

MAIN FINDINGS

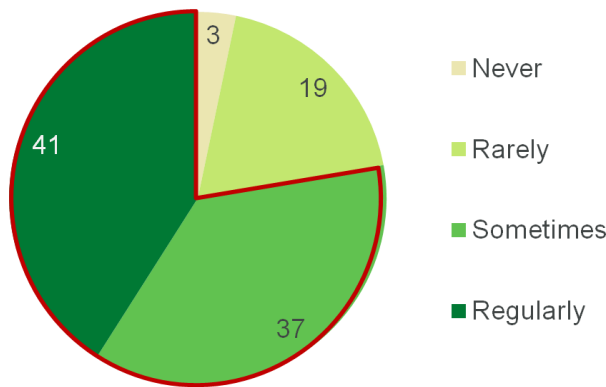
The European Foundations Survey was an online survey conducted in February-March 2010 that was targeted at Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and designed to gain a better idea of their perception, knowledge and actual contact with foundations. The survey also aimed to collect MEPs' views on potential EU legislative action in the field, notably on potential regulation concerning a European Foundation Statute.

It is important to bear in mind that the high level of interest and support for foundations shown by respondents in this survey may not be reflected in the European Parliament as a whole.

Level of knowledge and contact with foundations among MEPs

- About **two-thirds of MEPs** who participated (68%) claimed to have a **good overall knowledge of foundations**. Female respondents felt slightly more knowledgeable (73% vs. 64% of their male counterparts). At least 7 in 10 in each of the main political groups said that they had a good understanding, irrespective of whether they were affiliated to the EPP, S&D or ALDE¹ (70%-74%).

Frequency of contact with foundations



Q8: How often have you come into contact with foundations in your parliamentary work? Results in %, Base: all responding MEPs (92)

- **Over a third of participating MEPs** (36%) said that they **had worked for a foundation as a staff member, board member or volunteer**. About a **quarter** (27%) said that they had been the **beneficiary of a scholarship, fellowship, award or grant from a foundation** and **one in eight** (13%) said that they had **established a foundation**. Female respondents were more likely to have received a scholarship or award from a foundation (36% vs. 22% of male participating MEPs).

had either sometimes or regularly been in contact with foundations in their parliamentary work and 4 in 10 (41%) said that this happened *regularly*. Female respondents appeared more likely to have had *regular* contact with foundations in their work (52% compared to 36% of their male colleagues).

- Approximately **8 in 10 respondents** (78%) declared that they

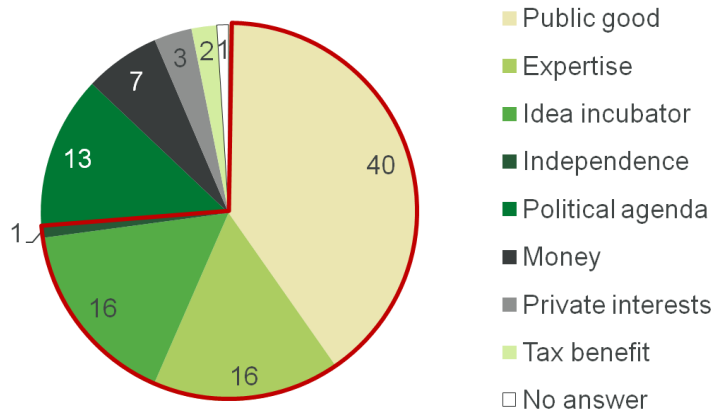
Perception of foundations among MEPs

- Across all main political groups, the **public good** was the **concept that respondents associated most closely with foundations** (63%-70%). *Expertise* and *idea incubator* were, however, more likely to be mentioned by S&D and EPP respondents than by their ALDE peers.
- When asked to pick one concept that they most associated with foundations, **about three-quarters of responding MEPs (73%) chose an outright positive image**: 4 respondents in 10 related foundations first and foremost to the *public good*, 16% to *expertise*, 16% to *idea incubator* and 1% to *independence*.

¹ EPP, S&D and ALDE are acronyms for the main 3 political groups in the European Parliament. They refer to the European People's Party (Christian Democrats), Socialists and Democrats, and Liberals and Democrats, respectively.

- Around **three-quarters of MEPs who participated (77%) agreed that foundations filled a gap that no other player could fill.**
- At least **half of respondents** said that the role of foundations was to **pilot new initiatives (62%)** and/or to **help underprivileged groups (51%)**. About a third indicated that foundations should *foster creativity, nurture socio-economic development and/or promote equal opportunities*. The analysis by political group revealed that respondents from the EPP and ALDE groups had a similar perception of the role of foundations. For instance, both groups placed *piloting new initiatives* first (67%-70%) contrary to S&D respondents who gave priority to *helping underprivileged groups* (68%).

Concept associated most closely with foundations



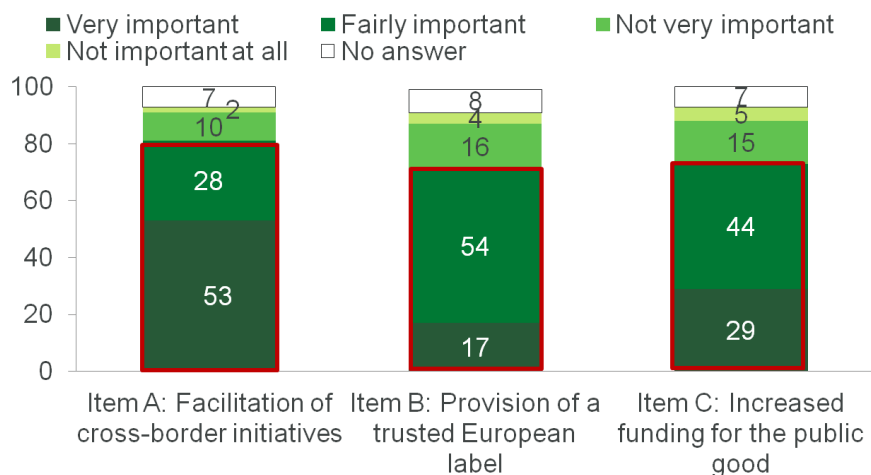
Q4: And if you were to pick only one, which one would it be? Results in %, Base: all responding MEPs (92)

Level of support among MEPs for the work of foundations and for a European Foundation Statute

- There was a **broad consensus** among participating MEPs that **European foundations should play a role in the EU2020 Agenda** with 70% agreeing that it should be the case.
- The question as to whether **the EU should play a role in facilitating the work of foundations** found even broader consensus with nearly **9 in 10 (86%)** agreeing with this idea.

- **Each potential benefit of a European Foundation Statute was seen as important by at least 7 in 10 respondents** but the *facilitation of cross-border initiatives* proved most popular: 81% of respondents rated this as *important*.
- About **three-quarters** of participating MEPs (73%) declared that they **would support a proposal for a European Foundation Statute**. S&D respondents were the most likely (95%) and ALDE respondents least likely (60%) to support such a proposal.

Potential benefits of a European Foundation Statute



Q15: For each of the potential benefits of a European Foundation Statute listed below, please indicate if you think it is very important, fairly important, not very important or not important at all? Results in %, Base: all responding MEPs (92)

- **Over 8 in 10 (83%)** MEPs who participated declared that they would **be interested in meeting foundations active in their field(s) of expertise/competence**.
- **Over a third** of respondents (37%) said that they would be **willing to be part of an informal network/grouping of parliamentarians interested in foundations**.

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