



PRESS RELEASE

European Foundation Centre to attend launch of the ‘European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations’

Brussels, 16 January 2012 - The European Foundation Centre (EFC) will attend the launch conference for the European Year 2012, due to take place from 18 – 19 January 2012 in Copenhagen. The event, which will focus on how innovation can bring new solutions to the challenges of an ageing society in Europe, will be an excellent opportunity to promote the role played by the foundation sector in the field of active ageing and solidarity between generations.

In recent years, the EFC has seen increased interest amongst its members in the issue of ageing, and anticipates that this will continue throughout the European Year 2012. One in five EFC members are currently involved in the field of social and human services, while 20% of EFC members have specific programmes targeting elderly persons.

The activities carried out by foundations include making grants to pioneering programmes and projects, funding local organisations, providing services, supporting research, hosting conferences and training activities and much more. Over the years, foundations have thus acquired significant knowledge on the subject of active ageing and intergenerational activities. This knowledge and experience can make a significant contribution towards achieving the European Year’s objectives.

In October 2011 the EFC joined the Coalition of Stakeholders for the Year, signing a manifesto setting out 10 proposals to promote an age-friendly European Union and will be involved in the implementation of the European Year’s activities. In particular, the EFC will contribute to the development of the Year by raising awareness within the foundation sector about the objectives of active ageing and solidarity between generations; keeping foundations updated on initiatives undertaken at European/national level; and sharing information on foundations’ activities in the field with stakeholders at European level.

“Foundations, as autonomous non-profit organisations with their own resources, are ideally placed to give valuable creative input into the European Year, and contribute to the discussions on how to tackle demographic change” – **Gerry Salole, Chief Executive, EFC**

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For more information:

[Read the EFC’s Press Release “European foundations provide innovative solutions to age- old problem”](#)

[Visit the EFC webpage dedicated to the European Year 2012](#)

[Visit the Conference page](#)

[Download the EY2012 Coalition manifesto](#)

Or contact the EFC secretariat at eu@efc.be

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 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.