

# NEWS

## letter

Autumn 2015

### INVESTING IN THE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES





Luc Tayart de Borms  
> Managing Director

# Editorial

## Europe's borders do not stop at the Mediterranean

Welcome to the autumn/winter edition of the King Baudouin Foundation's International Newsletter. As you will read in this edition, KBF is responding to the urgent needs of Syrian refugees – and others – who are making their way to Belgium, seeking a life free from conflict and war.

The dynamics sparking this human exodus are unfolding outside of the EU, but these issues remind us that Europe's borders do not stop at the Mediterranean. Our neighbourhood needs to be peaceful and inclusive – a neighbourhood free of the conditions of poverty and exclusion that create a breeding ground for radicalization and terrorism.

For more than a decade, KBF has been working in the Western Balkans, focusing on human trafficking issues and promoting

academic exchanges. Our support of the Fikra initiative in Tunisia demonstrates our concern about the fragility of the Arab Spring and the will of the people in the country to live in peace, under the umbrella of democracy.

The refugee situation – and Europe's response to it – raises serious questions about who we are as Europeans and what citizens want. KBF launched the New Pact for Europe initiative, which engaged citizens and policymakers across the EU. The results exposed fault lines in the European project, but also demonstrated that regaining confidence in the Union is the main challenge.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our International Newsletter. As always, your comments and suggestions are most welcome.

The King Baudouin Foundation is an independent, pluralistic foundation working in Belgium and at the European and international level. We are seeking to change society for the better, so we invest in inspiring projects and individuals. In 2014 we provided a total of €30 million in support to 2,000 organizations and individuals. The Foundation was set up in 1976, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

Follow us on



## Table of contents

[2 Editorial](#)

[3-5 Receiving and integrating asylum seekers](#)

[6-7 Preserving ethnographical collections](#)

[8-11 Working together for Europe's future](#)

[12-13 A unique collection of Coptic textiles](#)

[14-15 Small grants make a big difference](#)

[16-17 Supporting positive change in Tunisia](#)

[18-19 Empowering victims of human trafficking](#)

[20-21 Connecting funders for women's development in Central Africa](#)

[22-23 Water management in northeast Kenya](#)

[24-25 KBF's Venture Philanthropy Fund](#)

[26-27 Our ID](#)

[28-31 KBFUS: two Donor-Advised Funds](#)

- [American fundraisers share expertise with African universities](#)
- [Made in Africa TV](#)

[32 Et cetera...](#)

PUBLISHER:  
Luc Tayart de Borms  
rue Brederodestraat 21  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
T: +32-2-500 4 555  
[info@kbs-frb.be](mailto:info@kbs-frb.be) • [kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be)  
IBAN BE10 0000 0000 0404  
BIC BPOTBEB1

EDITOR : S. Deboosere CONTRIBUTORS : D. Lodoen, D. Rienstra ASSISTANCE : A. Bruwier, I. Dannau PROOFING: G. Peirs DESIGN : PuPIL PRINTING : New Goff ILLUSTRATIONS: Belga Images (p. 3a), F. Debrock (p. 4), F. de Kerchove (p. 18), Duo for a job (p. 1), C. Enos (p. 20), Fatma El Hamra Amdoune (p. 17), J. Gustafson (p. 28), Instituto Affari Internazionali (p. 8), C. Kaminara (p. 10), MCSPA (p. 22-23), Minibuzz Uganda (p. 30, 31b), Musée Félicien Rops (p. 32b), Musée royal de Mariemont/Photo M. Lechien (p. 13a), B. Naveau (p. 27c), S.J. 1321, collection RMCA Tervuren ; photo J.-M. Vandyck, RMCA Tervuren (p. 6), Solidariteit voor het gezin Gent (p. 15), M. Toujiri (p. 27b), F. Toussaint (p. 2, 3b, 24), Veldemanphoto (p. 11)



# INVESTING IN THE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES

The images of thousands of men, women and children on the move are indelible. This year, more than 400,000 people arrived in Europe by sea alone.

It is vital to ensure that refugees are successfully integrated into Belgian society in the medium and long term. Huge challenges are emerging in the areas of housing, language learning, education, employment and citizenship, as well as culture and religion.

KBF, which has been working to integrate migrants into Belgian society for more than 10 years, is [responding to the plight](#) of the thousands of people seeking asylum. KBF Director Françoise Pissart says that for the Foundation, migration is a key concern.

"Migration is so much more than the movement of people," she says. "Migration is a human story that involves men, women and children. Integration is a profoundly human issue that engages communities. To suc-

cessfully integrate refugees into Belgian society, there must be cordial contacts between the newly arrived and the people of the host country."

The Foundation's Board of Governors made €900,000 available immediately to meet urgent short-term needs and will release a further €4 million in 2016 and 2017 to finance a programme for integrating refugees into Belgian society.

In the short term, the welcoming of a large number of refugees presents major challenges to Belgian society. KBF's support of €900,000 will allow to finance projects that help to meet these challenges by:

- Funding social interpreters to support regional agencies that provide services to refugees
- Providing information and raising awareness among people living near reception centres for refugees
- Supporting local volunteer initiatives.



**"To successfully integrate refugees into Belgian society, there must be cordial contacts between the newly arrived and the people of the host country."**

KBF Director FRANÇOISE PISSART

[Read more on p.4-5](#)



INVESTING IN RECEIVING  
AND INTEGRATING  
REFUGEES

**KBF believes it is vital to ensure that refugees are successfully integrated into Belgian society. Huge challenges are emerging in the areas of housing, language, education, employment and citizenship, as well as culture and religion.**

To meet the short-term needs of refugees seeking a new life in Belgium, KBF's Board of Governors decided to make €900,000 available immediately and to release a further €4 million in 2016 and 2017 to finance a programme to integrate refugees into Belgian society.

### Responding to urgent needs

After consulting with the Cabinet of Secretary of State for Asylum and Migration Theo Francken, the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil) and other stakeholders working on refugee issues, KBF identified three areas of activity to be tackled immediately:

- Funding social interpreters to support regional agencies that provide services to refugees
- Providing information and raising awareness among people living near reception centres for refugees
- Supporting local volunteer initiatives.

### Funding for more social interpreters

KBF will distribute €250,000 among the three integration agencies in Belgium that make translators and interpreters available to various social

services, with the aim to recruit extra staff, particularly Arabic speakers. Given the recent increase in refugees, this will enable these agencies to deliver a more efficient response. The Foundation's support represents about two extra full-time staff per agency.

### Providing information and raising awareness

KBF is making €300,000 available to raise awareness among people who live close to the 15 new asylum centres that will be created by the end of 2015 and administered by Fedasil and the Red Cross. The information campaign includes distributing leaflets, organizing community information campaigns and interacting with local authorities.

This support is essential because local associations in communities that are hosting asylum centres have been subject to substantial cuts in public subsidies.

### Supporting local initiatives

Another €250,000 will go to organizations that support local initiatives by citizens for refugees. KBF believes it is essential to support initiatives that

encourage positive contacts between refugees and local people living in the same area or neighbouring villages. Primarily, these initiatives rely upon volunteers and are organized by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in partnership with local authorities, including local social security offices.

There has been an enormous outpouring of support from Belgian citizens and residents, which has overwhelmed some NGOs and other community-based organizations. KBF's support is expected to strengthen the capacities of these organizations.

KBF will also provide €100,000 to support 15 mentoring projects. This will allow Belgian citizens to partner with individual refugees, including unaccompanied minors, to offer guidance so they can gain a better understanding of their new home and find their way through the various steps that need to be taken to fully participate in Belgian society.

### MORE INFO?

[kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be) Keyword: refugees  
[fedasil.be/en](http://fedasil.be/en)

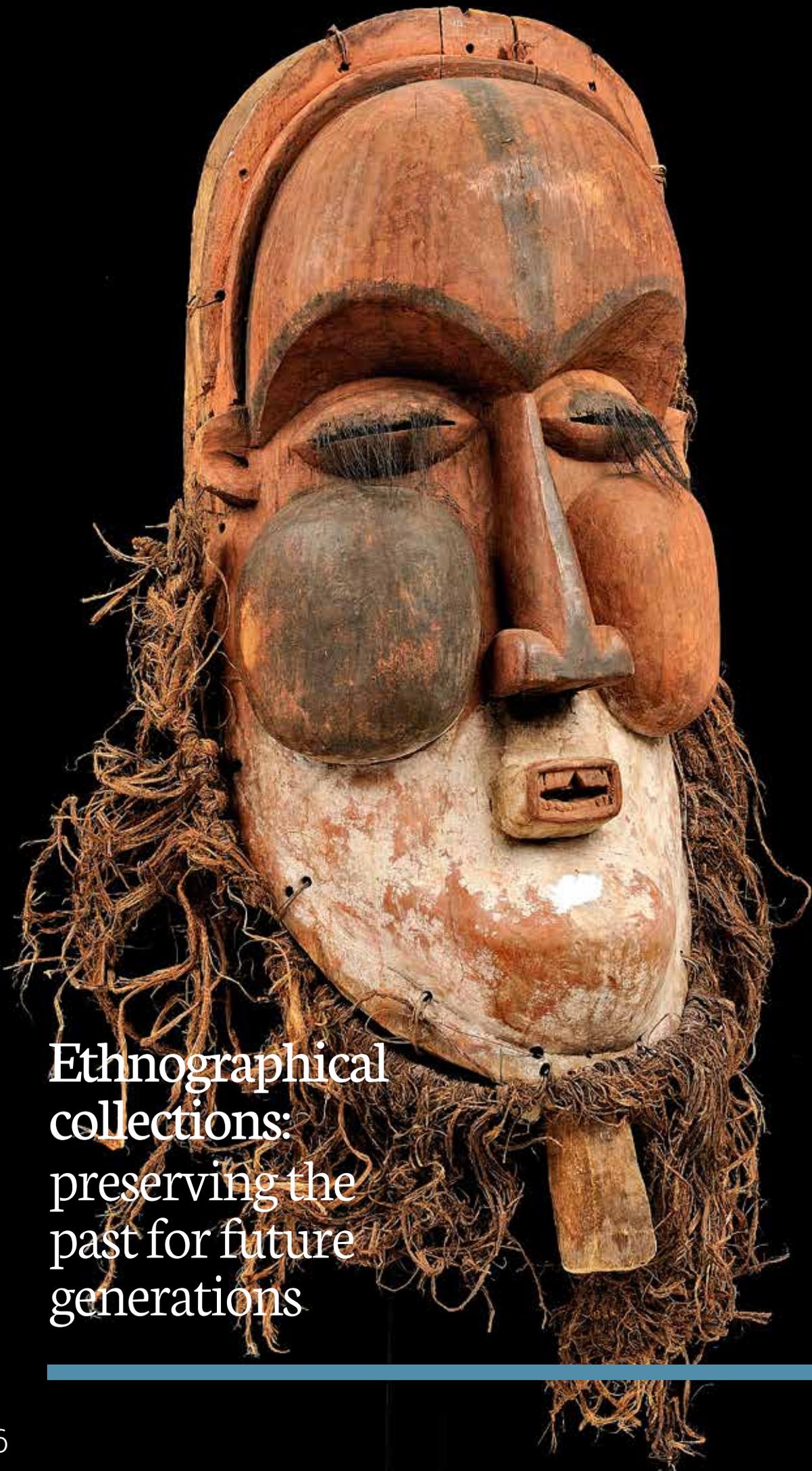
KBF is a founding member of the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2015. EPIM is a platform for collaboration among foundations that aims to strengthen the role played by NGOs active on migration and integration issues in advocating for a European agenda that benefits migrants and host communities.

As a response, foundations will double their current contribution to EPIM to about €8 million for the period 2016–2018. EPIM will focus on improving reception facilities for unaccompanied minors and ameliorating the situation in detention centers in Southern and Eastern Europe.

EPIM will bring together civil society actors to forge new ideas to improve political asylum and international protection in the EU and to help EU citizens living in other EU Member States to access their rights.

### MORE INFO?

EPIM: [epim.info](http://epim.info)



Ethnographical  
collections:  
preserving the  
past for future  
generations

## [KBF's Heritage Fund](#) recently displayed an exhibit of historical artifacts from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and held a study day focusing on private ethnographic collections.

Ethnography is the branch of anthropology that deals with the scientific description of human cultures, using methods such as close observation and interviews. Ethnographical collections can include descriptions of a specific culture's social, spiritual and economic behaviour as well as material objects used by that culture.

Responsibility for preserving these artifacts often lies with missionary collections in monasteries or convents. One example is a collection of masks and documents displayed at the BELvue Museum in Brussels, 13 May through 8 November 2015. KBF collaborated on the exhibit with the Royal Museum of Central Africa (RMCA) and the Society of Jesuits.

The Giant Masks of the Congo exhibit included the work of Jesuit missionaries who carried out ethnographic research and collected objects between 1910 and 1950. In 1998 the Jesuits signed an agreement with RMCA, which now manages the 4,000-piece collection.

### **Focusing on ethnographic collections**

Katrijn D'hamers is Collaborator on Diversity with the Flemish Interface Centre for Cultural Heritage (FARO),

which supports cultural heritage in Flanders. She says FARO recognized that not enough attention was being paid to ethnographic collections across Belgium.

"Expertise was being lost and there was no education on the subject at universities," she says. "So we teamed up with KBF to help us bring together experts from across the country to focus on ethnographic collections."

The result of this collaboration is ETHNOCOLL, an informal network of institutions and universities in Belgium facilitated by FARO and KBF, with a shared interest in ethnographic and non-European collections. The members work together on issues such as the return of objects, the visibility of collections, research and education, restoration and cooperation with source communities.

### **Practical ideas for pressing challenges**

The trustees of ethnographic collections often grapple with questions about how to manage a storehouse, how to exhibit items or how to raise awareness about the collections. Future decisions on management, valuation and selection of items also must be tackled.

Katrijn D'hamers says the Giant Masks of the Congo exhibit sparked the idea for ETHNOCOLL to organize a study day aimed at religious congregations. 'Ethnographic Collections in Private Hands' took place at the BELvue 5 October 2015.

"Participants left with practical ideas about how to better store their collections, how to display them, and how to collaborate with museums or archives to create repositories for their works," D'hamers explains.

Once a collection disappears, so does the specific culture that created it and the information is lost to the world. "Sometimes congregations have to leave their monasteries and the collections are often sold to private dealers and never seen again," D'hamers says. "So there is a great need for repositories for these collections."

Next year's study day topic will be on 'Source Communities'. In Spring 2016 ETHNOCOLL will publish a book on restitution for cultural objects removed from their country of origin.

**"We teamed up with KBF to help us bring together experts on ethnographic collections."**

KATRIJN D'HAMERS,  
Collaborator with the Flemish Interface  
Centre for Cultural Heritage (FARO)



## **ETHNOCOLL Members:**

- Center for Religious Art and Culture
- University of Ghent – Ethnographic collections
- KADOC - Center for Documentation and Research on Religion, Culture and Society
- Royal Museum for Central Africa
- Royal Museums for Art and History
- Musée Africain de Namur
- Musée de Mariemont
- International Museum of Carnival and Masks of Binche
- MAS | Museum aan de Stroom – City Museum of Antwerp
- Catholic University of Louvain – Museum of Louvain-la-Neuve
- Catholic University of Leuven
- University of Liège – Artistic collection Gallerie Wittert

## **MORE INFO?**

[heritage-kbf.be](http://heritage-kbf.be)

[faronet.be](http://faronet.be)

[belvue.be](http://belvue.be)



# A New Pact for Europe

European integration and solidarity is being tested and challenged. The EU weathered the 2008 financial crisis and managed to keep Greece in the eurozone. But the storm exposed deep economic, social and political rifts within and between countries, which are being exacerbated by the “migration crisis” and conflicts erupting at Europe’s borders.

## **Seeking answers about the future of Europe**

In 2013, KBF together with the Bertelsmann Stiftung and 10 other

European partner foundations launched the New Pact for Europe project to further the debate about the future of the European Union.

The objective was to foster a wide public debate at EU and national level, involving citizens, policymakers and others to contribute to fresh, realistic thinking about the future of the European Union.

Do they want more Europe? Less Europe? A different Europe? The project also addressed what is at stake if Europe does not tackle its complex, interlinked challenges.



## “Europe will muddle through, but we must continue to foster debate.”

JANIS EMMANOULIDIS,  
European Policy Centre Director of Studies

A [first report](#) outlining different strategic options for the future of the EU was the basis for debates with citizens, representatives of civil society and political figures. Fifty consultations were held from November 2013 through April 2014. The European Policy Centre (EPC), a Brussels-based think tank, coordinated the consultations.

Results of the consultations informed a second report in October 2014. It presents three pillars that could help reverse the negative tide of public opinion and restore trust in the Union:

- The enabling Union – what is the new fiscal capacity? How can Europe relaunch the convergence process, which means countries must meet certain common criteria for adopting the euro?
- The supportive Union – to enhance the EU’s ‘caring dimension’, recognizing some countries were hit harder by the financial crisis and reform of national economies and social systems must respect minimum social standards.
- The participatory Union – to strengthen ties between the EU and its citizens by increasing democratic legitimacy and accountability.

The report calls for a new bargain including a new ‘grand project’, an Energy Union, to galvanize politi-

cians and citizens around securing Europe’s energy supply, particularly vis-à-vis Russia. The report notes the growing perception that European integration is no longer a ‘win-win for everyone’, which has exposed cracks in the ‘old bargain’ between Member States, as well as between Europe and its citizens. According to the report, this is a moment of risk and opportunity.

### Europeans are “in no mood for reform”

The second round of consultations, between November 2014 and June 2015, was rolled out across 15 Member States to get feedback on the [second report](#). EPC Director of Studies Janis Emmanouilidis says the results of the consultations revealed that Europeans are “in no mood for reform”.

But what is next? He notes that EU experts hold that the EU is in real need for reform – particularly to deepen the economic and monetary union, the glue that holds Europe together and builds solidarity among its Member States. But Emmanouilidis says Member States are preoccupied and their attention is focused on internal affairs and the increasingly uncertain state of the Union.

### Migration – more of a challenge than a crisis

Migration has skyrocketed to the top of the political agenda as hundreds of thousands of refugees seek shelter

from war and violence and seek to build a better life in Europe (see pages 3 to 5). Emmanouilidis notes that migration has been a challenge for Europe for a long time.

“This did not come out of the blue, but we didn’t do anything to avert its negative effects,” he says. “It’s a difficult and complex situation. We are not moving from one crisis to the next, we are accumulating crises.”

### A call for political will and leadership

Emmanouilidis calls for political will – something he says is currently lacking in Europe. “Europe will muddle through, but we must continue to foster debate. In the coming years, we must fight the forces of disintegration. This will require nerve and courage.”

Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Council and now EPC President, agrees. “In times of deep uncertainty, leaders must rise above and beyond taboos, prejudices and party politics,” he says. “Without political courage, we would not have overcome the existential threat of the eurozone. We badly need it today – and in the future.”



MORE INFO?

[newpactforeurope.eu](http://newpactforeurope.eu) [epc.eu](http://epc.eu)



# Hard choices about Europe's future

Today, politicians are faced with hard choices about the future of Europe. In the wake of growing populism, citizens and their representatives are questioning the value added of the European project.

## Regaining people's trust in Europe

The New Pact for Europe project was timely. Europe was – and still is – at a critical crossroads. Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Council and now European Policy Centre (EPC) President, addressed the final New Pact for Europe debate with more than 300

policy-makers and stakeholders in Brussels in June 2015.

He pointed to much “disenchantment” at the national level and “malaise” across Europe.

Van Rompuy commented that during the preoccupation with saving the euro from 2009 to 2013, “People had the wrong impression that sav-

---

## Working together for Europe

The New Pact for Europe project was supported by a large transnational consortium including:

- Allianz Kulturstiftung (Germany)
- Bertelsmann Stiftung (Germany)
- BMW Stiftung Herbert Quandt (Germany)
- Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal)
- European Cultural Foundation (Netherlands)
- European Policy Centre (Belgium)
- King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium)
- La Caixa Foundation (Spain)
- Network of European Foundations (Belgium)
- Open Society Initiative for Europe (Spain)
- Stiftung Mercator (Germany)
- Swedish Cultural Foundation (Finland)
- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (United Kingdom)
- The Open Estonia Foundation (Estonia)

ing the currency was a goal in itself. It was always a means to an end. The purpose was social. We did it to save jobs and bring back growth for people to maintain their income and their way of life."

According to Van Rompuy, the EU has passed an unprecedented test. "We are only slowly coming out of it now. I do not agree with people who hastily conclude that the crisis has killed solidarity between European countries and people," he said. "The crisis revealed what it takes to be in a Union in terms of responsibility and solidarity."

Speaking at a previous consultation in June 2014, Van Rompuy said people want the Union to resolve problems individual countries cannot fight alone, such as global and cross-border issues. But when national authorities are best placed to provide care, people expect the EU to tread lightly.

Referring to the results of the consultations, Van Rompuy told participants that the message is clear. "The Union must be stronger outside and more caring inside. One of the main challenges ahead is to regain people's confidence in our Union."



**“The financial crisis revealed what it takes to be in a Union in terms of responsibility and solidarity.”**

HERMAN VAN ROMPUY, former President of the European Council and President of the European Policy Centre

## New Pact for Europe project partners speak out

The consortium of foundations that worked together on the project were strongly committed to the process. Jordi Vaquer, Regional Director for Europe of the Open Society Foundations, points out, "At a time when a gulf has opened between the elites that pilot European integration and vast segments of our societies, a number of Foundations coming together to bridge that fracture is not just timely, but highly relevant."

He adds that the European crisis has left millions feeling let down by the European Union and cheated of the way they originally interpreted the pacts that brought Europeans together.

"A New Pact for Europe will not solve all these issues, but it addresses the core concerns in a collaborative and innovative manner, and it seems natural for the Open Society Foundations to be part of it, together with others," Vaquer says.

He notes that the New Pact for Europe is only the beginning. "The dismal failure of intra-European solidarity and of commitment to human rights that we have witnessed with the surge in refugee arrivals is a clear indication that a lot more needs to be done," Vaquer says. "The New Pact for Europe initiative succeeded in fostering a wide public debate, but the road to policy impact is still very long, and the commitment of foundations is still needed."

Katherine Watson, Director of the European Cultural Foundation (ECF), echoes his sentiments. "At a time of increasing and deepening cleavages within the EU alongside nationalistic sentiments creeping across governments and society, inclusive debates on the future of the EU are crucial," she says. "ECF believes that culture needs to be at the heart of this debate."

MORE INFO?

[newpactforeurope.eu](http://newpactforeurope.eu) [epc.eu](http://epc.eu)

An important exhibit of Coptic textiles will be on display at the Royal Museum of Mariemont in Morlanwelz, Belgium until 2019. Maria Luise Fill and Robert Trevisiol donated their private collection to the Foundation's Heritage Fund. It consists of more than 200 pieces of Egyptian textiles that date between the 2nd and 10th century AD.

## Collection of Coptic textiles offer a glimpse into the past

The collection includes fabric fragments of clothing, mainly tunics, and furnishings, such as cushion covers, bedspreads, curtains and tablecloths. The pieces show a great diversity of techniques and styles, as well as an extraordinary palette of colours and beautifully refined fabrics, decorated with superb motifs, characters and appliqués.

The exhibit at the Royal Museum of Mariemont in Morlanwelz, Belgium began in June 2015. A new selection will be presented every six months, and all the pieces will be shown by 2019. To mark the occasion of this generous donation and the exhibition at the Mariemont Museum, KBF has published the [book](#) *Textiles coptes: La collection Fill-Trevisiol*, available in French and Dutch.

### An important gift

Roberta Cortopassi, Curator at the French Institute for Heritage Research and Conservation, is an expert on Coptic textiles and one

member of the team that put the exhibit together. "This collection is important because it includes very nice pieces of different kinds of textiles from different periods," she says. "The fragments are representative of the most important styles in Coptic tapestries."

The pieces were likely found during excavations at the end of the 19th century or beginning of 20th century. "This was the period when most of the Coptic excavations took place in Egypt," she adds.

### Protecting the collection

Maria Luise Fill and Robert Trevisiol share a passion for weavings. Prompted by their desire to protect the collection and to make it accessible to the general public, they donated it to KBF. The Foundation then handed the collection in trust to the Royal Museum of Mariemont and brought together a group of experts to conserve, study, and display the tapestries.

"Maria Luise Fill and Robert Trevisiol wanted to ensure their private collection could be held in one place and shown to the public," says Cortopassi. "The collection was in urgent need of conservation. These efforts are now being financially supported by [KBF's Heritage Fund](#)."

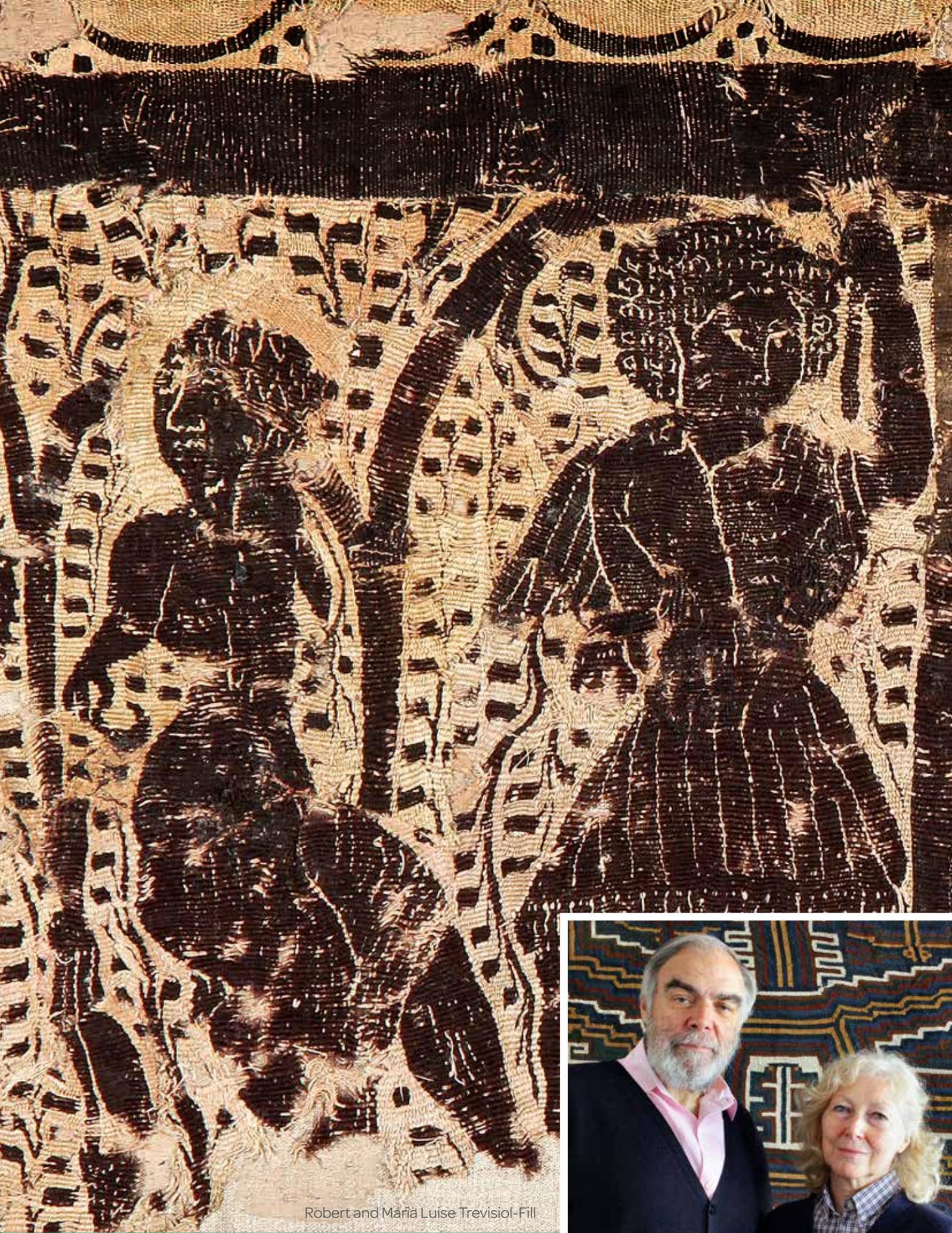
Because of their fragility, the textiles cannot be exposed to light for more than six months at a time. For this reason, the Royal Museum of Mariemont will be showcasing approximately 20 pieces at a time on a rotating basis until all have been displayed by the end of 2019.

"The most important museums in the world all have collections of Coptic textiles," says Cortopassi. "So it is a unique opportunity for the Royal Museum of Mariemont to have the privilege of housing this wonderful collection on behalf of KBF."

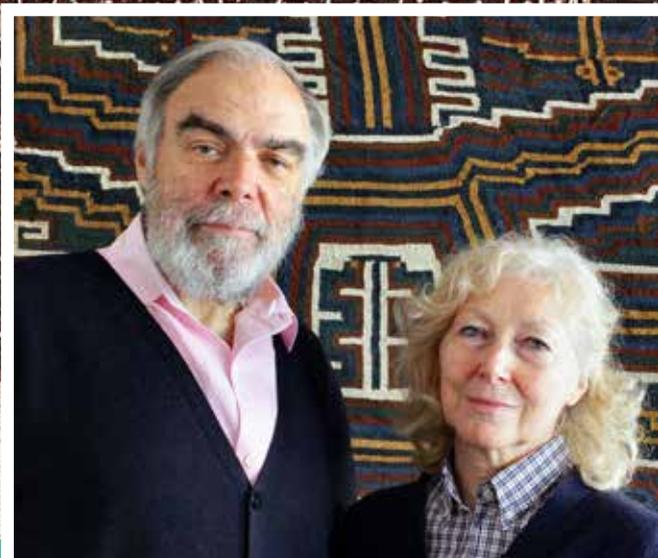
**"Maria Luise Fill and Robert Trevisiol wanted to ensure their private collection could be held in one place and shown to the public."**

ROBERTA CORTOPASSI,  
Curator at the French Institute for Heritage Research and Conservation





Robert and Maria Luise Trevisiol-Fill



MORE INFO?

[heritage-kbf.be](http://heritage-kbf.be)

Order the publication *Textiles coptes: La collection Fill-Trevisiol* on [kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be)

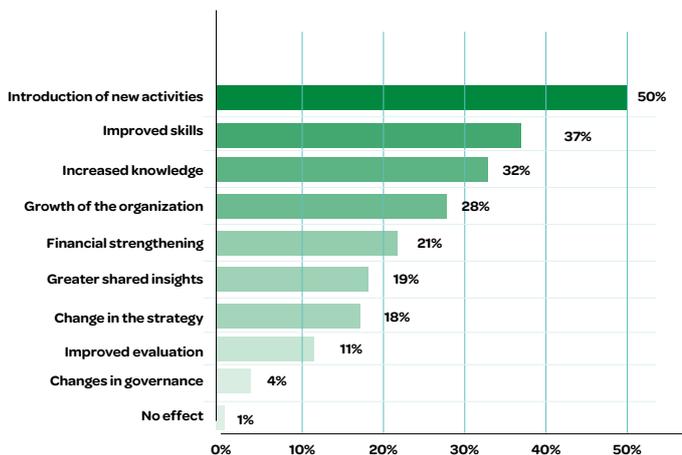
# Small grants make a big difference

The King Baudouin Foundation believes with today's budget cuts and uncertainty, it is increasingly important to support individuals and organizations with grants to help kick-start an initiative. The first KBF grantee survey in 2012 showcased the power of small grants. A [second survey](#) in 2015 confirmed that small grants make a big difference by catalysing societal renewal.

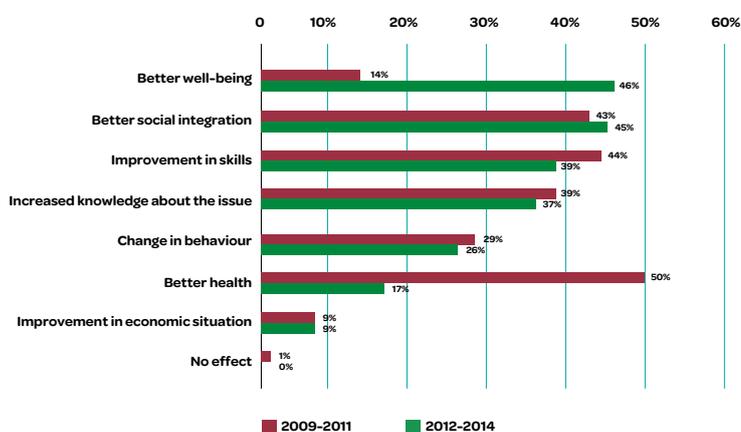
KBF provides a diverse range of grants to encourage grantees to experiment and learn from their peers. Between 2012 and 2014, KBF awarded 5,644 financial grants totalling €80.9 million to large and small organizations. One-third of the grants from KBF went to 'newcomers'. This implies that KBF has been able to give new organizations every opportunity to receive support. KBF defines small organizations as those without employees or relying on volunteers.

KBF grants average €5,000 and enable the Foundation to be active in smaller communities across Belgium and Europe. The role of small grants is often underestimated. The 'Learning from grantees 2012-2014' survey report confirms that many projects could not be realized without financial support and recognition from the Foundation. According to the survey, the grants are usually necessary to launch an initiative. Three-quarters of the 2012-2014 initiatives would have "remained on the drawing board" without KBF support. The same holds true for the smallest grants of €500 to €1,000, which can be enough to kick-start an initiative.

**Figure 4.3 - Effects on own organization (71%)**



**Figure 4.1 - Effects on target groups (92%)**



## Learning from grantees

In March and April 2015, 1,930 organizations and individuals that received support during 2012 to 2014 participated in the online survey. The objective is to assess and analyse the collaboration between the Foundation and its grantees. More than 54 per cent of those surveyed responded, providing KBF with useful information on the profile of grantees, the characteristics of the supported initiatives, the target groups reached and the impact in their communities.

The survey report maps out the impact of KBF's support, which enables the Foundation to improve the effectiveness of its grantmaking policy and respond to grantees' changing needs.

Small and larger organizations give almost identical evaluations about their experience with the Foundation. While small organizations carry out initiatives that are very different from their larger counterparts, both report that collaboration with KBF is valuable.

Survey report author Michel Albertijn, Tempera, says that small organizations are satisfied with the application procedure and with the collabo-



ration with KBF. “This is remarkable, because for small organizations a request for support is often a higher threshold. KBF is managing to collaborate with organizations that are very different in terms of size and scale.”

### Creating space for experimentation

In addition to financial benefits, the report notes that grantees find “the opportunity for experimentation” particularly valuable, which underscores the social added value of KBF’s support. The survey reveals that 60 per cent of the grantees use the support to carry out a “special, extraordinary” activity, which fosters organizational renewal. Three-fifths of the grants support grantees who develop initiatives that are “treading a new path”.

### Catalysing change

Grantees set high, ambitious targets for their initiatives. Almost all (92 per cent) want to bring about change in one or more target groups and fewer than 1 per cent consider their initiative has had no effect.

Through their initiatives, grantees primarily create impact among target groups through changes in behaviour and specific developments within their own organizations.

Grantees report that their initiatives result in improved well-being (46 per cent of grantees), better social integration (45 per cent) and better skills (39 per cent) in their target groups.

---

## A SNAPSHOT – THEMES AND INITIATIVES

- Poverty, civic engagement, health and education are the themes grantees referred to most frequently in their applications.
- The target groups addressed by the supported initiatives include young people, children, households and people living in poverty.
- Geographically, 53 per cent of the initiatives aim to have a local impact. Of this total, more of the initiatives focus on urban environments (32 per cent) than rural environments (20 per cent).
- Most of the funded initiatives are in the areas of poverty and social justice, as well as local and civic engagement.

---

## GRANTEES SPEAK OUT

Some grantees called for more contact with the Foundation during the initiative’s implementation phase and others requested more information and exchange among grantees:

- “KBF supports a number of similar initiatives. It would be valuable to know more about the activities of other grantees working in similar subject areas.”
- “KBF should provide regular information about other similar initiatives that are being carried out or a webinar where grantees have an opportunity to speak about their programmes.”

Grantees see opportunities for improvement in the process once their applications are approved: How best to launch an initiative? Grantees also suggested that KBF offer more multi-year and structured financing.

---

## MORE INFO?

Download the free publication *Learning from grantees. Survey of the organisations and individuals that received support during the 2012-2014 period* on [kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be)



# Supporting positive change in Tunisia



“Tunisia has had a strong civil society for many years, with a dynamic social and organizational fabric. The basic conditions are in place, but what is often lacking is that little financial boost needed to start the projects.”

TAHAR CHERIF,  
the Tunisian Ambassador to Belgium



Tunisia, the birthplace of the Arab Spring in December 2010, is still transitioning to democracy and grappling with political and social justice issues. Fikra, the multi-year Tunisia Joint Fund, has supported more than 40 projects since the first call in June 2013.

Fikra means 'thought' or 'idea' in Arabic. The initiative focuses on the Northwest region of the country, which was completely forgotten before the revolution and suffers from deep-rooted poverty and unemployment. Fikra is supported by four foundations – the Fondation de France, the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the King Baudouin Foundation. It funds projects that bring together people seeking to achieve positive change in their communities.

Tahar Cherif, the Tunisian Ambassador to Belgium, says the socioeconomic problems that led to the revolution are far from being resolved. "In certain regions more than 50 per cent of young people are unemployed, even though many of them have degrees and qualifications. School no longer fulfils its function as a social ladder. This is especially the case in the border regions such as the Northwest."

### Focusing on development and empowerment

Fikra projects focus on socioeconomic justice. They also aim to empower people, especially young people and women, who are important actors in development.

Fikra invests in projects that result in change, innovation, network building and creating jobs. Projects range from handicrafts, beekeeping, preserving cultural heritage and growing food crops, to setting up a station for milk collection for small cattle producers in an area where there are no coolers for storage and transport to large centres is difficult. Funding ranges from very small grants to a maximum of €20,000.

Fikra operates under the umbrella of the Network of European Foundations (NEF). NEF Executive Director Peggy Sailler, who completed a field visit to Northwest Tunisia in August 2015, says progress is being made despite the "modest scale" of the projects. "It's impressive how many quality projects were submitted during the second call in 2014. Fikra aims to create a community and a network. I witnessed a lot of solidarity among participating communities." She adds that project participants receive funding to visit other initiatives across the region.

### Capacity building is paramount

Opportunities and challenges abound when organizations attempt to support change in societies undergoing a profound transition. In this context, capacity building is paramount. Fikra projects encourage entrepreneurship by offering customized training and coaching to potential grantees. Close to 25 per cent of Fikra's budget is spent on capacity building.

### A region with important assets

Ambassador Tahar Cherif says that the Northwest region has important assets that can be put to use by relying on local partners. "Tunisia has had a strong civil society for many years, with a dynamic social and organizational fabric. The basic conditions are in place, but what is often lacking is that little financial boost needed to start the projects. It is here that our foreign partners can often be of most use."

He adds that Tunisian citizens, especially youth and women, have very interesting ideas but need support to bring their projects to fruition, "In Tunisia, women have a status that is unique in the Arab world. Since 1957, they have enjoyed the same rights as men. These factors contribute to Fikra's considerable success."

A major challenge going forward is funding the scaling up of the most promising projects. Fikra will give a special boost to some of them. Currently, two Fikra projects are additionally supported by other funders: one by the Women's Enterprise for Sustainability programme and another one by the Yunus Social Business Accelerator.

MORE INFO?

[fikra-tounisiya.org](http://fikra-tounisiya.org) (In French)



## EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE BALKANS

Human trafficking continues to plague the Balkan region, taking many forms and claiming many victims. KBF's 2007–2014 Trafficking Victims Re/integration Programme (TVRP) focused on long-term assistance for trafficked persons.

Reintegration – or integration – of trafficked persons is the process of recovery and economic and social inclusion following a trafficking experience. It could involve reintegration into family and community, or integration into a new community or country.

### Rebuilding lives

KBF's TVRP was driven by the belief that investing in the longer-term socioeconomic inclusion of trafficked persons is the best way to address reintegration. Empowerment is key as people develop skills that allow them to be independent and self-sufficient so that they can rebuild their lives. It closes the circle and ends the risk of being re-trafficked.

Reintegration is one of the most complex challenges to human trafficking. A critical social dimension, both before and after the crime, is related to poverty, domestic violence, child abuse and an array of societal issues. Victims, especially children, are vulnerable before and after they are trafficked.

Reintegration involves settlement in a stable, safe environment; a reasonable living standard; mental and physical well-being; and opportunities for socioeconomic development.

### A long-term approach

TVRP funded a concerted response, involving local NGOs, governments and the private sector, which required deep and lasting cooperation among the many agencies involved in social inclusion and protection. A primary success factor was TVRP's long-term approach. Short-term, prescriptive approaches do not result in recovery for trafficked persons.

## “People are vulnerable before they are trafficked.”

REBECCA SURTEES,  
TVRP Regional Adviser and Senior Researcher at NEXUS Institute



Rebecca Surtees, TVRP Regional Advisor and Senior Researcher at NEXUS Institute, is the author of the programme's final report, *Beyond Trafficking – The Re/integration of Trafficking Victims in the Balkans 2007-2014*.

“TVRP is an innovative way to provide assistance and to break the vicious circle of trafficking. People are vulnerable before they are trafficked. We need to address the underlying vulnerabilities,” Surtees says.

### A focus on skills

Another success factor was TVRP's flexible approach when responding to the different needs of the 15 supported NGOs and their beneficiaries. There was a strong focus on empowering people to develop skills.

TVRP viewed reintegration as a holistic response that goes beyond medical care, housing and psychological services. This required engagement by a variety of stakeholders, which resulted in enhanced

cooperation, agreements among governmental and non-governmental actors and the socioeconomic sector.

### A legacy of success

TVRP built a common understanding of the complex nature of reintegration through regional exchanges, peer learning and sharing of practices. These exchanges led to mutually developed approaches, including tools to monitor and evaluate plans and services.

The programme leaves a successful legacy. From 2007 to 2014, almost 60 per cent of the 1,711 trafficked persons supported were successfully reintegrated, together with 1,179 secondary beneficiaries who are typically family members.

TVRP pushed for government financial and in-kind support, leveraging private sector contributions and establishing social enterprises. In 2014, KBF invested €100,000 in four social enterprises, which is diversifying NGOs' funding sources and pro-

viding beneficiaries with skills and employment.

According to the final report, “TVRP filled a critical gap in the anti-trafficking response in the region. TVRP played a catalytic role in advocating for and enhancing the reintegration response and realized substantial results and impacts.”

### Challenges on the horizon

Reintegration services face financial challenges. Cash-strapped governments are facing hard choices. Donors are often uninterested in long-term engagement. “The challenge is to keep TVRP's momentum going forward,” Surtees says. “It is the responsibility of governments and donors.”

According to Surtees, Europe's migrant crisis is shifting the trafficking landscape in the Balkans: “Refugees are extremely vulnerable and we do not have an adequate response. Lessons learned while working with trafficking victims can be resources for NGOs to work with other vulnerable populations.”

- The 2007–2014 Trafficking Victims Re/integration Programme assisted 26 per cent of trafficked persons in the Balkans: 1,711 people were assisted, including 296 male victims and 651 trafficked children.
- Grants of €1.5 million were awarded to 15 NGOs.
- In 2011, the German Development Cooperation Agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ) joined KBF as a co-funder.
- KBF launched TVRP in Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia. In 2009 Kosovo participated; Bosnia and Herzegovina joined in 2012.

### MORE INFO?

Download or order these free publications: [kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be) or [publi@kbs-frb.be](mailto:publi@kbs-frb.be)

- [ZOOM: Facts, figures & recommendations on the re-integration of trafficking victims in the Balkans](#)
- [Life beyond trafficking - The re/integration of trafficked persons in the Balkans 2007-2014](#)
- [Beyond trafficking. The re/integration of trafficked persons in the Balkans 2007-2014.](#)

### MORE INFO?

[kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be)

Keywords: trafficking victims, Balkans



“We hope more funders and practitioners measuring their work will share their experiences and lessons learned.”

LISA PHILP, Vice President for Strategic Philanthropy at Foundation Center



# Connecting funders to boost women’s development in Central Africa

A new, searchable data portal will help philanthropists, non-governmental organizations and others supporting women’s economic development leverage their resources for maximum impact.



The [Equal Footing portal](#) focuses on effective economic development approaches to support women, their families and their communities in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda.

The project is a response to a range of challenges experienced by funders actively working in the region, such as a lack of information on funding, underused research about successful efforts and missed opportunities for collaboration. It is the most comprehensive philanthropic database about this region, with plans to expand.

Equal Footing is an initiative of Bloomberg Philanthropies, KBF and Foundation Center. The portal was officially launched in September 2015 at Bloomberg Philanthropies' headquarters in New York.

"Without good data, funders and non-profits don't know how to best target their resources and they can't measure what's working, which means we're missing out on many opportunities to improve people's lives," said Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies. "This new database will make sure help goes where it is needed most and will point the way to new opportunities for collaboration."

### **Comprehensive and relevant information**

The Equal Footing tool shows which organizations are funding projects in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. It provides detailed information about what types of projects are underway in which parts of each country and includes research, maps explaining funding activities and case studies. It also shows what types of solutions have had a measurable impact and what needs are currently underserved.

"The interactive website is intuitive to use," says Hafeeza Rashed, Senior Advisor, Communications & Outreach at KBF United States (KBFUS). "It's highly searchable and distills a great deal of relevant data for donors, universities, government agencies and non-profit communities working on women's development issues in the three countries."

The free web portal includes:

- A mapping application that shows what organizations are funding specific projects
- Lessons from a largely untapped body of research, including full reports and key takeaways about efforts to support women's economic development in Central Africa as well as visual tools to aid understanding of complex issues
- A diverse set of case studies, practical how-to materials and content on topics like effective approaches to funding in conflict and post-conflict societies;
- More than 1,000 foundation and non-governmental organization (NGO) profiles
- Additional resources that include key statistics, news feeds and links to related organizations

"The fact that the portal is free to everyone is key," said Lisa Philp, Vice President for Strategic Philanthropy at Foundation Center. "We also were careful to design it in such way that it is optimized for tablets and for people who don't have access to high internet speeds."

### **Building on success**

"We have been pleased with the initial response from both the funding and NGO community with whom we've shared details about Equal Footing," said Philp. "Several of the people we have reached out to have offered to be interviewed for the purpose of creating resources for the site."



Philp adds that the biggest challenge so far has been to find organizations that specialize in measuring and evaluating women's economic empowerment initiatives in Burundi, DRC, and Rwanda.

"There are several resources that focus on women's empowerment or women's rights, but there are a limited number of reports that focus on the successes or impacts of these programmes in this region," she said. "We hope that by launching the Equal Footing website, more funders and practitioners measuring and evaluating their work will share their own experiences and lessons learned and in turn strengthen the effectiveness of those working in this field."

### **An unprecedented opportunity**

"Equal Footing provides an unprecedented opportunity to promote learning and strengthen our impact through the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences," said Luc Tayart de Borms, Managing Director at KBF. "This project will make it possible to better understand the needs of local organizations and populations, as well as bring together the funders and agencies that support these communities."

Equal Footing resources can be accessed for free at [equal-footing.org](http://equal-footing.org).

MORE INFO?

[foundationcenter.org](http://foundationcenter.org)

[bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org)

[kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be)



MCSPA's Project Manager Eleni Tsegaw, in the fields with women of Kokuselei.

## NEW WATER SOURCE IMPROVES LIVES IN NORTHEAST KENYA

A safe, sustainable supply of drinking water to boost health, nutrition and income for vulnerable women and their families has been installed in the remote Turkana region in northeast Kenya. The project is the result of a partnership with [KBF's Elisabeth and Amélie Fund](#), which supports sustainable and equitable water management in countries of the Southern Hemisphere.

Mothers at Risk (MAR) is an independent, international non-profit organization devoted to reducing the vulnerability of mothers, women and girls living in poverty. In 2014, MAR facilitated a partnership between the Missionary Community of Saint Paul the Apostle (MCSPA) and the Elisabeth and Amélie Fund to improve access to water in the impoverished village of Kokuselei.

The Water Infrastructure and Agriculture Implementation project has contributed to deep change in the community. "We have seen many positive outcomes for people in Kokuselei, especially for women, who typically have very hard lives," says Project Manager Eleni Tsegaw,

a teacher and member of MCSPA, the implementing partner.

### **A host of challenges**

Turkana borders with Sudan and Ethiopia in the north and Uganda in the west. These borders are closed to international traffic and public transport does not exist inside the region. The Turkanas are semi-nomadic pastoralists who depend on herd animals for milk and meat as their main source of sustenance.

Frequent droughts reduce their herds, leaving families without enough food. Rains come only once a year and last just three or four days. The great majority of sicknesses that affect the population, including

## “Families are eating better, becoming healthier and the women are making a bit of money.”

Project Manager ELENI TSEGAW

skin diseases, diarrhea and parasites and worms, are related to the lack of water and the resulting lack of hygiene. In places where there is a permanent water source, it opens the door to development.

### Water is women's work

Women occupy a marginal place in the decision-making process in the Turkana tribe. The men have legal authority over all land and cattle. Because Turkana families are polygamous, men have multiple wives, who take care of the house, the children and smaller animals. Women and girls are also in charge of the grueling daily task of gathering water, walking several kilometres each way to find the precious resource.

Approximately 50 per cent of households in the Kokuselei area rely on food aid from either donors or the government. Without a sustainable source of water, they would continue depending on external help for survival. “The project in Kokuselei is

benefiting 52 families, a total of more than 400 people, as well as nearly 2,000 herd animals,” says Tsegaw.

### Lightening a heavy load

The Elisabeth and Amélie Fund's grant of €48,685 was used to drill a borehole, install a solar pumping system, build water troughs and install a fence around the pump. The borehole was dug in September 2014 and the solar pump installed in January 2015.

“Women and girls were walking four kilometres a day each way to a water point,” says Tsegaw. “It was very difficult for them. Now they walk perhaps half a kilometre to the new water point and some are only five minutes away. Everyone has a sustainable supply of safe water.”

The water point is also a gathering place for women, and where they can meet and discuss their issues and concerns. There is also a water trough for their animals. “Every morning and evening thousands of

goats, camels, donkeys and sheep come to the trough to drink water,” Tsegaw says.

### Time to grow

She adds that once the village had water, women found themselves with spare time on their hands: “They were very keen to fill their time with other productive activities. Today, six mothers have planted a small garden near the water point, and are growing sweet potato, watermelon, pumpkin, cow peas and other fast-growing plants.”

At first, people thought the vegetables were only fit for animal feed, Tsegaw explains. “We had to teach the women to plant and care for the vegetables, but we also had to bring everybody together to learn how to cook and eat them.” Today, women are starting to sell some of their produce to visitors and other community members and are beginning to make a profit.

Tsegaw says it is gratifying to see how this one small project has changed the lives of so many people. “Now we have more and more women who want to plant,” says Tsegaw. “Families are eating better, becoming healthier and the women are making a bit of money.”



MORE INFO?

[mothersatrisk.org/en/index.cfm](http://mothersatrisk.org/en/index.cfm) • [mcspa.org](http://mcspa.org) • [kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be) Keywords: Elisabeth and Amélie Fund

# INVESTING FOR IMPACT: KBF'S VENTURE PHILANTHROPY FUND



“Growth should not unbalance an organization’s structure.”

KATRIEN TORDEUR, AgileMaker Consultant

When KBF launched its Venture Philanthropy Fund in 2009, this form of giving was still in its infancy in Belgium. Since then, KBF has been recognized as a pioneer in the field and has supported 33 organizations.

The Venture Philanthropy Fund creates a partnership between a non-profit organization and the Foundation, in order to maximize the social impact. The Fund provides non-profit partners with structural support for improved governance and strategies, stronger business models and ways to measure impact through key performance indicators (KPIs).

KBF's Venture Philanthropy Fund focuses on organizations that are growing and preparing to scale up as well as those that are mature or in decline. KPIs are determined together by KBF and the beneficiary and are monitored every four months.

Non-profit organizations receive approximately €80,000 from KBF's Fund over three years, mainly to be used to finance technical support and expertise. To date, KBF's Fund has distributed €2.2 million in grants and €150,000 in loans.

### Structural support delivers more

Bain & Company and Accenture work with KBF's Fund on a pro bono basis. Bain & Company conducted an in-depth evaluation of KBF's Venture Philanthropy Fund in March 2014. The evaluation included a review of all of the organizations supported since the launch of the Fund.

The evaluation concluded that 70 per cent of organizations report that KBF's structural support delivers higher impact than project funding.

The Fund delivered an 80 per cent success rate when measured against the KPIs set by KBF and the beneficiaries.

### Banking on a new partnership

BNP Paribas Fortis bank, which created a partnership with KBF in June 2015, is following a trend that has emerged in Europe over the last few years.

According to Stéphane Vermeire, General Manager Private Banking & Wealth Management, BNP Paribas Fortis the bank turned to KBF's Venture Philanthropy Fund because it wanted to add a more philanthropic dimension to its socially responsible investments by providing direct support to organizations working for a good cause.

Although the bank has its own foundation, it wanted to collaborate with an independent, neutral party with recognized expertise. "KBF's Venture Philanthropy Fund seemed to us to be the ideal partner," Vermeire explains.

The bank will contribute almost €400,000 annually, which nearly doubles the Fund's resources.

KBF published the [first Venture Philanthropy Impact Report](#) in 2013 (download this report for free on [kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be)). A second report will be published in November 2015; subsequent reports will be published annually.

## DELIVERING EDUCATION TO LONG-TERM AND CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN

Bednet, a Flemish non-profit, connects children ages six through 18 with long-term or chronic illnesses with their classes via Internet. Bednet enables them to follow lessons during their absence and to stay in contact with their teachers and classmates.

Since September 2015, every child in Flanders suffering from a long-term or chronic illness has the right to access Bednet. Bednet Director Els Janssens says "To expand was a dream for us since our creation in 2004. We needed to ensure the right of children to access Bednet. But we had to prepare for this next context."

According to AgileMaker, a Brussels-based consultancy that worked with Bednet, the challenge was for the organization to manage its growth without losing its soul and its agility. "In the past, Bednet was growing organically but the type of financing stayed the same, a mix of gifts, sponsorship and subsidies," says AgileMaker Consultant Katrien Tordeur.

Since September 2015, Bednet received a significant increase in funding from the Flemish authorities. "As a result we needed to look for an organizational structure model that would allow Bednet to grow unencumbered. Growth should not unbalance an organization's structure."

With €80,000 support from KBF's Venture Philanthropy Fund beginning in 2011, Bednet was able to restructure its organization and has grown from supporting 160 children in 2011 to 230 in 2014. With the new funding support, Bednet is aiming to reach 600 children.

## MORE INFO?

[kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be) Keywords: Venture philanthropy

2014

KBF grants worldwide

# Our ID

## King Baudouin Foundation

Working together for a better society

270



Individuals supported

+

1,712



Organizations supported

=

€29,997,794



In support provided

122



Calls for projects

2,122



Experts in our independent juries and committees

92



(Free) publications

87,000



Publications distributed

45,000



Publications viewed on kbs-frb.be

72



Partnerships and missions for government bodies

70



Events

451



Active Funds set up by individuals and companies

488



Project accounts bringing together financial resources for local projects

79



Employees (full-time equivalents)

# KBF 2014 BY THE NUMBERS

The King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) is an independent, pluralistic foundation active at the local, regional, national, European and international levels. We work in partnership to change society for the better, so we invest in inspiring projects and individuals in the areas of poverty, health, development, philanthropy and cultural heritage.

The Foundation also organizes seminars, round-table discussions and exhibitions. KBF shares experience and research results through free publications. We work in partnership and encourage philanthropy, with people and organizations working 'through' rather than 'for' KBF.

With an annual [budget](#) of €44.8 million in 2015, KBF is the largest foundation in Belgium. We rely on three main sources of income.

- Each year we take 4 per cent of the market value of our own capital
- We take 3.7 per cent of the market value of the total capital of the Funds
- We receive an annual grant from the Belgian National Lottery (more than €11 million)

The King Baudouin Foundation [Advisory Council](#) and the [Board of Governors](#) determine our key areas of work. For the implementation of our initiatives, we benefit from the free services of the experts working in our steering groups, advisory committees and management committees. We also work with independent juries that we bring together for our calls for projects. Their generous efforts

and hard work ensure that the right choices are made on an independent, pluralistic basis.

The Foundation was set up in 1976, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.



**With thanks to the [Belgian National Lottery](#) and to all donors for their valued support.**

King Baudouin Foundation is a public benefit foundation. For donors resident in Belgium, any gift from €40 to our bank account IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 0404 – BIC: BPOTBEB1 is tax-deductible

# KEYBENEFITS



KING BAUDOUIN  
FOUNDATION  
UNITED STATES

10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor • New York, NY 10020  
+1 (212) 713 7660 • [info@kbfus.org](mailto:info@kbfus.org) • [kbfus.org](http://kbfus.org)

“My objective was to learn what fundraising actually is and how to do it.”

Participant, IDRISSE MBENGUE,  
Associate Director of Groupe ISM, Senegal



## American fundraisers share expertise with African university executives

**As African institutions of higher education are seeking to diversify their sources of funding, KBFUS provides them with a unique opportunity to meet with New York City’s most talented professionals to discuss successful development strategies.**

Since 2013, KBFUS has hosted an annual study visit on the American fundraising model. The intensive four-day programme provides senior executives from African universities and other leading non-profit institutions with an opportunity to explore creative solutions to broaden their funding.

The 2015 programme, which was generously supported by the American Express Foundation, was held at KBFUS’ New York headquarters from May 3 to 6.

### Exploring creative solutions

“Participants have the opportunity to explore ways to broaden their funding, exchange views about the applicability of lessons learned to their local situation back home and draw inspiration from the experience of foreign universities that already actively reach out to donors based in the United States,” says Jean-Paul Warmoes, Executive Director of KBFUS.

Sessions cover key topics such as strategic planning, prospect identification, alumni giving, donor cultivation, capital campaigns, planned giving, and the critical role of the university president and of the board of trustees.

### Aiming for inclusive opportunities

One participant, Idrissa Mbengue, is an Associate Director of Groupe ISM, (the Institut Supérieur de Management), Senegal. Founded in 1992, Groupe ISM was the first private business school in the country.

At that time, there was one student in private school for every 1,000 in public schools across Senegal. Today, with more than 150 private schools across the country, the ratio is one to three. That means tough competition to attract students.

“Our objective at Groupe ISM is to democratize management education in Senegal and across West Africa,” says Mbengue. “We now have 10 campuses in Senegal. Students no longer need to come to Dakar but can stay closer to home to study.”

However, despite the widespread availability of physical access to these schools, students who have little or no access to money are being left behind. “Right now, 100 per cent of our funding comes from tuitions,” says Mbengue. “We want to find a way to make our programmes available to bright students who can’t afford to pay.”

All Groupe ISM schools are attended by students from Senegal and other French-speaking African countries. “Our next steps will be to find a way to open more campuses in other countries in the region.”

In order to launch more schools and provide scholarships, Groupe ISM is seeking new avenues of income. When Mbengue and his colleagues learned about the KBFUS study visit, they knew it was an opportunity they could not afford to miss.

### An eye-opening experience

“My objective was just to learn what fundraising actually is and how to do it,” Mbengue says. “We have never done fundraising. It was like starting from scratch. The study visit was a real eye-opener in many ways.”

He was surprised to discover that institutions like KBFUS are a vital link between universities and donors, providing services that make giving and receiving funds smooth for both parties. “Having an intermediary like KBFUS based in the United States to manage donations for us is a must. Many African universities are already doing this. We intend to explore this possibility in the near future.”

Mbengue learned that Groupe ISM needs to actively seek out donors who have an interest in West Africa, share ISM’s vision and passion, and demonstrate that donors have good reason to support the university’s efforts. A comprehensive, instructive website is a key component to success, he says. “We have to make information very clear and understandable for an American audience.”



## Mobile videos drive independent thought in East Africa

MIATV uses a commuter minibuss studio to capture the views of citizens. It broadcasts free, uncensored content to rural people in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. With support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Tanzania programme will include content on early childhood development.

People living in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa have limited access to quality news and social programming relevant to them. State broadcasters are not incentivized to educate, raise awareness and mobilize support for important issues that affect their audiences. Instead, they flood the airwaves with foreign soap operas and sitcoms. Locally pro-

duced programmes pander to politicians and business executives and rarely seek out divergent opinions of citizens.

"Independent, quality media is rare in East Africa," says Frank Bierens, CEO of MIATV (Made in Africa TV). "Media houses that strive for impartial editorial content often face pressure from governments to remain uncontroversial."

### **A need for relevant content**

Bierens, a Dutch lawyer and literary publisher, began working in Tanzania on video projects in the late 1990s. He soon recognized that there was a tremendous demand for local, uncensored programming. With that challenge in mind, he moved his family to Arusha in 2009 and started MIATV, a multi-platform production company that reaches

its viewers via broadcast television, mobile phones and social media channels.

"There is an important media revolution happening in Africa right now," says Bierens. "While now, merely 25 to 50 per cent of the population has access to television, we believe that in three to five years every African citizen will watch television on a mobile device."

### **A powerful vehicle for honest opinions**

MIATV's flagship television programme is the daily Minibuzz, a powerful forum that prompts open and passionate discussions. The programme is recorded every morning in a mobile minibuss studio. The broadcast is aired nationwide the same evening, during prime time.

Participants are non-preselected passengers who enter the mini-bus for a ride to a specific destination, following actual bus routes. Passengers are a diverse mix of young and old, male and female. Two fully briefed presenters lead the group discussions on topics that change from day to day.

“We want to make programmes that consider the views of citizens and are relevant to their lives. Passengers don’t know in advance what the topic is,” says Bierens. “Our crew, all of whom are local, identify about five aspects for a topic discussion of 10 minutes. We want participants to invent solutions to problems, themselves.”

Depending on the country, there is sometimes a fine line determining what can be discussed. The crew must decide where that line is. “In Uganda, for example, gay rights is a delicate subject,” says Bierens. “If the crew crosses the line too often we will be thrown off air. But if we stay too far away from the line it gets boring. We want to push a bit. We want to discover what is possible.”

### **A new partner - the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

As it further expands its operations, MIATV is reaching out to like-minded organizations for support in terms of content and funding. The King Baudouin Foundation United States recently facilitated a US\$ 200,000 grant to MIATV from the Children Affected by HIV and AIDS Initiative of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, to produce

“The goal is to democratize the media production.”

FRANK BIERENS, CEO of MIATV



48 discussions on the topic of early childhood development with focus on vulnerable young children living in high HIV-prevalence communities.

The programmes will promote, advocate and take action on the rights and needs of young children impacted by HIV and AIDS and share simple techniques for stimulating brain development (such as talking and singing to a baby) with parents and other caregivers, which research demonstrates is highly beneficial. These objectives will be met through the Minibuzz programme as well as through MIATV’s social media network.

“Working with KBFUS on the proposal and budget was an incredibly smooth and pleasant process. The staff are very helpful. If there was

a complication, someone immediately offered a solution,” says Bierens.

### **Gearing up for the mobile generation**

MIATV’s next step is to expand its programming ideas to other countries in Africa. It is also acquiring an old post office building in Nairobi and converting it into a studio where young people can record their own programmes. Staff will be on hand to help them format their ideas into six- to seven-minute videos.

“Young people can do comedy, political satire, whatever they want,” says Bierens. “The goal is to democratize the media production, among others, through facilitating them to produce their own programmes, that are distributed on mobile platforms.”



The King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS) facilitates thoughtful, effective giving to Europe and Africa. KBFUS enables U.S.-based donors to support their favorite causes and organizations overseas, and provides European and African non-profits with cost-effective solutions to raise funds in the United States. In addition, KBFUS’ educational programmes present unique learning opportunities in the fields of fundraising and philanthropy. [kbfus.org](http://kbfus.org)

# Et cetera...

## Gender@war 1914 to 1918

Through this exhibit, visitors experience the very human upheavals people faced during the First World War, including the disruptive impact of war on work and family and the toll of violence.

Organized by the Archive and Research Centre for Women's History, in collaboration with the BELvue Museum, the exhibit also showcases the contribution of women and men to the war effort. Its original and comparative approach makes visitors reflect upon the effects of armed conflict on the status of men and women in society.

Gender@war 1914 to 1918 is richly illustrated and focuses on Belgium, France, Germany and Great Britain. A catalogue and educational tools for teachers are also available.

The exhibit is open 09.30 to 17.00 Monday for groups with a reservation; 09.30 to 17.00 Tuesday to Friday; and 10 to 18.00 Saturday and Sunday.

More info? [belvue.be](http://belvue.be)



## Art on the move

Over time, and thanks to numerous donations, the Heritage Fund has been able to build up a precious collection of almost 7,000 works of art and six archival funds. Numerous works are travelling to various exhibitions in Belgium and abroad, providing more opportunities for people to discover – and rediscover – them.

Until 17 January 2016, the Musée d'Orsay in Paris is presenting a landmark exhibition on artists' fascination with prostitution between 1850 and 1910. A work by Belgian artist Félicien Rops is an integral part of the exhibition. *Dame au pantin* (Woman and Puppet), an allegory about prostitution, will feature in the exhibition.

Until 28 February 2016, the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo will present 'Architecture in Comic Strip Form', a show that exhibits the artwork for original drawings made by two of the most renowned illustrators in Belgium, François Schuiten and Benoît Peeters.

More info? [heritage-kbf.be](http://heritage-kbf.be)

## Welcome to KBF's new website

The Foundation recently launched its new website. The site has been re-designed to make it easier to navigate, which means users can quickly access calls for projects, KBF's latest publications, the newsroom and information on the Centre for Philanthropy. Multimedia makes the site more accessible and interactive. We welcome your feedback!

More info? [kbs-frb.be](http://kbs-frb.be)

