

Vieni in Italia!

Community Foundation Study Visit to Italy

November 10-16, 2019

- Call for participation -

Come and join a group of 12 community foundation practitioners from Europe to collectively explore the experience and practice of our Italian colleagues with community philanthropy.

The CF study visit is a one-week long, intensive learning program that brings a group of community foundation (CF) and CF support organisation (CFSO) practitioners and thinkers from different European countries into one country to meet and interact with several community foundations with the purpose of mutual learning and reflection. The host country of the 2019 edition of the ECFI Community Foundation Study Visit will be Italy and its partner Assifero. As the national association of foundations (with the exception of those of banking origin) and philanthropic institutions, Assifero has always devoted a great deal of attention to community foundations, promoting their interaction, information and knowledge exchange, trusting, partnership-based relationships and the development of individual and collective capacity.

Participation in the study visit is based on an open process based on an expression of interest and assessment of the potential of applicants for contribution to shared knowledge about the field in Europe. This call for participation is open to a limited number of participants (12) that would form a diverse group of learners (staff, board members, volunteers, donors) from existing CFs, promising CF initiatives, CF support organisations, national CF associations, and federations, as well as relevant experts and researchers from Europe.

ECFI seeks applications from participants who have interest and curiosity in understanding of how CFs work in Europe, are interested in learning and personal development and have willingness to actively share their own experience and insights, and contribute to knowledge development in the area of CF practice. Good working level knowledge of English and interest in developing relationships with other peers are necessary prerequisites. Also, it is expected that within 3 months after the study visit, participants produce a personal reflection on the study visit in the form of a blog, essay, commentary or video blog and share it

internally with the community of learners from previous learning events. You can read here [reflections from past study visits](#).

Interested applicants are expected to express their interest in an on-line form that includes writing a short piece (around 250 words) on how they view the leadership role of a community foundation in their context. The application form for expressing interest to participate is available [here](#).

The organisers cover the cost of the accommodation (5 nights), meals and venue including the organising costs. We invite interested applicants where possible to cover their own travel costs to and from Italy, but are also prepared to provide a travel scholarship of up to 300 EUR in substantiated cases based upon written request. However, please be aware if you are selected for a travel scholarship, you will only be reimbursed after the end of the study visit and after submission of your reflection piece.

If you are interested in joining the meeting, please fill in the form by **June 10, 2019 (extended till June 20th, 2019)**. We will review all responses and will come back to you **before the end of June**. It is possible that a telephone interview will also be part of the selection process. Please be aware that the number of places is limited. Organisers reserve the right to make the final decision on participation.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE 2019 ECFI STUDY VISIT TO ITALY

The concept of the Study Visits provides a space for reflection on the host country's experience with CF's role, practices and approaches in addressing communities' challenges and issues. Particular attention is given to ways how capacity for dialogue and convening of local actors can be built to leverage power and achieve change.

Assifero representing the Italian Community Foundations and ECFI (European Community Foundation Initiative) are preparing a weeklong study visit from 10-16 November 2019. Its purpose is to reflect on the current context in Italy, challenges and approaches as a way of learning and understanding how broader issues at community level can be addressed and how the idea of community leadership in the European context can be better defined.

In Italy, the establishment of community foundations began in 1999 with foundations in Lecco and Como. There are now 37 registered Italian community foundations (based on the CF Atlas). More than 30 of them are fully operational and at least two new ones are in the process of being established. Different in terms of origin, size, vision, methodology and operations, and deeply rooted in the fabric of a given community, Italian community foundations represent different forms of community philanthropy. But they are always platforms that provide a bridge between local

institutions and third-sector organizations in order to deal, at the local level, with the complex social, economic and cultural challenges that characterize today's world.

The study visit will explore community foundations in three different towns - Monza, Torino (neighbourhood of Mirafiori) and Naples (neighbourhood of Rione Sanita) - and will look at ways how Italian communities address challenges of their development and explore the leadership role CFs play in that process.

- Fondazione della Comunita Monza e Brianza Onlus - Monza
- Fondazione della Comunita di Mirafiori Onlus - Torino
- Fondazione di Comunita San Gennaro - Naples

The end of the study visit coincides with the national conference of Italian CFs, where we will get a chance to meet and interact with a broader representation of the field.

The CF study visit typically consists of a series of meetings and visits at the host CFs that provide the background for intensive debates and reflective discussions among the study visit participants with their hosts in various formal and informal settings and formats.

Study visit to Italy is going to be the ninth study visit in a row. Preceding visits were paid to Bulgaria (2010), Czech Republic (2011), Poland (2012), Romania (2013), Slovakia (2014) as well as Northern Ireland (2015) and were organized as an initiative of the C. S. Mott Foundation. The 2016 study visit to Germany, 2017 visit to Great Britain and 2018 visit to Latvia have been organized by the European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) as part of its [peer learning activities](#) aimed at strengthening CFs and CF Support Organizations in Europe with funding from the C.S. Mott Foundation, Körber Stiftung, and Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Confirmed participants will be asked to arrange their travel so that they arrive in Milan by noon 12:00 on Sunday, November 10th (you can choose any of the three airports: Malpensa, Linate, Orio al Serio - Bergamo) and depart at midday or later on Saturday (November 16th) from the Naples or Rome airports. Transfers between the three Milan airports and Monza will be arranged as well as transfers from Salerno to airports in Rome or Naples. Organisers will provide a detailed agenda and logistical information one month before arrival to Italy.

We hope you will be able to join us and contribute to the collective learning in this dynamically growing field of philanthropy. To learn more, please consult the [ECFI website](#) or contact Mihaela Giurgiu, ECFI Peer Learning Expert: Mihaela@communityfoundations.eu.