



GuideStar Europe

GuideStar provides an online, highly searchable catalogue of reports on the civil society organisations (CSOs)¹ operating in a country, enabling organisations to communicate their work effectively and easily to national and international audiences. The GuideStar Europe project will assess the feasibility of implementing GuideStar in four European countries as well as a pilot European portal site.

The information provided by GuideStar has a large and varied audience:

- The **general public** can easily identify organisations, increasing the growth of and public confidence in philanthropy;
- **CSOs** increase their visibility and establish their transparency and accountability; through GuideStar they can also identify funders and establish relationships regionally and globally;
- **Donors** are able to identify organisations whose work matches their own values and objectives;
- **Government agencies** identify, track and compare CSOs and promote improved reporting and best practices. A GuideStar system will also help streamline the acquisition of this information whilst reducing the reporting burden for CSOs.
- **Researchers** and **policy makers** can track trends in philanthropy and civic action;
- **Third party service providers**, such as online systems and accreditation agencies use GuideStar information to identify and compare CSOs and to build further services for the sector and general public.

Information is sourced from government filings, while supplementary information is supplied directly by the CSOs themselves. GuideStar is adapted to conditions present in each country and is developing at a speed determined by the available data and resources, sophistication and strength of each national CSO sector.

These national systems will test the Global Common Technology Platform hosted by GuideStar International, which is highly cost-effective and adaptable to any language. Ultimately these nationally owned, operated and governed systems will form the basis of a European search facility.

Partners in the project are organisations² with a track record in voluntary sector research, capacity and transparency development - [DZI](#) and [Maecenata Institute](#) (Germany) [NIOK](#) (Hungary), [CBF](#) (the Netherlands) and [ICTR](#) (Ireland) - and coordinated by [GuideStar International](#)³. The project is co-funded by the European Commission under its eTEN programme and in several cases by governmental, private sector and philanthropy sources in member countries.

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Participating Countries	Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands

¹CSOs are those organisations variously known as non-governmental organisations, private voluntary organisations, community based organisations, charities, non or not-for-profit organisations and the like that are organised to pursue charitable activities for the public good

² <http://www.dzi.de> , <http://www.maecenata.de> , <http://www.niok.hu> , <http://www.cbf.nl> , <http://www.ictr.ie>

³ GuideStar International is a programme of Civil Society Systems, a charity registered in the UK and US.