The 19 organisations that provided financial data have combined assets of at least 32 billion euros, and 1.2 billion euros of annual spending. These organisations spent over 440 million euros in 2020 specifically for their activities dedicated to children/young people.
Children's Participation in Philanthropy
HIGHLIGHTS, CHARACTERISTICS & TRENDS

PRIMARY FOCUS AREAS

- **Education & Training**: 70%
- **Arts & Culture**: 53%
- **Health**: 45%
- **Civil Society**: 40%
- **Sciences & Technology**: 33%
- **Equity / Equality**: 30%
- **Environment**: 23%
- **Democracy**: 20%
- **Human rights**: 20%
- **Sustainability**: 18%

OPERATIONS

- **73%** operate their own programmes, mostly in addition to their grantmaking
- **27%** are grantmaking only

MAIN TYPES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **83%** short-term support / grants
- **68%** Earmarked core support / grants
- **63%** Long-term support / grants
- **43%** Prizes and awards
- **33%** Fellowships
- **25%** Unearmarked core support / grants
- **10%** Loans
- **8%** Guarantees

OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORT

- **73%** Organisation development / Capacity building
- **70%** Networking
- **55%** Expertise (e.g. thought leadership, research)
- **43%** Strategic
- **40%** Communications and Advocacy

...WHILE...

- **27%** are grantmaking only
Involving children / young people in philanthropy

60% of respondents indicated that they do involve children and young people in their work, 40% do not.

By “child participation” in this survey we mean that children and young people (0-21 years old) have the conditions and opportunities to express their views and influence decision-making around planning, implementing and/or evaluating the organisation's activities. We do not mean attending or accessing services and products, but rather impacting how such services are developed and implemented.

WHY NOT? MAIN CHALLENGES EXPRESSED BY RESPONDENTS

- Buy-in from the governance
- Organisational mind-set (traditional / conservative)
- Lack of experience in participatory experiences and methodologies
- Difficulties related to the specific kind of philanthropic organisation (e.g. for grantmaking-only foundations it would require a change in their internal processes)

HOW ARE CHILDREN INVOLVED?

- Children are consulted 40%
- Children collaborate in the process 40%
- Children lead the process 25%
- Adults seek children’s views in order to build knowledge and understanding of their lives and experiences, or in order to design or evaluate a programme.
- Children and adults, having identified a problem that needs to be addressed or having decided to set up a particular programme, involve children/adults in helping to work out what needs to be done and how.
- Children are provided with the space and opportunity to initiate their own activities and carry out advocacy. Adults might support by simply removing obstacles or might serve an executive function in implementing decisions made by children.
How children/youth are involved

Children/youth participate in designing, implementing or evaluating programmes. 79%

Children's participation is a criterion for grant attribution (of one or more activities). 42%

Children/youth participate in decision-making within the organisation (e.g. governance, priority setting, planning, team). 38%

Where are respondents in this journey?

Some of the organisations are only at the initial stages, while others have gone through full grantmaking cycles involving children and youth. Often respondents said they are at different stages for different aspects: they might be at initial stages of involving children/youth people at an organisational level, while being already advanced in involving them at a project level.

Respondents who are already involving children/youth people and would recommend it to other foundations: 100%