



Fondation de France

Foundations and Endowment Funds in France

National Survey 2001-2022 | Sixth edition

Twenty years after its first iteration, the sixth national survey on foundations and endowment funds sheds light on **philanthropy's vibrancy**. In 2022, over **5300 Foundations and Endowment Funds (FEFs)** are active, with growth mainly driven by donor-advised funds and endowment funds. The **economic scope** of philanthropy, reaching over 40 billion euros in assets and 15 billion in spending, is a testimony to its vigor.

What are the survey's key takeaways? First, **individuals (52%)** are still the main initiators of philanthropic organizations, before companies and charities. Second, **social justice and inclusion** is their main focus. Third, half of the respondents

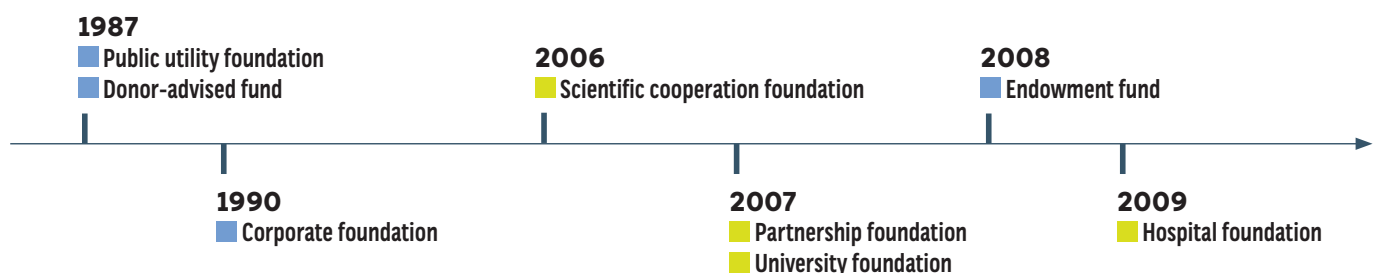
says to be favoring a **systemic approach**. For the purpose of methodology, a systemic angle is generally used to **understand and analyze the main focus** of FEFs. A systemic approach also implies more trust-based, **horizontal relationships** with stakeholders, and more long-term, **flexible funding arrangements**.

For the first time, this study **combines quantitative methods with interviews and a focus group with philanthropic actors**. This approach **sheds light on** a range of strategies employed and **on current** considerations on the role and responsibility of **philanthropic organizations** in today's social and political context.

EIGHT LEGAL ENTITIES

There are eight different FEF entities in France

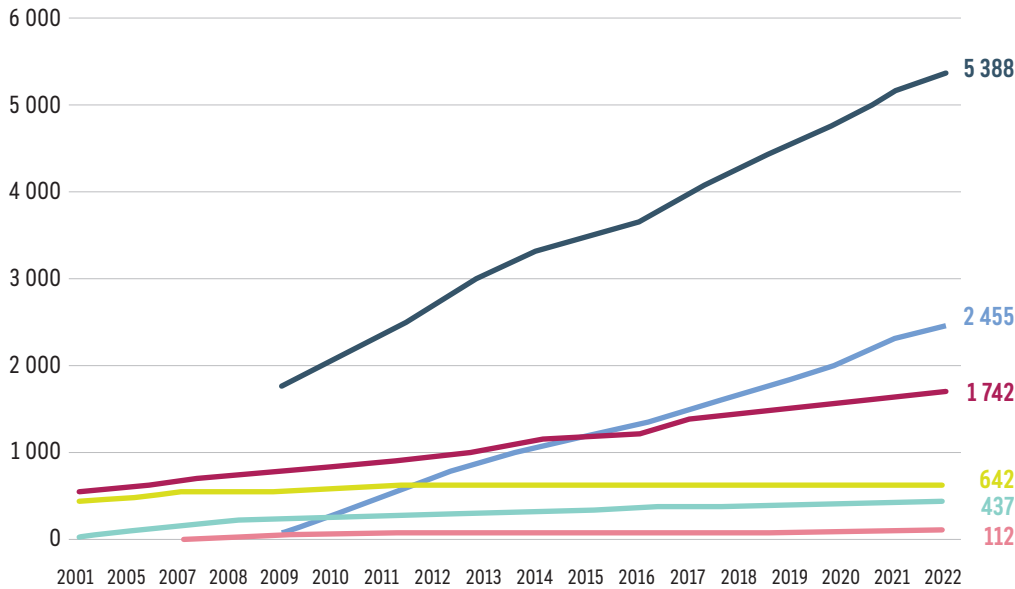
■ Four general-purpose entities ■ Four specific-purpose entities



CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF FEFS IN FRANCE SINCE 2001

Over the past two years, the expansion in the number of philanthropic organizations has mainly been driven by donor-advised funds and endowments funds. In 2022, these two categories make up ¾ of French FEFS.

- Total active FEFS
- Active Endowment funds (EF)
- Donor-advised funds (SF)
- Public utility foundations
- Corporate foundations
- Scientific foundations (FSC, PF, UF, HF)



In 2022, the number of FEFS active in France stands at **5 388**

A GROWING ECONOMIC SCOPE

Key economic indicators and their growth

Key economic indicators and their growth

	2001	2017	2021	Average annual growth
Assets (in billion euros)	10,33	29,43	40,44	+8 %
Spending (in billion euros)	4,12	10,96	14,72	+8 %
Staff	50 124	97 129	108 194	+3 %

8 %

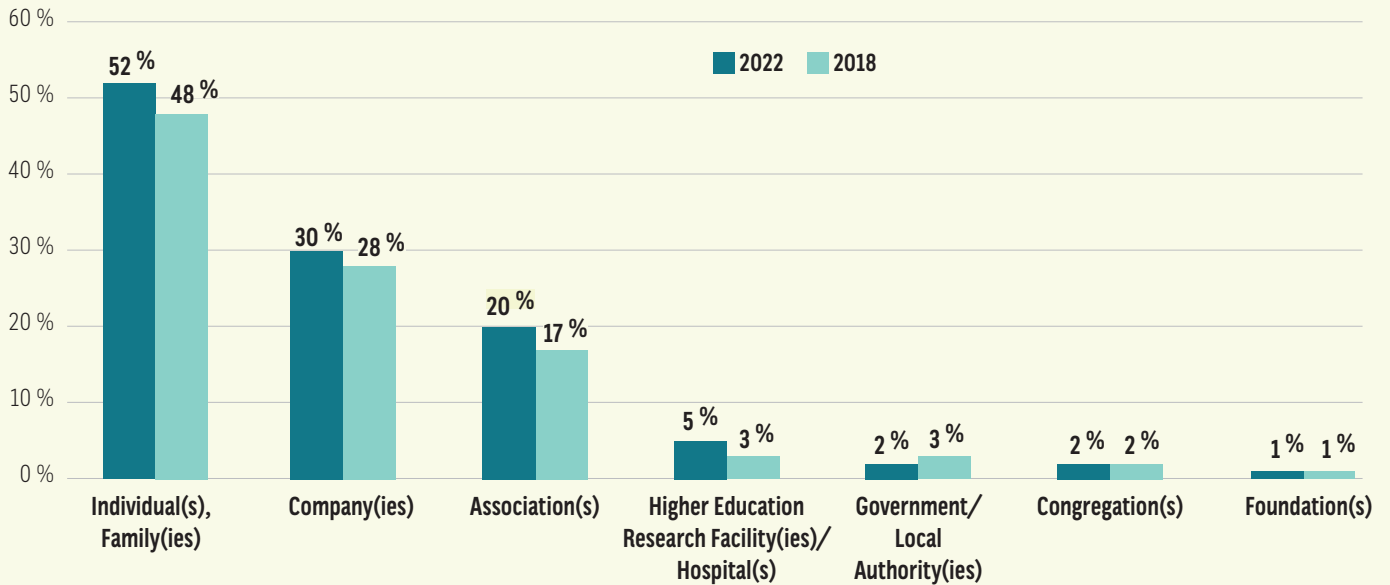
Average annual growth in spending over the period 2017-2021

N.B. : Amounts for 2001 and 2017 were stated in euros as per 2021 to correct for inflation. Employment data on average annual employee headcount was provided by Urssaf.

INITIATORS AND STATED PURPOSE OF FEFS

While in 2018, over 48% philanthropic organizations were established by individuals, in 2022 this percentage rose to 52%.

An increasing number of companies are creating FEFs, particularly in recent years. Of all new philanthropic organizations created since 2020, 35% were set up by companies. As a whole, 30% of all philanthropic organizations have corporate origins.



N.B. : Totals exceed 100%, because each FEF may fall into more than one category

The purpose of each philanthropic organization depends on the legal status and the founder’s identity (whether an individual, a company or a charity). However, they all share the same goal: to support a cause or a specific mission.



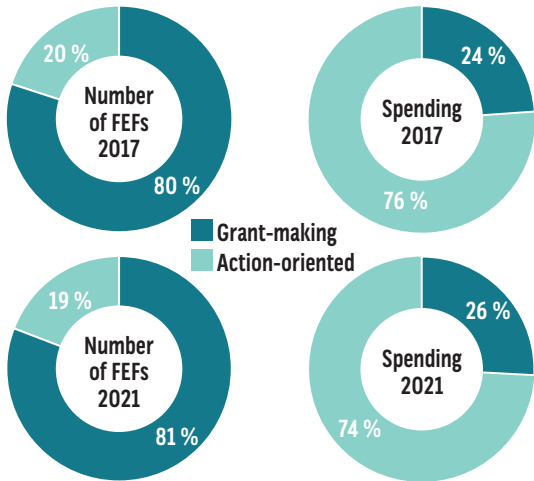
■ All philanthropic organizations ■ Corporate foundations

71% of founders across all categories state that the purpose of their FEF is to support a cause or a specific mission.

TWO OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

FEEs can operate in two distinct ways, while some may combine the two: 1) action-oriented organizations which set their own agenda and often operate through established structures (hospitals, retirement homes, museums, etc.) and 2) grant-making foundations dedicated to funding and supporting public service projects undertaken by third parties, such as charities.

Number of FEEs and spending distribution by operational arrangement in 2017 and 2021



Grant-making foundations are still predominant

FEEs created since 1970 are mostly distributive, and account for about 80% of the whole. Corporate foundations, donor-advised funds and endowment funds are mainly distributive in nature.

Public utility foundations favor action

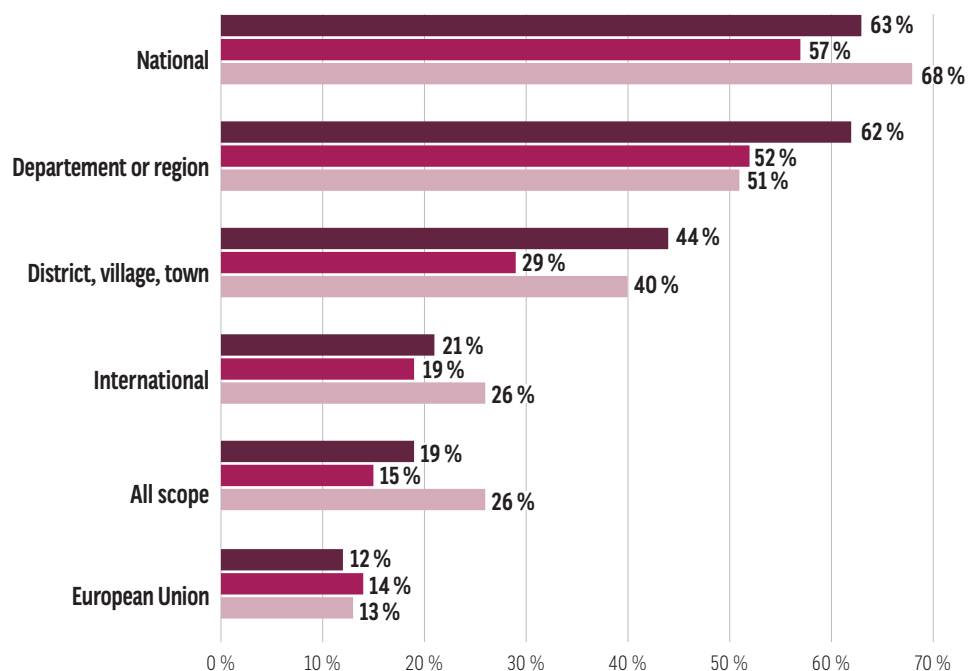
A majority of public utility foundations is action-oriented (63%), like many scientific foundations (49%). Action-oriented philanthropic actors are the main drivers of the economic activity in this field.

PHILANTHROPIC WORK IN FRANCE IS GOING LOCAL

The focus of FEEs is increasingly local: 62% of FEEs established after 2018 have a regional/departmental scope, compared to 51% of those created before 2009. Similarly, 44% of FEEs created after 2018 have a local scope of action, compared to 40% of those set up prior to 2009.

Scope of action of FEEs according to the year of establishment

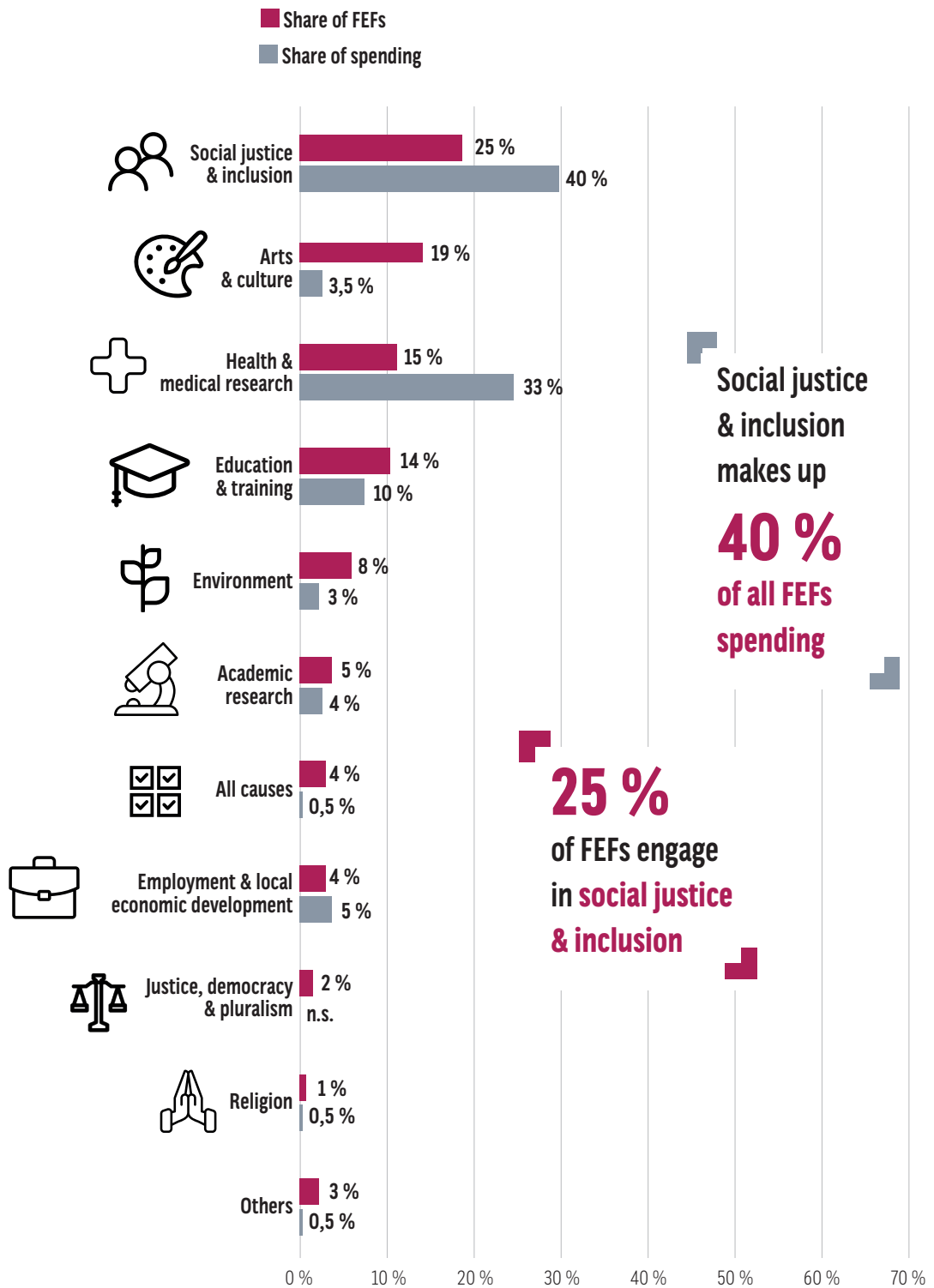
- 2018 and after
- 2010 to 2017
- 2009 and before



63% of FEEs created after 2018 have a national scope

N.B. : Totals exceed 100%, as surveyed FEEs could provide more than one answer.

FEFS PREDOMINANTLY FOCUS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE & INCLUSION



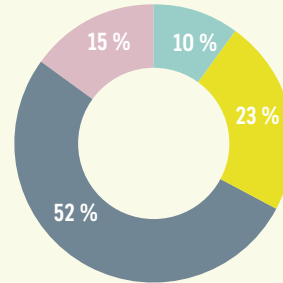
THE DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMIC APPROACHES

In recent years, a number of FEFs has been using a systemic angle to design and further their agenda.

This holistic view of social and environmental issues helps identify and provide sustainable remedies by targeting both the symptoms and the causes of issues at stake.

Systemic approach in FEFs

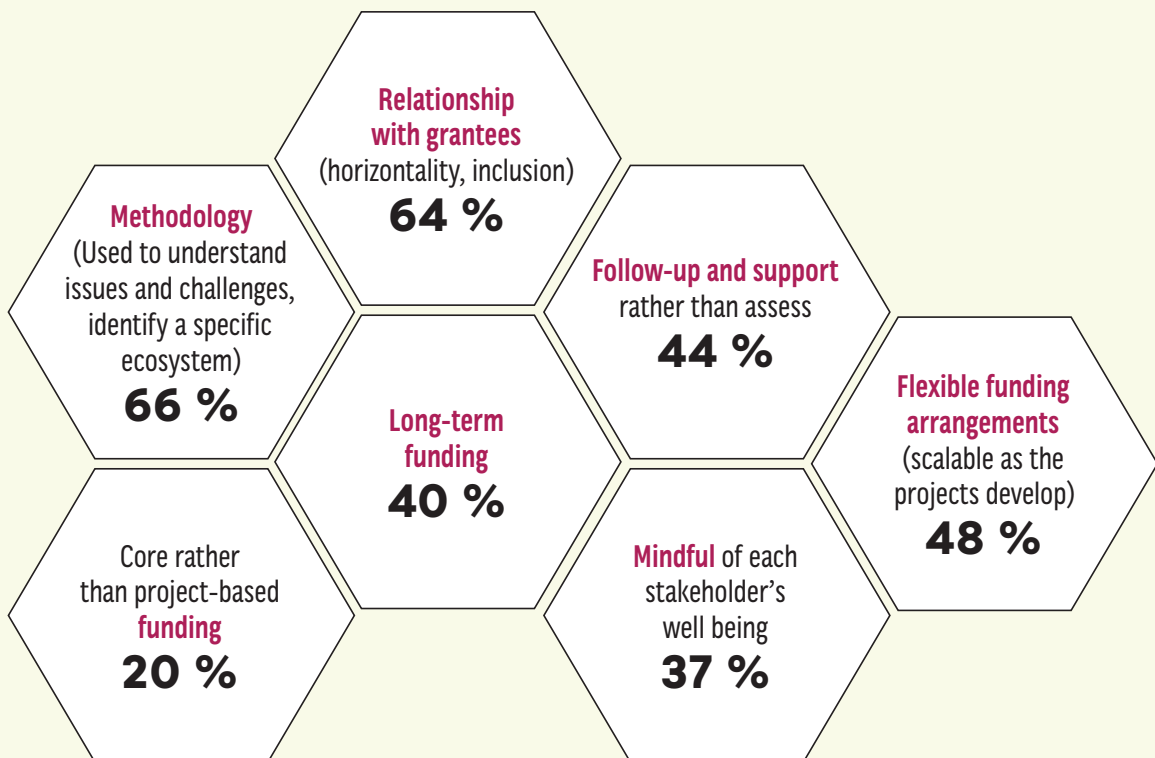
Half of surveyed FEFs say they have adopted a systemic view, while 15% plan on doing so over the coming months or years.



- Has adopted a systemic approach
- Will adopt a systemic approach in the coming months or years
- Has not adopted a systemic approach
- Has not heard about the systemic approach

Implementing a systemic approach

The systemic approach is gaining ground in philanthropic work. It is widely used as methodology to understand and analyze the main issues FEFs focus on (66%). Philanthropic organizations thus establish more horizontal, trust-based relationships with grantees (64%) and may choose more flexible long-term funding arrangements.



PHILANTHROPY'S RELEVANCE AND PURPOSE

Philanthropy endorses a **unifying** role and helps **change attitudes** on social and environmental issues, which in itself is a key step for **sustainable** and deep social change.

As such, philanthropy **complements government action**.

Philanthropy's commitment to public interest requires its actions, roles, internal and outward-facing operations to be **consistent**.

“Our social responsibility is increasingly clear.”
(Fondation Demeter)

The values of philanthropy in today's French national context



Methodology

- National surveys have been conducted every 4 years since 2001, with the support of the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories (*Bureau des associations et fondations - Charities and foundations office*)
- The study collected data on 3060 FEFs through a questionnaire, the Official Journal of the French Republic, the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories and 15 *préfectures*
- This 6th survey was carried out in 2022 based on 2021's financial accounts
- In-depth qualitative interviews and a focus group involving 23 FEFs were conducted

The Observatory of Philanthropy

Created in 1997 by Fondation de France, the Observatory of Philanthropy surveys FEFs, their strategies, operations, and examines the major social challenges philanthropy and civil society seek to address.

Fondation de France, the largest philanthropic network in France

Each of us can serve the common good. For more 50 years, Fondation de France has made this insight its driving force. Every day, it encourages and supports the will to take action and translates it into meaningful and effective projects conducive to a more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world. Fondation de France developed a unique know-how by working alongside the best experts, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of people on the ground, across all the dimensions of public interest: relief to vulnerable populations, medical research, environment, culture, education, etc. With 977 donor-advised funds under its aegis, Fondation de France supports every year more than 12,000 promising and innovative initiatives in France and abroad. As an independent and private organization, it relies on the generosity of its donors.

For all press inquiries, please contact : Agathe Djelalian – presse@fdf.org / +33 7 86 48 75 82

All studies by the Observatory of Philanthropy are available at fondationdefrance.org

**Fondation
de
France**

La Fondation
de toutes les causes