

# MAECENATA STIFTUNG

## MAECENATA FOUNDATION

### TOCQUEVILLE FORUM

#### **Briefing Note**

#### **Navigating Change: Implications for Trust in Philanthropy, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Trust-Driven Philanthropy and the Philanthropy.Insight Assessment Tool (PIAT)**

Our recent online presence and a dedicated interview series with friends of Philanthropy.Insight<sup>1</sup> has helped us distill **3 challenges** PIAT must meet to advance trust-driven philanthropy.

#### **(1) Clarify the role of trust in philanthropy**

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- Like many other institutions, philanthropic organisations are identifying trust increasingly as a critical asset to navigate change. COVID\_19 is reinforcing the pressure.
- In philanthropic practice, trust is working in three directions: (1) Trust *within* philanthropic organizations, including the beneficiaries, (2) trust *between* actors of the philanthropic ecosystem and civil society, (3) trust *vis-a-vis* the public and private sector and in response to increasing public scrutiny.
- Trust influences *personal relations*, understood as authentic, honest intention and a willingness to be vulnerable; *institutional relations* relying on competence and skills of trusted philanthropies.

#### **(2) Identify good practices of trust-driven philanthropy**

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- Trust is formed by empathetic, open and transparent mindsets and practices, accountability and partnerships with legitimate actors. Trust cannot be technically implemented by ticking off a box of rules and institutions.
- Focused on practice, PIAT will be a living instrument not bound by fixed numeric indicators.
- The exchange and knowledge transfer among philanthropic organisations leading the trust driven approach must be ongoing in an environment of confidentiality.

#### **(3) Gather like-minded philanthropists in a joint learning process**

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- Interested philanthropies will apply PIAT for self-assessment of their organization.
- The exchange of practical experiences of the self-assessment will strengthen the benefits of trust in philanthropy for all partners.
- Serving as an example, contributing philanthropies will set standards for trust-driven philanthropy.

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<sup>1</sup> Interview partners were philanthropists, academics, advisors from different countries.