Initiative for Strategic Philanthropy and Intelligent Resources in Central and Eastern Europe
The Central and Eastern Europe context for philanthropy and citizen activism has gradually changed for the better.

We witness now increased interest for bottom up approaches and contribution of individuals to creating social change and finding innovative, community based solutions to needs.

It is an era for distributed leadership, where individuals are ready to engage, contribute to building new solutions and participate with own resources in the generation and implementation of these solutions. This creates a more meaningful society, where there is a stronger emphasis of self-help and caring communities.

In this context, it is becoming more and more possible for people to be engaged to create the future they would like to have, so private ideas and resources can shape the local, national and regional development processes.
Experiences

Networks of active and engaged donors have developed in North America, Western Europe and other parts of the world and we see the emergence of such initiatives in CEE Countries.
High Impact Contributions

- Are based on the ability to…

  … clarify own vision for development and key assumptions about ways to contribute to positive social change (‘theory of change’).

  … engage with other stakeholders, such as peers, other donors, partners, grantees, community members in dialogue around this vision, theory of change and options to transform it in reality.

  … follow the impact of various choices made in this process, learn from the dialogue between vision and reality and adapt own interventions to make clear steps in the desired direction.
Strategic Philanthropy Advisors

- While many donors may already make these steps intuitively, for many others, the access to guidance and support networks for increasing the effectiveness of their strategic contribution is highly relevant.

- Thus, strategic philanthropy advisors can support prospective donors and social entrepreneurs in identifying their own personal mission and vision, support them to link their activity to others with similar interest and assist the process of identifying and sharing results and lessons learned in this journey.
Different journeys…

As donors gradually build a strong practice as philanthropists, their advisors also have their own journey in developing their own. We feel that advisors as well can benefit from reflection on their own role and contribution, connect to others who have a similar practice and invest in their own professional development so they can offer richer experiences to donors and leverage more resources and results.
A number of professionals from the community foundations field in Central and Eastern Europe had already the opportunity with the support of C.S. Mott Foundation and UK Community Foundation Network to connect to the experience of UK Institute for Philanthropy and UK community foundations in supporting strategic philanthropy, as a part of Community Foundations Futures Course.

We would like to continue to develop our own practice and we would also like to support other professionals active in the philanthropic field to access the available knowledge around strategic giving. Also, we would like to create a frame for mutual support, a community of advisors who would grow and build together a stronger strategic philanthropy practice in Central and Eastern Europe.
What you can do...

- Participate in INSPIRE training courses for strategic philanthropy advisors

- Test INSPIRE methodology in your country and organizational context

- Connect with other practitioners from the region to build support for your pioneering work.
Find out more!

For further information about the initiative please contact Alina Porumb, Community Foundations Program Director, Association for Community Relations, Romania, alina@arcromania.ro