

EDGE Europe Retreat 2018

Systems Change Philanthropy: What to do, and how to do it?

Bergerie de Villarceaux, 3 to 5 July 2018

Draft programme, as of 1 June 2018

1. BACKGROUND, AIMS & PRINCIPLES

In the third year of its existence in Europe, EDGE Funders Alliance has grown into a membership community of 39 foundations and individual donors from across the continent, working in different areas and parts of the world. EDGE in Europe is part of the broader EDGE Funders Alliances with almost 100 members, with the overall aim to strengthen philanthropy as 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 actions that can influence the wider philanthropic sector to address systemic alternatives and shift more resources to this cause.

The retreat will be preceded by a meeting of young Europeans with wealth or class privilege (including some EDGE members), who aim to organise for a world beyond exploitation of people and planet. For the first time, an optional “EDGE for Newbies” session will take place on the first day. That session, and the evening programme on alternative visions, will be open to members and non-members alike, before passing into the members only part of the retreat on the next day.

2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The meeting in July 2018 will bring together EDGE members and interested partners with the following objectives. Participants are invited to weight these objectives when they register:

1. **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
2. **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
3. **LEARNING** - Discuss and explore pressing issues regarding the role of philanthropy in systemic change
4. **ACTION PLANNING** - Plan, develop and continue specific collaborations in topical working groups, strategic advocacy alliances or other collaboration formats
5. **GOVERNANCE** - Improve the governance, structural rules and mandates for the EDGE European Steering Group and the development of the EDGE community in Europe

3. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting is a funders only space. The first day (3 July) will be open to EDGE members and interested non-members alike, from 4 to 5 July, only European EDGE members will participate. Selected non-member foundations and philanthropic or civil society resource persons might participate upon personal invitation. Europe based EDGE staff will also participate.

4. DRAFT PROGRAMME

NB: This might still change based on the suggestions submitted by participants upon registration

Time	Session	Objective	Content
Tuesday, 3 July 2018			
14:00	1st group (participants in the introductory session): Meeting in the Paris office of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation (38 rue Saint Sabin, 75011 Paris), collective departure		
15:30	1st group: Arrival and registration at La Bergerie,		
16:00 17:30	EDGE for Newbies	Participants know what EDGE is, and if yes, how many.	Introduction to EDGE (history, members, activities), questions, discussion
15:30	2nd group: Meeting in the Paris office of the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation (38 rue Saint Sabin, 75011 Paris), collective departure		
17.00	2nd group: Arrival and registration at La Bergerie, 2nd group		
18:00	Welcome & introduction	Participants feel at home and get to know each other BUILDING COMMUNITY	“Big small talk”: Facilitated mingling over big questions and an aperitif on the terrace
18:45	Alternative Visions - building convergence	Sharpen our understanding of ideological starting points & cultivation of pluralism and convergence BUILDING COMMUNITY LEARNING	Reflection and exchange on our “baseline motivations”, and how they are interlinked
19:30	Dinner	Deepen exploration of convergence between visions BUILDING COMMUNITY LEARNING	Light touch facilitated dinner conversations

EDGE FUNDERS ALLIANCE

ENGAGED DONORS FOR GLOBAL EQUITY

21:30	Alternative visions party	Participants celebrate the growing movement for systemic change philanthropy BUILDING COMMUNITY	
Wednesday, 4 July 2018			
8:30	Breakfast		Departure of non-members after breakfast (9:30)
09:30	Welcome and introduction	Create a welcoming atmosphere and get to know each other Create a common understanding on objectives and programme Map expectations Get an update on EDGE BUILDING COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE	Welcome and introduction Recall of objectives, principles, ground rules and agenda EDGE updates
11:00	BREAK		
11.30	Who is EDGE in Europe? Spotlight on members	Learning about inspiring practices from EDGE membership BUILDING COMMUNITY	Members sharing practices and knowledge
13:00	LUNCH		
14.30	Action sessions	Learning, sharing and building community to change philanthropy BUILDING COMMUNITY LEARNING ACTION PLANNING CHANGING PHILANTHROPY	After an introductory plenary participants will split into working groups 1. Next Economy (social and solidarity economy, circular economy, localisation, Ethical investment, corporate power) 2. Shifting the Power - adapting our grantmaking practice and influencing others to do the same (including participatory grantmaking & FundAction, funding internationally, etc.) 3. Commons and municipalism 4. Other groups tbc
16.30	BREAK		
17:00	Action sessions	Learning, sharing and building community to change philanthropy ACTION PLANNING CHANGING PHILANTHROPY	Plenary: Quick feedback from each group on state of discussions, then group work again. People can change between groups if they like.
18.30	BREAK		
19:30	DINNER	BUILDING COMMUNITY LEARNING	
21:30	Campfire Karaoke	BUILDING COMMUNITY	

Thursday, 5 July 2018			
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)	Share and discuss membership situation and governance Election of new European Steering Group members Q&A GOVERNANCE BUILDING COMMUNITY	
12:00	AOB		
12:30	Evaluation & wrap-up	Collect feedback BUILDING COMMUNITY LEARNING	recall expectations and gather feedback from participants
13.00	Lunch		
14.00	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:

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