**Improving Foundation – Commission collaboration**

Foundations work to provide public-benefit, and support the Commission’s ambitions of excellent research and innovation that delivers for European citizens.

Foundations have significant expertise to contribute to the European Research Area and its goals. Improving interaction between the philanthropic sector and the Commission is mutually beneficial and can speed-up the achievement of our shared ambitions. The movement towards a bolder and more efficient Framework Programme 9 is an excellent opportunity to do this.

The diversity of foundations means that interactions should be tiered related to the capacity and willingness of partners. We believe finding ways for the Commission to co-operate with foundations on strategic alignment, project funding or on policy and shared challenges are vital to maximise public and private investment.

By providing the means to work together more closely, we can reinforce foundations’ role in the European Research Area and the three O’s of Open Science, Innovation and to the World.