

# 2026 ERNOP SNAPSHOT OF PHILANTHROPY RESEARCH

ERNOP members study philanthropy, which is understood as any form of private, voluntary, contributions to public causes. Research on philanthropy is broad and includes a variety of academic disciplines and research approaches. ERNOP perceives all these different perspectives as a strength and aims to include them all in the study of philanthropy

This factsheet provides an overview of institutions within the ERNOP network that contribute to the study, understanding, and practice of philanthropy.

For more information, visit [www.ernop.eu](http://www.ernop.eu)



## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Institutional members are philanthropy research centres and chairs based at higher education institutions in Europe. For these organisations, the factsheet presents key information on their profile, academic disciplines, philanthropy-related focus areas, and the main research questions guiding their work.

*Institutions are listed in alphabetical order by country.*

### WU VIENNA

– Institute for Nonprofit Management & Governance; NPO Competence Center; Social Entrepreneurship Center

**EST.:** 1997

**HQ:** Vienna, Austria

**Academic disciplines:**

Business Administration, Management, Nonprofit Management

**Philanthropy keywords:**

Individual philanthropic engagement (donations, volunteering), Foundations, Cross-sector collaborations (e.g. social impact bonds, corporate volunteering), Impact Investment

**Key RQs:**

- How do nonprofit organizations/foundations contribute to society, and what do they need to fulfil their pivotal societal functions?
- Why and how is philanthropic engagement related to socio-economic inequality?
- What are the rationales, practices, and consequences of cross-sectoral collaboration between nonprofits and business or public organisations (e.g. social impact bonds, corporate volunteering)?
- What are the support needs of social entrepreneurs/of immigrant entrepreneurs?

### KU LEUVEN

– Department of Marketing

**EST.:** 2014

**HQ:** Brussels, Belgium

**Academic disciplines:**

Nonprofit marketing, Sustainable marketing, Consumer behavior, Service marketing, Marketing strategy, Retailing, Sports marketing

**Philanthropy keywords:**

Fundraising (ethics), Donor psychology, Face-to-face fundraising, Charity checkouts, Beneficiaries, Ethical storytelling

**Key RQs:**

- What aspects of fundraising make beneficiaries particularly vulnerable?
- How can giving incentivize pro-environmental behavior?
- How do various stakeholders' ethical beliefs about (face-to-face) fundraising shape perceptions and practices?
- What is the impact of fundraising ethics on effectiveness?
- What makes charity checkouts effective, and what are their potential downsides?

### UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES GHENT

– Research Centre for Sustainable Organisations

**EST.:** 1995

**HQ:** Ghent, Belgium

**Academic disciplines:**

Fundraising, Marketing, Non-profit Marketing, Strategic Management

**Philanthropy keywords:**

Fundraising, legacies, corporate partnerships, donor communication, personas

**Key RQs:**

- How can organisations communicate effectively with their donors?
- How can organisations effectively build corporate partnerships?
- How is private fundraising by organisations in Belgium organised?
- What is does legacy giving in Belgium look like?

### MASARYK UNIVERSITY

– Centre for Nonprofit Sector Research

**EST.:** 2003

**HQ:** Brno, Czech Republic

**Academic disciplines:**

Economics, Law, Management, Public Administration

**Philanthropy keywords:**

Financial management, Sustainability, Charitable giving, Public-nonprofit partnership, Civil society transformation

**Key RQs:**

- What factors affect the financial sustainability and vulnerability of nonprofit organizations?
- What is the impact of public policies and regulation on the behaviour of the nonprofit organizations?
- What are the specifics of the provision of public services by nonprofit organizations?
- What are the ways of effective internal capacity building of nonprofit organizations in relation to their readiness for crisis situations?
- Conflict and cooperation between civil sector organisations and public administration in a post-communist society

## COLLEGE OF POLYTECHNICS JIHLAVA – Department of Economic Studies

**EST.:** 2004

**HQ:** Jihlava, Czech Republic

### Academic disciplines:

Public Economics, Econometrics, Nonprofit Management, Nonprofit Finance, Social Work

### Philanthropy keywords:

Impact of Volunteering, Philanthropic Behaviour, Supply and Demand of Philanthropy, Philanthropy and Polycrises, Faith-Based Philanthropy

### Key RQs:

- What is the impact of crises on volunteering and financial giving?
- What is the relationship between volunteering and financial giving?
- Which factors influence the demand for and supply of volunteering aimed at reducing loneliness?
- Does empirical evidence support the claim that estimating the monetary value of volunteering is beneficial or harmful?
- What is the role of the nonprofit sector in overseas countries and the outermost regions of European countries?

## COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL – Center for Civil Society Studies

**EST.:** 2013

**HQ:** Copenhagen, Denmark

### Academic disciplines:

History, Sociology, Organizational Science, Philosophy, Political Economy, Law

### Philanthropy keywords:

Foundations as society builders, Problem-solving & multistakeholder alliances, Civilizing Business, Civil Society Elites, Moral Economy

### Key RQs:

- How have philanthropic gift-giving practices (conceptualizing, categorizing & organizing) influenced the development of the welfare state?
- How have 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?
- What role do elites of and in civil society play in governance structures?
- Which role does civil society play in civilizing the economy (e.g. through foundations, democratic business, associative governance, etc.)?
- How does the new format of multistakeholder partnership initiated by foundations balance collaboration and power imbalances in initiatives to solve complex societal issues?

## FREIBURG UNIVERSITY – Institute for Economics, Public & Nonprofit Management

**EST.:** 2013

**HQ:** Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

### Academic disciplines:

Economics, Sociology, Psychology

### Philanthropy keywords:

Corporate governance, Corporate social responsibility, Ethics, Nonprofit marketing, Volunteering, Human resource management, Organizational behavior, Change management.

### Key RQs:

- Why do individuals want to work for nonprofit organizations?
- How can nonprofit organizations retain their paid and unpaid workers?
- What are the factors that drive prosocial and sustainable behavior?
- How do consumers, citizens, volunteers etc. react to instances of unethical organizational behavior?
- How should nonprofit organization design their marketing programs to increase prosocial and sustainable behavior?

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

**EST.:** 2008

**HQ:** Hamburg, Germany

### Academic disciplines:

Business administration/Management, Economics, Sociology, Law

### Philanthropy keywords:

Donor Relationship Marketing, Fundraising, Blood Donation, Inclusive Volunteering, Trust-based Philanthropy, Civil society

### Key RQs:

- How do nonprofit organizations build long-term relationships with the next generation of donors?
- What are effective fundraising actions?
- How to acquire and retain blood donors best?
- What are the service needs of refugees and barriers to integration?
- What are positive outcomes of unrestricted funding?

## HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY – Centre for Social Investment

**EST.:** 2006

**HQ:** Heidelberg, Germany

### Academic disciplines:

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

### Philanthropy keywords:

Roles of philanthropy, Impact measurement, Theory and methodological aspects of social innovation, Fostering social innovation, Civil society and social infrastructures, Foundations concepts and historical forms in Europe

### Key RQs:

- How can we better understand social investments, civil society and namely philanthropy in an international, cross-cultural and inter-temporal perspective?
- What is the contribution of civil society towards social innovation and social problem-solving?
- How can philanthropic organizations assess their impact?
- How can we conceptualize social sustainability?
- What are empirical approaches to assess social sustainability?

## TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY

### – Institute for Law and Philanthropy

**EST.:** 2014  
**HQ:** Tel-Aviv, Israel

**Academic disciplines:**  
Economics, Law, Organizational Theory, Sociology and Anthropology

**Philanthropy keywords:**  
Data on giving and nonprofits, Cross-sector collaboration, Institutional philanthropy and roles of foundations, Philanthropy and Democracy

- Key RQs:**
- How to map and follow donations from varied resources to non-profits in Israel?
  - How do tax regulations affect giving and non-profits in Israel?
  - What are the roles for philanthropic foundations and models of engagement?
  - How do foundations and government collaborate and to what effect?
  - How do philanthropy, democracy and justice relate to each other?

## UNIVERSITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

### – Center for Philanthropy

**EST.:** 2018  
**HQ:** Vaduz, Liechtenstein

**Academic disciplines:**  
Law, Empirical studies

**Philanthropy keywords:**  
Charitable foundations, Volunteering, Donations

- Key RQs:**
- What does the philanthropic landscape in Liechtenstein look like?
  - Which are the major global developments in philanthropy with relevance for the civic sector in Liechtenstein?
  - How can charitable foundations maximise their impact?
  - To which extent and for what purposes do citizens in Liechtenstein volunteer?
  - How does the legal, fiscal, and societal environment for philanthropy in Liechtenstein compare to other countries?

## 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, Donation of bodily material, Grantmaking, Crowdfunding

- Key RQs:**
- Who gives what, when, where, and why, and to what effect?
  - What are the effects of restrictions on funding practices by grantmaking organizations on the effectiveness of grantee organizations?
  - How do civil society organizations affect the size, composition and effectiveness of philanthropy?
  - How can we understand and explain the donation of bodily material?
  - What is the impact of institutions and regulation on philanthropy and on its impact in society?
  - How does volunteering contribute to health, well-being, and social productivity?

## RADBOD UNIVERSITY NIJMEGEN

### – Department of Anthropology and Development Studies

**EST.:** 2000  
**HQ:** Nijmegen, the Netherlands

**Academic disciplines:**  
Anthropology, Development studies

**Philanthropy keywords:**  
Sustainability, Impact, Partnerships, Public support, Donor preferences

- Key RQs:**
- What determines the role and identity of (global north based) citizen led development organisations?
  - How and why does the role and identity of these organisations changes over time?
  - How do characteristics of citizen led development organisations affect the impact of their work in the global south?
  - What are trends in terms of citizen engagement for development cooperation/international solidarity in countries in the global north?
  - How do processes of decolonisation and shifting power affect the work of citizen led development organisations and their counterparts in the global north?

## ERASMUS UNIVERSITY

### – Rotterdam School of Management

**EST.:** 2003 (Chair on Volunteering and Strategic Philanthropy)  
**HQ:** Rotterdam, the Netherlands

**Academic disciplines:**  
Business Administration, Business Society Management

**Philanthropy keywords:**  
Corporate Philanthropy, Volunteer Management, Civil Society, Diaspora and Bi-cultural philanthropy and volunteering, Volunteering

- Key RQs:**
- How to sustain voluntary & philanthropic energy?
  - How can volunteers be managed?
  - What is the position of diaspora philanthropy and volunteering in the global civil field?
  - How can we understand the (intercultural) civil society as a concept and in relation to the government and business?
  - How important is the researcher's positionality to nonprofit studies?

## UTRECHT UNIVERSITY – Patronage Studies

**EST.:** 2020

**HQ:** Utrecht, the Netherlands

### Academic disciplines:

Patronage Studies, Cultural Studies, Cultural History, Cultural Policy Research, Sociology

### Philanthropy keywords:

History of philanthropy, Socio-cultural roles, Norms and expressions of philanthropy, Individual philanthropic engagement of both recipients and donors

### Key RQs:

- How (through which choices, strategies and motivations) do patron and artist or cultural institution choose to position themselves vis-à-vis each other, and how do they perceive of their role in the exchange?
- What impact does the exchange between patron and recipient have on the form, content and value of the work of art supported by the patron, and created by the artist or cultural institution?
- (How) do patrons and artists or cultural institutions perceive of their exchange as reciprocal?
- How do artist and cultural institutions put forward their requests for backing and protection of private patrons, and help shape the 'culture of asking' of their times and cultures?
- Through which (societal) discourses does the concept of arts patronage acquire meaning?

## 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?
- How do voluntary organizations contribute to addressing significant societal challenges?

## UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE – Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory

**EST.:** 1992

**HQ:** Belgrade, Serbia

### Academic disciplines:

Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science,

### Philanthropy keywords:

Philanthropy, Solidarity, Systems of care, Common good, Local civic initiatives, Serbia

### Key RQs:

- What forms do philanthropy, solidarity, and care take in Serbia and Southeastern Europe, and what factors drive them?
- Who bears responsibility for ensuring the provision and quality of social welfare?
- What is the role of mutual-aid groups as needs escalate?
- What is the reach of local initiatives for the public good, and where do their limits appear?
- How do institutional frameworks, social norms, and political strategies shape the recognition, treatment, and legitimization of pain, suffering, and discrimination?

## ESADE BUSINESS SCHOOL – ESADE Center for Social Impact

**EST.:** 2021

**HQ:** Barcelona, Spain

### Academic disciplines:

Social Entrepreneurship, Organization Theory, Strategic Management

### Philanthropy keywords:

Venture Philanthropy, Social Impact Investment, Social Entrepreneurship, Impact Measurement and Management, Systemic Impact

### Key RQs:

- How can foundations collaborate and learn to generate greater impact?
- How can philanthropy unleash the potential of catalytic capital?
- How can place-based organizations measure and manage systemic impact?
- How to assess the value-add of non-financial support in venture philanthropy?
- How can Gender-Lens Investing contribute to the growth and relevance of impact investing?

## MARIE CEDERSCHIÖLD UNIVERSITY – Centre for Civil Society Research

**EST.:** 1992  
**HQ:** Stockholm, Sweden

### Academic disciplines:

Political Science, Social Work, Sociology, Business Administration, History

### Philanthropy keywords:

Charitable giving, Volunteering, Welfare services, Voluntary social work, History of philanthropy

### Key RQs:

- Who gives to what and how do patterns in giving change over time?
- How are different types of civic engagement combined cumulatively in an active citizenship?
- What is the significance of giving and volunteering in relation to a universal welfare state, historically, today and in the future?
- What are the emerging trends in the philanthropic sector in Sweden and what are their significance in a broader perspective?

## 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, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Philanthropy

### Key RQs:

- How can NPOs and foundations/philanthropists improve their effectiveness and efficiency?
- How can NPOs and foundations be better managed?
- How does the nonprofit of the future look like?
- How do philanthropic organizations function in various jurisdictions?
- What are the factors influencing philanthropy of individuals and what changes their strength?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities for philanthropy in addressing the SDGs, and how can data-driven insights guide more effective interventions?

## UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA – Geneva Centre for Philanthropy

**EST.:** 2017  
**HQ:** Geneva, Switzerland

### Academic disciplines:

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

### Philanthropy keywords:

Hybrid entities, Artificial intelligence, Democracy, Impact Investing, Neurosciences

### Key RQs:

- How does the relationship between philanthropy and democracy play out?
- Why Social entrepreneurship and hybrid entities could be the key drivers to achieve societal impact?
- How can foundations governance be more efficient?
- What are the use and impact of AI on philanthropy and what can philanthropy do to promote ethical and inclusive AI?

## IMD BUSINESS SCHOOL – Debiopharm Chair for Family Philanthropy

**EST.:** 2017  
**HQ:** Lausanne, Switzerland

### Academic disciplines:

Philanthropy, Family Business, Entrepreneurship, Management, Governance

### Philanthropy keywords:

Family Philanthropy, Family Business, Family Foundation, Family Mission, Family Governance

### Key RQs:

- What motivates enterprising families to engage in philanthropic giving?
- How can enterprising families use existing governance structures to enhance the impact of their giving?
- What strategies can enterprising families adopt to make their giving more effective and efficient?
- How can families involve the next generation in philanthropy while passing on core family values?
- How can family offices support and amplify the impact of family philanthropy?

## UNIVERSITY OF KENT – Centre for Philanthropy

**EST.:** 2008

**HQ:** Canterbury, United Kingdom

### Academic disciplines:

Philanthropic Studies, Social Policy, Sociology, Business and Management

### Philanthropy keywords:

Major donors, Charitable giving, Fundraising, Voluntary action, Philanthropic citizenship with Student philanthropy

### Key RQs:

- What is the role and purpose of philanthropy?
- Who gives, to what causes, and why?
- What qualities and skills underlie successful fundraising?
- How do children and young people learn to give?
- Understanding the nature, challenges and opportunities of a Moonshot Philanthropy approach.

## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD – Gradel Institute of Charity, New College

**EST.:** 2023

**HQ:** Oxford, United Kingdom

### Academic disciplines:

Management, Strategy, Sociology, Economics, Public policy

### Philanthropy keywords:

Charity management, Social impact, Effectiveness, Performance, Governance

### Key RQs:

- How can charity effectiveness and impact be measured?
- How can board governance be transformed?
- Do charities that rely on earned income grow faster than those that depend on contributions?
- Do volunteers allow charities to deliver services more efficiently?
- How can charity transparency and accountability be improved?

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

**EST.:** 2016

**HQ:** St. Andrews, United Kingdom

### Academic disciplines:

Public Policy, 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 is the relationship between philanthropy and contemporary versions of capitalism, and how do they co-evolve, collaborate, or conflict?
- What are alternative imaginations, practices, and narratives of philanthropy that challenge dominant paradigms?
- How do social, political, economic, and cultural histories shape and influence philanthropy across different contexts, particularly in Scotland?
- What theories, concepts, and frameworks are most useful for understanding philanthropy?
- What are the diverse facets of the public good, and how do accompanying policies, programs, and regulatory environments influence its achievement?

## ASSOCIATED AND SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Associated and supporting institutional members are non-academic and/or non-European organisations working through research, practice, policy engagement, or knowledge exchange.

### JOSE LUIZ SETUBAL FOUNDATION

**EST.:** 2010

**HQ:** São Paulo, Brazil

**ORG.:** Foundation

#### Philanthropy keywords

Child and adolescent health and well-being, evidence-informed philanthropy, policy analysis and evaluation, impact measurement and learning, endowments and volunteering ecosystems

#### Key RQs:

- Which structural, social, economic, territorial, and environmental factors most significantly influence health and developmental outcomes in childhood and adolescence?
- How can philanthropic actors design, implement, and scale interventions that improve health, care, and development conditions for children and adolescents?
- How does the production, translation, and use of scientific evidence shape public policy, civil society action, and philanthropic decision-making related to childhood and adolescence?
- Which education and capacity-building models are most effective in strengthening health systems, professional practice, and population-level health literacy?
- What institutional, financial, and cultural arrangements enable the sustainability and impact of endowments and volunteering as long-term social investment strategies?

### FONDENES VIDENSCENTER

**EST.:** 2017

**HQ:** Copenhagen, Denmark

**ORG.:** Philanthropy Infrastructure Organisation

#### Philanthropy keywords

Philanthropy infrastructure, philanthropic development, knowledge sharing, monitoring the philanthropy sector, awareness of Danish philanthropic foundations

#### Key RQs:

- How does transparency in philanthropy create value for philanthropic organisations, beneficiaries, and society at large, and through which mechanisms does this value emerge?
- What are the broader societal impacts of Danish philanthropic foundations, and how can these impacts be systematically assessed and compared?

### VELUX FONDEN

**EST.:** 1981

**HQ:** Søborg, Denmark

**ORG.:** Foundation

#### Philanthropy keywords

Democracy, sustainability, social issues, environment, social sciences, gerontology

#### Key RQs:

- How do dialogical and participatory funding approaches involving citizens, civil society organisations, and public-sector actors support the inclusion of vulnerable groups, including people with mental illness, in local democratic communities?
- How can foundations design and facilitate grantmaking formats that encourage meaningful participation of citizens and civil society organisations at different stages of the funding process?



- How can knowledge, experiences, and outcomes generated through foundation-funded projects be effectively shared and reintegrated into society to maximise broader social impact and learning?

### OECD

#### – Centre on Philanthropy

**EST.:** 2017

**HQ:** Boulogne-Billancourt, France

**ORG.:** Research centre / policy unit (part of the OECD)

#### Philanthropy keywords

Networks, data and insights, peer learning, policy dialogue, philanthropy for development

#### Key RQs:

- What role does cross-border philanthropy play in supporting development outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in contexts of declining official development assistance (ODA)?
- How does domestic philanthropy contribute to economic and social development in low- and middle-income countries, and under which conditions does it act as a driver of sustainable growth?
- How does philanthropic funding support development and growth in key sectors such as health, nutrition, and gender equality, and how does it interact with public policy and international development frameworks?

### FONDATION DE FRANCE

#### – Philanthropy and Society Observatory

**EST.:** 1997

**HQ:** Paris, France

**ORG.:** Foundation / philanthropy observatory and research unit

#### Philanthropy keywords

Role and responsibilities of philanthropy, foundations' practices and types, data on French philanthropy, foundations' social programmes

#### Key RQs:

- How do temporal dimensions and time horizons shape philanthropic action, and how do foundations integrate short-, medium-, and long-term perspectives to act effectively?
- How do media dynamics and information environments influence public interest, public trust, and perceptions of social issues, and what role can philanthropy play in addressing these dynamics?
- How do foundations operate in contexts of increasing political and social polarisation, and how does polarisation influence philanthropic strategies, practices, and legitimacy?

## FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (IFMA)

**EST.:** 2019

**HQ:** Villeurbanne, France

**ORG.:** French Non-profit Organisation/Research and participatory knowledge organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Private giving, civil society organisations, social value creation, democracy, participatory research

### Key RQs:

- To what extent does philanthropy foster dependency or autonomy among civil society organisations, and how does it shape their socioeconomic and organisational models?
- How is mutual trust built and maintained within asymmetrical relationships between philanthropic funders and recipient organisations?
- How does private giving contribute to, reshape, or challenge democratic processes, participation, and citizen engagement?
- What forms does philanthropy take at the local level, and how does it influence territorial civil society ecosystems and relationships among local actors?
- How have relationships between civil society organisations and private donors developed over time, and how do these relationships vary across sectors, locations, and stakeholder types?

## DEUTSCHES ZENTRALINSTITUT FÜR SOZIALE FRAGEN

**EST.:** 1893

**HQ:** Berlin, Germany

**ORG.:** Foundation / Charity monitoring and research institute

### Philanthropy keywords

Donor information and advice, charity monitoring, seal-of-approval, donation statistics

### Key RQs:

- How can trust and transparency in charitable organisations be strengthened, and what role do monitoring and accreditation mechanisms play in this process?
- Which methods are most appropriate for nonprofit organisations to analyse and report on the impact of their programmes, and how do these methods affect credibility and accountability?
- What are the levels, forms, motivations, and recent developments of corporate giving (cash and in-kind) in Germany?
- What are the levels, motivations, and sociodemographic patterns of private charitable giving in Germany, and how have these evolved over time?
- How can inconsistencies between national surveys and statistical sources on philanthropy be explained, and how can data comparability and reliability be improved?

## MAECENATA FOUNDATION

### – Maecenata Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society

**EST.:** 1997

**HQ:** Berlin, Germany

**ORG.:** Think tank / research institute

### Philanthropy keywords

Civil society, foundations, charitable giving, volunteering

### Key RQs:

- How have regulatory frameworks and political discourse shaped and constrained civic space for civil society organisations in Germany?
- How do philanthropic institutions and practices contribute to democratic resilience and the functioning of civil society in Germany?
- Which factors influence public trust in nonprofit organisations, and how do these dynamics affect participation, giving, and volunteering?

## FONDAZIONE COMPAGNIA DI SAN PAOLO

**EST.:** 1563

**HQ:** Turin, Italy

**ORG.:** Foundation

### Philanthropy keywords

Governance and trust, risk, sustainability, social cohesion, innovation in philanthropic practice

### Key RQs:

- What types of philanthropic interventions are effective, for which populations, and under which conditions, across the portfolio of projects supported by the Foundation?
- How can system-level change generated by philanthropic interventions be conceptualised, measured, and monitored over time?
- What are the anticipated economic, social, and environmental impacts of foundation-supported urban transformation projects, and how can these impacts be assessed ex ante?
- To what extent can the use of data and data-driven methods improve the quality, feasibility, and robustness of philanthropic impact evaluations?

## TERZJUS FOUNDATION ETS

**EST.:** 2019

**HQ:** Rome, Italy

**ORG.:** Private third sector foundation / research and policy-oriented organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Third sector, social enterprise, philanthropy, law, social sciences

### Key RQs:

- What is the current state of implementation of the 2017 legislative reform of the third sector in Italy, and what effects does this reform have on philanthropic and civil society organisations?
- What factors motivate volunteering, and how do institutional, organisational, and policy conditions influence the promotion and sustainability of volunteer engagement?
- How is the EU Recommendation on the social economy being implemented in Italy, and what implications does this have for philanthropy, social enterprises, and third sector organisations?
- What role does the Register of Enterprises play in the registration, regulation, and governance of social enterprises and other third sector organisations, and how does this affect their functioning and accountability?

## CBF

**EST.:** 1925

**HQ:** Amsterdam, Netherlands

**ORG.:** Charity Monitor / Self-regulatory body

### Philanthropy keywords

Donor information and transparency, donor trust, charity assessment and accountability, self-regulation of the charitable sector, development-oriented regulation

### Key RQs:

- How do donors' sentiments, perceptions, and moral intuitions relate to factual information about charities, and how does this relationship affect trust and giving behaviour?
- How can the impact of the charitable sector be assessed at the macro level within a country, and which indicators best capture its societal contribution?
- How can risk-based monitoring models for charities be designed to balance accountability, proportional oversight, and sectoral development?
- What approaches to social impact reporting are perceived as legitimate, useful, and credible by charities, donors, regulators, and other stakeholders?

## GOEDE DOELEN NEDERLAND / CHARITIES ASSOCIATION THE NETHERLANDS

**EST.:** 1994

**HQ:** Amsterdam, Netherlands

**ORG.:** Philanthropy Infrastructure Organisation

### Philanthropy Keywords:

CSOs, associations and foundations, regulatory framework, fundamental rights and civic freedoms, accountability

### Key RQs:

- How do legal and regulatory framework conditions shape the functioning and sustainability of civil society organisations and philanthropic activity?
- What is the societal added value of civil society organisations, and how can this contribution be meaningfully articulated and assessed?
- How can the fundamental rights and civic freedoms of civil society organisations be effectively safeguarded within democratic societies?
- How do fundraising regulations and financial integrity requirements affect the ability of civil society organisations to inform the public and mobilise support?
- Under which conditions can sector-led self-regulation function as a credible and effective alternative or complement to public legislation?
- How can civil society organisations measure and report social impact in ways that are proportionate, meaningful, and legitimate for funders and society?"

## GIVING TUESDAY

### – Giving Tuesday Europe

**EST.:** 2024

**HQ:** The Hague, Netherlands

**ORG.:** Philanthropy Infrastructure Organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Individual giving and volunteering, collective giving, generosity and philanthropic behaviour, civic engagement and civil society, data on giving and generosity

### Key RQs:

- How is generosity understood and practised across different cultural, social, and institutional contexts, and how do these practices shape patterns of philanthropic giving?
- What role does everyday generosity play in shaping civic engagement and active citizenship across different European contexts?
- How does collective giving by individuals—across financial, time, skills, and voice-based contributions—strengthen civic and philanthropy ecosystems?
- Under which conditions does strengthening locally rooted actors foster generosity and enable cross-country learning within philanthropy ecosystems?
- How can data on generosity be generated, maintained, analysed, and interpreted to support credible narrative and practice shifts in philanthropy?

## NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID / KIRKENS NØDHJELP

**EST.:** 1947

**HQ:** Oslo, Norway

**ORG.:** International non-governmental organisation (INGO)

### Philanthropy keywords

Corporate foundations, impact measurement, philanthropic foundations, strengthening civil society, donor collaboration

### Key RQs:

- Which models of donor collaboration are most effective in supporting civil society resilience in fragile and conflict-affected contexts?
- What role do corporate foundations play in advancing economic empowerment, and through which mechanisms do their philanthropic interventions generate impact?
- How do partnerships between civil society organisations and philanthropic foundations contribute to progress on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)?

## SOCIAL IMPACT ALLIANCE FOR CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE / CEE IMPACT FOUNDATION

**EST.:** 2007

**HQ:** Poznan, Poland

**ORG.:** Think tank / philanthropy and impact infrastructure organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Mobilising private capital for social good, data-driven solutions, cross-sector collaboration and capacity building, responsible leadership and culture, social and economic resilience

### Key RQs:

- What types of data, evidence, and analytical tools are required to make the mobilisation of private capital for social purposes more evidence-based and effective?
- Which mechanisms, institutional infrastructures, and talent pipelines strengthen ecosystems for philanthropy, impact investing, and cross-sector collaboration in Central and Eastern Europe?
- How do public policies and regulatory frameworks enable or constrain the social engagement of private capital owners, and which policy approaches reduce barriers and create effective incentives?
- How do norms, values, and leadership cultures rooted in responsibility, accountability, and integrity influence long-term philanthropic and social engagement?
- Under which conditions does philanthropy and private capital mobilisation contribute to systemic, resilient, and sustainable social change?

## CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

**EST.:** 1956

**HQ:** Lisbon, Portugal

**ORG.:** Foundation

### Philanthropy keywords

Arts and culture, knowledge and science, sustainability, social equity, democratic participation

### Key RQs:

- How do philanthropic investments in arts and culture affect access, participation, and individual and collective development across different social groups?
- What role do philanthropic foundations play in supporting knowledge production and scientific research that fosters civic engagement and community-level sustainability?
- How do philanthropic strategies and funding models contribute to long-term environmental sustainability, and under which conditions are such interventions most effective?
- To what extent and through which mechanisms does philanthropy contribute to reducing inequalities in access to social, educational, and cultural opportunities?
- How does philanthropic engagement influence democratic values, civic participation, and the public sphere in different societal contexts?

## FAGARAS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**EST.:** 2017

**HQ:** Făgăraș, Romania

**ORG.:** Research and community-based organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Community philanthropy and the SDGs, civil society sector sustainability, local–global interactions, philanthropy, civil society, power and security dynamics

### Key RQs:

- How do community foundations and other forms of community philanthropy contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level?
- How do local communities engage with and respond to global challenges, and what role does philanthropy play in mediating local–global interactions?
- How do local communities and philanthropic organisations operate in contexts of social, economic, or environmental unsustainability, and which strategies support resilience and long-term sustainability?

## RESEARCH CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

**EST.:** 2022

**HQ:** Cluj-Napoca, Romania

**ORG.:** Association/research and civil society knowledge organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Individual giving, civil society, civic engagement, impact measurement, democracy

### Key RQs:

- What are the main organisational, financial, and programmatic characteristics of foundations in Romania today, and how are these patterns evolving?
- How do secular and religious foundations in Romania differ (and align) in their target audiences, thematic priorities, values, and strategies for mobilising support?
- What restrictive measures affecting civil society and philanthropy are used in other European or international contexts, and how do these compare with the regulatory and political environment in Romania?

- What factors shape public and institutional trust in NGOs in Romania, and how do trust dynamics differ across age groups (e.g., youth versus older cohorts)?
- How can data on individual giving, fundraising, and volunteering in Romania be aligned with European methodologies to improve reliability, comparability, and cross-national learning?

## FUNDACIÓN LA CAIXA

### – Social Observatory

**EST.:** 1904

**HQ:** Barcelona, Spain

**ORG.:** Foundation / Social research and knowledge observatory

### Philanthropy keywords

Social impact and evaluation, philanthropic strategy, organisational learning, stakeholder engagement, social innovation

### Key RQs:

- What emerging social challenges are shaping contemporary societies, and how can philanthropic organisations adapt their strategies and lines of action to respond effectively to changing societal needs?
- How can philanthropic foundations improve the measurement and evaluation of social impact in order to support learning, accountability, and strategic decision-making?
- What are the working and living conditions of researchers, and how do these conditions affect knowledge production relevant to philanthropy and social innovation?
- What are the working and living conditions of professionals in the third sector, and how do these conditions influence organisational sustainability and social impact?
- How can philanthropic foundations strengthen international knowledge exchange and collaboration in order to learn from best practices and enhance the effectiveness of their interventions?

## GIVA SVERIGE

### – Swedish Fundraising Association

**EST.:** 1991

**HQ:** Stockholm, Sweden

**ORG.:** Fundraising infrastructure organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Swedish giving, civil society, fundraising practice, donor engagement

### Key RQs:

- How can research and practitioner knowledge in fundraising and philanthropy be effectively connected, translated, and applied to improve philanthropic practice?
- What characterises young donors' motivations, preferences, and giving behaviours, and how do these differ from those of other donor groups?
- What are the patterns, drivers, and forms of corporate giving, and how are these shaped by organisational, economic, and societal contexts?
- What factors influence regular giving, donor retention, and long-term donor relationships in contemporary philanthropic environments?
- How are philanthropic and foundation giving evolving in the current social, economic, and regulatory environment, and what implications does this have for civil society organisations?

## THE WELLCOME TRUST

**EST.:** 1936

**HQ:** London, United Kingdom

**ORG.:** Foundation / research-funding and knowledge organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Health, research, equity, solutions, advocacy

### Key RQs:

- Which emerging and cutting-edge research fields have the greatest potential to transform population health outcomes, and how can philanthropic funding support their development?
- What are the health impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, and how can philanthropy contribute to advancing effective and equitable responses?
- Which knowledge and innovation gaps in infectious disease research represent critical opportunities for philanthropic intervention, particularly in underserved or high-need contexts?
- Where are the most effective opportunities for early intervention in anxiety, depression, and psychosis, and how can philanthropic investments support prevention and early-stage responses?
- How can researchers and research institutions leverage emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing to improve health outcomes, and what role can philanthropy play in enabling responsible and impactful use?

## RANK FOUNDATION

**EST.:** 1973

**HQ:** London, United Kingdom

**ORG.:** Foundation

### Philanthropy keywords

Relational philanthropy, place-based funding, collaboration

### Key RQs:

- How does relational philanthropy operate in practice, and through which mechanisms does it shape relationships, decision-making, and outcomes between funders and funded organisations?
- How can national philanthropic funders effectively contribute to place-based programmes, and how do their roles interact with local actors and contexts?
- How do foundations that both fund and deliver programmes navigate the boundary between independent grantmaking and charitable service provision, and what are the implications for governance and legitimacy?
- How do power, accountability, and decision-making processes function between boards and advisory groups within philanthropic foundations?

## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

– Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

**EST.:** 1987

**HQ:** Indianapolis, United States

**ORG.:** University-based school

### Philanthropy keywords

Giving, fundraising, nonprofit organisations, public policy, international philanthropy

### Key RQs:

- What are the current patterns and trends in charitable giving across different populations, causes, and geographic contexts?
- How do changes in public perception and public policy influence philanthropic behaviour, institutional practices, and the broader philanthropic landscape?
- What is the current financial and organisational state of religious congregations, and how do their economic practices relate to patterns of religious and charitable giving?

## ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS

**EST.:** 2002

**HQ:** New York City, United States

**ORG.:** Philanthropy advisory / infrastructure organisation

### Philanthropy keywords

Philanthropic strategy and foresight, futures studies in philanthropy, systems change, learning and knowledge exchange

### Key RQs:

- What role can foresight and futures thinking play in helping philanthropy anticipate emerging risks, opportunities, and systemic shifts that shape long-term social outcomes?
- How do philanthropic actors integrate future-oriented intelligence, such as scenario planning, horizon scanning, and signals of change, into strategic decision-making and resource allocation?
- Under which conditions does philanthropy effectively support adaptive, resilient, and equitable responses to uncertainty and complexity across social, environmental, and economic systems?
- How do philanthropic actors integrate new perspectives, lived experience, and diverse ways of knowing into strategies, priorities, and decision-making?
- What role can philanthropy play in both using and shaping the development and governance of artificial intelligence so that it reflects human values, integrates diverse perspectives, and contributes to more just and inclusive futures?

## ABOUT ERNOP

The European Research Network On Philanthropy aims to advance, coordinate and promote research on philanthropy in Europe. We eagerly invite you to join our community of philanthropy researchers and practitioners with in a research interest. Today, ERNOP represents around 50 organisations, and about 300 individuals from 30 European countries.

At the biennial ERNOP conference, researchers studying philanthropy present their state-of-art research, exchange ideas and meet colleagues and practitioners. The conference aims to contribute to a European philanthropy researcher identity. ERNOP is proud that this conference is considered to be the leading conference on European philanthropy research. We are pleased that ERNOP members represent European philanthropy research in other international conferences as ISTR and ARNOVA, and are part of the editorial board of major journals as NVSQ, Voluntas, Journal of Philanthropy and VSR.

ERNOP represents the study of philanthropy in Europe in discussions among European policymakers in the public and philanthropy sector and has developed warm working relationships with European professional associations as Philea, Impact Europe, EFA and CEV.

As research community we want to contribute to society. Every year, members of ERNOP publish their work in a broad range of academic journals and present their work on conferences. ERNOP members make their work available for all working in, with and for philanthropy through the ERNOP Science and Society Series and through the ERNOP Research Notes.

More information can be found at [www.ernop.eu](http://www.ernop.eu).