France
Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Country Overview

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GNI Per Capita (2018)</td>
<td>$42,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Classification by Income Level (2018)</td>
<td>High-income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Registered Philanthropic Organizations (2018)</td>
<td>4,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philanthropic Environment Country Overall Score (2018)</td>
<td>4.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philanthropic Environment Cross-Border Flows Score (2018)</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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**Data:** Population, GNI Per Capita and Country Classification by Income Level: World Bank, [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
Number of Registered Philanthropic Organizations: Global Philanthropy Environment Index: Northern and Western Europe, [globalindices.iupui.edu](http://globalindices.iupui.edu)


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<tr>
<td>$46,990.69</td>
<td>$637.06</td>
<td>$12,136.17</td>
<td>$21,758.02</td>
<td>$12,459.43</td>
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**Quality of Data on Philanthropic Outflows**

**Data:** Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, *2020 Global Philanthropy Tracker*
Summary of cross-border philanthropy
The data for cross-border giving in France comes from a 2018 study of the evolution of financial resources of 133 French international solidarity organizations led by the ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires étrangères (Minister of European and International Affairs), Coordination SUD (Southern Coordination), and l’Agence française de développement (French Development Agency) (Coordination SUD, 2018).

General data on French philanthropy are collected by a group of leading philanthropic organizations, including the Fondation de France (Foundation of France), the Centre d’Étude et de Recherche sur la Philanthropie (CerPhi, Center for the Study of and Research on Philanthropy), Recherches et Solidarités (Research and Solidarity), and Admical. Methodologies vary widely between organizations and studies, but most involve some form of tax analysis.

To obtain the amount of total giving in France in 2017, Research and Solidarity examined tax information from households and donations collected by many leading foundations in France (Bazin et al., 2018). Admical also examined tax documents to collect its data on corporate philanthropy in addition to carrying out a study of the heads of philanthropy in approximately 1,000 French corporations (Admical, 2018). CerPhi identified which foundations act in the area of international development and conducted a survey of some of these foundations. The study also used OECD data on private development philanthropy to estimate the amount contributed by French foundations (Centre d’Étude et de Recherche sur la Philanthropie, 2019).

SENDING CROSS-BORDER CHARITABLE DONATIONS
The philanthropic environment in France is relatively free. Individuals and private organizations can send contributions directly to philanthropic organizations after obtaining the required approval. Per a European Union (EU) regulation, tax benefits cannot be restricted to charitable donations within the country's borders, so cross-border donations to EU member states receive the same tax benefits. France also gives the same tax incentives for donations to member states in the European Economic Area if they are made to organizations that are similar in purpose to those in France. Donations made to countries outside the EU and European Economic Area are not eligible for tax benefits (Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2018).

RECEIVING CROSS-BORDER CHARITABLE DONATIONS
Individuals and philanthropic organizations are permitted to receive cross-border donations. Unless specified by a prior tax treaty between France and the country of the donor, incoming donations are subject to French taxes (Notaires de France, 2019).

ESTIMATED CROSS-BORDER GIVING
According to the MEAE, Coordination SUD, and AFD study of French international solidarity organizations, cross-border giving in France was EUR 580 million in 2016. This number represents EUR 488 million from individuals, EUR 32 million from corporations, and EUR 60 million from foundations and other organizations. (Coordination SUD, 2018).
Outside that study, there is little research on cross-border giving in France. Admical’s study of corporate sponsorship, mécénat, revealed that corporations gave approximately EUR 80 million across borders in 2017, and 15 percent of corporate mécénat projects were carried out at the international level (Admical, 2018).

According to data published by the Fondation de France on French foundation grants, French foundations gave approximately EUR 58.44 million at the international level in 2017 (Fondation de France, 2019). However, CerPhi estimates that French foundations dedicate an average of EUR 121 million to international development each year. This estimate includes EUR 57.48 million to Africa, EUR 33.03 million to Asia, EUR 13.43 million to the Middle East, EUR 8.6 million to Europe, EUR 8.11 million to Latin America, and EUR 363,000 to North America (Centre d’Étude et de Recherche sur la Philanthropie, 2019).

ESTIMATED CROSS-BORDER VOLUNTEERING

The leading French hub for international volunteering is France Volontaires, which unites public agencies and “Organisations de Solidarité Internationale” (international solidarity organizations, “OSIs”)1 to coordinate “Volontariats Internationaux d’Echange et de Solidarité” (International Exchange and Solidarity Volunteers, VIES) under the direction of the Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires étrangères. VIES participants can volunteer abroad through various positions ranging from youth exchange programs, development cooperation projects, skill-based volunteer exchanges, and programs run under the “Francophonie,” the international organization of French-speaking countries (France Volontaires, 2020).

In 2018, 8,656 VIES participants volunteered across the world. At 28.3 percent of volunteers, Africa hosted the most volunteers (2,447 volunteers), followed by EU countries (2,290 volunteers), Asia and Oceania (1,545 volunteers), MENA (1,128 volunteers), Latin America and the Caribbean (955 volunteers), and Europe outside the EU (281 volunteers). Volunteers served a range of activities, including education (30%), youth social support (18%), and health and sanitation (12%).

Almost one third of volunteers (2,699) participated in the Service civique à l'international (International Civic Service, SCI), a branch of France’s state-sponsored Service Civique (Civic Service) program (France Volontaires, 2020). With SCI, volunteers work in various sectors, including international development and humanitarian action, for a period of 6 to 12 months (Service Civique, 2020).

The Chantiers Internationaux program (International Workshops) and the Volontariat de Solidarité Internationale (International Solidarity Volunteership, VSI) were the second two most common programs at 1,982 and 1,955 respectively (France Volontaires, 2020). Chantiers

1 Generally, OSIs refers to non-governmental organizations that work in the field of international solidarity or development, often with partners in the Global South.
Internations works with the Cotravaux network of non-governmental organizations to sponsor a group of up to 20 volunteers in “chantiers”, or workshops, in a given location for a period of two to three weeks (Cotravaux, 2020). VSI involves volunteering for a specific organization that supports a volunteer for at least one year in the sector of international development. Though not run by the state, some associations may receive state funding (France Volontaires, 2020).

CROSS-BORDER GIVING BY CHARITABLE CAUSES
Many of the areas of intervention overlap with SDGs, such as health, access to employment, fight against climate change, access to water and sanitation, and gender equality. Other leading causes of intervention include aid to minorities, migrants, and refugees; culture; and aid to children. Specific data about the amount given to each of the leading causes were not available.

Among corporate mécénat projects, international solidarity and development (EUR 60 million) and emergency and post-emergency relief aid (EUR 20 million) were the top two focuses in 2017. Corporate cross-border giving can vary greatly by year, and international emergencies often influence the amount given (Admical, 2018).

Among foundations, around 4.7 percent are active in the area of international aid. International aid encompasses emergencies, development, and conflict resolution. Many of the specific areas of intervention overlap with United Nations SDGs, such as health, access to employment, fight against climate change, access to water and sanitation, and gender equality. Other leading causes of intervention include aid to minorities, migrants, and refugees; culture; and aid to children (Centre d’Étude et de Recherche sur la Philanthropie, 2019). Specific data about the amount given or percentage of funds distributed to each of the leading causes were not available.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN CROSS-BORDER GIVING
Digital methods of giving are emerging at the global level, and technology is becoming a common vehicle for donations in France as well. Technology in general has the potential to impact the philanthropic landscape in France in the future, as younger generations show greater interest in digital methods of philanthropy.

Among French Millennials, philanthropy is also becoming increasingly globalized and international, in part a result of these technologies (BNP Paribas, 2018). In general, the philanthropic sector relies more on digital platforms recently. With these new methods of giving, cross-border giving should increase (Agence Nocta, 2020).

A recent change to the wealth tax caused donations from high-income individuals to drop. There is some concern that this change affects overall donations, so it may impact cross-border donations in general (Fundraisers.be, 2020). However, despite a reduction in total number of donations, Recherches et Solidarités reports annual growth in total euros given, so it is unclear what impact this tax change will have (Bazin et al., 2018).
References


Service Civique. (2020). Qu’est-ce que le Service Civique?. https://www.service-civique.gouv.fr/page/qu-est-ce-que-le-service-civique

Do you have information to add to this profile?

We greatly appreciate the contributions of researchers, scholars, and leaders around the world to the study of cross-border philanthropy. If you know of any additional information or newly available data that could be included in future editions, please send us an update at indices@iupui.edu.