

NEWS

LETTER

AUTUMN 2020

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Coping with the virus
Solidarity and resilience



[Luc Tayart de Borms](#)
Managing Director

EDITORIAL

Dear reader,

At the start of the summer, when we sent out our previous Newsletter, the figures for coronavirus infections and hospital admissions were falling. Unfortunately, this trend did not last and the COVID-19 crisis continues to dominate all aspects of our lives. It is therefore impossible to tell you about our work without referring to it.

However, recent news about the good test results of the vaccines under development gives us hope. There is a chance that we can meet up with each other again next year, without having to take a step backwards. The challenge now will be to reach and vaccinate a majority of the population, to convince people of the safety of the vaccines and stem the flow of fake news.

The economic impact of the health crisis on the non-profit sector is far-reaching: our research in Belgium shows that half of the organisations have seen their financial situation deteriorate in recent months. Sectors such as culture and international development cooperation have been particularly affected, but no sector is without worries. At the same time, it is good to see that, thanks to the sustained support of the government, many organisations will struggle but survive while their other sources of income continue to be under great pressure.

In the meantime, another debate has fallen somewhat out of the limelight, although it has certainly not gone away, namely how do we deal with our colonial past? And, essential to this, who should determine the view of that past? History books have been rather partisan, but the time has come for those people who are more directly involved, and their descendants, to have the opportunity to give their input and provide a more complete picture of our past.

Finally, especially in difficult times like these, I would like to express our gratitude to the many people who continue to show solidarity or commitment on the ground.

I hope that you remain in good health throughout the winter. Take care of each other.

The King Baudouin Foundation is an independent, pluralistic foundation working in Belgium and at European and international level. We are seeking to change society for the better, so we invest in inspiring projects and individuals. The Foundation was set up in 1976, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

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RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS: UPDATE

Since the beginning of the health crisis in March 2020, the King Baudouin Foundation network of organisations has facilitated giving and philanthropy from the most local to the international level. With the foundation's help, philanthropists and donors with very different profiles have supported dozens of organisations such as healthcare structures, organisations fighting poverty and social services for unaccompanied minor refugees.

The foundation would like to thank all our donors who have shown, and are still showing, their solidarity with society.



148 GRANTS

made by KBFUS to support 90 non-profit organisations in 29 countries across Europe and Africa.



The TGE network facilitated cross-border gifts amounting to **5.4 MILLION**

euros in favour of COVID-19 related initiatives in Europe.

13.3 MILLION

US dollars granted by KBFUS.



Thanks to the combined efforts of several Funds from a broad range of companies and individuals, managed by KBF in Brussels, a total of 220 grants amounting to

5 MILLION

euros have been distributed to organisations in Europe, Africa, Asia and North and South America.



1 MILLION

CAN dollars granted by KBF Canada to 10 projects in the USA, Italy, Canada, as well as a contribution to the World Health Organization COVID-19 Response Fund.

Some of the fundraising and grant-making initiatives are still ongoing. This update reflects the situation as of 30 September 2020, in cross-border giving - initiatives in & for Belgium not included.

SOLIDARITY FROM THE HEART OF THE COMPANY

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, many companies want to take up their social responsibility through an initiative to show solidarity. The Foundation is able to make good use of its experience with cross-border giving, and for some of the companies that have approached the Foundation it has created a philanthropic formula that includes personal commitments from their shareholders, board and management.

Many companies do not want to look on from the sidelines as society is overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is also having serious effects on people's socio-economic situation and well-being. The Foundation has received requests from companies that had already been in contact with it for some time, as well as companies approaching it for the first time.

One noticeable feature is that some of these not only wish to draw on company funds but personal commitments are also being made by the company's owners (shareholders) and those responsible for its governance (the board and management).

Proportion of benefits

Based on this philosophy, solidarity funds have already been set up by Solvay, UCB, Lhoist and Aliaxis, in which these stakeholders have contributed a proportion of their salary or other benefits. Other shareholders are being invited to follow their example, and employees can also contribute on a voluntary basis. This significantly broadens the support base.

The individuals or projects eligible for support may vary depending on the preferred focus of the companies in question. A common feature is that projects for vulnerable groups of people are being supported. The UCB Solidarity Fund, for example, finances projects that are helping to address the serious consequences of the crisis for vulnerable young people. Other funds focus mainly on social projects in the neighbourhoods close to their sites.

To a greater or lesser extent, the solidarity funds of Solvay, Lhoist and Aliaxis also provide financial support to the families of employees who are in additional difficulty because of the pandemic, for example if another member of the household loses their income or has to pay high hospital fees.

International network

The Foundation is able to support these initiatives because it can call upon an international network of partners, including [KBF United States](#) and [KBF Canada](#), as well as

other foundations. Another important advantage is that the services provided by the [Transnational Giving Europe network](#), in which the KBF plays a central role, now has a platform for online payments: this allows shareholders, managers or employees to make a cross-border donation to their solidarity fund from a number of countries with limited administrative formalities.



“PAY DOUBLE ATTENTION TO INEQUALITIES”

Prof. Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, former president of the King Baudouin Foundation and current chair of the board of KBF US, accepted the co-presidency of the Solvay Solidarity Fund.

You want to draw attention to the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on poverty?

“Like so many crises, epidemics such as COVID-19 expose the fault lines in our societies and lead to the exacerbation of inequalities.

People who were already vulnerable and fragile, are worse off. We have to pay double attention to these inequalities when we deal with this epidemic in the long term – even with a vaccine, we will be living with the virus for a long time.”

What made you accept the co-presidency of this fund?

“It is quite a unique initiative that goes beyond what an employer normally does to support their employees. I’m a fan of it because it’s an initiative that has been funded by the shareholders, by the board and by the management. That’s different from initiatives that are a bit on the side. It goes to the heart of the company and will benefit those who are in the greatest need, particularly in countries where there isn’t a social safety net.”

A goal of the Fund is to support Solvay employees and their families. Where is the link with the common interest ?

“The financial support goes to families in need who are living in the most affected communities. This indirectly benefits these communities, by preventing some of their members from falling into poverty. Furthermore, other social projects will be supported.”





EUSTAFF FUND GIVES EU PUBLIC OFFICIALS ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING CITIZENS IN NEED

When staff working at the EU institutions decided to launch a fund to support those Europeans worst hit by the Covid-19 crisis, they turned to KBF’s expertise and on-the-ground experience to help them ensure it was well managed and transparent. Two of the founders explain how the solidarity fund came about and why it needs to evolve from an emergency response to working for a sustainable and fair recovery.

Caring about the citizens they serve is not something that simply stops when the working day is over, say Bruno Mola and Nikos Kastrinos, who work for the European Union in Brussels.

“We are a group of public officials who are concerned about what happens around them,” says Mola. That’s why he and a number of colleagues first came together to create the ‘EU Staff 4 Climate’ campaign group in 2019, acting in their own private capacities to push EU leaders for more action.

Solidarity Fund
And when the Covid-19 pandemic started to sweep through Europe this

year, damaging lives and livelihoods in its path, it seemed only natural that the group would turn its attention to the mounting crisis and want to do something proactive.

Their ‘EU Staff COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund’ was therefore launched in May and has so far raised more than €400,000, although the pair say they are “ambitious” for more, describing the project as one which they want to steadily grow, involving more people and making a difference in the long term.

Mola says: “What pushes us is that we care about the people we work for. We think our place in society, as EU public officials, is to have an

active role in supporting citizens and the policies that we consider necessary.”

Moreover, group members felt a strong need to personally contribute to supporting those suffering most from the impact of the pandemic. “We believe that those who are in an advantaged position should show solidarity with those who are not. And we wanted to give a clear sign that this is EU staff showing solidarity.”

Projects supported
Since its inception the fund has been supporting needs in those EU countries most severely impacted by

Covid-19, including projects in Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Romania, Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria. The work of the organisations being supported ranges from primary healthcare, to food distribution to psychological support and help for vulnerable groups.

Well aware of the complexities and requirements of running a large fundraising effort, Mola called KBF to ask for support and found he was pushing at an open door: "KBF was very open and helpful. It was the best idea we ever had. Without them we wouldn't be able to do this, it's as simple as that."

KBF has been helping to identify and vet projects that can benefit from the fund, as well as assisting with the procedures needed to make it work correctly and transparently.

Reflecting on future

The fund's own management committee has also benefitted from the experience of people such as former European Commission Secretary-General David O'Sullivan, who chairs the committee and whom Mola thanked alongside the other

colleagues and funders who had supported the initiative so far. While the emergency phase of the pandemic is still ongoing, the fund organisers are combining meeting today's needs with reflecting on what the future will bring – a process which has included holding two online events to talk to their donors about taking stock and planning ahead.

"We think our place in society, as EU public officials, is to have an active role in supporting citizens and the policies that we consider necessary."

Sustainability

It's important for them to apply the ethos of their climate campaign, which supports the principles of sustainability, social justice and planetary health, says Kastrinos.

Citing one example, he says the fund is proud to support a project in

Poland that helps vulnerable people by providing food, medicines and other services, all by bicycle, because it's also relevant to the fight against climate change.

"However, there is so much immediate, urgent need for help out there that the needs of planetary health are easily overshadowed," adds Kastrinos.

"But we had the discussion with our funders, and they do want us to make an effort to make ecological principles visible where possible. So, when we discover a project that helps vulnerable people in need and promotes ecological principles, we enjoy it enormously."

"When the recovery comes then the ecological side will become more important. There will more space for that," concludes Mola. "The reflection is ongoing."

More information:
eustaff4climate.info/
eustaff-covid-19-solidarity-response-fund



NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS UNDER FINANCIAL STRAIN FROM COVID-19

In the past twelve months, 49% of associations have seen a deterioration in their financial situation. This is what we learned from recent research commissioned by KBF. Thanks to the process of monitoring the financial situation of associations, which has now been in place for ten years, we can quickly identify the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Associations are an indispensable part of our society: they strengthen the working of democracy, improve social cohesion and contribute towards the economy, including in their role as employers. As a foundation we want to improve awareness of the social and economic importance of the associations sector.

So how important are they?

There are few reliable, objective figures available, and there is a strong demand for transparent data, particularly from the sector itself. The Foundation has therefore taken the initiative - alongside its partners - to map and monitor this sector in figures.

Comparability over time

This is being done through a number of research projects. Two of these have already been running for a decade or more. The first was the study of the economic importance of non-profit associations, the first edition of which we published in the spring of 2020.



The second is the study looking at the financial health of associations, whose recent results were presented this autumn.

The study of the economic importance (added value and employment) of non-profit associations was carried out for the first time in 2004 by the National Bank of Belgium. Thanks to its partnership with the King Baudouin Foundation, the research department of the National Bank is able to repeat this exercise on a regular basis. The Foundation is therefore committed to disseminating the results to a wide audience, including public authorities. One of the most important findings in the latest edition is that non-profit associations now employ approximately half a million people in Belgium.

International standard

It is important to emphasise that this study follows the international methodology presented in the Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions in the United Nations System of National Accounts, inspired by the pioneering work of Prof. Lester Salamon (Johns Hopkins University).

Together with its partner, the Foundation is calling for uniform methodologies to be used in this area, to make the resulting figures more easily comparable.

The study of the financial health of associations has also been included from 2010 onwards. This is based on a wide-ranging survey of hundreds of associations - the latest of these was conducted in September-October 2020 and reached about 700 associations.

95%

OF ASSOCIATIONS REPORTING A DETERIORATED FINANCIAL SITUATION ATTRIBUTE THIS LARGELY TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

Impact of the pandemic

The standard set of questions has been supplemented this year to include some questions intended to clarify the extent to which the current situation must be attributed to the consequences of COVID-19 and measures to limit the spread of the virus.

We can already offer a detailed picture of the financial situation of associations in this year of crisis, and comparability of the data over time means we can also see to what extent these figures are unusual.

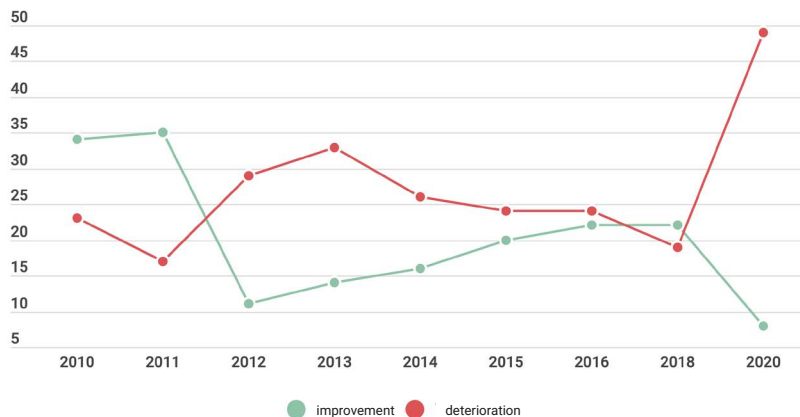
Associations are highly pessimistic about their financial situation. A total of 49% of associations in Belgium have seen their financial situation deteriorate in the past twelve months. This really is exceptional: in 2018 'only' 19% of them reported a deterioration. For 95% of them, this deterioration is viewed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. One-third are not expecting any improvement in the next year.

In the past twelve months 65% of associations have seen falls in their income from sales (e.g. stickers, waffles etc.). About a third of associations also recorded fewer donations from individuals and private foundations, as well as a fall in membership contributions.

The publications are available for download (in French or Dutch), free of charge at www.kbs-frb.be.

These two studies have been complemented by research into the importance of voluntary work in our society, which has been adapted in the latest edition in line with the recently agreed European methodology. It is therefore too early to indicate how this is evolving over time, but the study does offer an interesting view of the current situation. The results were not yet available when this magazine was published. You will also be able to view them in December at www.kbs-frb.be.

Percentage of NPI's reporting a deteriorated financial situation over the previous 12-month period



2,050 HOUSING UNITS

The Beirut Port Explosion on 4 August 2020 directly impacted almost 300,000 people and caused damage to 72,000 apartments across 9,200 buildings. Given the dire socio-economic and financial crisis that Lebanon has been going through, compounded with the challenges borne out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the average Beiruti family can simply no longer afford to rehabilitate their homes. To support the rehabilitation efforts, KBF Canada is working with Nusaned, a local non profit organization, politically and religiously neutral, experienced in the field of rehabilitation. The objective of this project is to contribute to rehabilitate 2,050 units, by the end of April 2021, based on a needs assessment to prioritize interventions. Contractor teams have been mobilized to rehabilitate between 250 and 350 units per month. 750 units need minor repairs and replacement of shattered glass only. 750 units have suffered 'moderate' damage and need e.g. the replacement of doors as well, and the rehabilitation of electro-mechanical networks. Furthermore, the project is tackling the larger damage on 550 units that need additional repairs, including the renovation of kitchens. Marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women-headed households, vulnerable women and girls, the elderly, as well as people with disabilities, are given priority.

www.kbfcanda.ca

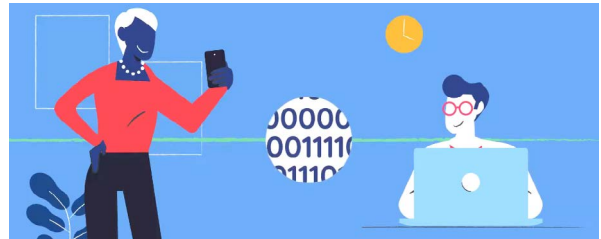
ALMOST 2,5 MILLION EUROS TO SUPPORT INDEPENDENT PUBLIC-INTEREST JOURNALISM

11 independent journalistic organisations have been selected by Civitates, to receive core grants for the next 3 years, supporting their general operating and organisational strengthening. Civitates' aim is that the grantee partners will develop in a sustainable, resilient, and interconnected way. It has particularly welcomed applications from organisations operating in contexts where the market has failed to support independent journalism, media have been captured by state or non-state actors, or where there has been a hostile legal environment for public-interest journalism. The grantee organisations are based in 8 countries: Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. An important aspect of the grant is the networking opportunities: they will be exchanging practices and ideas and embark together on a journey of growth and support. Civitates is a joint initiative for democracy and solidarity in Europe by several foundations, including KBF.

www.civitates-eu.org

CARING TECHNOLOGY PRINCIPLES

It is impossible today to think of any healthcare or personal support that does not resort to technology. Think, for instance, about the sensors to prevent people falling, wearables that monitor the parameters of your body, various applications used for your health and well-being, communication tools for healthcare professionals. All of these technological tools and support aids collect data about the user, patient or client. But who does what with the data collected? What about personal privacy? With which principles must the technological innovations of today and tomorrow comply? The Fund Dr Daniël De Coninck and the King Baudouin Foundation assembled stakeholders from various horizons to consider this. The result: 8 Caring Technology Principles. The Fund and the KBF invite all stakeholders to sign up to these principles on the website www.caringtechnology.be (available in English), where all information is assembled, including an insightful 3 minute animation.



CONGRATULATIONS TO VILLAGE HEALTH WORKS

A brand new school campus for high potential youth in Burundi to be educated as a new generation of leaders: the Kigutu International Academy (KIA) opened its doors this autumn to the inaugural class of 32 students. The Charlier Fund, managed by KBF, is supporting the Academy with funding for scholarships. KIA is a new initiative from Village Health Works, that was supported previously by KBF for its agricultural programmes in the region. Up next: a high quality Kigutu Hospital & Women's Health Pavilion, opening in 2021.

www.kigutuiinternationalacademy.org



THE TUBBE MODEL FOR CARE HOMES EXPLAINED

What kind of life should we offer to vulnerable people? This has been a topical question for a long time, but the Covid-19 health crisis has pushed it to the top of the agenda. Inspirational models are welcome. And they are not lacking.

In Belgium, the KBF is actively promoting one of them: the Tubbe organizational model. Named after the Tubberödshus care home on the Swedish island of Tjörn, where the inspiration came from.

Tubbe aims to make care homes attractive places, where it is pleasant to both live and work, and where care is based on relationships and the active participation of everyone. Tubbe does not rely on ready-made formulae, but rather on personalised support that is developed progressively on the ground and adapted in function of each organization. As KBF is convinced that this approach can be interesting beyond Belgium's borders, an overview of the essential principles is available in English.

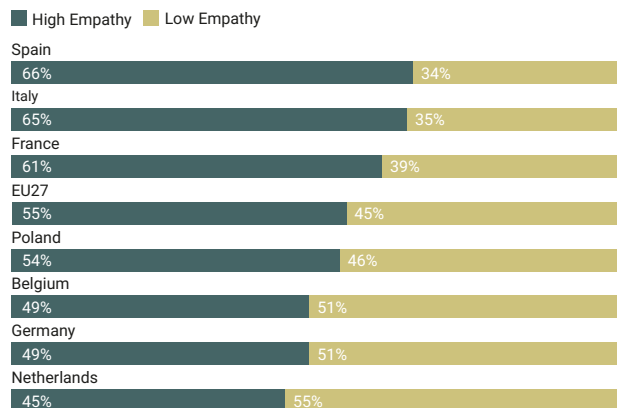
The publication ZOOM: The Tubbe Model, an inspiration for our care homes can be downloaded free of charge on www.kbs-frb.be.



MORE EMPATHY, MORE CONVINCED OF COOPERATION IN THE EU

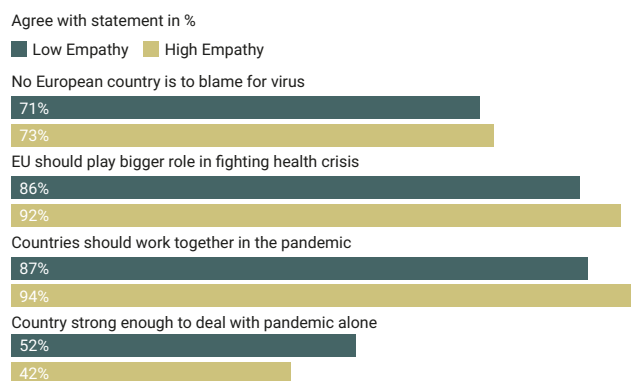
In its new research, the EUpinions team focused on the levels of empathy and the correlation with the willingness to adapt one's behaviour to avoid the spread of COVID-19, and with opinions on the role of the EU.

EU27: Levels of Empathy



June 2020

Views on EU and nation-state role in COVID-19 pandemic, by empathy



June 2020

KBF partners with the Bertelsmann Stiftung, which hosts the EUpinions team, to elaborate and disseminate the research results. The full report is available on eupinions.eu.

PRIORITY SETTING IN RESEARCH ON DIABETES

Last year the Diabetes Liga Research Fund was established at the KBF, aiming to give an extra boost to scientific research into diabetes and recently the Fund announced its financial support for two research projects. An important step is the multi-stakeholder process that the Fund set up to determine priorities in diabetes research: a widely supported list of priority research questions. This was addressed in a dialogue process with stakeholder groups. In various stages, a long list of 64 research questions was established and then finetuned to a top ten of research questions that all groups - patients, their relatives, care providers, researchers and people from industry - consider to be very important. At the time of going to press, this process was almost completed. You can find the final result on our website www.kbs-frb.be.

In 2017-2019, the King Baudouin Foundation had already led 3 successful projects of "Multi-stakeholder dialogue for priority setting in research": for research on TAND (tuberous sclerosis-associated neurodevelopment disorders), for research on Biobanks and NASH (non-alcoholic steatosis hepatitis), and for research on a return to work after a long-term work incapacity.

A NEW RESIDENT

FOR THE ROYAL BELGIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCES IN BRUSSELS



Meet the woolly rhino, coming to us from the Late Pleistocene age. The skeleton was donated to the King Baudouin Foundation and this represents a first for us! Never before has a piece from prehistoric times been acquired. It will be entrusted to the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels.

This rhino “of clustered nostrils”, named after the strong bone wall that supports its mighty horn, is more commonly referred to as the “woolly rhino”, because of its thick coat of hair. Contemporary to the mammoth, it lived during the last two ice ages and was found from

Western Europe to the Eurasia region. It disappeared with the retreat of the last ice sheets, around 10,000 years ago.

A mystical animal today, but also for prehistoric man who hunted the rhino and featured it in many

artistic representations in the form of engravings and rock paintings such that in the Chauvet Cave, in the Ardeche region of France.

Nobility, scientists and artists alike have been intrigued by this animal. Skin fragments and the



legs of the first specimen ever found were sent to Catherine II to exhibit in Peter the Great's curiosity cabinet in St Petersburg. King Henry II of France chose the rhino to commemorate his entry into Paris with a monumental rhino topped by an obelisk crushing a lion. Louis XV commissioned his animal painter to create a monumental portrait of the rhino while Alexander of Medici chose it for his heraldic

arms. Many artists and scientists have been inspired by the rhino and represented it, from Dürer and the famous doctor-surgeon Ambroise Paré to Henri Alfred Jacquemart, whose Rhinoceros is now in the d'Orsay Museum forecourt, and the Surrealist artists Breton and Dalí.

The skeleton will be given on long-term loan to the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural

Sciences in Brussels, where it will prove its usefulness for both science and education. This rare and authentic animal provides a real opportunity for the museum, which was already planning to elaborate its knowledge of the Ice Age in its permanent collection.

www.heritage-kbf.be

DO PEOPLE STILL CARE
ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?
ABSOLUTELY!



As climate change has started to hit home, COVID-19 has not dented public concern. But this is only the starting point, says Dr Adam Corner of Climate Outreach, who kicked off a new series of international seminars on climate change communication organised by the King Baudouin Foundation. “Climate conversation, across the whole of society, can help shape the narrative and the pathways to change.”

Why do some people seem uninterested, or even hostile towards climate initiatives? As part of its new programme on climate change and biodiversity, the King Baudouin Foundation is organising a series of seminars, with speakers from Belgium and beyond, to discover the perspectives and insights that social sciences can bring to this issue.

While conveying scientifically accurate information is important, focusing on the link with target groups' values and identities is also vital. By drawing on a range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences, the Foundation aims to broaden the discussion about tools, methods, and practices for strengthening climate initiatives. We caught up with Dr Adam Corner after the first seminar.

The COVID-19 pandemic does not appear to have dented public concern for the issue of climate change?

“On the contrary, people seem to recognise the urgency of climate change even more so than they did pre-pandemic. Witnessing one major global systemic risk seems to underpin the idea that climate change is as significant a risk. It does suggest that over the last decade climate change has become embedded in public consciousness.”

The economic shutdown has also fuelled the idea of a radically different and more sustainable way of living that chimes with necessary action on climate change.

“We have all witnessed that fast, collective shifts were made. We can undergo rapid transformations when we feel that we need to. We have also seen how top-down policy changes fundamentally rely on people's behaviour and the social norms, with social policing of COVID restrictions. That interaction between system level



cases of rule-breaking in the UK from people in government during the lockdown was detrimental to public trust and to the willingness of people to make sacrifices. The same with climate change: if we, ordinary people with medium-sized carbon footprints, are being asked to make big changes to our lives, but the people with the highest carbon footprint are not making changes or not enough changes, then it doesn't give you that sense of efficacy that what you do makes a difference."

"We have all witnessed that fast, collective shifts were made. We can undergo rapid transformations when we feel that we need to."

**Dr. Adam Corner,
Climate Outreach**

Still, you argue that the efforts to persuade people should not be limited to those with the biggest carbon footprint. You must get everyone in the story.

"Everyone in the story is a good way to approach it. That means people's role in the story can still be different. There is a big chunk of the population who don't regularly fly or maybe don't own their own car or home, so messages are going to go past them or are creating this idea that climate change is a middle class concern. Whereas everyone is part of it. For a lot of groups in society maybe it is better to articulate what investment in this economy will look like in terms of real jobs and real people. People need to be brought into this conversation to feel like they have some control over it. We need processes like citizens' assemblies, conversations to shape the story of where we have come from and where we are going. So that you don't get a backlash because they weren't part of it."

The climate movement therefore must engage with the whole political spectrum and not just the usual suspects, you argue, and look for commonality.

"Good communication starts from a good understanding of the audience and there is very rarely just one audience. You cannot create a bland beige message that works for everyone because to be acceptable to everyone your message is interesting to no one. You want to know their differences - without playing into them or exaggerating them - and what people hold in common. If you have that understanding, you can look for common ground values and identities that you can engage with, like a sense of fairness, a desire to end the throwaway society, protecting our health."

This is a long-haul battle. How do we avoid battle fatigue?

"I think it can't be imposed on us; it must be something that we genuinely want. To see the benefits that will come to us from decarbonising. Because there are loads. It is not a bad news story; it is a story of change, but it is not a story of going backwards or fundamentally sacrificing. It is a story about connecting with things we really care about: fairness and health and secure jobs."

structural changes and individual behaviour is a real learning for climate change."

"Concern is being aware, but it is only one piece of the puzzle. The whole of society will have to come to terms with what this crazy century's long challenge ahead of us looks like. Climate change will affect all aspects of our lives. We need to consider the way it resonates for people with who they are and what they care about. It is about getting to grips with how this issue relates to where I expect my life to go in the future."

Have you seen practices in reaction to the pandemic that can be adopted for climate change?

"Trust is a huge component. You need trust in the institutions that are making decisions and telling you what to do, trust in the messages and the messenger. Another lesson is about the importance of fairness. We had several high-profile



Adam Corner was our first guest speaker in a series of webinars. He is Programmes and Research Director at Climate Outreach. He is also Associate Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST), leading this partnership for Climate Outreach. Adam wrote Talking Climate: From Research to Practice in Public Engagement with Jamie Clarke and has published widely in reports, academic journals and international media.

All info & registration for future webinars on www.kbs-frb.be.



RAISED BEDS IN A CEMETERY

The former St Jacobi cemetery in the Berlin district of Neukölln has found a new lease of life thanks to financial support from the MyPlaygreen scheme for which Timberland partners with the King Baudouin Foundation. The cemetery is now home to an attractive garden area open to all, regardless of age.

The idea of relocating and expanding the tiny Prinzessinnengarten came about during the search for partners to care for and maintain the cemetery. As most people choose to be cremated, and very few are buried in urban centres, swathes of land are left unused, and these have to be looked after. "The cemetery association that owns Neukölln's St Jacobi cemetery really welcomed our project with open arms and so we found an alternative way to use around four hectares of space," says Luciana Saalbach, the head of the Prinzessinnengarten (Princess Gardens) project.

The Prinzessinnengarten is an ambitious youth project that teaches those living in the deprived district of Neukölln the basics when it comes to

nature and the environment.

"Youth poverty is a huge issue in our neighbourhood. Many families are dependent on state benefits. We wanted to do something to counteract the rampant youth poverty and the associated stigmatisation, and so about 10 years ago we launched this project. It has already been a great success, and the new area in the St Jacobi cemetery will give us the chance to improve and hone our activities as we head into the future," indicates Luciana Saalbach.

A way out of child poverty

The project was allocated four of the approximately eight hectares making up the cemetery. Thanks to the €5,000 grant from Timberland, work began on creating an



environmental education area.

"We finally have the infrastructure and space to bring to life our concepts for daycare centres, schools, and initiatives for socially disadvantaged and migrant children and young people. We are currently creating an amazing community garden."

The team worked with children, young people and neighbours to dig and plant beds, and workshops were organised to teach people how to plant and care for the beds on their own. "We wanted people to take care of their own green spaces, but we are always on hand to provide advice and assistance."

The garden is also home to fruit trees and raised beds. "We see that the children and even young people are overcome with curiosity about the garden, and they are incredibly proud of themselves when they see how their plants have grown. Teaching them to be more independent and accountable also boosts their self-esteem and self-respect, two aspects that normally fall by the wayside in the socially disadvantaged context in which they live."

Participation as the key to success

The Prinzessinnengarten is built on the idea that one needs to bring everyone on board to work together and devise quick, sound solutions to problems. The garden has already seen high demand from local daycare centres and primary schools, while more and more children and families are discovering for themselves, and making use of, the green space and the possibility of a community garden.

"The children and even young people are incredibly proud of themselves when they see how their plants have grown."

Luciana Saalbach, head of Prinzessinnengarten project in Berlin

There are also plans to create 'green classrooms' in the near future as a fun way to teach kids about the ecological cycle from seed or seedling to composting. Of course, with so much gardening going on, there is still enough space and time for play.

"Yes, we would love to build a green classroom, maybe as a small pavilion with stools and seating, but this needs to be respectful. We are well aware that we are still in a cemetery, after all. We have quite a few other exciting ideas in the pipeline. We have got the sustainability we wanted, as we made sure we signed a long-term lease with the cemetery association. With the new Prinzessinnengarten, we have created a replicable project," concludes Luciana.

MyPlayGreen is a grant programme for which Timberland partners with KBF. It supports urban greening projects directed to children and teenagers across Europe. The programme is reaching out to 5 cities in 5 years: London, Milan, Berlin, Paris, and Barcelona. The Prinzessinnengarten project is one of the Berlin grantees.



CROWDFUNDING TO HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

A lot of NGOs develop good concepts to set up impactful climate projects. Unfortunately, the lack of sufficient financing prevents some promising projects from achieving their full potential. In a bid to tackle this challenge, the climate advisory CO2logic recently launched the Earth Funders Fund, under the auspices of the KBF. It is committed to the swift implementation of the most efficient grassroots climate solutions with important benefits for local communities. It will provide financial support for projects by means of crowdfunding campaigns, the first of which focused on better, fuel-efficient cooking stoves for rural Benin.

www.earth-funders.org/

BREAKTHROUGH IN MEDICAL RESEARCH INTO LYMPHEDEMA

The laboratory headed by Professor Miikka Vikkula, at the de Duve Institute (UCLouvain, Belgium), has identified a novel gene responsible for a lymphatic disease called primary lymphedema. This important discovery, published in Science Translational Medicine, is essential for the proper diagnosis of patients suffering from primary lymphedema, and opens a novel pathway for developing treatments. Lymphedema is a hugely invalidating chronic disease, affecting over a million people in Europe. Therapy is limited and no cure exists to date. We congratulate Prof. Vikkula, who was the first laureate of the [Generet Prize](#) in 2018, on this important breakthrough.



FEASIBILITY STUDY: HOW TO FACILITATE PHILANTHROPY WITHIN ASIA AND BEYOND?

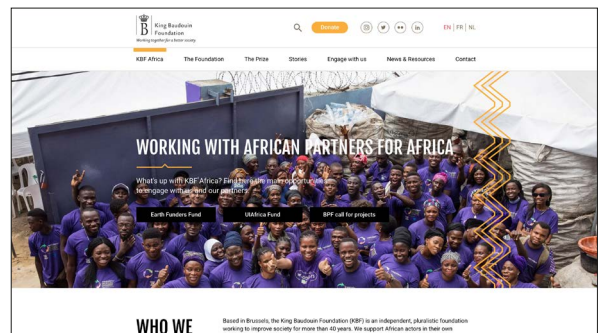
In previous decades, international philanthropy primarily flowed in one direction, as donors in the West supported nonprofits in other locales. Today, the landscape of potential donors is far more diverse. With increasing levels of wealth across the Asia-Pacific region, there is potential to address humanitarian needs by increasing funding flows between countries in the Global South.

However, potential donors face some barriers: widely varying regulations, restrictions and tax benefits for giving lead to a range of concerns. To overcome these, inspiration can be drawn from [Transnational Giving Europe](#) (TGE), the philanthropic network in 21 countries managed by KBF. The organization Give2Asia is now performing a feasibility study to examine the potential for a similar network in the Asia-Pacific region. The King Baudouin Foundation is of course lending its expertise in transnational giving.

We will share the results of this 1-year project, co-funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), with you next year.



A NEW LOOK!



The KBF Africa team is proud to present its new website! Find out more on the KBF Africa Prize, news about our African partners, new funding opportunities and much more on www.kbfafrica.org.

THEY HAVE SAID



“In an estimated 10 to 20% of cystic fibrosis patients, the damaged airways overreact to inhaled fungal spores, which triggers an inflammatory response. Generally we have to treat the symptoms with cortisone because of very hard 'plugs' of mucus clogging the airways.

This has significant side effects, such as accelerated development of diabetes and osteoporosis, not to mention psychological effects.”

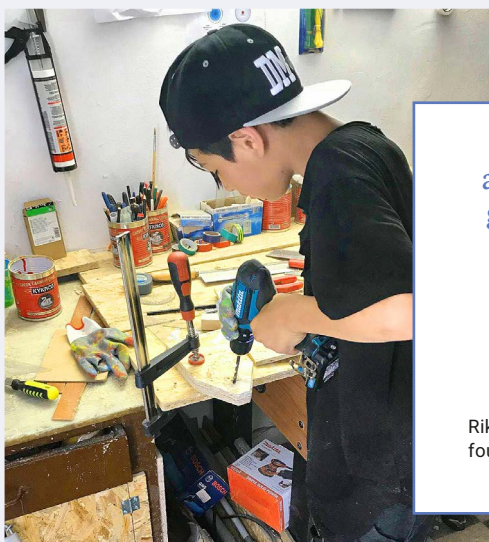
Pulmonologist Eva Van Braeckel (working at Ghent University and Ghent University Hospital) tells us about her research, for which financial support is provided by the Alphonse and Jean Forton Fund, managed by the KBF, and the Belgian Cystic Fibrosis Association.

Read the full story on www.kbs-frb.be.

“Children without any legal identity have no access to secondary education. As a result, they leave school early and become part of the unofficial sector and the underground economy. Also, children who have not been declared at birth very rarely benefit from free healthcare or vaccination campaigns. How can you vaccinate a child if you don't know how old he or she is?”

André Franck Ahoyo, co-initiator of the Urgency Identity Africa Fund (UIAfrica Fund), created under the auspices of the King Baudouin Foundation, aiming to boost the civil registration of births.

Read the full story on www.kbfafrica.org.



“I see it every day in Serbia. Refugees and migrants have many skills, but they can't get jobs here. I have been given opportunities in my own life, and I have taken them. Now I want others to have them too. I don't want those young people's talents to be lost. They must be given the opportunity to demonstrate their potential.”

Rik Jans, businessman leading companies in Belgium and Serbia and founder of the MiJoRiJa Fund that supports projects for young migrants.

Read the full story on www.kbs-frb.be.

REVISITING CONGO'S HISTORY TO BUILD ITS FUTURE

Professor Elikia M'Bokolo has been leading the studies carried out by UNESCO on the educational use of general textbooks on African history. This Congolese historian is the initiator of the "Bokundoli" programme, which focuses on the DR Congo. The pilot programme for the Congolese education system has received financial support from the King Baudouin Foundation. Interview.

Your role involves revisiting the history of Congo to allow young Congolese to appropriate their own history, aside from the history written by the colonial powers, including the Belgians as major actors. Has this history been glossed over by European historians?

That was not their explicit intention. Colonisation, however, was based on beliefs that were not built on the realities experienced by the people who suffered it. The first attempt at colonisation, between the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 18th, failed in Congo, unlike the situation in West Africa. Political élites in the Kingdom of Congo had initially seemed to favour openness to Europeans, but the slave trade destroyed all this: they decided to close their doors to the Europeans.

Once they had been deported into slavery in America, these Congolese citizens became resistant to colonisation, and even leaders of the resistance movement. For Europeans, going into Congo became a synonym for violence. The first 25 years of colonisation in Congo were in fact the most violent period in the colonial history of the African continent, from 1880 until the end of Leopold's regime. It is important, however, not to view colonisation - which spanned less than a century - as the essential or foundational time for Congo. The country had independent societies, which neither colonisation nor the subsequent regimes have ever successfully subdued. This kind of disobedience or radical refusal to surrender is one of the key characteristics of rural societies in Congo.

Is that one of the messages you want to get across to young Congolese?

Yes. We tell them: "We were not just objects in the hands of the colonists". Learning their true history can contribute towards emancipating them and helping them to understand that their ancestors were actors in this process. They will also see that being a citizen of an independent country means not just enjoying freedom, but building a way for people to live together.

The courses that are given today are laden with ambiguity: people have appropriated the colonial narrative and are simply repeating it. There is a need to reverse that narrative and tell young people that from a very early period in the 1480s Congo was involved in

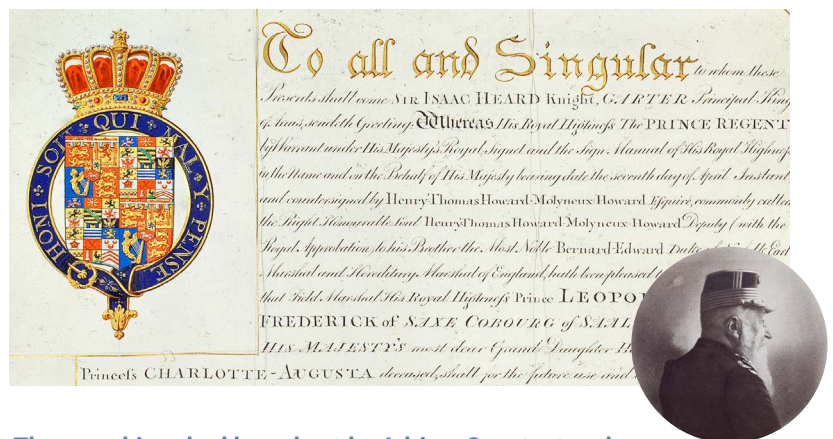


Prof. Elikia M'Bokolo with Raissa Malu, manager of Investing in People, and Dominique Gillerot, manager of CEC (middle)

globalisation, not only as a victim but as an actor. We want to show that the current situation is not our natural state. Our history shows that many of our societies have been organised. Congolese people have demonstrated their knowledge and skills. Our system of passing on knowledge allowed our societies to survive despite the slave trade. This way of teaching history is also intended to help our young people to be better human beings and live better lives, based on the human and civic values that we have in our societies. Teaching history is not just about remembering dates. It means understanding why a society has gone from one state to another and ensuring that prosperity becomes something permanent. It also means developing a critical way of thinking. I hope this is the beginning of a process of positive change in our society.

3 QUESTIONS FOR OLIVIER DEFRANCE

The private archives of Kings Leopold I and Leopold II, acquired by the King Baudouin Foundation in 1993, today have a central role in the work of the current parliamentary commission on colonization. Historian Olivier Defrance has recently established an inventory of these documents.



These archives had been kept by Adrien, Constant and Auguste Goffinet, the trusted confidants of Kings Leopold I and Leopold II. What kind of documents are there?

"The archives cover principally the reign of Leopold II. The oldest document dates from 1811 and the most recent from 1947. All kinds of documents can be found, including correspondence between the king and his advisors; diplomatic, political and town planning documents; notebooks; travel accounts; royal family marriage contracts; documents concerning the Congo and its management; and others relating to Leopold II's private fortune, which also served to finance his interests in the Congo."

And the Goffinet archives can now be consulted for research projects?

"There are several thousand pieces in total. It took a year and a half to carefully sort, classify and catalogue them, with help from the Archives Department of the Royal Palace, to which they are now entrusted. They have already been consulted by numerous historians. However, they are not only for use by a few specialists, they are available to each and every one."

What role can they play in the work of the parliamentary commission on colonization?

"The documents dealing with Leopold II's policy regarding the Congo, will enable us to better understand the King's mentality and ambitions for the Congo and to better understand how he acted in response to the criticisms levelled regarding the policy of colonisation. Without the intervention of the King Baudouin Foundation to acquire these archives, we would not have been able to develop all of the historical knowledge that we have today."

www.heritage-kbf.be

The "Bokundoli" programme is a collaboration with key partners including the Congolese organisation IIP (Investing In People) and the Belgian NGO CEC (Coopération Éducation Culture). The pilot programme that has been set up is intended to allow the Congolese education system to renew the way it teaches young Congolese people about citizenship and a historical awareness of their country. It has received financial support from the DGD (Belgian Development Cooperation agency), WBI (Wallonia-Brussels International) and the King Baudouin Foundation.

Dominique Gillerot, Managing Director of the CEC sets out the educational approach: "It includes a digital application. The CEC and IPP are working with Congolese teachers, who are very interested and are keen to have a training course. The application incorporates illustrations, radio and audiovisual clips and geographical maps."

EFID: TEN YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA LIVE WELL

It has been ten years since the birth of the European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia, a collaboration of foundations and a network of talented people committed to making life better for people living with dementia. Much has been achieved, especially making people living with dementia part of the conversation.



"We are not sick. We are not clients. We are not patients. We are rights holders. I'm still me. I'm still a wife. I'm still a mother. I'm still a sister. I'm still a person. I'm still Helen and Helen has a voice." Listening to people like Helen, is core to how EFID works and a major step forward in caring for people living with dementia, allowing them to live with dignity and participate in society. Key to this is seeing that care is not only healthcare. Care is about everyone from lawyers to social workers to hairdressers and bartenders.

EFID was founded in 2010 (through the Network of European Foundations) by

four foundations: the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Fondation M d ric Alzheimer, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the King Baudouin Foundation. Its objective was to contribute to a better quality of life for people with dementia and their carers through a Europe-wide awards scheme.

By connecting the awardees and other stakeholders, an incredible network across Europe was being built. Molly from Rifugio Re Carlo Albert, a care centre in Italy, says this network meant they could say: "Look! What we're doing is not off the wall, because the rest of the world is doing these sorts of things too!"

"At the end of the day, that's all we (people with dementia) need: hope and a sense of purpose, that we can work, live well, enjoy the great outdoors, meet people from other countries," says Helen.

The brochure EFID – A road well travelled. 10 years of transformative work on dementia can be downloaded free of charge on www.kbs-frb.be or efid.info.

A press release with more information on the 9 awardees is also available on these websites

EFID's journey has resulted in establishing seven principles to further empower people living with dementia rather than disable them.

1. Preserve **dignity** and the highest **quality of life** possible for people with dementia, with the fewest restrictions on their personal liberties.
2. Foster the active **inclusion** and **involvement** of people living with dementia in all aspects of (community) life.

3. Raise awareness about what is needed to increase the wellbeing, resources and potential of people with any cognitive impairment and their family carers, thereby contributing to a change in **perceptions. Frame dementia actively and positively.**
4. Build partnerships, **alliances**, and collaboration among various stakeholders and organisations to enable **synergies** and the co-production of wellbeing.
5. Invest in **prevention** and health

promotion. Ensure early screening, followed by timely **diagnosis** and prompt referral for services.

6. Promote the adoption and implementation of **coordinated dementia strategies** in collaboration with the community and all stakeholders at local, regional and national levels.
7. Collaborate to **evaluate** the impact and outcomes of projects, enable joint learning and **adapt** policies, services and activities.

SPREADING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE - 2020 AWARDS

People living with dementia are among the most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The main problems have been isolation, lack of social contact and knowledge of technology. All of these can contribute to the deterioration of their health.

In this light, this year "Spreading a Legacy For the Future - EFID Awards 2020" were distributed to initiatives that specifically found solutions to the challenges created by the pandemic.

Nine awardees were selected to be rewarded with a total of €67,500 to go into supporting their efforts to help people living with dementia who have been particularly hit by the pandemic. They were able to improve the lives of informal carers assisting their relatives; reduce the decline in the condition due to lack of stimulation, and defend and improve the lives of people living with dementia at home and in care homes.

Because 2020 also marks the final year of EFID, special relevance in the selection was given to those projects that could demonstrate how they are going to spread the EFID legacy in the years to come: the approach to an inclusive community which values all its members and helps them to live with dignity, engage actively, and contribute to their community.

The 2020 EFID Award winning projects/organisations are :

- 'Foton: Together for a dementia friendly society!' by Expertisecentrum Dementie Vlaanderen, Belgium
- 'Aktion Demenz' by Connexia, Austria
- Demenz Support Stuttgart, Germany
- Go Upstream, Scotland
- KONFETTI IM KOPF e.V., Hamburg, Germany
- Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria, Bulgaria
- Het Ventiel (The Valve), Belgium
- Rifugio Re Carlo Alberto, Diaconia Valdese, Italy
- France Alzheimer Vaucluse (FAV), France



CHALLENGES FOR MIGRANT COMMUNITIES

The extra difficulties faced by people living with dementia in Europe's migrant communities must be addressed, EFID members agree. Challenges include finding linguistic and culturally appropriate support, overcoming stigma in their own community and institutional racism in their host

country, and the cost of care. David Truswell, Chair of the Dementia Alliance for Culture and Ethnicity, explained that Europe has to throw out its "tired notion" that migrant communities look after themselves. "Migrant communities are coping with far more when they are having to support family

members with dementia. They are far more likely to have a hard time accessing services and generally are more likely to struggle with something that will overwhelm them." The recording of the webinar on this topic is also available on the EFID website www.efid.info.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR GOLDEN YEARS AS AN EXPAT IN BELGIUM

Many expatriates choose to stay in Belgium after they retire, taking advantage of the quality of life their adopted country is so well-known for. The free guide, 'Golden years in Belgium: an expat guide to life after retirement' by the King Baudouin Foundation and the Federation of Notaries offers practical advice on how to enjoy retirement in the heart of Europe around 9 themes.



1 LIVING WELL & REMAINING ACTIVE

Battling loneliness is a challenge of old age, especially for expats. Fortunately there is no shortage of activities in Belgium for seniors to stay active and meet new people. You can take advantage of a broad range of social events and activities as well as low-price or free access to cultural attractions, museums and exhibitions. Contact your commune to find out more about dedicated services and special activities for senior citizens.

2 VOLUNTEERING & GIVING

Helping others gives seniors a sense of purpose and community. Belgium is home to many charities and other organisations looking to benefit from the experience and availability of older volunteers. Most cities and communes have a website or volunteering hub to help connect organisations with volunteers of all ages. Philanthropy is another great way to give back: charitable donations to authorised non-profits are tax-deductible in Belgium.

3 IN SICKNESS & IN HEALTH

If you've been living in Belgium, you're already aware of the world-class quality of the Belgian health care system. As a pensioner you are entitled to continuing health care in Belgium, whether it be at the expense of your adopted or home country. Advanced care planning allows you to formalise your wishes and expectations in the case you fall gravely ill.



4 SORTING OUT YOUR PENSION

If you worked for an employer who paid Belgian social security contributions or if you were self-employed in the Belgian system, you are eligible for a Belgian state pension. The current retirement age is 65, with the maximum possible pension payable after 45 years of employment. If you have built up pension rights in other countries, the National Pensions Office arranges for these to be paid directly to you.

5 HOME CARE, RESIDENTIAL CARE & ALTERNATIVE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Like most European countries, Belgium's long-term care policy is based on allowing older residents to keep living in their own homes for as long as possible. Adapting your home to changing circumstances and relying on home care services allow you to live at home comfortably and safely. When living at home is no longer possible, there are various residential arrangements to cater for different levels of need.

6 MOBILITY

Over-65s in Belgium are entitled to reduced public transport fares for weekday and same-day return travel year-round. If you're not sure whether you can continue to drive safely, CARA-Vias will thoroughly assess your ability to drive. Most communes help arrange transportation for people with limited mobility on a tight budget. Health insurance providers also provide non-urgent patient transport for seniors seeking medical care, and cover most of the costs.

7 PROTECTING YOURSELF & YOUR PATRIMONY

As you get older you may want someone to assist you with payments and other administration to make sure your interests are well looked-after. Various formulae, including standing bank orders and giving someone power of attorney, can help you manage your assets. Drawing up and registering a care mandate allows you to appoint someone to make decisions on your behalf while respecting your conditions.

8 MAKING A WILL

There are different types of inheritance documents available to Belgian residents, each with their own formalities. The handwritten will kept at home is the least expensive but most difficult to execute, while the notarial deed is the most labour-intensive but also the best guarantee that the deceased's last wishes are swiftly executed. You can choose to make a bequest by adding a good cause to your will.

9 COPING WITH DEATH

At this difficult time there are a number of procedures and formalities to be observed, many of which can be handled by a funeral company. This includes burial or cremation to take place outside of Belgium, which your national embassy can assist with as well. Notaries are there to help you and your family sort through the complicated Belgian inheritance tax rules.

Collaboration between the King Baudouin Foundation and the Federation of Notaries

"Golden years in Belgium: an expat guide to life after retirement" is one of a series of practical guides that have been published jointly by the King Baudouin Foundation and the Federation of Notaries (Fednot). It can be downloaded free of charge via Fednot's website: www.notaris.be/nieuws-pers/brochures or via the King Baudouin Foundation's website. The guide can also be ordered free of charge from www.kbs-frb.be. The other practical guides in the series (in French or Dutch) are available in the same way.

A NEW STRATEGY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN THE BALKANS

In the face of growing challenges in the region, the European Fund for the Balkans (EFB) has launched a new four-year strategic plan this year with the ultimate goal of contributing to vibrant democracies in the Western Balkans region.



“There is hope, and hope really comes from the citizens themselves,” says Executive Director Aleksandra Tomanić who took over leadership of the organisation last year. “Local citizens organising themselves to build trust in their local communities, and this is where we want to help.”

New concerns to contend with

The EFB was founded in 2008 and is a joint initiative of KBF, the Roberst Bosch Stiftung and the Erste Foundation, with the aim of strengthening democracy, fostering European integration and affirming the role of the Western Balkans in addressing Europe’s emerging challenges. The organisation has developed and implemented broad programmes encompassing capacity building and policy development as well as regional cooperation and exchange in different formats.

Today worsening conditions for democracy and growing poverty in the region make the EFB’s work more pressing than ever. “We saw the need to adjust the strategy because we have seen a dramatic change of context for the worse,” says Tomanić. “This region has been backsliding in all relevant international indicators when it comes to democracy, human rights and press freedom, and we have to adapt to these worsened realities.”

The future is Europe

While the EU’s cooperation is key to democratisation and creating prosperity in the region, enlargement fatigue and a recent emphasis by the EU on stability over democracy has resulted in a waning pursuit of European integration. “We have to make the EU accountable again, we have to make the EU wake up that this is Europe,” says Tomanić. “It’s in the EU’s very interest to not only give lip service but to really engage with the Balkans.”

The EFB’s new strategy supports the process of affirming the political credibility of enlargement policy across the Western Balkans region while insisting on the commitment to the principles of the Thessaloniki Agenda, which was established in 2003 to lay out the path to integration for the Western Balkan countries. “The main thing missing now is political will, because the measures and instruments and options for change are there,” Tomanić emphasises.

“It’s in the EU’s very interest to not only give lip service but to really engage with the Balkans.”

Aleksandra Tomanić,
European Fund for the Balkans

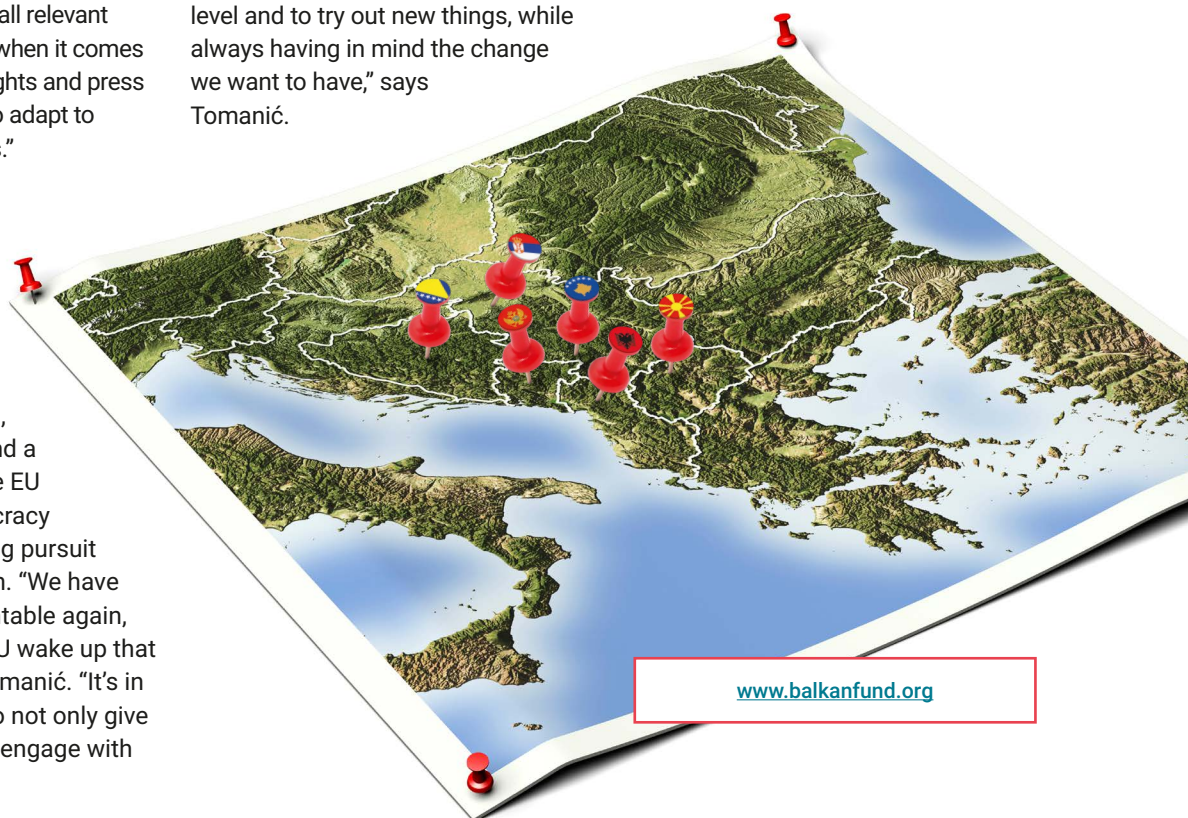
Change in the hands of citizens

The implementation of the organisation’s strategy draws on the EFB’s long experience of supporting capacity building, advocacy and coalition building. The novelty of the new strategy is an additional focus on local civic initiatives. “We have the luck that our funders grant us the ability to be flexible on the activity level and to try out new things, while always having in mind the change we want to have,” says Tomanić.

A common denominator across the Western Balkans is the loss of citizens’ trust in democratic processes.

The EFB aims to build this trust from the bottom up by supporting local grassroots citizen empowerment and improving regional cooperation among civil society based on solidarity and dialogue. “We will have this completely new dimension of citizen engagement, bringing citizens together and trying to create this regional consciousness, this idea that we all share the same problems,” explains Tomanić.

A regional coalition of civil society actors can help build a common vision regarding the future of the region and demand accountable institutions and democracy. This will in turn build political will for constructive regional cooperation. “The best case scenario is that they see room for cooperation and that we just support them,” says Tomanić. “It’s really a new perspective, a joint process: we are trying to see what citizens’ needs are, and to see how we as an organisation can respond to those needs.”



www.balkanfund.org

A MEMLING FOR BRUGES



A 15TH-CENTURY PAINTING BY THE GREAT MASTER RETURNS TO THE CITY OF ITS MAKING

Ambassador J. William Middendorf II has had a long and distinguished career – as a naval officer, an investment banker, a diplomat, and as Secretary of the Navy. His true passion is for the arts. Inspired by his love of Bruges, he decided that a painting by Hans Memling, one of the world’s great masters, would go back to the city of its making. KBFUS was delighted to facilitate such a generous gift.

John William Middendorf II started drawing when he was four. And at 95 years young, he still pursues his most passionate, lifelong endeavor. “If it moves, I sketch it,” he says from his home in Little Compton, Rhode Island. “I’m still churning out five or six pieces a week, even though I’ve now lost most of my eyesight”, he says.

Middendorf is also an avid collector of Flemish and Dutch masters, which he considers to be some of the finest art in the world.

He recently gifted a painting by Hans Memling to KBFUS, which can now be admired at the Memlingmuseum in Bruges, Belgium.

Diplomacy and art

After receiving a Bachelor of Naval Science in 1945, Middendorf served for two years in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He went on to earn a BA from Harvard in 1947 and an MBA from NYU in 1954.

In 1969, he left an investment banking career when he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands. He was named Secretary of the Navy in 1974, and later served as Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States and after that to the predecessor of the European Union.

During his diplomatic career, Middendorf composed hundreds of compositions, an opera and nearly a dozen symphonies. He also had many opportunities to sketch some of the world leaders he met over the years. Creating art and composing music brought joy and a sense of balance to his life. "Art was such great relief from the hard grind of diplomacy and economic and military activities," he says.

A passion for old masters and for Bruges

Middendorf has long been a collector of old masters paintings. "I have a collection of Dutch and Flemish Masters, some of which are regularly lent out to museums."

He combines this passion with a love for everything about Bruges. "I've been visiting Bruges for 55

years," says Middendorf. "It's one of those rare world treasures, preserved largely as it was in medieval times. Its beauty and my passion for the paintings is what has drawn me back there over the years."

"So not only will we have a great Memling. We will also have a painting that keeps alive the memory of a great collector."

Till-Holger Borchert

Hans Memling, born in Germany, settled in Bruges, where he became one of the most influential northern European artists of his time. "Memling, I think, is one of the world's great masters, and he was a prominent citizen of the city. And Till-Holger Borchert, the Director of the Bruges Museums, is one of the great art historians in the world, whom I admire tremendously. All of these factors played a part in my decision that the painting would go back to Bruges where it belongs."

A gift beyond measure

The Memling painting, the left panel of a triptych, is most widely believed to portray Francisco de Rojas, the Spanish ambassador to the Burgundian Court. "This is the first time we have received such an important donation", Borchert says. "Bruges was an important trading hub at that time. While we have a lot of archives documenting the presence of Spanish

merchants, we don't have many images showing them. So having a depiction of a prominent Spanish family makes it very interesting, especially as it is by Memling, an extremely important artist."

KBFUS ART facilitates gifts of artworks

A couple of years ago, KBFUS launched KBFUS ART to help U.S. donors navigate the cultural, legal and tax complexities involved in donating art overseas. Borchert says that KBFUS played a vital role in enabling the painting's return to Bruges.

"The process was extremely smooth, and everyone at KBFUS was very helpful. They were working miracles," says Borchert. "On so many different levels it has been a fantastic thing that has happened. I still can't believe it's actually real."

The King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS) is the leading resource for philanthropic giving to Europe and Africa – a trusted advisor for US donors seeking to support their favorite causes and non-profits overseas.

To learn more about our donor-advised funds, legacy funds and KBFUS ART, please visit www.kbfus.org. Or contact us at (212) 713-7660 or info@kbfus.org.



KING BAUDOUIN FOUNDATION UNITED STATES

SHE DECIDES

EMPOWERING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES IN BURKINA FASO

[KBF Canada](#) helps fund the MS Ladies of MSI who are meeting the pressing need for reproductive health services among women and girls in one of the world's poorest nations.

Controlling if and when to have children allows women to choose what is best for their family and their health, ultimately helping to reduce Burkina Faso's high maternal and infant mortality rate. Adolescent girls, who are often forced into early marriage, are able to continue their education and break the cycle of poverty. To provide reproductive services to poor and hard-to-reach populations in Burkina Faso, MSI deploys 34 MS Ladies, mobile midwives who travel to underserved areas to provide a wide range of contraceptive choices as well as family planning counselling, STI prevention and treatment, and safe abortions.

Alima Kollo previously headed a public maternity ward and has been working as an MS Lady for the past six years. "I chose this job as MS Lady because it gave me a lot more opportunities to help women of childbearing age," she says. Kollo travels up to 50 kilometres a day to give talks on reproductive health and provide services to suit individual needs. "We line up all the options we



have, explaining the benefits and side effects. The woman decides what is best for her, and especially when she wants to have a child," she explains.

“Our providers are very courageous women who are conscious that we are giving necessary health services to the women in need in Burkina Faso.”

Sylvain Ricard,
MSI Country Director

MSI builds relationships with local government and religious leaders to ensure the MS Ladies’

work is accepted by the community ahead of their arrival. “We can’t do such sensitive work without talking with all the parties,” says Ricard. Cultural barriers around contraception make it essential for MS Ladies to be flexible and discreet, giving women the possibility to contact them directly. “We are very close to the women, it’s easy for them to have access to us,” says Kollo. While the days are long, she finds the work extremely gratifying. “It’s the smiles I get from the women I help, that’s what keeps me going,” she says.

BREAKING BARRIERS, SMASHING GLASS CEILINGS

With the support of Canadian donor Rebecca Gardiner, KBF Canada is launching the next phase of the Countdown Project founded by Jeri Powell in the United States, training women to pursue opportunities in public policy and politics.

A hundred years after American women gained the right to vote, they are still massively underrepresented in public office. Powell, an attorney, advocate, consultant and Columbia University faculty member, is determined to help remove common barriers to political leadership for women and especially women of colour. She founded the Countdown Project to connect women pursuing roles in politics and public policy with leaders in the field, building their knowledge and network. "It's a way to give talented women just the right combination of expertise and opportunity," she says.

In January she hosted a New York-focused pilot programme titled "Pathways to Politics" at Columbia University featuring high-profile politicians and experts. "It was power-packed from beginning to end," says participant Shadawn Smith, Vice President of External Affairs and Community Engagement for NYC &

Company, who was appointed to her local community board after taking part in the programme. "It really pulled the curtain away and gave me this great understanding of what it takes to run and what a successful campaign looks like."

"There are so many different pathways for women to get to a place where they end up on the ballot. We want to create a place where we support women along different avenues and ways to engage in the process."

Jeri Powell

Investing in diversity

The concept is now expanding to the national level, creating an ambitious online programme to be offered to 35 accomplished women in early 2021. The non-partisan project emphasises

diversity: over half the participants are women of colour. "I don't think it's possible to overstate how critically powerful it is that KBF Canada is backing a Black woman to do this work," says Powell. "When you invest in women of colour, as a natural consequence the programmes that we develop will be more inclusive, more diverse."

"This programme gives you that confidence and that knowledge that you can do it, and that you are so needed in politics and government," says Smith. "With more representation you see more policies, more legislation coming out that truly represents everyone."



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- **KBF CANADA crafts personalized solutions for one-time gifts or recurring donations through donor-advised funds.**

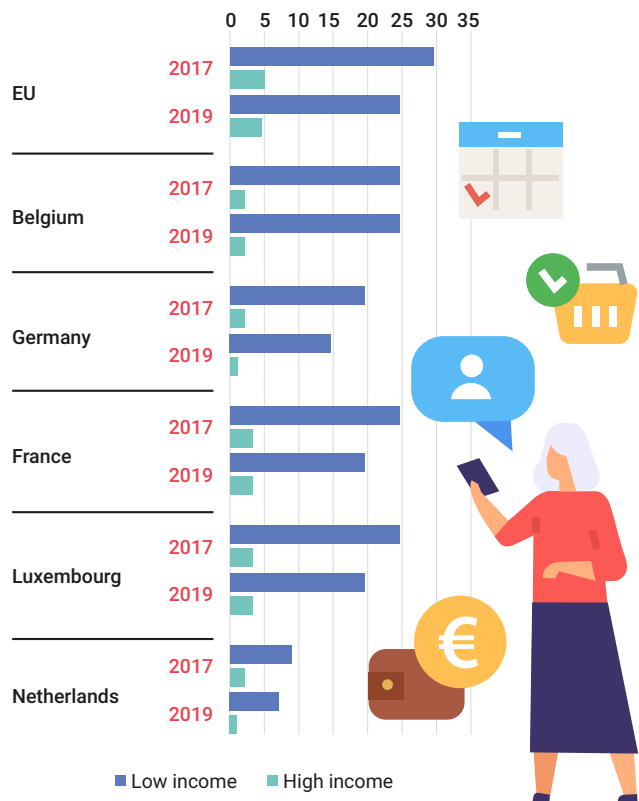
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NOT EVERYBODY IS ON THE DIGITAL HIGHWAY

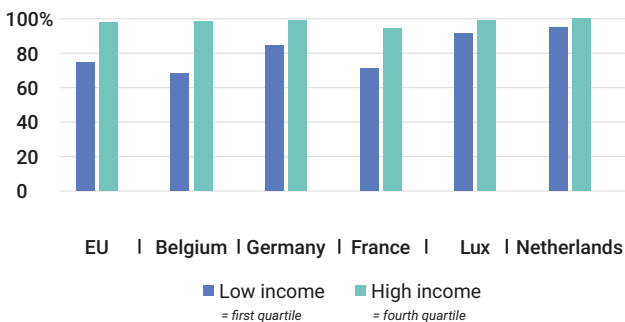
The digitisation of so many aspects of our lives and our society is continuing in leaps and bounds. This offers many opportunities, but it also calls for alertness: those who do not have the opportunities and skills to use wide-ranging digital applications miss out on the benefits and find it more difficult to assert their rights.

The Barometer of Digital Inclusion, created through an initiative of the King Baudouin Foundation, shows that four out of ten Belgians have poor digital skills and are at risk of digital exclusion. We also see that the difference between people on high incomes and those on low incomes is greater in Belgium than in neighbouring countries.

EVOLUTION OF PERCENTAGE OF NON-USERS BY LEVEL OF INCOME

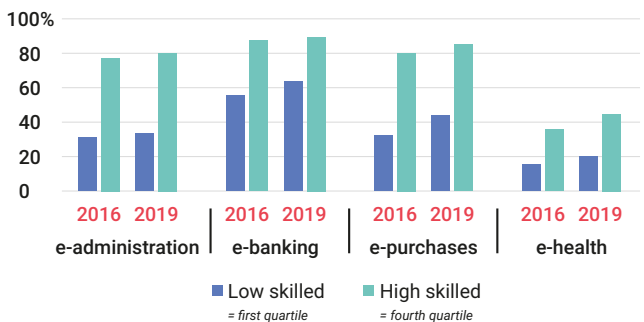


ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET AT HOME



USE OF E-SERVICES VARIES WITH LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Use in Belgium



The King Baudouin Foundation has been taking initiatives for several years now to narrow the digital divide. The COVID-19 pandemic confirms how urgently this is needed: we have been forced to shift up a gear, but too many people are being left behind. The Foundation is working with various funds which it manages and with other partners to improve awareness of this theme and provide support on the ground.

- Support for organisations that teach vulnerable people how to use digital tools.
- Online platform for social workers supporting vulnerable people who are learning to use digital tools: www.123digit.be.
- Distribution of laptops to students.
- Support for schools integrating digital tools into the learning process.

Full details can be found on www.kbs-frb.be. For more information on our initiatives, subscribe to our enews on digital society.