:** The importance of local leadership to agree the vision and ambition for the Fund;
- **Fundraising:** Having a capacity and commitment to fundraise and to connect effectively with key stakeholders and agencies. A grant making ambition is not sufficient;
- **Resources:** Identifying and securing the requisite resources – money and investment of time plus administration capacity;
- **Governance:** It is essential that funds are stewarded to meet the highest standards of governance and that grants are distributed in a fair and transparent way;
- **Meeting local needs:** The Fund needs to be framed in line with local needs and interests so that it is relevant and appealing to donors;
- **Patience and perseverance:** In order to transform the vision for a county fund into an up and running philanthropic fund – it is best envisioned as a long-term resource for the community rather than a short-term project.

Interviewees:

Denise Charlton and Jackie Harrison, Community Foundation for Ireland

CFSO (National champion):
 Community Foundation for Ireland
 <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/>





ITALY

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 46

The first community foundation “Fondazione Comunitaria del Lecchese Onlus” (community foundation of Lecco) was established in 1999, following the efforts of the Cariplo Foundation to introduce and adapt the American model of community foundations to the Italian context. The Cariplo Foundation, along with other foundations of banking origin, such as Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo in Northern Italy or Fondazione CON IL SUD in Southern Italy, have played and continue to play an important role in the development of the community foundation field in Italy.

The first community foundations in Southern Italy (Salerno, Naples and Messina) emerged in 2009, an effort championed by the Fondazione CON IL SUD. The establishment paths for community foundations in Italy vary. The involvement of church institutions is significant in some instances: local dioceses participate in the establishment of community foundations and later might be members of the boards. Another strong advocate of the movement is the Fondazione Italiana Charlemagne, active in the area around Rome (Lazio) and in the South. It provides support to new community foundations and fund the community foundations related programmes of Assifero, the Italian Association of Foundations and Philanthropic Organisations.

Assifero brings together family foundations, business foundations and community foundations. Among Assifero’s membership – 46 community foundations are building a strong but highly diverse community of practice, holding the first annual conference for community foundations in 2017. With

COVID-19 as a catalyst for mobilisation, the key role of community foundations in activating meaningful collaborations at the local and national level was particularly important.

Over the past years community foundations have gained more recognition among citizens, local government, and politicians as well as other non-profit organisations. According to Francesca Mereta, Communications Manager at Assifero, in the past few years they have received many inquiries about how community foundations work and their impact at local level. “We are also witnessing an increasing number of national grants requests for the establishment of a community foundation. This shows us the potential of these organisations”. Academia is also demonstrating interest, for example, the recent research conducted at the University of Udine and University of Verona by Chiara Leardini and Gina Rossi.

Internally, the field is now facing the challenge of attracting and retaining new talents and qualified staff to increase their capabilities. Assifero offers its members training and networking events such as “Cofficer-Coffee” among programme officers. Another priority is to shift funding practices: there is a need to divert resources from project-restricted funds towards multi-year core support grants, to ensure community foundations’ resilience for them to achieve their mission and plan for the long term. Many community foundations are increasingly embracing the 2030 Agenda, implementing an organisation-wide approach to the SDGs.

Interviewee:

Francesca Mereta, Assifero

CFSO:

Assifero  <https://assifero.org>



LATVIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 7



The main objective behind the introduction of community foundations as a model in Latvia was laid out by the Baltic-American Partnership Fund (BAPF) in the early 2000s: attracting a new and stable source of funding for civil society activities. In practice, this took the form of civic forums that spurred the development of various forms of public participation and led to the registration of the first two community foundations in 2003 – the Talsi District Foundation and the Lielvarde Development Fund.

With Latvia joining the EU in 2004 and the BAPF ten-year programme coming to an end in 2006, Latvian community foundations established the Community Foundation Movement which brings together representatives of community foundations at least once a year. It is an informal peer-exchange initiative which operates under the legal mandate of one of its members — the Valmiera Community Foundation. There is an appetite to evaluate the relevance of the community foundation model in Latvia: an annual assessment is scheduled for summer 2022 to reflect on the capacity of community foundations to meet the local needs and the potential of the movement to develop the field.

Currently there are nine organisations that are registered as community foundations in Latvia. While six foundations are active in their communities and one carries out sporadic activities, two foundations are either planning to suspend or have already suspended their functions. Most

organisations operate in rural areas and small towns. The exception is the Liepāja County Foundation, whose territory includes Latvia's third largest city, Liepāja, and the surrounding counties. The community foundations cover 26 municipalities with a population of almost 300,000 people.

Latvian community foundations mostly finance their activities on the basis of third-party funded projects and through the support of the Boris and Ināra Teterev Foundation. Since 2012, the Boris and Ināra Teterev Foundation has been instrumental in the development of community philanthropy in Latvia. Through the Community Philanthropy Development Programme, it has enabled the creation of new and the stabilisation of existing community foundations by offering grants to cover partial operating costs. All six active community foundations benefit from the support of the Teterev Foundation programme.

According to Ansis Bērziņš, coordinator of the Community Foundation Movement, the biggest challenges are to diversify funding sources and attract new staff in view of the generational change that will inevitably take place in the near future. *“There is a need to reinforce the idea that community foundations can play a significant role and we can be a major player in community development in Latvia”.* This change must take place both within organisations and in the consciousness of citizens and other social actors.

Interviewee:

Ansis Bērziņš, Community Foundation Movement of Latvia

CFSO:

Community Foundation Movement in Latvia

[🌐 https://www.teterevfonds.lv/en/our-work/community-philanthropy-development/](https://www.teterevfonds.lv/en/our-work/community-philanthropy-development/)





THE NETHERLANDS

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 65(EST)

Community foundations in the Netherlands began to take shape in the early 2000s, being activated through academic discussions and a report by Eleanor Sacks describing the growth of the field globally. Professor Theo van Schuyt has been a proponent of the concept and several organisations experimented with the model in mid-size municipalities. This phase was followed by interest from government to support development of community foundations in larger cities around mid 2010. The approach turned out to have mixed results, but Amsterdam emerged having a community foundation which shelters many neighbourhood funds.

The first organisation to support the development of the field was created in 2014 with the name Local Funds Netherlands – *Lokale Fondsen Nederland* (LFN), and it expanded the concept to a broader category of local foundations. The goal of LFN was to increase the number of local foundations, professionalise existing ones, help raise awareness of community foundations and develop a digital platform that would help develop new local initiatives. Between 2017 and 2019 LFN was generously funded by the Dutch National Postcode Lottery (€500,000 / yr) and this led to an increase in visibility of the field as

well as some growth. However, they didn't manage to create a network of connected community foundations at national level. When funding stopped LFN became inactive and after a series of conversations, *Landelijk Samenwerkingsverband Actieve Bewoners* (LSA) National Association of Active Citizens took over the existing data and connections with the goal to integrate the work of community foundations in the broader context of local community development.

In terms of roles and functions community foundations in the Netherlands complement local government and bigger foundations by supporting grassroots initiatives that wouldn't get funding another way. Their roles revolve around developing local philanthropy, grant making and leadership activities as well as acting as community knowledge hubs.

Although the field of community foundations has steadily grown over twenty years, the exact number of community foundations isn't known. Issues around statistics, research, definitions, and identity pose challenges and estimates vary between 35 and 45 active and well-functioning community foundations, while another 15-20 are in different stages of formation.

Interviewee:

Kristel Jeuring, LSA Bewoners

CFSO:

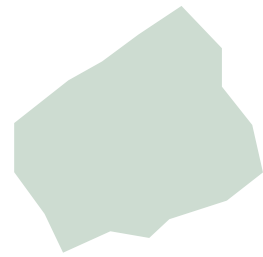
LSA Bewoners

 <https://www.lsabewoners.nl>



NORTH MACEDONIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 1



The Local Community Development Foundation – Shtip (LCDF), emerged in 2006 as the legal successor to the NGO Support Centre evolving into an independent grant-making and local development organisation. In 2013 it started with more organised support to people-led philanthropy initiatives with greater involvement of the target groups in all phases of problem solving. Shtip LCDF works with a range of private and public donors and has established a crowd funding platform. It also engages local communities and municipalities along with donors in identifying needs and problem-solving and is also involved in a wide range of partnership activities, acting as an analyst and catalyst for development. Shtip LCDF also acts as a regional development agency, and will lead on a 'Local Works' programme, supported by USAID, which will involve promoting community development practice, including the establishment of YouthBanks, in the Eastern region of North Macedonia.

A second former NGO Support Centre displays characteristics of a community foundation but without grant-making. The Centre for Sustainable Community Development in Debar aims to facilitate and mediate dialog between the stakeholders and community and leads on specific actions, in particular in relation to youth activism and protection of the environment and cultural heritage. In 2021 it launched a community investment platform for the region.

The wider development of the field is supported by Konekt which promotes private and corporate philanthropy and is building the infrastructure for giving across the country. Having supported civil society organisations, in particular through the award of a 'CSO Trust Mark', and stimulated the culture and practice of philanthropy, Konekt plans to embark on a five-year programme to work with public, private and civil society stakeholders in seven localities to establish local structures, to facilitate local development and philanthropy, which could develop into community foundations.

Interviewees:

Nikica Kusinikova, Konekt

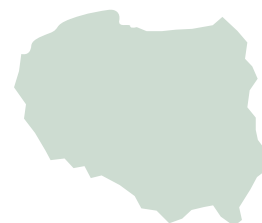
Nevenka Longurova Girova, Local Community Development Foundation, Shtip,

CFSO:

Local Community Development Foundation

 <https://frlz.org.mk/en/>





POLAND

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 22

The community foundation field in Poland arose as a result of the Local Philanthropy Development Programme implemented by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland (Akademia Rozwoju Filantropii w Polsce — ARFP) and the first community foundations were established in the country in 1998. An informal network of community foundations was transformed into a membership association 'The Federation of Community Foundations in Poland' in 2008. Its mission is to address the challenges its members face, provide peer-learning and exchange, jointly develop standards and support the growth of community foundations in Poland. The Federation is represented in the Polish Donors Forum, which enables it to perform advocacy activities. While the Federation brings together 15 members which reach over 3 million people, currently there are 22 community foundations, along with five new community foundations soon to be established.

In the landscape of Polish community philanthropy, an important role is played by the Local Action Centres (LACs), which was established by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (PAFF) and implemented by ARFP since 2000. The main objective of the programme is to

support and activate local communities in rural areas and small towns through civic projects. In addition to LACs, since 2016 it has been running the Global Challenges Local Solutions Programme, which supports European community foundation initiatives relating to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to Paweł Łukasik, President of the ARFP, the perception of philanthropic organisations has changed in Polish society thanks to community foundations. *"People have realised that organisations are not only there to raise money for direct projects, but also give money to other organisations. The current humanitarian crisis has made people realise that without intermediary organisations we cannot provide adequate aid. The willingness of citizens to support intermediary organisations has increased."*

The Federation of Community Foundations in Poland has signalled an increase in the amount of funds being placed under the management of community foundations. It also sees the potential for enlargement: field research helped identify ten potential new members. At the same time, it is updating the standards for community foundations and planning to introduce more inclusive membership terms.

Interviewees:

Dorota Komornicka and Iwona Olkowicz, Federation of Community Foundations in Poland
Paulina Kamyk and Paweł Łukasiak, Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland

CFSOs:

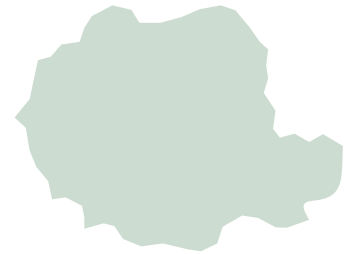
Federation of Community Foundations in Poland

[🌐 https://ffl.org.pl](https://ffl.org.pl)

**Academy for the Development
of Philanthropy in Poland**

[🌐 https://www.filantropia.org.pl/eng](https://www.filantropia.org.pl/eng)





ROMANIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 18

The Association for Community Relations ARC started in 2006 to explore the concept of community foundations, incubating the initiative in Cluj and working with the one in Odorheiu Secuiesc, leading up to both becoming operational and registered at the beginning of 2008. In 2009 ARC developed a National Development Programme for Community Foundations, with a ten-year strategy, national partners and a group of funders: C.S. Mott Foundation, CEE Trust and [Romanian-American Foundation](#). The field grew steadily with community foundations developing grant-making, operational programmes, and fundraising events to stimulate local philanthropy. In 2012 the Romanian Federation of Community Foundations (RFCF), was established, envisioning their own role and support services by looking at similar organisations in UK, Slovakia, Germany and Canada. Since the registration of the most recent three in 2021, there aren't plans for growth of the field. Support activities of the Federation focus on strengthening and developing capacity, resilience and sustainability.

Community foundations in Romania generally don't have endowments and mostly operate with a combination of flow-through funds, individual or company donor services fees, and general purpose grants from national supporters and on a case-

by-case basis from international funders. This poses certain challenges to medium to long-term planning, financial viability, and organisational development. Despite these challenges almost all community foundations operate with professional, paid staff and work tirelessly to prove the value of institutional philanthropy at local level in a scarce resource environment. According to Mihaela Greșiță, membership manager at RFCF, '*mature foundations are initiating more strategic programmes such as endowment funds or collective impact programmes, as well as working towards higher professionalization of executive teams and a greater sense of belonging to the community foundation movement*'.

The Covid-19 pandemic crisis put a lot of strain on community foundations but increased their visibility and created opportunities in certain communities for cross-sector collaboration and building trust.

ARC no longer actively supports the development of new foundations and has, since 2020, shifted to a strategy of partnership and consultancy for the field. The federation provides mechanisms for attracting funds and promotes good communication and peer-learning across the network. It also monitors and evaluates activities in support of partner foundations.

Interviewees:

Ela Bălan, Association for Community Relation

Mihaela Greșiță, Romanian Federation of Community Foundations

CFSOs:

Association for Community Relations

<https://arcromania.ro/arc/en/>

Romanian Federation of Community Foundation

<https://ffcr.ro>





RUSSIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 80

The first community foundation, established in 1998 in Tolyatti, an industrial city in the Volga region, proved the model as an efficient vehicle to address local challenges, and was quickly adopted by others. Growth of community foundations followed with support from international donors such as the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Ford Foundation, along with CAF Russia and other emerging Russian donor organisations. In 2003, a membership body "The Partnership of Community Foundations" was set up.

Currently there are more than 80 community foundations operating in 31 of the 85 federal subjects of Russia. Around 25 are well-established, mostly based in urban areas, whereas more than half are "rural funds", small rural-based community organisations. Many of them have forged regional and interregional networks and alliances to join their forces and address more systemic challenges of their territories.

Today Russian community foundations rely on local giving – from businesses and individuals. At the same time, there is growing dependency on grants by the Presidential Foundation, the biggest Russian grantmaking institution.

The Partnership of Community Foundations has 19 community foundations in its membership. It provides peer learning,

including through regular "Schools for Community Foundations". It also serves as a resource centre to consult initiative groups on the establishment of new community foundations.

According to Oleg Sharipkov, Vice-President of the Partnership, though initiative groups approach them frequently, they rarely convert into community foundations. *"The current context and shrinking civic space hardly provides an enabling environment for community foundations. The threshold level for the newbies is very high: it is burdensome to establish a nonprofit in Russia, the responsible government and municipal entities often have rather hostile attitudes towards activist groups, and there is unnecessary red tape and complicated reporting requirements"*.

Many community foundations have been classed as "foreign agents" by the state which increases the amount and frequency of their reporting, while intentional or non-intentional negligence leads to significant fines and closure of organisations. Nonetheless, community foundations continue to operate. They experiment with various social and digital technologies. A number have established "donors circles", opened co-working spaces, set up endowments and developed mobile apps to attract volunteers and receive donations. Some even accept donations in crypto currencies.

Interviewees:

Irina Novikova, Charitable Foundation for Philanthropy Development
Oleg Sharipkov, Partnership of Community Foundations Association

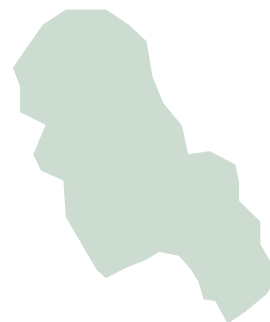
CFSOs:

Charitable Foundation for Philanthropy Development
🌐 <https://www.cafussia.ru>

**CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
FOR PHILANTHROPY
DEVELOPMENT**

Partnership of Community Foundations Association
🌐 <https://www.p-cf.ru/2020/>

 МЕХАНИЗМЫ СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ СТАБИЛЬНОСТИ
партнёрство
фондов местных сообществ



SERBIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 3

The community foundation sector in Serbia is in an emerging, though very dynamic phase with three established and three in development.

The communist background of the Serbian society shaped citizens' attitude that the state and local government should oversee developments both on the local and national levels. While the sense of powerlessness and apathy are still major obstacles, community foundations represent a model that supports the sparks of activism and creates the much-needed ownership for communities to address burning issues, become more resilient and restore trust.

The Iskorak Foundation ("Step Forward") was founded in Zaječar in 2013. It was established by the citizens' association "Zaječar Initiative", aiming to contribute to the development of the community in the Timok region, with a focus on the city Zaječar. According to the 2022 report "[Community Foundations in Serbia](#)", they predominantly rely on the work of volunteers (96% of those engaged in the work of community foundations are volunteers); most of them rely on funding from the business sector and national donor organisations, followed by individuals and international funders. Culture and art, environment, education and science – are the areas that are mostly supported by the Serbian community foundations.

One of the key support organisations which promote the model of community

foundations not only in Serbia but across the Western Balkans is the Trag Foundation which contributes to the development of active communities by providing financial, capacity building and other types of support to citizens' initiatives in these communities.

In 2020, inspired by the Romanian and Hungarian models of community foundations, Trag launched a new programme to develop community foundations more systematically in the Balkans region "Our Local Foundation – Community Has a Say" with the support of the C. S. Mott Foundation. The programme has rolled out in [three phases](#) - the incubation phase allowed the groups building their teams and gaining the required skills and knowledge, and required to meet the challenge of raising €15,000 from individuals and businesses in their communities that Trag matched. During the consolidation phase, the groups allocated grants to support local initiatives, with the legal and administrative support provided by Trag. The third phase of independent work will set them off to work as well-established community foundations.

The establishment of new foundations took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, which appeared to be both a challenge and an opportunity. While the possibilities to mobilise people and fundraise were limited, community foundations proved to be needed – they were agile, they were first on the ground and were ready to take on a leadership role.

Interviewee:

Marija Mitrović, Trag Foundation

CFSO:

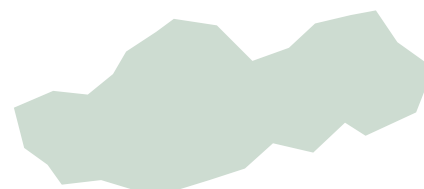
Trag Foundation

<https://tragfondacija.org/en>



SLOVAKIA

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 8



The first community foundation in Slovakia, the Healthy City Banská Bystrica, happens to be also the first community foundation in Central and Eastern Europe. Inspired by the model of community foundations in the USA which coincided with an unsuccessful attempt to build a local playground, its predecessor, the Healthy City Foundation switched its mode of operation to a community foundation in 1994. It was supported by the city government and subsequently by international funders, such as the C.S. Mott Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy. While the external donors provided grants for general operating support, its grantmaking budget was funded by local giving.

The other seven community foundations were established in late 90s-early 2000s, and all of them are still operating. In 2003, the eight community foundations formed the Association of Community Foundations for it to represent and defend the interests of community foundations in Slovakia and provide them with information and advice. The Association promotes the model of community foundations across the country and advocate for the model at national and EU levels.

While the number of community foundations has remained stable over the years, their geographic focus has expanded – a process driven both by local needs and donor demands. At the same time, there are new trends emerging in the field:

some NGOs start serving as community foundations, and some municipalities begin to set up their own community development organisations.

Slovak community foundations operate in an environment with a very low level of trust – the lowest in Central and Eastern Europe. This leads to a very polarised society that impacts all areas of their work, including their donors and grantees, and communications with the wider public. Another challenge is that community foundations, as well as other NGOs, are underfinanced and quite frequently have to provide a range of services that are supposed to be a responsibility of the local government.

Beata Hirt, Director, Healthy City Community Foundation, comments on the added-value of Slovak community foundations in the times of crises and the looming uncertainty around the financial sustainability of organisations: *“In crises, such as COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, community foundations proved to be a perfect tool for donors to provide the immediate help... In the hard times we managed to increase our profile and credibility both within our communities and nationally. We proved to be a great model to be effective, flexible and very fast. With many grantees and partners in the communities, we were able to provide very professional services where it is needed. But the future and the financial situation are uncertain, and it is not clear how to provide administrative costs and ensure an endowment growth.”*

Interviewee:

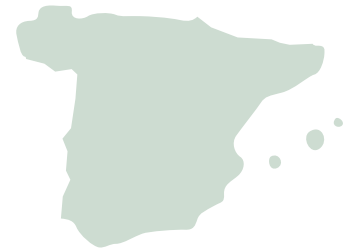
Beata Hirt, Healthy City community Foundation / Association of Community Foundations

CFSO:

Association of Community Foundations

 <http://asociaciakns.sk>


Asociácia
komunitných nadácií
Slovenska



SPAIN

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 9

The story of community foundations in Spain began in earnest 2006 with the initiative of the Bertelsmann Foundation which established a “Competence Centre for Community Foundations” whose goal was to support organisations of this type developing in Spain. The first community foundation, Ciutat de Valls, was created in 2006 from an association that had been established in 1984. The programme ran for six years and was followed by the setup of an online Iber-American Network for Community Foundations in 2013 as a way to exchange knowledge and information between community foundations and interested practitioners in Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay. At the end of the programme run by Bertelsmann Foundation, there were eight civic foundations, three in the process of becoming community foundations and one initiative. Nowadays out of the initial ones, seven of them are active and operate with similar values and roles of community foundations.

Fortunately, development of community foundations in Spain didn't stop there and around 2018 conversations between the Spanish Association of Foundations and the C.S. Mott Foundation led to a feasibility study and afterwards it became clear the Association was in a good place to take a lead on such an initiative. In September 2020 it launched the Programme intended to develop community foundations in Spain, being supported nationally by the C.S. Mott Foundation and Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation.

Spain poses many challenges being a very big, diverse country that has four official languages and many other dialects which means local geographical identity can mean very different things to a lot of people. There isn't a tradition of grant-making in Spain, out of the 9,000 foundations operating, less than 200 use grant-making as part of their activities, fundraising from individuals and donor services are also not very common, but there is enthusiasm for the idea and a culture of “*making the impossible, possible*”, according to Rosa Gallego.

Two new community foundations became operational in 2022 and another is expected to be established by the end of the year.

Based on the experience of the last two years the next steps for the programme team are to:

1. Perform a post-Covid evaluation regarding the approach of the programme;
2. Help the established groups and nascent community foundations with technical assistance and capacity development, setting up formally the Spanish Community of Community Foundations within the AEF;
3. Map and secure co-financing of the programme, beyond existing donors;
4. Increase the understanding of community foundations as agents to increase local philanthropy.

Interviewees:

Rosa Gallego and Alejandro Hernandez Renner, Spanish Association of Foundations

CFSO:

Spanish Association of Foundations

 <https://www.fundaciones.org/es/servicios/fundaciones-comunitarias>



TURKEY

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 1



The nascent community foundation field in Turkey is represented by one community foundation – the Bolu Community Foundation (BCF). It was established in 2007 by 32 local business and civil society leaders in Bolu, a town of more than 130,000 inhabitants, about 250 km from Istanbul. The BCF provides grants to local NGOs and communities, but also carries out its own programmes that support capacity building and resource mobilisation of local NGOs.

The establishment of the BCF was an important milestone in Turkey's third sector. The foundation was set up with the technical support of TUSEV (Third Sector Foundation of Turkey) as part of its programme aimed at promoting philanthropy and social investment in the country, supported by the C.S. Mott Foundation. TUSEV is a network of more than 80 foundations and associations, which was established in 1993 with an ambition to create an enabling environment for civil society. TUSEV works towards a more supportive legislation and supports the efforts in creating more resources for the civil society to sustain and create social benefits.

While forging a community foundation movement was only one of the components

of the bigger programme, it was the most difficult to implement. The very concept of a community foundation appeared to be hard to adapt in the Turkish context. Firstly, the culture of grant making is still not there yet – many existing foundations develop their own programmes, rather than distribute funds via grants. Secondly, the main approach was to create demand of well-off citizens who could lead the process of establishing foundations in their areas. However, the top-down approach appeared to be more challenging. Thirdly, social polarisation and the low level of trust hindered the creation of the sense of community among Turkish people.

“With COVID-19, the economic crisis and increasing inflation rates in Turkey, community philanthropy will be on the rise and people are going to create solidarity networks. However, I don't think they are going to proceed with establishing a legal entity, such as a community foundation or an association, for two reasons. Partly due to the culture that is dominant in the society: people give directly to people, rather than to institutions, i.e. civil society organisations. Secondly, there is a lack of awareness about community foundations as a model and political and social barrier to creating a legal entity such as a foundation”, says Liana Varon, Coordinator, Support Foundation for Civil Society (Turkey).

Interviewee:

Liana Varon, Support Foundation for Civil Society of Turkey

CFSO:

Third Sector Foundation of Turkey

 <https://www.tusev.org.tr/en>





UKRAINE

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 30

Though the very first community foundation in Ukraine appeared quite early (the "Princes – Benefactors Ostrozky Foundation" was founded in 1995 and is no longer active), the community foundation as a model became more widespread after 2003.

The culture of community foundations in the country has been developed by the Initiative Center to Support Social Action (ISAR) Ednannia ("Ednannia" stands for "unity"). ISAR Ednannia has, since 2003, been supporting community philanthropy by providing educational and financial support to community foundations.

Among the key recent developments in the field is the establishment of the National Network of Local Philanthropy Development (NNLPD) in 2020, aimed at promoting local philanthropy and volunteering and supporting community initiatives. It brings together 20 community foundations and expects to grow membership to 25 by 2023.

The network's initial priorities were the development of Youthbanks, advocacy skills for community foundations and community safety programmes. Since the start of the war, it is focusing on housing for internally displaced people and the administration of the special Medical Aid Fund.

"Community foundations take strong leadership positions in the regions of their operations. They have gained support and recognition from local governments, and actively share community foundation practice with nearby communities" says Darya Rybalcenko, Head of the Board, NNLPD.

The Ukrainian sector was impacted by COVID-19, but the gravity of the war since 24 February 2022 has been unprecedented. Despite evacuation and other challenging circumstances, Ukrainian community foundations continue their work and are involved in the humanitarian response. They contribute to upholding independence and peace and ensure social cohesion. Straight after the start of the war, they mobilised their teams, adapted their work to help civilians and territorial defence forces. Depending on the location, they fundraise for various purposes, from supporting the military with ammunition and medicines, to helping internally displaced people, volunteering groups and those who stay in communities under fire.

They have witnessed extraordinary level of solidarity and are being supported by several Ukrainian and foreign private companies, international funders and their global peers – other community foundations from all across the world.

Interviewees:

Darya Rybalcenko, National Network of Local Philanthropy Development
Olga Nikolska, ISAR Ednannia

CFSOs:

National Network of Local Philanthropy Development

<https://philanthropy.com.ua/en>

ISAR Ednannia

<https://ednannia.ua>



НАЦІОНАЛЬНА МЕРЕЖА
РОЗВИТКУ ЛОКАЛЬНОЇ
ФІЛАНТРОПІЇ



CREATING NEW QUALITY



UNITED KINGDOM

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: 47

The model of community foundations was first introduced in the mid 70s in UK, but it was between 1980s and 1990s that a mix of government support, endowment challenge grants from Charities Aid Foundation and C.S. Mott Foundation led to great growth and national coverage of community foundations across the UK. While numbers varied, due to new growth and mergers, today UKCF, the national support organisation has 47 members. UKCF also has three overseas, associated members in Jersey, Ireland and Bermuda.

The majority are very well developed, financially stable organisations that are run by professional teams, providing donor services, mapping community needs, supporting grassroots organisation with grants and convening to improve the life of local communities. UKCF runs a [Quality Accreditation](#) process every three years which ensures due diligence and confirms that members of the network have the capacity to run national programmes and grants. National programmes are a big part of what UKCF does and at any one time there are three national programmes that involve all members in UK and around eight programmes, smaller in size, which run through government or other national funders with a subset around 10-15 members.

However, part of a longer-term strategy is to assess how much value does distribution of national funding bring to community

foundation members and shift towards showcasing the leadership and community knowledge role for fundraising purposes as opposed to delivering an external funding strategy. According to Ben Robinson, Head of Membership and Programmes, one of the key themes where this strategy might be piloted is around climate change, where UKCF would act as a learning organisation illustrating the different approaches local community foundations are taking and finding the funders to match with that strategy.

After a two-year period where emergency response funding was a priority that highlighted the importance of how community foundations operate in an agile and responsive manner and brought the network closer together, UKCF is looking at mapping emerging trends, local needs analysis and thinking about how communities will look like in a decade, what community foundations can do to support them in the long run and how to show collective impact of the movement. Community foundations have also taken an active role in aligning their work with the Sustainable Development Goals and UKCF launched a [report](#) looking at how funding local community organisations can help achieve the 2030 Agenda. Other key issues of interest revolve around equity, diversity and inclusion, power disparities, gender equality as well as internal development of the network infrastructure of data and digital work.

Interviewee:

Ben Robinson, UK Community Foundations

CFSO:

UKCF

<https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/>



ABOUT ECFI – EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

The European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) is a collaborative initiative hosted by the German Association of Foundations (Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen) committed to strengthening and promoting the community foundation movement in Europe.

ECFI'S THEORY OF CHANGE

ECFI believes in order to achieve long-term change in local communities (in relation to building trust and collaboration; enhancing the potential for self-determination and empowerment; and achieving social cohesion), that community foundations have an important role to play by building and utilising resources; convening and connecting people and organisations; and adding value through local knowledge and expertise. The development of the community foundation movement requires building capacity, capability, connections and credibility of community foundations and support organisations through creating spaces and opportunities for cross-national dialogues, relationship-building and sharing experiences and practices of community foundations and other philanthropy practitioners. ECFI works with community foundations and community foundation support organisations primarily through facilitating and stimulating interactions to enable learning, knowledge-building and empowerment. ECFI is also engaged in the mapping and analysis of community foundation activities and in disseminating information that will facilitate development of the field, and is a point of contact and information for the field in Europe.

Specifically, ECFI will:

- facilitate individual and organisational learning and expertise;

- inspire individuals and organisations to leadership and joint action;
- produce practice-based knowledge;
- empower community foundations in dealing with difficult issues in their communities and own development trajectories;
- grow mutual solidarity and strengthen the community foundation field overall;
- complement face-to-face interactions with virtual spaces and online tools and resources.

ECFI'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Facilitate interaction and learning, share new knowledge and fostering collaboration among community foundation support organisations in Europe to strengthen the support infrastructure;
2. Inspire and facilitate growth in the community foundation field in Europe;
3. Stimulate community foundations in Europe to exercise their community leadership role and collaborate on pressing issues, including inequality, migration and climate change;
4. Build and share knowledge about the community foundation field in Europe;
5. Lever financial resources and other support for the development of the community foundation field in Europe;
6. Increase awareness and understanding of the SDGs and their relevance to the work of community foundations in Europe.

CONTACT

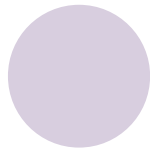
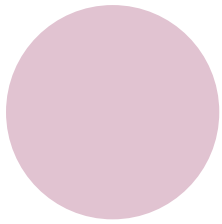
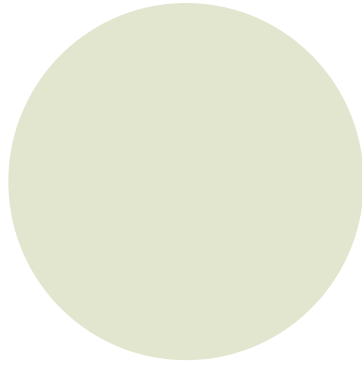
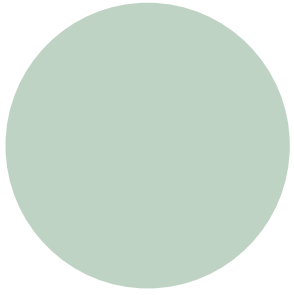
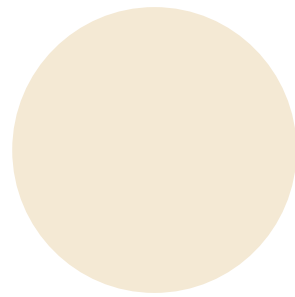
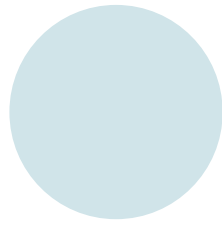
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Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

