

Annual Report 2023

General Aim

There are no changes in the general aim of the FLAX Foundation.

As stated in the Plan 2020-2025, The FLAX Foundation will generate and support innovative research and knowledge on feminist and inequality issues in Europe in order to contribute to a society with greater social justice, equality, and solidarity. By providing researchers with the space and time for their work, and by helping to showcase that work, the FLAX Foundation seeks to especially stimulate the development of social sciences and the humanities when it comes to inequalities and social justice.

Resources and finances

The FLAX Foundation's donations for 2023 were 1.000.000 Euro. The Foundation has legal promises for further donations for the next year, securing the money needed to execute their Plan 2020-2025. The FLAX Foundation keeps its financial assets at ABNAmro Bank and chooses to use the services of this bank (Sustainable Funds Mandate) to manage its assets. In 2023, we had a positive result of the Sustainable Funds Mandate to the sum of 81.874 Euro.

In 2023, the FLAX Foundation spent 372.680 Euro for its awardees and for the researcher at Ljubljana University. With costs at 35.230, the ratio is acceptable.

For the Emma Goldman awards, 7 awards have been given. The money has been transferred according to the plans and transfer times agreed between the awardees and the Board. The 7 Snowball awardees have been chosen in 2021, towards the end, but will receive the money according to their own plans.

The award ceremony was organized by the IWM, on the 8th of September 2023, and was also streamed so that former awardees and interested people around the world could follow the ceremony online. It was attended in person by around sixty people.

The Board members do not receive any remuneration for their activities. Any costs involving them is only for travel and accommodation to attend in the award ceremony.

Organization and decision making

The FLAX Foundation planned to expand its Board with two more members. In its Plan 2020-2025, the FLAX Foundation planned to expand its Board with two more members. Due to the delay caused by Covid, this is postponed till 2024.

Awards, selection, and accountability

In 2023, the FLAX Foundation selected 7 Emma Goldman Awards. The 2021 group of Emma Goldman awardees nominated 7 people Emma Goldman Snowball awards, and the Board considered their nominations and, after deliberation, approved them.

The list of names and the motivations to give them an award are available at our website, at www.flax-foundation.net.

For the nominations for 2023, the Board had requested nominations from earlier awardees, board members have made nominations, and external experts were also consulted. The Board then considered the long list resulting from that and made the final selection.

Collaborations

In February 2020, the FLAX Foundation has signed a memorandum of understanding with the IWM, Institute for HUMAN Sciences in Vienna for hosting and showcasing its annual award ceremony, and for hosting two Emma Goldman Fellowships each year. Chosen by the Fellowship Committee at IWM, in 2023, the IWM hosted Toni Haastrup and Tatev Hovhannisyan. The Emma Goldman fellows presented at the IWM Fellows seminar while they were there.

In view of the Russian invasion in Ukraine, the Board also signed a memorandum of understanding with Ljubljana University, for the purpose of supporting Ukrainian scholars in 2023-2024 at the University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Arts. To this end, the Board decided to fund a two-year Ukrainian postdoc for a total sum of 200.000 Euro, taking into effect in 2023 and 2024. Selection of these fellowship will be done by Ljubljana University, with one Board member being part of the selection committee.

Afterword

The Board noted that increased precarity in academia and increasing workloads resulted in more requests for extensions and decided to grant them when justified. All awardees who requested an extension for the realization of their plans were granted this extension.