

Annual Report on the Center for Philanthropic Studies at VU University Amsterdam

René Bekkers, November 17, 2013

Ongoing research

EUFORI: European Foundations for Research and Innovation Study

The directorate general Research and Innovation of the European Commission has awarded a Tender Study 'Research on Foundations Supporting Research and Innovation in the EU'.



The Center is leading a team of national experts in the 27 EU member states (and Norway and Switzerland), to study the contribution of foundations to research and innovation in the European Union. The aim of the EUFORI Study is to quantify and assess foundations' financial support and policies for research and innovation in the EU, make a comparative analysis between EU Member States, and identify trends and the potential for future developments in this sector. The basis for the work is the collection of data on the characteristics and activities of research-funding foundations in all EU Member States. The research is conducted by a network of country experts from the European Research Network On Philanthropy (www.ernop.eu), coordinated from Amsterdam. The study builds on a pilot study called FOREMAP, published in 2009 by the European Foundation Centre (www.efc.be). At a workshop on September 17, 2013, the first results of the EUFORI study were presented. The total number of foundations funding for Research and Innovation in Europe cannot be disclosed yet but is impressive and so is the preliminary estimate of the total amount funded per year by foundations.

Institutional Donor List

In collaboration with City AM, a London-based financial newspaper, the Center is preparing a list of the largest institutional donors worldwide, to be published at the end of the year.

New Research

Crowdfunding for the arts and cultural heritage sector

In a collaborative research project with Organizational Sciences at VU University Amsterdam, a postdoc (Irma Borst) and a PhD candidate (Barend Vernooij) are conducting research on crowdfunding, online giving for projects. The research will use surveys and field experiments. René Bekkers is an advisor of the research. <http://renebekkers.wordpress.com/2013/04/26/what-works-in-crowdfunding-field-experiments-will-tell/>

Crowding-out or crowding-in: government support and private contributions in the Netherlands

The recent government budget cuts in arts and culture and international relief have revived the debate on the relationship between government and private responsibility for public welfare. To date, no empirical research has investigated this issue in the Netherlands. In September 2013, Arjen de Wit commenced a PhD dissertation project to identify the extent and determinants of private responses to changes in government subsidies. He will do a meta-analysis of prior research, His research is supervised by René Bekkers and Marjolein Broese van Groenou, a sociologist at VU University Amsterdam.

Bequest giving in the Netherlands

In his inaugural lecture, René Bekkers presented new estimates on bequests expected in the next decades using data from the Statistical Office. An estimated €86 billion will flow to nonprofit organizations through bequests in the period 2005-2059. In a follow-up research project in collaboration with major fundraising charities the determinants of bequest giving will be studied.

The impact of volunteering on volunteers and on society at large

The Center participates in a EU wide consortium led by the University of Heidelberg called ITSSOIN to study social innovation and civic engagement in Europe. René Bekkers is responsible for the subproject on the impact of volunteering on volunteers and society at large. The research is an extension of a previous study on the *health benefits of volunteering* commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Wellbeing and Sports. <http://renebekkers.wordpress.com/2011/10/12/health-benefits-of-volunteering/>

Tax incentives for cultural donations

A new 'Law on Giving' has taken effect in the Netherlands on January 1, 2012. The law includes a unique 'multiplier' for donations to culture and the arts. The multiplier increases the level of deduction for donations to organizations officially registered as charitable causes in the sector of arts and culture. It is expected that donations to arts and culture will increase as a result of the new law. We are in the final stage of negotiations with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science about a two-year evaluation study of the effects of the law. Details: <http://renebekkers.wordpress.com/charitable-deduction/>

Completed Research

Giving in the Netherlands Panel Survey, 2012 Wave

The sixth wave of the Panel was collected in May and June of 2012. Results have been published in the Giving in the Netherlands 2013 volume.

The 2012 wave also includes a sample of High Net Worth individuals, and a sample of immigrants. The research was sponsored by several government offices: the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and additional grants from NCDO, the government bureau for international development and FORUM, the institute for multicultural affairs. A new wave of data collection for the Giving in the Netherlands research project is scheduled for May 2014.



Faculty members

Theo Schuyt, founding director of the Center and full professor of Philanthropic Studies, will step down as director as of January 1, 2014. He will continue his work as an emeritus professor.

René Bekkers, will step in as Director of the Center. He became an 'Extraordinary Professor' on a chair "Explanations for Prosocial Behavior, particularly of Philanthropy", sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences on January 1, 2013.

Barbara Gouwenberg is still our director of contract research. She coordinates the EUFORI study.

Barry Hoolwerf is still our director of academic programs.

Arjen de Wit, is our data manager for the Giving in the Netherlands Panel Survey. De Wit won an Emerging Scholar Award to attend the 2012 Arnova Conference.

Danique Karamat-Ali is a junior researcher assisting in the EUFORI Study.

Saskia Franssen joined us as an assistant researcher.

Conferences

At the *National Day of Philanthropy* – organized by the Center each year on the final Thursday of April, about 450 people showed up this year at VU University to attend the presentation of the 2013 edition of Giving in the Netherlands and René Bekkers' inaugural lecture on the 'Societal Significance of Philanthropy'.

The *sixth ERNOP conference* took place at the University of Latvia in Riga on July 11-12, 2013, attracting some 70 participants from all over the world. ERNOP is currently counting about 100 members from 19 countries. A selection of the best papers presented at the conference will be published in a special issue of *Voluntary Sector Review*.

PS – Philanthropy Seminars

The Center organizes four seminars per year to exchange research insights with practitioner perspectives. At the first seminar, Chris Burt from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, presented work on donor trust. The second seminar on government subsidies and international relief and development work takes place on December 9, 2013 at the Humanity House in The Hague. The seminar is organized jointly with NCDO, the national expertise and advisory centre for citizenship and international cooperation.

Academic programs

The Center offers programs directed at various audiences. For undergraduate students we offer an elective minor program consisting of five courses in Philanthropic Studies. We supervise students writing their master thesis at the department of Governance Studies, Communication Science and Sociology. Also we offer postgraduate courses: a regular postgraduate training program and a new program for young professionals in the nonprofit sector. We are currently developing a master program in collaboration with the Department of Governance and Politics.

Selected publications

- Schuyt, T.N.M. (2013). *Philanthropy and the Philanthropy Sector: An Introduction*. Ashgate. <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472412805>
- Bekkers, R., Boonstoppel, E. & De Wit, A. (2013). *Giving in the Netherlands Panel Survey – User Manual, Version 2.2*. Center for Philanthropic Studies, VU University Amsterdam. http://renebekkers.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/ginps_user_manual_v2_2.pdf
- Van Ingen, E. & Bekkers, R. (forthcoming). 'Trust Through Civic Engagement? Evidence From Five National Panel Studies'. *Political Psychology*. http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/hilda/Bibliography/Conference_Papers/VanIngen_Bekkers_12.pdf
- Bekkers, R. (2012). 'Trust and Volunteering: Selection or Causation? Evidence from a Four Year Panel Study'. *Political Behavior*, 34 (2): 225-247. <http://www.springerlink.com/index/673PK056786R6415.pdf>
- Schuyt, T.N.M., Gouwenberg, B.M. & Bekkers, R.H.F.P. (Eds.). (2013). *Geven in Nederland 2011. Giften nalatenschappen, sponsoring en vrijwilligerswerk*. Amsterdam: Reed Business. http://renebekkers.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/summary_gin2013.pdf
- Van Lange, P.A.M., Bekkers, R., Chirumbolo, A. & Leone, L. (2012). 'Are Conservatives Less Likely to be Prosocial Than Liberals? From Games to Ideology, Political Preferences and Voting'. *European Journal of Personality*, 26(5): 461-473. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/per.845/abstract>
- Wiepking, P. & Bekkers, R. (2012). 'Who Gives? A Literature Review of Predictors of Charitable Giving. Part Two: Gender, Marital Status, Income, and Wealth'. *Voluntary Sector Review*, 3(2): 217-245. <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tpp/vsr/2012/00000003/00000002/art00005>

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