

Network of European Foundations (NEF)

Working across borders in a pragmatic way

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Context

Foundations

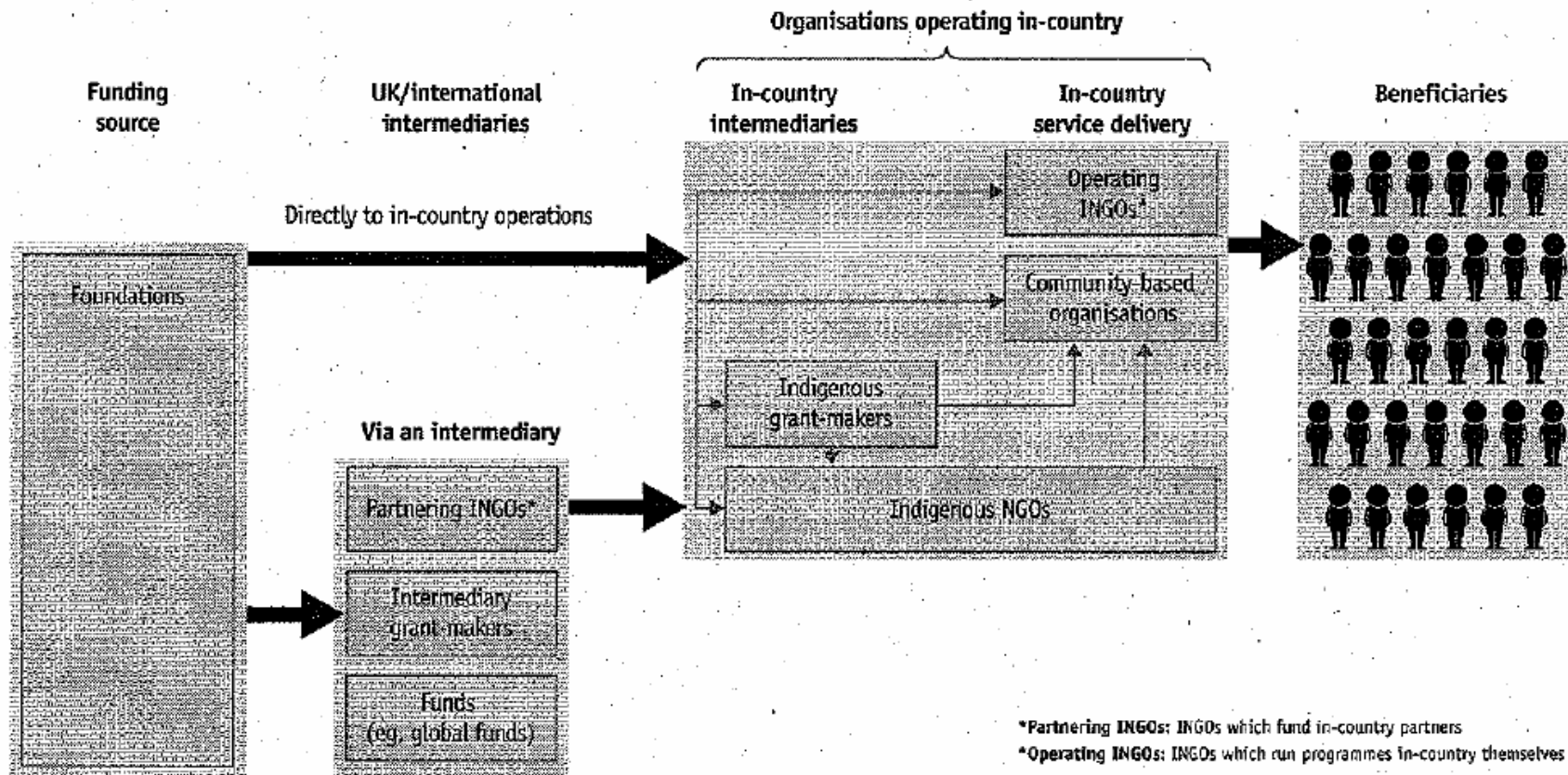
- See themselves as national rather than as European actors
- Not always convinced of the relevance of the EU to their actions (compared to national governments or IGO's)
- Increased interest/engagement in European role (via EFC, NEF, ...)

EU

- Shift in relations with third sector
- Has difficulty to pinpoint specific role(s) for foundations

Methods of Funding*

Figure 8: Funding routes from UK foundations to destination organisations



*Partnering INGOs: INGOs which fund in-country partners
 *Operating INGOs: INGOs which run programmes in-country themselves

* Going global, June 2007 (New Philanthropy Capital)

Network of European Foundations (NEF)

- **Mission:**
 - a) To act as an operational platform to develop projects between foundations and other types of organised philanthropy and other giving programs
 - b) To develop programs related to Europe and the role of Europe on the global stage
 - c) To give a European perspective and opportunities for European experience to regional/local initiatives
- **Paradox:
open and closed structure!**
- **13 members**
- **More than 60 foundations involved**

Members:



Robert Bosch **Stiftung**



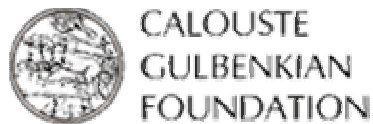
Bernard van Leer  *Foundation*



Charles Stewart Mott Foundation



ERSTE Stiftung



Charities Aid Foundation





NEF

Cases:

- **European Programme for Integration and Migration**
- **European Citizens' Consultations / European-wide Deliberative Poll / European Citizens' Panels / European Citizens' Deliberation on Brain Science**
- **European Fund for the Balkans**



European Programme for Integration and Migration

Objectives

- Encouraging broader commitment to the development of integration policies at EU level and promoting linking of these policies to Member States
- Engaging stakeholders in this process

Activities

- Series of national seminars
- Grants programme for EU and national civil society organisations



European Programme for Integration and Migration

Duration

- 2005-2007, 2nd phase 2008-2010

Partner foundations

- Atlantic Philanthropies, Bernard van Leer Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, European Cultural Foundation, Fondation Bernheim, Freudenberg Stiftung, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, King Baudouin Foundation, Mother and Child Education Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Network of European Foundations

Budget

- 640.000 € (2006-2007)



European Citizens' Consultations on the future of Europe

Objectives

- **Reconnect citizens to the development of the EU (cfr. Plan D)**
- **Develop a participative governance tool for decision-makers**
- **Identify citizens' expectations and ideas for Europe's future**



European Citizens' Consultations on the future of Europe

Activities:

- **European Agenda Setting Event**
- **27 national interlinked citizens' consultations**
- **Final event and hand-over of report to decision-makers**
- **Follow-up events at national and EU level**



European Citizens' Consultations on the future of Europe

Duration:

- 2006-2007

Partner foundations:

- At EU level: King Baudouin Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian
- Network of European Foundations



European Citizens' Consultations on the future of Europe

Partners

- **At national level:**
Barrow Cadbury Trust, Bodossaki Foundation, Carnegie UK Trust, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, European Cultural Foundation, Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer, Fondation de France, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, Leventis Foundation, Fundacion Luis Vives, Onassis Foundation, Open Estonia Foundation, Open Society Institute Bulgaria, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Svenska Kulturfonden

Budget

- **3.6 mio € (50% EC)**



European Citizens' Consultations on the future of Europe

Similar projects:

- **Meeting of Minds, the European Citizens' Deliberation on Brain Science (2004-2006): King Baudouin Foundation, support DG Research**
- **European Citizens' Panels on the Future of Rural Areas in Europe (2006-2007): Fondation pour les Générations Futures, support DG EAC**
- **European-Wide Deliberative Poll (2008-2009): Compagnia di San Paolo**



European Fund for the Balkans

Objectives:

- To encourage commitment to European integration of Western Balkan societies
- To support the process of Member-state building, by building constituencies who are offered an opportunity to experience and learn about Europe

Activities (to be confirmed):

- Grants program
- Fellowship program
- Training program



European Fund for the Balkans

Duration

- 2007-2009 (but built to last)

Partners

- Robert Bosch Stiftung, Compagnia di San Paolo, King Baudouin Foundation, ERSTE Stiftung
- Co-funding by national governments and EU will be sought
- Network of European Foundations (NEF registered in Serbia)

Budget

- 3 mio €



Observations

- **Grantmaking as well as operational activities**
- **Wide range of methods: grants, conferences, fellowships, training programs, forum, advocacy, ...**
- **Foundations as grantseekers at the EC or co-funders of EC-funded projects**
- **Involvement of European organisations of foundations**



Observations

- **Definition of objectives with explicit reference to EU in a wide range of policy areas (research, enlargement, foreign policy and defence, communications, justice and home affairs)**
- **Linking regional/national and EU policies (EPIM, ECC)**
- **Bridge between EU institutions and civil society/citizens (EPIM, ECC, EFB)**



Overall objective: Promoting European integration

- **Promoting the emergence of a European public sphere**
 - **Supporting European civil society**
 - **Supporting involvement of citizens in European debate/policy-making**
- **Supporting constituencies in (future) candidate countries**
- **Connecting national and European policies**
- **Building capacity in EU policy areas**
- **Promoting innovation at EU level (governance, funding, ...)**
- **Supporting future leaders**



Problems

- **Usual suspects**
- **Afraid of EU bureaucracy**
- **No specific role/recognition for foundations in EC calls for projects (project partner vs. co-funder)**
- **No joint grantmaking mechanisms with EC in place**
- **Creation and management of partnerships is time-consuming and costly**
- **Lack of long-term perspectives, scale**



Perspectives

- **EU more relevant for foundations**
 - ✓ operating at national level (OMC)
 - ✓ international level (EU as actor in globalising world)
- **Will European statute for foundations foster collaboration with EU institutions?**