

PHILANTHROPY WORKING INTERNATIONALLY

With an increasingly globalised economy and growing global challenges, many foundations are reviewing their strategy and approach to international work.

The European Foundation Centre and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation are conducting research into foundations working internationally to better understand how, why and what drives this work.



Source: Based on 198 members of the EFC in 2018

HOW DO YOU WORK INTERNATIONALLY

38%  have offices in more than one country

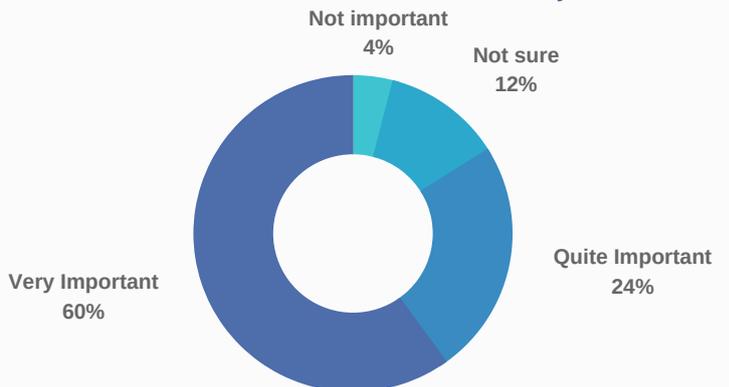
48%  have offices in one country only but fund in others

14%  have offices in one country and do not fund in other countries but work internationally in other ways.

Other ways foundations work internationally include: Partnerships with other funders, organising international events and collaborations; and membership of international networks and peer learning groups.

IMPORTANCE OF WORKING INTERNATIONALLY

How important do you think it is for foundations to work internationally?



GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Many foundations responded that working internationally was important because of the global nature of challenges facing them. In particular, organisations reported the root cause and solutions to problems they are facing are international so they must reflect this in their work.

SHARING AND LEARNING

"To increase strong partnerships in philanthropic network, spread sustainability and best practice sharing".

Respondents highlighted that while international working may be dependent on your organisation, **all organisations should be participating in international peer learning.**

The role of exchange and collaboration was highly emphasised, many comments reflecting the importance of seeing how others in a different context tackle the same problem.

IMPORTANCE DEPENDS ON VISION, STRATEGY AND MEANS

More than half of respondents highlighted that the importance of international work would also depend on the mission, strategic goals and scale of funds for an organisation.

This was reflected in other respondents who shared how the importance of international work is due to its role in achieving their overall goals and objectives as an organisation. For example, the importance of embedding funding in local communities rather than supplanting local structures for international development grant making.

GLOBAL TRENDS



84% say that the global context makes working internationally more important

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

"Many challenges are global ones - there are opportunities to respond globally too, to learn from others, to share good practice, to recognise that systems change works across boundaries".

Survey respondent

Many responded that the complex global challenges being faced required a broader international response.

This is due to the interdependent, transnational and scale of the global issues foundations are tackling, such as climate change, poverty, and refugee crises.

Further, responses suggest increased collaboration and best practice sharing was needed to face these challenges by the sector.

TRANSNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Other respondents raised international frameworks that shaped their work, such as the European Union or United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"We support the adoption of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity".

Survey respondent

This is a summary of some of the EFC and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's findings on institutional philanthropy working internationally.

Full research or more information, please contact the EFC at www.efc.be

TRENDS IMPACTING INTERNATIONAL WORK

-  Migration
-  Policy and regulation
-  Populism & nationalism
-  Climate change
-  Global health
-  Technology
-  Inequality

Respondents gave global trends that they believed would impact the way they worked internationally.

**ACT LOCALLY,
LEARN GLOBALLY**

Several organisations responded with a similar theme: be locally rooted, and globally networked. Respondents reported that it was vital for local work to continue, but that it could be better informed by global impact of the issue, learning from others and taking on lessons from peers.

"It is at the community level where some of the most urgent global challenges — climate change, inequality, and migration — are being felt most strongly.

Understanding what approaches and strategies to address such challenges are working in other contexts is key."

Survey respondent