



PRESS RELEASE

Country Portraits provide new perspectives on European foundation sector

Brussels, 8 December 2011 – Country Portraits, a new interactive map, is providing for the first time a one-stop spot to explore and better understand European foundations, a complex and diverse sector. An initiative of the European Foundation Centre (EFC) and Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE), the map reveals key insights into European foundations, including their number per country, their financial resources, the various legal frameworks they operate within and how many people they employ.

The European foundation sector is a mosaic of culturally, economically and legally diverse national foundation sectors spread across the continent. This diversity epitomises the uniqueness of the sector, but at the same time has also meant that comparable, Europe-wide, top level data on the sector is relatively scarce and quickly becomes out of date. Nonetheless, foundations and their partners have everything to gain from a wider understanding of the foundation sector's footprint and impact.

The Country Portraits provide a flexible analysis allowing for a more in-depth understanding of the particularities of the sector at national level, the differences and similarities between countries and a general birds-eye view of the sector at European level. In telling the individual stories of each country and focusing on their specificities, the project provides a snapshot of the foundation sector across Europe. An ongoing initiative, the Portraits also allow for updates to be made as soon as new information is available on each country.

The Country Portraits were launched on 7 November 2011 during the first-ever Autumn Assembly, a formal gathering between EFC and DAFNE members, who between them represent nearly 6,000 foundations from across Europe.

Partners with further insights on the foundation sector of a specific country are welcome to contact DAFNE (JPotocka@efc.be) or the EFC (IMagalhaes@efc.be) secretariats.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the EFC

The European Foundation Centre (EFC), founded in 1989, is an association representing more than 230 public-benefit foundations and corporate funders active in philanthropy in Europe and beyond. 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.

www.efc.be

About DAFNE

DAFNE is a network with its own governance structure bringing together 22 donors and foundations networks from across Europe. Each of these individually serves public benefit foundations and other grantmakers at national level. With a collective membership of over 6,000 foundations, DAFNE underpins the individual activities of its members by strengthening collaboration between the national associations and providing a platform for exchange of knowledge. The secretariat of DAFNE is hosted by the EFC.

www.dafne-online.eu

About foundations in Europe

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 to up to one million Europeans. Foundations come in many shapes and sizes, with some offering grants while others prefer to operate their own programmes. In towns, cities, regions and countries across Europe, they can be found running or funding hospitals and universities; protecting historic buildings, promoting cultural activities, stimulating economic development and employment, supporting scientific excellence, advancing civil and human rights, engaging in environmental conservation, and much, much more.