
European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding Newsletter

Spring 2010 - Issue No. 8 - Contact us at: researchforum@efc.be

In this issue

- [Forum highlights](#)
- [Philanthropic organisations' funding policies](#)
- [Legal and fiscal issues](#)
- [Governance and ethics](#)
- [Fundraising from philanthropic sources by universities](#)
- [Forthcoming Conferences and Events](#)

Forum highlights

Forum Conference 2010 – date confirmed

The European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding Annual Stakeholder Conference will take place on 7 and 8 December 2010. The conference will be hosted by the Robert Bosch Stiftung at their premises in Stuttgart, Germany. Its focus will be the role that foundations play in building human capacity in research, for example through mobility schemes, international networking and developing research leadership. A full programme and registration details will follow shortly. For information contact: researchforum@efc.be

Consultation on Future Strategy of Forum

The Forum is currently developing a new strategy for the period 2011-13. As part of the process it is consulting with a wide range of organisations and individuals with an interest in its activities. A questionnaire on future priorities will be circulated shortly.

Forum Conference 2009 – presentations now online

The presentations from last year's annual conference – 'Philanthropy, A Growing Asset for Research' - are now available online. There are presentations on such subjects as evaluation and decision-making, innovative funding models, the importance of foundations for universities as well as a lecture by Nobel laureate Tim Hunt on getting the conditions right for scientific creativity. See more [here](#).

Foundation Week: Darwin Exhibition

The first-ever EFC Foundation Week – taking place in Brussels from 31 May to 4 June - will feature a wide variety of activities, from debates about the role of foundations in society to cultural activities and exhibitions showcasing the impact of foundations' work. The week aims to bring together foundations, corporate donors, European Union policy and decision-makers, non-profit organisations, multilaterals, the research community and members of the public to discuss key matters affecting Europe and the world. As part of the week's activities, the Gulbenkian Foundation will be bringing to Brussels its acclaimed exhibition on Charles Darwin and his role in the history of biology

See here for more on the [Darwin exhibition](#). See here for more on [EFC Foundation Week](#).

New Forum Officer


The Forum has a new officer. Carl Dolan joined the EFC on 1 February 2010 and has taken over the role of the former officer Mathieu Cantegreil. Carl has moved to the EFC from DG Research at the European Commission, where he worked in the Social Science and Humanities Directorate and the Evaluation and Monitoring Unit. He has also worked in the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the UK on international research policy and management. Carl can be contacted at the following address: cdolan@efc.be

[top](#)

Philanthropic organisations' funding policies


Mapping Research Foundations in Europe (FOREMAP)

The results of the FOREMAP (Foundations Research and Mapping) project – 'Understanding European Research Foundations' – were published in Autumn 2009. Co-funded by the EFC and the European Commission, the project aimed to develop a methodology to map European Research Foundations, their activities and impact on science. This methodology was then used to map the activities of research foundations in 4 European countries: Germany, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden. The results are a first step in getting a comprehensive picture of the contribution of Foundations to the research arena.

A  [PDF copy](#) (2.34 MB) of the report is available for download.

If you would like a hard copy please contact: researchforum@efc.be

Dynasty Foundation brings science bestsellers to Russian public

The Dynasty Foundation is introducing a whole new generation of Russians to the works of the great scientists through its Dynasty Foundation Populare Science Library. Working in partnership with publishing companies, the Foundation enables the best contemporary mass-market books on the natural sciences and the humanities to be translated into Russian and distributed widely throughout the country. Recent editions include translations of Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Michio Kaku's *Physics of the Impossible* and Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs and Steel*. See more  [here](#).

New Wellcome Trust awards to give scientists more freedom

2010 sees the launch of the Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards. The awards will provide researchers and their teams with the support to pursue individual, bold visions without constraints. The awards will give researchers the maximum amount of freedom to be creative and innovative in their approach. Awards are expected to be up to seven years, marking a departure away from funding a large number of medium-term project and programme grants. See more [here](#).

Foundations must preserve their independence and creativity

Charitable foundations must retain their strengths as independent, creative and innovative institutions, argues Marc Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust, in a recent article in Research Fortnight. Noting the dynamism and health of the sector as presented at the recent Forum annual conference in London, he nonetheless urges foundations to maintain their independence as far-sighted and mission-driven funders of research.

The full [article](#) is available [please note that you must register first in order to access the article].

[top](#)

Legal and fiscal issues

Vice-President Jacques Barrot States Need to Improve the Environment for Cross-border Philanthropy in Europe

Speaking at the conference on Cross-border philanthropy in Europe in Brussels on 9 December, European Commission Vice-president Barrot stated that philanthropy is an activity of vital economic and social importance; however there is a persisting 'lack of Europe' in the field. There is a case for considering appropriate EU action to address these hurdles. The European Commission will therefore review potential options with an open mind, including the development of a European Foundation Statute. Read the full [article](#).

Commission to review VAT taxation of public-interest activities

The European Commission services for taxation (DG TAXUD) intend to review the VAT taxation of public bodies and public-interest activities in the coming year. Aware that public-benefit organisations are currently being treated unfairly regarding VAT, the Commission is launching a study to assess the current situation. The study will be completed by the end of 2010, to be followed by a public consultation. It is envisaged that a policy proposal will be made in 2011. Further information on [VAT issues](#) and an opportunity to take the EFC VAT survey.

Forum survey on intellectual property

The Forum is conducting a survey of the Intellectual Property (IP) management practices of research foundations and the challenges they face in this arena. A wide range of foundations in Europe and further afield will be contacted. A synthesis of the results will be made publicly available in Autumn 2010. If you would like to take part in this survey or find out more please contact the Forum at researchforum@efc.be

[top](#)

Governance and ethics

Research Evaluation Workshop in June

As part of its ongoing series, the Forum will be hosting a 5th workshop on research evaluation and philanthropy in Brussels on 2 June. The aim of the workshop will be to review the materials that are being developed to help foundations enhance their evaluation practices, including a set of case-studies that will highlight current practice in the sector. Places are limited, so if you are interested in participating please contact the Forum at researchforum@efc.be

[top](#)

Fundraising from philanthropic sources by universities

Universities expect income from philanthropic sources to increase

The preliminary findings of the EUDIS project (European Universities Diversifying Income Streams) show that approximately half of the universities surveyed expect income from charitable foundations to grow in importance in the coming years. EU funding and philanthropic income from alumni were considered the most important alternative sources of income, to some extent off-setting the expected decline in national public funding. The results were presented at a conference organised in Madrid in October 2009. The final project results are expected later this year. See here for more about the [EUDIS project](#).

Foundations help to develop and retain the next generation of African Academics

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada has published the results of a survey of organizations supporting and funding universities in sub-Saharan Africa. The role of foundation is detailed, and in particular the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa (PHEA), a collaboration between the Ford Foundation, the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. A major plank of this initiative are training interventions that utilize and strengthen existing postgraduate capacity and create communities of scholars.

See  [here](#) to read the entire report (French and English)

[top](#)

Forthcoming Conferences and Events

Science Against Poverty

The "Science against Poverty" Conference will raise the issue of the role of scientific research (particularly of social sciences) and innovation in alleviating poverty and social exclusion to the ministerial political agenda.

8-9 April, Segovia, Spain

Spanish EU Presidency conference

<http://www.scienceagainstpoverity.com/Publico/Home/index.aspx>

European Universities Diversifying Income Streams (EUDIS) Experts' Conference

22-23 April, Bologna, Italy

The conference, hosted by the University of Bologna, will gather on 22-23 April university leaders, policy makers and partners to discuss the findings of the EUDIS project on the different income streams of universities across Europe, including income from philanthropic sources. Best practice examples on how to develop successful income diversification strategies will be showcased during the event and participants will debate around topics including the role of public authorities in supporting universities' income diversification strategies, the importance of stakeholder management, or how to approach fundraising activities. The deadline to register is **7 April 2010**.

<http://www.eua.be/eudis/>

Euroscience Open Forum 2010


2-7 July, Torino, Italy

<http://www.esof2010.org/>

Foundations, Innovation Pathways Between the Socio-Economic and Academic Worlds

October 2010, Paris, France

Institut Francais des Fondations de Recherche et de l'Enseignement Superieur (IFFRES)

See draft programme  [here](#)

[top](#)

Share your stories

Are you involved in interesting projects or setting up new and innovative initiatives which you would like to share? We welcome external contributions to the Forum newsletter from all stakeholders. Do not hesitate to contact us with your stories at: researchforum@efc.be.

[top](#)

About the European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding

The European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding is a new initiative led by the European Foundation Centre with support from the European Commission and individual funders. It aims to help underpin philanthropic funding for research through the exchange of experiences and best practice, the development of cooperation on research funding, and the promotion of a favourable environment for foundation and private philanthropy undertakings.

The Forum benefits from the financial support of:

[Fondazione Cariplo](#) | [The European Commission](#) | [Foundation for Polish Science](#) | [Lundbeckfonden](#) |
[Riksbankens Jubileumsfond](#) | [Robert Bosch Stiftung](#) | [The Wellcome Trust](#)

About the European Foundation Centre

The European Foundation Centre (EFC) is an independent international association that promotes and underpins the work of foundations and corporate funders active in and with Europe. For more information, visit the Centre's website: www.efc.be