

EDGE Europe Retreat 2017 Organising Philanthropy for Systemic Change

Bergerie de Villarceaux, 14 to 16 November 2017

1. BACKGROUND, AIMS & PRINCIPLES

Two years after the establishment of EDGE Funders Alliance in Europe, we have grown into a membership community of 31 foundations from across Europe, working in different areas and parts of the world with the overall aim to position progressive philanthropy as a meaningful, responsible and inter-sectorally connected supporter of and actor for systemic change.

The yearly EDGE Europe retreat is an important convening to consolidate EDGE in Europe in terms of joint identity, membership, activity planning and governance. The retreat welcomes new members, integrating them in the community with the aim to strengthen EDGE as a political home for progressive foundations and a place to scale up the impact of our grantmaking.

The retreat is a safe space for in-depth discussion, learning and collaboration amongst the members on the role and challenges of philanthropy to address systemic change.

In particular, we aim to learning together and from each other, to initiate and deepen concrete collaborations, and to discuss and plan joint advocacy actions that can influence the wider philanthropic sector to address systemic change alternatives and shift more resources to this cause.

2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The meeting in November 2017 will bring together EDGE members with the following objectives:

1. **BUILDING COMMUNITY** - Understand individual members interests and assets for an effective joint approach, get to know each other's organisations and experiences and connect EDGE members in Europe
2. **LEARNING** - Discuss and explore pressing issues regarding the role of philanthropy in systemic change
3. **ACTION PLANNING** - Plan, develop and continue specific collaborations in topical working groups, strategic advocacy alliances or other collaboration formats
4. **CHANGING PHILANTHROPY** - Develop thinking and processes to challenge the philanthropy sector and how we address diversity, power and privilege to shift more resources towards systemic change and transformative actors
5. **GOVERNANCE** - Improve the governance, structural rules and mandates for the EDGE European Steering Group and the development of the EGDE community in Europe

Participants will be asked to prioritise these objectives when they sign up to the retreat, which will help to balance the agenda according to members' interests.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting is a funders only space, open to all EDGE Members in Europe. Upon invitation, selected non-member foundations and a few philanthropic or civil society resource persons might participate.

4. TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

NB:

- The EDGE [Just Transition Global Engagement Lab](#) (GEL) will have its first convening at La Bergerie from Saturday, 11 to Tuesday, 14 November. European EDGE members participating in the lab might stay for the retreat.
- French speaking EDGE members and friends will convene at La Bergerie on Tuesday, 14 November in the afternoon. Registration for this event will be done separately.

Time	Session	Objective	Content
Tuesday, 14 November 2017			
15:00	Meeting in Paris, collective departure		
17:00	Arrival and registration at La Bergerie, check in		
18:00	Apperitif	BUILDING COMMUNITY	
19:00	Joint Dinner and debate with Global Engagement Lab and retreat participants	Participants learn about and discuss cutting edge thinking around the Just Transition and philanthropy BUILDING COMMUNITY LEARNING	Speakers (tbc): - Edouard Morena (researcher) - Samantha Harvey (EDGE Just Transition Fellow) Small group discussions over dinner
Wednesday, 15 November 2017			
9:00	Welcome and introduction	Create a welcoming atmosphere and get to know each other Get an update on EDGE BUILDING COMMUNITY	Speed dating Intro to EDGE: - What's going on? From Barcelona to New Orleans (Amanda Gigler, Mama Cash, board member and co-chair of the next EDGE Forum). - Where do we stand? Quick spotlight on organisational development (members, team, budget...)
9:30	Objectives, program and expectations	Get a common understanding on objectives and program of the retreat Map expectations BUILDING COMMUNITY	Recall of objectives,, ground rules and agenda Mapping participants expectations of the retreat
10:00	Who is EDGE in Europe? Spotlight on members	Learning about inspiring practices from EDGE membership in Europe BUILDING COMMUNITY	Members share practices and knowledge, based on propositions from registration survey
11:00	BREAK		
11:30	Learning session	LEARNING	To be decided based on participants' feedback from the registration survey

EDGE FUNDERS ALLIANCE

ENGAGED DONORS FOR GLOBAL EQUITY

13:00	LUNCH		
15:00	Action sessions	ACTION PLANNING CHANGING PHILANTHROPY	<i>To be decided based on participants' feedback from the registration survey</i>
16:30	BREAK		
17:00	Action sessions	ACTION PLANNING CHANGING PHILANTHROPY	<i>To be decided based on participants' feedback from the registration survey</i>
18.30	BREAK		
19:30	DINNER	BUILDING COMMUNITY	
22:00	SHAKE THE SYSTEM - PARTY	BUILDING COMMUNITY	
Thursday, 16 November 2017			
9.00	Action planning - sharing results of working groups	Sharing of working group discussions and agreeing next steps ACTION PLANNING	
10:30	BREAK		
11.00	Shaping EDGE: Organisational questions and development (Board, European Steering Group, membership, outreach) AOB	Share and discuss membership situation and governance Possibly identify new members for European Steering Group and board Q&A GOVERNANCE BUILDING COMMUNITY	Sharing and discussing updated "structural rules". Discussion on membership: Who can become member (individuals, organisations)? Who should become member? Discussion on governance
12:30	Evaluation & wrap-up	Collect feedback BUILDING COMMUNITY LEARNING	recall expectations and gather feedback from participants
13.00	Lunch		
14.30	Departure (arrival in Paris by 16:00)		

5. REGISTRATION & CONTACT

Please register and reserve your place as soon as possible through the [EDGE Europe Retreat registration form](#). Places are limited and will be distributed on a first come-first served basis.

Participants are invited to make a voluntary, self-selected contribution to cover the costs of the retreat beyond accommodation and catering, which is kindly sponsored by the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation. Fees should not be a barrier to participation and are optional and self-selected. We appreciate your efforts!

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any question or suggestion:

Tobias Troll
 Director, Europe
 tobias@edgefund.org
 Cell phone: +32 484 583 266
 Skype: tobiastroll