

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS EMBRACING THE SDGs

STORIES FROM ACROSS EUROPE

LOCAL ACTION
FOR GLOBAL
GOOD



EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
INITIATIVE

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Introduction



Community foundations act within defined geographical areas, have a long-term institutional presence, and are dynamic and agile. They can build and leverage not only local financial resources but also physical and human ones. They have a deep and comprehensive knowledge of the locality. They play an essential role in creating and fostering connections and strengthening relationships among people, institutions, Third Sector organisations, the private sector, and many others. In this sense, they are essential players and sometimes leaders that can help drive transformation at the local level.

For these reasons, they are very well positioned to understand and address a complex array of interdependent issues at the local level. They represent a vital catalyst in driving and achieving global aspirations locally.

In particular, they can be a meaningful player in advancing the 2030 Agenda at the local level thanks to their holistic approach and view. Indeed, the Sustainable Development Goals are strongly interdependent and their achievement requires systemic change that entails new ways of collaborating among public and private actors, and the institutions at each level.

This report highlights the stories of four community foundations from four countries - Foundation Scotland (UK), Messina Community Foundation (Italy), Saint Petersburg Community Foundation (Russia), and Hamburg Community Foundation (Germany) - and provides an overview on how these organisations are working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in their communities, always in connection with the global level.



FOUNDATION SCOTLAND

Shifting the investment strategy to deliver both social and environmental impact, aligned with the SDGs, and financial return

In 2019, Foundation Scotland decided to review its investment strategy to align it with its vision, core values and with a new all-organisation framework aimed at fully incorporating the SDGs in its daily work.



THE GOAL

Maximise impact, investing in companies whose products and services deliver a measurable social and environmental impact, while also maximising returns.



THE JOURNEY TOWARDS THE SDGs

In December 2020, the Impact Portfolio was launched, with £15m, in collaboration with EQ Investors, whose investment processes and reporting are guided by the SDGs.

TODAY, ALL DEFAULT FUNDS ARE INVESTED IN THE FOUNDATION SCOTLAND EQ IMPACT FUND PORTFOLIO.

"Our new Impact Portfolio enables us to continue building our assets in a more socially responsible way. Moving away from short term profit objectives to longer-term social impact objectives combined with a financial return is in keeping with our purpose and roots as a community foundation."

Liz Sams, Chief Finance Officer, Foundation Scotland

PORTFOLIO ALIGNMENT WITH THE SDGs

Scanning the portfolio with SDGs X Ray



IMPACT ACHIEVED

£1 million invested in Positive Impact portfolio in 2020:

- Avoided 447 tonnes of CO2 emissions
- Recycled 31 tonnes of waste
- Treated 90 patients
- 361 hours of school, further and adult education

- Provided 185m lt of clean water
- Installed 45KW of renewable energy capacity
- Made 1054 medical interventions
- Generated 225 MWh of renewable energy

MESSINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Sustainable Development at the centre of its policy

MESSINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MISSION IS...

to promote a sustainable human development by encouraging the creation of fruitful interconnections among welfare, cultural, industrial, research and technology systems to design and implement new socio-economic paradigms. The aim is to foster the social capabilities of local communities through the enhancement of social economy, the development of urban regeneration programmes, the attraction of creative and scientific innovators, etc.



TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, BRINGING SYSTEMIC CHANGE BY...

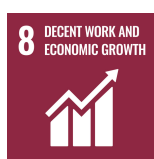
1

Investing in local programmes and supporting the development of an inclusive socioeconomic fabric, capable of generating for the beneficiaries new opportunities in the housing, income and work, social and knowledge dimensions.

2

Supporting individuals and communities, taking inspiration from Amartya Sen's capability approach, aiding them to fully understand and seize such new opportunities, allowing them to maximise their own well-being.

IT PURSUES AND CATALYSES ALL SDGs, WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON



MESSINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

10-YEARS IMPACT

In the past 10 years, the assets of Messina Community Foundation have grown from €500k to €13m and it has set out:



URBAN REGENERATION AND REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

of common goods in several areas in Sicily, aimed at enhancing community social capabilities;



DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY-BASED ECONOMY

supporting 120 companies and micro-enterprises in the renewable energy, technological, design and fashion, and food sectors. This effort generated over 400 new job positions (100 involve highly disadvantaged individuals);



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAMMES

aimed at supporting sustainable human development and tackling inequalities, having established permanent collaborations with national and international research institutes;



PERSONALISED SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES,

involving over 700 individuals coming from a deprived material and cultural background;



HIGH QUALITY CULTURAL PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMMES,

attracting external creative and scientific talents and developing local ones, engaging thousands of students and children.

SAINT PETERSBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Integrating and achieving the SDGs while leading
the conversation at the local level

SAINT PETERSBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MISSION IS...

to work with and for the citizens, business and Third Sector organisations in Russia, catalysing and addressing resources to **solve the current pressing social, environmental, cultural issues and achieving the sustainable development of its community.**

Among others, it deploys programmes addressed to **elder and younger generations** and **engage with individuals in Saint Petersburg** to stimulate their active participation within the community to achieve common good.

INTEGRATING THE SDGs WITHIN THE ORGANISATION

In 2019, Saint Petersburg Community Foundation started internal strategic thinking on how the SDGs were intersecting with its work, how they could be relevant for them and how to embrace them.

This led to the development of SDGs policy that highlights **7 main goals that the community foundation is advancing with its actions:**



THE INTEGRATION OF THE SDGs IN ITS ACTIVITIES



COMMUNICATION

Including the SDGs in its communication activities, like the Annual Report, to raise awareness among the community and with stakeholders about the SDGs and to share advancement of its work in relation to the 2030 Agenda;



INFORM AND TRAIN

Saint Petersburg Community Foundation is driving the conversation on the SDGs among Third Sector organisations and delivering free online courses to further enhance their knowledge of the 2030 Agenda;



INTERNAL OPERATIONS

The community foundation has set internal guidelines and is actively working to reduce its own carbon footprint, by delivering green events, implementing an energy efficiency policy and using responsible suppliers;



PARTNERSHIP AROUND THE SDGs

Establishing long-term SDGs-based partnership with private companies, helping them to advance their CSR programmes and have a more meaningful and wider impact on the community;



MAKING FUNDS AVAILABLE

Saint Petersburg Community Foundation has been addressing resources towards programmes that specifically address one or more SDGs. Recently it has also managed to set an endowment long-term fund supported by several companies, within the 2030 Agenda.

HAMBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Raising awareness on the SDGs to break siloes and enhance collaboration

Hamburg Community Foundation **aims to promote the sustainable development of its community**, by catalysing and addressing financial and non financial resources, developing programmes in collaboration with other stakeholders.

HAMBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION...



SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE

by financing cultural, educational, sports programmes aiming to reduce inequalities;



SUPPORTS PARENTS AND FAMILIES

through funds aiming to end isolation, improve their parenting skills and safeguard their children wellbeing;



BRIDGES THE GENERATIONAL GAP

by encouraging the dialogue and collaboration among different generations;



SUPPORTS IMMIGRANTS ENGAGEMENT

by providing resources to projects carried out by immigrants for immigrants.

ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY, GIVING POWER TO THE YOUNGEST

Since 2019, Hamburg Community Foundation has implemented programmes and projects across the whole community aimed at **tackling climate change in its wider and systemic sense**.

In 2020, it established the **Youth Environment Council**, that enables young people, between 14 and 25, to actively shape the climate and environmental programmes and policies in Hamburg.

THE SDGs AS A SHARED LANGUAGE: A FESTIVAL TO RAISE AWARENESS

The 2021 Foundations Days Festival, organised by Hamburg Community Foundation and Stiftungsbüro Hamburg, focused on the 2030 Agenda to begin meaningful conversations among different actors

LET'S TALK ABOUT TOMORROW..

is the title of the event aimed to embrace the broader meaning of sustainability and frame the SDGs as a matter of generational justice.

Over 100 FOUNDATIONS JOINED,
MORE THAN 80 EVENTS in person and online,
and SEVERAL RAISING AWARENESS PROJECTS like:



AN ONLINE PLATFORM ON THE SDGs

with an accessible and easy-to-understand narrative and collection of existing projects;



A SERIES OF PODCAST

called the Podcast zu Nachhaltigkeit, gathering stories and insights on specific issues related to sustainability;



17 ZIELE MOBIL

a mobile home accessible to anyone to learn more on the SDGs through games, activities and initiatives.

About ECFI

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 creating spaces and opportunities for cross-national dialogues, relationship-building and sharing experiences and practices of CFs and other philanthropy practitioners (on a variety of themes of global and cross-national importance) at various levels will impact the capacity, capability, connections and credibility within the CF movement.

Specifically ECFI will:

- facilitate individual and organisational learning and expertise;
- inspire individuals and organisations to leadership and joint action;
- produce practice-based knowledge;
- empower CFs in dealing with difficult issues in their communities and own development trajectories;
- grow mutual solidarity and strengthen the CF field overall;
- complement face-to-face interactions with virtual spaces and online tools and resources.

ECFI's STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Facilitating interaction and learning, sharing new knowledge and fostering collaboration among CFSOs in Europe to strengthen the support infrastructure;
- Inspiring and facilitating growth in the CF field in Europe;
- Stimulating CFs in Europe to exercise their community leadership role and collaborate on pressing issues, including inequality, migration and climate change;
- Building and sharing knowledge about the CF field in Europe;
- Leveraging financial resources and other support for the development of the CF field in Europe;
- Increasing awareness and understanding of the SDGs and their relevance to the work of community foundations in Europe.

RESOURCES

Foundation Scotland

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/>

Messina Community Foundation

<http://fdcmessina.org/>

Saint Petersburg Community Foundation

<http://dobrygorod.spb.ru/dobry-gorod-petersburg/>

Hamburg Community Foundation

https://www.buergerstiftung-hamburg.de/die_stiftung

<https://www.hamburger-stiftungen.de/>

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