



Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe



## **European Day of Foundations and Donors – October 1<sup>st</sup>, a day to celebrate whatever the weather**



### **Brussels, 28 September 2017**

Events are taking place across Europe celebrating the work of philanthropy and foundations. European Day of Foundations and Donors, October 1<sup>st</sup>, aims to highlight the work of public benefit foundations in Europe and promote a culture of giving.

Across Europe over 140,000 foundations invest some €60bn annually in an array of organizations and activities that contribute to public benefit. They operate however in a complex environment determined by regulations, codes of practice, the economy, technology, and the prevailing culture of philanthropy and like the weather this is constantly changing.

Magdalena Pęcka, vice-chair of DAFNE said, 'Foundations are facing a cooling climate and volatile weather conditions. In Poland, I can feel the cold wind blowing from new legislation aligning and restricting government funding for civil society organizations that foster democracy and rule of law. National and international associations and donors forums work for 365 days of the year to create a good climate for foundations and donors to work in and to help them be equipped for changes in the weather. For one day however, October 1<sup>st</sup>, we hold a Europe-wide celebration of their work.'

The challenges being faced are the subject of a joint DAFNE / European Foundation Centre (EFC) study, to be published later this month, which will seek to identify constraints and identify opportunities to release philanthropic potential across Europe.

Massimo Lapucci, Chair of the European Foundation Centre said, 'Our sector encompasses a wide variety of institutional philanthropies in myriad shapes and sizes and with diverse purposes. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate this diversity and come together as one voice to celebrate the unique and essential contribution these organisations make to improving the lives of citizens around Europe and the world.'

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### **Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe (DAFNE)**

DAFNE is a network bringing together 25 donors and foundations networks from across Europe. With a collective membership of over 7,500 foundations, DAFNE underpins the individual activities providing an effective mechanism for Europe-wide collaboration, exchange of know-how and development of knowledge amongst national associations and their members. [www.dafne-online.eu](http://www.dafne-online.eu)

### **European Foundation Centre (EFC)**

The European Foundation Centre (EFC) is the platform of institutional philanthropy with a focus on Europe, but also with an eye to the global philanthropic landscape.

It is a network of foundations and philanthropic institutions committed to the development and promotion of institutional philanthropy in Europe and globally.

With the aim of being the voice of institutional philanthropy in Europe, the EFC promotes and communicates the value of institutional philanthropy to society thus contributing to an environment in which philanthropy can flourish. It serves as a hub of sector exchange and intelligence, to help its members increase the impact of their added value in society.

[www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be)

### **More Information**

For more information about the Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe (DAFNE) and details of activities taking place on European Day of Foundations and Donors go to [www.dafne-online.eu](http://www.dafne-online.eu) or follow DAFNE on Twitter.

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For more information about the European Foundation Centre (EFC) go to [www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be) or follow EFC on Twitter.

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