



Development and Professionalization

The early Stages of Community Foundations in Germany

Dipl.-Pol. Thomas Krikser



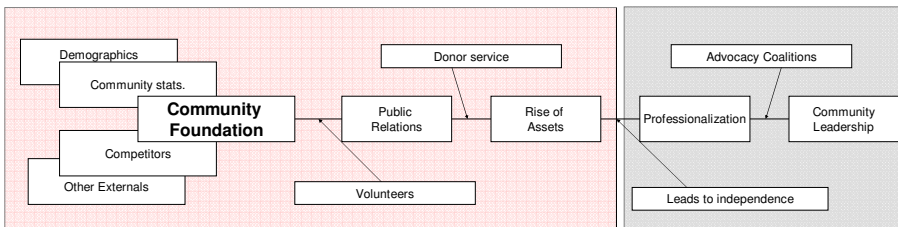
Introduction

Community foundations as a special type of foundations concentrate on a specific geographic community with donations of many donors; therefore they have specific forms of participation and are grounded in the community. For a sustainable community development they are supposed to play a specific role.

The aim of the research is to gain evidence based knowledge about the development of community foundations in the early stages of their existence. How does professionalization influence objectives and means of com. foundations? What are the important external factors for professionalization/ or for foundation development?



Model:



Methods & Approach:

Approach:

Qualitative semi-standardized interviews:

Germany: October/November 2010

USA: January/February 2011

Methods:

Qualitative Content Analysis (Mayring):

Deductive and inductive coding.

Tool for Analysis: Max QDA

Focus on:

- Future expectations
- Early Stages
- Daily work Relationship to politics

Data:

- 10 Interviews with German and American Community Foundation + 2 Experts per Country



First Findings:

Finding I:

The finances are very important for community foundations in the first years. The future perspectives concentrate mainly on financial questions, but this depends on the social statistics and the donors in the community.

If there is not a chance to raise money, projects and volunteers get in the focus of community foundations.

Finding II:

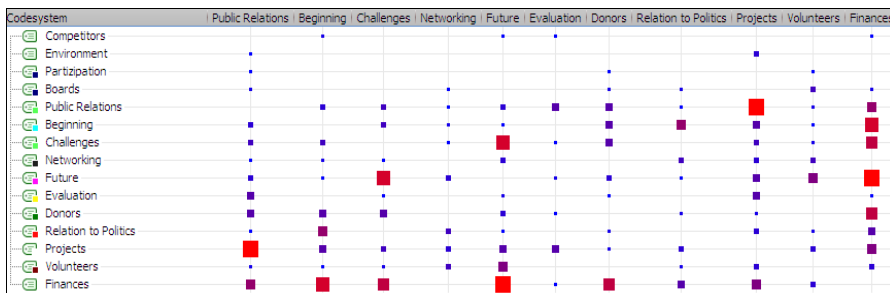
Projects and public relation belong together in the first years. The supported projects are chosen by their value for public relations.

Therefore it doesn't matter if the foundation concentrates on individuals or the whole community.

Finding III:

Community foundations try to be more professional. That includes the ideas of getting staff, more evaluation and a more effective management.

They build networks and try to get more weight in the community and in the community development, otherwise they mostly avoid direct contact to political decision makers, except when they need infrastructural or organizational help. This also depends on the resources of the foundation.



Data based on German interviews made in October and November 2010. Code-Relation-Browser by MaxQDA

Translated Examples :

"Our foundation consists of volunteer, but for some it is a part-time job. Actually we can do it, but we will need paid staff in the future"

"The evaluation of projects isn't necessary yet. If needed be, we would do it. [...] Well, we get a list of supported projects – meticulous – if something is not in our sense we would intervene."



References:

Carman, Joanne G. 2001: Community Foundations. A Growing Resource for Community Development. In: Nonprofit Management & Leadership, vol. 12, no. 1. pp. 7-24

Graddy, Elizabeth; Wang, Lili 2009: Community Foundation Development and Social Capital. In: Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, vol. 38, no. 3. pp. 392-412

Graddy, Elizabeth A., Morgan, Donald L. 2006: Community Foundations, Organizational Strategy, and Public Policy. In: Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, , vol. 35. pp. 605-630



Contact:



Contact:
Thomas.Krikser@zalf.de

Thomas Krikser is one of CIVILand junior research group's PhD students at the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural research.

Focus of research:

Controlling, Monitoring and Evaluation, Education for sustainable Development, Methods of empirical social research.