

# PHILANTHROPY IRELAND

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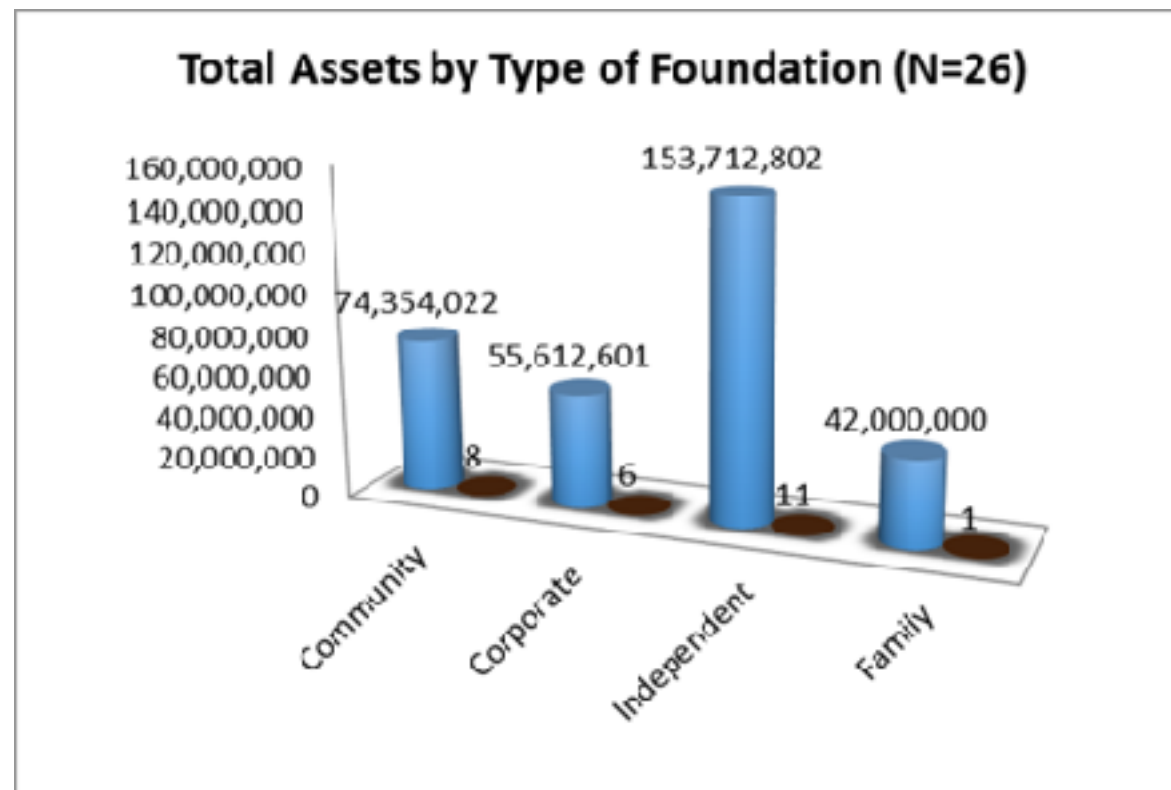
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
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The Field of  
Irish Philanthropic Foundations

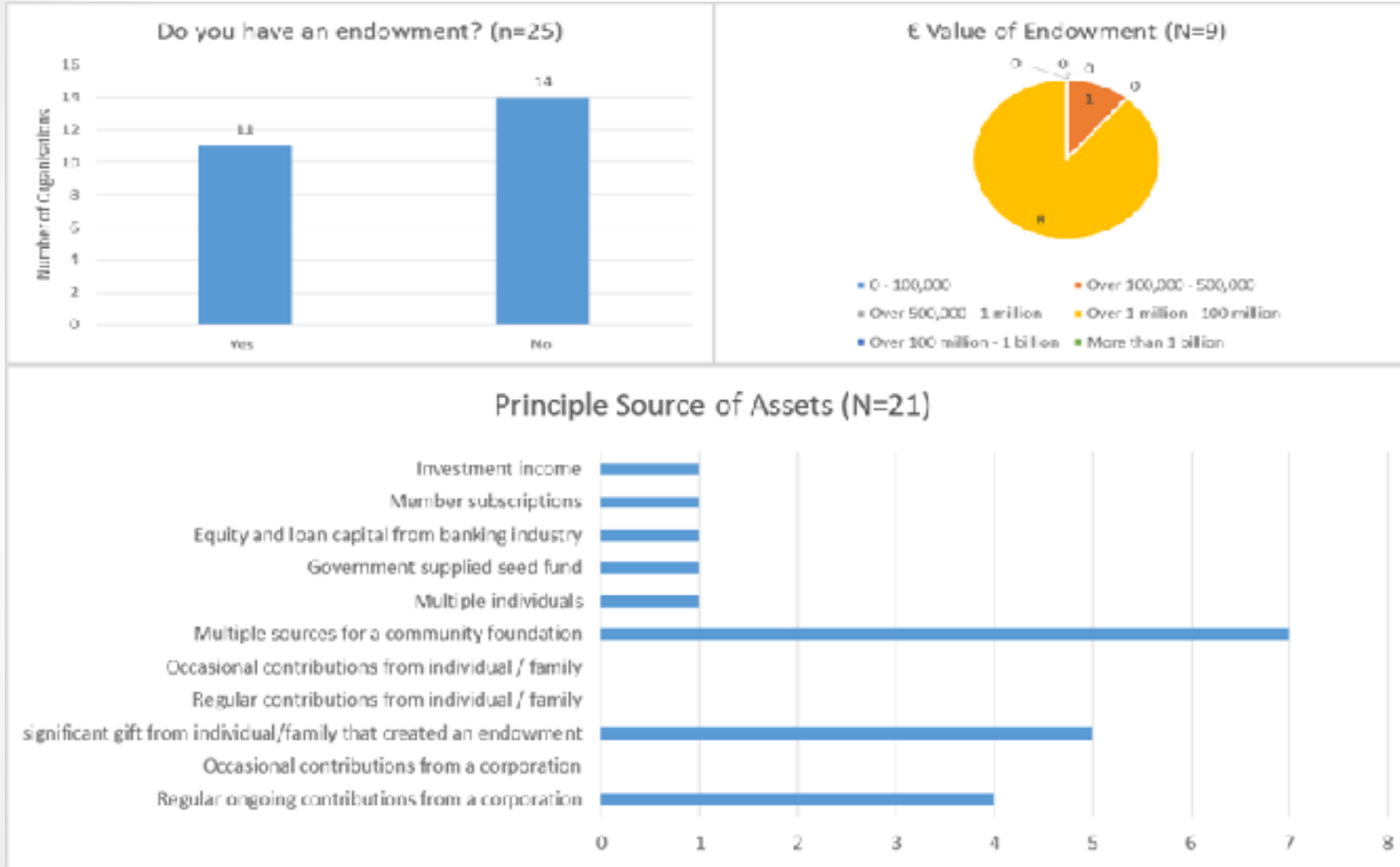
# Mapping the Philanthropic Foundation Field

- International comparative study undertaken by research team at Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University; first pilot, for repeat 2017/18
- Initial stage sees country teams working to map the philanthropic field in their own country.
- The Irish part of the study - Philanthropy and Social Investment in Ireland - is led by Philanthropy Ireland and Centre for Nonprofit Management TCD.
- 77 Foundations, Trusts and Benevolent Societies were invited to participate. 26 responded substantively and 21 responded in full.
- A starting point for mapping the philanthropic field in Ireland... but a richer picture would be available to the whole field if it included the aggregated data of all foundations.
- Study to be repeated; target increased engagement



The 26 responding foundations reported a total asset base of more than €325 million.

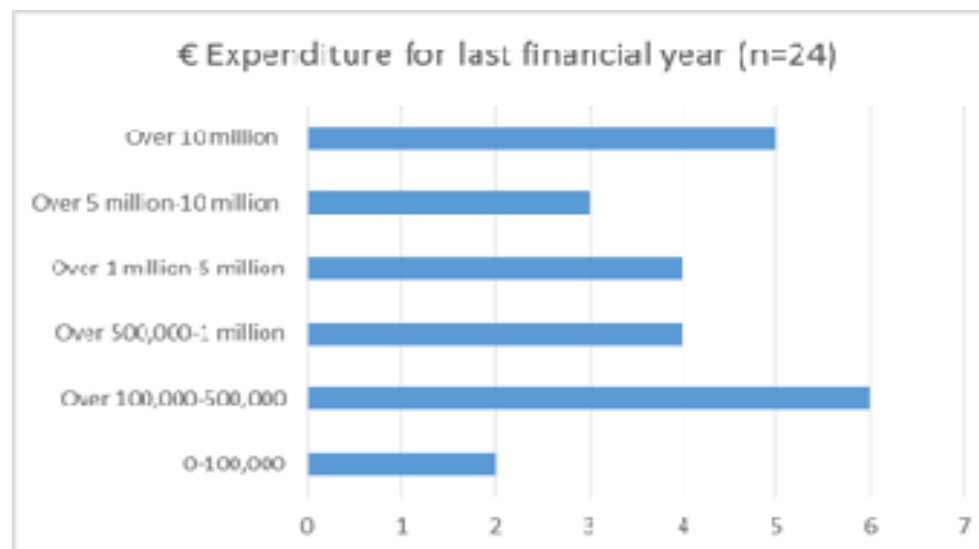
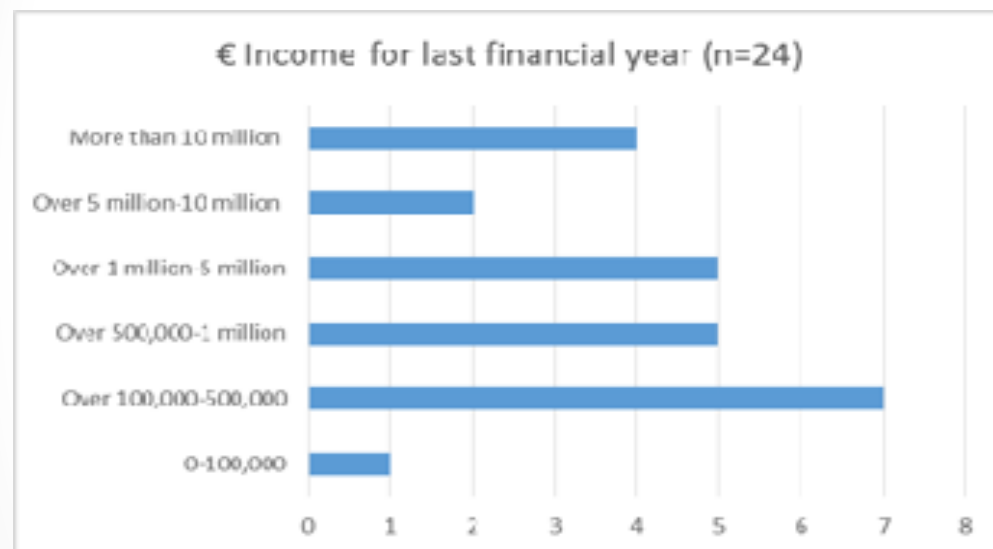
# Financial Resources



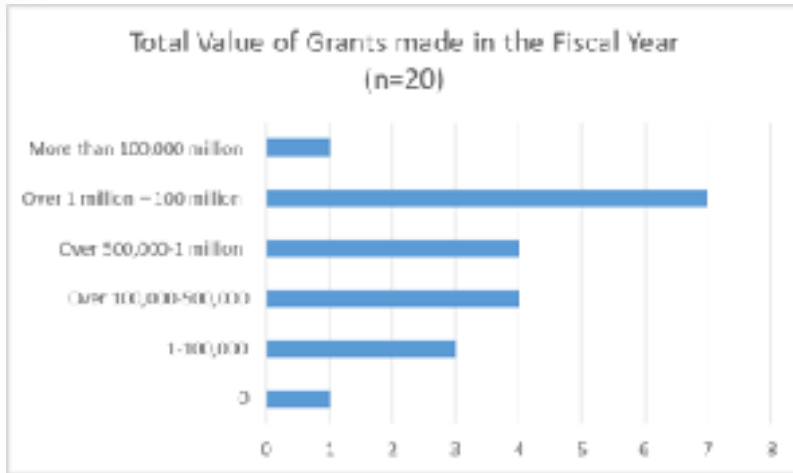
Respondents were primarily fund-raising foundations. While 11 of 25 respondents reporting on financial resources indicated that they have an endowment, in only two cases was this reported as being greater than €10m and for only five does the endowment serve as the principle source of assets.

# Income & Expenditure

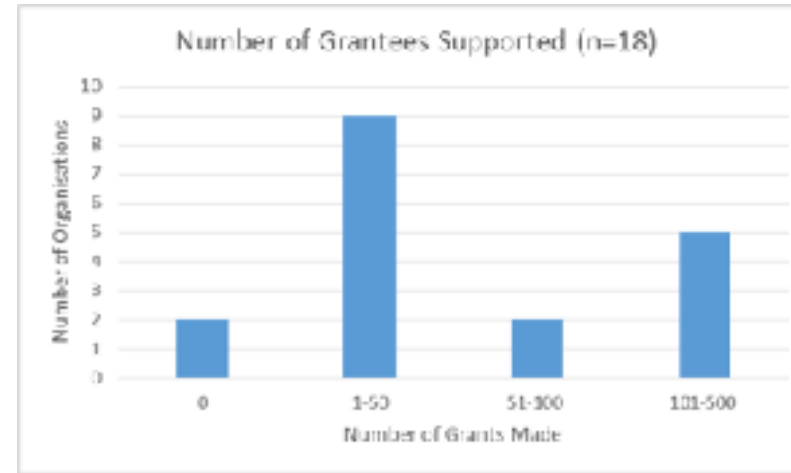
Total income for responding organisations in the last reporting year (2015) was €96.2 million (n=24), while total expenditure was reported as €123.1 million. Only three foundations identified endowment income as their largest source of income for the year.



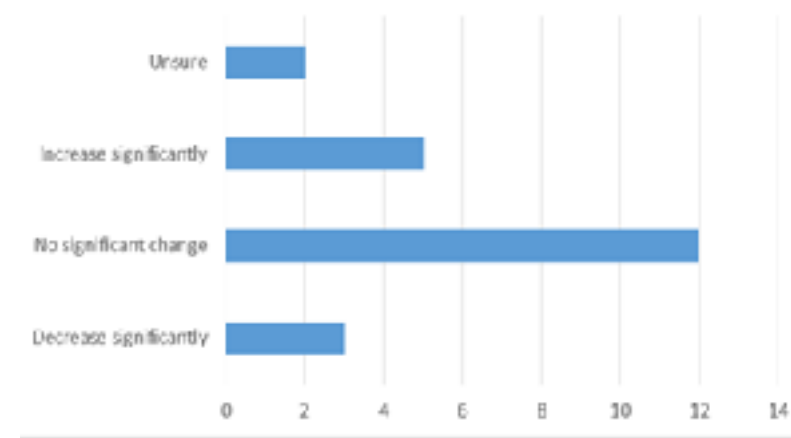
# Patterns of Grant making in last fiscal year



The largest grant made in the last fiscal year was €5 million, with the majority of foundations giving up to 50 grants. The majority of responding foundations expect a similar grant making pattern in their next budget.



Expectation for next year's fiscal budget (n=22)



# Points of Reflection

- **Size and Significance of field - small, but larger than we thought?**
  - Donoghue (2004, 2007) - very few Irish grant making or operating foundations
  - Anheier and Daly (2007) - Ireland is a *statist peripheral welfare regime* - importance of foundations is low; existing foundations function as service providers compensating for the shortcomings of the State
  - EUFORI R&I Foundation Study (2015) - very small R&I foundation sector

*However...*

- It is post The Atlantic Philanthropies and The One Foundation profile
  - 11 of 26 in survey founded since 2000
  - Irish philanthropic foundation sector is small, but active and growing
- **Value of Data Gathering, Analysis**
  - Individual foundations can position against the field
  - Opportunity to identify areas of strength, weakness, gaps
  - Opportunity to benchmark against international field; current study, end of 2017.

# Overview of All Sections of the Study

1. **Organisational Structures** - legal identifications; legal structures.
2. **Governance & Employment** - governing body structures; policies and practices; employment levels.
3. **Financial Resources** - Sources of funds; management of funds; nature of expenditures; distribution of expenditure; grant making.
4. **Organisational Focus** - focus of activity; beneficiaries; geographical areas; public policy alignment.
5. **Operational Strategies** - “how” of activities; financial instruments used; functional areas of support; collaborations and partnerships.
6. **Evaluation and Reporting** - evaluation policies; evaluation and assessment tools; evaluation strategies.

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# Thank you

If you would like further detail on any aspect of the study please contact us at

[eilis@philanthropy.ie](mailto:eilis@philanthropy.ie) or call 01-676 8751

We would be delighted to hear from you.