

Report on the 2020-2021 policy and actions of the ERNOP Board and agenda 2021 – 2022

The pandemic brought and brings extra-ordinary times for ERNOP. In spite of logistic barriers we were confronted with, the board, and the Executive Director Barry Hoolwerf in particular, have taken a new online initiative and we also have pushed forward the ultimate goal of the Giving Europe study.

It is good to keep in mind “the raison d’ être” when we launched ERNOP in January 2008. In the “Vision document of the ERNOP board” we can read about our goals:

- *To establish ERNOP as a leading innovative, knowledgeable and complete network of European interdisciplinary philanthropy researchers.*
- *To secure structural funding for ERNOP.*
- *To establish a Giving in Europe research methodology and database.*
- *To make ERNOP a successful coordinating body of joined European research projects and publications.*
- *To establish the annual ERNOP conference as the leading philanthropy conference in Europe.*
- *To establish a new official ERNOP journal, or to seek cooperation with an existing journal.”*

Since our last general assembly, that took place online in July 2020, we are pleased to inform the General Assembly about the steps we made.

ERNOP – Webinars: ERNOP Science and Society Seminar Series 2021

As research community ERNOP aims to contribute to society. The ERNOP Science and Society Seminars are a monthly series of online seminars in which researchers from ERNOP philanthropy research centres and academic chairs present their state of the art work through online presentations. To make most of the seminars, ERNOP has invited representatives from Dafne, EFA, EFC, and CEV to participate in the initiative and discuss implications for practice.

In 2021 9 ERNOP webinars are held; with an average of 100 registered attendees. The ERNOP board proposes to continue this program in the coming years.

The relationships with DAFNE, EFC, ECFI and EFA created by the Science and Society Seminars has resulted in participation in a panel-session organized by them at the ERNOP – Dublin conference in December 2021. We are very pleased that we have developed stronger relations with the European philanthropy sector and as such that our research output finds its way to the people working in, for and with philanthropy.

ERNOP “Philanthropy in Europe”- Study

To get this ERNOP-study started, the board has strategically focused at actions towards 1. the European philanthropy sector, 2. the Brussels administration/ officials, and 3. EU-parliament.

Ad 1. European philanthropy sector:

The proposal of the ERNOP-Philanthropy in Europe (PIE) study, has already been discussed at meetings with representatives of all major umbrella organisations. Although we have not succeeded in rolling out the project, the issue of data collection has increased in relevance for the umbrella organisations and continues to be on the agenda. The upcoming AGAPE and meeting with leading European foundations to discuss the research agenda for the future that will take place in Turin on March 3 and 4, 2022, the ERNOP board continues to create a sense of urgency for better data on philanthropy in Europe.

Ad 2. Brussels Administration. April 15th 2021 the Workshop “EU-Philanthropy, Covid and Beyond” was held, organized by EU-MP Lenaers and ERNOP. Keynote speaker was EC-Commissioner Margaritis Schinas, DG European Values.

October 11th 2021 a meeting was held by DG European Values, Member of the European Parliament Lenaers and ERNOP to make the ERNOP “Philanthropy in Europe Study” part of the EC. “Social Economy Action Plan” . The decision is expected at December 8th 2021 .

Ad 3. EU-parliament. ERNOP is now directly connected to Jeroen Lenaers, Euro-MP and his team, to continuously put the ERNOP “Philanthropy in Europe Study” at the agenda of the European Parliament.

In October 2021 the ERNOP board agreed to keep Theo Schuyt (who will step back as ERNOP-president) as liaison to bring the “ERNOP-Philanthropy in Europe” –study to a success.

AGAPE- ERNOP meeting

This meeting will be held in Turin, Italy, March 3 and 4, 2022. The first day the institutional members of ERNOP will gather for AGAPE. The second day aims to provide a setting where representatives from leading European foundations and ERNOP research centers and chairs will engage in discussing current and future needs for philanthropy research in Europe. Based on the input collected among the institutional ERNOP members, our research chair René Bekkers will draft a paper that will include a research agenda for the future. We are grateful for the support we have received from the Compagnia di San Paolo in co-organising this event together with Dafne and EFC.

EU- philanthropy – education

In earlier AGAPE meetings the issue of education has been discussed. The ERNOP – board will put efforts in mapping existing academic educational philanthropy courses among our members and to better position these course among potential interested students. Besides, the board is exploring possibilities to set up an exchange program among students and staff of foundations that will further foster the exchange and use of academic knowledge among our research centers.

ERNOP – conference 2023

We just experienced the 10th ERNOP conference in Dublin and we already have to think about the next one. Given the policy to expand ERNOP and to enlarge the ERNOP membership and activities to philanthropy researchers and institutes in Eastern-European countries, our aim will be to have the conference to take place in CEE.

Enlarging the ERNOP's Executive position

ERNOP is growing and activities and services have increased. In 2021, the ERNOP Science and Society Series were successfully organized and implemented. We developed new relationships with institutional donors. Representatives of European umbrella organisations now find their way to our research network, and vice-versa. The number of institutional members has increased. Already in the general assembly of 2020 we agreed to expand the ERNOP staff with the position of a junior project manager (0,2 FTE), but this person was not hired. Given this and the plans for the years ahead, the ERNOP board again proposes to appoint an executive assistant for 0,2 FTE day a week.

Board composition

At the moment, the ERNOP board comprises out the following members:

Theo Schuyt (VU Amsterdam, the Netherlands), president, until December 2021

Georg Mildenberger (CSI Heidelberg, Germany), treasurer, until December 2023

Michaela Neumayr (WU Vienna, Austria), secretary, until December 2022

René Bekkers (VU Amsterdam, the Netherlands), research, until December 2022

John Mohan (University of Birmingham, UK), institutional relations, until December 2021

Marta Rey-Garcia (University of A Coruna, Spain), communication, until December 2022

Anne-Claire Pache (ESSEC Business School, France), advocacy, until December 2022

The ERNOP Board is very pleased to inform the General Assembly that Tobias Jung has accepted the invitation on behalf of the board to join the ERNOP board as President for the

term ahead, until the end 2025. As such we would like to present Tobias Jung as candidate for President of ERNOP.

John Mohan will step down from the Board as of the end of December this year. Also, it is clear that a number of board positions will open up for other candidates by next year. Marta Rey-Garcia, Anne-Claire Pache, Rene Bekkers have all served two terms and are not eligible for re-election. The ERNOP Board cordially invites all ERNOP members to consider to join the board.