

Overview of Activities 2021

1. Philanthropy and philanthropic strategy

Constanter works in strategic partnership with a wider network of philanthropic organisations, founded by the Brenninkmeijer family business owners.

1.1 Porticus

Porticus, founded in 1995, is now active in more than 135 countries. Porticus believes that the best way to maximise positive impact is to address the root causes of problems by understanding the systems in which they occur. This means listening to those who understand the issues best and working with them on an equal footing to bring about change. Porticus supports Constanter by developing and executing its philanthropic strategy through grant-giving programmes.

Visit www.porticus.com to learn more about Porticus and its work.

1.2 Porticus' activities in 2021

In 2021, Porticus has approximately 180 people working from 14 offices. In its grant-giving advice Porticus focuses on the following four key strategic themes:

- Education
- Earth
- Faith, and
- Society

In that same year, over 3,500 active grants and 70 programmes led to activities in more than 130 countries. 2021 was a year in which most of the world continued to face challenges and uncertainties presented by the global pandemic. While one cannot downplay the devastation the COVID crisis has caused, there have been some silver linings in Porticus' areas of work.

- The pandemic accelerated the global understanding of how technology can support children's learning and development, with a whole child development approach. Catholic Higher Education Institutions have embraced online and hybrid models of teaching improving access to education.
- And we learned about the value of business development services, as enterprises supported by Argidius showed more resilience to the COVID crisis.

Other highlights from our work can be found below.

To be really impactful in a constantly changing world, we stay closely connected to our partners and identified some of the following goals for 2021:

- Stay in close dialogue with partners by offering flexibility and continuity, as many face additional challenges caused by the pandemic
- Refine our vision on the four key priorities: Education, Earth, Faith and Society
- Introduce multi-year budgeting

We have delivered on each of these priorities, allowing us to focus on the participation of people with lived experience in our programme design. Multi-year budgeting, in combination with a refined focus, aims at enabling reliable, long-term relationships with our partners. We recognise that change takes time and hardly ever takes the path you plan for. With more flexibility in budgeting, we can provide the endurance needed to achieve our goals and those of our partners.

Looking ahead, in 2022 our focus continues to be to stay close to our partners and the people we serve, reflecting on our work and ensuring our processes enable us to carry out our work efficiently and effectively.

Highlights from 2021: A selection

There are more displaced people in the world today than ever before. The number has doubled over the past decade. Some 40% of those 79.5 million forcibly displaced are under 18. Growing up around crisis and conflict can have a serious effect on a child's access to and quality of education. While funding for education in displacement is increasing, we know very little about who is learning, the quality of education they are receiving and the impact it is having because approaches to measurement and assessment are either lacking or data is impossible to compare. Porticus sought to address this gap, working with the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) to improve holistic learning outcomes and increase the measurement of learning in crisis and conflict situations. In 2021, a policy paper "Investing in Learning: the Case for Strengthening the Collection and Use of Learning Assessment Data in EiE Contexts" was published and our focus is now moving to encourage stakeholders to implement the recommendations.

Current sustainability standards are confusing, scattered and suffer from a lack of trust. Blurred boundaries between voluntary and mandatory initiatives leave many companies lost or exploiting the disarray. After years of knowledge sharing and collaboration, the creation of the International Sustainability Standards Board was announced during COP26. This was a significant milestone, creating a clear pathway to bring globally comparable reporting on sustainability topics to financial markets. Porticus worked with the Impact Management Project (IMP) to identify key challenges and map out what was needed to progress. We did so by building alignment with strategic partners in the field, guiding the IFRS to set up the ISSB to set baseline disclosure standards. We also worked with the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and the ClimateWorks Foundation to help align donors and leverage funding. As an influential regulator, the EU can shape practice and policy well beyond its borders, and the expectation is that other countries will replicate the process. With IFRS standards used in over 160 countries and mandatory in over 140, it is only a matter of time before ISSB standards have global uptake.

1.3 Laudes Foundation

Laudes Foundation aims to challenge and inspire industry to harness its inherent power for good. Laudes operates globally and supports bold and urgent action to address the dual crisis of inequality and climate change. Born out of the work of C&A Foundation and its flagship initiative Fashion for Good, it hopes to redefine “value” beyond shareholder interests alone and to re-engineer how we grow and distribute wealth for the good of all people and nature.

Visit www.laudesfoundation.org to learn more about Laudes Foundation and its work.

1.4 Laudes Foundation’s activities in 2021

In 2021, we provided more than EUR 70 million across 126 partnerships (of which, nearly 40% provided core support) to reinforce the systemic challenges we are working to address.

Highlights of our work in 2021

COVID-19: our emergency response

When the COVID-19 crisis hit, Laudes Foundation moved quickly to ensure our partners could cover basic operating expenses, as well as providing support to the communities they serve. To build partner resilience, our COVID-19 emergency response offered partners in need additional funding, grant flexibility and non-financial technical support.

Over the course of 2020 and 2021, we provided EUR 4 million in funding and leveraged EUR 8 million in additional funding. The emergency response reached 61 partners – mostly across Asia and Brazil – assisting more than 500,000 people.

To drive improvement and identify key lessons, Laudes Foundation commissioned an external evaluation in 2021 that analysed our approach. Read the [full evaluation](#) to learn more.

Built by Nature: Accelerating the uptake of sustainable wood and bio-based materials construction

In October 2021, Laudes Foundation launched [Built by Nature](#), a network and grant-making fund dedicated to accelerating the timber building transformation in Europe.

Built by Nature’s vision is for a built environment that works in unison with nature. It seeks to radically reduce the embodied carbon in buildings by demonstrating they can be made of low-carbon timber and bio-based materials, not carbon-heavy steel and cement. Built by Nature also seeks to safely store carbon in our buildings for generations and sequester carbon by championing forest stewardship and regeneration.

Its partners are pioneering critical solutions to the challenges of the timber building transformation, and include Bauhaus der Erde, the Centre for Natural Material Innovation at Cambridge University, the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA), Cities4Forests and Climate-KIC.

Built by Nature connects key actors across the built environment and forest communities to spark city-scale projects and amplify stories of ground-breaking timber projects and solutions. In close collaboration with its major partners and frontrunner companies, Built by Nature aims to change perceptions around timber construction and reshape the built environment. By engaging frontrunners with a track record of innovation in, and commitment to, the timber-building transformation, Built by

Nature is demonstrating to the private sector the solutions it can implement to accelerate change at scale.

Built by Nature's Accelerator Fund supports solutions that scale timber building and raise the bar on the positive climate impact of building with timber from sustainably sourced forests, providing grants of EUR 50,000-250,000. Funded projects include the design of new business models and the collection of business case data; innovations and frameworks to increase the climate impact of timber buildings; regulatory innovations; or feasibility tests for large city-scale projects that start to shift the norm for the sector.

COP26: Galvanising finance and philanthropy for net zero

Before the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Laudes Foundation convened a climate finance forum at Glen House in Scotland. More than 50 leaders from philanthropy, the public and private sectors, law, civil society and academia gathered to activate the climate finance community to deliver the net-zero commitments necessary to meet the Paris Agreement and keep the global temperature increase below 1.5°C.

The collective challenge was clear: the capital is available to decarbonise global systems but needs to be deployed at an unprecedented scale and speed. While private finance is stepping up by making ambitious net-zero commitments, broader and experienced stakeholder collaboration is required to ensure private sector commitments translate to prompt, systemic change.

At Glen House we identified six areas where climate finance and philanthropic collaboration could accelerate decarbonisation in a manner that preserves and protects social equity.

Laudes Foundation continues to support this community and its collective action.

Measuring systemic change: baseline report

To achieve the impact we envision in Laudes Foundation's [Theory of Change](#), we must first understand the current status of our efforts to tackle climate change and inequality in the fashion, built environment and finance and capital markets industries.

In conjunction with Future Impacts and 4CF, Laudes Foundation launched a [systems baseline assessment](#) outlining the challenges in these industries.

Despite some positive signals of change, the assessment found that the overall status of the economic system is "unconducive", because of the slow pace at which finance, fashion and the built environment are mitigating their negative impacts.

With less than 2% of philanthropic funding dedicated to addressing climate change in 2020, and programmes, on average, lasting less than a year, the assessment also underscores the need for philanthropic foundations to increase funding into climate action, and support longer-term programmes.

The systems baseline assessment helps guide Laudes Foundation's strategic actions and inform how we monitor and evaluate our work, providing a reference point for impact assessment.