



# NEF

# State of Play

Network<sup>of</sup>  
European  
Foundations

Update March 2024

Philanthropy House – Rue Royale 94 – 1000 Brussels – Belgium

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation - Compagnia di San Paolo - Erste Stiftung  
Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian - Fondation de France - Institusjonen Fritt Ord  
King Baudouin Foundation - Open Society Foundation - Robert Bosch Stiftung

## Contents

Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe .....	3
Civitates.....	3
European Artificial Intelligence (A.I) & Society Fund .....	5
European Fund for the Balkans .....	7
European Programme for Integration and Migration.....	7
Healthy Food Healthy Planet (HFHP) .....	12
Faktor D.....	Erreur ! Signet non défini.
Joint Action for Farmers' Organisations in West Africa (JAFOWA).....	14

## Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe – *Supporting progress for gender equality and women’s rights*

Foundations involved: Fondation CHANEL, Fonds L’Oréal pour les Femmes, King Baudouin Foundation, Bodossaki Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Fondation de France, Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici

Forecasted budget 2024: c.a. 2.5 million €

Timeframe: Current phase 2021-2024. A strategic consolidation for 2025-2027 is currently under elaboration.

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe is part of the Collaboration and Learning Hub at NEF.

### Background:

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe (the Alliance) was created in spring 2021 to support gender equality and women’s rights in Europe. The Alliance supports the strengthening of small, frontline organisations working on gender equality in Europe and improving the lives of the most marginalised individuals. In this context, they ensure that people have equal access to opportunities and help them to live free from violence, while also addressing the underlying structures and power dynamics that uphold inequality and exclusion.

### Latest developments:

#### **2023 economic opportunities fund**

The grants for the [26 small and medium-size frontline organisations](#) supported under the 2023 economic opportunities fund are ongoing.

It is still early to share the first results of all those grants, as the first reporting will occur in July 2024. However, we can provide insights into 5 grantees recipients of seed funding (i.e the grant budget allocated was twice the 2022 annual budget of the organisation) and with whom we checked-in in January. For all of them the main initial step was to recruit their first ever core or project staff. They have all proceeded to those recruitments, usually hiring past volunteers so the onboarding went well. They have mentioned already experiencing the following positive results:

- The organisation can tackle activities that had been waiting for a long time
- They can develop strategies and organise longer terms plans
- They can dedicate time for organisational development: development of project management and administrative tools, partnerships with other organisations, membership remobilisation
- They can work on financial sustainability: development of training/consulting products to sell to companies (financial diversification), board with connections more dedicated to development than operational tasks

They are all on track with their implementation. To date, the results of this seed funding are positive in building the capacity and sustainability of those organisations, our main grant making objective.

#### **Alliance’s learning event and grantee convening on 28 and 29 November 2023**

On November 28 and 29, the Alliance hosted:

##### **- A learning event**

We organised our first public event [“Impactful strategies to achieve economic gender equality in Europe”](#) showcasing some of our grantees, foundation members and EU policy makers. It was attended by 90 attendees and had ripple effects in all our communication, boosting our brand and outreach.

##### **- A grantee convening**

40 persons (grantees, their implementation partners and Alliance members) participated in this 2-days convening. It included peer-learning sessions on organisational development, working on economic inclusion, implementing an intersectional framework as well as cultural and social moments. The grantees assessed it fostered meaningful connections and shared learning, the main goal of the meeting. We also introduced the [NGO Capability Map](#), a tool to self-assess strengths and weaknesses in organisational development, created by our partner Bodossaki Foundation.

#### **Steering committee of 29 November 2023**

On November 29, the Alliance hosted a steering committee where members approved the 2024 budget and workplan with a focus on evaluation, strategic and grant making consolidation, piloting organisational development grants for our current grantee partners and enhancing our communication and awareness-raising activities. We also hosted learning sessions on systems change funding, long-term unrestricted funding and working with women's funds.

In January 2024, the Alliance started an evaluation process taking stock of what has been achieved so far, as well as looking at the future. Supported by 2 consultants, we are currently approving the methodology and refining the learning questions.

### ***Growth and structuration of the Alliance***

In March 2024 the Alliance welcomed Iva Petkovic as our new Communication & Learning Manager. This newly created position will increase the capacity to deliver on our objective to mobilise the philanthropic community to support gender equality in Europe.

Following the departure of the previous Programme Officer, a new staff member, Maria Cipriani, has just been recruited. She will start in May 2024. With its two new staff members, the team is now ready to take up the upcoming challenges.

## **Civitates - A Philanthropic Initiative for Democracy and Solidarity in Europe**

Foundations involved: Adessium Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Erste Stiftung, European Cultural Foundation, Fondation de France, Fritt Ord Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation (Chair), Mercator Switzerland, Oak Foundation, Limelight Foundation, Isocrates Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Porticus, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Rudolf Augstein Stiftung, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Stefan Batory Foundation.

Budget 2024: 2.7 million €

Timeframe: 2024-2026

Civitates is a funders' collaborative part of the Collaboration and Learning Hub at NEF.

### Background:

Civitates is a philanthropic initiative for democracy and solidarity in Europe. It provides funding to organisations that protect civic space (offline and online), the freedoms to assemble and associate, and that enable access to trustworthy information. Through its three portfolios (or "sub funds") – civic power; tech and democracy; media – it supports strong, inclusive and resilient civil society networks to defend civil liberties; a solid regulatory framework at European and national level to safeguard civil public discourse and hold Big Tech to account; and independent public interest media to support a healthy information ecosystem.

In addition to providing long-term funding, Civitates has a Funding Plus component, through which the fund supports capacity development, special projects and convenings.

Today, Civitates is a strong community of 17 like-minded foundations, of different shapes and sizes, which bring in a wealth of expertise and extensive networks across Europe and beyond. They are united in their resolve to pool their resources and knowledge together with a view to scaling the support available for pro-democracy actors, learning from each other, and experimenting with new approaches in defence of democracy and civic space in Europe.

### Latest developments:

***Adoption of a refreshed strategy:*** Building on the refreshed vision, mission, values and goals that were adopted in 2023, the Civitates Steering Committee endorsed new objectives and priorities for each of the three sub funds at its meeting on 20 March 2024. Following the meeting, the team will communicate publicly about the refreshed strategy and launch new calls for proposals across all three portfolios.

*Raising our ambition level:* A new commitment round was finalised earlier this year with all donor partners, and we are thrilled to welcome Mercator Switzerland as a new partner. While our budget for 2024 is balanced, conversations are under way to explore how Civitates can significantly increase its reach and impact in the coming years, including through a time-bound fundraising campaign. A mapping of public donors illustrates the critical importance of additional private funds to complement public sources of funding such as CERV.

**Grant-making:** Grantees in all portfolios were awarded a one-year extension until December 2024. That represents 12 grants in the civic power portfolio, 8 grants in the tech and democracy portfolio and 11 grants in the media portfolio. When possible, Civitates increased its support to grantees to adjust for inflation and enable them to operate at full capacity in what is a pivotal election year in the European Union.

The team has been flooded with requests related to the European elections and has shared some of the most promising projects with the Philea Democracy Network in the hope that some other donors could provide support. There is clearly not enough funding available.

The Civitates Ukraine Solidarity Fund, which was launched in 2022 to support solidarity with Ukraine, is ending this year. Discussions are on-going on whether to extend this Fund.

The learning grants (up to 5k/year for existing grantees), which were paused in mid-2023 because of low capacity, have resumed. Costs related to the well-being of staff are now eligible under these grants.

**New team structure and changes in the governance:** Two new colleagues joined the Civitates team in early 2024: Eszter Szucs, Senior Programme Manager for civic power and for media (based in Berlin) and Claudio Cesarano, Senior Programme Manager for tech and democracy (based in Barcelona). They both bring extensive experience in grant making and extended networks in their respective areas of responsibilities. Samuel Sigere joined Civitates in October 2023 as Programme and Grants Officer. The team has developed a workplan for 2024, which includes an objective to make DEI a core of our practice.

A new executive committee was appointed by the Steering Committee at its meeting in November 2023: Stefan Schäfers (Chair – KBF), Adrian Arena (Oak), Antje Scheidler (Bosch), Bente Roalsvig (Fritt-Ord). Their 3-year term will run until the end of 2026.

## European Artificial Intelligence (A.I) & Society Fund

Foundations involved: Luminate (Co-Chair), Stiftung Mercator (Co-Chair), Adessium Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, King Baudouin Foundation, Limelight Foundation, Mozilla Foundation, Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Porticus, Robert Bosch Foundation

Budget 2024: 3,385 million euros

Timeframe: 2020-2025

The European AI & Society Fund is part of the Collaboration and Learning Hub at NEF.

### Background:

The European AI & Society Fund works to shape Artificial Intelligence to better serve people and society. Too often the development, use and regulation of Artificial Intelligence is driven by the interests of governments and the tech industry without adequate concern for the individuals and communities it affects. This can lead to AI that exacerbates social injustice, amplifies structural inequalities, infringes people's rights, undermines democracy and compromises climate action. It is now a critical time in the development of policies that will set the direction of AI in Europe over the long term. Civil society organisations need to be an active and effective partner in shaping these policies so that AI serves the needs of people and society.

The European AI & Society Fund exists to empower civil society organisations to engage in policy around AI and to galvanise the philanthropic sector to sustain this vital work, so that AI serves the needs of people and society, respects human rights and promotes fair, inclusive and sustainable democracies.

#### Latest developments:

Our **Annual Report 2023** is now available [online](#), highlighting the impact our grantees have had over the past year, the contribution of our funding partners and setting out our current and future priorities to meet the AI challenge.

#### **Grant renewals**

The current grants of our policy and advocacy grantees are finishing in 2024. The Fund offered all our current grantees the opportunity to apply for a funding extension until December 2025. Following the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Steering Committee decided to:

- Renew funding to 21 organisations with a total budget of €2,429,296 as a continuation of our commitment to the ecosystem.
- Not renew funding to 7 organisations (5 not selected and 2 did not apply).

The Fund led a successful process to design a transparent and fair renewals system, in collaboration with the consultancy [Modern Grantmaking](#).

#### **Growing & strengthening the field**

At our Steering Committee meeting in October 2023, we set an ambition to grow the AI & Society field in Europe. Since then, we have focused on developing a strategic framework for this and identifying a fundraising target of €10m into the field by the end of 2025 to effectively shape the direction of AI. At the last Steering Committee meeting in March 2024 we delved into strategic discussions, with foundation partners shaping the strategic outlook and actively contributing their ideas on how to grow the field to use this moment in history to shape AI so that it serves people and society.

The community around our Funders' Learning Lunches continues to grow. The latest events have focused on generative AI and elections, migration and global AI governance. Our next event will be on the European Artificial Intelligence Act on April 10, taking stock of what our grantees secured in the regulation for protection of people and fundamental rights. To strengthen our grantees' capacity, we recently hosted technical expertise workshop series on Artificial Intelligence, as well as supported two cohorts of grantees to attend fundraising training.

#### **European AI & Society Fund and Civitates Joint Community Event**

At the end of January, we brought together 80 people across our grantee and foundation partners at our joint Community Event, co-hosted with Civitates to cement relationships, learn from each other, take stock of the ecosystem and chart a joint direction. It was an energising two days for the community and highlights included:

- In discussions on how funders can strengthen the Ecosystem, participants held candid conversations about empowering collective action and coalitions, flexible grantmaking and helping to build bridges across movements and groups.
- Our grantee Superrr\_Lab shared their methodology for imagining alternative futures and engaged everyone in deconstructing narratives that do not serve our mission and constructing new ones that instil the values people want to shape the public debate with.
- In six open sessions organisations hosted discussions important to their work and context: Fixing social media recommender systems; organisational development; how marginalised groups are included in the work across Europe? Building anti-monopoly grassroots movement; How to force competition authorities to force structural change?

#### **Internal updates**

In April and May this year we will welcome two new colleagues into our team. Peggye Totozafy will join us as the Senior Partnerships Manager to lead our engagement with philanthropic foundations, and Johanna Pruessing will be our new Senior Programme Manager, bringing rich expertise on foundation programming for technology and

fundamental rights. During its last meeting (March 13-14, 2024), the Steering Committee re-appointed Guillermo Beltrà (Luminate) as the Co-chair of the Fund.

Our priorities for 2024:

- Use the pivotal moment for AI to significantly grow the funding available to civil society to work on AI, society and social justice through philanthropic engagement.
- Continue supporting our community of grantees through community building, forging new partnerships and effective collaborations among grantee partners.
- Continue providing flexible support to our grantees to support development of leadership and organisational sustainability.

## European Fund for the Balkans

Foundations involved: King Baudouin Foundation; Robert Bosch Stiftung (Chair); ERSTE Stiftung

Budget 2024: 1.3 million €

Timeframe: 2007-2025

NEF-EFB has a registered representation office in Belgrade, Serbia.

### Background:

The European Fund for the Balkans is a joint endeavour that envisions, runs and supports initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy, fostering European integration and affirming the role of the Western Balkans in addressing Europe's emerging challenges. The current programme strategy is focused on three overarching areas – fostering democratisation, enhancing regional cooperation and boosting EU integration. By implementing different projects, initiatives and activities, the Fund supports the process of affirming the political credibility of the enlargement policy across the Western Balkans region, improving regional cooperation among the civil society based on solidarity and demand-driven dialogue, as well as providing means and platforms for informed and empowered citizens to take action and demand accountable institutions and democracy.

### Latest developments:

#### **Engaged Democracy Initiative**

The Engaged Democracy Initiative (EDI) gathers local movements and organizations, researchers, engaged citizens and journalists in a horizontal regional network for supporting, promoting and pursuing values of open, solidary and democratic societies across the Western Balkans region.

Regional projects supported by the German Federal Foreign Office were successfully implemented by the end of December 2023. The implemented activities included, among other, regional events in Albania, Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro greatly contributing to the visibility and expansion of the EDI network. Also, follow-up activities of the thematic groups were completed by the end of the year increasing the members-driven character of the EDI network.

The evaluation process of the EDI was successfully conducted at the end of 2023. Adopted recommendations will be implemented in the upcoming period.

In January 2024, EDI Local Advisors in each of the six WB countries have been selected. They will strengthen existing partnerships, identify new collaborators, and contribute to a better understanding of the local context.

### Response Hub

The European Fund for the Balkans established in 2021 the Response Hub, an instrument of micro granting. The aim is to provide a flexible response to formal and informal groups fighting to contribute to their local communities and protect the public interest. Each year Response hub has three calls (January, May/June and September) and

it is accessible only through the Engaged Balkans platform. Until now, around 129 initiatives/organisations have been supported, including 10 new organisations selected the latest call (January).

#### Engaged Balkans Platform

The Engaged Balkans Platform, launched in 2022, is a secured online place for over 500 members of the EDI network fostering connection, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. To further enhance activities in 2024, we will focus on optimizing communication among members and refining internal communication processes. By streamlining communication pathways, the aim is to promote greater cohesion, collaboration, and efficiency among members.

#### **Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)**

During 2023, the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, with support of the European Climate Foundation, conducted a comprehensive study on the geopolitics of the green energy transition and the role of foreign actors in the Western Balkans.

The study included desk research, several detailed case studies and an opinion poll conducted in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The background paper authored by Dimitar Bechev "[Energy in the Western Balkans](#)" presented initial findings from the research. Case studies on Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina provided more details and the final policy brief includes all results:

#### [Green Power Politics: External Actors and Energy Transition in the Western Balkans](#)

This brief explores the EU's role in promoting the energy transition in the Western Balkans. Despite the EU's commitment to climate action and extensive financial assistance, the region's progress in adopting renewable energy sources remains slow. The study reveals the public desire for green transition but a lack of awareness regarding the negative impact of external actors like Russia, China, and Turkey.

#### BiEPAG policy brief - "Beyond Stabilitocracy. Unveiling the Rise of Autocracy in the Western Balkans"

Democracy is challenged throughout the world, including the Western Balkans. BiEPAG's authors seek to explore how the stabilitocracy conundrum has evolved in recent years assessing the shift towards full autocracy in the WB 6. The democracy/autocracy dichotomy is too simplistic. The authors highlight a more complex picture of the 6 countries based on the ongoing autocratisation away from the stabilitocracy.

The policy brief "**Beyond Stabilitocracy. Unveiling the Rise of Autocracy in the Western Balkans**" was launched at a closed event at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin on December 13<sup>th</sup> - [link](#).

Check all [BiEPAG publications](#).

Fifth episode of the BiEPAG Podcast – Seriously Balkans, the BiEPAG Talks

The fifth episode of the BiEPAG podcast is featuring two interconnected topics – the hazardous air pollution, as part of the podcast talk that is aligned with the findings from the BiEPAG research project ***Green Energy Transition and the Role of the Foreign Actors***.

#### EFB Alumni Network

The beeEFB Alumni Network Annual event and the wrap up of the second beeEffect program edition were held in Podgorica. On February 22 to February 25th, 2024, 12 new alumni members were welcomed. Together with the rest of the participants of the event, they were involved in the planning of the activities of the Network for 2024.

#### EFB Steering Committee welcomes new members

Within the concept of adding a local ownership dimension to the Steering of the EFB, three new members accepted the invitation to join. Nevena Ružić is not only a former EFB fellowship alumna, but also a well-known expert regarding data protection. Simonida Kacarska is the director and co-founder of the European Policy Institute, a think tank in Skopje, North Macedonia. Igor Štiks is a scholar, researcher, famous author and engaged citizen of the region. The EFB SC will be enriched with their knowledge, necessary in these challenging times.



## EPIM – European Philanthropic Initiative for Migration

<u>Partner Foundations:</u>	Adessium Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation, Barrow Cadbury Trust, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Fondation de France, The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, King Baudouin Foundation, Oak Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Open Society Foundations, Fondation Abbé Pierre, Porticus Foundation, Kahane Foundation
<u>Associated Foundations:</u>	Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Fondazione Peppino Vismara, Fondazione Con Il Sud
<u>Budget 2024:</u>	3.6 million €
<u>Timeframe:</u>	EPIM has existed since 2005. Its current strategy covers the timeframe 2024-2028.

EPIM is a philanthropic initiative part of the Collaboration and Learning Hub at NEF.

### Background:

EPIM is Europe's largest and longest standing philanthropic collaborative working on issues of migration and inclusion. We fund and nurture alliances and partnerships, curate the migration ecosystem and cultivate a shared narrative for belonging and democratic resilience.

Working in a collaborative manner, EPIM's Mission is to build dialogue, alliances and partnerships between those working on migration directly and indirectly, with a systemic approach. We combine funds, expertise and networks to connect and support people, organisations, institutions and movements to change the way migration is being addressed and perceived.

EPIM's Vision is a Europe where migration is accepted as part of its history, present and future, where its societies thrive, and where migrants belong assert their rights and have the agency to shape their future. We see change as complex, interconnected and never linear. We believe that to truly change migration in Europe for the better, we need to sustain it by creating a shared sense of purpose amongst a diversity of actors across the ecosystem. See [EPIM's Pathway to Change](#).

EPIM's [approach](#) is structured around four Action Pillars, three Thematic Clusters and a Political Response, Opportunity and Innovation Fund.

### Latest developments:

#### **The Road Ahead and the 2023 Annual Report**

The [2023 Annual Report](#) provides a snapshot of EPIM's key activities and figures from the past year and highlights impact stories, projects, and learning from partners across Europe. It also looks to the road ahead for the collaborative and reflects on our new Pathway to Change.

#### **Changes in the Team and EPIM's Governance**

In Autumn 2023, EPIM recruited a Programme Manger to lead work on the new cluster on Shaping the Future of European Migration Governance and Michela Bramardi filled the role in January 2024.

Audrey Guichon (Porticus) and Ilaria Caramia (Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo) formally joined EPIM's Executive Committee over the fall. Shannon Lawder (C.S. Mott Foundation) stepped down from the Steering Committee to join the NEF Board and was replaced by Melody Patry. Magdalena Majkowska-Tomkin (Open Society Foundations) also finished her term with EPIM in 2023.

### **Other Programme Updates**

#### Collective Learning Journey

EPIM is starting a 6-month collective learning journey with the goal of moving away from traditional monitoring and evaluation approaches to acknowledge the complexity of the environments our partners operate in. EPIM aims to offer a common space for reflection open to civil society and foundation partners and will shape the future of EPIM's learning methodology.

#### Community of Practice on Structural Racism and Migration

EPIM is partnering with Equinox on a COP on structural racism and migration to explore the different national and local contexts in Europe. Participants took part in visioning exercises to identify alternative paths and met thrice in 2023. Exchanges in 2024 will reflect on the implications of the New EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, examine the issue of deskilling, and aim to foster solidarity across social justice movements.

### **EPIM's Response to the Ukraine Crisis**

Over the course of the year and reflecting the long-term nature of the inclusion challenge in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and EPIM's own transformation, the Ukraine Response was transformed into a new thematic cluster on Building Inclusive Societies in CEE (see Section 6). Over 10 grants were made (including renewals) during the year, with the addition of Moldova and Romania to the mix. In collaboration with regional partners, in May 24, EPIM will organise the second meeting of actors working on migration and inclusion in CEE in Bratislava.

### **Updates from Thematic Funds**

#### Thematic Fund on Shaping the Future of European Migration Governance

Aim: Support civil society organisations in co-shaping viable and effective alternatives to migration governance defined by deterrence, ensuring alignment with existing EU law and international human rights standards

Grantee organisations in 2023: International Detention Coalition (IDC), Centre for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria, Cyprus Refugee Council (CyRC), HumanRights360, Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD), Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Danish Refugee Council/PRAB, Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN), Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC), European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Migration Policy Institute (MPI).

#### **Updates:**

- EPIM funding to the PRAB (Protecting Rights at Borders) initiative led by the (Danish Refugee Council (DRC), to the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee continued. The projects respectively aim to address rights compliance and accountability at the EU internal and external borders, provide insight and evidence on the use of artificial intelligence at the borders in Southern Europe and address the abuse of blanket security reasons in deportation and asylum procedures across the bloc.
- EPIM's support to the Centre for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria, Cyprus Refugee Council (CyRC), Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Italian Coalition for Civil Liberties and Rights (CILD) and HumanRights360, for Alternatives to Detention (ATD) pilots came to an end in 2023 or will be ending in 2024, as did EPIM's support to IDC to lead the European ATD Network that builds on the pilots and embeds them within national level migration management systems.
- EPIM is creating systems map of the Migration Governance system. This sensemaking process and map will help us identify opportunities to gain leverage and develop an approach to learning, adapting, and understanding the system. We hope to find strategic leverage points to invest our resources, networks, and energy. Working with practitioners with lived and professional experiences and expert knowledge of the laws, policies, and issues at hand, EPIM aims to resource organisations and initiatives that are already working along or able to work along the leverage pathways identified.

#### Thematic fund on Children on the Move in Europe

Aim: Children and youth on the move in Europe, regardless of origin, gender, status and age have access to their rights and are protected holistically with the highest possible efforts, equal to other children.

Grantee organisations in 2023: HumanRights360, Oxfam Italy, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), The Young Republic, Utopia56.

**Updates:**

- EPIM is focusing on supporting advocacy coalitions of CSOs to address obstacles and promote best practices around migrant children and youth's transition to adulthood through support for an advocacy coalition at EU and national advocacy coalitions in Italy, Greece and France.

*Thematic fund on Communicating Migration in a Changing Environment*

Aim: The Thematic Fund on Strategic Communications supports CSOs, including organisations and movements (co-)driven by people with lived migration experience, in strategically engaging in the public discourse on migration in Europe.

Grantee organisations in 2023: CISV, IMIX, Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen (VWV), AIPG Romania

**Updates:**

- EPIM continues to support four narrative change projects across Europe - coalitions led by Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen in Belgium, IMIX in the UK, CISV in Italy and AIPG in Romania
- A Community of Practice led by Sophia Burton of Migration Matters was launched in January 2024. The COP will focus on different definitions and approaches to narrative change, addressing disinformation, the creation of counter narratives, impact measurement and taking a systemic and long-term lens to funding and scaling narrative change.

*Thematic fund on Protecting Access to Rights for Mobile EU Citizens*

Aim: All mobile EU citizens and their family members are able to effectively exercise and enforce their free movement rights in law and in practice.

Grantee organisations in 2023: European Citizen Action Service (ECAS); European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

**Updates:**

- EPIM's funding to projects by ECAS and FEANTSA continues. Their projects aim to remove legal and administrative challenges faced by mobile EU citizens and their non-EU family members and improve the situation of mobile EU citizens experiencing destitution across Europe.

*Thematic fund for Building Inclusive European Societies*

Aim: All people with lived migration experience, regardless of their ethnic origin, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, (dis)ability, and migration status have equal access and fair outcomes in terms of rights and opportunities to participate economically, socially and politically in European societies that are cohesive and offer a high level of well-being for all.

Grantee organisations in 2023: European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Chico Mendes, European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance; Fonds de Dotation Merci, Next Step, ORBIT.

**Updates:**

- EPIM continues to fund actors from chosen in 2022 from its open call on Decent Work and Adequate Housing for All. The projects focus on ecosystem building and involve collaborations across sectors, as well as between CSOs and other actors, including local authorities, the corporate sector, and trade unions.
- EPIM has launched a pilot to explore a systemic and more inclusive approach to addressing the deskilling and underemployment of professionals with a migration background. A [Council of Practitioners](#) has been

formed to sense make, map systemically and discover levers of change, and to finally put forward recommendations for funding in 2024.

### **Transition and Closing Grants to Consolidate Progress**

2024 will be a year of transition for EPIM, with a new five-year strategy in place. In this context, EPIM will provide eligible partners with transition/closing grants, ranging between EUR 20K and 30K (depending on the size of the organisation's average annual budget).

With these grants, we aim to help our partners consolidate the progress made over the past years, strengthen their organisational capacities, and diversity and identify alternate funding sources. Providing a transition/closing grant does not preclude future collaboration with these partners and EPIM will proactively engage with partners whose work align with the new vision, approach, and priorities.

## **Healthy Food Healthy Planet (HFHP)**

Foundations involved: Climate Works Foundation

Budget 2023-24: 1.400.000 €

Timeframe: April 2023- April 2024

Healthy Food Healthy Planet was initially hosted by ClimateWorks Foundation and was hosted by NEF from April 2023 for a year. The initiative is currently being exited from NEF. It will be hosted by May 2024 into a new home, the [Social Change Nest](#).

### Background:

Healthy Food Healthy Planet brings together funders and organisations from different sectors (health, food, climate change, biodiversity, animal welfare, labour rights and just transitions) who share the belief that the current food system is unsustainable, unhealthy and unjust. HFHP started in 2020, based on a sense of urgency about the impact of current food production, consumption and waste on both people and planet. Global food systems are responsible for between a third and a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions as well as environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and human and animal ill-health and exploitation. Europe was chosen as the initial focus of the initiative as there are signs across food systems and among policymakers of a desire for transformation, with the potential for standard-setting at a global level.

HFHP strives to achieve its aims through three pillars of action: a) movement-building; b) grant-making and c) transformational (un)learning.

### Latest developments:

In 2023, HFHP has further strengthened its grant making by testing its participatory, cross-country and cross-thematic approach under the Retail lever. Out of this process, two pan-European grants were approved at the end of 2023 for a total sum of 800.000EUR in grant making being disbursed at the beginning of 2024.

At Subnational level, the cocreation approach will be preceded by a mapping that will help HFHP identify where HFHP can bring the biggest value at subnational level, and how HFHP can best complement the work of others. The Mapping starts in March 2024 and will be completed by July 2024 and the results will be made available to all interested stakeholders.

This year, HFHP will organise its Annual Forum in September in Piedmont, ahead of the Terra Ladre event by Slow Food International. HFHP is considering making the topics of inclusion in the food system and social justice a

central piece of this year's Annual Forum, with the intention of exploring how to converge the diversity of actors and perspectives (farmers, activists, low-income households, migrants, etc.) towards a joint vision to transform food systems in Europe.

On the in-house front: HFHP is growing its team. HFHP will recruit a Comms Lead responsible for developing and delivering the communication strategy - engaging with internal and external stakeholders - to strengthen the work of Healthy Food Healthy Planet as movement builder and weaver, and to raise its profile and influence. The Comms Lead will coordinate closely with the Director of HFHP and the Learning Lead.

The team is also working on the transfer of home to the Social Change Nest that is more aligned with its movement building agenda and support to activists. The exit from NEF is scheduled for the beginning of May.

## HUB for Democratic Culture – Faktor D

Foundations involved: Robert Bosch Stiftung, ERSTE Stiftung, Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

Budget 2024: 650,000 €

Timeframe: 2023-2026

Faktor D is hosted by NEF.

### Background:

In the DACH region (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), there are many organizations, individuals and foundations that are working with innovative solutions, high motivation and resources to defend and develop democracy further.

However, these solutions are often thought of and executed nationally, their scaling succeeds too rarely, and there is a lack of space that strategically brings actors together. This is precisely where Faktor D - The HUB for Democratic Culture comes into play. It is a network that unites and strengthens democratic forces, a space that acts as an aggregator for new solutions and scaling, and a platform for shared learning. Ultimately, it is a place to make our democracies intersectoral, intersectional, and international.

Faktor D pulls forces together to foster a resilient democratic culture in the DACH Region. Its aim is to connect and coordinate different parts of society to develop common cross-border answers to current democratic challenges. Faktor D targets organisations that can act as multipliers in their respective fields of work. The initiative operates through three implementing partners: Initiative Offene Gesellschaft e. V. in Germany, Stiftung Dialog - Campus für Demokratie in Switzerland and Demokratie21 in Austria.

### Latest developments:

In the inaugural year, the primary goal is to establish Faktor D and co-design its mission and objectives. We focused on refining our mission and objectives, while simultaneously pioneering the format "Im Diskurs" (in discourse), a broad format for engagement and dialogue. This strategic groundwork set the stage for the journey ahead. Consequently, we crafted a brand identity and developed our communication strategy to clarify our role in the landscape.

### *Communication:*

At the end of 2023, we unveiled our new logo and corporate identity, crafted by the renowned Swiss designer, Erich Brechbühl. Our visual identity encapsulates our Mission: The "D" in the Logo imitates the shape of a parliament symbolizing Democracy – the central topic of Faktor D.

At the beginning of 2024 we finalized our communication strategy. We will be focusing on an organic community-building approach, with network members serving as key influencers. The main objectives are creating an active network, increasing visibility, optimizing perception among target audiences, and strengthening target audience engagement with Faktor D.

As tools of engagement, we are using LinkedIn, our newsletter, our website and the LinkedIn profiles of our participants as multipliers.

*Mission:*

We successfully developed and piloted our first “Mission”. The Mission is a in depth format for experts and practitioners where we collectively develop strategies/ideas for the most relevant challenges of democracy. The process allows co design and co-budgeting whereby we give the chance to the participants to grant money to the most promising and impactful ideas/strategies.

The topic of the first mission was youth participation at the local level. In the open call we had 72 applications from four countries. 33 participants worked together in four workshops and seven projects where developed. 4 projects were ultimately granted seed funding.

We have identified areas of improvement for this pilot we need to work on: a faster selection process of the topic, a stronger relationship building in between the participants in the workshops and a stronger focus on the strategic aspects at the stage of design of the application.

*Broad Formats:*

In addition to our mission, we also work with "broad" formats that are open to everyone. The first "Im Diskurs" is a digital event addressing a wide range of topics and providing a platform for exchanges. Feedback and attendance have been positive.

We will also implement a thematic newsletter and a festival. The newsletter will be launched in July. The festival will take place on September 5th and 6<sup>th</sup>, it will be co designed with our stakeholders.

*Governance:*

The members of the strategy committee represent different sectors and bring together a wide range of expertise. The committee met for the first time at the beginning of September and for the second time in March 24. They were also involved in the proposal evaluation.

## Joint Action for Farmers’ Organisations in West Africa (JAFOWA)

Foundations involved: Compagnia di San Paolo; Fondazione Cariplo; Fondation de France (Chair); and King Baudouin Foundation.

Budget 2024: 850.000 €

Timeframe: 2016–2026

JAFOWA is a part of the Collaboration and Learning Hub at NEF.

Background:

JAFOWA seeks to reinforce Farmers’ Organisations who work with smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishermen, to manage good quality local food systems that benefit their families and communities in ecologically sustainable ways. It aims to support a strong and equitable farmers’ movement in West Africa. This movement proposes local and regional policies, promotes ecological solutions and enables the leadership of women and youth.

JAFOWA supports farmers’ organisations (FOs) through grantmaking and capacity development with a geographic focus on Burkina Faso and Senegal, shifting its focus on the agroecological transition in these two countries since 2018.

Latest developments:

In the course of 2023, the JAFOWA steering committee decided to consolidate the projects that were already running as well as to revisit its strategy before launching a fourth call for projects.

Six projects were accompanied to present an extension of their strategy into a new funding period so as to consolidate their progress. With an average duration of three years, the well-known Farmer Organizations (FOs) (3 in Senegal and 3 in Burkina Faso) will continue strengthening and scaling up their agroecological practices.

Last December, JAFOWA brought together, in Paris and remotely, more than 20 people, resource persons, experts from Africa and Europe, and members of its steering committee, for a two day workshop. A first thematic day was designed to forecast emerging and current issues for the sustainability of the African food systems and to discuss the space of family farming and agroecology in addressing those. The second day consisted of a strategic workshop aiming to create a collective vision on where JAFOWA could add value in this context. As a result, JAFOWA's theory of change will be refreshed and JAFOWA will prepare its 4<sup>th</sup> call for projects (potential launch in September).

Laurent Grolleau replaced Laurence Teissier as Programme Manager in February, coming back to the programme. Rotating the chairmanship of JAFOWA is currently under discussion as Fondation de France ensured the leadership for many years. Gaëlle Kergraisse stepped down as chair at the end of 2023 while Louise Laporte from Fondation de France took over.