A snapshot of the Venture Philanthropy and Social Investment sector in Europe in 2016

Support for Social Purpose Organisations (SPOs) through the Venture Philanthropy and Social Investment (VP/SI) approach continues to increase with over €6.5 billion invested since inception, by the respondents of the survey. The average yearly amount invested per VPO remains stable compared to previous years.

Two thirds of the European Venture Philanthropy Organisations (VPOs) surveyed consider societal return more important than financial return, while one third considers both equally important.

The proportion of VPOs expecting a negative financial return and of VPOs anticipating a profit are increasing, while the share of organisations expecting their money back is decreasing.

A large majority of the VP/SI organisations surveyed have co-invested in the past or are interested in co-investing in the future ...

...those that have co-invested did it with a large spectrum of different actors. Over two thirds of VPOs co-invested with other VPOs or societal impact first investors.

An increasing number of VPOs commit to support investees for more than 6 years, while the share of VPOs with an average commitment of less than 2 years is decreasing.
VPOs’ investment strategy

VPOs invest in a wide range of geographies...
VPOs primarily invest in their home countries. Africa is the second recipient region, attracting 14% of the total VP/SI spend.

...across a large number of sectors, supporting a wide range of beneficiaries...
Economic and social development tops the list of sectors and children and youth are the most targeted beneficiaries.

...largely adapting their financing model to their investees’ needs...
About 60% of the VPOs surveyed always (or often) use financing instruments according to SPOs’ needs, whereas only a small percentage of the VP/SI organisations never do it.

...and providing a variety of non-financial support.
VP/SI organisations support their SPOs not just financially, but also with a variety of non-financial support, ranging from strategic support and revenue strategy to financial management and support to develop the Theory of Change.

The analysis is based on data collected by EVPA from 108 VPOs of which 75 EVPA members and 33 non-members. Data refers to fiscal year 2015.

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