

Policy Note ERNOP 2023-2024 and brief outlook

Membership

ERNOP's membership continues to develop. We currently have:

- 23 institutional members, an increase of two since last year,
- 11 associated institutional member and 5 institutional supporters, numbers which have remained stable,
- a total active membership of 275+ across all membership types.

Alongside, we also have over 3000 followers on LinkedIn, and over 2000 subscribers to our mailing list.

ERNOP Conference

- Looking back, our biennial ERNOP Research Conference at the University of Zagreb was a resounding success, with over 150 academics and philanthropy professionals participating. Featuring a keynote address from Michael Meyer on the resilience of philanthropy and a panel discussion on developing philanthropy in Central and Eastern Europe, the conference provided valuable peer learning and networking opportunities. We would like to once again thank Gojko Bezovan and his team for their efforts to make the conference a resounding success.
- Looking forward, we are delighted to announce that the ERNOP Conference 2025 will take place in Heidelberg with the theme of "Philanthropy by the people, for the people? The roles, organizations and motivations of philanthropy in contemporary democracies and social structures". A big thank you to Georg Mildemberger and his team for making this possible.

If you are interested in hosting a future ERNOP conference, please get in touch to explore opportunities.

Organisational updates

At our Annual General Meeting 2023, a number of new board members were elected. Taking up their roles last autumn, they have been actively contributing to exploring and developing a number of initiatives around strengthening and developing the European research and education landscape on philanthropy:

- Galia Feit – Tel Aviv University – Israel
- Lev Fejes – Fagaras Research Institute – Romania
- Malgorzata Smulowitz – International Institute for Management Development (IMD) – Switzerland
- Johan Vamstad – Marie Cederschiöld University – Sweden

We are in the process of recruiting for one more board member geared towards strengthening ERNOP's impact and knowledge-exchange activities.

At the end of the year, Claire van Teunenbroek, who had been working with Barry Hoolwerf, moved on to a new position. A massive thank you for her work and contributions to ERNOP's activities. We are delighted that Antonia Muhr has now taken on this post and will be working with Barry going forward. In addition, we are delighted that Rachel Diaz has joined in a volunteering capacity to support in developing an ERNOP PhD Dissertation library.

Activities

Strategic review: As part of further strengthening and building ERNOP's network and activities, we launched a strategic review at the beginning of the year. This involved individual interviews with over 30 institutional, associated institutional, and supporting organisations, as well as an online survey that was circulated to all members. We are in the process of distilling the insights. These will be shared and presented at AGAPE in September for reflection and discussion, and feed in into a new shared ERNOP strategic plan going forward.

ERNOP Research Notes: Our commitment to making academic knowledge more accessible has borne fruit through the ERNOP Research Notes initiative. To-date, over 100 voluntary practitioner experts have contributed to transforming 50 academic publications into concise summaries, focusing on their implications for practical application. As part of this, and in our efforts to reach a broader audience, we have worked together with the 'Philanthropisms' podcast by Rhodri Davies, featuring a selection of research summaries on a quarterly basis. This platform has become a valuable resource for those seeking insights into the latest developments in philanthropy. The 6th podcast was just released in June 2024.

Webinars: The 2023-2024 Webinar series featured 6 webinars, with over 750 registered participants. Going forward, we will implement a new series of Science and Society Seminars that will feature key topics for philanthropy research that are distilled from a broad survey among our constituency.

Data on European Philanthropy: We are in the process of revising our inventory of available data on philanthropy in Europe. More than 50 researchers are currently volunteering on providing an estimation of philanthropic contributions by households, foundations, corporations and lotteries to the public good. We expect to provide a first overview by the end of 2024.

Safe Spaces for Philanthropy launch: Collaborating with Philea - the Philanthropy Europe Association, we launched and organised the initial 'Safe Spaces for Philanthropy' event preceding the ERNOP 2023 conference. Addressing crucial issues such as impact, advocacy, diversity, leadership, and empowerment, this gathering brought together academics and practitioners, fostering dialogue on the current state of the art and challenges in these areas. Given the success of this initiative, a second instalment will take place as part of this year's AGAPE meeting in September.

Publication series: As part of our commitment to open access, more than 20 papers from the conference were submitted to a special issue of Nonprofit Policy Forum, ensuring that the research presented has specific policy relevance and is readily accessible to a wider audience.

Using the Safe Spaces initiative as an additional catalyst for wider knowledge-mobilisation, ERNOP facilitated the collaborative writing of 'Dialogue Papers' by academics and practitioners as an output from the event, and a set of resulting articles on philanthropic leadership, diversity, equity and inclusion, and participatory grantmaking were published in the Journal of Philanthropy and Marketing. While it was ERNOP's understanding that these articles would be published in a permanent open access format, the publisher, Wiley, decided to only make them available in a format that only provided open access for three months after publication. After careful consideration, the Board thus decided not to continue this specific relationship with Wiley and the Journal of Philanthropy and Marketing, and currently alternative options are being explored.

Building organisational links: as a partner organisation ERNOP visited Philea at Philanthropy House in Brussels at the beginning of the year to discuss collaborative opportunities, and attended the Philea Forum in Ghent in May. Alongside, we have also developed and strengthened our working relationships with the European Fundraising Association, Centre for European Volunteering, Impact Europe and Giving Tuesday.

Building philanthropy research capacity: An important function of ERNOP is to support our field's emerging scholars. To this end, a number of activities have been undertaken over the last year. These include:

- a PhD workshop that provided a platform for 15 participants to present their work and learn from senior researchers, contributing to the continuous improvement of their research endeavors
- the setting up of a PhD Circle. As part of this, an initial cohort of nine PhD students regularly met and presented their work, enhancing peer learning. Supported by Michaela Neumayr a new call for members will be circulated in autumn. The aim is provide opportunities to bring European PhD student on philanthropy together to present and discuss their work, and receive peer feedback while being supported by established scholars in the field
- a new series entitled PhD Perspectives: From Research to Impact was launched that features individual PhD Journeys. So far, six have been published and it is anticipated that by the end of this year this will have grown to around 15
- the building of a new PhD library which will be officially launched later this year and provide an important step towards an international collection of, and reference library on, PhD dissertations on philanthropy.

AGAPE - A Gathering of Academic centres and chairs of Philanthropy in Europe: Hosted by WU Vienna, and currently expecting around 40 participants from academia and practice, the next gathering will take place on 12-13th September 2024. It will provide an important opportunity to learn about and discuss the findings from the strategic review interviews and survey, and discuss the ERNOP strategy going forward. On the other hand it will provide ample opportunity to set the scene for the Safe Spaces for Philanthropy 2025.

Philanthropy teaching and education: Taking on board insights and requests from our members, we plan to develop an inventory of current and recent courses on philanthropy in Europe for graduate, post graduate and executives, including course material.