

Foreword

The Guide to European Foundations which has been published in 1987, has been substantially successful over the years.

It changed a gap and responded to a need for information for the foundations, their managers and by European private and public culture and research activities.

The following pages outline the concepts and methodology underlying the third edition.

My first point on this 3rd edition is to wish success to all the information that is put in 10 years ago and for this I can only thank all the foundation that have applied to us and without whose help this volume would not be possible today.

My 2nd point is that the experts who have cooperated with us in various ways over the years, particularly Günther Dreyer, Director of the Agency Foundation.

I consider the cultural information and economic data contained here to provide an accurate picture of foundations in the various European countries. They confirm once again the size and importance of foundations in western society. Two interesting and to some extent surprising observations have been made in the report: the economic data, particularly the number of foundation resources and especially their activities, at the same time the number of foundations has increased because national, regional, provincial and local have been joined by other resources, in particular by public and state funds.

The Foundation concept has been adopted now through the traditional foundation as an historical form of own management, has been used for another which is different more common, but it is a tradition whose aim is to give useful and local sense in a society that tends to become a single culture of citizens.

While in effect the majority of the section contain the section on the other hand can lay out for many philanthropic and cultural purposes and this seems to have led to growth in foundation. It is equally true that European countries are witnessing a very important change in management involving the decentralization of their traditional structures and a search for new organizational models to ensure their mission and enhance the growing flexibility of their organization.

It is my firm belief that the Foundation will have an important role to play in Europe in the next future perhaps more important than in the past precisely because they appear to be particularly able to make a positive response to the demands of contemporary European society.

Walter Pöhl