

The background of the logo features three overlapping circles: a large blue circle at the top, a yellow circle in the middle, and a dark red circle at the bottom. The word 'dafne' is written in a white, lowercase, serif font, centered over the yellow and red circles. The 'd' and 'f' are connected, and the 'n' has a dot above it.

dafne

Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe

What is DAFNE?

DAFNE is a formal network bringing together 21 donors and foundations networks from across Europe. Each of these individually serves public benefit foundations and other grantmakers at national level. With a collective membership of over 5000 foundations, DAFNE underpins the individual activities of its members by strengthening collaboration between the national associations and providing a platform for exchange of knowledge. The secretariat of DAFNE is hosted by the European Foundation Centre (EFC).



DAFNE Summer Meeting, Istanbul, May 2008

Together, DAFNE members

- Exchange national experiences and best practices
- Develop joint projects and programmes
- In close cooperation with the Brussels-based EFC:
 - Organise the support of advocacy efforts at the European level
 - Define common positions on European foundations' regulatory and fiscal issues

What are the issues DAFNE cares about?

European Foundation Statute

Advocating at the EU and national levels for the introduction of the Statute, the most cost-effective policy option for addressing cross-border barriers to foundation work, which would ultimately stimulate foundations' activities across Europe

Transparency and accountability

Ensuring that existing regulatory and soft law approaches in the field of transparency and accountability of public benefit foundations are well designed and used to their full effect

VAT

Contributing to a solution for the problems posed by VAT losses to the foundation and donors' sectors through the collection of data on losses incurred and advocacy work

Philanthropic infrastructure

Supporting the development and consolidation of philanthropic infrastructure to ensure a fruitful environment for foundations active in Europe

Supporting European foundations

In cities and countries around the world, European foundations are running and funding activities in myriad areas – DAFNE members support foundations to ensure their work with beneficiaries is as effective as possible



DAFNE Winter Meeting, Zurich, January 2008

Snapshot

The number and composition of the members of each of these national associations; the scale of offered services; and their roles as advocacy organisations vary from country to country. Nevertheless, the trend across Europe is clear: towards more and stronger donors and foundation networks, and a growing influence over developments on foundations' environments at the national and European levels.

Philanthropy Ireland

Founded 1998
25 members

Association of Charitable Foundations

Founded 1989
320 members

Vereniging van Fondsen in Nederland

Founded 1988
320 members

Belgian Network of Foundations

Founded 2005
75 members

21 donors and foundations networks = 5529 member foundations

Centro Português de Fundações

Founded 1993
127 members

Asociación Española de Fundaciones

Founded 2003
1012 members

Centre Français des Fondations

Founded 2002
172 members

SwissFoundations

Founded 2001
65 members

Associazione di Casse o

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Stiftelsesforeningen
Founded 2003
113 Members

Säätiöiden ja rahastojen neuvottelukunta ry (Council of Finnish Foundations)
Founded 1970
109 members

Russia Donors Forum
Founded 2002
39 members

Bundesverband deutscher Stiftungen
Founded 1948
846 members

Polish Donors Forum
Founded 2002
15 members

Czech Donors Forum
Founded 1996
35 members

Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum
Founded 2005
12 members

Slovak Donors Forum
Founded 2000
24 members

Hungarian Donors Forum
Founded 2006
12 members

Romanian Donors Forum
Founded 1999
10 members

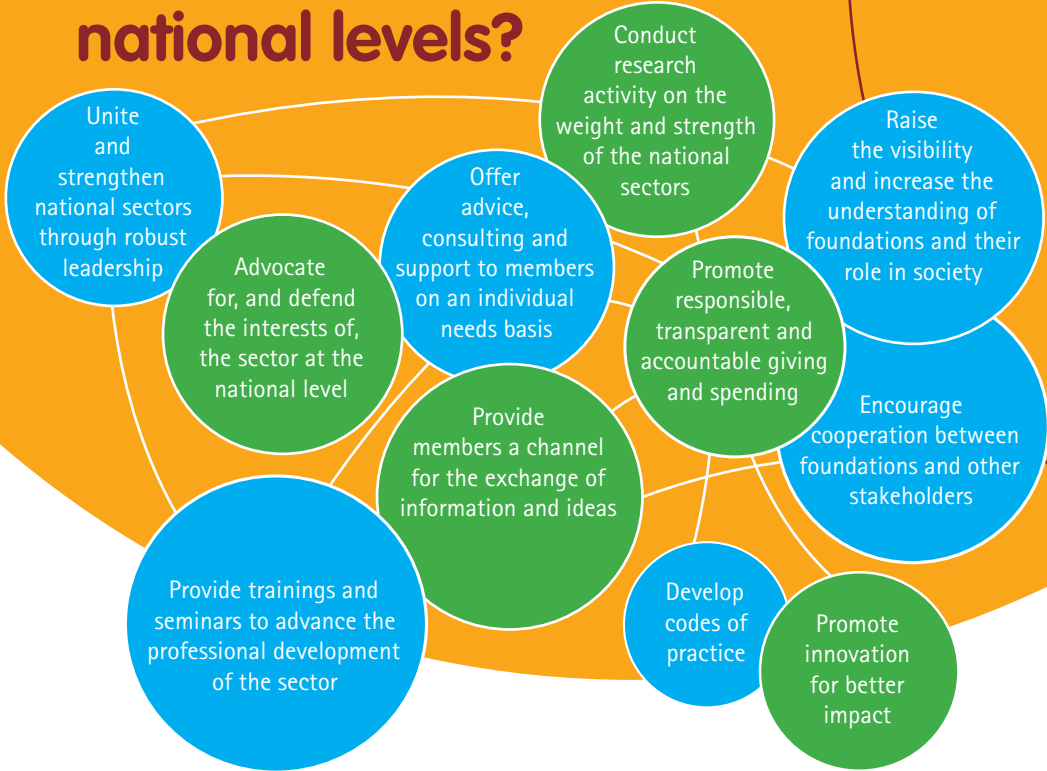
di Fondazioni e di Risparmio
Founded 1912
members

Bulgarian Donors Forum
Founded 2004
42 members

Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TÜSEV)
Founded 1993
110 members

Data current as of February 2010

What do DAFNE members do on their individual national levels?



History

1990s

The 1990s were a time of growth for national donors and foundations networks across Europe, when many were in their start-up or informal phase with a focus on defining their national space, developing membership services and agendas, and building up their track records at home.

1997

Given the diversity among these developing networks, opportunities to enrich each association's activities by sharing best practices and increasing collaboration became quickly apparent. To leverage this potential, regular yet informal meetings of European donors and foundations networks – initiated and supported by the EFC since 1997 – proved to be helpful.



European Foundation Centre

The EFC is an independent association dedicated to creating an enabling environment for foundations, strengthening the infrastructure of the sector, and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond. Established in 1989, the EFC today serves a core membership of more than 230 foundations in some 40 countries and hosts the DAFNE Secretariat.



DAFNE Statutes signing session, Rome, May 2009

2006

In 2006 these informal gatherings took on new life when the Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe (DAFNE) was established. Although remaining an 'informal' network, DAFNE established an EFC-based secretariat, underpinned by a special alliance with the Centre.

2009

Signalling the maturation of the European foundation sector, and by extension the national associations themselves, in May 2009 DAFNE members officially endorsed the DAFNE Statutes, formally establishing the group's own governance and membership fee structure.



Weight of the European foundation sector

- There are approximately 110,000 foundations in Europe
- The economic weight of European foundations is significant: a sample of 55,552 foundations in 15 countries found combined assets of some €237 billion – DAFNE member foundations make up a majority of these assets
- The foundation sector in Europe has recently seen dramatic growth: more than 40% of the field is less than 15 years old
- Collectively the sector spends as much as the EU annually on programmes and projects that benefit citizens in Europe and elsewhere in the world
- Foundations provide full-time employment to between 750,000 and 1,000,000 individuals in Europe
- Foundations are independently resourced and autonomous from business and government