

World Café «Global Philanthropy»

Hosted by Theresa Gehringer, Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS)

This World Café aimed to look at Global Philanthropy from different angles: from its various understandings to developments and trends in practice as well as challenges that global programs or philanthropic activities dealing with global issues (e.g. climate change) face.

As in the economy, the borders of nations play hardly any role in solving social or ecologic problems. At the same time, there are national to nationalistic tendencies that prevent a common solution to global problems.



Silvia Bastante de Unverhau, Managing Director at Co-Impact

«The SDGs»

In her input, Silvia Bastante de Unverhau talked about the poor data availability concerning global philanthropic activity. She stresses the importance of data for informed decision-making, especially when philanthropic activities are concerned with SDGs. For this reason, UBS has funded the Global Philanthropy Report, which is the first comprehensive analysis of global philanthropic practices and trends. The report was authored by researchers at the Hauser Institute for Civil Society at Harvard University. Results show, that the sector is highly concentrated [60 % of the total foundations are in Europe and 35 % in North America; 60% of foundation assets are concentrated in the US and 37% in Europe], growing [nearly 75% of identified foundations were established in the last 25 years] but without real collaboration [with rather short-term and small-scale giving]. She presents and discusses further findings of the report before the discussion starts at the tables.



Kamal Ahmad, Founder of the Asian University for Women

«Equality»

Kamal Ahmad gave a short introduction of the Asian University for Women and its history, pointing out the key accomplishments. He also raised the question, why he himself, a man, founded the University.



Michael Alberg-Seberich, Managing Director at Beyond Philanthropy

«Mission Fit»

Michael Alberg-Seberich covered some key problems concerning mission fit. Philanthropist and donors are often influenced by their own biography in choosing where they want to make an impact and which projects they want to support. This can lead to problems, because sometimes funds can be inefficiently assigned. Professionals trying to convince the donor of more efficient opportunities do sometimes fail, and can also lead to bad results. (He also mentioned his own experience, where he had to turn down funds because he couldn't fulfill the expectations of the donors and refused to inefficiently use his funds).

Key points of wrap-up discussion:

- Global philanthropy is a broad term which describes the diversity of philanthropic activities around the world (both giving and doing philanthropy, traditional and non-traditional, formal and informal, religious and secular etc.) at multiple levels and with other sectors (including governments and the corporate sector)
- Country borders are irrelevant for dealing with global challenges such as climate change, migration, HIV/AIDS, etc. But for the implementation of philanthropic activity actors have to take nations and their own interests into account.
- There is a global discussion and consensus/agreements on how to solve global problems, but these lack liability and are not binding.
- A question that often came up was: Is it possible for philanthropic actors to be political neutral and 'just' provide help without engaging in the political discourse? Some discussion participants would prefer this for their work. In reality, however, at least some key values need to be aligned, because they are forced to cope with national governments to implement philanthropic programs. For this reason, philanthropy can never be purely neutral. Furthermore, philanthropic activity is sometimes fought by nationalistic groups.
- Cooperation within countries faces sometimes greater challenges than cross-border cooperation due to diverse interests and agendas of different actors.
- Collaboration Incentive Systems are not in place. Some people discussed WHO should start the collaboration between nonprofits, governments and/or the corporate sector? Collaboration Incentives were compared to blockchain networks. Those are decentralized, no one is in charge, yet it still has incentives for miners to validate and contribute to the network by being incentivized to do so.
- Collaboration in general was seen as a long term investment often without instant returns. Not all players have this long-term horizon, which can lead to a misalignment of common goals.

problem

different languages in reports
fundraising risks

How to collaborate across borders!

- SDGs give are a global tool
- Funders need to feel safe to fear funding
- National partner ships as showcases
- Global research practices are good case studies
- Neutral broker/facilitator
- Great Identify specific need for collaboration and specific outcomes.
- Digital tools create new opportunity (more than communications platforms)
- Define more specific goals in collaboration e.g. Reward smaller, short-term collaboration

How to find effective globally

- Charismatic leadership
- Philanthropy support
- Campaign and content philosophy
- (3) Rubella in Vietnam
- In-kind bringing in more risks
- Leadership with heart, vision, it's about
- Willingness to learn, my own mistakes
- Need to provide good tools to donors
- Focus on specific
- The best way to find a partner is to go out and find them

global problems

- climate change
- refugee crisis

World Bank
Fundation

SDG Funders
EFC
DAFNE

OECD Centre for Private Equity
is not forwarded

Level of Collaboration
- Funding
- Impact

How to find approaches to global problems (epidemic, environmental) at national level?

Global taskforce on climate?

GLOBAL COOPERATION CLIMATE CHANGE

OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION

- CO-IMPACT
- CLIMATE WORKER
- EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION

CREATE EXPERIENCES TO UNDERSTAND ISSUES

THANK YOU

