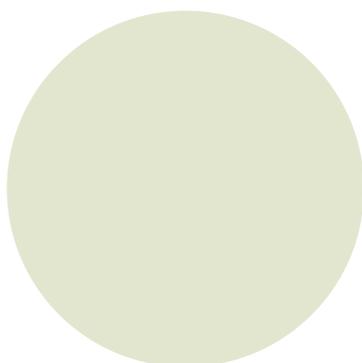
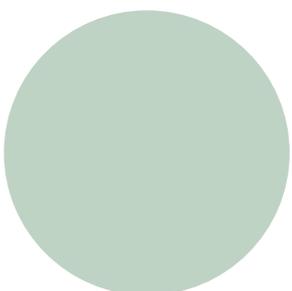
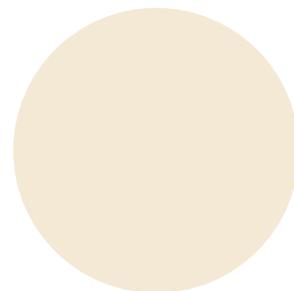
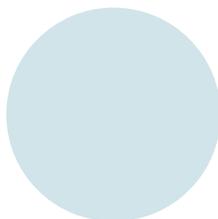
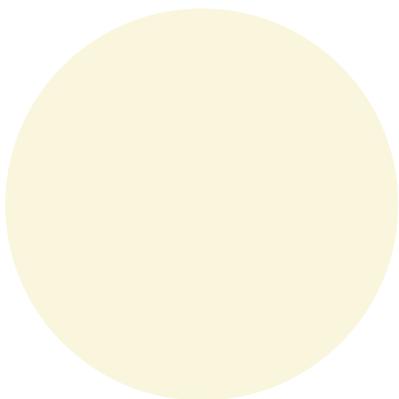
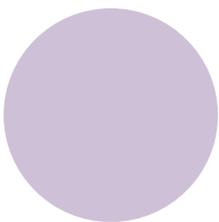




STATE OF THE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION FIELD  
IN EUROPE 2020



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The community foundation field in Europe, characterised by its diversity, continues to develop – growing in number but also impact. Based on survey responses from national support organisations, there are 875 community foundations, with a further 29 in development, in 23 countries in Europe.

It is evident that this extraordinary year, marked by the global pandemic, served to highlight the importance of local action and the role that community foundations play as funders, implementers, convenors, and connectors with profound knowledge and understanding of the locality. Despite all adversities, most community foundations demonstrated their agility and quickly became active – adapting their own work practice in a transformed operating environment; raising and distributing funds; deploying their own staff and resources and co-ordinating volunteers to meet needs; and establishing new relationships and working in different ways with partners. In many places, community foundations established or reinforced their leadership role at local level. At the same time as urgently addressing needs, community foundations had to find their own new ways of working within their organisation and with their stakeholders – notably communities they support and donors and volunteers that resource that work. Our survey and experience show that the pandemic tested resilience across the community foundation field, however the impact that resulted from this dynamism and creativity has already served to boost the recognition and credibility of its work.

Support organisations played an important role by building and maintaining connections at national level that supported this work; facilitated the sharing of knowledge; and helped raise awareness of this extraordinary response. This report also reflects on developments with regard to support infrastructure, which itself has developed recently, and in particular in countries where there are no or few community foundations. There are 30 support organisations of a variety of different forms operating in 25 countries.

Consideration of the work of community foundation support organisations and, in particular, lessons learnt from the experience of responding to Covid-19, will continue to inform ECFI's work and will contribute to developing the field, consistent with the ethos of 'building back better'.

# INTRODUCTION

Building an understanding of the shape and work of the community foundation field is important not only in raising awareness of its scale and scope, for those operating within it and those with an interest in local development, but also to inform further development of the field.

In an exceptional year for all societies worldwide, ECFI has conducted its biennial assessment of the community foundation (CF) field in Europe. This report has been informed by a survey of community foundations support organisations (CFSOs) and intelligence gathered through our ongoing engagement with the field.

This report provides a snapshot of the field, highlights changes and trends, and identifies some key issues relevant to its further development. There are reflections on the role that community foundations played in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but also on how this impacted on the community foundations themselves, and how this has altered their thinking and strategies.

The analysis of community foundations support organisations (CFSOs) differentiates them by type and shows how this essential part of the field has developed. The work of community foundations support organisations is described and there is a focus on two important areas – what they did differently following the outbreak of Covid-19, and how they are supporting the field in respect of embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Conclusions are drawn from the analysis of the field which will inform ECFI's work which aims to strengthen and promote the community foundation movement in Europe.

# OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FIELD IN EUROPE

**The community foundation field in Europe is characterised by rich diversity in the form and functions of organisations.**

The community foundation field in Europe is characterised by rich diversity in the form and functions of organisations. Rather than being constrained by specific institutional form or definition we adopt an inclusive approach which relates to common characteristics – notably their focus on

- geographical areas;
- broadly defined missions;
- independence;
- relationship with people in the community in their governance and work;
- intention to generate and utilise a range of financial and other resources;
- provision of financial and other support.

In short, community foundations harness time, talent and treasure, and with their knowledge of the locality and their connections, put these assets to use to make a difference to people's lives. Our analysis captures those foundations, identified by support organisations in respective countries, which adhere to the above-mentioned characteristics.

The number of community foundations in Europe identified in our survey increased from 798 in 2018 to 875 in 2020 in 23 countries, with at least 28 in development.

There has been notable real growth in Italy, Romania and Russia which together saw 20 new community foundations become operational. A further four were established in Belgium, Germany, and Czechia.

CFSOs reported 28 community foundations in the process of establishment and new initiatives in countries where there are no or very few community foundations e.g. Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia, and Spain, should contribute further to growth of the field. In Denmark, Portugal and Norway local / area-based community philanthropy organisations exist, but further discussion around criteria and conformity with characteristics is required.

Five countries reported a fall in the number of community foundations. Between Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine there was a reduction of 13 since 2018. A variety of factors (largely financial unsustainability but also governance and leadership issues and contextual changes) led to the closure of these organisations.

The remainder of the growth in the total number between 2018 and 2020 arises from the higher figure reported in Netherlands. With responsibility for support for the field transferring from Lokale Fondsen to LSA Bewoners a renewed assessment of the field led to the inclusion of an additional 70 organisations which were considered to adhere to the characteristics of a community foundation.

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS BY COUNTRY IN EUROPE 2018 – 2020.

Country	Year of establishment of first community foundation	Number of operational community foundations in 2018	Number of operational community foundations 2020	Number of community foundations in process of being established
Belgium	2001	3	4	1
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2003	2	2	0
Bulgaria	2002	13	13	0
Croatia	2000	6	5	0
Czechia	1997	4	5	0
France	1997	57	57	0
Germany	1996	408	410	0
Hungary	2011	4	2	0
Ireland	2000	1	1	0
Italy	1999	37	44	8
Latvia	2003	9	8	0
Lithuania	2002	2	2	0
Netherlands	2004	35	105	4

Country	Year of establishment of first community foundation	Number of operational community foundations in 2018	Number of operational community foundations 2020	Number of community foundations in process of being established
Rep of North Macedonia	2008	1	1	0
Poland	1997	27	22	0
Romania	2008	16	19	3
Russia	1998	70	80	5
Serbia	2013	3	3	4
Slovakia	1994	8	8	0
Spain	2000	8	8	0
Turkey	2003	1	1	0
Ukraine	1995	33	29	3
United Kingdom	1975	46	46	0

## CURRENT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FIELD

It is not surprising that the direct and indirect effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have significantly impacted on the work of community foundations. This ranged from transforming operations (most notably with home working and the shift to digital), adapting existing programmes, continuing to support existing grantees / projects, acting

quickly in response to new needs, considering recovery and building resilience. Meanwhile the second primary issue is the perennial challenge of organisational sustainability and effectiveness, but now in the context of an economic crisis combined with donor fatigue and, in particular, the need to re-think approaches to fundraising.

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» *"The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly affected the work of existing and emerging community foundations. They had to completely change their approaches to meaningfully implement their activities, engage their volunteers and access their donors. If there was one thing that we learned from this pandemic is that community foundations are now more needed than ever, given that they were prompt to respond and support those in need, and were much more agile in their operations which was not the case with institutions and other stakeholders who were constrained by their due diligence and grantmaking procedures. Community foundations showed flexibility and acted both as grantmakers and those offering direct support to the beneficiaries in medical, educational and social services. The economic crisis will certainly affect their ability to raise funds within the community, at least to the levels that were available before, but they remain active in mobilizing what's at hand - including volunteers, material and non-material resources and effective community-led initiatives, thus remaining active and working to position themselves as one of the key actors in building community resilience and strengthening the leadership role in their surroundings."*

Serbia / Trag Foundation

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» *"Community foundations have various obstacles, and these depend on their communities and leadership. But a common threat, in the first half of 2020, was the financial stability of their organisation, since their programmes took a forced break due to the pandemic; and redesigning the programmes for the new conditions of social distancing."*

Romania / Association for Community Relations

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In addition to this, community foundations are interested in questions that are either operation-oriented or topic-oriented:

### Operation-oriented:

- Digitalisation and online community mobilisation
- Social entrepreneurship and cooperation with business
- Governance
- New programme development
- Local philanthropy / community foundation leadership in civil society
- Development of community foundations

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» *"The pandemic stopped planned learning activities in 2020, which were very important because network members had not met in face for more than two years and this was missing very much for mutual trust and belief in growth."*

Latvia / Community Foundation Movement in Latvia

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» *"As one of only 2 CFs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tuzla Community Foundation, presently cooperates with several initiatives in Western Balkan region that promote community philanthropy and the CF model in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We hope to see more CFs established in 2021 to discuss approaches in dealing with common issues that many local communities share, such as the high rates of unemployment, environment issues, especially air pollution, brain drain and especially youth leaving the country in search of better education and jobs."*

Bosnia & Herzegovina / Tuzla Community Foundation

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### Topic-oriented:

- Connecting local action to SDGs with specific interest in environment and climate change
- Local health and education systems / expanding access to health and education services
- Empowerment of women
- Youth / elderly
- Education
- Fostering arts and culture activities
- Building resilience

---

» *"At the moment, Romanian community foundations are talking about increasing the resilience of their organisations and communities, given the latest pandemic. This resilience encapsulated different issues: financial security, long-term partnerships that can offer stability and predictability; adapting their programme to the current landscape, means of being creative and engaging with their community for better understanding their needs, given the current situation."*

Romania / Association for Community Relations

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## COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS RESPONSES TO COVID 19

Almost all support organisations (96%) that responded to the survey, indicated that community foundations implemented specific projects / activities in response to Covid-19. Half of them established specific Covid-19 funds.

Country	Number of community foundation Covid-19 funds	Covid-19 funds distributed (by Sept 2020) (€)
Belgium	2	1,500,000
Bulgaria	3	20,000
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	36,000
Germany	140	2,751,000
Hungary	1	6,000
Ireland	1	8,500,000
Italy	40	70,500,000
Romania	17	1,700,000
Slovakia	1	8,000
UK	46	111,000,000
Ukraine	7	700,000

The value of the commitment of local community foundations cannot be measured in the total value of funds alone, but in flexible, quick, creative activities, ideas, spontaneous solutions, and many hours of volunteering.

» *“Community foundations were active providing food and basic things for the most needy in their communities. They also made general purpose grants to local NGOs to keep them running and supported hospitals and doctors with volunteer work.”*

Hungary / Roots and Wings Foundation

- 
- » *“Many of CFs in Germany are working hard to counter the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and to strengthen social cohesion despite the restrictions of social distancing, something that has been particularly difficult for community foundations dependent on volunteers.”*

Germany / Alliance for Community Foundations

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The actions of community foundations in response to Covid-19 did not come without core organisational cost and the issue of how these costs were covered was contentious. In addition, it did take a toll on organisations – stretching people physically and mentally to their limits.

There were however positive spin-offs through increased visibility and demonstration of the connection that community foundations have with their locality and the added value they offer.

- 
- » *“The community foundation for West Flanders multiplied its annual grant by four during the Covid-19 crisis in a unique partnership between regional government and local donors, putting the community foundation on top of all private actors to be active in supporting disadvantaged groups during the crisis.”*

Belgium / Community Foundation West Flanders

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Furthermore, the experience of 2020 has altered thinking and strategies.

- 
- » *“When the pandemic came, the NCF quickly became very clear how important was building of trust and networking in the community within the last 18 years and how important is to sustain them during the crisis time. It was shown, the years-long building of trust with the local donors can help to provide a partial security of financial resources. Therefore, we see that the donations agreed before the pandemic are not so endangered. But we expect that the main economic consequences of the pandemic Covid-19 will become visible by the end of the year 2020 and during the next two years 2021-2022. Community foundations will try to keep financial donations diversified. They have to be much more focussed on the community needs and reflect carefully what the community expects from its programmes within pandemic time and should be more oriented in building of social capital and use for mutual help in the community.”*

Slovakia / Association of Community Foundations in Slovakia

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A number of specific challenges relating to the organisational sustainability of community foundations were cited:

- Community foundation leadership change
- Changing regulations around philanthropy and tax
- Political corruption and growing social divisions in the country, increased radicalisation with impact on local giving
- Human resources (staffing and volunteers)
- Core funding
- Good governance and board development (noting diversity, equity and inclusion)
- Fundraising and realising untapped potential

» *“Fondazione di Comunità della Val di Noto is meeting the challenge of doubling the initial endowment of €2.5m given by Fondazione Con Il Sud, piloting an intersectional strategy between social economy, responsible tourism and support to civil society organisations.”*  
Italy / Assifero

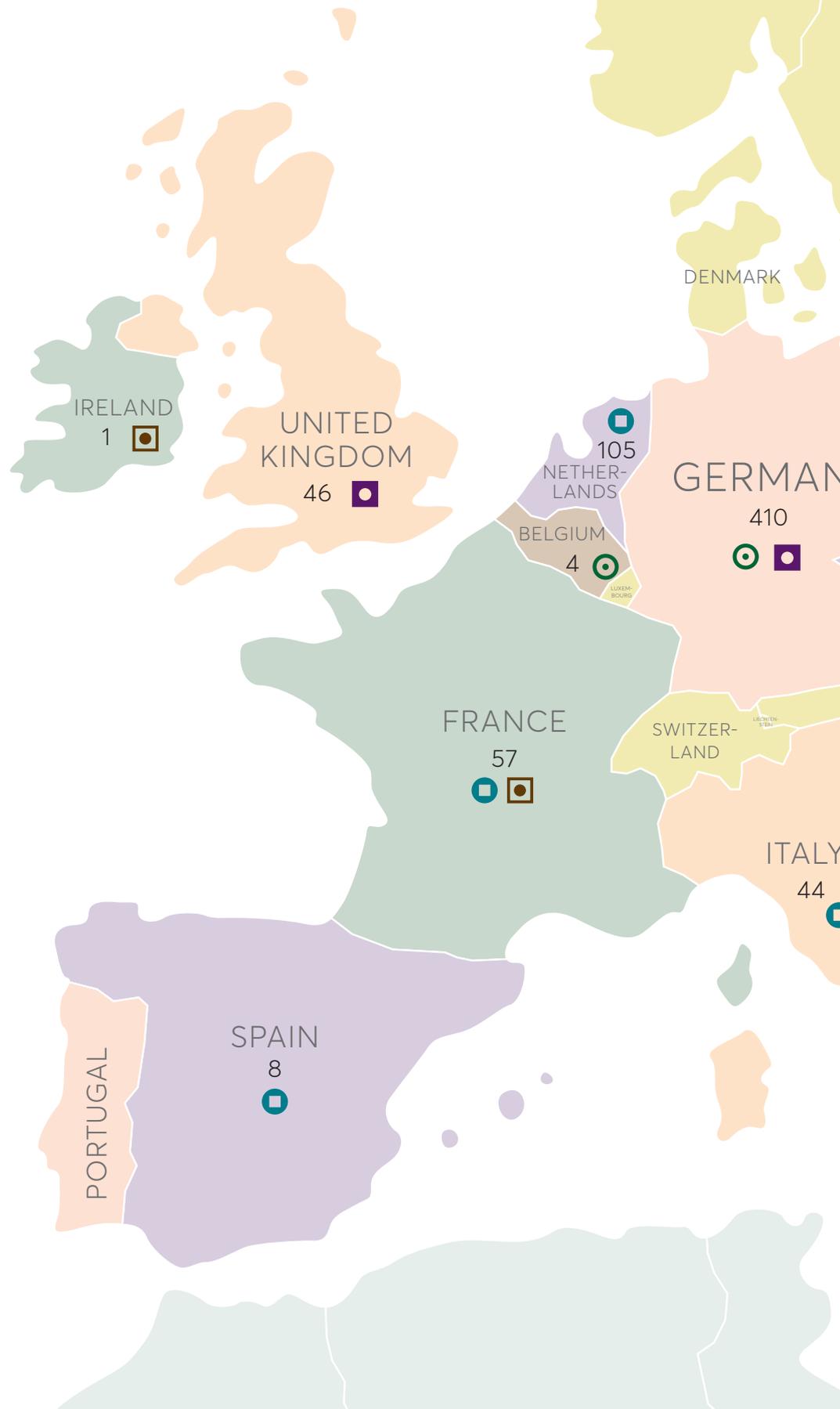
» *“Bucharest Community Foundation has an amazing story with its Earthquake Fund, Tara Fagarasului Community Foundation works on a fund that will engage Romanians that are living abroad, Iasi Community Foundation has a unique fundraising event dedicated to local educational initiatives. Timisoara Community Foundation works on a programme that aims to increase local resilience.”*  
Romania / Association of Community Relations



Visual harvest from discussion with CFs and CFSO, April 2020

ICELAND

## MAP OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FIELD IN EUROPE



Source:  
ECFI Survey 2020 on national support  
organizations or National CF champions



# OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**According to our 2020 survey there are 30 support organisations operating in 25 countries in Europe, showing growth in the support field since 2018.**

In addition, there are four community foundations, which have a lead role nationally. Associations in Albania, Austria, and Spain have each taken on new responsibilities in relation to the development of community foundations in their countries, the Centre for Strategic Research and Development is leading on a feasibility study and pilot in Georgia, and the Trag Foundation has embarked on a development initiative in the Western Balkans. Community foundation support organisations in Europe are working in various forms and intensities to develop community foundations as a local form of civic engagement and philanthropy. The 'support ecosystem' for community foundations in Europe comprises 30 organisations and foundations active in the field that can roughly be categorised in two different groups: ones that are only dedicated to community foundations and those that see community foundations as important players in their whole range of activities in the field of philanthropy and civil society. This includes membership-based associations, and support initiatives with a specific focus on community philanthropy. In some countries there are both types with complementary roles i.e. national support organisations and specific community foundation networks / initiatives

that offer support to community foundations (Germany, Romania, Russia).

From conversations with the field we see further interest in Denmark, Portugal and Norway where individuals, other foundations or associations are looking for answers to questions around local philanthropy in their national context.

While there has generally been stability and indeed growth of the support infrastructure there have been some changes. In Netherlands, the responsibility to support the field transferred from Lokale Fondsen to LSA Bewoners. LSA Bewoners, an association for community-led organisations reaches a broader constituency and intends to offer support and build a national network.

## Forms of organisation

There are various forms of organisation, some of which did not always have a role supporting community foundations. They are presented by category below with the year of establishment or year they started to work with community foundations in brackets.

## Membership organisations

(dedicated to community foundations) (8)

- Czechia, **Czech Association of Community Foundations** (established in 2006)
  - Germany, **Alliance of Community Foundations in Germany** (established in 2001)
  - Latvia, **Community Foundation Movement in Latvia** (established in 2006)
  - Poland, **Federation of Polish Community Foundations** (established in 2008)
  - Romania, **Romanian Federation of Community Foundations** (established in 2012)
  - Russia, **Association Partnership of Community Foundations** (established in 2003)
  - Slovakia, **Association of Community Foundations in Slovakia** (established in 2003)
  - United Kingdom, **UKCF** (established in 1991)
- 

## Wider foundation / CSO membership organisations

(with an interest in community foundations) (6)

- Austria, **Association of Charitable Foundations** (started activities in the CF field in 2020)
  - France, **French Foundation Center** (started activities in the CF field in 2002)
  - Italy, **Assifero** (started activities in the CF field in 2003)
  - Netherlands, **LSA Bewoners** (started activities in the CF field in 2020)
  - Spain, **Spanish Association of Foundations** (established in 2003 and started activities in the field in 2020)
  - Turkey, **Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (Tusev)** (established in 1993)
- 

## Support initiatives for community foundations in other organisations

(11)

- Albania, **Partners Albania** (established in 2001 and started activities in the CF field in 2020)
- Belgium, **King Baudoin Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 1999)
- Bulgaria, **Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 2001)
- Georgia, **The Center of Strategic Research and Development of Georgia** (started activities in the field in 2020)
- Germany, **Foundation Active Citizenship** (established in 1997)
- Hungary, **Roots and Wings Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 2014)
- Poland, **The Academy for the development of Philanthropy in Poland** (established in 1998)
- Romania, **Association for Community Relations (ARC)** (started activities in the CF field in 2009)
- Russia, **Charities Aid Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 1998)
- Serbia, **Trag Foundation** (started activities in the CF field in 2011)
- Ukraine, **The Initiative Center to Support Social Action (ISAR) Ednannia** (started activities in the CF field in 2009)

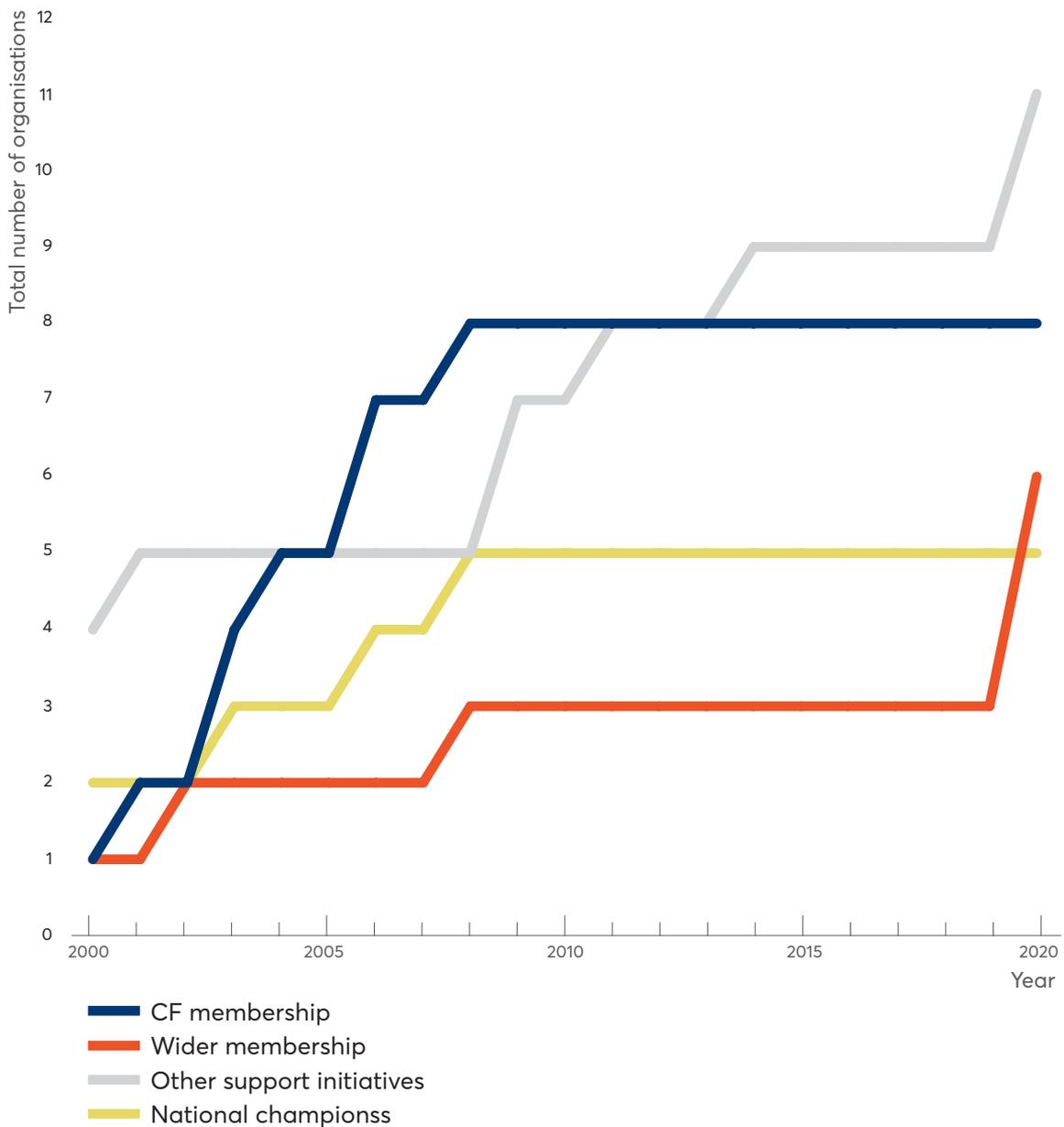
## Community foundations with a lead role nationally

(5)

- Bosnia & Herzegovina, **Tuzla Community Foundation** (established in 2003)
  - Croatia, **Community Foundation Slagalica** (established in 2008)
  - France, **Fondation de France** (established in 1969)
- Ireland, **Community Foundation for Ireland** (established in 2000)
  - Republic of North Macedonia, **Local Community Development Foundation** (established in 2006)

## Development of the community foundation support infrastructure in Europe

Year CFSO established or commenced work with CFs (since 2000 by type)



# THE WORK OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Community foundation support organisations (CFSOs), though varying in scope, structure, experience and focus, offer similar activities to advance and support community foundations through a range of actions.



## **CAPABILITY** - Building skills, knowledge and expertise

Most CFSOs (88% of survey respondents) help with building skills, knowledge and expertise through facilitating peer learning and providing training, advice and guidance in relation to community foundation establishment, operation and practice. Common topics are leadership and governance, financial management, grantmaking, communications, fundraising, evaluation and impact measurement.

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» *“We involve different experts in working with the community foundations on topics such as endowment building, communication, grantmaking, community mapping, GDPR alignment, etc.”*

Romania / Federation of Community Foundations

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» *“One of the main challenges has been digitalisation, so we have developed a series of webinars, toolkits and a support forum to help community foundations build capability in this field. Some of the other challenges, like fundraising, will be addressed with other formats.”*

Germany / Active Citizenship

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## CAPACITY - Building Resources

Almost 2/3 of CFSOs offer activities to start or otherwise support the growth of community foundations with almost half providing additional financial support (both general support and for grantmaking). The majority of those CFSOs that give financial support are located in Eastern Europe. Support organisations have helped local fundraising activities through, for example, their endorsement and / or securing matched funding.

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» *"We conduct educational activities aimed at peer-to-peer learning within the network of community foundations, provide grants for the development of IT and other tools that would make their operations easier and more efficient."*

Ukraine / Ednannia

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» *"CAF provides support for organising giving circles and #GivingTuesday charity events, holds workshops on evaluation and impact measurement and supports the development of social passports of communities."*

Russia / CAF

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In the UK, UKCF acts on behalf of its 46 members to secure partnership arrangements and contracts to distribute funds / implement programmes, the most significant recent one being with the National Emergencies Trust which was responsible for managing a national Covid-19 appeal.

Finally, support organisations also play an important role in supporting the development of human resources (staff, volunteers and board members) in community foundations.



## CREDIBILITY - Building reputation, recognition and influence

A majority of CFSOs (85%) offer support to the field with advocacy activities for community foundations. Making the case for community foundations at national and European levels and helping in establishing a favourable operating environment are important for the development of the field.

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» *“Assifero is part of ASviS (National Alliance for Sustainable Development), of Ariadne (Funders for Social Change and Human Rights), ECFI and Dafne (Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe). We are also a partner in national projects aimed at tackling on educational inequalities”*

Italy / Assifero

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Gathering and publishing information about community foundations and their impact, and articulating a collective voice as well as amplifying that of individual community foundations, is an important role in ensuring recognition of the work of community foundations.

In the UK the Quality Accreditation initiative not only raises standards but helps build the reputation of the field which has been essential to secure national partnerships and contracts for the administration of funds.



## CONNECTION - Building relations

Building networks and relations is one of the core functions of CFSOs especially those that are membership organisations dedicated to community foundations or with an interest in community foundations.

The importance of connecting within the field and between the community foundation field and other stakeholders was particularly evident during the Covid-19 crisis. The community foundation movement was galvanised nationally and internationally through productive exchange of knowledge and experience as it reacted to the changing working environment and needs, and prepared for its role. New relationships were established with local and national bodies, funders, CSOs, and the public. In some countries CFSOs were heavily involved in the development of platforms connecting donors to projects.

While recognising that connections have traditionally been through physical meetings there were some positive lessons learnt and new relationships established through digital media.

Furthermore, by connecting across Europe there has been a greater sense of solidarity within the community foundation support field and with others in the philanthropy support ecosystem.

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» *“As the national association for community-led organisations in the Netherlands we firstly want to build connections among grass root organisations, we want to help with knowledge exchange, organise activities and events that help building a group.”*

Netherlands / LSA Bewoners

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# LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL GOOD



## SPOTLIGHT ON SDGs

This relatively new topic / activity has entered the field of local philanthropy and with this, the field of support. While there is general interest, only just over half of support organisations are actively involved in work in this area. The reasons for reluctance towards the idea of promoting an understanding of SDGs among community foundations in their country primarily relate to resources and capacities, and some do not see this as being of significance for them.

A few however, for example Partners Albania, Assifero in Italy, the Alliance in Germany, and UKCF in UK, have cited work in relation to the SDGs as a strategic priority.

To date five CFSOs have engaged with ECFI in the delivery of workshops which aim to help community foundations think about why and how they could embrace the SDGs. Some CFSOs that promote the understanding of CFs are themselves involved in initiatives, networks, programmes and projects that focus on issues related to SDGs - Assifero is a member of ASviS, the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, the Trag Foundation serves as the secretariat for the UN Global Compact in Serbia, Tusev is involved with IMPACT 2030 which seeks to build a national impact council with a view to fostering gender equality through employee volunteering.

## CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL – WHAT CFSOs DID DIFFERENTLY

Most CFSOs, though varying in scope, structure, experience and capability reacted quickly to support the field through a variety of actions. Only 23% respondents did not offer additional activities to support community foundations following the outbreak of Covid-19.

Of the 77% of CFSOs that quickly adapted activities and their own organisational approaches, most offered on-line discussion and peer learning (in particular around fundraising), and provided guidance and resources. A quarter helped develop platforms to connect donors with civil society organisations.

Dialogue and conversations also played the most important role (60%) and CFSOs have sought to draw on the lessons from the experience.

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» *“This is not the time for self-celebration, rather the one for social imagination and radical reflection on the world we want to build and which role as CFSOs we want to play. The challenge is to embed some of the changes ignited and enforced by the crisis into continuous processes.”*

Italy / Assifero

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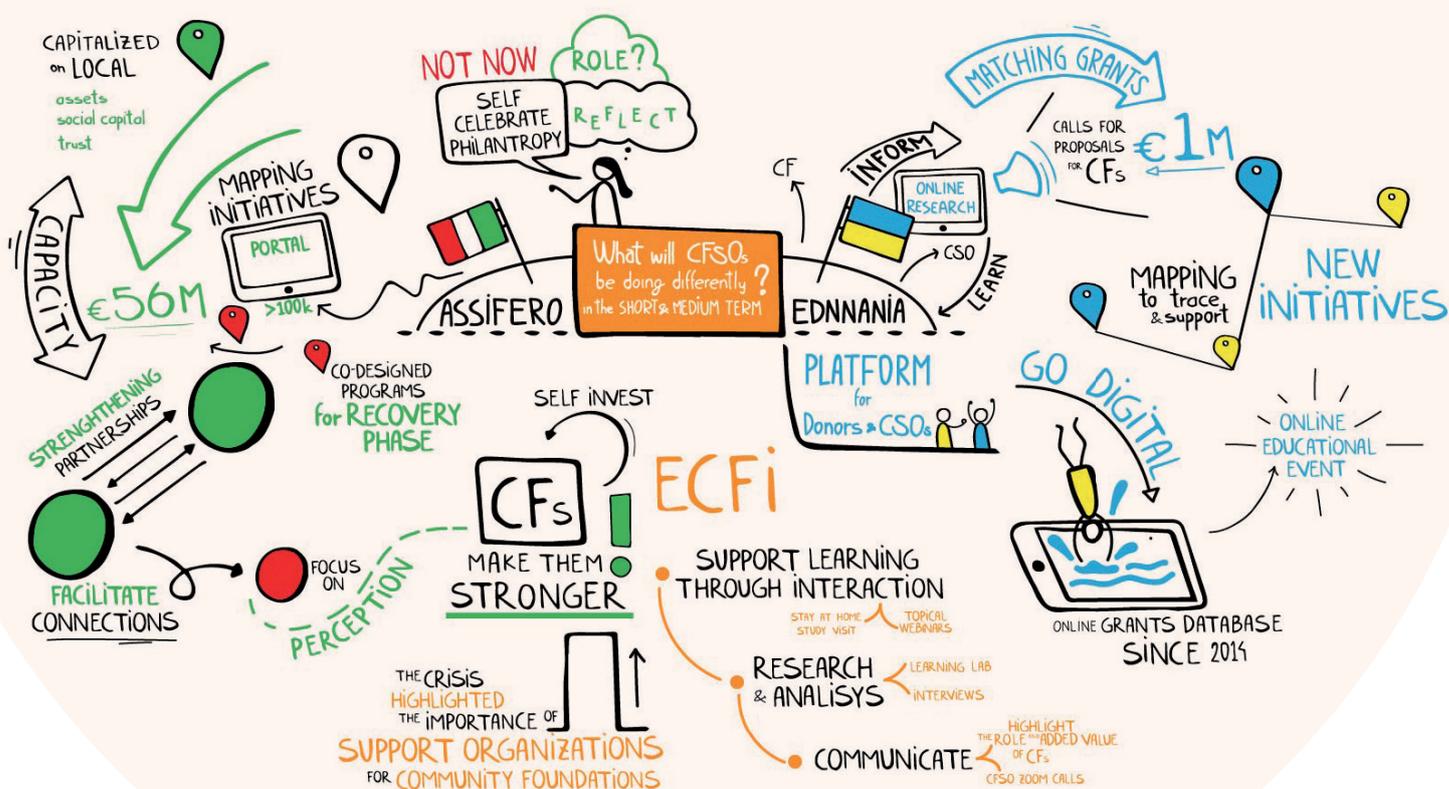
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» *“We offered support around legal and management questions, providing tailored support around the digitalisation of work (e.g. a series of webinars “digital community foundation” on how to conduct online board meetings, how to raise funds online, how to work together remotely), sharing stories and examples among community foundations and with the media, lobbying for better legal conditions in the crisis (e.g. for legal security when conducting board meetings online or raising funds around Covid-19).”*

Germany / Active Citizenship

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Visual harvest from discussion with CFSOs, May 2020



There were three countries (Romania, Italy and UK) where CFSOs played an important role to distribute government funds and other donations directly to community foundations to help at the local level. UKCF as the support organisation in UK stands out in this context with the distribution of some €75m from the National Emergencies Trust through its network of 46 community foundations. (CFs in the UK distributed in total €110m).

» "Within a few months we had secured £65m in funding for our members from the National Emergencies Trust and government. Those funds provided essential support in the quickest way possible for vulnerable groups affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This has enabled community foundations in the UK to raise their profile and capitalise on existing donor relations as well as prospective ones."

UK / UKCF

## CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR ECFI'S WORK

There is evidence from the survey that ECFI's role in supporting the field through its activities helped CFSOs to change their work, thinking, and relationships with others. As an initiative supporting CFs and CFSOs, ECFI had to respond quickly to the challenge of stopping all physical meetings from March 2020. All activities were moved online and operations restructured to keep the field highly connected.

The revision of activities was informed by a series of online conversations with the field and other philanthropy support organisations about how the pandemic was impacting on the work of CFs and CFSOs.

From 26 respondents 20 CFSO and national champions (77%) indicated that their participation in ECFI activities had led to a change in their work.

Serbia / Trag Foundation

*"Participation in these activities helped us model our programme, adapt it to various contexts and identify relevant partners and peer support for community foundation movement building in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina that we are currently implementing with the support of CS Mott Foundation & Porticus Foundation."*

Ukraine / Ednannia

*"Participation in such events brings a European perspective and shows existing possibilities that were not visible before. The experience of other support organisations is crucial for further development of the field of community foundations in Ukraine."*

The impact of Covid-19 has influenced the nature of issues that CFSOs are interested in and around which they would welcome knowledge exchange – these include:

- Tools to make online meetings/events interactive and engaging
- How to keep community foundations involved in joint activities even with no money
- Work in remote and rural communities
- Community giving in crises
- Fundraising (in particular online giving)
- Supporting members to find solutions to programme re-alignment and financial stability

Besides these questions that require a rapid response and support, CFSOs see a need to discuss further questions that will help to stabilise the role of community foundations in the medium and long-term and to give them a stronger and more sustainable future, including:

- Non grantmaking roles of community foundations (community leadership, abilities to respond to urgent, current community challenges)
- Strategic partnerships and coalitions between CFs and CFSOs and / or bigger foundations and / or other actors to strengthen the community philanthropic movement
- Increasing financial capacity and sustainability of community foundations

Romania / Arc

*"How can we help community foundations to be effective in changed circumstances in terms of community mobilisation and engagement, especially since public gatherings and face-to-face events are not recommended and most of the activities need to be conducted online? How can foundation support initiatives be implemented in a safe way? How can they fundraise in times of economic crisis? How to attract entrepreneurs (SMEs, companies) to engage with the community foundations (on more than just the financial level) given that most of them are currently focused on keeping their core businesses afloat and might not have sufficient resources to dedicate to community development?"*

With regard to specific topics, CFSOs have an interest in peer learning and discussions and activities around:

- Peer learning activities and workshops aimed at implementing SDGs in the community (specifically racial equality, environment, youth were mentioned)
- New governance models
- Fundraising through e.g. diaspora giving, participatory grantmaking
- Building a shared narrative on community foundations in Europe and their impact at local level.

# ANNEX

## Community foundation support organisations and national champions in Europe

Below are listed community foundation support organisations and national champions in Europe with links to their websites. Summary information on each can be found in [ECFIs Atlas for Community Foundation Support Organisations in Europe](#). 

ALBANIA - [Partners Albania](#)  
 AUSTRIA - [Association of Charitable Foundations](#)  
 BELGIUM - [King Baudouin Foundation](#)  
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - [Tuzla Community Foundation](#)  
 BULGARIA - [Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation](#)  
 CZECHIA - [Czech Association of Community Foundations](#)  
 CROATIA - [Community Foundation Slagalica](#)  
 FRANCE - [French Foundation Center](#); [Fondation de France](#)  
 GEORGIA - [Center of Strategic Research and Development of Georgia](#)  
 GERMANY - [Alliance of Community Foundations in Germany](#); [Foundation Active Citizenship](#)  
 HUNGARY - [Roots and Wings Foundation](#)  
 IRELAND - [Community Foundation for Ireland](#)  
 ITALY - [Assifero](#)  
 LATVIA - [Community Foundation Movement in Latvia](#)  
 NETHERLANDS - [LSA Bewoners](#)  
 NORTH MACEDONIA - [Local Community Development Foundation Stip](#)  
 POLAND - [The Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland](#); [Federation of Community Foundations in Poland](#)  
 ROMANIA - [Association for Community Relations](#); [Romanian Federation of Community Foundations](#)  
 RUSSIA - [Charities Aid Foundation Russia](#); [Partnership of Community Foundations Associations](#)  
 SERBIA - [Trag Foundation](#)  
 SLOVAKIA - [Association of Community Foundations in Slovakia](#)  
 SPAIN - [Spanish Association of Foundations \(AEF\)](#)  
 TURKEY - [Third Sector Foundation of Turkey](#)  
 UKRAINE - [Initiative Center to Support Social Action Ednannia](#)  
 UNITED KINGDOM - [UK Community Foundations](#)

# ABOUT ECFI – EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

The European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) is a collaborative initiative committed to strengthening and promoting the community foundation movement in Europe. ECFI is hosted by the German Association of Foundations (Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen) and is run in partnership with the Centre for Philanthropy (Centrum pre filantropiu) in Slovakia. ECFI works with community foundations (CFs) and community foundation support organisations (CFSOs) primarily through facilitating and stimulating interactions to enable learning, knowledge-building and empowerment. ECFI is also engaged in the mapping and analysis of CF activities and in disseminating information that will facilitate development of the field. ECFI strives to be a central point of contact for wider engagement within the global community foundation movement.

## ECFI's THEORY OF CHANGE

ECFI believes that community foundations have an important role to play by building and utilising resources; convening and connecting people and organisations; and adding value through local knowledge and expertise - which will lead to long-term change in local communities in relation to building trust and collaboration; enhancing the potential for self-determination and empowerment; and achieving social cohesion. We therefore see a need for ECFI to highlight and promote the value added by community foundations in Europe; to provide opportunities for learning and connecting; and to further develop facilitator and leadership roles, which will result in leverage of physical, financial and human resources.

## ECFI's STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- facilitate interaction and learning, sharing new knowledge and fostering collaboration among CFSOs in Europe to strengthen the support infrastructure
- inspire and facilitate growth in the CF field in Europe
- stimulate CFs in Europe to exercise their community leadership role and collaborate on pressing issues, including inequality, migration and climate change
- build and share knowledge about the CF field in Europe
- leverage financial resources and other support for the development of the CF field in Europe
- increase awareness and understanding of the SDGs and their relevance to the work of community foundations in Europe

## ECFI SUPPORTS CFS AND CFSOS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIELD BY:

- offering capability building through a variety of individual and organisational development activities;
- undertaking research and analysis of the field;
- building relationships and sharing knowledge and information about community foundations and their work.

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