



Global Fund for Community Foundations - August e-bulletin

News from the Global Fund for Community Foundations

Call for Nominations for GFCF Board The GFCF is currently seeking board members as it moves towards incorporation as an independent entity. As a group, the board will represent all the world's geographic regions in line with the Fund's global mandate and will provide the necessary guidance to see that organization through to maturity

Nominees will possess a commitment to and enthusiasm for the GFCF's vision of community philanthropy / community foundations as mobilizers of social change and development, a track record in working in international environments, experience in institution building, and will bring something tangible to GFCF such as legal or financial expertise, knowledge and experience of community foundations and community philanthropy, private sector knowledge and communication skills.

For further details regarding criteria and a nominations form, click [here](#). For more details about the Global Fund for Community Foundations, please visit our website at www.wings-globalfund.org. The nominations process will be open until August 18th 2008.

News from Global Fund partners

Regional focus: Eastern Europe and Russia Community Foundation Partnership 9th Annual Conference: Togliatti, Russia

The conference, which took place on June 19-21 in Togliatti, brought together 200 people from 12 countries and 20 of Russia's provinces. GFCF scholarship grants to community foundation practitioners from Eastern Europe and Central Asia including Lithuania, Bulgaria, the Kyrgyz Republic and Azerbaijan contributed to the conference's international flavor. The conference also coincided with the 10th Anniversary of Togliatti Community Foundation, Russia's first and largest community foundation and included a session for Youth Bank participants from different countries.

The GFCF used the conference as an opportunity to host a special session as part of its consultation process. The goal of the session, which was attended by 60 people, was to stimulate debate on the role of community foundations in the Eastern Europe/ Central Asia region, particularly when it came to taking the lead on specific issues, either individually or as a group. Participants were encouraged to imagine a situation where their foundation had unlimited unrestricted resources: what would their priorities be? The discussion was rich and wide-ranging, touching on pasture degradation, issues affecting the Roma population and youth migration. Questions of how community foundations negotiate relations with local government, emerging local donor communities and civil society organizations (which are themselves often quite weak) also provoked interesting exchange and there were different perspectives on the ability of community foundations to mobilize as a group and have an impact beyond their immediate communities.

Overall the session reflected an environment in many post-Soviet countries where civil society is still quite weak and not always able to advocate on issues neglected by government, and to which community foundations might respond in terms of their grantmaking. The session was part of an ongoing set of consultation activities supported by the GFCF: a full report will be made available later in the year.

For more details, contact Vadim Samorodov (vadim@wings-globalfund.org).

Little and large - Chris Worman and Simona Serban discuss the diversity of the emerging CF movement in Romania:

Since December 2007, Romania has witnessed the birth of two community foundations; one in Cluj Napoca, a city of 300,000, and another in Odorheiu Secuiesc, population 37,000. Although similar in many ways, the differences between the two are a good illustration of how community foundations evolve to reflect local interests and circumstance.

The two Foundations are developing during a particularly interesting time. A combination of abundant foreign aid in the 1990's, lack of public trust in civil society due to early abuses, and scant NGO communications experience have led to a dependency on foreign aid which even increasingly sophisticated Romanian NGOs are struggling to overcome as foreign donors retreat in the wake of European Union accession.

Community foundations are well suited to supporting quality NGOs during this transition, able as they are to act as conveners of local resources, and educators of both NGOs and donors on the subject of philanthropy. Indeed, both Foundations have found significant local support for their work as increasingly prosperous citizens become interested in giving. Businesses too are giving more, partly thanks to foreign companies who encourage corporate social responsibility.

Cluj is an economically exploding metropolis in the background which has benefited in recent years from an influx of foreign direct investment and new ideas. In determining the potential for a community foundation, the Cluj Foundation piloted several ideas new to Romania, including *YouthBank* and named funds.

Since 2006, when Cluj (with support from the Association of Community Relations) launched its *YouthBank* programme, \$15,000 has been raised and 32 projects supported, including rehabilitating vacant outdoor spaces into attractive leisure areas, activities for disadvantaged children, and environmental awareness campaigns. *YouthBank* has led to a new wave of youth activism and engagement in Cluj, empowering young people to identify community issues and solve them through collaborative processes. *Green Gardens for Kindergartens* which supports the development of gardens in schools and kindergartens is Cluj Community Foundation's first and best-known named fund. Future plans include the development of additional named funds as well as an individual giving programme.

The local context in which Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation operates is quite different from Cluj. Though a small community by Romanian standards, Odorheiu Secuiesc is a sophisticated regional centre, and is home to many nation-leading businesses. Interestingly, in 2005 it was these businesses who first determined the need for a community support mechanism in the wake of a disastrous flood, when several businessmen cooperated to bring supplies to the affected area, providing timely and

appropriate aid days before an official response could be mustered. The flood taught the business leaders that a more efficient way to respond to community concerns was needed.

While the Cluj Community Foundation built *YouthBank*, Odorhei began by testing local stakeholders' philanthropic capacities through a campaign, *2% for Odorhei*, which challenged individuals to begin supporting local NGOs by redirecting 2% of their taxes to non-profit causes. The campaign caught the public's attention, and over two years increased the usage of 2% tax re-directions in the working population from 19% to 43% (compared with roughly 20% nationwide).

Other programmes being piloted by Odorhei include the *Ön Dönt* (You Choose) campaign designed to educate the public about the Community Foundation, invited citizens to participate by voting for their favorite NGO project proposals (more than 800 ballots were cast in January 2008) and a Sponsors Club, which invites businesses to join a network of supporters by pledging a 3-year, tax-incentive-based unrestricted donation.

As they seek to encourage local philanthropy, the two young Foundations have developed slightly different programmes and priorities. Odorhei's Board and sponsors are concerned with emigration and would like to see an emphasis on Sponsors Club-driven youth projects; whereas Cluj can attract a strong support base through brokering CSR services for the city's businesses. In either case, as the Odorhei Board recently concluded in an interview about why they support their foundation "in the end, it is all about community."

For more information about Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation please visit <http://www.szka.org/>. More Information about projects Cluj Napoca is involved with can be found [here](#). For information about Cluj Napoca, please contact the foundation's director Simona Serban (simona.serban@fundatiicomunitare.ro)

Czech Association of Community Foundations conducts study into feasibility of Philanthropic bequests in the Czech Republic and beyond

In December 2007, The Czech Association of Community Foundations was awarded a grant of \$20,000 US to explore the feasibility of philanthropic bequests as a potential funding source for Community Foundations in the Czech Republic.

Though a combination of analysis of existing legislation and established social practice regarding bequests and the assessment of previous experiences of bequest fundraising in the Czech Republic, the project aims to explore how best to levy the huge potential resource that bequests represent.

An important part of the project has been to prepare and disseminate information materials outlining the importance of philanthropic bequests as a potential funding source, to raise awareness of the issue and build an atmosphere of trust and transparency, which it is hoped will encourage more people to make bequests to foundations.

Having begun life as a project focused largely on bequests in the Czech Republic the research soon began to widen in scope, as the breadth and depth of the issue of bequests became apparent. With the help of a TCFN Peer Exchange meeting at the end of August which will focus on the notion of bequests as a long term asset development strategy, the project will take on a regional dimension. Implemented with financial support from the Bertelsmann Stiftung the meeting will be organized by Community Foundation of Euroregion Labe in cooperation with Presov Community Foundation, Slovakia and will join 24 people from 9 countries.

A set of questions focused on the legal and formal issues regarding bequests, created as part of this project, can be distributed to other interested parties who would like to be involved in the comparison study. For more information, please contact the [Czech Association of Community Foundations](#).

Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum present results of study on Community Foundations in Ukraine:

A recent study by the Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum provides the most up-to-date overview of the Ukrainian community foundation sector. The report, which was presented on 27th June at a philanthropy conference organized by the Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum, the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research and the Network for the Development of European Law, draws on data gathered from eleven community foundations and community foundation-like institutions across Ukraine, including Rivne, Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk. Ukraine's community foundation sector is still young: although the first two community foundations were founded in 1995, most have emerged in the past three to six years.

The survey showed that the top most frequent areas of grantmaking are social protection (72.7%), support for NGOs (63.6%), community development (54.5%), culture (54.5%) and leisure (45.5%), while education and public health attract the least funding. All of the foundations that participated in the survey also administered grants programmes on behalf of local government organizations and government agencies. Non-grantmaking activities include fundraising events and support for different target groups (e.g. children with disabilities, HIV sufferers, former convicts and orphans), capacity building for local NGOs, community mobilization and awareness-building activities.

As far as funding is concerned, the most frequent sources of income are contributions from individuals (81.5%) and companies (72.7%) which suggests that Ukrainian community foundations have made some headway in developing a culture of charitable giving and local philanthropy and in promoting social responsibility among local businesses. Grants from international organizations also continue to be an important source of funding for a significant number of community foundations, particularly in the implementation of specific social projects. In certain communities, the government is also a partner and allocates funds from the local budget.

However, despite the high ratio of domestic to international funding, for the most part, Ukrainian community foundations continue to operate on modest resources, with one-third of them receiving less than 50,000 hryvnias (approximately \$10,000 USD) in charitable donations per year.

Some positive developments were noted by respondents, however, including recent amendments to the Ukrainian law on Philanthropy and Philanthropic Organizations, awareness-raising events such as "Philanthropist of the Year" and "Volunteer of the Year", awards, annual Community Foundation fairs and the creation of an association of community foundations.

For more information on the Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum, please visit: <http://www.donorsforum.org.ua/en>

Project update from the Charitable Foundation for the Development of Northern Primorye

On 23rd July, recent GFCF grantee partner the Charitable Foundation for the Development of Northern Primorye held a round table discussion in the Plastun settlement, the most populous settlement of Terneysky District, in Russia's remote Primorsky Krai (which borders China and North Korea). The occasion provided the opportunity for the Foundation to celebrate recent achievements and press forward with new developments.

In the first half of 2008, the inhabitants of the Primorye territory successfully carried out 7 projects in collaboration with the Foundation. With funding drawn from a range of sources including business men from the region and local authorities, residents came together to equip three playgrounds, found an arts studio known as 'Constellation' and improve play facilities at a local primary school. They also conducted research into the history of their local area and erected a monument to the first settlers.

Further plans at the Charitable Foundation for the Development of Northern Primorye include the organization of training courses and grant competitions in the nearby district (Krasnoarmeyskiy) of Primorskiy Krai. These will be funded by a grant soon to be received from the Global Fund for Community Foundations.

The foundation acknowledges that the success of its activities depends on the active participation of the local inhabitants of the region. Acting as a vehicle to mobilize local resources, both human and financial, the Foundation will continue to enable the Northern Primorye territory to reveal itself as a place rich in ideas and enthusiasm and replete with the skills to bring these to fruition.

News from other regions

TUSEV celebrates launch of Bolu Community Foundation

In 2007, The GFCF made a grant to TUSEV (Third Sector Foundation of Turkey) and has since enjoyed regular updates on the progress of the foundation's Social Investment Initiative, an important part of which is the organization's support activities towards the establishment of community foundations in Turkey.

Bolu Community Foundation was legally established under the reformed Foundations Law as of June 5th and held its first meeting of Trustees on July 3rd. The establishment of Bolu Community Foundation marks the completion of the first two phases of TUSEV's project.

Phase one involved an environmental scan and feasibility study of community foundations in Turkey, generating dialogue between key stakeholders and forming a core working group, to form the first community foundation in Turkey. The GFCF supported TUSEV in organizing a conference to convene key stakeholders from the public, private and non-profit sectors and in producing some now widely used publicity materials such as a brochure, newsletter and webpage on the community foundation model and movement.

The project's second phase focused on working with the core group to fundraise for an endowment, formulating the foundation's bylaws, information sharing and putting together a toolkit focused on basic community foundation functions.

For Phase three of the project, TUSEV foresees an intensive "coaching" program lasting 6 months. Each month of the programme would focus on a different chapter of the toolkit (dealing with areas such as governance, fundraising, grantmaking, communications and so

on.); with an overall aim of supporting Bolu Community Foundation in the general fields of policy development and international relations. TUSEV has plans to facilitate site visits for Bolu Community Foundation staff to community foundations in other countries, between October-December 2008 and will be working to increase their own capacity as a community foundation support organization.

For more information about the work of TUSEV, please visit their [website](#).

Community philanthropy news update

Urgent Action Fund Africa seeks Executive Director

GFCF grantee, Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAF-Africa), based in Nairobi, Kenya seeks an Executive Director to take up the post by April 1 2009.

UAF Africa supports women activists in Africa through Rapid Response Grantmaking in three contexts: defense of rights in situations of armed conflict, escalating violence or repression; potentially precedent setting legal actions; and protection of women human rights defenders.

UAF is seeking a dynamic leader who can ensure UAF-Africa's strategic vision, mission and goals and take responsibility for the consistent and effective delivery of the organization's programs. This position is based in Nairobi. The deadline for applications is 8th September 2008

For more information about this position and details of how to apply, please contact UAF (info@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke).

Synergos Institute Social Innovators Program in the Middle East and North Africa

The Synergos Institute is now accepting applications and nominations for its Social Innovators Program in the Middle East and North Africa. Launched in October 2007, the initiative seeks to identify and support innovators who are successfully implementing social projects in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco or Palestine that are helping to improve the quality of life for people in those areas. During the three-year programme, successful applicants will receive training, mentoring and peer learning as well as two years of funding support. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis through September and successful candidates will be announced in the autumn.

For more information about the program including details of how to apply, please see www.synergos.org/socialinnovators

Calendar

Upcoming Deadline for Global Fund for Community Foundations grant applications Letters of Intent for the next round of grants should be sent to the GFCF by 20th September. For full details on the application process and our funding criteria, please visit our [website](#).

Grantmakers East Forum “Engage” The second annual Grantmakers East Forum will be held 8th – 10th October 2008, in Dubrovnik. The Grantmakers East Forum is an annual conference held by and for grantmakers working in countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union.

This year, in the beautiful historic city of Dubrovnik, GEF will engage you in discussions about key issues and trends shaping our societies today - sustainable development, culture, inclusiveness, and philanthropy. Over two days and in four moderated and interactive plenary sessions you will hear from, and exchange views with, important thinkers on these issues, including the Croatian Prime Minister, Ivo Sanader, Michael Edwards, Ashraf Ghani, Timothy Garton Ash (all to be confirmed), and others.

For more information, visit the Grantmakers East Forum’s website, <http://www.gef.efc.be>

Charities Aid Foundation Southern Africa Conference 2008 The CAF Southern Africa Conference “Innovating for Sustainability – Africans investing in Africa” will be held in Johannesburg 17th- 18th September.

For more information about the conference, click [here](#).

Coming up in the next GFCF e-bulletin...

A focus on Latin America and the Caribbean....

Please send your news items and any other suggestions to info@wings-globalfund.org