



European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights

Annual Report to Ariadne Participants

May 2014 to April 2015

Ariadne is a European peer-to-peer network of more than 480 individuals from 184 grant-making organisations which support social change and human rights.

Ariadne helps those using private resources for public good achieve more together than they can alone by linking them to other funders and providing practical tools of support.

*Ariadne's **mission** is to create a well-informed and lively affinity group of European grant-makers and donors of all kinds and sizes with the skills and information to foster sustained social change and human rights, to advance a society that ensures dignity, opportunity and justice for all.*

It seeks to create a flexible hub that enables participants to play an effective role in underpinning civil society in Europe and globally.

*Please note this is an internal report sent only to Ariadne participants. It is not intended to be released publicly. Follow **@AriadneNetwork** for tweets on social change, philanthropy, and human rights. And have a look at our new web-site at ariadne-network.eu*

Foreword

Dear Friends,

Ariadne is now entering its 7th year. It began life as a small germ of an idea to try to make the work of funders easier and more effective, and has now grown to be a network of more than 480 participants in 25 countries. In celebrating that, ***I want to thank each and every one of you for giving your time and insight to create a successful and useful community of donors engaged in supporting social change and human rights.***

Anniversaries, though, come with mixed feelings: on one hand we are thrilled to see Ariadne grow with increasingly active membership and clusters developing in continental Europe. Over the past months, Ariadne's online presence has been reinforced; our resources are being used by a growing number of members and more widely in civil society as a whole. For the first time, Ariadne has a **multi-layered network** which we are beginning to be able to use. For instance, during the drafting of the [2015 Ariadne Forecast report for social change and human rights funders](#), we were able to convene consecutive meetings in London, Brussels and The Hague and consult over 90 members.

On the other hand, threats affecting our societies and our field will impact seriously on the work of funders in the year ahead. Many of those threats are explored in the 2015 Ariadne Forecast: they include a disabling environment for civil society, widespread instability, the rise of racism and xenophobia in Europe, an upheaval in civil society funding, and the proposed abolition of the Human Rights Act in the UK, to name a few. What is at stake will require collective wisdom and action. Ariadne is now in a good position to provide a meeting place for donors seeking help and support on any of these issues.

Ariadne is your network and it is up to you how you use it: we are here to help you get the most out of it and to create the best tools to support you, based on your suggestions.

Lastly, we are very grateful to you all for your support for Ariadne; without you, none of this would be possible.

Best wishes for the year ahead,



Jo Andrews

Ariadne Director

2014 -2015 in a Snap-Shot

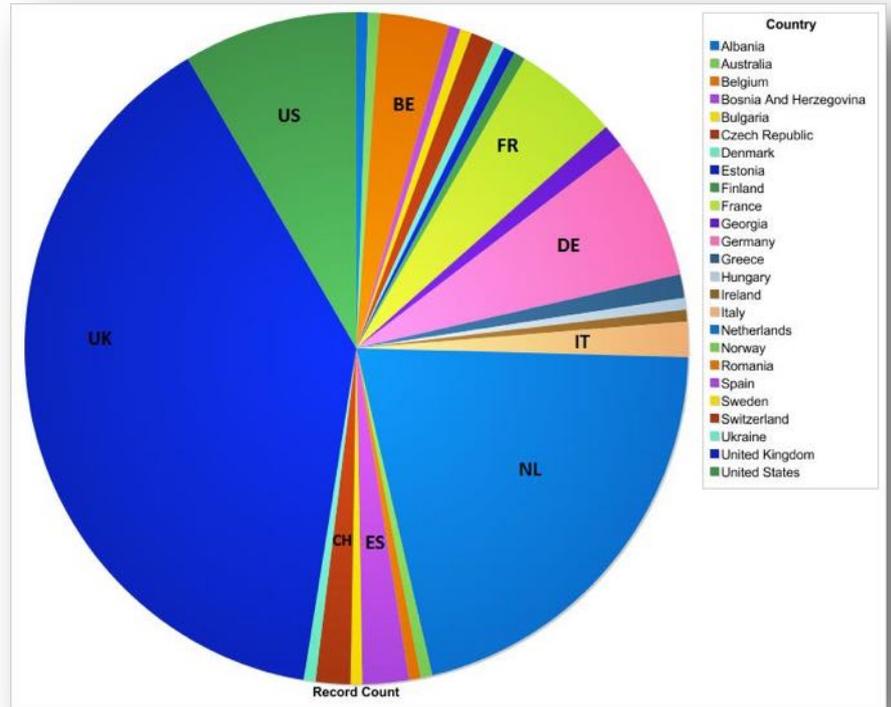
- Ariadne is now a community of **483 individuals from 184 organisations based in 25 countries**. Ariadne's overall membership grew by 24% over the past year with numbers increasing particularly in the UK, France and Eastern Europe.
- In 2015, Ariadne has launched the first [Forecast](#) for human rights and social change funders. 90 funders across Europe contributed their expertise to identify the main trends that will shape our world in 2015.
- Ariadne is now hosting, co-hosting or supporting around 20 events a year in various European locations. The Ariadne Policy Briefing gathered 90 participants in Budapest for 3 days.
- Ariadne Francophone has become an active community on the portal and Ariadne now offers tele-briefings for French speaking funders.
- We have renewed our web-site and our digital marketing tools to enable Ariadne to communicate with new funders, in different languages, and to offer resources publicly.
- Participants paying membership and/or conference fees now contribute over 30% of the overall budget.

Membership

Ariadne has made progress in expanding and deepening its membership across Europe. In April 2014 there were 374 Ariadne members, from 146 organisations based in 25 countries, in March 2015 this figure had grown to **483 members from 184 organisations based in 25 countries.**

This time last year Ariadne only had membership clusters (more than 12 members) in The Netherlands, the UK, and Hungary. This year **Belgium, Germany and France**, have all grown above 12 members, with developing clusters in Spain and Switzerland.

Ariadne member organisations breakdown



Satellites

Ariadne Central has continued to act as the hub that holds this activity together.

In April 2014, Ariadne appointed a **UK Coordinator**, Jenny Oppenheimer, to support and organise activities for funders who invest in human rights and social change in the UK. This has expanded our reach beyond the 'usual suspects' into a broader spectrum of funders in this field. Over the past year the number of UK individual members has increased from 149 to 197 (a 24% increase) and the number of UK based funder organisations from 62 to 77 (a 19% increase on the previous year).

Ariadne Netherlands has continued to flourish. Hanneke Hazeveld has been part-time Coordinator for Ariadne NL for the past three years, during which time Ariadne participation amongst Dutch funders has increased from 49 members in 17 organisations, to 97 members in 38 organisations. It taken time for us to get the measure of the Dutch philanthropic environment, and for us to build up trust with local funders, but we now have tailored activity, often in Dutch, looking at issues of importance to funders in the Netherlands.

We are also delighted to report that we have had some success in developing **Ariadne Francophone**. A part-time Moderator of the Portal Community, Karen Weissblatt contributed items of interest to the Francophone community. In the autumn of 2014, Emilie Dromzée, a French native speaker, was appointed as the new Ariadne Programme Manager, based in London and Brussels. As a first encouraging step, 2014 ended with an invitation from the

Centre des Fonds et Fondations to attend their annual meeting in Annecy as their guests and to present Ariadne to their members. We have also held the first Ariadne Tele-briefing for Francophone funders on **Post Charlie Hebdo: What Responses do Funders have to the Social Crisis in France?**

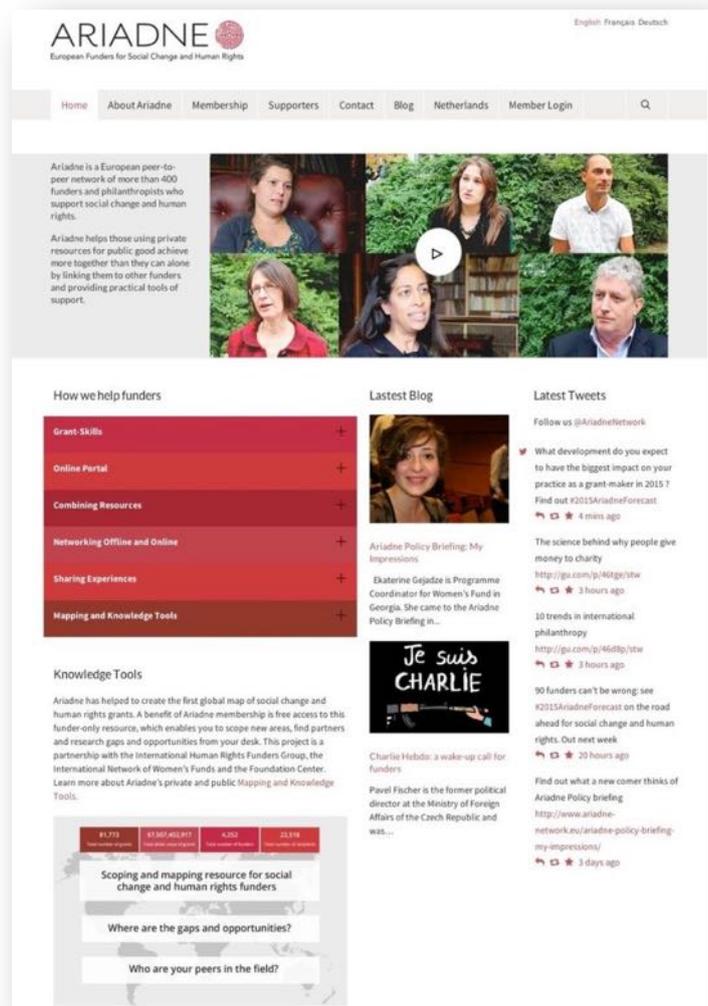
Ariadne has been actively seeking participants in **Eastern Europe**. In 2014, Ariadne conducted a scoping survey, contacting over 150 grant-makers who are based in Eastern Europe or funding there, in order to find out what participants would like to see from a peer-led local community. The impact of this initial work is demonstrated by the fact that whilst in March 2014 Ariadne had 25 participants from 7 countries in Eastern Europe, in March 2015 the network **had 36 participants from 9 Eastern European countries**.

In addition to growing Ariadne in the UK, the Netherlands and beginning to create an Ariadne Francophone, we will also seek to develop the new Ariadne clusters in **Germany and Eastern Europe** over the next two years.

Communications

Ariadne has renewed the ways in which it communicates to support its membership better and to provide a higher degree of visibility.

Ariadne launched its [new Ariadne Website](#) in December 2014. This is a public facing resource for funders and wider civil society. It has freely available information on trends in social change and human rights funding, lists of the top funders in each field through the Knowledge Tools project, blogs from grant-makers and civil society leaders, and information about what tools and support Ariadne offers grant-makers. This website gives concrete information about what the network does, and provides a better linking point for new or isolated funders. The site has pages in English, French and German to make it more accessible to a wider variety of grant-makers and funders. There is also content for Dutch speaking funders. It embeds short video clips in different languages from Ariadne participants explaining how Ariadne helps and supports their work, and it features Ariadne's latest tweets.



Ariadne is grateful to its members for linking to the new website.

These meetings and the discussion at them were private, but it was decided by those present in all 3 cities that the final forecast should be publicly available for all as a reflection on the state of the sector.

The Forecast can be used in different ways and looks at questions and trends using varying levels of resolution: globally, regionally on a European level, and much closer to the ground, at country level in the UK and The Netherlands.

The Forecast was released to Ariadne's members through the Portal and published for the wider community on the public website. Summaries are available in French and Dutch. In addition, the report was presented to the Ariadne Policy briefing in Budapest. As a positive result, some asked for a presentation to their board on the main findings. Ariadne will build on this first experience to draft its **2016 Forecast and encourage its membership to share their experience.**

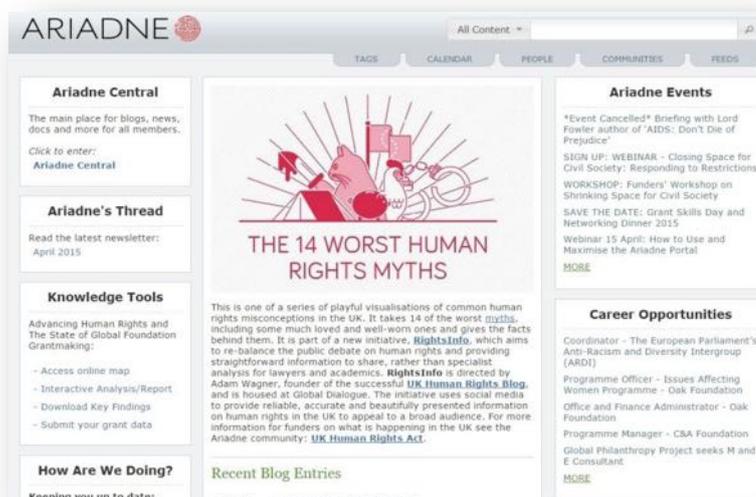
Portal

There are now a total of **139 communities** in use on the portal (made up of 58 public communities and 81 private communities), which is a significant increase from the **98 communities** in use in March 2014.

Mixed private communities, where academics, activists and funders jointly share knowledge and plan action, include the ***Dealing with the Disabling Environment for Human Rights Funding, Corston Community Virtual Community***, and the ***Justice and Accountability UK*** community. Joint IHRFG and Ariadne communities, where European and US-based funders are hosted on the portal, include the ***MENA*** community and ***Peer-Led Funding Models***. Communities that are joint Ariadne, IHRFG, and EFC communities are the ***Disability Rights Community*** and the ***Donor Working Group on Cross Border Philanthropy***.

Communities, which are set up and moderated by participants, help keep funders in touch with each other and with new developments and research in their fields in a time efficient way. They also act to draw in new participants and provide them with the sort of support which is difficult for them to access elsewhere, particularly for small foundations, family funders and individuals, or those who are isolated. The communities also often reinforce the contacts and trust developed in face-to-face meetings.

We can also point to a number of funder collaborations that would not have happened without Ariadne, or others where Ariadne and the portal have either played a role in assisting their creation or now hosts them securely, simply and free of charge. Examples of where



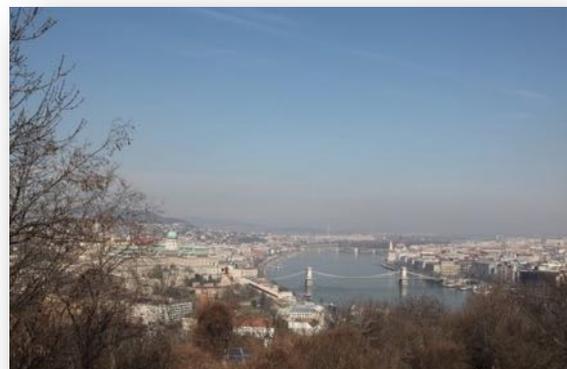
fundes are directly collaborating are the *Thomas Paine Initiative, Strategic Legal Fund for Young Migrants, The Child Sexual Exploitation Initiative, Grassroots Girls Initiative, Elevate Children, Women and Girls at Risk, the Charities Responsible Investment Network* and the *Early Action Funders' Alliance*.

Analytics data on portal usage in the year February 14-15 shows increasing engagement with this working system. Visits to the portal were **up by 25% in this 12 month period**, with visitors spending an average of **8 minutes** per visit. Please see the [portal report](#) for more detail.

Overall it is clear that the portal has helped fundes enter into different kinds of collaborations in easier, faster and cheaper ways. This has happened not just in a European context, but more widely as well, in particular, in putting US grant-makers in contact with their European counterparts. There is a great deal more potential for the portal to be utilised in this way, and at present its use is limited by the understanding and knowledge of the fundes who use it and who have the right and ability to set up and curate new communities.

Ariadne delivers specifically tailored portal training sessions to fundes who feel that they would benefit from this. This approach has proved successful in drawing in new members and in building the confidence of existing members. Please do not hesitate to get in contact to arrange such tuition for your organisation.

Policy Briefing



This year's annual Policy Briefing was held in Budapest.

Ariadne's major annual meeting is the Ariadne Policy Briefing. It gives European human rights and social change fundes the opportunity to spend 2 ½ days with their peers in an atmosphere of trust, free from the pressures of grant-seeking. It has played a central role in enabling participants to find colleagues, to cement old contacts, to think together about knotty problems and to share techniques and approaches.

The Ariadne Policy Briefing has become well established in the funding world. In 2015, **78 fundes from 21 countries** attended the Policy Briefing in Budapest, compared to, 67

participants from 18 countries in 2014. Some of the issues that were explored this year included:

- *advancing the new global agenda for children post 2015*
- *the closing space for civil society and the implications for cross-border funding*
- *making the connection between health and human rights*
- *looking at how funders support social change*
- *funding in fragile settings*
- *structured networking*

Invited guests included a prominent human right activist from Egypt and the Chief of the Asia, Pacific, Middle East and North Africa Branch in the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Ariadne has now established funders' planning committees for the Briefing, and for the annual Grant-Skills Day and Networking Dinner, to ensure that these peer-to-peer events continue to be led and shaped by the members themselves. Overall, feedback forms from participants to the 2015 Policy Briefing rated the event as excellent.

Key Events 2014-2015

Over the period May 2014 to April 2015, **the main Ariadne events** included:

- A **Grant-Skills Day** in London focussed on **'How Social Change Happens'** and reflecting on the different strategies funders can use to recognise, support and measure change. This year the Grant-Skills Day attracted 61 funders from 33 different grant-making organisations – many of whom were new to Ariadne.
- A series of **tele-briefings**, jointly organised with the International Human Rights Funders Group and the European Foundation Centre. Topics included: **'Protecting Human Rights in the online environment – why should it matter to you?'**, **'The European Endowment for Democracy'**, **'Reproductive Rights and LGBT Rights under Pressure Globally from Family and Religious Activists'**, **'Ebola and Human Rights'**, **'Breaking Down Grant-making Silos: Disability and Social Innovation'** and **'Update on the Human Rights Act'**.
- Ariadne Netherlands in collaboration with GrantCraft Europe held a **grant-skills seminar** on 27th May in Amsterdam on **'Ending Funding Relationships'**.
- A **briefing** on **'Closing Space: Democracy and Human Rights Under Fire'** was held on June 24th 2014, with Thomas Carothers, Vice-President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- An Ariadne **briefing** on **'Surveillance and Edward Snowden'** was organised on July 11th. Members met to discuss the human rights implications of the Snowden revelations and to hear about a new film on Edward Snowden.
- Ariadne's **training session on Using a Gender Lens** was held on September 9th. The aims of the session were to build our collective understanding of key concepts; identify

the significance of gender to the issues we are concerned with; introduce a range of possible approaches to addressing the issues of gender in our work; and consider which of these we may wish to apply in future and how.

- A **briefing on Strategic Legal Funds** was organised on October 13th.
- A **briefing** given in London in November 2014 by two members of the Russian feminist protest collective **Pussy Riot**.

The event was attended by 20 funders from 11 grant-making organisations. The recording of the event has also attracted a significant number of views online.



- **The Ariadne Winter Film Night** in January featured *Hidden Heart*, a film in production chronicling the lives of Muslim women in inter-cultural/faith relationships.
- Three **Ariadne Forecast meetings** held in London, Brussels and The Hague early 2015.
- A first **tele-briefing** for French speaking funders on ‘**Post Charlie Hebdo: What responses do funders have to the social crisis in France?**’ was attended by 15 funders on 16th April. The event provided insight for funders on some current initiatives on the eve of the launch of the French national Plan Against Racism and Anti-Semitism and explored the strategic role of funders.
- Ariadne UK tackled ‘**The funding of Cage and the possible implications for grant-makers**’ in a **tele-briefing** on April 22nd.

Partnerships

Throughout the period, Ariadne remained a focal point for expertise and was regularly in contact with funders and civil society actors in Europe and the US for advice.

In addition to well established relationships with IHRFG and EFC, Ariadne is developing informal partnerships with French funders networks such as the *Centre Français des Fonds et Fondations* and the *ADMICAL* (French corporate funders network) with a view to develop its work with French speaking funders. It also has a developing relationship with the Network of Dutch Foundations, the *FIN*.

Challenges – or what we have struggled with?

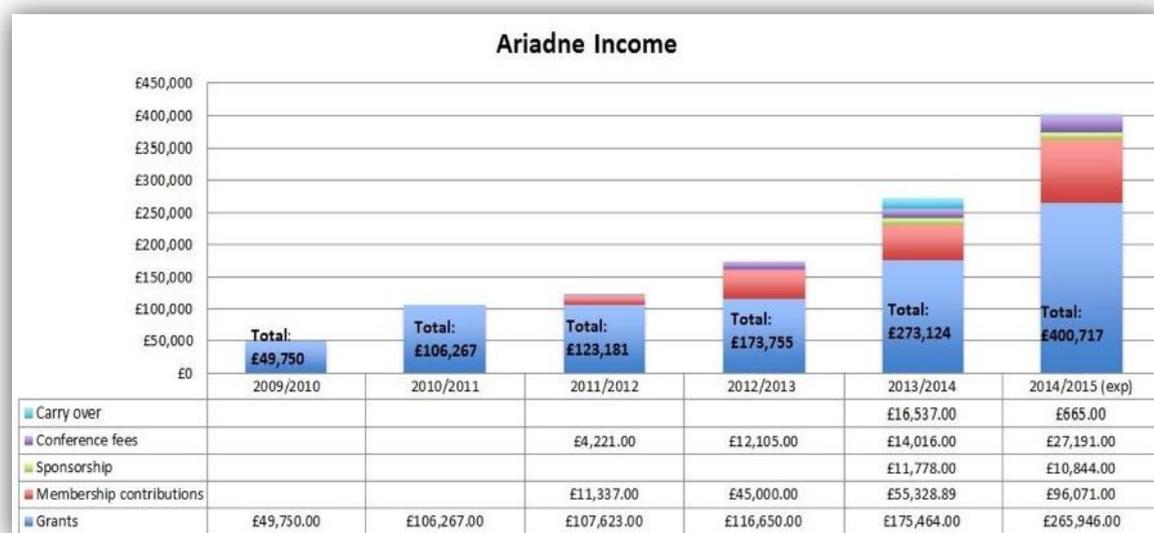
Building a network where there are big differences: it was never going to be easy to build a network in a continent of so many languages and cultures of philanthropy. A shared history or understanding of what philanthropy or human rights can contribute to societies doesn’t exist, Ariadne has taken several steps forward in helping to create one, but we have learnt to try to meet people where they are, rather than where we would like them to be. The three magic qualities are *time, presence* and *perseverance*. Another important attribute is a locally trusted guide to coordinate efforts to create a new cluster: parachuting in an unknown interlocutor,

who doesn't understand the local environment at a granular level won't work. Finding the right people to do this is hard. Ariadne has often tripped up here, making false starts and having to try again.

Making Ariadne sustainable in the long term: this depends heavily on Ariadne being able to switch the majority of its funding from grants to annual contributions from participants. We are making progress, but Europe does not have a strong tradition of peer-led networks and it has taken time for funders across Europe to understand the concrete value of community resources and the social capital created by active networks. We now have to persuade participants to support this.

Evaluating Ariadne's impact: This continues to be a stumbling block for us, one that we have under continual review. There is a wide variety of quantitative data indicating greater take-up and usage of the tools Ariadne offers, both by civil society at large and by funders in particular. We can even show which individuals within Ariadne act as central connectors, and which are more isolated and not exploiting this form of social capital. But what is the impact of our work as a whole and to what extent is Ariadne widening the circle of funders prepared to pick up some of the most difficult issues that we grapple with? We are still looking for a way to measure this.

Financing and Budget



Ariadne has a long-term fundraising strategy of creating multiple income streams, including grants from trusts and foundations, voluntary membership contributions, subsidised conference fees, and sponsorship from members for specific events.

For 2014/15, overall income was **£400,717**, including membership contributions of **£96,070**. This was a 47% increase in overall funds and 73% increase in membership contributions. The number of organisations contributing financially through membership fees to Ariadne has increased from 35 (2013/14) to 39 (2014/15). Ariadne's budgets also show a **significant increase in diversity of income over the past 6 years**. This illustrates very clearly the trajectory the network has followed and the breakdown of the kinds of funding it has.

Member contributions are an important support for Ariadne and we are extremely grateful to receive them. In order to ensure Ariadne's financial sustainability in the longer term, the Ariadne Advisory Board is now respectfully asking all organisations that participate in Ariadne to make some financial contribution to the cost of the network, on an annual basis.

Ariadne applies accountability and transparency standards to its funding relationships. Please see the Ariadne 2014/15 annual budget on the Portal.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, Ariadne will continue to strengthen its network of donors through the delivery of high-quality tools and activities aimed at improving grant-making practices. In addition we will seek to build on our membership in continental Europe.

Ariadne's main priorities for the year to come are:

- ***Provide a greater range of resources for funders, including through:***

Producing the 2016 Ariadne Forecast to be released early 2016;

Taking part in the mapping and analysing social change and human rights funding through the Knowledge Tools for funders 'project;

Implementing a project on the state of funding for countering xenophobia and intolerance in Europe;

- ***Growing Ariadne sensibly and sustainably to broaden participation, particularly from Eastern Europe and Southern Europe. This will entail:***

Organising specific activities for UK and Dutch members of Ariadne;

Focusing on developing the Ariadne Francophone community and targeting activities to accommodate French, Belgian and Swiss grant-makers;

- ***Improve the way we consult the Ariadne membership***, notably in view of the evaluation of the implementation of Ariadne's strategy for 2013-2016;

- ***Main Ariadne events 2015/16 will be:***

Developing work to counter obstacles to funders working across borders with the organisation of a Funders' Workshop on the Disabling Environment for Civil Society in Berlin on 11-12 June in collaboration with EFC and IHRFG;

Organising the Ariadne Grant Skills Day on Digital Participation for Social Change and Human Rights funders on 23rd of September 2015 in London;

Organising a 7th Annual Policy Briefing due to take place in March or April 2016.

Organisations with Members on the Ariadne Portal

11th Hour Project	Fondation des Droits de l'Homme au Travail	Mensen met een Missie
AB Charitable Trust	FEMI - Foundation to Earth, Mankind through Inspiration and Initiative	Migration Foundation at Metropolitan Housing Partnership
Abilis Foundation	FILAD - Philanthropy & Advice	Network for Social Change
Active Philanthropy	Fondation de France	Network of European Foundations
Adessium Foundation	Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca	Northern Rock Foundation
Admical	Fonds 1818	Nederlandse Stichting Gehandicapt Kind
Agir sa Vie	Fondsenvraagbaak	Oak Foundation
Alert Fonds	Ford Foundation	Omidyar Network
Alexandria Trust	Frederick Bonnart Braunthal Trust	ONCE Foundation
Allen Lane Foundation	Freedom Fund	Open Estonia Foundation
Amadeu Antonio Stiftung	Freshfields	Open Society Fund Prague
American Jewish World Service	Friends Provident Foundation	Open Society European Policy Institute
Arcus Foundation	Fund for Global Human Rights	Open Society Foundations
Asfari Foundation	German Marshall Fund	Open Society Initiative for Europe
Assifero	Global Dialogue	Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Association of Charitable Foundations-UK	Goldsmith Family Philanthropy	Partnership for Transparency Fund
Atlantic Philanthropies	Haella Stichting	Pilgrim Trust
Baring Foundation	Henry Smith Charity	Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation
Barrow Cadbury Trust	HIV Young Leaders Fund	Porticus
Berghof Foundation	Hivos	Prague Freedom Foundation
Bernard Van Leer Foundation	Hogan Lovells	Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust
Bertelsmann Stiftung	Holy Ghost Orphanage Foundation	Rank Foundation
Bertha Foundation	Human Capability Foundation	Rayne Foundation
Big Lottery Fund	Human Dignity Foundation	Red Umbrella Fund
BMW Foundation	International Human Rights Funders Group	Robert Bosch Stiftung
Bodossaki Foundation	Ikea Foundation	Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts
Body Shop Foundation	Jack and Ada Beattie Foundation	Sanne Foundation
Bromley Trust	Janivo Foundation	Savannah Wisdom
C&A Foundation	Jaume Bofill Foundation	Sigrid Rausing Trust
Calala Women's Fund	Jazi Foundation	Sofronie Foundation
Calamus Foundation, DE	JMG Foundation	STARS Foundation
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation	John Ellerman Foundation	Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Centre Français des Fonds et Fondations	John Paul Getty Trust	Stichting Nalatenschap De Drevon
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation	Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft
City Bridge Trust	Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	The Charitable Foundation
Civil Society Development Foundation	Karuna Foundation	The Renewable Freedom Foundation
Comic Relief	Kering Foundation	The Robertson Trust
CORDAID	Kiawah Trust	The Womanity Foundation
David & Elaine Potter Foundation	King Baudouin Foundation	Thomas Paine Initiative
Democracy and Media Foundation	Koornzaayer Foundation	Tinsley Foundation
Disability Rights Fund	LankellyChase Foundation	Trust for London
Dreilinden GmbH	Legal Education Foundation	Tudor Trust
EDGE Funders Alliance	Linda Speerstra Foundation	Ukrainian Women's Fund
EEA and Norway Grants	Lloyds Bank Foundation	Unbound Philanthropy
EFIM Foundation	London Community Foundation	Welfare Association
El-Hibri Charitable Foundation	London Funders	Wikimedia Foundation
EMpower - The Emerging Markets Foundation	MacArthur Foundation	Women's Fund in Georgia
Environmental Funders Network	Mama Cash	Working Group on Philanthropy for Social Justice and Peace
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	McGrath Charitable Trust	World Childhood Foundation
Euro Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders	McIntosh Foundation	Zennström Philanthropies
European Foundation Centre	Mediterranean Women's Fund	
Evan Cornish Foundation		

Ariadne Board

Ariadne's Advisory Board currently consists of:

Greg Mayne of Oak Foundation

Vera Franz of Open Society Foundations

Elizabeth Palmer of Global Dialogue and CBS News

Brian Kearney Grieve, formerly of Atlantic Philanthropies

Rachael Takens-Milne of Trust for London

Hilde Klok of Koornzaayer Foundation in The Netherlands

Ariadne is a project of [Global Dialogue](#), registered as a charity (1122052) and a limited company (05775827) in England and Wales. Global Dialogue promotes human rights and social change around the world by making grants and supporting grantmakers. Formally we report to the trustees of Global Dialogue, who take advice from Ariadne's Advisory Board.

Ariadne Team

Ariadne now has the equivalent of 3 full time staff and 2 consultants including:

Jo Andrews, Ariadne Director

Emilie Dromzee, Programme Manager

Lori Stanciu, Programme Assistant

Jenny Oppenheimer, UK Coordinator

Hanneke Hazeveld, Coordinator in The Netherlands

Kenneth Hill, Community Host

For further information, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

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Ariadne would not exist without the generous support of the following foundations:



SIGRID RAUSING TRUST



ZENNSTRÖM
PHILANTHROPIES

Additionally Ariadne was supported by voluntary contributions from its participants in 2014/15. We would like to thank the following members for their support over the past year:

A B Charitable Trust
Angela Seay
Arcus Foundation
Berghof Foundation
Bodossaki Foundation
Calamus Foundation
Comic Relief
Cordaid
Disability Rights Fund
Dreilinden gGmbH
Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of
Support to Human Rights Defenders
Evan Cornish Foundation
FILAD
Fonds 1818
Ford Foundation
The Freedom Fund
Fund for Global Human Rights
Hivos

Ikea Foundation
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Kiawah Trust
LankellyChase Foundation
Levi Strauss Foundation
MacArthur Foundation
Mama Cash
Members of the Network for Social Change
Mensen met een Missie
Metropolitan Migration Foundation
The Renewable Freedom Foundation
Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust
The 11th Hour Project
Tinsley Foundation
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