

# SNAPSHOT OF PHILANTHROPY RESEARCH CENTERS IN EUROPE

This factsheet provides an overview of philanthropy research centers in Europe that are an institutional member of ERNOP, their main academic disciplines, philanthropy related focus, and the most important research questions (RQs) they aim to answer.

ERNOP members study philanthropy, which is understood as private, mainly voluntary, contributions to public causes. Research on philanthropy is scattered among different academic disciplines. Research centers studying philanthropy are often multidisciplinary, thereby integrating several academic disciplines when studying philanthropy. ERNOP perceives all these different perspectives as being a strength, and aims to include them all in the study of philanthropy. For more information visit [www.ernop.eu](http://www.ernop.eu)



## VU AMSTERDAM – Center for Philanthropic Studies

EST.: 1995

HQ: Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### Academic disciplines:

Sociology, Public Administration, Social Psychology, Demography, Economics, Communication Science

### Philanthropy keywords:

Giving, Volunteering, Foundations, Corporate social responsibility, Crowdfunding

### Key RQs:

- Who gives what, when, where, and why, and to what effect?
- What conditions and motivations drive philanthropy by individuals, foundations, and corporations?
- How do civil society organizations affect the size, composition and effectiveness of philanthropy?
- What is the impact of philanthropy on recipients and donors?
- What is the impact of institutions and regulation on philanthropy and on its impact in society?

## UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS)

EST.: 2008

HQ: Basel, Switzerland

### Academic disciplines:

Business Administration, Economics, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Regional studies

### Philanthropy keywords:

NPO-Management, Cross-sector collaboration, Individual philanthropy, NPO Law & Economics, Data on Philanthropy

### Key RQs:

- How can NPOs and foundations/philanthropists improve their effectiveness and efficiency?
- How can NPOs and foundations be better managed?
- How do NPOs and foundations affect policies and vice versa?
- How do philanthropic organizations function in various jurisdictions?
- What are the factors influencing philanthropy of individuals and what changes their strength?

## UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM – Third Sector Research Centre

EST.: 2009

HQ: Birmingham, United Kingdom

### Academic disciplines:

Sociology, Social statistics, History, Geography

### Philanthropy keywords:

Volunteering, Charitable giving, Third sector organisations, Organisational change and dynamics, Third sector impact

### Key RQs:

- What underlies geographical variations in the distribution of organisations, givers and volunteers?
- How can we understand processes of change in the roles, responsibilities and relationships of third sector organisations, over various timescales?
- What contribution does the third sector make to the delivery of public services?
- How can we best understand the distinctive impacts of third sector organisations?

## UNIVERSITY OF KENT – Centre for Philanthropy

EST.: 2008

HQ: Canterbury, United Kingdom

### Academic disciplines:

Philanthropic Studies, Social Policy, Sociology

### Philanthropy keywords:

Major donors, Charitable giving, Fundraising, Volunteer fundraisers, Collective giving

### Key RQs:

- What qualities underlie successful fundraising?
- How do children learn to become charitable?
- Who are the major donors?
- How do donors choose charities?
- How can public policy best support the philanthropy sector?

## ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL – Philanthropy Chair

EST.: 2011

HQ: Cergy, France

### Academic disciplines:

Organizational Science, Management, History, Sociology, Social psychology

### Philanthropy keywords:

Impact, Institutionalization, History, Hybridity, Strategy

### Key RQs:

- What do we know about philanthropy, from an interdisciplinary viewpoint?
- What are the different strategies that philanthropic organizations can adopt?
- How to measure the impact of philanthropy and philanthropic organizations?
- How do philanthropic ideas & practices evolve throughout history?
- What are the “new frontiers” of philanthropy?

## Copenhagen Business School – Center for Civil Society Studies

EST.: 2013

HQ: Copenhagen, Denmark

### Academic disciplines:

History, Sociology, Organizational science, philosophy

### Philanthropy keywords:

The common good, Comparative, Historical, Gift-giving, Reciprocity

### Key RQs:

- How has philanthropic gift-giving practices (conceptualizing, categorizing & organizing) influenced the development of the welfare state?
- How has the historical changing definitions of “the common good” simultaneously effected philanthropic practices and societal organization?
- How has, from a comparative perspective, private philanthropy’s gift-giving been regulated and organized over time?

## UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA – Geneva Centre for Philanthropy

EST.: 2017

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

### Academic disciplines:

Law, Economics, Management, Finance, Sociology, Affective sciences and neuroscience, Philosophy, Ethics

### Philanthropy keywords:

Behavioral philanthropy, Philanthropy and taxation, Hybrid entities/ social entrepreneurship, Warm Glow Effect – pure and impure philanthropy, Philanthropy, CSR and SDG

### Key RQs:

- Why rather than only how?
- How can philanthropy contribute to the achievement of the SDGs?
- Interplay between private philanthropy and the role of the state?
- Why do people give?
- How does a multidisciplinary approach contribute to efficient philanthropy?

## HAMBURG UNIVERSITY – Chair for management of public, private, and non-profit organizations

EST.: 2008

HQ: Hamburg, Germany

### Academic disciplines:

Business administration, Economics, Sociology, Law

### Philanthropy keywords:

Relationship marketing, Blood donor marketing, Nonprofit financial management, Refugee integration, Civil society

### Key RQs:

- Why do blood donors stop giving?
- How do nonprofit organizations build long-term relationships with the next generation of donors?
- What are the service needs of refugees and barriers to integration?
- What pressures keep nonprofit organizations from investing in their organizational infrastructure?
- What does it take to transform prosocial motivation into prosocial behavior?

## HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY – Centre for Social Investment

EST.: 2006

HQ: Heidelberg, Germany

### Academic disciplines:

Sociology, Political science, Economics, Law, Protestant theology, Social geography

### Philanthropy keywords:

Strategy, Roles of philanthropy, Impact, Partner/grantee perception reporting, Governance

### Key RQs:

- How can we better understand social investments (private contributions to the public good) and civil society?
- How do processes of social innovation work?
- What is the contribution of civil society towards social innovation and social problem-solving?
- How can organizations in this field develop high-impact strategies (given their ever too limited resources)?

- What is the role of civil society, social entrepreneurship, welfare organizations and other more market-oriented forms of organizations in political governance?

## UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE – Baillet Latour Chair in Philanthropy and Social Investment

EST.: 2013

HQ: Liège, Belgium

### Academic disciplines:

Management, Sociology, Economics

### Philanthropy keywords:

Social impact, Impact finance, Foundations, Field transformation, Social entrepreneurship

### Key RQs:

- What is the state of philanthropy in Belgium (also compared to neighbouring countries)?
- What are the focal points and areas of concern in the meeting and collaboration between impact finance and social entrepreneurship?
- How do new philanthropic practices impact the non-profit field?

## INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH – Centre for Research On Civil Society and Voluntary Sector

EST.: 2008

HQ: Oslo, Norway

### Academic disciplines:

Political science, Sociology, Economics

### Philanthropy keywords:

Volunteering, Voluntary organization, Voluntary sector, Civic engagement, Social change

### Key RQs:

- What are the antecedents, characteristics, forms and effects of volunteering and civic engagement and how do they change over time?
- How do societal, technological and political factors contribute to the transformation of the size, scope of the third sector and its components?
- What are the main income sources of the third sector and how do they evolve over time?
- How do public policies impact on the economy of the third sector and vice versa?
- How do third sector organizations contribute to democracy?

## ERASMUS UNIVERSITY – Rotterdam School of Management

EST.: 2003

HQ: Rotterdam, the Netherlands

### Academic disciplines:

Business Administration

### Philanthropy keywords:

Corporate Philanthropy, Volunteering, Volunteer Management, Corporate Foundations, Civil Society

### Key RQs:

- How to sustain voluntary & philanthropic energy?
- What is the added value of philanthropy and volunteering?

- How can we conceptualize the shared space (co-production between government/ civil society and business/civil society)?
- What does, from both a business and non-profit perspective and with a focus on work design and contingency approach, corporate involvement and corporate volunteering look like?
- How can we understand civil Society as a concept and in relation to the government and business?

## UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS – Centre for the Study of Philanthropy and Public Good

EST.: 2017

HQ: St. Andrews, United Kingdom

### Academic disciplines:

Social Policy, Management, Sociology

### Philanthropy keywords:

Foundations, Institutions of philanthropy, Community/engaged philanthropy, History of philanthropy, Socio-cultural roles, norms and expressions of philanthropy

### Key RQs:

- What are the individual and organizational expressions and motives of philanthropy?
- What are the theories, concepts and sites of philanthropy?
- What is the story of philanthropy, and what lessons and insights does it offer across cultures, time and space?
- How do philanthropy and society interact, and what are the effects, impacts and outcomes of philanthropic activities?
- What are the different facets and expressions of public good, the accompanying policies and regulatory environments, and how do we identify, achieve and assess public good?

## WU VIENNA – Institute for Nonprofit Management & Competence Center for Nonprofit Organizations and Social Entrepreneurship

EST.: 1997

HQ: Vienna, Austria

### Academic disciplines:

Business Administration, Management, Nonprofit Management

### Philanthropy keywords:

Private charitable giving, Donor choice, Foundations, Volunteering, Collaboration

### Key RQs:

- How do nonprofit organizations contribute to society, and what do they need to fulfil their pivotal societal functions?
- How do contextual and individual factors make individuals donate, and make them donate to particular fields of welfare?
- How to deal with the promises and perils of Social Impact Bonds and other novel philanthropic funding instruments?
- What are the motives, practices and consequences of nonprofits collaborating with corporations?
- What are the causes and consequences of nonprofit organizations becoming more business-like?