

Introduction

This policy outlines the principles and procedures governing the acceptance and management of all donations and funding received by Transparency International Belgium (TIB). It aims to ensure the responsible use of funds, safeguard TIB's independence and reputation, and maintain the highest ethical standards in all financial dealings. This policy is compliant with Belgian law and adheres to Transparency International's global best practices. This detailed policy provides a comprehensive framework for managing donations responsibly and ethically.

Policy Statement

TIB actively seeks diverse funding sources to support its mission of combating corruption in Belgium. These sources include, but are not limited to: individual donations, grants from foundations and governmental agencies, partnerships, membership fees, and income generated from publications and events. However, the acceptance of any donation is subject to rigorous due diligence and a thorough assessment of its potential impact on TIB's independence, integrity, and reputation. No donation will be accepted if it creates a conflict of interest or compromises TIB's ability to act impartially.

Guiding Principles

TIB's approach to donations is guided by the following core principles:

- **Independence:** Funding decisions will be made solely based on the merits of the project or programme and will not be influenced by donors or potential donors. TIB will maintain its autonomy and will not compromise its ability to conduct impartial research, advocacy, or public statements.
- **Transparency:** TIB is committed to transparency in its financial operations. Donations over €500 will be published each year on the website. Smaller donations will be grouped together and presented as a total amount. This disclosure complies with EU data protection laws (GDPR).
- **Accountability:** TIB will be accountable for the proper use of all funds received. Regular financial reports will be prepared and made available to the Board and, upon request, to major donors. These reports will detail the allocation and expenditure of funds.

- **Integrity:** TIB will maintain the highest ethical standards in all financial transactions. All staff involved in fundraising and financial management will be required to adhere to a strict code of conduct that prohibits conflicts of interest and promotes transparency.
- **Compliance:** All financial activities will comply with all applicable Belgian laws, regulations, and tax requirements. TIB will maintain appropriate financial records and undergo regular audits to ensure compliance.
- **Due Diligence:** A thorough due diligence process will be conducted on all potential donors to assess their reputation and ensure alignment with TIB's values and mission. This process will be documented.

Donation Acceptance Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate potential donations:

- **Donor Reputation:** TIB will assess the donor's reputation and track record to ensure alignment with TIB's values and mission. Publicly available information, including media reports and online resources, will be reviewed. Donations from individuals or entities with a history of corruption or involvement in unethical activities will not be accepted.
- **Conflict of Interest:** The potential for conflicts of interest will be carefully assessed. Donations that could compromise TIB's independence or impartiality will be rejected.
- **Restrictions and Conditions:** TIB will carefully review any restrictions or conditions attached to a donation to ensure they do not compromise TIB's mission or operational independence. Donations with unduly restrictive conditions will not be accepted.
- **Transparency and Disclosure:** The donor's identity and the donation amount will be disclosed publicly, unless anonymity is explicitly requested and justified by legitimate concerns.
- **Legal Compliance:** All donations must comply with Belgian law and tax regulations. This includes adherence to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regulations.
- **Proportionality:** The size of the donation will be considered in relation to TIB's overall budget and fundraising strategy. Excessively large donations from single sources will be carefully scrutinized to ensure they don't unduly influence TIB's activities.

Review and Amendment

This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary by TIB Board, at a frequency deemed necessary by significant changes in the operational environment or legal landscape.

Reporting Concerns

Any staff member or Board member with concerns about a donation's compliance with this policy should immediately report them to TIB.