

Reinventing Europe

A Project for the Maecenata Foundation

Summary

In the world of the 21st century, Europe has no option but to pursue its unification process with courage and vigour. Europeans, who believe in the European project, must not allow opponents to dominate public attention, but must actively carry forward the European cause. Civil Society, while divided over whether Europe should grow closer together or not, has in recent years become Europe's driving force, while the national governments have stalled. In Europe's present crisis, civil society will have to adopt a lead role in bringing about a more positive awareness and understanding of Europe with its citizens and edging governments and administrators on towards greater European unity. The Maecenata Foundation realizes it has a special responsibility to join in this effort.

The overall objective is to enhance the importance of civil society for the integration of Europe and to speed up the pace of the European project. Civil society actors shall present proposals to politicians and the general public. Europe as an inspiring living space must gain priority over Europe as a financial problem.

Being a small operating foundation¹, albeit with many years experience in civil society and European matters, the Maecenata Foundation is eager to assist all efforts to pursue the European project, while necessarily having to concentrate on very specific ways to do so. It will join forces with other civil society organisations across Europe in designing and carrying out specific projects. In order to do so, the board of the foundation, meeting on 27th July, 2012, has decided to concentrate the efforts of the foundation on 4 perspectives:

1. European citizens,
2. European civil society,
3. European culture,
4. The trans-European Mediterranean.

The project is not limited in time. It will be terminated when its major goals have been achieved or when no meaningful further contribution can be made.

¹ The main ongoing programmes of the foundation are:

- The Maecenata Institute, a research and policy centre for civil society studies at Humboldt University, Berlin,
- Maecenata International, a programme to enable transnational giving, in the framework of the Transnational Giving Europe Network.

To date, concrete plans have been made in all 4 themes as follows:

1. Active participation in a workshop on civic engagement in Europe, Rome, September 2012;
2. Active participation in a workshop on common European remembrance, Chateau d'Orion, France, September 2012;

Active participation in the European Foundation Day (1st October, 2013);

3. Active participation in the Walter-Scheel-Kulturforum, Bad Krozingen, Germany, December 2012;
4. Conference in cooperation with the Villa Vigoni German Italian Centre, Italy, on Europe and the Mediterranean, March 2013.

Furthermore, a meeting in Berlin has been scheduled for December 3, 2012, to further elaborate the overall programme and devise additional projects. In particular, it is hoped that an idea for a unique contribution will evolve from this meeting.

The Maecenata Foundation actively seeks cooperation with other interested civil society organisations.

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Rupert Strachwitz