



MAECENATA FOUNDATION

TOCQUEVILLE FORUM

Policy, Support and Networking for Civil Society



Initiative
Transparente
Zivilgesellschaft



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
THIRD-SECTOR RESEARCH



Philanthropy
Europe
Association



The Tocqueville Forum was inaugurated by the Maecenata Foundation in April 2016, after yearlong attempts to establish a centre for civil society together with other institutions had failed. Given that civil society needs to be seen and recognised as such in order to render an open and liberal society more resilient, the mission of the Forum is to offer support and networking in rendering civil society more visible as a separate and crucial arena in society.

The Tocqueville Forum may be seen at the intersection of research, politics, and the field. Interlinking different approaches and the interplay between civil society, government, the private sector, and the citizens appear to be particularly urgent. Facilitating dialogue between civil society research, offering access to information, and assisting in shaping policy are seen as particularly important.

The forum focuses on sharing the results of academic studies, conducting policy projects, initiating dialogue and interaction, offering hands-on courses on civil society and philanthropy and participating in and where necessary building networks. Also, the forum contributes to identifying the needs of and strengthening civil society under aspects of democratic theory.

Particular attention is accorded to

- strengthening civil society practice and research through support services and discourses;
- initiating an open dialogue to identify cross-sector needs;
- jointly developing practical solutions to current problems across different disciplines and departments;
- providing a space for reflection on the actual and potential areas of activity, functioning and dynamics of civil society;
- bringing issues into general, political and academic discourse that are important for the development and internal strengthening of civil society,
- conducting projects on specific subject matters,
- publishing and disseminating information to do with a wide range of civil society policy and activities.

Wherever feasible, a transdisciplinary, transnational, and intercultural outlook is aimed at. Results and policy recommendations are shared with the public. The project explicitly focuses on cooperation and networking.

The Tocqueville Forum operates the following permanent projects:

- The **Maecenata Library**. This library encompasses around 16,000 items, making it the largest specialised library for topics of civil society, civic engagement, philanthropy, and foundations in German-speaking countries. The library is open to the general public.
- **Intensive seminars** on civil society and foundations. They are aimed at full-time and voluntary employees in foundations, associations and other civil society organisations, businesses and authorities, as well as potential donors, young scientists, students from all disciplines, journalists and those interested in the topics of foundations and civil societies. In addition to sharing knowledge and experiences, the seminars also place an emphasis on answering the participants' questions and encouraging them to exchange ideas.
- the **Europe Bottom-Up** project. This aims at contributing to creating an ever closer union of all European citizens.
- the **Communication** department. This serves the whole foundation and is responsible for the website, the online publication series (Opusculum, Observatorium, Europe Bottom Up) the foundations's news letter and annual report, press releases, events etc.

The Foundation is responsible for most of the programme's funding, but it is urgently dependent on project-related grants from foundations as well as public and private funding providers to implement projects.

The Tocqueville Forum is a permanent programme of the Maecenata Foundation, which was established in 2010 in Munich, Germany, as an independent think tank for civil society, civic engagement, philanthropy and foundations. The Foundation also operates three other programmes:

- the Maecenata Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society, an academic research centre, founded in 1997,
- the Transnational Giving Programme, German partner in the Transnational Giving Europe network, since 2001,
- the MENA Study Centre, a specialised unit that focuses on the Middle East and Central Asia, inaugurated in 2019.

Director

N.N.

Offices

Rungestrasse 17

D-10179 Berlin

Tel.: +49 30 2838 7909

Fax: +49 30 2838 7910

E-Mail

mst@maecenata.eu

Website

www.maecenata.eu

Donor account

Bankhaus Loebbecke, Berlin

Account Holder: Maecenata Stiftung

IBAN: DE 89 1003 0500 1061 0007 01

BIC: LOEBDEBBXXX

October 2022