

ARIADNE



European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights

What is Ariadne?



Ariadne members speed-networking at the 2017 Policy Briefing

ARIADNE provides excellent and time-saving opportunities to meet colleagues from small and large partner organisations, to exchange in-depth information about my specific field of work, and to share knowledge with others.

Ise Bosch, *Dreilinden*

ARIADNE is a genuinely reflective space for all kinds of funders, it is one of the few places donors have to put their own dilemmas and difficulties in context and discuss them openly.

Rosien Herweijer, *Grant Craft*

ARIADNE offers excellent tools for new grantmakers to develop the skills they need in their work. Many grantmakers today come into grantmaking by being a grantee and that transition is not natural, and so, Ariadne supports new funders with their transition.

Greg Czarnecki, *Open Society Foundations*

What is Ariadne?

Ariadne is a network for funders set up and run by funders. It is a private community that connects European donors and foundation staff working to support social change, human dignity, human rights and justice. It was set up in 2009 by a number of European funders because they felt that peer support could strengthen philanthropy, help funders to work more strategically, and encourage new donors to enter the field with maximum impact. Between them, its members have helped to create private resources that are used for the benefit of the wide community of funders and donors, and public resources that are available on the Ariadne website and via our twitter feed for the benefit of civil society as a whole.

Ariadne:

- Provides opportunities to share knowledge and research.
- Offers concrete tools to support funders.
- Helps to improve the skills of European donors from diverse backgrounds.
- Makes it simpler and cheaper to act cooperatively.
- Creates a place for funders to reflect openly and honestly on their practice.

Overall Ariadne enables participants to achieve more together than they can individually, by providing access to a number of community created tools and a supportive network of colleagues.



Ariadne members at the 2017 Policy Briefing

Who are Ariadne's members?

Ariadne is a space for those who invest in social change and human rights in their own cities, regions, countries or internationally. We welcome funders with big and small resources. Ariadne currently has more than 600 individual members and affiliates, including grant-makers of all sorts, from individual philanthropists to staff and board members of professional trusts and foundations. Our membership represents over 210 grant-making bodies in 24 different countries, including the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Italy, Spain and more.

What connects our diverse membership is their effort to create societies which are inclusive and offer equal opportunities to all. This includes work in areas such as Migration and Integration, Gender Equality and Women's Rights, Tolerance and Diversity, Empowering Young People, Supporting Civil Society, Disability and Inclusion.

How does Ariadne work?

As a flexible network, Ariadne offers a mix of different tools to improve access to useful information and provide ways to connect with peers working in the field. It aims to do this as cost effectively as possible.

Online: members have access to a password-protected online portal which is used to share information, discuss issues of importance or questions around grant-making practice and coordinate events from their desk.

In person: funders meet up at the annual Ariadne Policy Briefing, the annual Grants-Skills Day and other events held across Europe throughout the year.

By webinar and phone: in response to member suggestions Ariadne hosts a number of webinars and tele-briefings on different topics throughout the year.

Newsletters: Every month we summarise the top issues and research that has been published in this field, linking you in one place to many different documents, events and topics. Ariadne's Thread reaches your e-mail inbox, directly.

We work on the basis that every funder is looking to get something different out of the network. Ariadne is built in a way in which each funder can focus on their own needs and ignore topics and approaches that are not of interest.

Ariadne supports members by providing:

- An extensive on-line mapping and scoping tool with private data from more than 80,000 grants made globally to support social change and human rights;
- Trend analysis and other knowledge resources created from that data;

- A powerful on-line portal that acts as a library of useful documents and approaches;
- A personal database of other funders in Europe and more widely working in your field or closely allied fields;
- A series of specialist communities to keep you up-to-date and in touch;
- A way of hosting secure collaborative or pooled initiatives;
- A method of coordinating your grantees by creating and hosting private communities for them;
- Tele-briefings and webinars in specialist topics or approaches;
- A monthly summary of events, research, articles and career opportunities;
- Lunchtime and evening briefings in different countries and different languages;
- A way of deepening and expanding your professional networks.

Subsidized access to:

- Master-classes, grant-skills events and networking dinners;
- The annual Ariadne Policy Briefing;
- Funders' Learning Visits;
- Day long workshops organised on specific topics such as Xenophobia and Intolerance or the Closing Space for Civil Society.



Ariadne Meetings

Ariadne organises events that bring together donors and grant-makers from across Europe to share ideas and discuss issues they care about.

Annual Policy Briefing

The Ariadne Policy Briefing is our biggest annual event, gathering a diverse group of funders with experts and front-line activists from different parts of Europe and the world to explore how we can best tackle the social challenges our societies face. Past Policy Briefings featured contributions from Members of the European Parliament; former UN Special Commissioner Louise Arbor; Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Fatou Bensouda; Professor Gerard Quinn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland; Joung-Ah Gedin Williams, UNHCR Emergency Response Coordinator in the Bureau for Europe; and Gerald Knaus, Chairman of the European Stability Initiative.

The Policy Briefing offers a mix of topical sessions and grant-skills workshops, suggested by members, with structured opportunities for networking and time set aside for reflection.

Seminars & Workshops

Our seminars and workshops explore specific focus-topics together with one or more expert speakers in the area. These are interactive, with plenty of time to discuss and ask questions, and they take place in English or the language of the host country. These are on topics suggested and often hosted by network members. Past seminars included *Diversity on Boards*, *Responding to conflict & securitisation*, *Closing Space for Civil Society*, *Refugees and the role of foundations (in French)*, *Grantmakers as Brokers of Cooperation (in Dutch)*, *Briefing with the UK's first Anti-Slavery Commissioner* and more. An annual highlight is the *Ariadne Grant Skills Day* and *Summer Networking Dinner* in London, which focuses on an aspect of the grant-making process, selected by participants. In 2016, it was *Bringing Communities Together - How funders can help to build relationships between groups from diverse backgrounds and different viewpoints*.

Tele-briefings and Webinars

Tele-briefings and webinars are expert conversations which members can join from their desks via conference call. Ariadne sometimes organises these Tele-briefings in cooperation with other partner networks such as the International Human Rights Funders Group, EDGE Funders or the European Foundation Centre so that European and US-based funders can pool their expertise. Past tele-briefings included *Responding to the refugee crisis in Europe – the role for UK foundations*; *Brexit implications for human rights in the UK* and more broadly and *Value based investments – how to support an economy based on justice & sustainability*.

Learning Visits

Every two years, Ariadne and the International Human Rights Funders Group in New York organise a joint Funders Learning Visit to a different region of the world. In 2016 we travelled to Amman, Jordan for funders to learn and strategise responses to the global refugee crisis. On this three-day visit, participants had the chance to meet civil society groups and activists from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, representatives of the European Union, the US Embassy, and Arab philanthropic organisations.

Networking Dinners

Ariadne organises several Networking Dinners in different European cities throughout the year. At our Networking Dinners, are an opportunity to meet other European donors and foundation staff who work in your area. This is an opportunity to share stories, successes and failures in a relaxed environment and build trust with peers across Europe.

Research and Publications

Ariadne scans the horizon at the start of every year and produces the Ariadne Forecast for Social Change and Human Rights Funders. The aim of this report is to help grant-makers and civil society as a whole see the big picture, discover important trends and plan ahead.

What People Say about Ariadne Meetings and Events

ARIADNE POLICY BRIEFING:

“wonderful, balanced and very effective methodology”

“fantastic mix of sessions from local to international”

“lovely informal atmosphere and excellent space for relationship building”

ARIADNE-IHRFG LEARNING VISIT TO JORDAN:

“I learned a great deal about Jordan and opportunities for cooperation there. This may turn into the first work our foundation has ever done in Jordan.”

“New connections around the topic of young civic engagement/ participation. Through the Ariadne portal we shall continue the exchange of ideas and discuss entry points into the MENA region.”

GRANT SKILLS WORKSHOP:

“a nice feeling of peer learning”

“lots of new faces”

“well-presented and thoughtful material”

“I like the friendliness of the crowd and warm welcome”



RIADNE

curitising Life?
osing Space for Civil Society

an Rights

eration for Human Rights (FIDH)
ights Agency
uke University, North Carolina



The Ariadne Portal

The Ariadne Portal is a private online meeting space for grant-makers. Every member has a profile on the portal. The platform features a large variety of special interest communities where funders share resources and discuss approaches to grant-making. These include communities on issues such as women's rights, racism and xenophobia, funding in the MENA region, migration, and separate linguistic communities for Ariadne Netherlands, Ariadne Deutsch and Ariadne Francophone.

The Portal also gives funders access to a variety of useful tools, including the first online interactive map of global social change and human rights grants and recipients, funder-only reports and a careers board where you can post or browse job opportunities.

The Portal is password-protected and can only be accessed by Ariadne members. We do not share your contact details with anyone else.

The screenshot shows the Ariadne Portal website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'ADMIN | HOME | MY PROFILE | LOGOUT' and a search bar containing 'All Content'. Below the navigation bar are tabs for 'TAGS', 'CALENDAR', 'PEOPLE', 'COMMUNITIES', and 'FEEDS'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Ariadne Portal Communities:** A sidebar section with links to 'Portal Communities: A-Z', 'Portal Communities: Topics', and 'Ariadne Central'.
- Ariadne's Thread:** A section for the latest newsletter, dated July 2017.
- Knowledge Tools:** A section titled 'Advancing Human Rights and The State of Global Foundation Grantmaking' with links to 'Access online map', 'Updated: Analysis Tool', and 'Key Findings, 2017 ed.'.
- 2017 Ariadne Grant Skills Day & Networking Dinner:** A central announcement for a Monday 2nd October 2017 event from 10:00 to 20:00 (BST). It includes a 'REGISTER' link and a photo of a person holding a yellow sign that reads 'SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE WE ARE TRYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD'.
- Ariadne Events:** A section listing various events with 'REGISTER NOW' and 'INSCRIPTIONS' links, including 'Telebriefing - Funding in Syria', 'Webinaire: Se réappropriier la famille quand on est progressiste', and 'Webinar - Connecting Communities'.
- Career Opportunities:** A section listing job openings such as 'Financial Controller - Kansfonds (NL)', 'Director - IMX', 'Project Manager - Lanekelly Chase', and 'Impact Investment Manager (German speaking) - Dreilinden'.

Ariadne's Thread

Ariadne's Thread is our newsletter, specifically designed for social change grant-makers. It features recent research - focused on grant-making as well as specific topics - and a regularly updated list of relevant seminars and conferences across Europe. Ariadne's Thread also tells you what's happening in the Ariadne community of funders, who recently joined the network, which collaborative funds exist and which topics are being explored on the Ariadne Portal.

How to join us

Participation in Ariadne is open to grant-makers and donors who are based in Europe and invest a minimum of €20,000 annually to support social change and human rights globally. Additionally, funders who are based outside Europe, but invest a minimum of €20,000 per year to support social change and human rights in Europe are also eligible.

Ariadne welcomes donors of all kinds, including individual donors, staff of private foundations, trusts, corporate foundations, and hybrid foundations. It also includes staff of funder affinity groups and some consultants working in this field, on condition that they do not use the network to seek work. Ariadne also accepts some statutory funders on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with its Advisory Board. All institutional members of Ariadne must demonstrate that their grant-making processes are independent of any government or inter-governmental agency, even if they receive public funding.

An additional condition for participating in Ariadne is that the organisation an individual represents must engage primarily in philanthropy. Two ways of measuring this are: that 60% or more of its total expenditure is spent on grant-making, or that it draws more than 60% of its expenditure from its own income sources such as an endowment or annual allocation from a principal benefactor.

Ariadne is not an organisation in which any kind of grant-seeking takes place.

The final decision on participation in Ariadne lies with the Ariadne Advisory Board, which is composed of Ariadne members.

We ask that institutional applicants for membership provide us with:

- An application form
- A recent financial statement demonstrating the percentage of expenditure going towards grant-making and/or the percentage of income drawn from own sources
- The foundation's most recent annual report (if applicable)

Individual donors wishing to join Ariadne may simply submit an application form. To request a membership application form or for general information email info@ariadne-network.eu.



A B Charitable Trust
Adessium Foundation
Amadeu Antonio Stiftung
Arcus Foundation
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
Barrow Cadbury Trust
Big Lottery Fund
Calala Fondo de Mujeres
Catalyst at Large - Suzanne Biegel
Christie Foundation
Comic Relief
Democracy & Media Foundation
Disability Rights Fund
Dreilinden
Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders
European Programme for Integration and Migration FEMI
Fondation Agir Sa Vie
Fondation Des Droits De L'Homme au Travail
Fondation Kering
Fondation Un Monde par Tous
Fonds 1818
Fonds pour les Femmes en Méditerranée
Ford Foundation
Freedom Fund
Freudenberg Stiftung
Fund for Global Human Rights
Global Greengrants Fund
Global Philanthropy Project
Guerrilla Foundation
Heinrich Böll Foundation
Hivos International
Human Dignity Foundation
IKEA Foundation
Janivo Stichting
JAS Fund - Amanda Sebestyen
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
KIOS Foundation
Lankelly Chase
MADRE
Mama Cash
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Pears Foundation
PIMCO
Porticus UK
Renewable Freedom Foundation
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Rosien Herweijer
Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts
Shiva Foundation
Sigrid Rausing Trust
The Bonnat Trust
The Bromley Trust
The David and Elaine Potter Foundation
The Evan Cornish Foundation
The Honey Foundation
The Legal Education Foundation
The Novamedia Foundation Trust
The Social Change Initiative
Trust for London
Unbound Philanthropy
Victory for Equality
Wim Monasso
Women's Fund in Georgia



Follow @AriadneNetwork for tweets on social change, human rights and philanthropy. www.ariadne-network.eu / info@ariadne-network.eu