

Policy Note ERNOP 2024-2025 and brief outlook

Membership

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

- 26 institutional members (+3)
 - 11 associated institutional members (0)
 - 6 institutional supporters (+1)
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- 290 active memberships across all categories (+15)

In addition, we now have over 4250 followers on LinkedIn (+1250) and more than 2000 (+100) subscribers to our mailing list.

ERNOP Conference

Heidelberg 2025 (September 25–26): The ERNOP Conference welcomed 175 participants from academia and practice. The programme featured a keynote by Liv Egholm, a keynote by Daniela Scharzer, followed by a panel on philanthropy's role in contemporary democracies.

The next ERNOP Conference is secured and will be announced at the Heidelberg Conference.

We warmly invite all members to get in touch if they are interested in exploring opportunities to host a future ERNOP conference.

We thank Georg Mildenberger and his team for hosting the 2025 conference.

Organisational Updates

Georg Mildenberger's term will come to an end. We thank him for his years of dedicated service to ERNOP. A call for new board candidates will be opened after the Heidelberg Conference.

We also have an open position focused on strengthening ERNOP's communication and outreach, which will likewise be circulated after the conference.

Activities

Development of New Strategy

A new ERNOP strategy has been developed, based on extensive input from our members. This strategy will be presented at the General Assembly. Individual board members will take responsibility for specific action points within the strategy, ensuring a more distributed and effective implementation.

ERNOP Research Notes

- Over 100 academic publications from ERNOP members have now been transformed into the Research Notes format.
- We have produced 10 recordings of the Philanthropisms podcast dedicated to Research Notes.
- In collaboration with Philea, we developed a special issue of the Research Notes dedicated to Justice Philanthropy.

Webinars

We hosted 5 webinars during the year, with a total of 750+ registered participants.

Data on European Philanthropy

Although delayed, we are pleased to present the preliminary findings of our initiative to map the available data on philanthropy in Europe at the ERNOP Conference 2025.

Safe Spaces for Philanthropy

This year's Safe Spaces for Philanthropy sessions focused on:

- Justice Philanthropy
- Participatory Grantmaking
- Data Transparency and Sharing
- The Future of Face-to-Face Fundraising
- The Impact of Volunteerism

The interest exceeded our capacity to facilitate. All papers from these sessions will be published as policy and practice papers (free to read) by Voluntary Sector Review. We are also planning a dedicated webinar series related to these publications.

Publications

This year's conference papers will be published as conference proceedings, provided there is sufficient interest and authors follow the guidelines provided.

Building Organisational Links

ERNOP continues to strengthen relationships with our partners: Philea, the European Fundraising Association, the Centre for European Volunteering, and Impact Europe. ERNOP was represented at the Philea Conference in Lisbon and the CEV meeting in Mechelen (Belgium), and will be present at the EFA Skillshare in Edinburgh (November 2025).

Building Research Capacity

- The PhD workshop received more than 20 applications; 12 participants were selected.
- The 2025 PhD Circle consists of 10 PhD students who meet online on a bi-monthly basis. We thank Michaela Neumayr for her continued mentorship. The circle will continue in 2026, and senior members interested in becoming mentors are warmly invited to get in touch.
- Our PhD Perspectives: From Research to Impact series now features 12 blogs by PhD students sharing their journeys.
- The PhD Dissertation Library did not gather enough critical mass to launch. We will consider alternative options to promote the dissertations we received.

Member Meet Ups

Following the outcome of the member survey about exchange beyond the conference, ERNOP will develop a platform that facilitates low-barrier, informal online exchange among members.

AGAPE 2026

We are grateful to The Human Safety Net / Generali for hosting AGAPE 2026 at the Home of the Human Safety Net in Venice (7–9 October 2026). We would also like to thank our hosts of AGAPE 2024 in Vienna once again for their efforts.

Philanthropy Teaching and Education

We are pleased to present the findings of our survey on philanthropy teaching at this conference. Pending the outcomes of the panel session, ERNOP will launch an annual Snapshot of Philanthropy Courses starting in 2026.