



## **Call for successful and innovative initiatives on the promotion of a more enabling environment for philanthropy and civil society**

### **Guidelines**

#### **Background**

Worldwide, philanthropy is facing a concerning trend as civil society (including, but not limited to organizations, change-seeker groups or individuals) deals with heightened control and excessive, unwarranted restrictions on funding, both locally and internationally. In the domestic arena, barriers on the ability of civil society organizations to incorporate, operate and receive funding are pervasive in far too many locations. With respect to the international context, over the past several years, dozens of countries have adopted new laws and regulations that hinder cross-border funding, often under the guise of protecting security or preserving sovereignty.

In this context, civil society actors such as the philanthropy support organizations, NGOs or civil society networks, have an important role to play in addressing barriers, and possible approaches and strategies to address and overcome these barriers and improve the environment for philanthropy. They can also play a key role in shaping behavior and attitudes towards civil society and philanthropy practices. As networks of networks representing a vast spectrum of civil society actors, WINGS, CIVICUS and its Affinity Group of National Associations, and the International Forum of national NGO Platforms (IFP) have signed a joint Declaration to highlight their commitment to contributing to the creation of a more enabling environment for philanthropy and civil society globally.

As part of this initiative, WINGS, in coordination with IFP and CIVICUS-AGNA, is coordinating a call for successful and innovative initiatives from members on the promotion of a more enabling environment. The purpose of this initiative is to promote learning by giving visibility to successful actions developed by civil society actors (NGOs, philanthropy support organizations, networks and other) and that have contributed to a better environment for philanthropy and civil society to achieve their mission.

The selected cases will be featured on WINGS' [knowledge center](#), and their authors will be invited to write a blog for our monthly newsletter. At the end of the year, a joint publication between WINGS, IFP and CIVICUS-AGNA will be published and disseminated through the three organizations' main communications channels.

*Below is a non-exhaustive list of possible topics to be addressed:*

- *Termination/Suspension of activity;*
- *Private sector policies: bank de-risking, ...*
- *Cross-border giving restrictions;*
- *Direct attacks against civil society organizations;*
- *Lowering thresholds for eligibility and reporting criteria;*
- *Explore and experiment with more direct and devolved funding modalities;*
- *Introduce new feedback loops aimed at improving relevance and responsiveness of civil society funding;*
- *Advocate for funding mechanisms that support locally-driven change-seeking activities that support social justice.*
- *Burdensome reporting/registration;*
- *Tax incentives;*
- *...*

## **Process**

After receiving contributions, [WINGS](#) will be responsible for checking if the submissions (1) conform with the initiative's purpose of promoting learning about how to contribute to a better environment for philanthropy to achieve its mission, and (2) follow the guidelines and template structure.

You can expect a feedback in up to two weeks from the submission date. credits will be given to your institution, if you so wish (please see more about identity disclosure below).

No case submitted will be denied but the organizers reserve the right to suggest changes according to the criteria above.

Deadline for receiving submissions is March 31, 2018. All cases submitted will compound a publication that will be launched in 2018.

Please, submit your case to Muriel Asseraf: [masseraf@wingsweb.org](mailto:masseraf@wingsweb.org)

## **Guidelines**

The only content-related requirement will be that the cases help build knowledge for the field of philanthropy infrastructure. Please fill the template below to submit your successful initiative. Submissions that do not follow the template structure will not be accepted.

Your initiative description should be 2-3 pages and no longer than 5 pages.

## **Identity disclosure**

Your institution can stay anonymous. If, for any reason, this is your choice, WINGS is committed not to disclose your institution's identity. If you want your institution to be identified, please add to your submission a short organization profile (no more than 100 words) and how people can reach out to your organization for more information.

## Template

### Context

*What is the background from your story? Please briefly describe the background and context of your story and the problem that your institution was trying to solve.*

### Solution

*Please describe the solutions your institution found to solve the problems and how it was implemented. Please, specify if your institution implemented this initiative alone or in collaboration with other institutions.*

### Results

*Why do you consider this initiative a success? What were the concrete results and benefits achieved? Please describe with quantitative data and/or qualitative information/examples how the initiative solved the problem, if all expected outcomes were achieved and if it achieved unexpected results.*

### Innovative dimension

*Could you describe the specific elements that have contributed to the success of the initiative? Please describe the innovative dimension from your initiative.*

### Learnings and recommendations

*What went right and what went wrong? What were the key learnings from this experience? What pieces of advice would you give to peers dealing with similar challenges?*

### References

*Please add any reference relevant to your initiative.*

Would you like to disclose your institution's identity?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Institution's profile (only for those who want to be identified)

**Information for WINGS's use only**

Who should WINGS contact for clarification?

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Considering the nature of the solution you described, which category(ies) do you think your initiative belongs to?

- a. Building knowledge [ ]
- b. Raising awareness [ ]
- c. Building constituency [ ]
- d. Influencing public policy [ ]
- e. Changing law and regulation [ ]

Would you be interested in participating in an exchange program related to enabling environment where you would be able to be paired with an organization that could share experience and learn lessons from your specific case?

- a. Yes [ ]
- b. No [ ]