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Can foundations paving the way of sustainable endogenous philanthropy?

/Abstract/

This paper assesses the potential of foundations to pave the way of sustainable endogenous philanthropy in post-communist, transitional society in Croatia.

Influence to civil society development, especially funding and capacity building, with legislation changes were coming from the western countries. Development of civil society organisations was very much path dependent in domination of culture/recreation organisations, with very limited development of organisations providing services. Foreign funders were not providing needed input to develop endogenous philanthropic culture which can rely on commitment of local stakeholders to give donations on regular basis from local sources.

Foundations have a different tradition in transitional countries. Legislation related to the foundation definitions made difference in number of registered foundations. In countries where foundation is defined as an asset, what means certain amount of money or property are required to get a status of foundation as a legal body, there are less number of registered foundations.

In the second part of paper, on the basis of recent empirical research (mail survey, case studies, media review, secondary data analysis) paper deal with the role and vision of foundation development in Croatia. The role and contribution of foundations in meeting the social, cultural, environmental, educational needs is in stage of constant improvement. Number of foundations are in reasonable increase, recent new initiatives for setting up foundations put more money in their assets and case studies provides encouraging evidence about the resources which can be mobilised for better development of foundations.

The roles of foundations are more complementary and they meet the needs which can not be covered in the government and local authority programmes. Corporativistic social model largely describe the role of foundations in Croatia which act in public purpose. Having in mind small number of registered foundations, limited resources they have without support of other stakeholders, and their non presence in public ones can say that it is peripheral social model of foundations development.

Developmental issues of Croatian foundation are very similar to other post-communist countries. Future development of foundations will depend on increase of social capital, economic prosperity, profilation of corporate social responsibility culture and with emerging of the middle class people from the new generations.

Paper provides some recommendation for the policy measures which cam create more favourable framework for foundation development and also suggestions for future researches.