

FundAction

Introduction

FundAction is a participatory grantmaking network funding systemic change across Europe. We are a community of activists involved in social movements working for a transition to a just and equitable world.

We have **275 members across 29 countries** who come from grassroots initiatives working on diverse intersectional themes, and who decide democratically on what should be funded.

FundActionV

Democracy

Inclusivity

Openness

P2P working

Transparency

Trust

Respect

Autonomy

Values

Founded in 2016, FundAction was created as a result of a vision shared by various movements, activists and funders who wished to learn about and support participatory grantmaking, such as:

- **EDGE Funders Alliance** (fiscal and administrative host, until 2022)
- **OSIFE**
- **European Cultural Foundation**
- **Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation (FPH)**
- **Guerrilla Foundation**

We have no endowment and our budget comes from funders who wish to learn about and support **participatory grantmaking.**

**In just over 4 years we have created an organisational framework,
developed a connected community and
funded more than 100 projects with over 660.000 Euro**

GENERAL **WORKING** AREAS

- Democratic innovation & civic education
- Human rights & anti-discrimination
- Public space, housing & right to the city
- Civil, political & social rights
- Alternative economies
- Digital activism
- Alternative media, arts & culture
- Climate justice
- Public health
- Migration

How FundAction works

FundAction brings a systemic lens to the world we are trying to change, and to the funding systems which both help and hinder us along the way. We oppose extractive and prescriptive funding processes, and instead have created a model that works for both grantees and donors.



Grantees

Get to know other applicants, learn about other movements, comment on and help develop one another's proposals, and get funded to support societal transformation.

Donors

Give to FundAction, which then does the work of regranting to smaller organisations which many donors either could not reach or would not fund because of their size, unorthodox structure or thematic diversity. Intersectional projects have become the norm because activists are no longer trying to fit into thematic boxes.

FundAction

Allows donors to act on their belief in the expertise of those experiencing oppression, not by consulting them but by returning the power to them. The grassroots groups that are funded could have a fair chance to develop the infrastructure that could help them apply to the donor in the future, widening the applicant field beyond the usual suspects.

Donors

Can also attend quarterly meetings on the development of the platform, increasing their knowledge and experience of participatory processes and democratic power structures. Considering current debates in philanthropy, this experience is essential for the future of funders aiming to rebalance power in society.

Structure

FundAction is coordinated by an 8-person **Facilitation Group** which includes 7 activists, who are appointed by members every two years, and one donor representative who rotates each year.

The members of this group coordinate all aspects of our work, including our **working groups** on Processes, Community Building, Communication and Fundraising.



Today

step 1

Advocacy / Policy

ADVOCACY

Advocacy means decision makers building on their own theory with the state, NGOs, school, private to public, Ed UN, NGO, academia etc. CSOs, think + shift norms.

JOINT CAMPAIGNS
OF MULTIPLE
GRP GROUPS

PARADIGM
(SUN)
THINKING

SETTING OF AN
EXPERIMENT ON
BASED ON
PREVIOUS
AND COMMON

FEMINISM

FEMINIST
PERSPECTIVE
ON URBAN/URAL
AREA

Top DOWN
↑
THE INCLUSIVE
ORGANISMS IN
CIVIL SOCIETY
BOTTOM UP

COMMON

TECHNICAL
KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE

COMMUNITY
BUILDING

TAKING CARE
OF GOOD RELATION
INVOLVE COMMUNITY

COMMUNICATION
STORYTELLING

Working with
the community
to the community
to the community
to the community
to the community

FASTER AND
SHARE
STORIES OF
DEVELOPMENT
&
COMMUNITY RESULTS

TRYING TO SET UP
TECHNICAL
WANTS TO TRAINING
INDIVIDUALS
RELEASING THEIR
ROLE TOWARDS
COMMUNITY

Tools

GRAPHIC
EXPRESSION OF
CONTENTS AND
OF ENVIRONMENT
MODEL, PROLOGUE
ETC.

VISUAL
COMMUNICATION
AND SPREADING
THE WORD TO
WIDER COMMUNITY

Visualizing
complexities
to take
advantages
to community
to community
to community

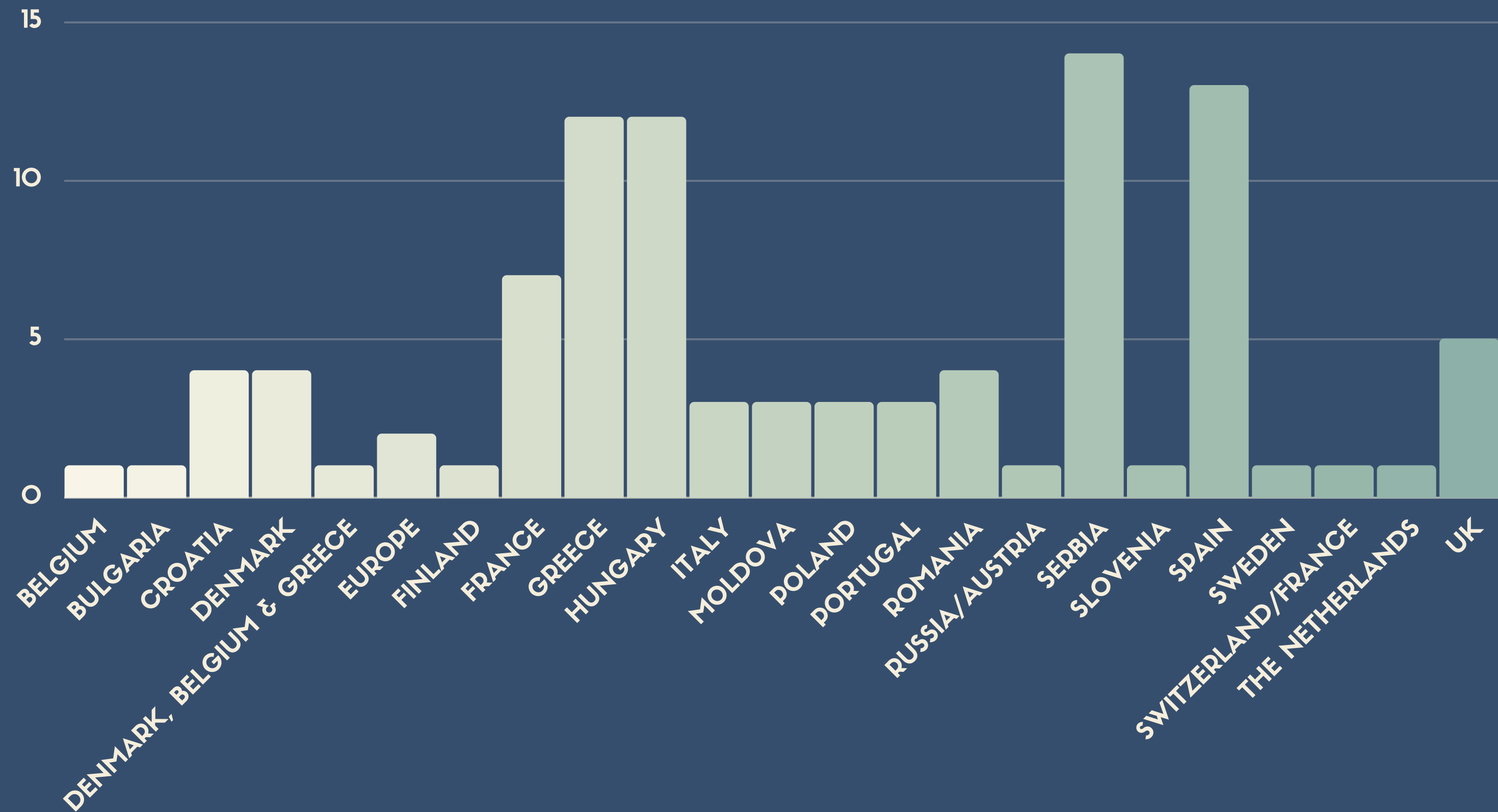
TRAINING
ACTIVISTS

Many knowledge
capacity-building,
exchange of
techniques, practices
etc.

PARTICIPATION

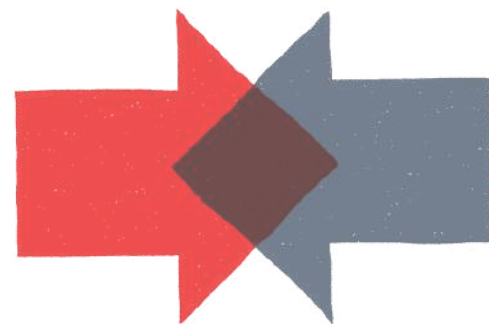
PARTICIPATION
THE COMMUNITY
TO THE COMMUNITY
TO THE COMMUNITY
TO THE COMMUNITY
TO THE COMMUNITY

EXCHANGING
THESE PROBLEMS
AS
PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



GEOGRAPHICAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTION

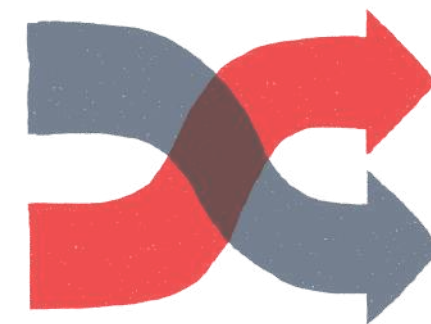
IN **2020** WE GRANTED **40** PROJECTS FOR
MORE THAN **250.000** EURO AS WE
PROVIDED 27 RESIST GRANTS AND 4
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ONES IN
RESPONSE TO THE **PANDEMIC**



11 RETHINK



4 PUBLIC HEALTH

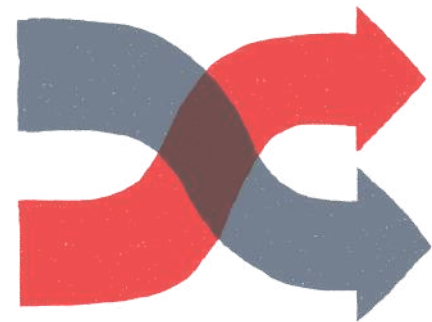


27 RESIST



5 RENEW

**IN 2021 WE GRANTED 25
PROJECTS FOR 120.000 EURO**



20 RESIST



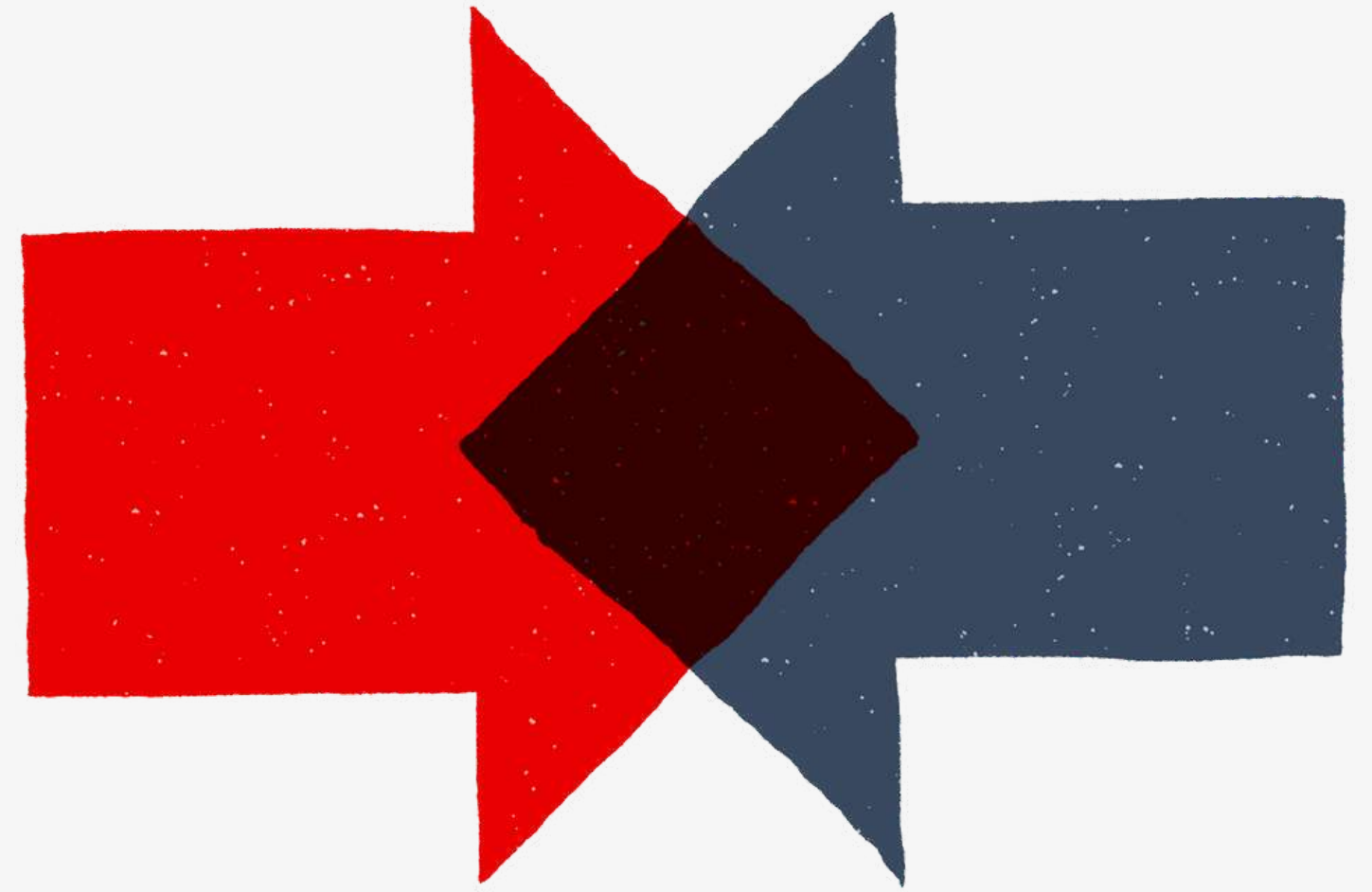
5 RENEW

Grants types

RESIST

offers €1k rapid response grants for urgent and emergency actions, processed on a rolling basis by the Facilitation Group which confirms that applications fulfill the eligibility criteria.

Resist grants are intended to help grow the platform by inviting members to apply on behalf of projects not represented on the platform, and then inviting them to join. This ensures that FundAction remains a platform for newer movements and current actors.



**45 PROJECTS FUNDED
BETWEEN 2020 AND 2021**

Case Study

Nanny Solidarity Network | UK, Resist 2021

The **Nanny Solidarity Network** is a grassroots worker- and migrant-led organisation based in London. We began as an informal network in response to the first COVID lockdown and its devastating effect on the UK's nanny & au pair community. They provide support, resources, community, and space for collective action to nannies & au pairs throughout the UK. During the pandemic, the network has grown rapidly. In 11 months they have built a core organising team and a community of over 100 nannies. In January, after months of meetings and outreach, they formally **established a union branch with Independent Workers Great Britain (IWGB)** - the first union branch for in-home childcare workers in the UK. Their objectives are: Building a community of care to overcome isolating working conditions; Empowering nannies to support each other with the workplace issues they face and to assert their rights; building the collective power of nannies to campaign for and win structural change across the sector. Over the next three months, a series of stay-and-play sessions run by members have been organized, collectively, to build the community and reach out to other childcare workers who have been hit by the pandemic. These sessions will make it possible for isolated workers to build relationships with one another, participate in organising, and access advice and resources. In addition to workers rights trainings and advice and support, these spaces will serve as a skill share for running activities with kids.

"The Resist grant allowed us to begin running in-person sessions which provided a vital community space for nannies & au pairs. Many expressed a sense of relief at finding our group and we have quickly built a small but dedicated group of regular participants.

The grant also coincided with the Low Pay Commission's inquiry into whether the government should remove the minimum wage exemption for au pairs and domestic workers. Through our in-person sessions, we were able to recruit nannies & au pairs who could give oral testimonies directly to the commissioners, thereby allowing their voices to be heard and - hopefully - improving the rights of au pairs across the country.

The Nanny Solidarity Network is hugely grateful to Fundaction for providing us with the opportunity to launch these in-person events. They were the first we ran following the COVID restrictions and it's been a huge boost to our membership to be able to meet in person, share our stories, and establish stronger bond between workers".

CALLING ALL NANNIES!

Stay & Plays

First Friday of every month, 11am-1pm

Telegraph Hill Lower Park (next to the play club) Children of all ages welcome! Free!

Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese

The Nanny Solidarity Network is a grassroots mutual aid organisation run by nannies & au pairs, for nannies and au pairs. We provide downloadable resources, support, community, and emergency aid to nannies & au pairs across the UK. Our stay & plays are led by nannies & au pairs and provide a fun and inclusive space for us to meet each other.

Do you need help?

Contact : welfare@nannysolidaritynetwork.co.uk for free advice and assistance with work, housing or immigration. Or email nannysolidaritynetwork@gmail.com to sign up to our mailing list & join our WhatsApp community.



Nanny Solidarity Network

- @nannysolidaritynetwork
- @nannysolidarity
- Nanny Solidarity Network
- www.nannysolidaritynetwork.com

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Join us!

- @nannysolidaritynetwork
- @nannysolidarity
- Nanny Solidarity Network
- www.nannysolidaritynetwork.com



Stay & Plays

Third Friday of every month

11am-1pm

Hyde Park (check our Instagram for exact location)

Children of all ages welcome! Free!

Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese

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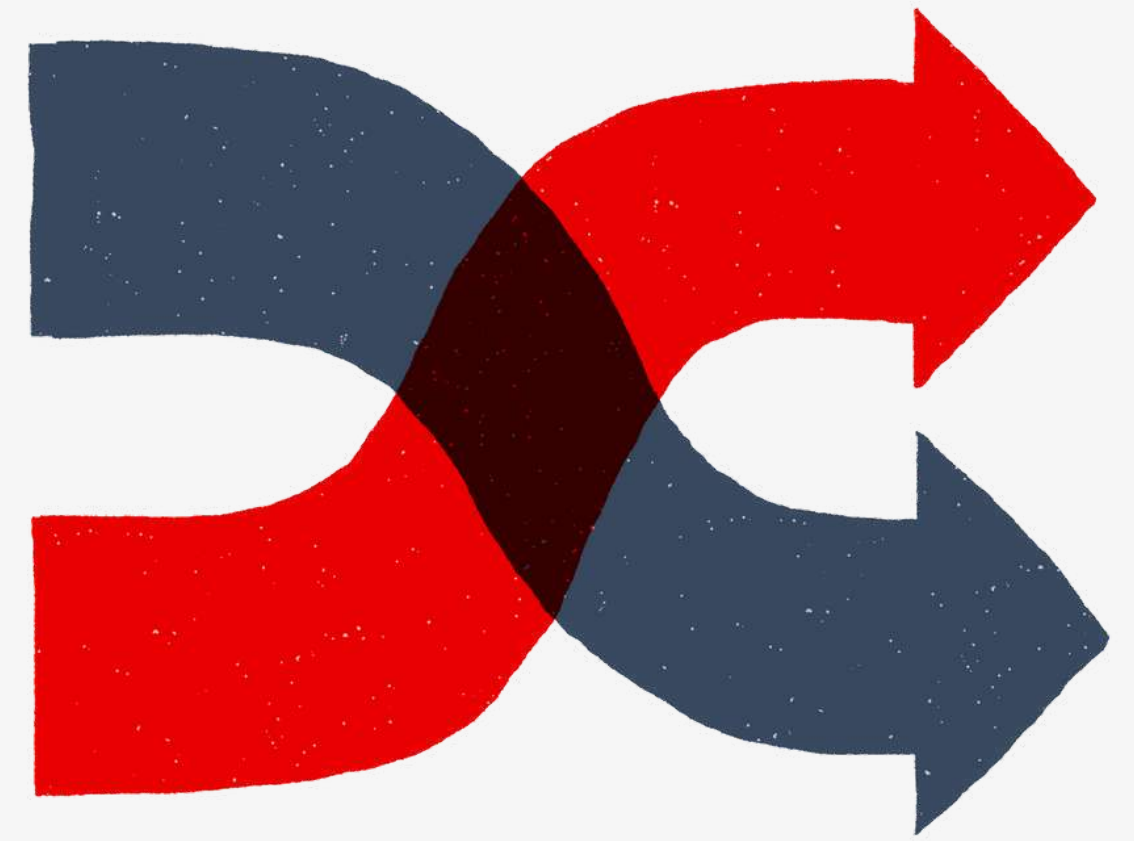
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- Nanny Solidarity Network
- www.nannysolidaritynetwork.com



Grants types

RETHINK

offers grants of up to €5k for collaboration, exchange & capacity-building between members of the platform. This develops deeper relationships within movements and across geographies. Proposals are voted on by members on our digital platform.



37 PROJECTS FUNDED
SINCE 2017

Case Study

Rethink Volunteer Training Denmark, Belgium, Greece, Rethink 2017

Women Refugee Route (WRR) is a non-profit organisation (NGO) founded in March 2016. Today the team is composed of members based in Denmark, Belgium and Greece who work on Advocacy & fundraising, Communications and Training, both for volunteers and for advocacy. **The training WRR offers has the intention to empower refugees and migrants women to become advocates of their own situations and journeys and relates to WRR interest in being part of national and international advocacy work.**

FundAction Rethink grant contributed to the organisation of WRR fifth training workshop, organised together with the Global Refugee Studies (GRS) at Aalborg University, that was the first outside 'hotspot' areas such as Greece, in a place where refugees are not "in transit" anymore, but looking for a stable situation. **The training was attended by 40 women** and one man and focused on how to work and support these women and on the best ways to inform, equip and empower both how participants and the women they are working with. The workshop included a reflection of the concept of "refugee"-as a term that describes a situation, not a person, the need for self-advocacy, increased adversity and intersectionality issues, with a special part dedicated to health.

“Among the thousands of refugees that have reached the shores of Italy and Greece in the past years are many women. Still, refugee policy – be it at the local, national, European or international level – remains mostly gender-blind and the needs of women remain largely unaddressed. Most of the decisions that impact refugees in general, and refugee women in particular, are taken without them. WRR’s ultimate goal is to empower refugee women to become self-advocates and raise their voices to respond to the decisions which directly concern and impact them”.

Mina Jaf, WRR Founder



**WRR FIELD WORK TRAINING, COPENHAGEN 3&4
NOVEMBER 2018**



Grants types

RENEW

Offers grants of up to **€20k** for systemic change initiatives. An extremely popular grant, ten applications are voted through to a peer-to-peer panel which, after conducting interviews, eventually selects 5.



19 PROJECTS FUNDED
SINCE 2018

Case Study

FemFund, Poland | Renew 2018

FemFund is a Polish organisation whose aim is to strengthen **women-led, local and grassroots activism**. They organise mini-grant calls for proposals that provide implementation funding to all kinds of ideas and concepts. FemFund applied to a FundAction #Renew grant with the proposal *Resisting backlash* and amplifying feminist impact in Poland. **The grant helped to finance half of the grants in the second call for feminist groups and NGOs that was launched in October 2018.** These mini-grants were available to non-governmental organisations and to self-organised informal groups, particularly those operating in smaller locations, where women vulnerable to cross-discrimination and violence, may become decision-makers. Through this call, **they have supported 21 projects** that promote access to sexual information and support in special education, skill workshops for Travelling Women, mobile embroidery units, an informal group of pensioners working on healthcare and access to culture or the meeting and networking of sex workers. As a result of their efforts on diversity, they have received 348 applications from 125 different locations. This territorial diversity is reflected in the grantee partners, mainly self-organised groups of underrepresented and vulnerable groups such as migrant and ethnic minority women, LGBTQ persons, women with functional diversity, sex workers, prisoners and detained women, or from the countryside.

"FundAction's support was super timely for us, we received this funding at the critical point of our first year of operation when most donors were still reserved towards the Feminist Fund which was started as a bottom up initiative by the collective of three activists.

As an emerging community-led and participatory grant-maker we were in need of flexible resources to deliver much needed support to grassroots feminist organizing. Support received from fellow FundAction activists was an important act of solidarity with the Polish feminist movements operating in highly challenging and hostile political context".

Magda Poch, FemFund Co-FoundereC

Edition 2018 ↓



Grants types

THEMATIC

FundAction ran a Public Health Renew Grant round in 2020, and is open to discussions with donors who have a thematic focus about running similar rounds in the future. Though applications are often intersectional in focus, thematic grants can only make up a certain proportion of total grants in order to maintain a high level of grant accessibility for our members.

4 PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020



Case Study

Pink House, Bulgaria | PH 2020

The Center for Humane Policy is a Bulgaria-based non-government organisation working in the field of **harm reduction, drug use problems and drug policy**. Their main goal is to ensure governmental answers for the issues of many marginalized people who use drugs (PWUD), and to find ways to improve their existence. The team is currently taking care of **The Pink House – the only drop-in center for PWUD** in Bulgaria which covers the basic needs of these members of society who find themselves at the intersection of multiple axes of marginalisation. Ensuring the existence of the Pink house and growing our capacity to meet the health needs of Sofia's people who use drugs is the priority of the organisation. In 2020 the drop-in center for PWUD (usually homeless, living well below the poverty line, and in deteriorating health) survived only by individual donations and voluntary labor, which resulted to be unsustainable and did not allow the structure to be open full time.

The Public Health Grant helped to make the problems of PWUD more visible for society and to ensure some governmental and municipality support. The grant, in fact, allowed the organization to ensure its activity and to carry on data analysis and stats. Those evidences, able to show how the work of the Center improves public health and social inclusion, were fundamental in the negotiations with the Ministry of Labor and Social Politics and the Ministry of health and Sofia Municipality for systemic governmental support.

uk



Renew 2019

KIN: Empowering Black Activist

KIN was set up in London, UK, in 2017 by three young activists from African and Caribbean diaspora communities. KIN is a new initiative seeking to create spaces to enable, empower, connect, create training opportunities and solidarity networks between Black activists and community organisers in the UK.

infolknetwork.com

finland



Rethink 2020

Agriculture Camp in the Taiga of Finland

Osuuskunta Tuusula Oma Maa (Finland) is a food cooperative founded in 2009, practicing ecologically and socially sustainable food production. Food sovereignty is a core value of the cooperative. Central is also the notion that food is core to systemic change, and that by engaging with the food systems (production, distribution, consumption) we can develop pathways towards a more ecologically and sustainable society.

omamaa.fi

portugal



PH Grant 2020

Housing is Healthcare

Habita is a Lisbon (Portugal) based non profit activist association fighting for the right to housing and to the city since 2005. Composed mainly by women working with women, they contest the political space aiming for a systemic change in housing policies. They denounce exclusionary housing policies that have further disempowered people by the exploitation of housing as a commodity.

habita.info

hungary



Rethink 2019

Conspiracy for Democracy

K-Monitor was founded in 2007 to improve the levels of transparency, accountability and the rule of law in Hungary. Civic participation and tech driven solutions are among the organization's key instruments. The organization has extended its activities since then and became one of the leading anti-corruption NGOs in the country.

k-monitor.hu

serbia



Renew 2018

Renew Magacin

Magacin is a cultural and social centre and it is a resource managed by the community of users according to the commonly established rules. Magacin is nourished by a wide range of socially responsible initiatives that act in the public interest. In 2018, we sought the support of the FundAction and through the joint effort of Magacin users, much work was done on improving the infrastructure for new users and types of usage to occur.

kcmagacin.org

a few more examples of our grantees community

Additional Activities



Podcast channel



Workshops and skill sharing sessions



Annual Assembly

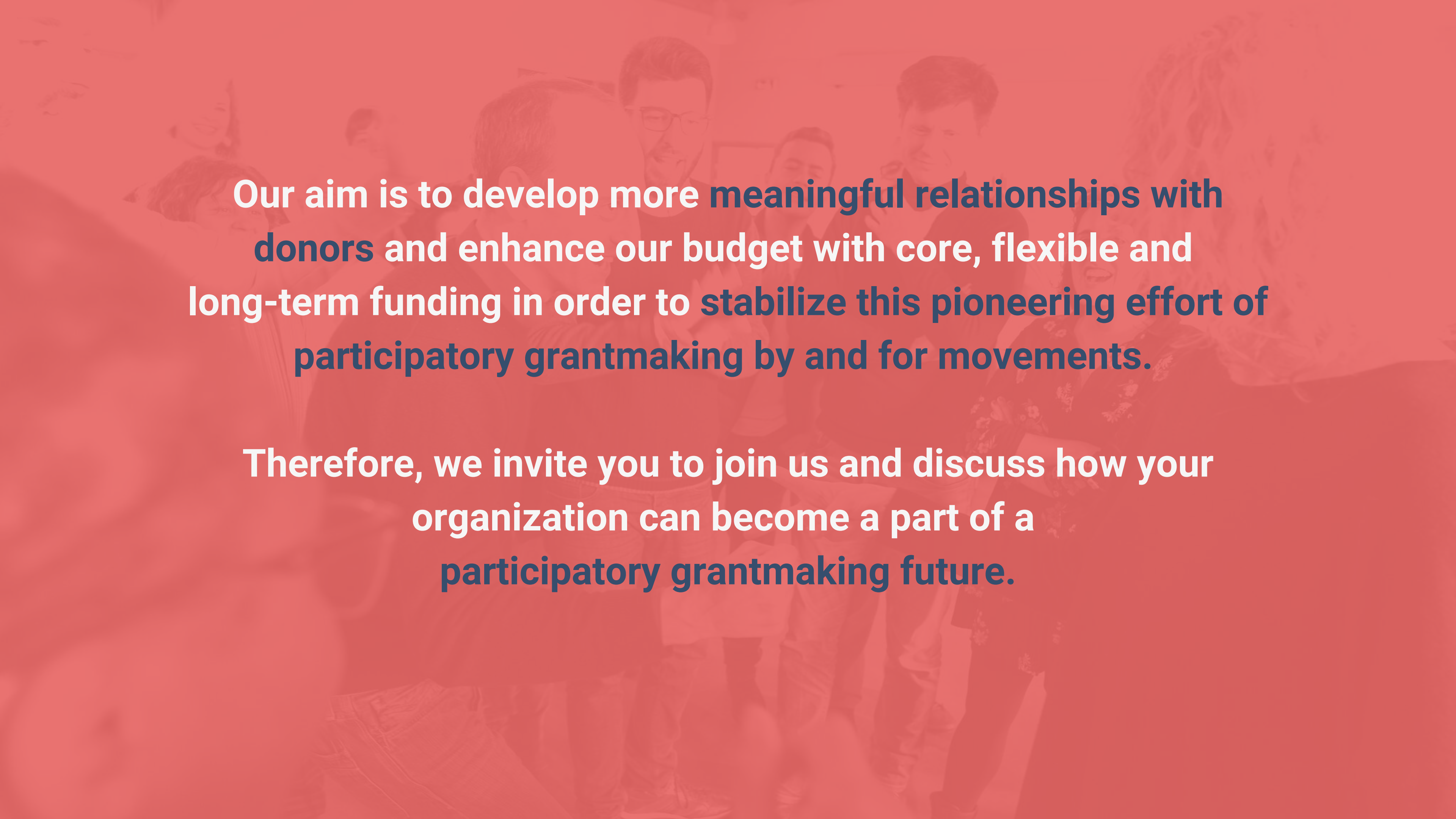


5 Year Evaluation completed in 2021

Why FundAction ?

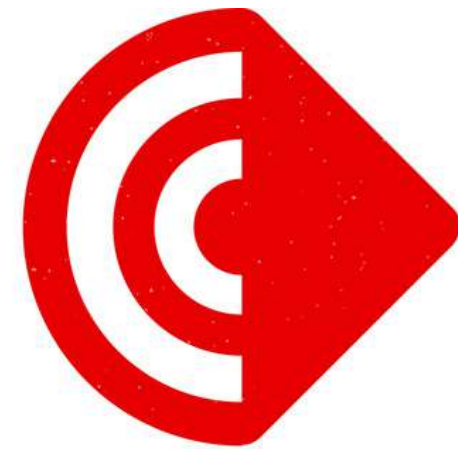
FundAction is a recognised leader in participatory grantmaking in Europe and a key part of the process in which foundations and individual donors are sharing their power with movements.

FundAction **has inspired donors to become a part of our story** and temporarily experiment with participatory grantmaking, but we aim to grow stronger and become more present in the world of philanthropy in order to significantly influence and develop democratic processes in the sector.



Our aim is to develop more **meaningful relationships with donors** and enhance our budget with core, flexible and long-term funding in order to **stabilize this pioneering effort of participatory grantmaking by and for movements.**

Therefore, we invite you to join us and discuss how your organization can become a part of a **participatory grantmaking future.**



FundAction

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions and to set up an introductory meeting. We would love to get to know you and tell you more about our work.

contact@fundaction.eu