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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FUNDRAISING ORGANIZATIONS
ICFO – the association of national monitoring agencies

Independent monitoring of fundraising charities to enhance donor trust

ICFO General Secretariat
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History
ICFO, the association of national monitoring agencies, was created in 1956 to harmonize charity accreditation procedures and standards.

ICFO is registered at the Chamber of Commerce in The Netherlands with No 405370531 and is registered at the Council of Europe as a Non Governmental Organization with consultative status.

The ICFO office and general secretariat is based at Centraal Bureau Fondsenwerving (CBF) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

ICFO’s Mission
The purpose of ICFO is to ensure that fundraising for charitable purposes is being organized and performed in a satisfactory manner and that the administration of the collected funds is adequate.

ICFO and its Members look after the interests of donors.

Most voluntary sector organizations are honest and reliable. There are, however, a few which misuse the donors’ money by directing it to activities other than for which it was raised and which deny their donors access to information about their financial activities. Such dishonest activities are not acceptable. This is where ICFO and its national Members can be of help.

Fundraising organizations which are monitored by one of the national ICFO Members are bound to follow the guidelines given in accordance with the respective national law and tradition. This may include ethical guidelines for fundraising, principles for accounting, transparency, annual reports, public access, etc.

ICFO’s Activities
In order to give confidence to donors that donations are used for the purpose for which they are given, ICFO performs the following activities:

- provides information about the various national monitoring systems and the activities of internationally working charitable organizations to businesses, foundations, governments, the media, and the general public;
- shares information and experience among national monitoring organizations;
- helps in establishing new national monitoring agencies;
- promotes standards for non-governmental charitable organizations.

For more information, please contact the ICFO General Secretariat or visit www.icfo.org.

ICFO’s Members
ICFO consists of 16 organizations from 15 countries, which monitor more than 4,000 charities who manage 60 billion euros. 750 million citizens can access independent information provided by ICFO’s members to help them donate wisely to charities.

The 16 national organizations share the same goal within differing legal and regulatory frameworks according to their national contexts.

All ICFO’s members carry out independent evaluation of charities in their countries. The monitoring process covers key areas of charitable activity, such as:

- membership and responsibilities of the governing body;
- fulfillment of public benefit goals;
- fiscal control, management and reporting;
- fundraising practices;
- provision of public information.

Being monitored and recommended by the national ICFO Member enhances a fundraising organization’s potential by obtaining the additional trust which follows adherence to the ICFO member’s standards.