

General Assembly 2024

Fundraising Policy

Epicenter.works seeks independent funding that does not give any group, person or institution the opportunity to influence the association's work or create an existential dependency. The work of the organisation rests on many shoulders. Its role and credibility depend on it.

That is why the organisation focuses on funding through small donations from civil society. However, as this alone is not enough, the organisation also accepts funds from institutional donors (project funding, core grants), major donors, bequests, public funds and private sector funds, although strict limits were defined many years ago¹. Public funds come from regional authorities (e.g. City of Vienna), social partners (e.g. Chamber of Labour) or ministries. Political independence and compatibility with the values of the organisation must always be ensured.

No single company may account for more than 7.5% and the entire private sector may not account for more than 30% of the organisation's budget. Subsidiaries or joint ventures of the association are exempt from these limits.

Invoiced services are also a minor source of income, although the organisation is not profit-driven in view of its non-profit status. Consultancy services for private or public organisations that relate to projects on which the association could express a political opinion must be provided free of charge. In this case, the appearance of influence through cash flows would jeopardise the role of the association as a neutral public watchdog.

The exact material resources from which the association is financed can be found in Section 3 (3) of the Articles of Association.

¹ This policy was preceded by limits set by the General Assembly on 2nd February 2015: "Paid services of the association to companies and company donations must not exceed 30% total (and per single company 7.5%) of the annual budget of epicenter.works. Additional payments require the approval of the general assembly. Paid services for companies and company donations do not influence the focus of the work of epicenter.works."