



# FundAction Policy Plan

*June 2022*

## **Mission**

FundAction is a participatory grantmaking fund that brings together a growing community of grassroots activists working in movements across 29 countries in Europe on a diverse range of issues. The FundAction community shares a commitment to deep transformative change in their daily work – towards a regenerative economy, a fair world and a healthy planet.

FundAction aims to shift decision-making power over funding from funders to affected communities and activists working on the frontlines. The FundAction community decides collectively which projects get funded through Decidim, a digital platform for democratic participation. FundAction grants funds to projects in the field of democratic innovation, civic education, human rights, anti-discrimination, public space, housing, civil, political and social rights, regenerative and alternative economies, digital activism, alternative media, arts and culture, climate justice, environment, right to food, public health, care, welfare, migration and intercommunal solidarity, in the broadest sense of the word.

FundAction's mission is to advance, perform and promote participatory grantmaking. The FundAction model represents a genuine shift in decision-making over funding and has established itself as an effective vehicle for shifting power from funders to movements.

## **Values**

Overall, FundAction is guided by the following core values: democracy, inclusivity, openness, peer-to-peer working, transparency, trust, respect and autonomy. Our values determine how we run our processes and how we decide and engage with one another in the FundAction community.

## **Vision**

FundAction brings together funders and activists around a shared vision for deep transformative change.

Our vision is for more funders and people of wealth to endorse FundAction's vision and mission, and to play an active role in shifting the power by putting their trust in people with lived experience.

Our vision is for FundAction to further develop as a financially stable and thriving participatory grantmaking fund that facilitates unrestricted and long term funding to movements. As such, freed from endless burdensome fundraising, movements can focus their energies, expertise and organisational power on the actual work of creating transformative change.

Our vision for the FundAction platform is to nourish and facilitate collaborations, exchanges and connections amongst a growing community of grassroots activists and movements across Europe. We wish to bridge the gap between funders and activists, and to effectively connect needs with resources through our evolving participatory model of redistribution of power and wealth.

## Priority areas of work

### 1. Grantmaking

As a participatory grantmaking fund supporting systemic change across Europe, our key priority remains to fund multiple grant rounds for our community of grassroots activists who seek funding to continue their work across diverse topics and countries throughout Europe.

#### ❖ **Resist:**

The intention of the Resist Grant is to award small, rapid response grants (1000 EUR each) that allow our community to meet urgent needs as they are expressed in the field and experienced by affected communities.

#### ❖ **Renew:**

This grant is aimed at funding projects that generate systemic change by addressing the root causes of injustice and promoting a better vision of the future.

#### ❖ **Rethink:**

Rethink aims to support the building of a pan-European network and community by offering grants (5000 EUR each) for collaboration, exchange and capacity building through study visits, meetings for collaboration, training, translation, research, mentoring,...

#### ❖ **Future grants:**

In line with our mission, vision and values we constantly review our grantmaking activities and we aim to understand whether they still meet the needs of the FundAction community and which improvements are needed. As a proposal for a new future grant, the idea of a general support grant is emerging which would offer general support, more flexibility and less restrictions to grantees.

### 2. Facilitating exchange and collaboration

We work to replace the standard model of competition over funding with the FundAction model which offers a democratic platform for exchange, collaboration and sharing of resources. This implies induction, community building activities and networking opportunities

for the FundAction community as well as extending the FundAction community with a proactive and clear strategy in order to have a more diverse community of activists and include activists who have difficulties accessing funding in their area of work.

### **3. Advocating for participatory grantmaking**

We work to facilitate and nourish transformative change by sharing our experience of participatory grantmaking (PGM) and by inviting funders to join the journey, shift power and become catalysts of this much needed change in philanthropy.

In our experience the key challenge remains to push funders to shift from rhetoric to action.

In practice, many funders are not yet ready to let go of their power and to put their trust in the communities and activists on the ground. Going forward, we would like to put more time and effort into establishing FundAction as an advocate, opinion-maker and point of reference on the issue of power and participatory grantmaking in philanthropy, grounded in our experience and values.

## **Organisational structure**

Fundaction is registered as a foundation (stichting) in The Netherlands. The Deed of Incorporation has been registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of FundAction is composed of:

- Mr Stefanos Galountzis (Chairman)
- Mr Marko Aksentijevic (Secretary Treasurer)
- Ms Ruby van der Wekken
- Ms Carmen Lozano Bright

Board members perform their duties free of charge. They are compensated for expenses made in the course of exercising their duties, including participation in meetings and travel expenses.

FundAction plans to hire a coordinator and an administrator to carry out the daily activities of the fund. Additional staff might be recruited for specific tasks in the future. Staff at FundAction will be paid in accordance with the prevailing salaries and fees in the non-profit sector.

## **Finances and fundraising**

FundAction is a non-profit organisation. FundAction aims to spend its resources to fulfill its mission and vision and to pursue the activities as outlined in the policy plan. FundAction aims to keep operational costs at a minimum and within a limited proportion of the overall budget.

FundAction's budget for 2022 is at 624,000 EUR (for more information, see our [Annual Report](#)). Once we open up the bank account, these funds will be transferred from EDGE Funders Alliance, which has been FundAction's fiscal sponsor until its formal establishment. Donations from wealthy individuals amount to the majority of received funds. FundAction aims to focus fundraising efforts increasingly towards progressive funders and individuals of wealth who share FundAction's values in order to grow and secure FundAction's financial future and stability. FundAction will continue to invest in fundraising efforts in order to obtain long-term and unrestricted funding from its funders to be able to implement its mission.

FundAction is currently not engaged in any investments.