

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

Objective

Stichting Horizon, a European foundation with its legal seat in the Netherlands was founded on 28 January 1997. Its purpose is (i) to promote the general good, in particular cultural, educational and social affairs, (ii) to distribute funds for social, charitable, scientific and/or cultural ends, and (iii) to administer the foundation's capital in such a manner that the realisation of the foundation's objects is secured long-term. The foundation does not seek to make a profit (Article 2, Articles of Association).

Governance

The foundation is governed by three documents:

- Articles of Association (as amended on November 5, 2020);
- Regulations of the board of Stichting Horizon (as adopted on 30 November 2013 & revised on December 12, 2020);
- Strategy Stichting Horizon 2022 -2025.

Fiscal Status

Horizon is a fiscally recognized charity. Its activities are not subject to corporate income tax. Gifts into and out of Stichting Horizon are exempt from gift taxes. The Dutch tax office reconfirmed the formal status of 'Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling' (Institution for General Benefit (ANBI) in a letter dated January 20, 2016.

Memberships

Stichting Horizon is a member of the following organizations:

- Vereniging van Fondsen in Nederland - FIN (organization of foundations in The Netherlands), since 1997;

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Board

Meetings

In principle, the Board & Project Committee meet twice a year. In 2024 the annual meeting took place on June 22nd and the budget meeting was held on December 7th. Both meetings took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Composition of the Board and the Project Committee

On November 3rd, 2023 the chairman Henk Lubberdink reached the age of 72. According to art 5.3 of the Articles of Association, his term would officially have

expired on December 31st 2023, but the Board agreed to extend his term up to first the meeting in 2024. At the June meeting, Monique Dolfing was appointed as the successor to Henk Lubberdink.

Apart from the change of chairmanship, the composition of the Board and the Project Committee remained unchanged in 2024.

Projects & Beneficiaries

All Horizon projects are assigned to individual members of the Project Committee who act as sponsors and are the main contact for the Beneficiaries of the approved projects. The Office is responsible for liaising with the beneficiaries on operational and financial matters and monitors beneficiaries to ensure they are in compliance with Horizon's standards on governance and (financial) transparency.

Beneficiaries

Two of Horizon beneficiaries receive a fixed annual budget. These organizations are Caucasian House (CH) in Tbilisi, Georgia and the Mihai Eminescu Trust (MET) in Sighişoara, Romania. Horizon has a long-standing relationship with both organisations. These Beneficiaries have in common that they (1) have gradually developed a diversified project range, (2) aim to attract funding for their activities from different sources, and (3) employ (some) staff. Their budgets include a contribution to cover overhead expenses and salary costs. In practice, it is very difficult to find other donors willing to take on these costs, even though they are essential for the organisations' continuation. The assurance of Horizon's multi-year financial support has allowed these beneficiaries to focus on further developing their organisation and expanding their project portfolio. In 2024, approximately 37% of the budget of Horizon was assigned to these two organisations (2023: 27%).

In addition to CH and MET, there are several organisations that Horizon has also supported for many consecutive years, but differ from MET and CH as Horizon does not allocate them a fixed annual budget. The amounts they apply for change from year to year and show an upward trend (because of inflation).

The Board is well aware of the advantages as well as the disadvantages of this type of long term relationships. An advantage is the mutual trust that has been built up over a period of almost 30 years, which explains the almost complete absence of failed projects during that time. Disadvantages are the possible lack of incentives for Beneficiaries to attract funds from other donors, which could put them in very difficult financial situation if, for whatever reason, Horizon decides to change its support policy in the future. A long term relationship gives rise to the discussions on the continuity and viability of the Beneficiaries and the dependency/succession of key staff in particular. All these aspects are regularly discussed in the context of meetings of the Project Committee and during onsite visits to and/or video calls with the Beneficiaries.

Visits to Beneficiaries

Integrative and Intercultural Choir Innsbruck, 21 – 22 January

Horizon visited Innsbruck to attend a concert organized by the intercultural Choir. The concert took place at the Mozarteum university where the Choir rehearses and performs. The concert featured a multicultural orchestra, a children's choir, a parents' choir, and a senior citizens' orchestra, culminating in a joint performance by all participants.

Later that day Horizon had a meeting with the choir's director and discussed operational and financial matters.

The next morning the director gave a presentation enriched with classical songs, providing better insight into the project and the issues she faces.

Traditions pour Demain, 31 January

The sponsor visited TpD in its new office in Geneva where they met the management and its new director, who briefly introduced herself. They talked about organisational developments and got updated on projects supported by Horizon.

From an organisational perspective, TpD noted that it is seeking to strengthen the committee with new members and it is developing a new strategy for 2025-2028. While seeking to expand financially with larger projects, it will continue to develop medium-sized projects like those supported by Horizon. TpD will also enhance its communication and social media efforts in order to attract new members.

Caucasian House 2-5 October

The Office and the sponsor to CH travelled to Georgia for its annual meeting with CH. As they arrived late at night, no activities were planned for the remainder of the day. The next day Horizon visited the CH office for presentations on the sub-projects financed by Horizon and also discussed the progress of the collaboration with IMC Weekendschool.

The third day started with a short visit to the National Museum. Horizon attended another series of presentations on (geo)political developments. After the presentations, a meeting with a publisher was on the agenda as well as a discussion on the preparation for next year's visit to CH with a larger group.

The visit to Georgia ended with a traditional dinner in Tbilisi with some members of CH.

Integrative and Intercultural Choir Innsbruck, 3 -6 October

The purpose of the visit was for the new sponsor to this project to meet the director, understand the communities involved, and observe performances by the choir and ensemble. The itinerary included a concert rehearsal at the Mozarteum on Thursday, participation in choir sessions, a rehearsal and concert in Stubaital with a local children's choir on Friday, and the final rehearsal and concert in Innsbruck on Saturday, followed by get-togethers with choir singers, ensemble musicians, and families.

During the visit, strong engagement from children and parents was observed during rehearsals and concerts. However, there were challenges in participation from migrant communities due to irregular attendance and specific challenges faced by these families. The ensemble musicians showed high motivation despite organizational challenges.

The project fosters interpersonal connections and friendships among families, including migrant and Austrian families. Cultural exchange through music was evident, with performances of pieces in various languages and themes of unity and inclusion. The concerts showcased the project's unique blend of multicultural and contemporary music, though there is a need for more robust promotional efforts to increase concert attendance.

The visit provided the new sponsor a better understanding of the project and its impact on the community. Key challenges to address include increasing regular participation from migrant communities and expanding the project's visibility and outreach.

Traditions pour Demain, 18 October

The sponsor visited TpD for the second time this year.

Institutional updates from TpD included governance changes, with the addition of new board members and a volunteer to support the secretariat. The board decided to extend the current strategy to cover the period from 2025 to 2026, incorporating insights from preparatory work for the 40th anniversary celebrations in 2026. Communication activities have been enhanced, with successful events funded by a Geneva-based foundation and upcoming events planned for November and December. However, TpD is facing financial challenges due to less revenue than anticipated, particularly in project funding. The organization launched a special appeal to its members to help balance finances and is participating in an FGC commission to assess the impact of potential reductions in public funding for international cooperation.

TpD also provided updates on projects sponsored by Horizon and showed the sponsor 2 project proposals that they plan to present to the board for approval at the next meeting.

Other Beneficiaries

For the other projects, the sponsors and/or the Office had regular contacts with the beneficiaries via e-mail correspondence and/or digital meetings.

Amsterdam, June 12, 2025