

# European Democracy Consulting Stiftung

## Statement of accounts

### Financial year 2024 (1 Jan.-31 Dec.)

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## Context

The European Democracy Consulting Stiftung (hereafter, “the foundation”) was created at its founding meeting on 23 June 2023, and was subsequently registered with Austrian authorities on 26 July.

In August 2023, the Board appointed, Mr Maxime Drounau and Mr François-Régis Drounau as auditors of the foundation for the financial year 2023. Following their audit report carried out in January 2024, both auditors agreed to accept the Board’s proposal to audit the 2024 accounts.

In 2024, as for the preceding year, the foundation received donations, as well as in-kind contributions and free services, to carry out its activities.

Donations were made directly or via the crowdfunding platform BetterPlace.org, based in Germany.<sup>1</sup>

With regards to in-kind contributions and free services, the foundation continued to receive free IT services from European Democracy Consulting, including hosting services, domains names, etc.

<sup>1</sup> As in the year 2023, this crowdfunding is enabled by the Maecenata Stiftung, also located in Germany, which has a partnership with BetterPlace.org, whereby the Maecenata Stiftung collects donations made via BetterPlace.org and transfers them to charitable entities abroad, such as the foundation. This process is required, as BetterPlace.org can otherwise only broadcast projects of non-profit organisations registered in Germany.

Conversely, the foundation incurred expenses linked to its operations, mostly in relation to the contract signed in 2023 with TULP Interactive for the further development of the European Party Funding Observatory (EPFO, Phase II), which led to issues being fixed and to two pillars of work being actively worked on throughout 2024. As of end of 2024, work continues on those two pillars.

These income and expenses are detailed in the sections below.

All financial transactions were carried out using the bank account of the foundation, held by Bank Austria.<sup>2</sup>

## Income and expenses

### Income

In the financial year 2024, the income received by the foundation stemmed exclusively from private sources. This income was made up of financial donations, in-kind contributions and free services, and business income, for a total amount of €3,689.52. This is notably less than in 2023, since that year saw the donation of the initial EPFO by European Democracy Consulting.

Type of income	2024	Share	2023
Donations	€3,487.40	94.52%	€ 2,466.79
In-kind contributions and free services	€183.42	4.97%	€ 11,465.27
Business income	€18.70	0.51%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,689.52</b>		<b>€ 13,932.06</b>

### Donations

The foundation received financial donations from private individuals and from legal entities, for a total amount of €3,487.40.

Origin of donations	2024	Share	2023
Private individuals	€484.00	13.88%	€ 648.37
Legal entities	€3,003.40	86.12%	€ 1,818.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,487.40</b>		<b>€ 2,466.79</b>

Donations from private individuals were made via the crowdfunding platform BetterPlace.org. Seven such donations were made, for a total amount of €484.00. These donations are earmarked for the development of the EPFO.

In addition to these donations from private individuals, BetterPlace.org made a donation of €3.40.

In September, the foundation was notified that it had to withdraw existing donations from BetterPlace.org, as BetterPlace is not meant to store funds. We therefore placed a payout request for

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<sup>2</sup> With the exception of one donation from Volt There which was, in practice, wired directly to TULP Interactive.

the €1154.39 available to be transferred to our bank account, via the Maecenata Stiftung.<sup>3</sup> Fees from BetterPlace.org and the Maecenata Stiftung applied to this withdrawal.

In 2024, the foundation also received financial donations totalling €3,000.00 from Volt There, a political foundation based in the Netherlands. A first donation of €1,000 was wired directly to the foundation's developer, while a second donation of €2,000 was pledged in 2024 and should be wired in January 2025; it is recorded as accounts receivable. These donations are earmarked for the development of the EPFO's public funding simulator, one of the two pillars of Phase II being worked on.

### ***In-kind contributions and free services***

The foundation received in-kind contributions and free services for a total amount of €183.42.

<b>Contrib.</b>	<b>In-kind contribution/ free service</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Share</b>	<b>2023</b>
EDC	WordPress Hosting Basic	€108.90	59.37%	€24.18
EDC	CDN	€12.00	6.54%	€2.79
EDC	SSL certificates	€33.28	18.14%	
EDC	Domain names	€29.24	15.94%	€38.30
	Other (transfer of EPFO, valued at cost)			€ 11.400
<b>Total</b>		<b>€183.42</b>		<b>€ 11,465.27</b>

These in-kind contributions and free services were all provided by European Democracy Consulting and comprised:

- Free online hosting for the website of the foundation and the European Party Funding Observatory for the entire year, and for the website of EuropeanConstitution.eu between May and December: €9.08 x 12 = €108.90;
- Free CDN services for all websites: €1.00 x 12 = €12.00;<sup>4</sup>
- SSL certificates for epfo.eu and europeanconstitution.eu: €33.28; and
- Three domain names: €29.24;
  - epfo.eu, for the entire year: €12.10;
  - europeanconstitution.eu, for the entire year: €12.10; and
  - openparties.eu, between January and May: €5.04.<sup>5</sup>

The value of free services is calculated “at arms’ length”, as if the foundation had had to incur these costs by itself.

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<sup>3</sup> As indicated in the “Expenses” section, a fee of €57.72 was applied by the Maecenata Stiftung, which is in line with the €34.13 we had budgeted last year for €700 worth of donations.

<sup>4</sup> With an estimate of €1 = \$1.

<sup>5</sup> The foundation decided to discontinue the use of this domain name, which had been purchased as a possible name of the EPFO.

**Business income**

Finally, the foundation received financial income from Bank Austria, for a total amount of €18.70, as reimbursement for bank fees: one for a denied SEPA transfer made in 2023, and for one wire transfer made in 2024.

**Categorisation of income**

By law, the foundation is required to list, in its statutes, its potential sources of income. Article 3.3 lists the following potential sources of income:<sup>6</sup>

- 1. membership fees and membership dues
- 2. subsidies and grants
- 3. donations, collections, legacies and other contributions
- 4. contributions in kind and free services
- 5. proceeds from foundation events
- 6. sponsorship money

In line with the information provided above, the income of the foundation can therefore be categorised as follows:

Categories of income	2024	Share	2023
Donations (incl. fees)	€3,487.40	95.00%	€ 2,466.79
In-kind contributions and free services	€183.42	5.00%	€ 11,465.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,670.82</b>		<b>€ 13,932.06</b>

**Expenses**

In the financial year 2024, the expenses incurred by the foundation derived from its administrative functioning (including donations management and transfer fees), banking fees, and operations. These amounted to €3,297.60.

Type of expenses	2024	Share	2023
Administrative functioning	€87.33	2.65%	€44.20
Banking fees	€108.47	3.29%	€31.84
Operations	€3,101.80	94.06%	€1,102.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,297.60</b>		<b>€1,178.39</b>

<sup>6</sup> As a mere negative business expense, business income derived from reimbursements is exempt from this categorisation.

### ***Administrative functioning***

The foundation paid €87.33 for its administrative functioning:

- €29.61 to BetterPlace.org in donations management and transfer fees (paid when donations are withdrawn); and
- €57.72 to the Maecenata foundation in transfer fees from Germany to Austria (paid when donations are transferred).

### ***Banking fees***

The foundation paid €108.47 to Bank Austria in banking fees:

- €99.87 in regular banking fees, paid on a quarterly basis; and
- €8.60 for an international wire transfer to TULP Interactive. This amount was reimbursed by Bank Austria in early February.

### ***Operations***

The foundation paid €3,101.80 for its operations. This includes:

- To STRATO AG: web hosting for the EuropeanConstitution.eu website between January and April, as per the agreement reached with that NGO: €16.12.<sup>7</sup>
- To the Haus des Stiftens für Unternehmen und Non-Profits gGmbH, a German non-profit providing discounted IT services to other non-profits: €85.68 for a two-year licence for Tableau Desktop and Tableau Prep Builder; and
- To TULP Interactive: two payments, respectively of €1,000.00 and €2,000.00, for the development of additional features to the European Party Funding Observatory. As of 31 December, the second payment had not been made and is therefore recorded as accounts payable; and

### ***Categorisation of expenses***

By law, the foundation is required to list, in its statutes, the “idealistic means” by which it fulfills its purpose – i.e. the tasks it is allowed to carry out and, therefore, spend its resources on. Article 3.2 lists the following idealistic means:

1. carrying out research work
2. issuing of publications
3. creation of websites
4. public relations
5. lectures and meetings
6. discussion events

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<sup>7</sup> As of May, this hosting was covered by the in-kind contribution provided by European Democracy Consulting.

In line with the information provided above, the expenses of the foundation can therefore be categorised as follows:

Categories of expense	2024	Share	2023
<i>Administrative expenses and charges</i>	€211.92	6.43%	€76.04
Carrying out research work (#1)	€85.68	2.60%	
Creation of websites (#3)	€3,000.00	90.98%	€ 1,102.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,297.60</b>		<b>€1,178.39</b>

## Assets and liabilities

### Assets

As of 31 December 2024, the assets of the foundation amounted to €28,956.09. This is notably more than by end 2023, as the foundation undertook work to further develop the EPFO.

Assets	2024	Share	2023
Current assets	€ 3,552.56	12.27%	€ 2,302.13
Long-term assets	€ 25,403.53	87.73%	€ 11,408.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 28,956.09</b>		<b>€ 13,710.70</b>

### Current assets

As of 31 December, the current assets of the foundation amounted to €3,552.56.

Current assets	2024	Share	2023
Cash in checking	€1,549.16	43.61%	€644.06
Accounts receivable	€2,000.00	56.30%	€ 1,009.70
Pledges receivable	€3.40	0.10%	€648.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,552.56</b>		<b>€2,302.13</b>

The bank account of the foundation held €1,549.16.

The foundation had €2,000.00 in accounts receivable for a donation by Volt There pledged in December 2024.

Finally, the foundation had received €3.40 in pledges receivable held by the crowdfunding platform BetterPlace.org.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Last year, we had discounted donations management and transfer fees to pledges receivables; this is not necessary this year due to the very low amount in question.

## ***Long-term assets***

As of December, the long-term assets of the foundation amounted to €25,403.53.

<b>Long-term assets</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Share</b>	<b>2023</b>
Building and immaterial long-term assets	€ 12,275.00	48.32%	€ 11,400.00
Furniture	€ 3.53	0.01%	€ 8.57
Long-term assets receivable	€ 12,000.00	47.24%	€ 0.00
Pre-paid expenses	€ 1,125.00	4.43%	€ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 25,403.53</b>		<b>€ 11,408.57</b>

The Observatory was estimated at its building cost, €12,275.00:

- €11,400.00 for its initial cost when transferred to the foundation; and
- €875.00 for the fixing of various issues of the EPFO, already completed.

The foundation also holds long-term assets receivable due to the on-going work on the EPFO:

- €4,000.00 for the development of two new tabs (member states and membership);
- an estimated €10,000 for the development of the EPFO's public funding simulator; and
- -€2,000.00 already paid out and accounted as pre-paid expenses.

In addition, the foundation pre-paid €1,125 for the further development of the EPFO (€2,000 wired minus €875 covering work delivered).

The foundation also held furniture comprised of its domain names, amounting to €3.53 for the domain name epfo.eu owned until 16/04/2025.<sup>9</sup>

## **Liabilities**

As of 31 December, the liabilities of the foundation amounted to €12,875 to be paid to TULP Interactive, made up as follows:

- €4,000.00 for the development of two new tabs (members state and membership);
- an estimated €10,000 for the development of the EPFO's public funding simulator; and
- -€1,125 already pre-paid this year.

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<sup>9</sup> The foundation also holds the domain name europeanconstitution.eu until 30 September 2025, but it holds it as per the agreement reached with the EuropeanConstitution.eu NGO and this is therefore not considered an asset of the foundation.

## **Annexes**

The following documents are provided in annexes:

- statement of financial position;
- statement of activities; and
- statement of cash flow.