



NEWS RELEASE

Europe fuelling global growth of community philanthropy, says international report

COMO, ITALY (November 18, 2010) – Over the past decade Europe has become a hotbed of community-based philanthropy, with the number of locally-established community foundations growing 600%, says an international report released today.

[The 2010 Global Status Report on Community Foundations](#), prepared by Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), tracks the growth and development of community foundations worldwide and is an important guide to philanthropic activity in countries across the globe.

“The figures clearly show spectacular growth in community philanthropy across Europe” said Bernardino Casadei of ASSIFERO, the association of Italian grantmakers. “In 2000 European communities were home to 103 community foundations; 10 years later we have 631 – a six-fold increase.”

The growth of this popular form of local philanthropy has been fuelled by emerging ideas of ‘civil society’, following the opening up of East and Central Europe, as well as the spread of ideas across borders via the Internet.

“Community foundations give individuals, families and businesses a way to get engaged in, and give back to, their own communities,” said Jane Humphries, Chair, WINGS-CF Advisory Committee. “That’s why the business model continues to gain ground in countries around the world.”

Globally, the number of community foundations has almost doubled over the past ten years from 905 in 2000 to 1,680 in 2010.

Some of the growth has come from North America (700 in 2000 and 880 in 2010), but the bulk of this growth occurred between 2000 and 2003, after which the trend levelled off. In other continents, numbers have remained below 100 for the whole decade, though there are some suggestions that numbers are set to grow in Africa and Asia.

The report was released in an online format for the first time in Como, Italy at the WINGS Forum, a three-day gathering of grantmaking associations from around the world. The report can be viewed at <http://www.wings-community-foundation-report.com>.

Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS)

WINGS is a global network of more than 140 membership associations and support organisations serving grantmakers, which have joined together to: create opportunities to learn from and support one another, develop modes of communication and collaboration among themselves and contribute to the strengthening of philanthropy worldwide. Learn more at www.wingsweb.org.

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