

## European Research Network on Philanthropy (ERNOP)

### Policy Note 2022-23

#### Where are we now?

In 2023, we celebrate 15 years of ERNOP and the ongoing growth and expansion of our network since its launch in January 2008. Continuing to expand our institutional membership base, we have now got 21 institutions and chairs on philanthropy as members, as well as 10 associated supporting institutional members. This represents a growth from the 19 institutional members and 6 associated supporting institutional members we had in 2022; it compares very favourably to the 14 centres included in our original 'Snapshot of Philanthropy Research Centres in Europe' published in 2020. The latest version of this Snapshot, launched in February 2023 and available at <https://ernop.eu/snapshot-2023/>, showcases the rich and diverse angles on philanthropy research covered by our members. All of this provides a great basis for the envisaged development, expansion, and mobilisation of our membership going forward.

With ERNOP's aim to advance, coordinate, and promote excellence in philanthropic research in Europe, the last year has seen the continuation and development of a number of important initiatives, both on our own and in collaboration with external partners. These include:

**AGAPE, A Gathering of Academic Research Centres on Philanthropy, 2022/International Conference on Philanthropy Research/, 22-23 September 2022** – Hosted at Turin's Collegio Carlo Alberto with the kind support of Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, ERNOP's AGAPE took place on the 22nd of September. Bringing together 57 international participants, it focused on the exploration of cross-cutting themes in philanthropy research and practice, geared towards informing the next steps towards the development of a new ERNOP strategy and exploring the potential for a pan-European application to the COST funding scheme. This was followed on the 23rd of September by a wider debate on key issues in philanthropy research organised in collaboration with Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and Philea. The summary report is available at <https://www.compagniadisanpaolo.it/en/documents/international-conference-on-philanthropy-research-conference-proceedings/>

**ERNOP Conference 2023** – We are delighted to be welcoming our members, longstanding and new, in person for our 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference this year. With over 100 abstracts submitted, our final programme will bring together about 150 delegates to engage with 74 papers presentations, 8 panels, and various opportunities for intellectual discussions and social engagement. Preceding the conference will be our PhD workshop, with candidates from 11 institutions, from Europe, Australia, and the US, as well as our new Safe Spaces for Philanthropy event. The latter brings together 50 representatives from academia and practice to facilitate in-

depth exchanges on the overarching themes of advocacy, diversity and inclusion, impact, stakeholder engagement, and leadership.

**ERNOP Research Notes** – Launched in December 2022, and published quarterly, the Research Notes are digested versions of our members' academic papers. Identified and summarised by volunteers from practice, these short two-pagers outline practical implications of academic publications. Developed with the support of our partners the Philanthropy Europe Association (Philea), the European Fundraising Association (EFA), the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV), and the European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA), to-date 85 volunteers from practice have come forward and 24 Research Notes have been released, with 446 downloads from the ERNOP webpages since the 1st of January 2023. To raise wider awareness about this work and its content, we have also partnered with the Philanthropisms Podcast to feature a 'Connecting Philanthropy Academia & Practice' series. Further information on this initiative is available at <https://ernop.eu/research-notes/>

**ERNOP Science and Society Seminars** – Continuing our successful series of webinars, the current, 2022-2023, series started in October 2022. For the seven webinars in the current series, we had 662 registered participants, evidencing the importance and relevance of this initiative.

**Journal co-operations** – With the comparatively small number of core journals dedicated to our field, providing and expanding publication opportunities for philanthropy research continues to be an important area for development. Following a longstanding relationship with VOLUNTAS, the journal of ISTR, the International Society for Third Sector Research, this year sees our branching out into new exploratory areas. First of all, working with the Journal of Philanthropy & Marketing, a special ERNOP Dialogues issue is being put together. Geared towards stimulating discussions and debates around philanthropy, this issue will draw on the insights and debates from our pre-conference Safe Spaces event. Secondly, a special issue of Nonprofit Policy Forum will be dedicated to this year's conference theme on Philanthropy and crises: Roles and functioning of philanthropy in times of societal upheavals, with every conference presenter invited to submit their paper for consideration.

**Infrastructure developments** – As part of developing the membership opportunities available via the ERNOP website, the last few months have seen the beginning of their redevelopment. Comprising almost 200 pages, the ERNOP webpages now feature an integrated membership portal, a new content management system, and a payment system. These are envisaged to be developed further. Please get in touch if there are any specific functionalities you would like us to consider.

### What lies ahead?

Given ERNOP's 15 years of operation, it seems timely to take stock of, and reflect on, what has been achieved, what challenges have presented themselves, what opportunities exists, and think about the aims and ambitions ahead. This is the task for the incoming new board membership. At this point, please join us in thanking the following board members, whose term is coming to an end, for their service to ERNOP over the last couple of years:

- Rene Bekkers, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands;
- Martha Rey-Garcia, University of A Coruna, Spain; and
- Anne-Claire Pache, ESSEC Business School, France.

Their contributions have been much appreciated; they have enabled us to get to where we are today.

Moving forward, we are delighted, that the following candidates have volunteered to take on an active role on ERNOP's board, and to work towards further advancing ERNOP's mission:

- Galia Feit, Institute for Law and Philanthropy, Tel Aviv University, Israel;
- Lev Fejes, Center for the Study of Democracy, Romania;
- Alice Hengevoss, Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS), University of Basel, Switzerland;
- Michaela Neumayr, Institute for Nonprofit Management, WU Vienna, Austria
- Malgorzata Smulowitz, International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Switzerland;
- Johan Vamstad, The Department of Civil Society and Religion, Marie Cederschiöld University, Sweden.

With a clearly defined set of responsibilities, a key task for the new board will be the development of ERNOP's strategy going forward. Bearing in mind that a network succeeds through the engagement with, and of, its members, central to the strategy development process will be the involvement of our members' voices, their hopes for, and expectations of, our network. As part of this process, we will also need to consider questions that sit alongside research, including: the building and strengthening of collaborations with a diversity of stakeholders across Europe; wider knowledge mobilisation, outreach, and engagement activities; the importance and inclusion of philanthropy education and syllabi in ERNOP's remit; the development of mentoring opportunities for emerging researchers, and; stronger career prospects for researchers in our area.