

The logo for EFC Belfast 2012 features the text 'EFC Belfast 2012' in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The text is positioned to the right of a circular graphic composed of several overlapping, curved lines in various colors including blue, purple, green, and yellow, creating a sense of motion or a globe.

**EFC
Belfast
2012**

PEACE THROUGH SOCIAL JUSTICE
A ROLE FOR FOUNDATIONS?

23RD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGA)
AND CONFERENCE

6 - 8 JUNE 2012
BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST

Belfast is not merely the backdrop to the 2012 AGA and Conference. The city, which has emerged from thirty years of conflict to become a vibrant and welcoming destination, will bring depth and dimension to conference debates and discussions on a theme that goes to the heart of the Belfast experience.

The event - which offers a platform for exploration of peace and social justice issues facing several regions around the globe - takes place within a society that has gone through violent conflict, but where the opposing factions have sought to resolve their differences peacefully. Participants will learn from the determination of the people of Northern Ireland to secure peace through social justice, and they'll see how foundations have supported these efforts.

The Belfast AGA and Conference will be the essential meeting place in 2012 for foundation professionals from Europe and farther afield to learn about, share and debate issues around peace and social justice affecting many regions; network with their peers; and explore other thematic, operational, and legal issues relevant to their work.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Community, corporate and private foundations
- Public grantmaking charities, operating foundations and corporate funders
- National and regional associations of foundations and corporate funders
- Small, medium and large foundations
- Funders who want to learn more about operations, management and public policy issues
- European Union institutions, multilateral organisations and government officials interested in cooperation and partnership
- Representatives of citizens associations and other bodies concerned with the development of civil society
- Foundation trustees, governors, chief executive officers, programme officers, administrative and support staff, and others in the grantmaking and operating fields

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

TUESDAY 5 JUNE 2012

Donors and Foundations'
Networks in Europe (DAFNE) Summer meeting
EFC Management Committee meeting
Network of European Foundations (NEF) general assembly
Northern Ireland Conflict briefing
Governing Council and newcomers reception
Ray Murphy Lecture

For an updated and more detailed list of events please visit www.efc.be/aga

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2012

08:30 - 11:30	EFC Governing Council meeting
11:30 - 12:00	Welcome coffee
12:00 - 13:00	Opening Plenary
13:00 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 16:30	Concurrent sessions
16:30 - 18:00	Annual General Assembly of Members
Evening	Thematic events

THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2012

09:00 - 10:00	Peace through social justice plenary
10:00 - 11:00	Networking break
11:00 - 12:30	Concurrent sessions
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Concurrent sessions
15:30 - 16:00	Networking break
16:00 - 17:30	Concurrent sessions
Evening	Gala dinner at Titanic Centre

FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2012

09:00 - 10:30	Concurrent sessions
10:30 - 11:30	Networking break
11:30 - 13:00	Closing Plenary
13:00 - 14:00	Closing lunch

RETURNING IN 2012! NEXT GENERATION PROGRAMME

As part of its professional development programme, the EFC promotes the next generation of foundation representatives' skills, competencies and knowledge. The 2012 instalment of the programme will benefit 15 foundation staff, who will be guided through the AGA and Conference and offered a number of tailor-made side activities. The Next Generation Programme aims to give participating foundation staff the opportunity to meet and learn about each other's work; to provide insight into issues relevant to philanthropy and their respective jobs; and to give an introduction to the EFC community. For more information and to learn how to apply, please contact wrichardson@efc.be.

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THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE SESSIONS ARE DIVIDED INTO 3 STRANDS



**CAPACITY
BUILDING**



**CURRENT ISSUES
OF FOUNDATIONS**



**PEACE THROUGH
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

SESSION OVERVIEW

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF GRANTMAKING IN TIMES OF AUSTERITY AND LESSONS LEARNED

This session, based on the experience of The Atlantic Philanthropies, will give participants the opportunity to hear more about - and gain a greater understanding of - the different ways in which the foundation assesses the impact of its grantmaking in Northern Ireland, and to discuss the lessons learned from this that could be of benefit to other foundations. This session, which will be moderated by Padraic Quirk, interim Northern Ireland Country Director for The Atlantic Philanthropies with a wide experience of evaluation beyond that role, will include practical examples of methods of evaluation and impact assessment and applied and technical approaches to different elements of the grants programme evaluation. It will discuss the use of individual project-level evaluations and programme evaluations and focus on how evaluation processes can lead to an expansion of service provision. Examples of qualitative assessment of programme impact as well as an initiative to address quantitative analysis will be included. Consideration will be given to contextual factors such as: divided society, economic circumstances, spend down, advocacy as a tool, and social and demographic factors. Overall there will be a chance to discuss the contribution that evaluation can make to grantmaking, including the grantee experience.

LEARNING FROM PARTNERS TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS

With a view to improving the quality of foundation work and achieving greater transparency in the European foundation sector, this session will discuss new and innovative methods focussing on the joint learning process of foundations and their respective partners. The participation of the audience is encouraged in order to advance innovative instruments for sustainable quality development within the foundation sector. The session aims to spur debate around some key questions: To what extent does the quality of good foundation work depend on the analysis of the relationship between foundations and their grant recipients? What methods already exist for analysing this relationship? What opportunities and risks do these methods present? How can foundations actively use feedback provided by their partners in order to make their activities more effective?

RISKY BUSINESS

Who talks about risk in your foundation, and is it ever discussed outside of the investment team?

This session will discuss what risks are inherent to philanthropic work, which risks are worth the consequences of failure, and will encourage you to think about your own organisation's appetite for risk. Participants will also consider how foundations can learn from their risk-taking and better communicate about risk.

STORYTELLING WITH DATA: VISUALISING PHILANTHROPY

Foundations now more than ever use and rely on data to drive decision making, rendering critical the ability to craft an effective story with data. Key to success is learning to present data visually in a way that ensures the message is understood by the audience. That is the focus of this session, which combines theory with practical application of data visualisation best practices. Concepts are made concrete through the use of numerous real world examples and hands-on learning.

STRUCTURAL FUNDS: A LEVERAGING TOOL FOR FOUNDATIONS

The Structural Funds are the EU's biggest financial instrument aimed at reducing the social and economic inequalities among the regions of Europe. Although a popular funding mechanism among NGO stakeholders in Europe, these funds are rarely tapped into by foundations, which due to perhaps their strong independent spirit do not see the benefits that these funds may represent. And yet with daily reminders of how the current financial crisis is having devastating effects on the economic, social and political stability of our society - pushing more and more people to the margins- foundations must be ready to explore all avenues that can help them leverage and multiply their support to those most vulnerable and disadvantaged among us. With discussions underway in Brussels on the future of the funds as part of the EU cohesion policy, this session aims to provide a clearer understanding of how Structural Funds work and how they present an unbeatable opportunity for foundations to increase their effectiveness and maximise their impact.



ADVOCATING FOR A EUROPEAN FOUNDATION STATUTE: GET INVOLVED!

The time has come for the foundation sector to step up its advocacy efforts on the European Foundation Statute to ensure its adoption by decision makers, particularly national governments. With the European Commission having published its proposal for a regulation on a European Statute for foundations in December 2011, the ball is now in the court of the European Parliament and national governments to decide on the fate of the proposal. This presents foundations with a one-off opportunity to obtain their own European legal form and to reap multiple benefits for the sector and society. Participants will have the chance to discuss core aspects of the European Commission proposal and to learn about the remaining steps in the legislative process. This session will also provide an opportunity for foundations to find out how to get involved in advocacy work and to learn more about national campaigns already underway.

A PATH TO SOCIAL JUSTICE: REACHING EUROPE'S INVISIBLE CHILDREN

The exclusion of ethnic minorities and migrants in Central and Eastern Europe has led to stratified societies in which children and youth are often marginalised. Most policies and laws officially grant equal rights to minorities, but in practice, indifferent or hostile social conditions lead to exclusion from education and health services, which prevents children from reaching their potential as full productive adults and citizens. This session will highlight how two European community-level organisations are reaching and serving excluded groups in order to facilitate their inclusion in society. Working in areas such as psycho-social support, reducing stigma, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and providing educational opportunities, these organisations are offering children a fair chance to achieve their promise.

AT RISK: OUR ASSETS, OUR BENEFICIARIES

The management of risk is an important part of the role of both trustees and staff in foundations. Nearly 40 years ago the insurance industry warned of the risks associated with climate change. Recognised as “the greatest market failure” (Lord Stern), “the biggest global health threat of the 21st century” (The Lancet) and “the biggest human rights issue of the 21st century” (Mary Robinson), climate change today opens up new kinds of risk as well as new kinds of opportunities for foundations. This session will explore the opportunities for all areas of philanthropy to contribute to addressing climate change risks as grantmakers, investors and advocates. This session will be particularly relevant to foundations that work on migration, conflict, health, justice, gender, poverty, social welfare, international development, with vulnerable groups, or which hold investments of

any sort. It will concentrate on the needs and well-being of people, not polar bears. Reckless gamblers, cautious pessimists and wide-eyed optimists are all welcome!

FUNDING BLIND: DO WE KNOW ENOUGH?

Through an interactive format, participants will debate the notion that foundations might be wasting billions each year in real terms through missed opportunities, duplication, a lack of innovation and a dearth of creative partnerships. The session will be framed around original research undertaken for the conference, which will focus on how individual foundations and capacity-building philanthropic structures use knowledge of their own activities and those of others to improve practice. The audience will serve as a consultative group by reflecting on and evaluating their own institutional practice, in particular:

- How they assess performance and effectiveness in achieving goals and advancing work
- How they learn and share learning with peers including beneficiaries and members of their own foundations
- How this reflection can add value to the sector overall
- What is needed in Europe, in particular, to enhance and facilitate learning and research in the practice of philanthropy?

The final research report will be revised to take into account the debate and experience experience-sharing in Belfast.

GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE: OUTCOMES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Join members of the Global Philanthropy Leadership Initiative Task Force (GPLI) as they share the results of an innovative two-year collaborative process. A joint initiative of the EFC, Council on Foundations and Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), this group of foundation leaders was commissioned with finding new ways to advance the practice and impact of philanthropy on the global level. In support of that goal, the GPLI agenda has focused on three priority areas: improving the legal and regulatory environment for cross-border philanthropy; developing models for improving and increasing collaborations of global consequence; and building more strategic and systematic engagement with multilateral organisations. This session will describe the process involved in this unique collaboration, present outcomes from each of the priority areas, and discuss what comes next for the emerging initiatives.

INVESTING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS: MOVING FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

There is growing awareness that gender is a cross-cutting issue relevant to all areas of philanthropic focus – be it education, migration, healthcare or the environment. Indeed, recent research shows that there is considerable interest in funding issues related to women and girls among European foundations. However, in practice a significant gap remains between interest and action. What stops foundations from acting? What are the practical barriers? And what steps have helped foundations move from ideas to action? This session does not seek to develop a golden formula; rather, it aims to inspire practitioners and offer an honest conversation among peers. The emphasis will be on what European foundations (and their advisors) are doing to integrate a gender perspective in their work or to focus some of their investments on women and girls. The session will reflect on what factors enable (or impair) a greater focus on gender, like the role of the Board, the importance of staff leadership, how it is perceived to fit with the broader mission of the foundation, and the like. Speakers from foundations that have worked to bring a conscious gender focus into their programming will discuss their experiences during the session, followed by group discussions on specific focus areas.

INVESTMENTS: THINKING LONG-TERM IN A CRISIS

What does the future of long-term investing look like against the backdrop of the current crisis, and loss of trust and confidence in both governments and markets? What are the implications for endowment investments? Join us to learn how foundations are responding to the crisis, to examine approaches to long-term sustainable investment governance and strategies, and to discuss the role which foundations, as long-term investors, can play to bring better governance and more stability in the financial markets through the power of their assets.

NEW STRATEGIES FOR FOUNDATIONS: WHEN, WHY AND HOW TO USE VENTURE PHILANTHROPY

This session is intended to show practical examples of foundations that have successfully used venture philanthropy tools. It will focus on the issue of capacity building on the basis of case studies. The session will hear from a representative of an established foundation who will explain the impetus for and experience of setting up a venture philanthropy fund several years ago. A second speaker will provide concrete examples of how venture philanthropy can be particularly effective in building and scaling up stronger social-purpose organisations. Both speakers will be encouraged to share examples of the

successful implementation of venture philanthropy, as well as difficulties encountered along the way. The audience is invited to participate in sharing their experience with the concept, or providing other examples, and asking questions.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: A NEVER-ENDING STORY?

Five years on and the world continues to be in the grip of its worst-ever financial crisis. With global efforts being made by national governments and EU institutions to support growth and employment, provide better financial stability and secure the future of Europe's governance, what is the role that foundations have to play and how is their work and spending being affected in this current climate? This session will examine the severity of the crisis from different perspectives, the importance of transparency and the long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially among vulnerable sections of society.

HOW CAN PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT?

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only a local crisis; it has global fallout. Powerful ideologies are exported and reverberate across the world, creating divisions within and between those communities exposed to opposing narratives; this is especially evident on university campuses, which have become a metaphorical battlefield. At a time when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict appears to be as entrenched as ever, what can be done to change this status quo? Using Northern Ireland as a model, this session will explore how the trend towards polarisation can be reversed and how universities can become a positive force for change through rigorous academic enquiry, classroom-based scholarship and experiential learning. This session will focus on the role of education in training a generation of critically engaged student-peacemakers, who one day will foster peace in conflict situations around the world. This session will look for lessons in how philanthropy can make a positive contribution toward peace through long-term investments in this area.

JUSTICE THROUGH UNCONDITIONAL BASIC INCOME? A DEBATE ON EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY

Massive protests against growing social inequality and unemployment have erupted all across Europe lately. Young Europeans in particular are calling for radical political change and a new strategy for social justice. At the same time, the EU has set five ambitious objectives to be reached by 2020 – reducing the number of people in poverty by 20 million is at the top of this list. How can Europe reach this ambitious

goal and further foster social justice? This session will look at unconditional basic income as an instrument to reduce poverty, an idea supported by many prominent experts and decision makers throughout Europe and actively promoted by civil society. Participants will be asked to consider a number of questions: Is an unconditional basic income an alternative to existing national welfare systems? Or is it an unrealistic utopia? What other strategies are there to improve the economic and social perspectives of European citizens and explicitly the young generation? How can civil society - foundations in particular - contribute to finding solutions? This session will allow young Europeans - members of FutureLab Europe - to express their perspectives and positions. FutureLab Europe is a project of the European Alliance for Democratic Citizenship, affiliated to the Network of European Foundations (NEF).

LOCAL PHILANTHROPY AND A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE ARAB REGION

The people's movements of 2011 across the Arab region, known as the Arab Spring, have signalled the importance of dignity, participation and justice in rebuilding a new social and economic order. Despite very different trajectories, each country is experiencing an outpouring of citizen initiatives and creativity to meet those goals in a peaceful manner. One of the spontaneous areas of innovation has been around local philanthropy in the context of community solidarity and increased awareness of the private sector for social responsibility. In this session, a variety of perspectives from Arab countries in transition will be presented as the catalysts for a dialogue on local-global collaboration. Rather than seeking ready-made solutions, a collaborative framework will be presented in which to examine ways that all partners in this collaboration will benefit from a broader international exchange of experience and working partnerships. The emphasis will be on practical steps and frameworks that might lead to fruitful projects over the coming months.

POPULISM AND RADICAL RIGHT-WING PARTIES IN EUROPE: HOW SHOULD FOUNDATIONS RESPOND?

Against the backdrop of a major economic crisis and public sector cuts, Europe is experiencing a surge in the support of populist and far-right parties that are stirring up public sentiments around issues associated with immigration and cultural identity. This session aims to provide a space for foundations to discuss how to respond to these challenging developments in ways that may require moving beyond traditional grant-making techniques and exploring new approaches.

ROMA INCLUSION IN EUROPE TODAY

The 10-12 million Roma living in Europe are one of the most marginalised groups facing wide-ranging discrimination and prejudice in their daily lives. Only 42% of Roma children complete primary school in some EU Member States. In an unprecedented commitment, the European Commission has requested Member States to put in place national Roma integration strategies by the end of 2011 addressing four key areas; education, employment, healthcare and housing. However, the task of Roma inclusion is particularly difficult to solve, as there are exclusion dynamics in place which are often compounded by anti-gypsy attitudes and racism. This is where civil society, including foundations, can play an important role to solve the problems associated with Roma inclusion.

This session will analyse the situation of the Roma in Europe today, and foundations' ongoing response to it, considering different options for their contribution. It will also look at the experience from the field by Roma activists.

WHEN THE GLOBAL MEETS THE LOCAL: PHILANTHROPIC INTERVENTIONS IN COMMUNITY-BASED PEACEBUILDING

Working for peacebuilding and social justice in local situations of violent conflict and human rights abuse can be a scary place to be. This session intends to explore both the challenges and opportunities for philanthropic intervention. The session will specifically work with women and the task of identifying strategies to promote peacebuilding and conflict transformation initiatives. Panel members will draw on their own experiences to pose questions that will be discussed in more detail at a roundtable buzz, which in turn will be facilitated by representatives of locally-based grantmakers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Northern Ireland and Serbia. Issues for discussion will include the role of development aid; calculating the risks of philanthropic intervention; building philanthropic partnerships; and developing advocacy links between the local and the global. A concluding report-back will allow the insights raised during the table buzz to be shared and recommendations agreed.

AGA AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Committee Chair

John R. Healy, Philanthropy Ireland

Host Committee

David Emerson, Association of Charitable Foundations

Valerie Ingram, Ulster Garden Villages Ltd

Sandara Kelso-Robb, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland

Avila Kilmurray, The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

Sara Llewellyn, Barrow Cadbury Trust

Ken Logue, The Atlantic Philanthropies

Seamus Mulconry, Philanthropy Ireland

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Massimo Lanza, Fondazione di Venezia

Martin O'Brien, The Atlantic Philanthropies

Stephen Pittam, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Erik Rudeng, Institusjonen Fritt Ord

ABOUT THE EFC

The EFC, founded in 1989, is an international membership association representing public-benefit foundations and corporate funders active in philanthropy in Europe and beyond. The Centre develops and pursues activities in line with its four key objectives: creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment; documenting the foundation landscape; building the capacity of foundation professionals; and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors.

Emphasising transparency and best practice, all members sign up to and uphold the EFC Principles of Good Practice.

BE PART OF THE BIGGER PICTURE

European philanthropy is going from strength to strength: be part of this dynamic community! With over 20 years of experience in the sector, the EFC has a lot to offer. For information on how to become a member and on membership benefits, contact the membership department at membership@efc.be

