



## **Research project:** *Philanthropy in Europe: a rich past, a promising future*

As the title suggests, philanthropy in Europe is rooted in a rich past and is looking to a promising future. This book, comprising profiles and essays, showcases the diversity of philanthropic impulses, a leitmotif that has fuelled the dynamism of the sector throughout history. This dynamism continues today as it follows – and shapes - the contours of Europe’s evolving social, political and economic fabric.

Throughout history, foundations have played a pivotal role in developing and strengthening European societies. By using a storytelling lens, this book explores how philanthropy has found its place in modern societies in different ways. It also introduces the reader to several thinkers in the field who offer valuable insights into the past, present and future of the sector. The authors take stock of the accomplishments of foundations, and also outline some of the challenges facing the sector - from without and from within. For example, the book makes a strong case for facilitating the sector’s ability to participate effectively within the Single Market by implementing a European foundation statute. The authors also argue for foundations to become more European and more global, while working in closer partnership.

Philanthropy in Europe was launched at the Council on Foundations meeting in Washington DC on 5 May. The European launch will take place at the European Foundation Centre’s (EFC) conference in Istanbul on 29 - 31 May. The book was funded by the Mercator Fund and the King Baudouin Foundation and published by Alliance Publishing Trust (APT).

### **Featured Profiles**

Stefan Batory Foundation, Poland  
Robert Bosch Stiftung, Germany  
Compagnia di San Paolo, Italy  
European Cultural Foundation, Netherlands  
Fondation de France  
Institusjonen Fritt Ord, Norway  
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal  
Impetus Trust, UK

Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Greece  
Sabancı Foundation, Turkey  
Stephan Schmidheiny  
Van Leer Group Foundation, Netherlands  
Wellcome Trust, UK

**Essays - the diverse roles played by European foundations**

The rich history of philanthropy in Turkey: a paradox of tradition and modernity  
Encouraging change: European foundations funding research  
European foundations' support for civil society: a means to an end or an end in itself?  
Foundations and policy influence in Europe Engaged philanthropy and market-based solutions  
The importance of there being a European foundation statute

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