



FOUNDATION WEEK KICKS OFF IN BRUSSELS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 30 May – “Foundation Week” kicks-off on Monday 31 May at “SQUARE” rue Mont des Arts, Brussels. Over 1,000 key players from foundations and non-profits will come together for the first time ever for a full week of debates and exhibitions on the work foundations do to tackle the pressing social issues facing Europe and the world today.

The European foundation sector makes an impact on social change, delivering vital services to millions of Europeans every day. It is estimated that there are some 110,000 foundations in Europe, collectively spending between 83 and 150 billion euros annually on projects and programmes, and providing employment for up to 1 million Europeans.

Highlights of Monday 31 May include:

14.00-15.30 Room 211

PING – Poverty is Not a Game:

Organised by: the Network of European Foundations’ PING aims to sensitise young people, using a video game, on the experience of being poor via role play. A preview of the video game will be given during the session.

15:00 - 17:00 Room: 312

Climate change post-Copenhagen: Stepping up action

Organised by: Carnegie UK Trust, EFC Environmental Funders Group, Oak Foundation and Stiftung Mercator

This session on climate change will aim to define a roadmap for success and identify the key moments ahead to make change happen in Mexico and after. It will also put forward ideas and concrete opportunities for foundations to get involved - at the local, European or global levels, exploring ways to mobilise citizens and civil society. One key question to be addressed is how Europe’s voice and weight can be in global diplomacy and how can foundations contribute.

15:00 – 17:30 Room: Interactive Fair, stand 17

Migration and development: Can Diaspora contribute to effective development of the country of origin?

Organised by: Fondazioni4Africa

Starting with the experience gained in Fondazioni4Africa’s Senegal project, presented by Senegalese associations’ representatives, participants (European Commission, European Foundations and African Diaspora and NGOs representatives) will debate the innovative and controversial issue of migration and development. In particular, they will analyse cases where migrant associations are proactively involved in development mechanisms of the country of origin and identify the main added-value and limitations.

14:30 – 17:00 Room: 214

Inspiring entrepreneurship in Europe

Organised by: Kauffman Foundation and Microsoft EMEA

Entrepreneurship, and the need for more of it in Europe, is a hot topic in policy and academic circles focused on Europe's competitiveness and growth. This session will review ongoing efforts by the European Commission and others to encourage entrepreneurship as well as explore issues not yet tackled and where philanthropy might focus. A brief panel presentation followed by an interactive discussion will give all an opportunity to learn more and develop inspired ideas to move the agenda forward.

17:30 – 18:30 Departs from the Interactive Fair, stand 18

Contemporary theatre - The Cloud

Organised by: European Cultural Foundation

The European Cultural Foundation is pleased to invite you on a guided tour of the historical museum of the future, headed by the theatre group SPACE. We are in the year 2060, fifty years after the great change, which saved us from our downfall. To mark this anniversary, the world looks back at the year 2010, and the preceding period in which humanity seemed to be heading towards an inevitable catastrophe. Over time we have gradually forgotten our history and become so accustomed to the good and harmonious life in the year 2060, that it is hardly appreciated anymore. Are we heading for a new catastrophe? The Cloud starts with a prologue, after which visitors are guided through an open-air exhibition in the streets of Brussels.

19:00 – 20:15 Room: Copper Hall

Giacomo Puccini operatic concert

Organised by: Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca

Hosted by Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca, the concert celebrates the existing bond between Lucca, the Tuscan birthplace of Puccini and Brussels, where the composer died in 1924. From the Accademia di Alto Perfezionamento del Festival Pucciniano in Torre del Lago (also supported by the Fondazione Banca del Monte), sopranos Mimma Briganti and Silvana Froli, tenor Fulvio Oberto and baritone Massimiliano Valleggi will perform the most celebrated arias of the Italian composer.

Events and attractions open to the public will continue all week:

All through the week, amid the debates on pressing social global issues taking place during the European Foundation Centre's "Foundation Week", art and culture that is supported by European foundations will also be showcased, including:

Festival of short films

A festival of short films will run throughout the week showcasing documentaries and films funded by foundations on themes including poverty, migration, climate change, peace and security, biodiversity and more. (Cinema Corner, Interactive Fair, throughout the week)

Creating a work of art at Foundation Week – public participation required

Over the course of Foundation Week visual artist and architect Filip Berte will undertake 'The Dialogue Audition' a performance act that will result in an interactive film to be edited and previewed at the AGA and Conference Closing Plenary. 'The Dialogue Audition' aims to question and bridge the communication gap between EU Institutions and its citizens and was organised by the European Cultural Foundation. (Participation in Dialogue Audition during Foundation Week, stand 8, Interactive Fair. Presentation of final piece 12:30 - 14:00 Copper Hall during the closing plenary session, Friday 4 June)

Wheelchair basketball team

Throughout the week, Spanish foundation, Fundación ONCE is co-hosting a stand with the European Foundation Centre's Consortium of Foundations on Human Rights and Disability to raise awareness on disability and the vital role recreational activities can play in the lives

of those with disabilities (Interactive Fair, Stand 15). CD Fundosa, the fourth-ranked wheelchair basketball team in Europe will be playing exhibition matches, and visitors will have a unique chance to shoot hoops with the players

For Foundation Week, *Alliance* has assembled an international team of contributors that will be blogging throughout the week. They will post regular updates and responses to sessions on this blog site, as well as video interviews and end-of-day summaries. Go to: <http://alliancemag.wordpress.com/>

For media credential information and other details related to Foundation Week, please contact:

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