

## Call for Proposal

The [International Education Funders' Group](#) are reaching the end of a current strategic plan period and seek a consultant or small team to support them as they develop their new strategy.

### Background

Philanthropic actors have been investing in education for many years. The OECD Centre on Philanthropy, which publishes the most comprehensive and up-to-date view of what philanthropic organisations are doing, estimates that between 2016 and 2019 cross-border philanthropic giving represented the eighth largest source of financing for education towards developing countries (USD 4.5 billion, on par with ODA providers like Japan). Among sectors, education received the second most financing from private philanthropy. Domestic philanthropy from developing countries is increasingly playing a key role in education: education-related giving from domestic donors is higher than in any other sector and amounted to USD 2.3 billion (52% of total philanthropic funding for education over 2016-19), surpassing cross-border giving. Over the past twelve years, IIEFG has played a unique role in convening and connecting 100 of these philanthropic actors.

[IEFG](#) started in 2008 through member efforts to informally convene foundations and donor-advised funds that support education outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. IIEFG has grown dramatically in recent years. It now connects over 100 organisations, whose ideas, energy and engagement make IIEFG a member-led group facilitated by a small secretariat. IIEFG's purpose is to help private funders have stronger voice and impact in education by supporting their strategic analysis and thinking, informing their grantmaking, and providing opportunities for collective learning and action. This year is pivotal for IIEFG, with several strategic questions emerging as the group – and wider philanthropy field – evolves.

This call for proposals seeks consultant or small team of consultants to conduct essential background work and brainstorm support that will inform IIEFG's direction for the next strategic period. In so doing, this work will inform and shape the wider education philanthropy ecosystem.

### Scope of work

We, the IIEFG Secretariat and Steering Committee, seek support in two complementary forms:

- 1. Background analysis** through two short (maximum 20 page) summaries of expertise that answer the following questions.
  - a. What are key trends in philanthropy and where does education philanthropy sit within these trends?* This analysis will inform IIEFG's thinking of where they want to be in five years' time, and whether the education philanthropy field is at an inflection point – thus ready for something more out of a network. We seek analysis of trends both across philanthropy and for education philanthropy in particular including (a) organisational approaches to philanthropy: e.g. corporate/family foundations, venture philanthropy, social investment; (b) key debates within philanthropy: e.g. decolonisation, localisation, trust; and (c) scale, scope and

impact: e.g. trends in domestic vs cross-border, the different characteristics of regional philanthropy.

- b. How have other philanthropy networks supported philanthropy to achieve even great impact?* Analysis and presentation of specific examples, lessons learned and 'inflection points' to look out for will augment IIEFG's internal assessment of the current 'state' of IIEFG as a funder network and to chart possible ways forward. The analysis should include at minimum documentation of how other philanthropy networks have (a) defined and measured success, and how this evolved over time; (b) set membership criteria (considering the evolving characteristics of philanthropy); (c) mobilised and shaped purposeful member engagement, and (d) supported clusters of members within a wider membership group to achieve shared aims on specific topics. This is expected to be a short report with practical recommendations of metrics and learning approaches IIEFG could take, of membership criteria IIEFG should consider, and of ways to maximise member engagement.

**2. A brainstorming partner**, where the consultant will bring expertise and experience directly into the IIEFG strategy renewal process through:

- i. Fortnightly challenge sessions with the IIEFG (4 person) Secretariat team. The consultant will be expected to set the agenda and facilitate these challenge sessions, based on the framework of questions below.
- ii. A strategy retreat with the IIEFG Steering Committee and Secretariat, ideally in-person, in early February 2023. If able to attend in-person, the consultant will be asked to facilitate some of the strategic discussion, though the IIEFG Secretariat will put together the agenda.

IIEFG has been testing several new activities in 2022-3. The Secretariat seek a brainstorm partner to be able to bring wider expertise from across the philanthropy sector to inform their strategic direction. The consultant will be asked to explore key questions with the IIEFG Secretariat and produce short briefs for the Steering Committee. The profile of person/team we are looking for should be expert enough that desktop research and interviews are not needed for this. These should be discussions and short briefs drawn from experience working with philanthropy and philanthropy networks. The brainstorming questions will include:

- 1. Should IIEFG support clusters of members on specific issue areas**, for example programming/advocacy/knowledge-sharing on foundational learning, education technology, girls' education, education in emergencies and youth/skills/employability? What lessons have been learned from the Collective Action workstream and past working group structures; what have other networks done to do this; and what would IIEFG require in order to do more?
- 2. Should IIEFG play an externally facing role**, for example championing philanthropy within the wider global education space? If so, on what and what would IIEFG require to do so?
- 3. What is IIEFG's unique and distinctive role vis a vis other education philanthropy networks?** How should IIEFG work with other networks, and what would IIEFG require to expand the potential of these partnerships?

4. Should IIEFG play a stronger role in prompting and enabling IIEFG members **to improve strategic coordination at country level**? If so how and what would IIEFG require to be able to do so?
5. **Should IIEFG do more to curate education evidence**, providing a challenge and learning function for members? If so, how (how to curate, share, determine member interest on topics etc) and what would IIEFG require to do so?
6. **Should IIEFG prompt debate on philanthropy approaches**, or continue to leave this in main to sector-agnostic philanthropy networks? Is IIEFG's balance of education and philanthropy debate the right fit for what members need?
7. **Should IIEFG evolve its fundraising approach** beyond voluntary member contributions and a small number of direct grants? What lessons from others could inform their draft Revenue Strategy?
8. **Should IIEFG evolve their membership criteria?** IIEFG have drawn lessons from several other networks and the consultant will be asked to inform the consultation and decision-making process prior to April 2023.

## Who we are looking for

- Profile: You are an expert in global philanthropy who has strong knowledge of the contribution of networks to increasing philanthropy's impact on international development outcomes. You have engaged with the strategic processes of philanthropic organisations including, ideally, philanthropy-supporting networks.
- Timeframe: November 2022 – April 2023. The new IIEFG Strategy will launch in May 2023.
- Resources: The IIEFG Secretariat have a rich set of resources to inform this strategy renew, including internal learning documented over the past three years and feedback from network members on what they need from the network. The Secretariat will make this available to you.

## Application process

Please submit a two-page expression of interest to Spings Akumah at [spings@iefg.org](mailto:spings@iefg.org) outlining your experience, proposed approach, and budget by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to a discussion with the IIEFG Secretariat in the week of 7<sup>th</sup> November. We aim for this work to start by the end of November 2022.