

2nd European Corporate Foundations Knowledge Exchange

ADDRESSING THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UNSPEAKABLE

Date: November 21/22, 2017

Location: Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue, Ruschlikon, Zurich

Organisation: DAFNE & SwissFoundations

Host: Swiss Re Foundation

This 2nd Knowledge Exchange will bring together Corporate Foundations from across Europe in a 'closed space' to share experience and learn about effective practice. You will have the opportunity to engage with other corporate foundations in open and frank discussions about challenging issues – we will seek out and take on the elephant in the room!

The work of corporate foundations is shaped by the relationship they have with their funding corporation which influences their governance, mission, and practice. Following from our first Knowledge Exchange in Fontainebleau in 2016 we will explore in greater depth how this relationship determines how corporate foundations are responding to contemporary challenges and opportunities including maximizing and showing the difference being made; the Sustainable Development Goals, and alternative models/approaches.

We want to thank the **Swiss Re Foundation** very heartily for all the preparations for our stay as well as for the hospitality which we will experience.



TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER

12:00 - 13:30 Arrivals, registration and lunch

13:30 - 13:45 Welcome and outline of conference programme

Angela Marti, Director Swiss Re Foundation
Beate Eckhardt, Executive Director SwissFoundations
Dr James Magowan, Coordinating Director DAFNE

13:45 - 15:15 Opening Plenary

13:45 - 14:00 What a Corporate Foundation means to the company

A corporate perspective reflecting on how corporate foundations are perceived and how they add value to business.

14:00 - 14:30 Foundation responses

Three Corporate Foundations reflect on the relationship between the corporation and the foundation - strengths and success factors.

14:30 - 15:00 Facilitated table discussions on issues arising – including a speed dating of the participants

15:00 - 15:45 Short feedbacks to the audience

15:15 - 15:45 Break

15:45 - 18:00 Session 1: Assets and liabilities

15:45 - 16:00 Managing Corporate Foundations – Does the context matter?

Presentation on the internal and external influences that help or hinder effective work of corporate foundations such as international contexts, impact through collaborations and partnerships, influences of governmental regulations, etc.

Prof. Dr. Georg von Schnurbein, Director of the Center for Philanthropy Studies CEPS at the University of Basel

16:00 - 17:35 The Elephant in the Room

4 moderated breakout sessions to consider big issues often avoided. Participants will rotate and spend 20 minutes on each issue.

Elephant 1 – Are corporate assets and resources such as people, knowhow and money being utilized to their full potential?

Elephant 2 – Does reputational risk inhibit the work of the foundation, when is the funding corporation a liability?

Elephant 3 – How can a corporate foundation contribute to informing strategy and operations of the funding corporation?

Elephant 4 – Does our brand support and/or inhibit us in what we do or who we work with?

17:35 - 18:00 Feedback by the 4 moderators and plenary discussion

18:00 - 19:00 Transfer to the hotels and the evening location downtown Zurich

19:00 - 22:00 Networking Reception and dinner

**Programme
Draft**

**SECOND
DAY**

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

09:00 - 10:30

Session 2: How to engage in a wider framework?

09:00 - 09:15

What do the SDGs mean for Corporate Foundations?

09:15 - 09:30

Corporate Foundations speaking out – challenges in playing an advocacy role

09:30 - 10:30

Parallel discussion groups

A) What do the SDGs mean for Corporate Foundations?

Are we engaged with the SDGs? How can I make them relevant to my work? Is there strategic and operational alignment between the foundation and my funding corporation in respect of the SDGs?

B) Corporate Foundations speaking out – challenges in playing an advocacy role

What does it mean to Corporate Foundations to get involved in a collaborative policy platform such as F20? Do we as Corporate Foundations have a clear vision and strategy on global issues? What is unique to the voice that corporate foundations can bring?

10:30 - 11:00

Break

11:00 - 12:30

Session 3: What can we do next?

11:00 - 11:30

Thinking differently – new approaches to making a difference

The Big Elephant in the room - Is the Corporate Foundation model still relevant?

Amanda Jordan, Chair ACF, Director Corporate Citizenship Baring Foundation

11:30 - 12:00

Roundtable discussions

What are country specific and corporate culture challenges?

What can the national association do to support corporate foundations?

Is there more that can be learnt from international engagement in respect of new approaches?

12:00 - 12:30

Table Feedback and plenary discussion

12:30 - 12:45

Thank you and conference closure

James Magowan, Coordinating Director DAFNE

Beate Eckhardt, Executive Director SwissFoundations

12:45 - 14:00

Lunch and departure

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ORGANISATION INFORMATION

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- Programme:** Regular updates on program and organizational details can be found on:
www.corporate-foundations.eu (Website is online from 3 August 2017)
- Venue:** Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue, Ruschlikon, Zurich:
www.institute.swissre.com/about/the_centre/explore_the_Centre/
Information on how to get there will be shared some weeks before.
- Costs:** €295
- Registration:** The event is exclusively open to European Corporate Foundations. Registrations will be validated by the national associations of foundations or donors which can provide you with the registration password. Please register under the following link:
www.corporate-foundations.eu
- Accommodation:** A selection of recommended hotels can be found on:
www.corporate-foundations.eu

DAFNE

Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe

DAFNE is an informal network gathering donors and foundations associations in Europe with the aim of providing a platform to share knowledge and learn from best practices. With 25 member associations with a collective membership of more than 7,500 foundations and grant-makers, DAFNE underpins individual activities of its members by encouraging dialogue and collaboration between the national associations.

www.dafne-online.eu

SwissFoundations

The voice of Swiss grant-making foundations

Founded in 2001 by eleven foundations, SwissFoundations brings together Swiss grant-making foundations, giving them a strong and independent voice. As an active network dedicated to innovation, SwissFoundations fosters the exchange of experiences, transparency and professionalism in the Swiss foundation sector. SwissFoundations represents more than 25% of the overall annual grants made by charitable foundations in Switzerland.

www.swissfoundations.ch