

# Philea

Philanthropy Europe Association



# About Philea





**Converging EFC and Dafne**  
Participatory process March  
2021 – May 2022





## Who we are today:

- 222 Full Members
  - 196 Foundations
  - 26 Philanthropy Infrastructure Organisations
- 46 Associate Members
- Representation of approximately 10,000 foundations across Europe
- 33 countries of origin around the world



# Diversity of Philea Members

- **Carry out their philanthropy in many ways**, from traditional grantmaking to running their own programmes to venture philanthropy and other new forms of social investment
- **Range in size** from small family foundations to some of the world's largest philanthropies
- **Work in a wide array of fields** – health, education, research, migration, disabilities, environment, arts & culture, sustainability, and many more
- **Are based in countries across Europe**, with many from **other world regions** as well
- **Are active in every corner of the globe**
- Operate geographically in both **local and global** contexts.
- Take **different forms**, ranging from corporate/enterprise foundations, to banking foundations, foundations, and community foundations.
- Are funded and managed in a variety of ways, including **endowed/non-endowed** and **operating/grantmaking**.











## Vision

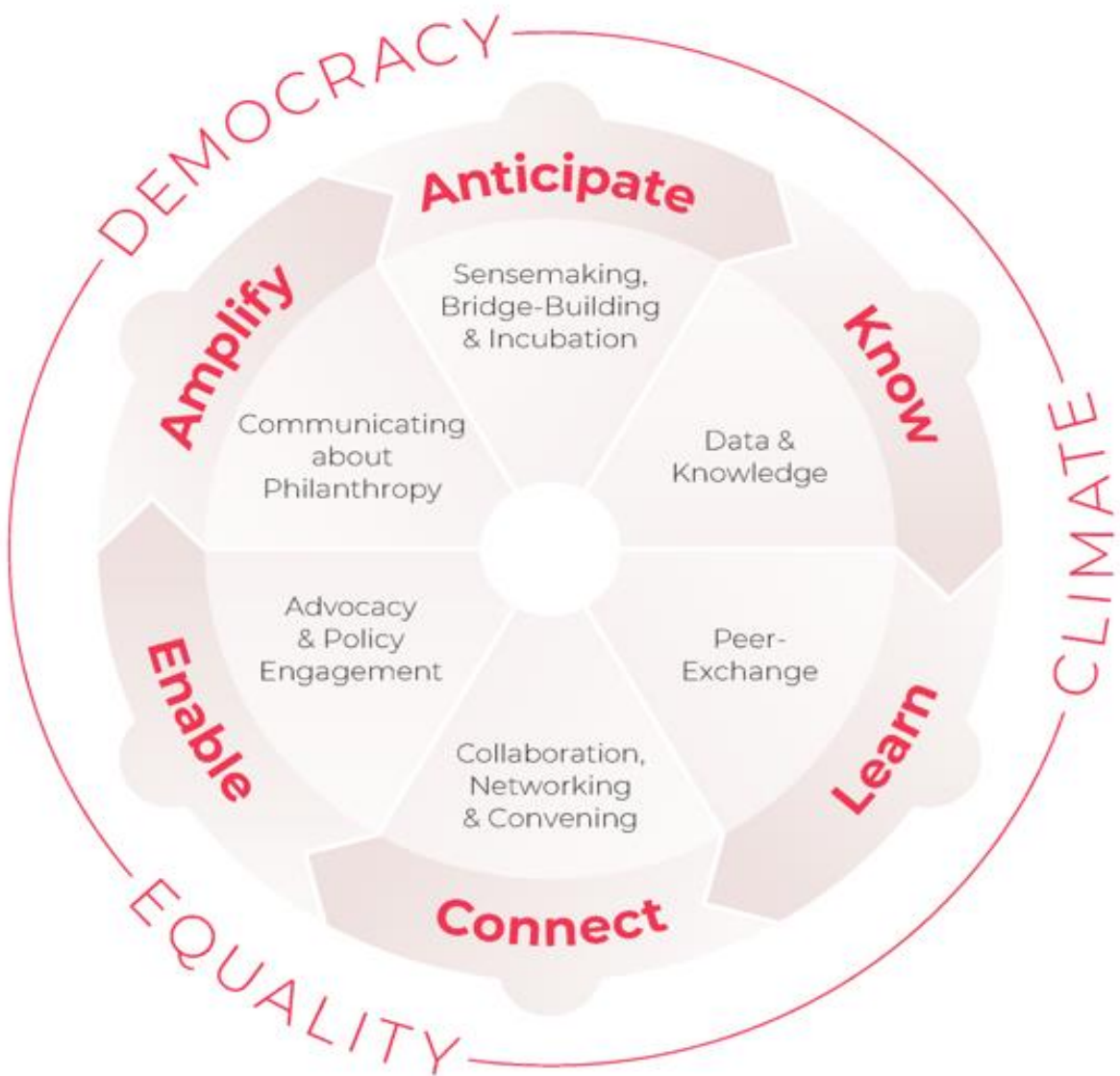
Our vision is for philanthropy to use its full potential to co-shape and support a pluralistic, just and resilient society that centres people and planet.

## Mission

To achieve this, our mission is to enable, encourage and empower the philanthropic community to build a better today and tomorrow.





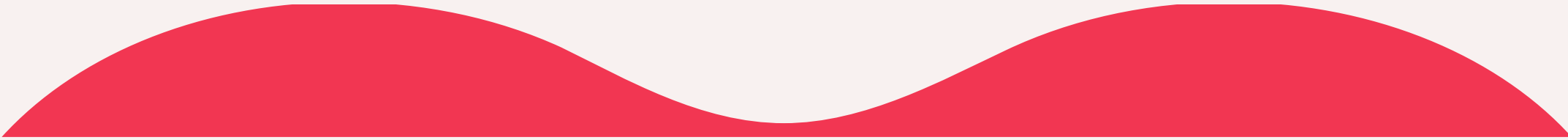


## How we work

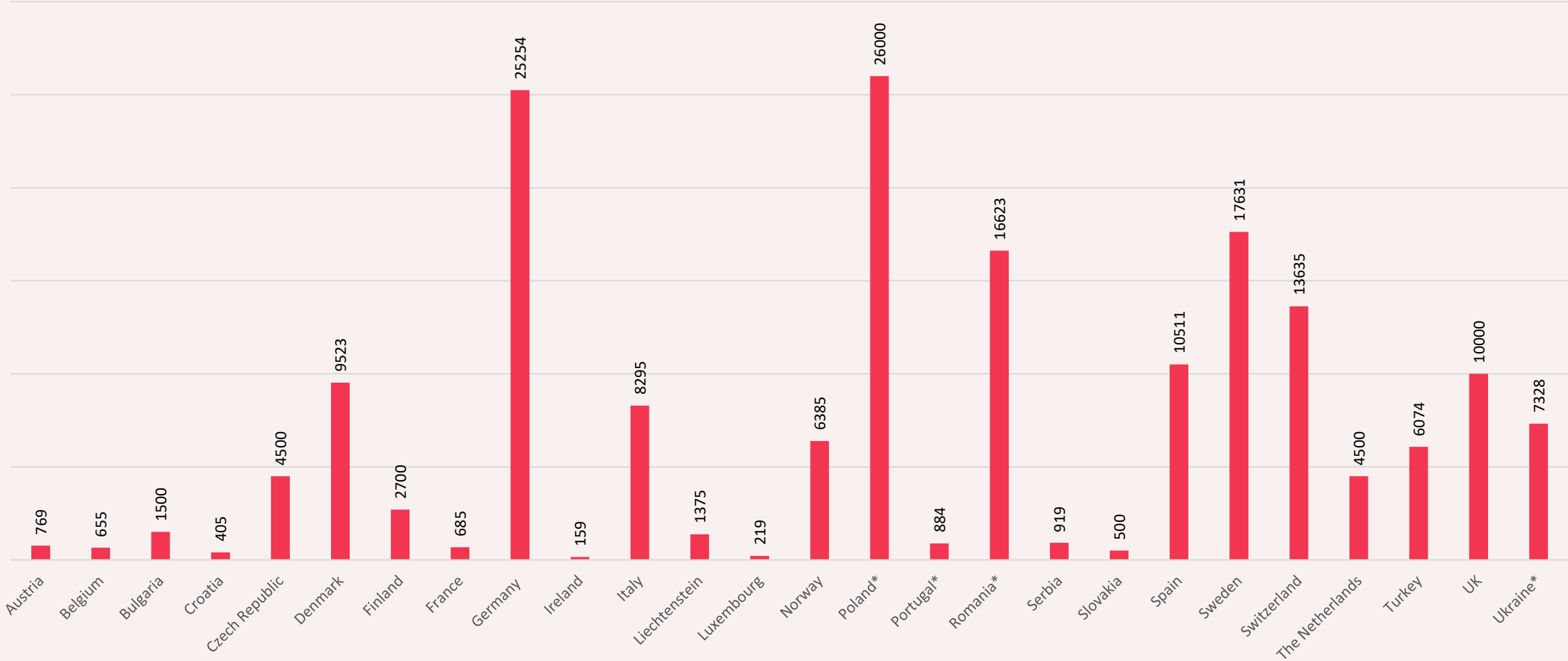
- Six functional roles
- Three over-arching topics
- 14 Thematic Collaborations / Networks
- 10 Communities of practice



# **Size and scale of European philanthropy**



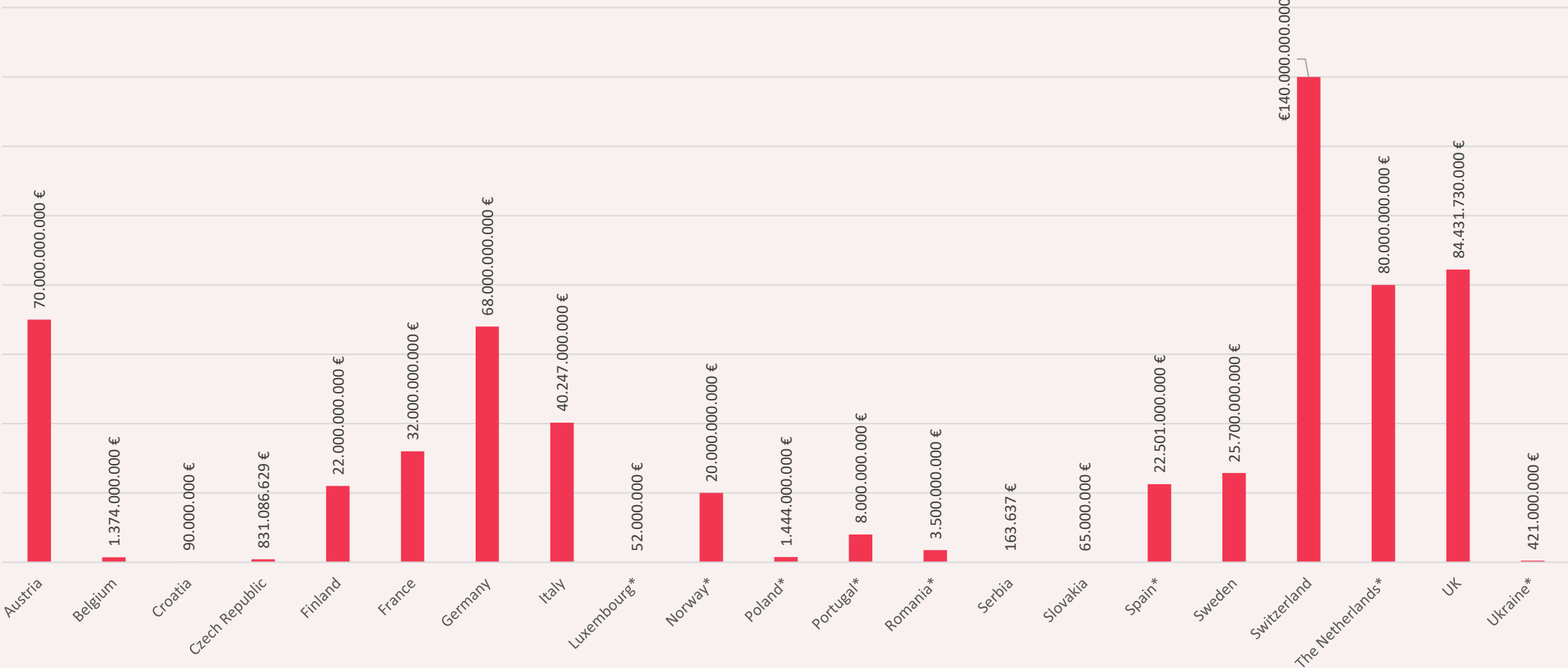
# Number of public benefit foundations



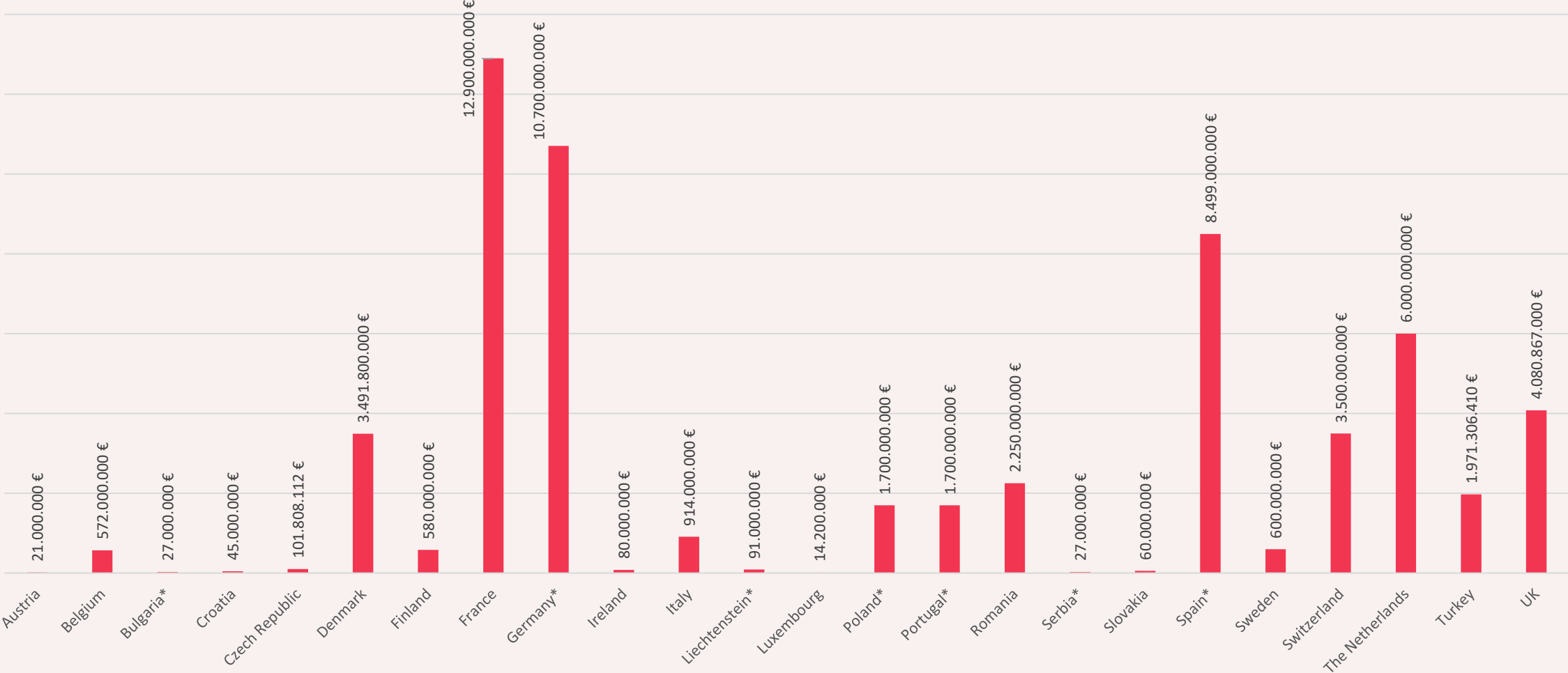
Source: Philea Philanthropy Support Organisations Annual Survey (2023)



# Total assets of public benefit foundations



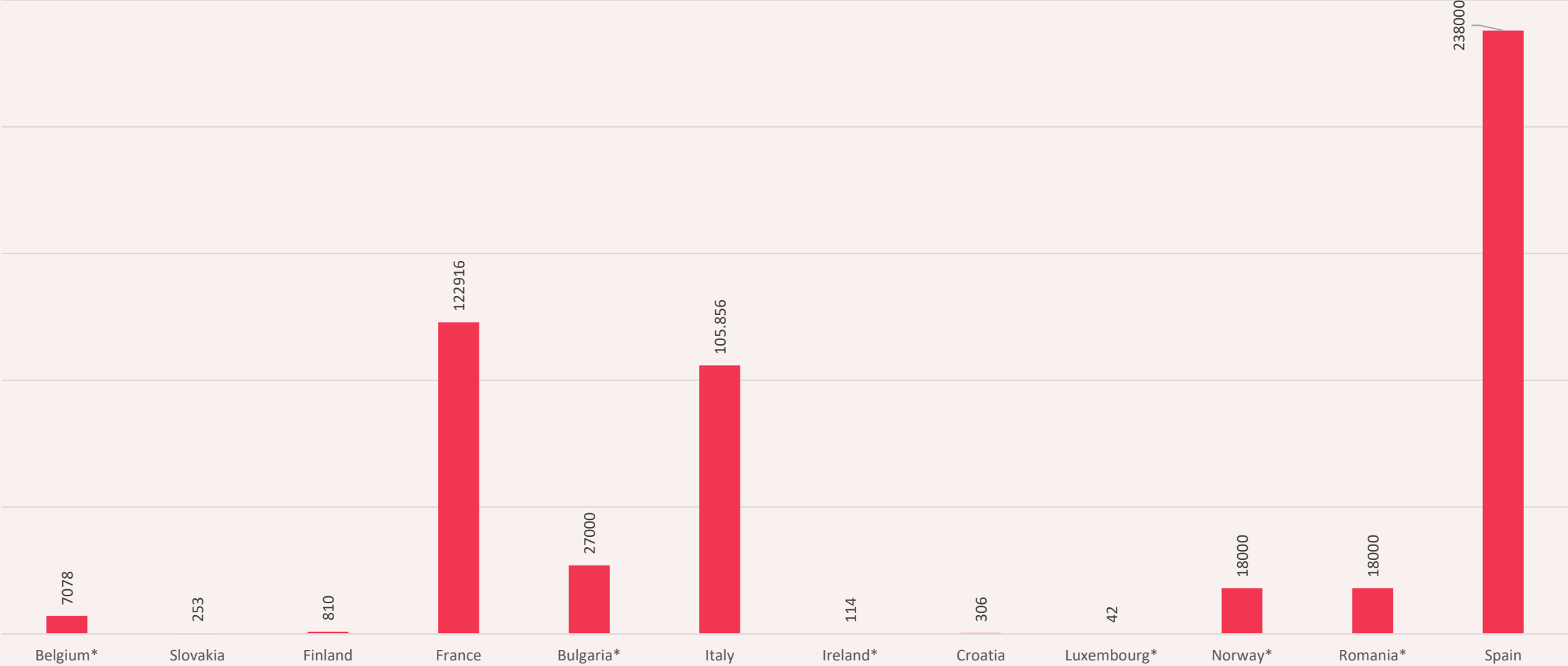
# Total expenditure of public benefit foundations



Source: Philea Philanthropy Support Organisations Annual Survey (2023)



# Number of full time employees in public benefit foundations



# Challenges and opportunities





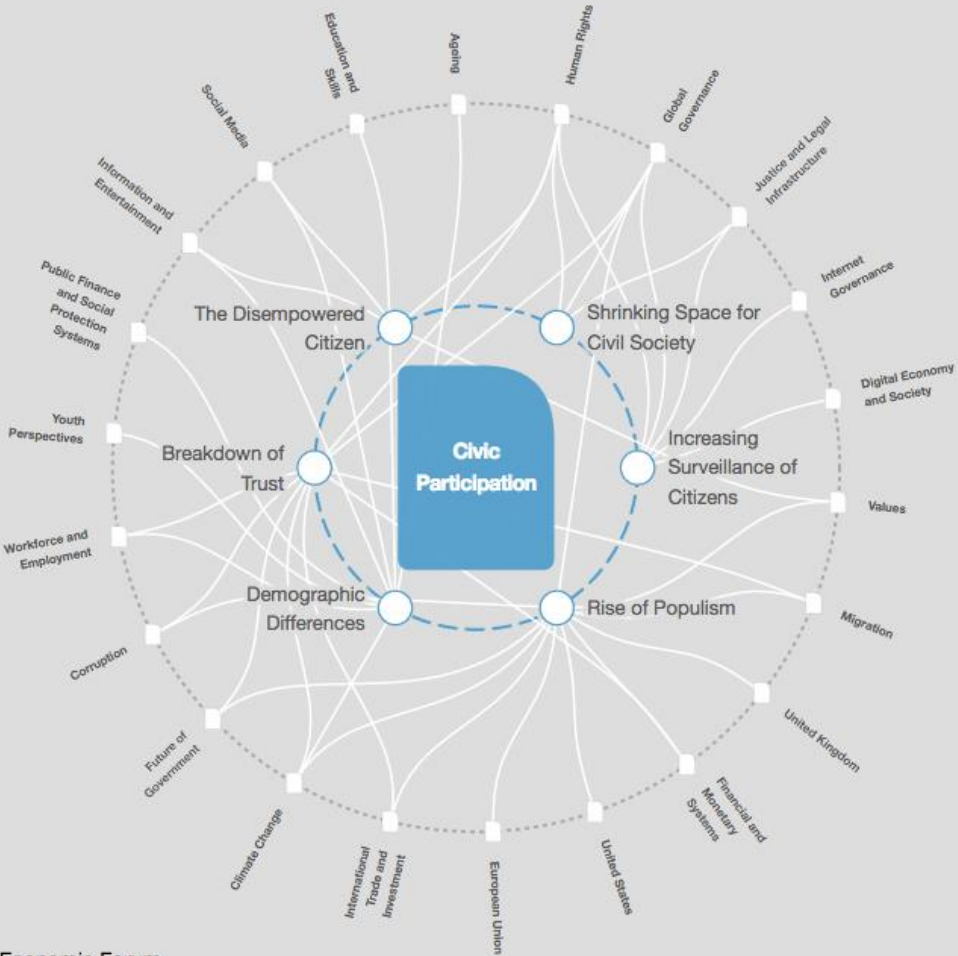


## Current challenges in Europe (issue based)

- Impact of crises: war in Ukraine; implications of Covid-19; the effects of climate change
- New type of poverty and increasing inequalities
- Social divisions
- Backsliding in democracy
- Disinformation, uncertain impact of greater use of technology, big data and AI

# Current challenges in Europe (operating environment)

- Political limitations
- Legal limitations
- Barriers to cross-border giving
- Lack of data on philanthropy







## Current challenges in Europe (legitimacy related)

### Context: Rising inequalities & declining public trust

- The new Gilded Age (Callahan, 2017)
- Ineffectiveness (Giridharadas, 2019)
- A threat to democracy (Reich, 2018)
- White supremacist legacy (Villanueva, 2018)

### Responses to the new wave of criticism

- Dismantling institutional racism and power imbalances, decolonization
- Eurocentrism & disengagement with criticism

### COVID-19: Shock to the system

- Flexible funding, unrestricted support, participatory approaches, trust-based relationships, shifting the power

# SOLIDARITY IN ACTION



To build a world of safety, dignity, and freedom that we seek and dream, we must bring our collective power and wisdom.

## Current opportunities in Europe

- A moment of solidarity
- Cross-sectoral collaboration
- More recognition from public institutions
- Digital transformation
- Engagement of new generations and fresh perspectives
- Embracing new forms
- Growing interest and urgency for climate-change initiatives



# Funding practices





## How funding practices are evolving

### New topics and target groups:

- Marginalised & vulnerable groups
- Minority led organizations
- Emerging issues
- Short term & long term
- International vs local giving
- Global south-north partnership

### New narratives

- Position foundations as responsive and agile actors, not as supplements to governments
- Opportunity for reimagination, reinventing, resetting, building back better,
- Community building & resilience
- Wellbeing, sustainability, resilience of grantees
- Reference to SDGs

# THERE IS NO TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY WITHOUT



## How funding practices are evolving

### Funding relationships:

- Support experimentation and learning
- Flexible funding
- Core, unrestricted support, OD support
- Listening to grantees and communities, amplifying their voices
- Participatory grantmaking

### Internal alignment practices:

- DEI; more open talk about race, gender and power
- Foresights – scenario planning
- Interventions more integrated and at scale
- Openness to cross sectoral and sectoral collaborations
- Addressing interconnections among thematic issues
- Social change, systems change
- Flexible work/staff wellbeing, operational agility, climate friendly working style





# A model for responsible philanthropy



# Thank you

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