

ERNOP Actions 2016-2017

ERNOP was established in the autumn of 2007 by voluntary action and formulated its mission to advance, coordinate and promote excellence in research on philanthropy. ERNOP is a mission driven organization which transformed itself into a formal association in 2014.

The ERNOP board will work in the coming years to achieve the following goals:

1. Enhancing ERNOP's visibility and reputation among EU Foundations
2. Enhancing ERNOP's visibility and reputation among national philanthropic (branch) organizations, national governments, EU politicians and the Brussels EU administration
3. Launch of the Giving Europe study
4. Start of the ERNOP PhD summer course
5. Work on the professionalization of the EU Philanthropy sector by research and education
6. Gaining higher academic prestige by promoting a new academic (sub)discipline "philanthropology"

In the past years, the European Research Network On Philanthropy has established itself as network of European philanthropy researchers, representing the forefront of philanthropy research and education. It has proven its organizational capacity by the collaborative effort within, for example, the EUFORI Study and ITSSOIN. The commitment of its members is also shown by the mapping of the current state of giving research in Europe.

ERNOPs project: Giving in Europe

The Giving Europe study serves a variety of goals. Firstly it offers a concrete and achievable goal for all current and future ERNOP members. Secondly it calls for close collaboration in creating this study. Researchers from all over Europe work side by side and accomplish a twofold result at the end: a stronger collectivity (ERNOP) and a collective product (the Giving Europe study). Thirdly this study functions as a 'business- or contact card' for all potential stakeholders in the EU. It increases the visibility and value of ERNOP. Among the stakeholders: potential funders, foundations, policymakers, the academia, governments. Moreover, Giving Europe shows the readiness and willingness of ERNOP members to introduce themselves as serious research community. To conduct this study they all 'learn on the job', improving their methodological expertise in international comparative research. And, in the meanwhile, Giving Europe contributes to the profiling and professionalization of EU philanthropy.

The first study to map 'Giving in Europe' marks a first important step. The study was presented at the DAFNE meeting, May 25th in Amsterdam. A Consortium of EU Foundations is foreseen to support the implementation of the Giving Europe Study. In May 2017 The King Baudouin Foundation will organize a meeting in Brussels to discuss further details of the study.

Maintain its position as academic community of philanthropy researchers within Europe

ERNOP has proven itself by the ongoing memberships of institutions and individuals conducting research on philanthropy in Europe. As ERNOP, we believe that research on philanthropy benefits from meeting, knowing and strengthening each other where possible. By connecting the dots between philanthropy researchers, we bring research on philanthropy further. This implies that we aim to be as inclusive as possible, and will actively approach new Europe based academic research

institutes and researchers conducting research on philanthropy to become a member of our network.

As leading network of philanthropy researchers in Europe, ERNOP will continue to search for opportunities to conduct collaborative research projects, with a key focus on Giving in Europe. Therefore it will keep close relationship with relevant policy officers within the European Commission and to find new directorate-generals interested in philanthropy. Second, ERNOP will strengthen and establish relationships with larger European foundations that have an interest in research on philanthropy.

Reposition and strengthen its relationship with European umbrella organizations

Recently, ERNOP has been approached by the European Foundation Centre, the European Venture Philanthropy Association and the International Society for Third Sector Research to reposition the relationship between EFC-ERNOP, EVPA-ERNOP and ISTR-ERNOP.

As ERNOP represents the key institutes on academic research on philanthropy in Europe, ERNOP will aim to strengthen its position as organization representing the interests of the academic research community conducting research on philanthropy. In renewing its partnerships with EVPA and EFC, ERNOP will be open for these organizations in collaborative research initiatives and request on the one hand, and sharing sector relevant research results of ongoing research with both organizations. Furthermore, ERNOP will start exploring the possibilities for developing and sharing academic knowledge within the European philanthropy sector by offering tailored gatherings with European philanthropy professionals. ERNOP will be open to collaborate with other networks as well.

Reposition and strengthen its relationship with the International Society for Third Sector Research

Since ERNOP was founded in 2008, our association has been an institutional member of ISTR, expressing that we aim to collaborate with researchers on philanthropy (and the non-profit sector) around the world. For example, ERNOP has been represented at the ISTR conferences by organizing it informal dinner. In the past years the relationship between the two organizations has grown. At the ERNOP conference 2015, the International Society for Third Sector Research organized a panel session. Also, at the 2016 ISTR conference, ERNOP will organize a panel session. In the coming year, ERNOP will reposition the relationship with ISTR, and explore new ways of collaborating in a memorandum of understanding.

Organize the leading philanthropy conference with an European focus

In the past years, ERNOP has been organizing its biennial conference in Vienna (2011), Riga (2013) and Paris (2015). Every conference has witnessed a growth of the number of participants. At the same time, ERNOP aimed the maintain and improve the quality of the papers presented. At the Paris conference, 150 researchers from Europe and beyond participated in the conference. Also a large share of the participants existed out of professionals from the philanthropy sector. The ERNOP board chooses to keep the ERNOP conference as a conference with an academic and European focus, and will only slowly grow in numbers, while the quality of papers and research presented will remain key. To further facilitate emerging European academics, next year's conference in Copenhagen will host a pre-conference workshop that will focus on improving the work of PhD students on philanthropy.