

European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding Newsletter

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Forum highlights

Annual Conference 2010 – Registration Now Open – Speakers confirmed

Registration is now open for the Forum's 4th Annual Stakeholder Conference: 'Are We Running Out of Talent? The role of European Foundations in Building Human Capacity in Research'. The conference is hosted by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and will take place in Stuttgart, Germany on the 7 and 8 December. Confirmed speakers include:

- Professor Enric Banda, President, Euroscience
- Professor Yehuda Elkana, Rector Emeritus, Central European University
- Professor Maria Teresa Lago, University of Porto & Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC)
- Professor Helmut Schwarz, President, Alexander Von Humboldt Stiftung

You can register and find out more [here](#).

Annual Conference 2009 – report now available

The report of last year's Annual Stakeholder Conference – hosted by the Wellcome Trust in London – is now available to download [here](#). The report contains a record of all the presentations and discussion that took place over two days on such topics as partnership with the university sector, decision-making and governance, and new models for funding research.

Belgian Presidency of EU: Workshop on philanthropy and research

From July until December 2010, it is Belgium's turn to hold the rotating presidency of the EU. As part of its official programme of events, it is holding a workshop with Member States that aims to raise awareness about the role of philanthropy and the Foundation sector in funding European research. The workshop will take place on October 13 in Brussels and is co-organised by the European Foundation Centre, the King Baudouin Foundation, the European Commission and the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office. Please note that attendance at the workshop is by invitation only. Further details are available [here](#)

Foundation Week: research highlights

The first ever Foundation Week (31 May – 4 June) was a great success with more than 1,000 representatives from foundations, non-profits and the EU Institutions - as well as members of the general public - attending events and debates in Brussels. Research issues were a prominent part of the week, with such highlights as:

- Recognition from the *Deputy Director-General of DG Research & Innovation, Dr Anneli Pauli*, of the scope for public authorities at EU and national level to help increase the flow of funds from philanthropic

sources to research in Europe. **Speaking at a policy briefing seminar**, Dr Pauli also raised the possibility of the Commission helping to promote an EU-wide 'giving to research and innovation' campaign and closer collaboration with Foundations funding research.

- The *roundtable discussion on the role of foundations in advancing research in agriculture, food and biodiversity*, which concluded that the profile of agriculture in the foundation and not-for-profit sector should be raised, particularly given its relevance to the development agenda. The full report of the roundtable is available [here](#). (For more information contact Oliver Oliveros at the Agropolis Foundation oliveros@agropolis.fr)
- The *Forum Research Evaluation Working Group* held a workshop to review the draft guidelines and case-studies it is preparing to help Foundation staff to improve and extend their evaluation activities. Much useful feedback was received which will inform the next stage of development of this material (see item **below**).

Framework Programme 7: Consultation on progress so far

The Commission has established a panel of independent experts to carry out an interim evaluation of Framework Programme 7 (FP7). In order to provide the experts with a range of opinions and views about its implementation and achievements, a web-based consultation has been set up to allow for contributions from those with direct experience of the programme, as well as any other groups or individuals who wish to give their views. The survey closes on 27 August 2010. You can participate in the consultation [here](#).

Philanthropic organisations' funding policies

European Foundations join together to fund African researchers

5 European Foundations have joined together to fund research into neglected tropical diseases. The provision of sustainable support for tropical medicine is the aim of the European Foundation Initiative for African Research into Neglected Tropical Diseases (EFINTD), a joint program between Volkswagen Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Fondation Mérieux, the Nuffield Foundation and Fondazione Cariplo. A second round of funding for 7 young African researchers has just been announced. See [here](#) for more details.

Carnegie funding helps staunch brain-drain in Caucasus region

The Carnegie Corporation has awarded a \$2M grant to the Eurasia Foundation to fund the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC), a network of resource and training centers established in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Since 2003, it has invested a total of \$14M in these and other centres of advanced study in post-soviet regions. See [here](#) for more details.

Research on public health in Haiti wins Merieux Prix 2010

Dr. Jean-William Pape is the winner of the 2010 Christophe Merieux prize for his considerable contribution to public health in Haiti and in particular, his research in the fight against AIDS. Dr Pape is the founder of the GHESKIO centre was the first institution in the world dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS. GHESKIO has provided continuous medical care in Haiti since 1982 - never once shutting its doors or charging fees. The prize of €500K is awarded every year to a researcher or research team studying infectious diseases in the developing world. See [here](#) for more details.

Wellcome Trust-Wolfson Foundation partnership makes £30 million investment in UK scientific infrastructure

Over £30 million is being invested into large-scale university infrastructure projects courtesy of the Wellcome-Wolfson Capital Awards initiative. The scheme is intended to facilitate internationally competitive, leading-edge biomedical research in a way that would not otherwise be possible. The projects that have been funded include both new buildings and refurbishment. See [here](#) for more details.

Legal and fiscal issues

European Commission and Foundations discuss impact of VAT burden

On 3 June, delegates at the European Foundation Centre Annual General Assembly and conference gathered for a session on the impact of the current VAT system on public benefit foundations. See [here](#) for more details.

European Commission requests Spain to amend its rules on inheritance and gift tax

The European Commission has requested Spain to amend its tax provisions on inheritance and gift tax, which impose a higher tax burden on non-residents or assets held abroad. See [here](#) for more details.

Governance and ethics

Testing of research evaluation guidelines – get involved!

The most recent Forum research evaluation workshop resulted in a lot of useful feedback on the guidelines and case-studies we have developed to aid Foundations that are developing their evaluation practices. The next phase will be to 'beta-test' this material on a select group of Foundations. Focusing on professionals who are grappling with these issues on a day-to-day basis and to receive more formal feedback. If you would like to receive this material and provide feedback, please contact Carl Dolan at cdolan@efc.be

More details about the evaluation activities of the Forum can be found [here](#)

How to make donor partnerships in research more effective

A recent study conducted by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) demonstrates that communication is a strategic element in maintaining healthy relationships among donors and grantmakers and, therefore, impacts partnership effectiveness.

With the intent to learn from its experiences in working with foundations and other research funders, IDRC produced six case studies on jointly funded programs related to the environment, global health, and information technologies in developing regions around the world. See more on this study [here](#).

Fundraising from philanthropic sources by universities

Oxford University matched funding appeal raises \$100m in a year

A pioneering matched funding scheme aimed at encouraging giving during the economic downturn has raised \$100 million for research at Oxford. Dr James Martin, one of the world's leading computer scientists, pledged to donate up to \$50m to fund 20 key research projects if other donors would match his gift. A year later, the full \$100m has been raised for the James Martin 21st Century School with contributions from donors like George Soros and Adrian Beecroft. More details [here](#)

Forthcoming Conferences and Events

- ***EUA Experts Conference on Diversifying Income Streams***

13-14 September 2010, Bologna, Italy

European University Association (EUA)

See [here](#) for more details.

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

2-3 November, Paris, France

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

See draft programme [here](#)

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.

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