

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



### Edito



As we close the accounts for 2023, we are excited to share some achievements and updates with you. Our grantmaking capacity has surged to €12 million in 2023, marking a 50% increase compared to previous year.

This year, three of our collaborative projects - the European AI & Society Fund, Civitates, and the European Philanthropic Initiative on Migration (EPIM) - are embarking on a new strategic cycle. With renewed ambition, these initiatives aim to grow their resources and reach, fostering even more positive change across the European landscape. The collaborative spirit among foundations that sustain those efforts, serves as a beacon of hope, in the face of the upcoming European elections and growing challenges to our democratic fabric.

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### Highlights

#### NEF Collaborative Day



On April 9th, we gathered 35 individuals from our NEF team and foundation partners for our 'Collaborative Day.'

The purpose was to build connections and learn from one another, focusing on the theme of 'narrative change and strategic communication' that our projects aim to explore further together.

We recognize that while the starting points for our collaborative projects on strategic communication may vary, they all face similar challenges in demonstrating relevance to the fields they serve and to the foundation partners involved.

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#### 'Shifting Power' at NEF



In the ever-evolving landscape of philanthropy, the question of fairness and equity is an increasingly relevant one across the field. As we witness threats to democracy, the concept of 'shifting power' emerges as a point of reference, guiding philanthropy's collective journey toward a more just and inclusive world.

At NEF, conversations about power dynamics and resource allocation are sparking transformative change. By reimagining traditional decision-making processes and embracing diverse voices, NEF aspires to contribute to the new pathways toward equity.

In a co-authored article for Alliance Magazine, several NEF stakeholders reflect on NEF's journey, exploring the challenges and accomplishments along the way. From decentralized funding structures to inclusive governance models, NEF's collaborative efforts serve as a testament to the power of collective action.

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### Updates

#### European AI & Society Fund

The grantee community of the European AI & Society Fund has been at the forefront of driving positive legislative change. They successfully secured many protections for affected communities and accountability and transparency measures from governments and tech companies deploying AI in the recently adopted European AI Act.

#### Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe

The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe has released its 2023 [Annual Report](#). Last year, the Alliance distributed 3.5 million euros to 28 small, frontline gender equality organisations in 16 countries promoting economic opportunities mainly for marginalised women, transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people living in Europe.

#### European Fund for the Balkans

The European Fund for the Balkans recently enriched its governance structure by giving it a local dimension. Along with representatives of the founding foundation partners, three new members from the Western Balkans were invited to join the steering committee and contribute with their regional perspective and expertise.

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#### EPIM

As of April 2024, [EPIM becomes the European Philanthropic Initiative for Migration](#).

The new moniker and visual identity are the final outcome of EPIM's Process of Change that culminated last year. The name, Pathway to Change, updated Approach and Priorities and a new Governance Model for the fund, were approved at a final Steering Committee meeting in Brussels in October 2023.

[Read more](#)

#### Civitates

It's been a busy start of the year for Civitates, with the onboarding of two [new team members](#), the finalisation of our [new five-year strategy](#) and the publication of the 2023 annual report.

Civitates also published ["Investing in Change: Understanding and Enhancing Support for Civic Space in Europe"](#).

#### JAFOWA

Last December, JAFOWA brought together in Paris and remotely, more than 20 people for a two-day workshop. The group was made up of technical partners, resource persons, experts from Africa and Europe, members of its steering committee and advisory board.