



PRESS RELEASE

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Announcing the 2009 Grantmakers East Forum:

Scaling the Next Wall: Doing Better with Less

Berlin 10-12 November 2009

More than 180 delegates will come together in the city of Berlin to celebrate the 2009 Grantmakers East Forum (GEF): *Scaling the Next Wall: Doing Better with Less* from 10-12 November. In addition to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Forum will provide grantmakers with opportunities to discuss new strategies for addressing the challenges of today's ever-changing environment.

Hosted by the **Allianz Cultural Foundation** and the **Robert Bosch Stiftung**, the event is a unique opportunity 20 years after the Wall came down to reinforce the connection between "East" and "West" in European philanthropy, demonstrating that foundations are united against the common challenges they now face. In the spirit of the anniversary celebrations, GEF will open with a cocktail organised jointly with the European Foundation Centre (EFC) which will bring together leaders of foundations from across Europe. According to Gerry Salole, Chief Executive of the EFC, "*The Forum is an excellent opportunity for grantmakers working in and with the east to learn from each other; and for us to learn about them.*"

Over the course of the two days at the GEF, participants will explore new strategies to cope in an ever-evolving society. Specifically, the Forum will offer space for reflection on how to respond to the global financial crisis both in terms of reducing the uncertainties and benefiting from the opportunities. Delegates will also attempt to understand how climate change is affecting life in the communities foundations serve and how they can create space for innovation and creativity.

In addition, the Forum will examine the various forms non-profit organisations take and discuss how they can meet greater demand for the goods and services they offer with less and more competitive funding. In addition to plenary discussions, delegates will have a chance to present issues of interest to the foundations they represent, explore ways to address them, and share their successes and failures at side sessions. The agenda will allow plenty of time for networking - one of the most appreciated features of the Forum. Participants will have a chance to meet colleagues in a more relaxed setting during social events, which include a cocktail on 10 November and a dinner party in one of Berlin's most remarkable locations, the Palais Kulturbrauerei, on 11 November.

"We look forward to seeing you in Berlin. Come and have the opportunity to network with your colleagues in an informal environment!" - Ketevan Vashakidze Country Director, Georgia, Eurasia Partnership Foundation and Chair of the GEF Steering Committee

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For more information

Visit the [GEF website](#)
[See the 2009 GEF Programme](#)

In case you have any questions about the **European Foundation Centre** please contact:
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Notes to Editors

About the Grantmakers East Forum (GEF)

- The GEF promotes development of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union by providing funders active in the region with a forum to discuss the effectiveness of their grantmaking efforts, exchange experiences, get inspired and encourage new donor activity in the region.
- The Forum is a 2-day conference which convenes over 150 participants each year, representing grantmaking foundations, bilateral donors, international organisations and corporate funders.
- The Forum grew out of the EFC's Grantmakers East Group (GEG), which was created in 1992 by a group of EFC members active in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
- The group first met as a side event organised at the EFC Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Conference. As interest in the group grew in parallel with grantmaking developments in the region, the GEG grew into an independent project with an Annual Meeting taking place in a different country each year. The first GEG Annual Meeting (AM) took place in Paris in 1996, and since then 13 AMs have been organised.

About the European Foundation Centre (EFC)

- The EFC, founded in 1989, is the leading membership association representing public-benefit foundations at European level. It is based in Brussels.
- The EFC develops and pursues activities in line with its objectives: creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment for foundations; documenting the foundation landscape; strengthening the infrastructure of the foundation sector; and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond.
- The EFC currently has 227 members, including independent and community foundations as well as corporate funders spread across 40 countries. A majority (86%) are based in Europe.
- EFC members collectively manage over **€140 billion in assets** and have a total annual expenditure of over **€7.7 billion**.
- The EFC has established a range of Interest Groups and Fora which facilitate cooperation and exchanges of good practice among members across a wide range of fields of activity including: diversity, migration and integration; human rights and disability; protecting the environment; HIV/AIDS; global health challenges; social investment; Central and Eastern Europe.
- The EFC hosts the secretariat of **Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE)**, which supports cooperation among national networks covering 22 European countries. This network and its collaboration with the EFC contributes to strengthening the voice and the representation of the views of this sector at a European level.
- The EFC coordinates the **European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding**, which was launched in 2007 with the support of the European Commission and other partners.

For more information about the EFC and its members please see: www.efc.be

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