

Feedback to the Foundation from its Partners – 2020

Abstract of the findings from a survey of grantees and partners conducted by the
Center for Effective Philanthropy



For further reading, see the full report

Once every two years, ahead of the discussions of the Trump Foundation's International Advisory Council, we contact our partners and the grant recipients to receive their comprehensive and in-depth feedback regarding our performance. This appeal is carried out by the Center for Effective Philanthropy, an expert organization from the United States that has conducted similar surveys among 300 philanthropic foundations throughout the world.

In 2020, we asked the Center to carry out a survey only among our partners in the middle school. Although the foundation still operates active grants and working relations in connection with promoting five-unit study in high school, it was important for us to learn in a focused way about the activities taking shape in middle school. As is our custom, we placed the full report on the foundation's website so that our partners could peruse the findings.

Areas of strength

- Almost all the respondents (99%) from among the foundation's partners and grant recipients are in agreement regarding the importance of raising the bar in middle school so that each student who is ready to take on the challenge can study mathematics and the sciences at the excellence level. Two-thirds believe that the measure of success, to wit, Israel will be among the 15 outstanding countries in PISA, is an important measure.
- The foundation's roadmap is seen as clear and explicit, and the foundation communicates its objectives well. On this measure, the Trump Foundation ranks first in the world among large strategic foundations and is in the top ten of all foundations in the Center's database. On the other hand, indications of lack of consistency and uniformity in language and messages conveyed by staff members in writing and orally, can be discerned.
- The foundation continues to provide its partners and grantees with professional assistance and intensive support, which go far beyond the grant monies. This support includes mainly creating collaborations, introductions to leaders in the field, holding conferences, workshops and professional meetings, and help with the media.
- There is a noticeable improvement in the grantees' assessment of the foundation staff's understanding of the field of activity in which they work. A similar trend is seen in the assessment of the foundation's performance with respect to promoting a professional knowledge infrastructure in Israel in the fields of its activity.
- The foundation is perceived as having great influence on government policy in the field of education and as having the knowledge to build effective interfaces between grant recipients and decision makers in government.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, 70% of the foundation's grantees feel comfortable enough to turn to the foundation and share their hardships and needs. They recommend that the foundation devote effort to developing distance learning and self-learning platforms.

Areas for improvement

- As compared to previous years, there has been a marked decline in the foundation partners' and grantees' assessment of the quality of the work relations between them and the foundation staff. They feel more pressure than in the past to adapt their aims and programs to the foundation's goals. They believe that the foundation is not flexible and open to ideas that would expand the foundation's dedicated roadmap or to methods for its attainment.
- The grant recipients feel less comfortable than in the past about approaching the foundation staff when a problem with their project arises. They feel that the connection is too intense and that the foundation staff is too involved in the details of their activities, is rigid and exerts pressure on them (the highest in the Center's foundation database). They note that they invest a lot of time in the grant application process and in receiving the payments.
- The foundation's grant recipients stress that, like in the past, the foundation has no profound influence on their organization, is not involved in its governance or organizational aspects and does not support its long-term financial survival. The Center recommends that the foundation devote effort to becoming more closely acquainted with the internal affairs in the organizations with which it works.