

Reviewing Oecd Experiences in the Social Enterprise Sector

*The Foundation
of Cassa di Risparmio
di Trento e Rovereto*

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The Foundation of Cassa di Risparmio di Trento e Rovereto

The Foundation of Cassa di Risparmio di Trento e Rovereto is a private organization operating for public utility. It can be compared to the grantmaking community foundations.

Obviously the grantmaking resources derive from revenues of assets investments. The Foundation assets amount to about **350 millions euros**. They are divided as follows

Foundation assets	Amount	Percent
Real estate	15 millions €	4,5%
Artistic properties	5 millions €	1,5%
Financial investments (mainly bonds, shares and funds)	330 millions €	94,0%

The Foundation's mission and its main fields of activity

The Foundation intends to cooperate in the enhancement of economical, social and cultural development of the local community. To achieve this goal, the Foundation operates in the following fields:

- scientific research
- education
- cultural activities
- support to socially and economically deprived categories

These fields are selected assuming that, in order to increase the local community chances of becoming part of an innovative and cohesive European society, the former has to provide a positive environment for scientific research, to enhance the availability of human capital resources, to increase the supply of cultural activities, and to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

Breaking down fields of activity

In order to highlight the Foundations role in the local community the previously listed fields of activity can be further specified.

Scientific research

1. co-financing projects of technological and hard science research;
2. co-financing qualified projects regarding economical, social and cultural development;
3. grants to promote young researchers' activities.

Education

1. funding initiatives related to pedagogical and curriculum innovations of local primary and secondary schools;
2. co-financing programmes of higher and post-graduate education by local university and similar institutions;
3. co-financing programs of life-long education arranged by local institutions.

Breaking down fields of activity

Cultural activities

1. enhancing the capacity of small local associations of supplying cultural opportunities for small local communities;
2. co-financing cultural activities of local mid and large size institutions (like music, arts, theatre and, more generally, cultural non profit organizations and museums);
3. Foundation's own initiatives, possibly in association with local or national partners.

Relief of disadvantaged people

1. supporting programmes of local public and non profit private organisations for the relief of disadvantaged people;
2. offering Foundation's estates building to local public institutions carrying out welfare programmes;
3. occasional donations to local, national and international non profit organizations carrying out support programmes for populations in emergency situations.

Amounts of grantmaking activities in 2005

Grantmaking Areas	2005 assignments	Percent
1) scientific research	2.646.906	48,76 %
2) education	1.669.728	30,76 %
3) cultural activities	711.258	13,10 %
4) assistance of social categories	400.600	7,38 %
TOTAL	5.428.492	100,00 %

Some examples of the Foundations interventions in the areas of interest

Scientific research

Call for research projects in biomedical sciences

2005-2006 budget: 1.450.000 euro

Call for research projects in social science and humanities

2006 budget: 200.000 euro (7 proposals co-financed on 15 requests)

Contribution to start-up of the “Centre for Mind and Brain Sciences” an interdisciplinary consortium for research in cognitive neuroscience

2006-2009 budget: 2.400.000 euro

Research grants for young scholars

2006 budget: 333.000 euro

Contribution to the University of Trento Ph.D. courses

2001-2006 budget: 4.300.000 euro

Sponsorship of annual activities of the Pezcoller Foundation on cancer research

2001-2006 grants amount: 720.000 euro

Co-financing of an advanced biotechnology research programme on grape and apple by the Istituto Agrario S. Michele all'Adige

2001-2005 budget: euro 3.700.000

Co-financing of a research programme on microdisposals for biomedical applications by ITC/Irst

2001-2003 budget: euro 415.490

Co-financing of a research programme on polymer surface for the prevention of biomaterial-related infection by ITC/Irst

2001-2003 budget: euro 230.650

Co-financing of a research programme on the carbon fluxes of forest ecosystems by the Centro di Ecologia Alpina

2001-2003 budget: euro 700.000

Co-financing of areospatial research programmes by Consorzio Criospazio Ricerche

2002-2003 co-financing grant: euro 40.000

Education

Call for projects of innovation of curricula of local vocational schools

2001-2006 grants budget: about 500.000 euro

Call for projects of innovation of pedagogical strategies and curricula contents in primary and (lower and higher) secondary schools

2001-2006 grants budget: about 580.000 euro

Intercultura – AFS

Annual international scholarships

2001-2006 grants: about 250.000 euro

Support to the University of Trento for establishing new faculties and research departments in Rovereto

2001-2006 grants amount: 5.600.000 euro

International scholarships for university students coming from developing countries

2001-2006 grants amount: 480.000 euro

International scholarships for post-graduate students

2002-2006 grants amount: 45.000 euro

Support to a Master in management of non profit-organizations by ISSAN –Institute for Studies on non-profit organizations

2001-2006 total grants: 140.000 euro

Grants for refreshing courses addressed to medical doctors and staff employees of local health services and hospitals

2003-2004 grants: 87.000 euro

Cultural activities

Sponsorship of the Accademia Roveretana degli Agiati

2001-2006 grants amount: 250.000 euro

Sponsorship of the Antonio Rosmini Cultural Association

2001-2006 grants amount: 250.000 euro

Biannual call for projects of cultural activities reserved to small local associations

2001-2006 budget: about 800.000 euro

Annual call for projects of large scale cultural activities arranged by local associations and institutions

2003-2006 budget: about 620.000 euro

Annual call for projects of cultural activities arranged by local museums

2004-2006 budget: about 350.000 euro

Reliefs of socially disadvantage people

Sponsorship of the Trentino Foundation for voluntary welfare and social works

2001-2006 grants budget: about 930.000 euro

Donation to the Emergency Foundation

2004-2006 grants budget: about 80.000 euro

Donation to Combonian Missions in Uganda

2002 and 2005 grants: 40.000 euro

Donation to Medicins Sans Frontiere and Caritas of Trentino

2005 grants: 100.000 euro

Donation to homeless refectory by Cappuccini friars in Trento

2004-2006 grants: about 30.000 euro

Annual contribution for the public homeless refectory

Funding of the Survey on local level of living carried out by Trento municipality

2003 grant of 45.000 euro

Yearly allocations to a fund for voluntary welfare and social works

2001-2006 total fund allocations: about 1.200.000 euro

Foundation estates programme for the relief of disadvantaged people

Social hospitality for old people in Trento, since 2000: about 900.000 euro

How the Foundation operates

The ways in which Foundation concretely operates can be grouped in four main categories:

1. calls for projects and proposals in the area of scientific research, education and cultural activities;
2. agreements for co-financing specific development programmes by local institutions;
3. sponsorship of qualified local non profit local associations operating in the areas of interest of the Foundation;
4. direct initiatives or programmes performed with or without cooperation of external partners.

The selection procedures

The selection of projects, proposals, institutions to be granted by the Foundation follows a standard evaluation procedure:

- Internal auditing committees determine what projects, proposals, and specific programmes can be accepted on the basis of the criteria given in the calls or general working rules of the Foundation itself.
- External blind referees, selected by the Foundation staff on a list of outstanding Italian scholars, *ex ante* evaluate each admitted project, proposal or programme.
- The blind reviews regarding projects and proposals are further discussed by internal auditing committees who submit a set of suggestions to the Foundation board of trustees.
- The Foundation board of trustees takes the final decision regarding what projects, proposals, programmes have to be funded.

- Complex or long lasting projects and programmes are periodically submitted to *in itinere* evaluations carried out by blind referees.
- Final payment of grants are decided after a careful *ex post* evaluation by external referees and internal auditing committees.
- Yearly, the Foundation make an overall assessment regarding the effectiveness of the various grants on the development of local community.