Contributing to Nature & Society

Adessium Foundation strives toward a society that encourages people to live in harmony with each other and their environment. We strive to create a balanced society characterized by integrity, respect for the environment, and compassion.

We do this by supporting initiatives and organizations that target subjects of social importance. These beneficiaries strive to create lasting positive change in our society. We support organizations in the Netherlands, as well as initiatives targeting the European community and the factors that affect it. In addition to financial contributions, we provide organizational support focused on strengthening grantees’ capacity.
We are proud to present our Annual Report 2018. Over the past year, we were able to contribute to a number of major success stories. In terms of protecting nature and the environment, civil rights, and social justice, we have noticed an increase in awareness and policymaking—both in the Netherlands and on a European level.

While we’re glad to see these positive developments, we are also concerned about a number of worrying trends in today’s society. Parts of Europe show authoritarian tendencies, accompanied by the erosion of democratic rights and freedoms. The European Union is under pressure, and society is becoming increasingly polarized. Although we are definitely on the way to a more sustainable economy, there are still major obstacles to overcome. Over the past year, we closely collaborated with a wide range of civil society organizations (CSOs) to explore alternative methods and solutions.

We are convinced that philanthropic funds are more relevant than ever. We are independent and autonomous. This allows us to support CSOs that serve the public interest and ensure a well-functioning society, keep an eye on people’s general well-being, and protect the environment.

It has been 14 years since Adessium was founded. Driving social change is a long-term commitment, and now that more than a decade has passed, we can begin to see the fruits of our approach. In this Annual Report, we will highlight three success stories that are the result of years of commitment and close cooperation with several parties.

**European privacy legislation**

In the world we envision, individual digital rights are protected and proper public debate contributes to an open, democratic society. That’s why we and our partners work to protect and increase people’s rights and freedom in the digital sphere. In May 2018, the European GDPR was signed into effect. This privacy legislation reinforces European citizens’ right to privacy and data protection in the digital age.

**European ban on single-use plastics**

Our ideal world is one without plastic pollution. From 2011 onwards, we have entered into several partnerships to help close the plastic cycle and reduce the production and circulation of single-use plastics. The European ban on single-use plastics that was signed into effect in October 2018 is an important milestone toward reducing plastic waste.

**Individual case files for children in shelters**

All children should be able to grow up in a safe, stable environment. That’s why we partner with organizations to create safe shelters for vulnerable children and professionalize social support. In 2017, Parliament decided children in shelters should have individual case files. In 2018, they took the first steps toward implementing that—an important step toward better social care for vulnerable children.

These milestones are the result of joining forces, stamina, and our partners’ innovative campaigns. With our support, our partners were able to create positive change for important social issues.

Adessium’s goals are ambitious, and they require a capable team able to work closely with all kinds of strong organizations. We’re proud of all the motivated and enthusiastic partners who made this past year’s positive results possible. They bolster our conviction that social change is possible, and we will continue to strive for it. We are confident about what 2019 will bring.
Our approach

Adessium Foundation is a philanthropic fund that works with beneficiaries to create an open, democratic society, to conserve and protect healthy ecosystems, and to ensure equal opportunities for everyone.

Our organization and approach are designed for maximum effect and impact.

Strategy

Our support for organizations that target subjects of social importance is structured into three programs: Public Interest, People & Nature, and Social Initiatives. We proactively reach out to potential beneficiaries and invite them to submit an application.

We support established organizations as well as innovative projects that strive towards structural improvements and, if possible, systemic change.

Oftentimes, we will decide to extend our partnership beyond a specific project and instead provide core operating support, thereby enabling beneficiaries to pursue their mission.

In addition, we believe it’s important to offer them an opportunity for capacity building. This can either be direct support by Adessium itself, or by providing resources to enlist consulting or other external expertise.

We deal with major and complex social issues. Because this requires a long-term approach, we are often involved with a particular initiative for a period of several years. Adessium doesn’t believe in a quick fix—tackling structural issues and creating change requires unconventional methods, perseverance and long-term involvement.

We want to use our means as efficiently as possible, for maximum effect. That’s why the costs and benefits of an intervention are important factors in our selection process. We also want to learn from and grow alongside the organizations and interventions we support. That’s why we devote a considerable amount of attention to monitoring and evaluating their approach and effectiveness. We involve our beneficiaries in the process to make sure we increase and improve our impact, and also take a critical look at our own work. By assessing our day-to-day operations, approach and method, we keep finding new ways to improve upon the work we do.

Working on impact

We measure the impact our work has by the amount of positive social change our partners create.

We carefully gauge the expected results of initiatives we consider supporting—both when selecting beneficiaries and during the project itself. There are two ways we measure the effect our projects have, depending on the kind of intervention. In some cases, we judge the extent to which the intervention has managed to reach its target audience, and the extent to which it has improved the current situation. In other cases, we look into a project’s systemic added value, for example in terms of actual policy change. Both aspects matter.

Over the course of the project, we build in several monitoring opportunities mainly used to look ahead. Larger projects are evaluated by an external party throughout their duration. That way, we gain more insight into their effectiveness. In total, 15 of those have been concluded since 2018. We mainly evaluate the strategy, effectiveness, and impact of the organizations and interventions involved. That way, we can check in with our partners and see if we are still headed in the right direction.
The course of an intervention may be influenced by outside factors, our impression of the issue may need to be adjusted, or we may need to tweak our efforts. During these monitoring opportunities, we explicitly look at what is necessary to improve, and what we can do to facilitate that improvement. Perhaps the size of the donation needs adjusting, or perhaps the initiative would be more effective if it reached out to the target audience through different means.

These evaluations also provide learning opportunities for us and our partners, in terms of strategy and approach. It helps our partners become more effective, and it helps us improve our selection and monitoring processes, as well as the development of our own programs.

Once the project is concluded, we look back at the process: what did we achieve and what challenges and opportunities did we face? We take the results of these evaluations into consideration when discussing extending the partnership and when assessing new projects.

The evaluations have taught us to be aware of the specific challenges that stem from organizational growth. For example, when a partner organization scales up or develops, governance and management systems will need to adapt. Sometimes, the founder of an organization will need the support of a business manager to help transition to the next phase.

We also need to keep a close eye on the extent to which the organization involves its targeted beneficiaries, to make sure the intervention adequately meets their needs.

Our added value

Whenever we provide support, we look for the specific added value our foundation can provide.

Adessium is an independent, autonomous organization. That gives us the freedom to pick our own partners and choose our own methods—for example, by supporting organizations and projects that do not currently receive financial support from the government or from other funds. It also allows us to support initiatives we believe have the potential to innovate, but that haven’t had a chance to prove themselves yet.

We are flexible enough to adapt our strategy and method to changing or difficult circumstances. We ask our beneficiaries to be frank about any obstacles they encounter, so we can work with them to overcome those.

As a philanthropic fund, we are often able to provide insight into which issues could benefit from inter-organizational cooperation. We therefore increasingly see opportunities to initiate and facilitate those co-operations.

Finally, we also proactively seek to collaborate with co-funders for anything from coordinating activities to devising a shared strategy in pooled funds. This significantly increases the impact of the different parties involved.

Joining forces with other funds not only adds to a project’s continuity, but also reinforces the support for that particular intervention in society. We share knowledge with the other participating financial partners, and paint a clear picture of the initiative’s prospects. This kind of positive, critical reflection by all financing bodies involved has a beneficial effect on project development.
Public Interest

Adessium Foundation strives toward an open, democratic society. A society in which the availability of independent and factual information safeguards the public interest and encourages ethical behavior.

We promote the search for truth, the availability of quality information, and public discourse in a digital environment. This way we contribute to an ethical, democratic, and effective Europe. The initiatives we support focus on journalistic research, public awareness, and advocacy.
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11 Building Europe
12 Digital Public Space
14 Safeguarding Privacy in the Digital Age
20 Highlighting 6 Partners
21 2018 at a Glance
21 Our Beneficiaries in 2018
Availability of Quality Information

Any open democratic society requires access to factual information from independent sources. Quality information provides insight into social issues and enables public discourse among citizens, politicians and policymakers.

The media industry has changed significantly over the past few years. While digitization has introduced new ways of storytelling and sharing, it also disrupts existing media revenue models. In order to foster the pursuit of truth and the availability of quality information in the digital age, we support several not-for-profit journalistic organizations that practice in-depth, investigative journalism. That way, we enable them to maintain their innovative reporting on social issues. We also promote international cooperation between investigative reporters.

We believe that reporters should be free to do their job unhindered. However, as developments in parts of Eastern Europe and other regions have shown, freedom of the press isn’t always a given. Safeguarding a free and diverse media industry requires ongoing efforts by CSOs and governments. That’s why we support organizations researching and advocating for freedom of the press.

Building Europe

If we want to offer sustainable solutions to international social issues, we need a principled, democratic, and effective Europe. Citizens’ trust in European cooperation has been put to the test these past few years: some Member States are openly flouting agreements about democratic principles, and the UK has decided to leave the EU. This means we should redefine the way we think about the future of Europe and citizen engagement in the European decision-making process.

We support research, advocacy, and direct interventions in order to improve the quality of EU decision-making. Some of those focus on democratic innovation. We also encourage finding European solutions to cross-border social issues.
Digital Public Space

The public space is a crucial element of any well-functioning democracy. Within that public sphere, people form opinions that serve as input for elections and political decision-making. Those opinions also create a shared understanding of their environment. Digitizing this public space results in both opportunities and risks to our democracy. On the one hand, there’s the risk of disinformation and algorithms that determine which stories get read. On the other hand, digital resources provide an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between voters and elected representatives. Digital tools are also a way to mobilize people for social change, which offers new democratic possibilities.

We promote research on the effects of digitalization on our democracy. We also support civil society organizations that advocate for the protection of democratic values in the digital age, like personal freedom and privacy.

“The GDPR modernizes and strengthens the European Union’s framework for the defense of human rights on privacy and data protection in the digital age. It gives individuals more meaningful control over personal data. This also serves to strengthen other rights, such as freedom of expression.”
By signing the GDPR into effect, the EU sets an important example. Several of Adessium’s beneficiaries have been instrumental in making the GDPR a reality. These include the European Digital Rights Initiative, Privacy International and Bits of Freedom.
GDPR becomes effective

We believe the introduction of the GDPR, in May 2018, is a milestone event. The abbreviation stands for General Data Protection Regulation, and its impact on data exploitation is of great importance for the protection of privacy of people in a digital society.
Safeguarding Privacy in the Digital Age

In our increasingly digitized society, businesses and governments collect a significant amount of personal data. If that data is used inappropriately, it puts people's privacy at risk and limits their freedom and security. Adessium Foundation strives to limit data abuse by businesses and governments. We support organizations that campaign for awareness and advocate stricter legislation.

**2012**
EU reviews data protection legislation
The European Commission announces it will thoroughly review outdated policy on personal data protection.

**2013**
Strengthening digital rights organizations
European digital rights organizations like European Digital Rights Initiative, Privacy International, and Bits of Freedom join forces for more lobbying impact.

**2013**
Snowden reveals all
Edward Snowden releases secret NSA documents that show the extent to which governments use personal data.

**2016**
GDPR is passed
The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) becomes effective on May 25, 2018. This regulation standardizes the processing of personal data by private companies and governments throughout the EU, providing better privacy protection for European citizens. The GDPR also has a global effect, with employers in India and Brazil following suit.

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**2018**
Cambridge Analytica exposed
An investigation reveals that Cambridge Analytica used large amounts of Facebook data for political campaigns without consent.

**2018**
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**2018**
My data done right
Bits of Freedom develops a tool that helps people manage their data and gain insight into the way third parties use it.

**2016**
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**Correctiv**
*journalistic collective reveals dividend tax fraud*

In 2018, an example of large-scale, international investigative reporting made headlines: the CumEx Files. This collective, consisting of 19 media outlets, revealed a complex scheme that had allowed European bankers, traders, and hedge funds to get away with years of dividend tax fraud. Total losses for European governments: over 55 billion euros. The German collective Correctiv, which has been one of our beneficiaries since 2015, was a key player in this investigation: they coordinated the work of the 30 journalists involved, created a database to link all research data and provided software to allow secure or encrypted communication between reporters.

**Civitates**
*joining forces to strengthen European democracies*

Civitates, founded in 2018, is a consortium of 16 foundations committed to upholding democratic values in Europe. Together, they stand up to antidemocratic tendencies throughout Europe. The consortium believes in the power of European democracies—democracies in which all citizens have access to information, can let their voice be heard, get organized, and take part in democratic systems. To achieve this vision, Civitates strengthens the capacity of civil society to play its indispensable role in shaping vibrant and open European democracies that work for all.

**Oxford Internet Institute**
*real-time research into political manipulation*

Nowadays, public discourse is increasingly happening on social media and other digital platforms. One of the consequences of this shift is that political agents have more opportunity to consciously spread misinformation. The Oxford Internet Institute keeps a real-time eye on which news articles are being shared across Europe in election times, what source they hail from, and to which extent this sharing constitutes an attempt to manipulate public discourse.

**The Good Lobby**
*citizen engagement in lobbying*

In order to reach effective solutions for social issues, it is essential for citizens to be involved in the European decision-making process. This method is also known as “citizen lobbying,” and serves to increase engagement among the people. The Good Lobby matches citizens with different backgrounds, skills, and expertise to CSOs whose lobbying efforts could use reinforcements. In 2018, the organization yielded over 500 “citizen lobbyists” in 11 countries, who have provided a wide range of NGOs with legal and strategic support. The Good Lobby Awards congratulated over 20 citizen lobbyists including Greta Thunberg (school strike for climate change) and Martin Speer & Vincent Immanuel (Free Interrail).

**International Press Institute**
*online resource platform to combat the harassment of reporters*

The online harassment and abuse of reporters undermine freedom of the press. It weakens the public’s trust in quality reporting, and is a threat to democracy. IPI developed the OnTheLine Project: a ‘one-stop online resource platform’ that offers reporters and other media professionals a wide range of practical tools, advice, and strategies to defend themselves from the technical, psychological and legal challenges that stem from being subjected to online threats, harassment, and bullying.
2018 at a Glance

54
reporters were killed doing their job
Source: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) 2019

9,083
corporate lobbying organizations lobbied with the EU versus 5,932 NGOs
Source: Transparency International / EU Integrity Watch

43%
of all US citizens uses Facebook as their source of news
Source: Pew Research Center “News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2018”

Our Beneficiaries in 2018

Access Info Europe
Amnesty International
Bellingcat
Bits of Freedom
CHEM Trust
Civitates
Corporate Europe Observatory
Correctiv
De Balle
De Coöperatie
Digital Freedom Fund (DFF)
DocSociety
EUobserver
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
European Digital Rights (EDRi)
European Investigative Collaborations (EICI)
European Journalism Centre (EJC)
European Policy Centre (EPC)
European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)
Finance Uncovered
Foodwatch
Friends of the Earth Europe
Fund for Global Human Rights
Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)
Global Witness
Hostwriter
Human Rights Watch
International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)
Impact Academy
International Press Institute (IPI)
Investico
Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IRPI)
JornalismoFund.eu
Media Legal Defense Initiative (MLDI)
Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
Netherlands Juristencomité voor de Mensenrechten (NJCM)
New Economics Foundation
Open State Foundation
Oxfam Novib
Oxford University
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
Privacy International (PI)
Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
Stichting Betere Journalistiek (De Verhalenmarkt)
Tax Justice Network (TJN)
The Bureau of Investigative Journalism
The Center for Public Integrity
The Good Lobby
Transparency International
Universiteit van Amsterdam
Vereniging voor Onderzoeksjournalisten (VVOJ)
VluchtelingenWeek Nederland
VoteWatch Europe
Wemos

Small and one-off grants are not included in this overview.
People & Nature

Adessium Foundation aspires to a society that makes responsible use of nature and natural resources. Humanity’s dependency on healthy ecological systems is a central focus.

We help protect important natural areas and combat environmental exhaustion and pollution. We also target the responsible use and management of our oceans. We support initiatives that work towards a nature-inclusive economy.
Circular Economy
Conserving Valuable Nature
Counteracting Plastic Pollution
To a World without Plastic Pollution
Highlighting 6 Partners
2018 at a Glance
Our Beneficiaries in 2018
Circular Economy

Our current economic system has created an enormous global increase in wealth. At the same time, we produce and consume more than the planet sustainably can provide. Issues like plastic pollution, loss of biodiversity, and climate change are partly due to our current industrial model: take-make-waste.

People are becoming increasingly aware of the need to transition to a nature-inclusive economy that provides basic necessities for everyone, without depleting the Earth’s resources beyond repair. This type of circular economy reuses the same resources in different production cycles for as long as possible, thereby minimizing emissions and waste.

Adessium wants to help make this new economic system a reality by investing in important elements, like speeding up the transition to circular economy, or securing additional funding for nature conservation. We support initiatives that work to create an environment that enables a more sustainable economy.

Conserving Valuable Nature

Europe still has a great deal of valuable nature that requires protection. However, over the past century, biodiversity and the state of the environment have shown a sharp decline. As a result, our ecosystem is facing increasing pressure, struggling to provide fertile soil, clean water and clean air.

Adessium works to halt biodiversity loss in the Netherlands and Europe, investing in nature reserve restoration where possible. One of the things we focus on is conserving and restoring marine protected areas so they can continue to fulfil their vital role for humankind and the ecosystem, now and in the future. This will benefit both the population and the local economy in the long term.

Within that framework, we focus much of our efforts on the Mediterranean. This area is home to some unique nature and one of the most populated regions on the planet: a melting pot of peoples, cultures, and languages from three different continents. Years of overexploitation and unregulated economic activities have left the area vulnerable.
Counteracting Plastic Pollution

Few people will be unaware of just how enormous the plastic pollution issue is. The amount of plastic waste is still growing, and plastics can be found in even the most remote corners of the planet.

In 2009, Adessium first started financing organizations and projects that work to put plastic pollution on the agenda, and they have achieved inspiring results. We see this social momentum as an important opportunity to take the necessary steps and deal with the root of the problem.

The overall goal remains to stop plastics from polluting our oceans, our land, and our air. In order to achieve that goal, we employ a dual strategy. One way is through reducing the production and usage of single-use plastics, for example by using alternative resources and distribution systems. The other is through closing the plastic cycle and striving to “reduce, reuse, recycle” in that order, reusing and recycling plastics to achieve optimal environmental benefits.

“The fight against plastic pollution is one that we can win. The EU plastics laws initiated by the Commission and endorsed by the Parliament are a first step towards a future where plastic doesn’t poison us. If we commit to this together, nobody loses, everybody wins.”

Frans Timmermans – Vice president of the European Commission
Press release Rethink Plastic Alliance, 26-11-2018
The establishment of the EU ban on single use plastic is to a large extent the result of years of lobbying by the Rethink Plastic Alliance. This is a group of NGOs Adessium has been supporting, among which Zero Waste Europe, Seas At Risk, Surfrider Foundation, and Environmental Investigation Agency. The major campaign under the flag of the Rethink Plastic Alliance was funded by the Plastic Solutions Fund, of which Adessium is a member.
October 2018

EU bans single-use plastics by 2021

The European Parliament's decision to ban the use and production of single-use plastics in October 2018 is nothing short of historic. The decision is meant to battle the environmental impact the 10 most commonly found plastics have, and specifies several methods to achieve this.
**Plastic Pollution**

Plastic waste is a major threat to our ecosystem. Reducing plastics pollution is one of the largest challenges we currently face. NGOs and foundations are joining forces to come to sustainable solutions. Adessium strives to a world free of plastic pollution. We support initiatives that reduce the production of single-use plastics by developing alternative resources and distribution systems. We also support organizations that work toward closing the plastic cycle by focusing on reuse and recycle methods.

**To a World without Plastic**

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One of the main causes of environmental pollution is the rapidly increasing rate at which we use the planet’s natural resources. This puts a lot of pressure on the environment. For that reason, Natuur & Milieu (Nature & Environment) strives to create a more circular economy in which we take better care of our natural resources. To make this work, circular use of those resources should be more financially attractive than linear use. The organization advocates to have environmental costs factored into the price of goods, and urges manufacturers to develop easily repaired or recycled products. Natuur & Milieu aims to be the driving force behind both the lobbying efforts and social debate necessary to achieve this social shift.

At the moment, the vast majority of the Mediterranean’s researched fish resources faces overfishing. Oceana takes a two-pronged approach to keeping our oceans healthy and their plant and animal life diverse. On the one hand, they advocate for policy change and call for legislation to enforce the protection of vulnerable marine habitats more effectively. Furthermore, Oceana aims to restore marine ecosystems and fish stocks. In order to accomplish that, the organization has proposed the creation of a Mediterranean network of protected areas to allow fish resources to recover, and a ban on bottom trawling in the Mediterranean sea for depths down to 150 meters.

Plastic pellets – also known as plastic resin, “nurdles” or sometimes even “mermaid tears” – are pieces of plastic less than 5 mm in size that are the building blocks of all of our plastic products. Spilled and discarded by companies across the plastic supply chain, plastic pellets are the second biggest direct source of microplastic pollution in our environment after synthetic vehicle tires. Having raised the profile of the issue since 2014, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has been able to catalyze corporate and policy action to tackle this tractable source of microplastic pollution. FFI works with the plastic supply chain to improve pellet management procedures, while recognizing the need and advocating for regulation to stop pellet loss.

Much of the plastic waste on European beaches originates from shipping and fishing activities. Better waste management at port level should prevent ships from throwing waste overboard. Seas At Risk has lobbied for the introduction of a standardized tariff: the European Port Reception Facility Directive. This new EU directive specifies that ports are obliged to accept and process ship waste. It also means all ports will need to charge ships according to the same tariff system, regardless of whether they have waste to be processed. That way, it will no longer be cheaper to dump ship waste at sea than to deliver it to the port for processing.

How do we speed up the transition to achieving a circular metropolis by 2030? De Nationale DenkTank (National Think-Tank) 2018 came up with 10 solutions to facilitate a circular economy. The organization uses innovative and inspiring ideas to solve complex issues in Dutch society. Every year, they invite 20 talented students and academics from a range of backgrounds to take part in a national think-tank. Over the course of four months, they familiarize themselves with a current social issue, in order to find innovative solutions and kick-start the debate.

The Aeolian Islands, an archipelago north of Sicily, are facing pressure from increasing tourism and unsustainable fishing methods. These destructive fishing techniques damage the marine area and greatly impact local subspecies of fish. The Blue Marine Foundation strives to create marine protected areas and develops models for sustainable fishing. This dual approach allows for the conservation of vulnerable marine habitats, and supports local fishermen in deploying sustainable fishing techniques. The result is an increased understanding of the importance of healthy marine ecosystems and future-proof fishing among local communities.

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2018 at a Glance

9.1% of our society is circular

Source: Circle Economy: “The Circularity Gap Report 2019”

78% of the surveyed fish resources in the Mediterranean and Black Sea face overfishing


1 billion plastic bags used annually

Source: Plastic Soup Foundation / UN Environment: “Single use plastics, a Roadmap for Sustainability,” 2018

Our Beneficiaries in 2018

African Parks
Arista Bee Research
Blue Marine Foundation
Circle Economy
ClientEarth
Duik de Noordzee Schoon
Earth Journalism Network
Internews Ecopreneur.eu
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
Fauna & Flora International
Funding FISH
GEN-GOB Eivissa
Good Fish Foundation
High Seas Alliance (HSA)

IVN natuureducatie
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
Marilles Foundation
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
Natuur en Milieufederatie
Noord-Holland
Natuur & Milieu
Natuurmonumenten
Ocean Conservancy
Oceana
PEW Environment Group
Plastic Solutions Fund
Plastic Soup Foundation
Rewilding Europe
Seas At Risk

Stichting de Nationale DenkTank
Stichting De Noordzee
Stichting Fondsenvwerving
Reeuwijkse Plassen
Surfrider Foundation
The Ex’Tax Project
The Ocean Cleanup
Wereld Natuur Fonds (WNF)
Wildlife Justice Commission
Zero Waste Europe

Small and one-off grants are not included in this overview.
Social Initiatives

Adessium Foundation strives toward a society in which people live together with respect and compassion for each other—a society that is characterized by humanity and solidarity.

We support initiatives that help people escape poverty and social isolation, while improving their self-sufficiency. We also offer immediate relief for those in dire circumstances.
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Participating in Society

Despite recent economic growth, the number of people living in long-term poverty is barely decreasing. Many are struggling with debts, and it can be difficult to turn the tide once debts start piling up. That’s why we pay particular attention to prevention methods when it comes to dealing with debt issues. Volunteers who help with financial administration and credit counseling can prevent these debts from reaching a critical level.

Everyone in the Netherlands should have an equal opportunity to participate in society. However, the number of homeless or socially isolated Dutch people has increased steadily over the past few years. This is partly due to migration, the aging population, and financial cutbacks in healthcare. We strive to let everyone participate in society, with a particular focus on the homeless and the elderly.

A Respectful Society

A society as diverse as ours requires solidarity and an open mind. However, the gap between rich and poor, between the highly educated and low-skilled, and between those of different origins has only increased. Part of society feels uprooted and disrespected, which may lead to mistrusting politics and institutions, violence towards first responders, and general intolerance.

Adessium Foundation cares about treating others with respect and compassion. We strive to foster understanding and create connections between people, and to stimulate a feeling of harmony and oneness between different groups within our society.
A Safe Place to Grow Up

All children in the Netherlands should be able to grow up in a safe, stable environment that provides adequate care and room for personal development. For many children, the reality is different. Their environments at home, at school, at the sports club or on social media are unsafe or limiting.

We want to shield these children from early childhood trauma and help them increase their resilience. Children in shelters are especially vulnerable, and it’s essential that they are made to feel safe and receive professional care.

“Niets is voor altijd” (Nothing is forever) – Stichting Kinderpostzegels 2018

“My brother, my sister and I waited in the hallway for my mother to finish the intake meeting. Nobody sat down with us. We didn’t feel very welcome.”

“Niets is voor altijd” (Nothing is forever) – Stichting Kinderpostzegels 2018
Adessium supports a consortium of funds to ensure children in shelters are assigned individual case files. This consortium is comprised of Stichting Kinderpostzegels, Kansfonds, Augeo, and Het Vergeten Kind.
The report "Kinderen in maatschappelijke en vrouwenopvang" (Children in social and women's shelters) published in April 2018 includes practical recommendations for municipalities to make sure children in shelters get independent case files—an important step toward better care for vulnerable children. If children are to receive proper care, they need to be treated as independent clients with their own issues and needs.
Social assistance, youth care and environment public awareness lobbying

2017

Nothing is forever
Stichting Kinderpostzegels publishes “Niets is voor altijd” (Nothing is Forever). The book contains several personal stories by youths who spent time in shelters, providing valuable insights into youth care while also putting a face on the issues they encountered.

2017

Documentary “Alicia” sparks dialogue
This documentary by Maasja Ooms spans three years of Alicia’s life as she bounces around foster homes and families, waiting in vain for a foster family to take her in. Children like Alicia are dubbed “carrousel children” because they encounter so many care providers in their lives. A series of 10 meetings themed around the movie is set up, supported by Adessium. All in all, 1,700 youth care professionals gather to discuss how to improve youth care.

2018

What's next?
Healthcare organizations change their issue-driven approach to one that focuses on early flagging and prevention. Within that scope, they specifically focus on breaking the cycle that passes issues from generation to generation.

2018

Manifest for better care
Following the meetings inspired by Alicia, a manifest is published: “Stop de Carrousel”. This manifest, which includes recommendations for better youth care, is presented to the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the VNG (Association of Netherlands Municipalities), and the Branche Gespecialiseerde Zorg voor Jeugd (Sector for Specialized Youth Care).

2015 - 2019

A Safe Future
“A Safe Future” (Veilige Toekomst) is a joint effort between Adessium and Stichting Kinderpostzegels, through which they enable several institutions to make their living environments more child-friendly. In total, 31 locations have improved their facility since the project started—making life a little better for 4,582 children.

2017

Children guaranteed individual case files
The report “Kinderen in maatschappelijke en vrouwenopvang” (Children in social and women’s shelters) includes practical recommendations for municipalities to make sure children in shelters are assigned independent case files. It urges municipalities to establish a framework and to define the minimum quality area municipalities should provide.

2018

Neighborhood data as prevention method
Healthcare organization Sterk Huis develops a new way to predict and flag risks for children in vulnerable situations, which expands the options for prevention and early-stage healthcare for children and their parents.

2015

Joining forces
A consortium of foundations (Stichting Kinderpostzegels, Kansfonds, Augeo, and Het Vergeten Kind) lobbies for children in shelters to be assigned independent case files.

2015 - 2019

Resilience
Adessium supports the Federatie Opvang (Shelter Federation) in pursuing a quality seal for their new approach for social assistance, the Methodiek Veerkracht (Resilience Methodology). This approach is specifically geared toward the needs of children staying in women’s shelters with their mother after experiencing domestic violence. The quality seal is awarded in 2018.

2017

Manifest for better care
Following the meetings inspired by Alicia, a manifest is published: “Stop de Carrousel”. This manifest, which includes recommendations for better youth care, is presented to the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the VNG (Association of Netherlands Municipalities), and the Branche Gespecialiseerde Zorg voor Jeugd (Sector for Specialized Youth Care).

2018

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2015 - 2019

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Kansfonds

**supporting accessible community centers**

Accessible community centers are of paramount importance to the most vulnerable members of society—those facing a situation that threatens their dignity, without any signs of improving. The future of these centers is at risk: their funding is being cut and volunteers are hard to come by. Kansfonds (Opportunity Fund) has joined other funds and private donors in the Fonds Franciscus. This consortium offers the community centers a sustainable future. Besides financial support, the consortium also offers peer learning and guidance regarding financial continuity and organizational capacity building.

Respect Education Foundation

**respectful education in and around the classroom**

The Respect Education Foundation (REF) was founded by Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp and others as a response to the growing discrimination and intolerance in our society. REF and its many partners strive to build a democratic society in which everyone feels at home and is able to take part. They focus on respecting yourself and others, as well as your environment. REF develops educational materials, training programs, and projects on social safety and citizenship. They also organize the Week van Respect (Respect Week) every year. The initiative is gaining traction with an increasing number of school-oriented and autonomous organizations including sports clubs, community centers, and emergency services. REF also encourages more structural cooperation between the different organizations working toward a respectful society.

Sterk Huis

**using big data for risk prevention in youth care**

Children and youths growing up in problematic neighborhoods often face developmental issues. If we want to provide them with sustainable opportunities to develop, youth care needs to change its current individual, problem-based approach to one that revolves around the collective and focuses on prevention. Sterk Huis (Strong Home) develops a local approach using available data and insights about children and families, in order to predict and anticipate the risk of them encountering certain issues. These predictive insights enable schools, doctor’s offices, and local authorities to keep an eye on things and offer social assistance as needed.

Het Vergeten Kind

**ensuring foster children aren’t being “bounced around”**

When children are placed in foster care, they often don’t receive the care, attention, and help they need. Often, they are continuously relocated without ever settling down permanently. Maasja Ooms’ documentary “Alicia,” which takes the audience through three years of nine-year-old Alicia’s life, makes that painfully obvious. Het Vergeten Kind (The Forgotten Child) organized a series of discussions following the documentary. Decision-makers and professionals talked about structurally improving the care these vulnerable children receive and made recommendations on how to achieve that.

De Tijdmachine

**improving quality of life for seniors**

The number of seniors in our society is steadily increasing. They want to grow old the way that suits them best, and that requires a tailored approach. Because many care facilities struggle to connect with seniors in terms of recognizing and answering to their needs, Stichting De Tijdmachine (The Time Machine) developed a methodology called De Tijdmachine, which enables seniors to tell their personal story. This initiative connects staff, family members, volunteers, and seniors to make sure they can enjoy their old age, through day trips, activities, informal care, a buddy system, and a care strategy that actively involves seniors.

Critical Mass

**insight into the cause and effect of fear**

If we want to co-exist respectfully, we need to take an open-minded approach based on mutual understanding. Fear of the other hinders that approach. Critical Mass designs interactive exhibitions, multimedia installations, films, and games that encourage people to reflect on their own fear and behavior. They bring people together, encouraging them to reflect on their own attitude and behavior. Their project De Angstfabriek (The Fear Factory) shows the audience how social fear is created and who it targets, but also teaches us how to resist it and how to shield ourselves from fear.
2018 at a Glance

1.4 million
out of 7.3 million households in the Netherlands are dealing with or risking problematic debts.
Source: Rijksoverheid (Dutch government), News item 23 May 2018

46,000
children in the Netherlands were unable to live at home for a short or extended period of time (residential youth care)
Source: Het Vergeten Kind / CBS 2017

8,943
incidents of violence against first responders on New Year’s Eve 2018

Our Beneficiaries in 2018

100WEEKS
Alliance Publishing Trust
ASKV Steunpunt Vluchtelingen
Blijf Groep
cordaid
Critical Mass
De Regenboog Groep
Defence for Children
Doctors for Homeless Foundation (DHF)
Dokters van de Wereld
Dutch Cell Dogs
European Venture Philanthropy Association (evpa)
Federatie Opvang (FO)
Fonds Bijzondere Noden Rotterdam (FBNR)
Fonds Sluytman van Loo
Gevangenenzorg Nederland
Het Begin met Taal
House of Hope
Humanitas
IMC Weekendschool
instituut voor Mensenrechten en Medisch Onderzoek (iMMO)
Justice and Peace Netherlands
Kansfonds
Landelijk Stimuleringsnetwerk
Thuisadministratie (LSTA)
Leger des Heils
LittleBitz
Nationaal Ouderenfonds
Nederlands Debat Instituut
New Dutch Connections (NDC)
De Pauluskerk
Prinses Máxima Centrum voor Kinderoncologie
Radboud Universiteit
Repair Café
Respect Education Foundation (REF)
Rode Kruis
SailWise
SchuldHulpMaatje
Stek voor stad en kerk
Stem in de Stad
Sterk Huis
Stichting De Tijdmachine
Stichting de Vrolijkheid
Stichting Fier
Stichting Helden van De Wil (fiKks)
Stichting Het Vergeten Kind
Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Stichting Life Goals Nederland
Stichting LOS (Landelijk Ongedocumenteerden Steunpunt)
Stichting MAX Maakt Mogelijk
Stichting Present Nederland
Stichting Schroeder van der Kolk
Stichting Streetcornerwork
Stichting van Schulden naar Kansen
Takecarebnb
UAF
Vereniging Leergeld Nederland
Villa Pinedo
Voedselbanken Nederland
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
War Child
Wijdoenmee.nu

Small and one-off grants are not included in this overview.
Cross-program Cases

Some social issues go beyond the constraints of a single program. These are our so-called Cross-program Cases. They allow us to call upon more knowledge and expertise, so we can take a broader approach. One example of these cross-program collaborations is the Migration and Asylum case, which combines our Public Interest and Social Initiatives programs. This allows us to advocate for better policies and direct refugee support.
Migration and Asylum

Highlighting 2 Partners

2018 at a Glance
Migration and Asylum

Over the past few years, more people than ever before tried to reach Europe in search of safety and a better life. Not all are newcomers; some are family members following after them. This resulted in fierce public discourse and a political crisis at EU level, revolving around humane asylum procedures and the importance of giving refugees a proper chance to integrate into society.

We see value in an open dialogue and in connecting people to foster mutual understanding and solidarity.

Defining the limits of refugee intake and appropriate policy can be a precarious process. Adessium Foundation works with a range of organizations advocating for humane and sustainable asylum policy, both in the Netherlands and in the EU.

Newcomers don’t always have sufficient possibilities to integrate into Dutch society. The language barrier, restricted access to employment and education, and the lack of a social network keeps them from developing themselves.

At the same time, the number of undocumented refugees seems to be increasing. This group doesn’t always have access to basic necessities, which means they have fewer opportunities to create a future for themselves in the Netherlands or abroad.

Adessium Foundation actively works to help refugees integrate into Dutch society. We also strive to safeguard access to basic necessities for undocumented refugees in the Netherlands.

Highlighting 2 Partners

Defence for Children
safeguarding children’s rights in asylum procedures

The Kinderrechtenhelpdesk Migratie (Children’s helpdesk on migration issues) is Defence for Children’s way to safeguard children’s rights during asylum procedures. The helpdesk supports children and their lawyers in making sure their rights are being respected as according to the International Convention on Children’s Rights. Defence for Children also uses youth ambassadors with first-hand experience to lobby for the sustainable improvement of legislation and policy. Over the past few years, the organization has achieved a great deal regarding children’s rights: the Children’s Pardon regarding children of asylum seekers was signed into effect. A family reunification policy was amended, children are no longer taken into detention at the border, and children without a residence permit are no longer denied help.

Het Begint met Taal
educating volunteers to teach refugees Dutch

For refugees and non-natives who speak little Dutch, learning the language properly is a great asset. It gives them more opportunities to integrate into Dutch society and build a future for themselves and their families. Het Begint met Taal (It Starts with Language) has developed the “Vooruit met Taal” (Forward with Language) project, involving educative materials and language training courses that enable volunteers to quickly, adequately and effectively help refugees and non-natives learn Dutch. These training courses focus on encouraging people to sign up as volunteer for the language program. The organization also offers courses teaching supervisors to lobby for funding and train volunteers.
2018 at a Glance

68.5 million people were forcibly displaced
Source: UNHCR “Global Trends Study” 2018

30,380 asylum seekers entered the Netherlands
Source: IND “Asylum Trends” 2018

50 unaccompanied minors in border detention in the Netherlands
Bron: Defence for Children Annual Report 2018
Board Members
Rogier van Vliet — Chairman
Jan Meijerman
Hendrik-Jan Laseur

Management
Rogier van der Weerd — Managing Director
Saskia van den Dool — Director of Programs

Operational team
As of December 2018, Adessium Foundation’s operational team comprises 13 people (11 FTEs). In addition to the two Directors, the team includes seven Program Managers and four general staff members: a Legal & Operations Manager, a Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, a Communications Manager, and an Office manager.
Final responsibility for Adessium Foundation lies with its Board of Directors (the Board). The Board approves management’s strategic multi-annual plan and thus determines the organization’s policy. The Board also ensures that this policy is correctly implemented. Donations above a certain size require the Board’s approval.

Under the Board’s responsibility, the management team is charged with providing Adessium Foundation’s day-to-day leadership and is tasked with preparing and executing the organization’s policy.
Financial Summary 2018

In 2018, Adessium Foundation spent a total of €17.4 million supporting organizations and projects. 2018 also saw the start of 9 new long-term partnerships, with 29 existing partnerships being extended. In total, there were 122 active partnerships at year-end 2018, across 116 organizations.*

*This number does not take into account any agreements for small and one-off grants.

### Overall grantmaking 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants 2)</td>
<td>17,359</td>
<td>17,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational expenses 3)</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>1,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,021</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,526</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Distribution across programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Interest</td>
<td>6,768</td>
<td>6,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People &amp; Nature</td>
<td>4,757</td>
<td>5,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Initiatives</td>
<td>5,834</td>
<td>5,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,359</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,999</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Distribution by type of support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of support</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic-institutional 4)</td>
<td>11,328</td>
<td>12,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project-related</td>
<td>6,031</td>
<td>5,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,359</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,999</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Distribution by region / intended results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>8,066</td>
<td>8,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (EU countries)</td>
<td>7,979</td>
<td>7,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (worldwide)</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>2,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,359</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,999</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts in thousands of Euros

1) These data have been derived from Adessium Foundation’s 2018 financial statements.
2) Including exchange rate effects, grant cancellations, project-related expenses.
3) Adessium Foundation’s offices and meeting spaces have been provided to the foundation free of charge.
4) Programmatic-institutional support focuses on providing beneficiaries with the necessary means to achieve their long-term vision.
Background

Adessium Foundation was established in 2005 by the Van Vliet family, which has a background in asset management. The Foundation is recognized as a “public benefit organization” (ANBI) by the Dutch tax authorities.

Under long term arrangements Adessium Foundation periodically receives donations from an affiliated foundation that embodies an endowment set aside by the Van Vliet family. The management of Adessium Foundation’s public benefit donations and the management of the endowment are entirely separate from each other. Adessium Foundation does not receive resources other than emanating from the family.

Adessium Foundation is a member of the Association “Fondsen in Nederland” (FIN) in the Netherlands and the “European Foundation Centre” (EFC). Adessium Foundation subscribes to the EFC code of conduct and complies with the FIN good governance standards.
Disclaimer

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