



European Foundation Centre

Milestones

9 November 1989

- European Foundation Centre (EFC) is established by seven leading European foundations
- John Richardson is named Chief Executive

1990

- First Annual General Assembly and Conference takes place in Bruges, Belgium, bringing together 68 participants

1991

- Launch of first programme, New Europe Programme (NEP), to help build civil society in Central and Eastern Europe
- EFC, ECAS (European Citizen Action Service) and CEDAG (European Platform for National Non-Profit Umbrella Organisations) jointly set up information network to provide non-profit sector with information on European Community programmes; this later becomes ARIES Membership doubles to nearly 60

1992

- Cross-Frontier Grantmaking and Partnerships in CEE interest group of EFC members set up – this eventually becomes the Grantmakers East Forum (GEF)

1993

- EFC members adopt the Prague Declaration to reaffirm the fundamental objectives of the independent funding sector and the sector's commitment to operate within clearly-defined and transparent parameters of disclosure and accountability
- EFC Orpheus Programme is set up to provide a public record and a public information service on foundations and corporate funders active in Europe
- EFC engages with European Parliament to review the draft "Coimbra" report on foundations in Europe

- EFC assists European Commission in designing survey of foundations as input to the EU White Book on Foundations and Associations and monitors development of European Statute for Foundations and Associations
- EFC and European Parliament co-host launch conference of Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, co-funded by European Commission and a group of EFC members

1994

- Membership exceeds 100
- EFC signs cooperation agreement with US Council of Foundations

1995

- Governing Council established
- Members adopt voluntary and self-regulatory Code of Practice.
- EFC is a founding member of the newly set-up Social Economy Platform, a network of more than forty European non-governmental organisations, federations and networks which are working to build an inclusive society

1996

- EFC becomes an independent international association under Belgian law
- EFC Governing Council established
- EFC website development and first email sent

1997

- Community Philanthropy Initiative (CPI) launched

1998

- EFC becomes a member of CMAF Consultative Committee
- Social Economy and Law (SEAL) Project launched, with the aim of promoting a favourable legal-fiscal environment for foundations and their civil society grantees; the SEAL Journal is the centerpiece of the project

1999

- EFC adopts Berlin Blueprint, defining principal goals for the next Millennium
- The International Committee (IC) is set up as a policy advisory group to the EFC on trends and developments in organised philanthropy in the wider Europe and in the Americas, Africa, the Mediterranean and Asia
- The EFC European Union Committee (EUC) is set up as a policy advisory group to the EFC on activities and developments regarding European Union internal issues
- Launch of Funders Online website

2000

- EFC EU Committee sets up the Legal and Tax Task Forces
- Council on Foundations and EFC jointly establish Disaster Response Initiative Group

2001

- EU Enlargement Task Force is set up as an advisory body to the Governing Council with the aim of promoting philanthropy in the wider Europe, especially future EU Member States
- EFC presents its views at the hearing of civil society on the Convention on the future of Europe
- Resource and Development Committee (RDC) is established as an advisory group to Governing Council on membership development

2002

- Research Task Force is established, aimed at increasing the visibility of European foundations through data collection
- Europe in the World project is launched
- Foundations in the European Union: Profiling Legal and Fiscal Environments; is published, detailing the legal-fiscal frameworks for foundations in each EU member state

2003

- Guidelines for Good Grantmaking Practices: Funding vocational training and employment for people with disabilities are published, in the context of the European Year of People with Disabilities
- Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmakers Support (WINGS) Secretariat is hosted at EFC
- Launch of the EFC Philanthropy Institute Programme – Professionalism in Philanthropy (PIP/PIP), which aims to strengthen the philanthropic community by developing professional philanthropic skills
- Fundamental Legal and Fiscal Principles for Public Benefit Foundations are published, outlining good legal and fiscal regulation and practice
- Model for Public Benefit Foundations in Europe is published, illustrating how the Principles can be translated into national legislation

2004

- Proposal for a European Foundation Statute is endorsed by EFC members

2005

- Research Task Force releases survey results on foundations: European Foundations Facts and Figures
- John Richardson ends tenure, Gerry Salole is appointed Chief Executive
- EFC delegation meets with Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. Barroso stresses his interest in working with European foundations to mobilise support for the European project

2006

- First annual EFC Photo Competition takes place
- The International Fellowship Programme for Central and Eastern European Foundations and NGOs programme, moves to the EFC from its home at the Robert Bosch Stiftung
- EFC adopts strategic plan, outlining its mission, vision and objectives
- EFC and foundations urge the Commission to launch a feasibility study on the EFS
- The Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE) is established as an informal network aiming to link national networks of donors and foundations; EFC and DAFNE form strategic alliance; DAFNE secretariat hosted by EFC.
- EFC hosts Global Fund for Community Foundations

2007

- Biggest-ever increase in EFC membership: 30 new members join, membership now exceeds 200 members
- New governance and membership fee structures are introduced
- Effect, EFC's flagship magazine, is launched
- Principles of Accountability in International Philanthropy published by EFC and Council on Foundations

2008

- Leticia Ruiz-Capillas is appointed Chief Operating Officer

2009

- EFC and DAFNE join in campaign to mobilize foundations and donors to make the case for the European Foundation Statute through an EU public consultation
- EFC becomes member of the European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group with civil society networks
- Children and Youth interest group launched
- EFC Secretariat moves to new premises