We thank you for your ongoing support

Acknowledgements

2020 was an exceptional year on many levels. Completion of this report reminded us once again of the importance and value of those who have been by our side this year.

We would like to thank the Dafne board and members for their continuous support and enormous effort in inspiring and challenging us, thus helping us to deliver positive outcomes for the European philanthropy sector despite the trying times we find ourselves in.

We would also like to share our sincere gratitude with our partners and funders without whom our work would not have been possible.

Last but not least, we would like to thank our families and friends for their endless patience and understanding throughout this year. We are very lucky to have them as our support systems.

Editorial team
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When European solidarity was put under pressure in spring 2020, philanthropy demonstrated the difference that stepping out of one’s comfort zone can make to individuals, organisations and societies as a whole. This was the conclusion of the McKinsey report “Reimagining European Philanthropy” to which Dafne and our members contributed. By adapting programmes overnight, facilitating powerful partnerships and allocating extra funding to the most urgent needs triggered by the pandemic, foundations became an indispensable partner in managing the global health and social justice crisis. Dafne’s “FOCUS: Philanthropy” photo project beautifully illustrates this vital work of foundations.

Collective thinking and acting across the European philanthropy field is key to keeping pace with the increasingly complex challenges that our society and planet are facing. We therefore launched PEX, an inspiring space for more than 60 national, regional and thematic philanthropy networks to learn, build trusted relationships and collaborate across issue communities on decisive topics such as climate, gender, Next Philanthropy and European philanthropy data.

Our outstanding partners, including Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, McKinsey, Alliance and the Thomson Reuters Foundation, as well as our allies such as EFC, EVPA and WINGS, have allowed Dafne’s national association members to serve and lead their more than 10,000 foundation members.

Building on the achievements and learnings of the Dafne network we are now moving to the next level of exploring what an ambitious and agile European philanthropy infrastructure needs to look like to truly meet the societal, economic and political challenges ahead of us. It is therefore with great excitement and enthusiasm that Dafne has entered a joint process with the European Foundation Centre (EFC) to build together tomorrow’s umbrella organisation for European philanthropy as an inclusive, participatory and innovative hub for foundations and philanthropy networks alike.

I would like to thank the dedicated, passionate and professional Dafne team that is driven by the desire to empower European philanthropy through collaborative approaches, sharing deep knowledge and facilitating unexpected partnerships. Enjoy reading this Annual Report that will take you into the world of our network of national philanthropy associations.

Max von Abendroth
Executive Director
2020 has been a challenging year for all of us

Being part of the Dafne community was more rewarding than ever before, and I’m saying this with my 14 years of experience representing the Polish Donors’ Forum in the network. Thanks to the leadership of Max von Abendroth and the commitment of the whole team, we enjoyed almost unlimited possibilities for exchange, helping each other to react quickly and draft together scenarios for the future.

More than ever our society needs foundations to be brave and act every day for the public benefit

That is why a powerful network spanning across the European continent is so important to our work. Dafne provides national associations with a place to learn and share best practices. It also brings a collective voice for foundations in Europe and advocates on behalf of the sector.

Letters from the board

2020 has seen the best of civil society and philanthropy in the worst of a pandemic

Dafne has led the emergence of PEX, a powerful exchange of philanthropy networks in Europe, driving joint responses to challenges. And now we are on our way to co-creating with our friends at EFC a new and powerful voice shaping the next evolution in philanthropy.

Dafne has always been a unique, trust-based, transformative community of practice

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dafne became the sounding board, the touchstone, the platform we could connect with, linking our work at the national level with the European one. Dafne and PEX offered this year an extraordinary added value in terms of backing, power, peer learning, dissemination of innovative solutions, development of new thinking, capacity building. Today, more than ever, we know how essential it is to consider the wider scenario and co-create systemic change, investing in the philanthropy developers, enablers and accelerators.

Magda Pekacka
Vice-Chair

Jean-Marc Pautras
Treasurer

Carola Carazzone
Board Member
2020 was a litmus test for philanthropy. It will take consolidation, collaboration and communication to build upon philanthropic capacities and contribute to the real changes society most needs.

DENISE GREEN
OECD
About

Our mission
We bring together 30 national associations from 28 countries across Europe, representing over 10,000 public-benefit foundations, big and small. We believe that an independent and courageous philanthropic sector can be a catalyst for a just and equitable society. Philanthropy is vital for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable Europe. We lead, strengthen and build the field for the common good in Europe.

Our story
Our story began 15 years ago – out of the desire to connect and facilitate exchange in the growing field of European philanthropy. We have helped shape and even create philanthropy associations in Europe who provide critical infrastructure for the effectiveness and professionalism of the sector. We developed from an informal peer exchange organisation to a leading voice of European philanthropy.

Dafne’s leadership not only strengthens the fabric of philanthropy but also helps elevate emerging trends across the European landscape and transform the traditional concept of cooperation into genuine co-creation.

OLGA TARASOV
ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS
Events 2020

JANUARY
PEXforum 2020
In January, we co-hosted the PEXforum2020 in Madrid which was the first ever Europe-wide event to discuss challenges and opportunities around philanthropy and how to take action.

MARCH
European Philanthropy Statement on COVID-19
In March, we invited foundations to come together and sign the European Philanthropy Statement on COVID-19, jointly coordinated with EFC.

#PhilanthropyDoesNotStop

MAY
Virtual Dafne Summer Meeting and General Assembly
On 19 May, we held our first online Summer Meeting, with over 70 participants, allowing a wide range of colleagues from Dafne member organisations to engage in a safe environment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Launch of PEXmagazine
Illustrating the spirit of collaboration, creativity, exchange, and diversity that makes PEX so effective in empowering European philanthropy, PEXmagazine was created as the result of the PEXforum 2020 in Madrid.

JUNE
Launch of the "PEX Philanthropy Resilience Building" story book
After four online sessions on resilience building in philanthropy, the story book collates visual harvestings of these sessions.

Philanthropy Advocacy workshop
On 12 June, we held workshops on cross-border philanthropy in Europe & EU policy on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing to better integrate national and European advocacy efforts.
On 10–11 September, we brought together 23 leaders of national associations and networks to share in a peer learning forum, designed and facilitated in cooperation with the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. This was the opportunity to share ideas, knowledge and experiences.

On 20 October we co-hosted a virtual discussion on the climate philanthropy guide “Funding the future” compiled by Active Philanthropy. Through this we hope to encourage foundations, regardless of their focus, to incorporate climate action into their agendas.

On 10 December, Philanthropy Advocacy and national experts launched the fifth edition of the country profiles of 27 European countries that provide overviews of the legal and fiscal operating environments for foundations in Europe.
Did you know that...

**Giving thought to European philanthropy**

...CAF’s [Giving Thought podcast](#) dedicated a series to discussing European philanthropy’s response to COVID-19 and how the crisis might affect philanthropy in the longer term.

**Accelerated transition in a changing sector**

... from charity to justice? The pandemic has encouraged foundations to speed up the transition to a value- and human-centered approach towards which the sector has been moving in recent years. “In the spirit of European solidarity”, 186 foundations signed a [statement](#) to engage flexibly with beneficiaries and partners in terms of activities, deadlines and budget, and have, thus, opened new lines of communication with civil society.

**Decreasing trust, growing understanding?**

... besides COVID-19, Europe’s public benefit foundations were challenged in 2020 by decreasing trust in the sector and legal and political restrictions to giving. Nonetheless, this year’s events resulted in an increased understanding of the philanthropic sector’s purpose and activities, as well as an enhanced collaboration within the sector and between sectors.

**Networks to facilitate collaboration**

... European philanthropy and social investment networks have come together to ensure cohesive, collaborative and efficient responses to COVID-19 in the [Unitus Europe](#) Hub.

**Strengthening resilience together**

... PEX philanthropy network leaders gathered to reflect by means of scenario thinking on how the [resilience](#) of the sector can be increased through social imagination.

**Knowledge hubs to share valuable resources**

... six European [knowledge hubs](#) emerged, to collect and make available resources for the European philanthropic sector on COVID-19, Climate, Data, Gender, Anti-Racism and Next Philanthropy.
Highlights 2020

PEXforum 2020

In January 2020, PEX was launched as a unique collaboration space for leaders and experts from over 60 national, regional and thematic philanthropy networks. Collectively, we empower the European philanthropy sector to be ambitious, innovative and agile in contributing to a resilient society, economy and democracy. This overdue network built on trusted relationships is proving to be of tremendous value throughout the pandemic.

Dafne CEO Retreat on Responsible Leadership

The leaders of today live in an increasingly complex and uncertain world marked by fast and disruptive change. The Dafne CEO Retreat provided leaders of national associations with an opportunity to discuss what it means to be a responsible leader, share their personal stories and become aware of the values and purpose that drive both them personally and in their decision-making.

#PhilanthropyDoesNotStop: Fighting Covid-19 together

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have supported Europe’s philanthropic sector through regular peer exchanges and making resources available. Together with ECFI, we provided a space for the PEXcommunity to explore the role of philanthropy in building resilience. Jointly with EFC, we issued a European Philanthropy Statement on COVID-19. The Unitus Europe Hub is the result of collaboration with EFC, EVPA, GSG and NEF.

Climate

The Philanthropy Coalition for Climate, the result of passionate collaboration between national, European and thematic philanthropy networks, is committed to exploring ways to encourage and help foundations address the causes and effects of climate change regardless of their mission. We facilitate climate mainstreaming in the philanthropic sector through peer exchanges, stakeholder interviews, mapping exercises and information sharing.
Advocacy

Maintaining and promoting the operating environment for philanthropy in Europe is at the core of the advocacy work Dafne is co-leading with the EFC. The joint Dafne and EFC advocacy project “Philanthropy Advocacy” acts as a monitoring, legal analysis and policy engagement hub for European philanthropy. Its main objective is to shape national, European and international legislative environments favourable to philanthropy by implementing the European advocacy roadmap for a common space for solidarity and philanthropy. The basis for our advocacy work is the European Philanthropy Manifesto. The pandemic marked 2020 in an extraordinary way and impacted the policy agenda of the EU. The Philanthropy Advocacy team engaged with the EU institutions to put foundations on the map of policy makers as promoters of European solidarity as well as relevant funders and conveners during the pandemic. We promoted policy and practice that provide for an enabling environment for the sector to respond effectively to the crisis in collaboration with public actors. We promoted entry points for the philanthropy sector in the Next Generation EU recovery programme as well as in the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and we successfully advocated for a strong European Rights and Values Fund.

On 1 July, the European Policy Centre, a Brussels-based think tank, hosted a debate on the role of philanthropy in times of crisis. On this occasion, the Philanthropy Advocacy team launched the #philanthropy4good campaign, broadening the visibility and acknowledgement of philanthropy in the eyes of EU politicians. This included a new narrative and a social media approach under the @PhilanthropyEU Twitter account. The #philanthropy4good newsletter was released in September to share the advocacy work of Europe’s philanthropy sector with a wider public.

“Philanthropy has recognised that it needs to be more inclusive to create real change.

JULIE BROOME
ARIADNE
One of Philanthropy’s greatest contributions to meeting Europe’s sustainability challenges may be towards patient capital provision and large-scale experimentation—piloting and testing of risky, innovative policies and approaches, which public budgets alone cannot realise.

GEORGIA EFREMOVA
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Peer exchange

Creating a safe space for Dafne members to inspire each other, share their successes and failures, and access the collective knowledge of the community is at the core of our network. In 2020, Dafne members had two outstanding moments to connect: the Dafne Summer Meeting on 19 May and the second Dafne CEO Retreat on 11 and 12 September.

Dafne Summer Meeting 2020

Due to the specific conditions of the pandemic, the Summer Meeting 2020 titled #PhilanthropyDoesNotStop, originally planned to be hosted in Vienna by the Austrian Foundations’ Association, was turned into an online meeting. This allowed more than 70 colleagues from the Dafne member organisations to engage in breakout and plenary sessions on thematic discussions around the climate commitment, gender justice and NextPhilanthropy. A “looking ahead” session provided opportunities to explore learnings and to discuss how to move into the future amidst growing uncertainty.

CEO Retreat

This year’s CEO Retreat took place virtually on 11 and 12 September and gathered 23 CEOs from the Dafne network to focus on “Responsible Leadership – How to lead, manage and communicate in times of change?”. This unique space for Dafne members to pause, think and focus on the bigger picture was created and facilitated by Olga Tarasov, Director at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and Dr. Hanna Stähle, Senior Manager at Dafne.
PEXcommunity

This year, Dafne initiated PEX as an inspiring space for peer exchange and collaboration for more than 60 national, regional and thematic philanthropy networks in Europe.

The PEXforum on 23 and 24 January 2020 in Madrid, co-hosted by AEF and Dafne, brought together for the first time more than 150 colleagues working for philanthropy support organisations across Europe to collectively identify challenges and opportunities for Europe’s philanthropy sector, share best practices, explore concrete projects and drive collaboration across the field. Since then, PEXcommunity has launched 7 projects, engaged in regular exchanges around the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our sector, created peer groups of CEOs and communications experts and launched a series of deep-dive workshops on the role of philanthropy infrastructure for the resilience building in our society.

An outstanding success is the monthly PEXnews issued jointly with Alliance since March that is read today by more than 14,000 subscribers.

Philanthropy Coalition for Climate

Following the PEXforum 2020 in Madrid, we were invited to set up the Philanthropy Coalition for Climate jointly with the PEXcommunity. This coalition brings together national, European and thematic philanthropy networks to encourage the philanthropy sector to act on climate change. We supported the implementation of philanthropy commitments on climate change in the UK, France and Spain, explored with the help of Global Dialogue the potential for an international philanthropy commitment on climate change and mapped philanthropy networks and joint activities on climate. Jointly with Active Philanthropy, we are co-hosting a series of online learning sessions following up from the launch of the “Funding the Future” report to inspire foundations to engage with the climate agenda.

PEX is an important space for sector collaboration and knowledge exchange because the challenges we face are too big to tackle alone.

WALTER VEIRS
MOTT FOUNDATION
Communicating philanthropy in a changing world

This year has clearly shown that no one can master the challenges facing our societies alone. Engaging in a meaningful conversation using modern communication channels is not a question of whether or not but rather of how. Societal expectations towards the transparency and accountability of philanthropy are rising but communicating to the public is more than that. This also means asking hard questions and being part of a critical, self-reflective discussion.

Empowering people and networks and creating valuable connections has always been at the heart of Dafne. We strongly believe in the creative power of participatory leadership and collective action. This has led us to launch a new visual identity and narrative, reflecting on these values and purpose that guides our team and the way we work.

Our communications strategy is a means to engage with the community, foster collaboration, shed light on promising initiatives and to enhance the level of knowledge and understanding of European philanthropy and its societal impact. That is why we have established a network of PEX communications professionals, Comms community, to enable regular exchange and offer learning opportunities.
Together with Alliance, we launched PEXnews, a European philanthropy sector newsletter, to establish a dedicated platform for discussion and reflection on what constitutes and drives European philanthropy today. It has been our goal ever since to be inclusive and invite as many new voices as possible to the conversation.

PEXmagazine

PEXmagazine, released in June 2020, has provided insights into the growing philanthropy infrastructure in Europe and its unique role, with contributions from academics, practitioners, foundation representatives and philanthropy networks.

Climate Philanthropy Mapping

The Climate Philanthropy Mapping published in September 2020 demonstrates how networks and platforms already act on climate change and inspires synergy and collaboration. This publication serves to guide the entire European philanthropy sector and beyond towards implementing a climate lens in foundations’ operations.

We were able to advance our work through strategic communications and increased our outreach within the field of European philanthropy, but much more needs to be done. Until today, little is known about the real volume of philanthropy and its societal impact in Europe. It will remain crucial to showcase that #PhilanthropyDoesNotStop and engage in public discourse.

"Dafne gives us a sense of belonging to a wider European philanthropy community.

CAROL MACK
ASSOCIATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS
One of the strongest ways for humans to communicate and bond has always been through storytelling. Visual storytelling is even stronger as it appeals to our senses and emotions. FOCUS: Philanthropy, originally launched by the Russian Donors Forum in 2012, sheds light on hidden stories of solidarity that build empathy and trust in our societies.

This year we partnered with Alliance Magazine and the Thomson Reuters Foundation and launched the #HoldingTogether campaign. More than 90 stories that capture moments of solidarity reached us amidst the pandemic, closed borders and lockdowns. This would not have been possible without the tremendous commitment of the Dafne network.

We selected 30 of the most inspiring photo stories from across Europe – stories that highlight the value of philanthropy for youth and women empowerment, global health, elderly rights, digitalisation, climate, international development, cross-border solidarity and much more. Through capturing the human face of philanthropy, we hope to engage in meaningful dialogue with the wider public and encourage collaboration within Europe. More information here: [https://dafne-online.eu/news/focus-philanthropy-publication/].
Dafne is special for its vision of a better society through collaborative work, sharing knowledge and best practice.

SUZANA DJORDJEVIC
SERBIAN PHILANTHROPY FORUM
Dafne is a group of professionals who meet common challenges and share ideas on how to improve the performance of their organizations. That’s why it is both a think tank for the sector and a club in the way they manage their close relationships. That’s special!

MÁRIO CURVEIRA SANTOS
PORTUGUESE FOUNDATION CENTRE
Team

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Policy and Communications Trainee

JOANNA PIENKOWSKA
Membership and Engagement Trainee
To build the Philanthropy Coalition for Climate, it was essential to rely on PEX as an accelerator and connector.

MARIE-STÉPHANE MARADEIX
FONDATION DANIEL ET NINA CARASSO
In 2020, Dafne has received funding from

**Dafne Strategic Partners:**
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Thomson Reuters Foundation

**Dafne Project Funders:**
Charles Steward Mott Foundation, Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, La Caixa Banking Foundation, Oak Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, EDP Foundation, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Gebert Rüf Stiftung, Fondation Novandi, JTI Foundation

**Dafne & EFC Philanthropy Advocacy Funders:**
Adessium Foundation, Fondazione Compgania Di San Paolo, Fondation de France, King Baudouin Foundation, La Caixa Banking Foundation, Mercator Stiftung, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Open Society Foundation

Next Philanthropy will tear down the walls of sector thinking and will enable cross-sectoral and participatory partnerships that support the development of equal communities.