

# European Research Network on Philanthropy (ERNOP)

## Action Plan 2025–2027

### Mission

*ERNOP's mission is to advance, coordinate, and promote excellence in philanthropy research, education, and knowledge exchange across Europe.*

To this end, ERNOP:

- ***Provides an independent and reflective European voice***, facilitating critical reflection, scholarly debate, and the informed development of philanthropy theories, policies, and practices.
- ***Takes an inclusive and broad understanding of philanthropy***, enabling critical and reflective engagement with the complexities, diversity, and dynamics inherent to philanthropy, recognising both philanthropy's potential and its challenges.
- ***Works collaboratively with researchers, educators, policymakers, and philanthropy practitioners***, providing a vibrant platform for generating and sharing insights, fostering meaningful dialogue, and strengthening philanthropy's relationship with, and contributions to, society.

### Strategic Priorities

#### Background

To develop clear and relevant strategic priorities for the next few years, the ERNOP board undertook a comprehensive consultation with its members. This included individual conversations with institutional members, an online survey open to all members, and a dedicated workshop at *A Gathering of Academic Research Centres and Chairs* (AGAPE) 2024 at WU Vienna. Drawing on the insights gained from this review, the following were identified as key priorities.

#### 1. Strengthening our Collaborative and Inclusive Community

Ensure ERNOP remains an engaged, diverse, and inclusive community that offers meaningful interactions, member-driven initiatives, and development opportunities in relation to philanthropy.

As part of this, we will focus on

- **Reinforcing engagement with existing members** by evaluating and enhancing membership experiences and benefits, and providing meaningful opportunities for active involvement, particularly amongst early-career scholars, through ERNOP's conference, A Gathering of Academic research centres and chairs on Philanthropy in Europe (AGAPE), and the establishment of thematic groups.
- **Expanding membership** by actively recruiting researchers, educators, and practitioners in the philanthropy field from across diverse European regions and career stages, particularly from currently underrepresented areas.

## 2. Developing Strategic Collaborations and Partnerships

Strengthen ERNOP's collective impact through expanding meaningful collaborations and strategic partnerships with relevant networks, organisations, and stakeholders related to European philanthropy.

As part of this, we will focus on:

- **Deepening partnerships** with other relevant academic and research networks, philanthropy infrastructure organisations, foundations, think tanks, and policymakers to amplify ERNOP's voice and influence.
- **Identifying and facilitating opportunities** for joint initiatives and events, collaborative research projects and grant applications, educational programs, and policy engagement opportunities to advance shared objectives and enhance collective impact.

## 3. Advancing Philanthropy Research, Knowledge, and Education

Promote, and serve as a catalyst for rigorous, innovative, insightful, timely, and impactful research and education on philanthropy, positioning ERNOP as the authoritative voice for strengthening knowledge bases and datasets, inform policies and practices, and stimulate informed public debates on European philanthropy.

As part of this, we will focus on:

- **Encouraging and facilitating research collaborations**, by identifying and creating opportunities for members to jointly seek funding and undertake projects and pursue new research initiatives, as well as providing opportunities for researchers to present, discuss, and share their findings, promoting critical reflection and scholarly dialogue on key issues in philanthropy.
- **Enhancing philanthropy education**, by mapping existing educational opportunities, identifying gaps, sharing resources, and encouraging pedagogical innovation and collaboration.

- **Improving research infrastructure**, by mapping European data sources on philanthropic giving, facilitating data exchanges, and encouraging data harmonization, with the goal of enhancing Pan-European knowledge about giving and enabling comparative research.
- **Contributing actively to public and policy debates**, ensuring that the work of ERNOP's members informs broader public and policy debates on European philanthropy.

#### 4. Expanding Communication, Publication, and Digital Engagement

Increase ERNOP's visibility and impact through strengthening the dissemination of research insights and knowledge to academic, policy, practitioner, and public audiences.

As part of this, we will focus on:

- **Broadening publication opportunities**, including through the exploration and active development of strategic journal partnerships, special issues, working papers, policy briefs, and practitioner-oriented outputs.
- **Advancing digital communication and online engagement**, by strengthening ERNOP's website and online presence, targeted social media outreach activities, webinars, interactive opportunities for knowledge-sharing, virtual membership gatherings, and other resources that open up foster accessibility to, and interaction with, ERNOP's community and its work.

#### 5. Ensuring Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Ensure ERNOP remains resilient, effective, and responsive by maintaining transparent and accountable governance structures, while actively strengthening opportunities for collective interests and involvements of our members.

As part of this, we will focus on:

- **Identifying and seeking diverse and sustainable financial partnerships and funding opportunities**, strengthening ERNOP's capacity and securing the resources necessary for ERNOP's long-term sustainability and impact.