

Overview of Activities 2023

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, works in 14 locations around the world and its work is visible in over 100 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 2023

In its grant-giving advice, Porticus focuses on the following four key strategic themes:

1. Education,
2. Earth,
3. Faith, and
4. Society.

Additionally, to enable these strategic themes, Porticus has developed a complementary regional approach for grant-giving programmes in six global regions:

1. Europe,
2. Asia,
3. North America,
4. Latin America,
5. Africa,
6. Middle East and North Africa.

Porticus has two daring goals to achieve by 2030: Having a proven contribution to positive impact in the majority of our endeavours and ensuring the meaningful participation of people affected by poverty and exclusion in all of the grants and programmes. These guide Porticus' strategy and approach.

Highlights from 2023: A selection

Through its network, Porticus advised on more than 1186 grants (2022: 1156). This is a selection of activities Porticus worked on:

Education: Nurturing the Potential of Kenya's Youth

Unlocking the potential of Kenya's youth is at the heart of Porticus's collaboration with the Zizi Afrique Foundation. They recognise that traditional academic skills alone are not enough. By integrating 'soft skills' like empathy, resilience, and collaboration with academic and technical skills, young people are equipped with the tools they need to succeed. This journey began in 2017 with the Building Youth Capabilities for Work and Life program, focusing on technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Through extensive research and stakeholder engagement, support from the Government of Kenya was garnered to prioritise TVET and incorporate Whole Youth Development (WYD) principles into the curriculum. TVET instructors are now equipped with improved curricula that emphasise hard and soft skills essential for future employment.

Faith: Empowering Church Leadership for a Changing World

In an era of rapid change, effective leadership is paramount for organisations, including the Catholic Church. Recognising this need, Porticus has championed the Next Generation Leadership Programme (NGLP) to cultivate leaders to navigate the complexities of today's society while remaining rooted in faith. Operating in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, NGLP falls under the Building a Vital Church initiative within Porticus. The programme aims to enhance the Church's credibility and relevance by nurturing leaders who embody integrity and excellence. At the heart of NGLP lies synodality—a collaborative leadership style that fosters shared decision-making among equals. As the world evolves, so too must Church leadership. NGLP addresses this imperative by instilling essential skills such as transparency, accountability, and inclusion. By equipping individuals with the tools to lead effectively within the Catholic community and beyond, NGLP fosters a culture of empowerment and impact.

Earth: Transforming Food Systems for Equity and Resilience

New research by Porticus's regenerative agriculture partner, IPES-Food, underscores the role of inequitable global food systems in driving the debt crisis, amplifying the urgency for transformative action. The regenerative agriculture team within Porticus is working towards a shift to more regenerative practices, rooted in sustainable resource management. Food systems experts warn of a perilous convergence of crises: a deepening debt crisis exacerbating hunger and poverty. With rising import costs and debt burdens, many low-income countries face mounting challenges in meeting basic needs. Urgent action is imperative to avert widespread suffering and instability. Unsustainable food systems lie at the heart of this crisis, perpetuating a vicious cycle of dependency and vulnerability. Breaking free from this cycle demands holistic solutions. While debt relief is crucial, it must be coupled with systemic transformations to foster resilience and equity.

Society: Bring Informed Citizenship

In an era where misinformation threatens the fabric of democracy, Porticus stands alongside the News Literacy Project (NLP) to empower young people with the tools to navigate today's complex information landscape. At the heart of this collaboration lies a fundamental question: if information is power, what about misinformation? Recognising that democracies thrive on informed citizens, NLP endeavours to advance news literacy across American society. By equipping individuals with the ability to discern fact from fiction and identify credible sources, NLP aims to bolster democracy and civic engagement. Through initiatives like the Checkology Virtual Classroom, NLP champions critical thinking as the cornerstone of an informed electorate. Despite being digital natives, young people often lack the skills to navigate the abundance of information available online. This is where Porticus's partnership with NLP proves invaluable. Beyond the classroom, NLP extends its reach to underserved communities with limited access to local news coverage. Through partnerships with trusted organisations and public information campaigns, NLP strives to combat misinformation on a broader scale.

1.3 Laudes Foundation

Laudes Foundation aims to challenge and inspire the industry to harness its inherent power for good. Laudes Foundation is accelerating the transition to a green, fair and inclusive economy. They focus on four key industries with an outsized impact on climate change, nature and inequality: built environment, fashion, finance and capital markets and food. Working at a systems-level, their cross-cutting work strengthens labour rights, foster narratives and unlock finance to amplify our impact across all sectors.

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

1.4 Laudes Foundation's activities in 2023

By 2030, Laudes aims to reshape ideas and redesign incentives to rebalance power, by accelerating advocacy, scaling research and innovation, amplifying narratives, strengthening accountability, cultivating alliances and reimagining the economic system.

To accelerate the transition to a green fair and inclusive economy, Laudes has given 313 grants in 2023, supporting 260 existing partners and 94 forging new partners.

Highlights from 2023: A selection

Built Environment: Accelerating the Use of Biobased Materials

In 2021, the Laudes Foundation founded Built by Nature, a network and grant-making fund that prioritises the built environment working in unison with nature through mainstreaming the use of biobased materials. Since then, two other major funders have come on board to help accelerate the use of sustainably sourced timber and other bio-based materials to transform our built environment. With networks in the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and Italy, Built by Nature has removed major market barriers for the next generation of biobased buildings. Alongside its partners, it has leveraged a total of EUR 25.8 million to date. Built by Nature's partners have also played a critical role in the EU starting to formally recognise carbon storage in buildings in its new carbon removal framework, encouraging investment in biobased material innovation. In 2023, the Built by Nature Prize was launched to reward scalable, market-ready innovations in biobased construction materials. Nearly 300 entrants globally applied and a prize of EUR 250,000 will be awarded in June 2024.

Fashion: Scaling Regenerative Landscape Solutions

Regenerative Production Landscape Collaboratives (RPLC) is a unique multistakeholder initiative transforming business models towards regenerative agriculture and sustainable sourcing. Founded by the Laudes Foundation, IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative and World Wildlife Fund India, it is redefining the role of businesses in driving positive social and environmental change. The initiative also promotes the need to include farmers and communities in decision-making. Despite progress, work is still needed to ensure regenerative landscape practices are financially appealing and can be widely adopted. To support this work, in 2023 the Laudes Foundation organised a workshop, in partnership with 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People and Climate-KIC, with 26 peer organisations to exchange lessons on scaling landscape solutions. Participants shared achievements in areas such as soil health, water management and gender equity. The lessons validated the concerns that while finance is available for such initiatives, it remains fragmented and poorly aligned with investment needs. Capital often doesn't reach the people on the ground who can drive tangible change. Initial support provided by philanthropy can attract more investment as well as help build collaboratives and strengthen capacity for investor engagement with participating organisations.

Finance and Capital Markets: Unlocking finance for a just transition

The green finance agenda has accelerated in recent years due to European regulatory developments, pushing businesses to publish credible transition plans. The Laudes Foundation's partners in the European Responsible Investment Network (ERIN), including Third Generation Environmentalism, Share Action, World Wildlife Fund and Finance Watch, have played a central role in these developments, advocating for a harmonised regulatory financial framework that requires mandatory, reliable, comparable and enforceable corporate climate targets and transition plans across the EU. In October 2023 ERIN convened civil society organisations to release a manifesto entitled "Financing the Future We Want: Our Agenda for a Sustainable and Inclusive EU financial sector", with key policy recommendations for a European sustainable finance agenda. Meanwhile, Finance Watch continues to work at all levels necessary to influence banking and insurance regulation in the EU. In 2023 alone, Finance Watch contributed to over 200 related events and earned nearly 250 pieces of press coverage. The efforts of Laudes Foundation's partners have resulted in the European Commission publishing transition finance recommendations within its final sustainable finance package in June 2023. The same year, European policymakers integrated substantial sustainability and climate risk provisions in the Capital Requirements Regulation and Directive. These changes are an important recognition of the need to address climate risk in banking regulation and will directly impact the way that capital is allocated, boosting the case for a just transition.

Food: Advancing climate-friendly meals

The food system can be a powerful driver of a green, fair and inclusive transition, as it accounts for a third of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and employs over 1.2 billion people. During 2023, the Laudes Foundation explored the deep structural issues in the food industry and the role that the Laudes Foundation could play in accelerating this change. We developed this learning journey by building 12 partnerships totalling over 1,3 million in grants that enabled knowledge building and sharing on food systems in cities, food loss, and waste and food procurement. In January 2024, the Laudes Foundation supported the first European Coolfood Pledge Summit to learn how cities and businesses can collaborate to advance more climate-friendly meals. The Coolfood Pledge supports cities, businesses and institutions to reduce the GHG emissions associated with the food they serve by 25 per cent by 2030, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. Over 2024, Laude Foundation will continue to build partnerships to understand the powerful role cities can play in advancing the food industry transition and Laudes' philanthropic capital can help to catalyse it.