



**fondazione  
cariplo**



## **Localizing the Post-2015 Agenda**

### **Consultation on the Role of and Opportunities for Foundations**

**10:30 – 17:00 - 30 September 2014**

**Fondazione Cariplo, Via Manin 23 – 20 121 Milan, Italy**

## **Summary Report**

### **Executive Summary**

The report will start with a short description of the consultation, evaluation of quantity and quality of participation as well as outline of methodology and approach adopted for the consultation. It will be followed by the record of proceedings and finish with conclusions containing key messages and recommendations.

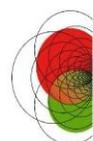
### **Description**

The consultation took place between 10:30 am and 17:00 pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Fondazione Cariplo in Milan. It was organised by Fondazione Cariplo and European Foundation Centre with the framing and support provided by UNDP, UN HABITAT, The World We Want 2015, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda towards HABITAT III.

### **Quantity and Quality of Participation**

The consultation brought together Italian and European actors who presented stakeholders' perspective on the role and opportunities for Foundations in the process of Localisation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In total, there were 41 participants, 22 female and 19 male, from 26 different organisations. They included representatives from local governments from 3 different regions, 12 grant-making/operating foundations, 1 network of local authorities, 9 non-governmental organisations, 1 think tank and UNDP.

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GLOBAL TASKFORCE  
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA  
TOWARDS HABITAT III



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## **Process and Methodology**

The event started with a welcome speech from Giuseppe Guzzetti, President of Fondazione Cariplo and opening remarks from Sonia Cantoni, Member of the Board of Directors, Fondazione Cariplo, and Sevdalina Rukanova from European Foundation Centre, underlining the timeliness and importance of this consultation. It was followed by stage-setting presentations on the global Post 2015 and Localisation Dialogues delivered by, respectively, Karolina Mzyk, Gemma Aguado and from UNDP. Marco Grandi from Municipality of Milan and Guillermo Herrera from Decentralized Autonomous Government of the Province of Carchi, Ecuador provided perspectives and key lessons from their engagement as local authorities in the Post 2015 agenda and Localisation consultations. The consultation, facilitated by Sevdalina Rukanova and Karolina Mzyk and organised in an open discussion format, focused on 3 key questions. It started with i) a debate about key challenges ahead and potential role of Foundations in localising the Post 2015 Agenda, followed by ii) questions around forging innovative partnerships for development and iii) discussions about the importance of data sharing, accountability and transparency. The exchange has featured practical experiences from key areas that are covered in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, such as sustainable agriculture and nutrition, the impact of climate change, water and sanitation, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable cities.

## **Substantive findings**

### Key messages on role of foundations

Foundations are independent organisations with a lot of autonomy, flexibility and appetite for risk and innovation. These features allow them to have a long term, strategic, helicopter view and perform a role of a convener and agenda developer, giving more visibility to the issue. Moreover, foundations can work on variety of levels – policy practice, advocacy, bringing together different partners that otherwise might not come together. They have a capacity for connecting local actors in international context as well as upscaling solutions from local to national and international levels. Foundations play a key role in supporting innovation and provide actors with space for thinking and testing new ideas for addressing societal challenges. Another important area of foundation engagement is the investment in documenting and sharing good practices as well as enabling direct learning and exchange between different stakeholders and communities.

### Key messages on partnerships

Partnerships have been identified as key in achieving successful development outcomes. They can contribute to bringing different, innovative views on an issue and give voice to those who have been silent or marginalised. Partnerships can help leverage funding, outreach and improve impact. Working together can contribute to increasing credibility and transparency as well as efficiency of administrative processes. Moreover, engaging different stakeholders can help foundations to improve their own strategies and objectives.

The partnership initiative “Fondazioni4Africa” is an Italian project financing model set up by four foundations of banking origin (Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione Cariparma, Fondazione Cariplo, and Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena) working together to assist uprooted people in northern Uganda and to support rural populations in Senegal. The model includes a leverage mechanism that subsequently allowed to enlarge the partnership and bringing in two private foundations: Umano Progresso and De Agostini. The foundations set the stage for the design and implementation of these projects and serve as catalyzers of numerous implementing agencies and institutions, contributing not only financial resources but also planning abilities and strategic visioning. Their conviction that it is increasingly important to work in partnership - sharing expertise, vision and risk - for the success of major initiatives resulted in direct involvement from design to implementation and even greater resources available for use by the projects. The model has been recently adapted to launch a larger partnership initiative, “Fondazioni for Africa”, involving 25 foundations of banking origin, members of the national umbrella association ACRI, addressing right to food and food security for sustainable development between Italy and Burkina Faso, coherently with priorities established at national level and the Italian Cooperation Agenda for development.

“Biodiversity Network - ecological corridors to protect biodiversity” is a project launched by Fondazione Cariplo to take tangible action for the protection and conservation of the natural environment and wildlife through the creation of ecological corridors in natural areas rich in biodiversity. The initiative also aims at informing and raising awareness among the population and policymakers of the importance of the theme and the need to include it in development planning. Habitat improvement and defragmentation actions - falling within EU’s programme Life+ - are currently being addressed through the initiative “LIFE TIB – Trans Insubria Bionet”, that benefits from the joint funding of the Lombardy Region, Varese Province, LIPU, Fondazione Cariplo and the European Commission.

European Climate Foundation believes that working together with a range of partners – not only NGOs but also representatives of the private sector, consultancies, and media allows it to achieve more than it could by working with each partner individually. The foundation has adopted a model of being a grant maker as well as a co-developer of strategies. Their cooperation with private sector shows that it can bring

different values and in case of investing in targeted research, it can open new doors and start conversations that would not have happened otherwise.

“RURBANCE - Rural Urban Governance” is a project led by the Lombardy Region, involving numerous partners from 6 countries and observers (including local authorities, NGOs, academia, associations and foundations). The initiative is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and it aims to develop integrated policies and inclusive governance in rural-urban areas in the Alpine Space. Among other, the project allows for dissemination and builds on research, experimentation and good practices supported by Fondazione Cariplo.

The project “GenuinaGente” led by the Forum Cooperazione e Tecnologia supports alternative and sustainable food networks in local communities. Focused on the connection between the city of Milan and the Parco Agricolo Sud Milano (47,000 hectares), the project aims prevalingly at creating a shared strategy between sustainable producers and consumer networks hence to ensure continuity of their governance models. The initiative involves a variety of partners and sponsors: the Municipality of Milan, city districts’ councils, universities, farmers, associations and one foundation.

Since 1989 the Fondazione Banco Alimentare has been collecting the production surplus of the food supply chain and redistributing it, by means of a network of 21 organizations, to over 8,898 non-profits that assist the poor and the needy all over Italy. The initiative involves over 1,700 volunteers.

The main supplying sources of the Banco Alimentare Network are: the food industry, organized large-scale retail trade and collective catering services; a relevant amount of food products are furthermore granted by the European Union. Every year the Fondazione Banco Alimentare organizes the National Food Collection Day to raise awareness about food poverty, involving civil society and 135,000 volunteers.

#### Key messages on data sharing

Foundations have an essential role of providing and supporting data and evidence gathering. However, participants recognised a need for better mechanisms, enabling translation of data into policy development. A good piece of research on upcoming issue has potential for involving different stakeholders and putting the issue on their agendas. Philanthropic sector lacks a common system of impact evaluation for foundations which would result in more visibility, provide evidence of work and earn more recognition and legitimacy.

Established in 2010, the European Environmental Funders Group is an EFC Thematic Network that provides a platform for funders across Europe active in the fields of environment, sustainable

development and climate change. It provides a platform for learning, networking and the identification of synergies with a view to developing common activities. The process for the establishment of the network started in 2007 with a mapping of the grants of major environmental funders in Europe. The mapping project led to a collaboration with the US-based Environmental Grantmakers Association, the UK Environmental Funders Network, the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network and the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, to develop a common taxonomy for environmental philanthropy, improve information sharing and linkages between funders across the world.

The 2013 EEFG Mapping Report reached out 62 European foundations and analysed 1,956 environmental grants totalling €417.7 million (2011 data). The largest share of foundations focuses on “Biodiversity & species preservation” (24.2%) and “Climate change” (26.3%, inclusive of climate, energy and transport issues). The 62 foundations tend to be either “domestically” focused or “international”; half (31 of 62) direct 75% or more of their grants to their home country whilst 21 out of 62 direct 80% or more outside their home country.

## **Conclusions**

Foundations recognise their convening role and continue to strengthen their efforts in providing citizens and civil society with support to develop their capacity to contribute to local policy and development processes. They are key players in bridging the dialogue between local authorities and other stakeholders. Moreover, foundations have a role in supporting evidence and data building as well as linking research practitioners and policy-making communities. Apart from linking other stakeholders with policy-makers, foundations should themselves become stronger players on advocacy and policy fields. Foundations’ added value comes from their long term vision and continuous review and improvements of their strategies and tools. Their main recommendations can be summarised in two phrases - “think global and act local” remembering that partnerships are crucial because “if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together”.