

Establishment

The (predecessor of the) Talent Foundation PvT has been around for 30 years now. Founded in 1991 as "Peter van Tilburgfonds" by Yvonne Mulder on the occasion of her 50th birthday, inspired by and as a tribute to her father. His life motto: "Discover your talents and develop them to the maximum, not only for yourself, but above all to help others", was an incentive and support for Yvonne to initiate the foundation and has been the central objective and motivation for the volunteers involved in the organization and implementation since it was founded.

Starting up

From a start-up capital of approximately 5000 guilders and subsequent donations from Yvonne's family and business network, individual destinations were sought and financed on a limited scale in the first 10 years to put the objective into practice. Thanks to two bequests from the family circle, the activities could be greatly expanded from 2001 onwards. This led to a rapid growth and broadening of activities, which led to support being provided in more than 25 countries in 2005. It quickly became clear that due to cultural and physical distance from the "talents" there was a need for reliable intermediaries who were familiar with the situation on the ground and the Dutch standards for financing the support. The main aim of this was to better select and guide the talents and thus increase the effect of the support and prevent the misuse of resources. Initially, this could be provided through individual contacts with some employees of embassies and other Dutch expats. At a later stage, the first "country committees" with Dutch and local members were formed in Argentina, Indonesia, India, Nicaragua and the Netherlands Antilles.

The entry of new board members, the formation of an advisory board with additional experience and the certification by the CBF, the working method and accountability for the acquisition and use of financial resources was improved. The ANBI status was also acquired, which makes it possible to donate more fiscally attractive. In the meantime, a circle of influential people from political, business and cultural networks had become involved around the foundation from the network of Yvonne and other board members, acting as ambassadors and supporters, allowing organisation of various successful fund raising events.

Innovation

In 2006 Yvonne resigned as chairwoman due to increasing health problems and an almost entirely new board was formed by the new chairman Liesbeth Savelkoul. On the basis of a further exchange of ideas, the new board updated and documented the objectives and working methods. As part of this, the name was changed to "Talent foundation", with the addition of the initials PvT to maintain the connection with the former Peter van Tilburg Fund for the donor group from Yvonne's network. The mission was updated to:

"Helps talented young people in disadvantaged circumstances to develop their talents to improve their future and that of their environment."

Stricter guidelines for the selection of candidates (between 15 – 25 years) and maximum size (€3000) and duration (4 years) of support were also established. In line with this, the working method for the composition and tasks of country committees and the preparation and decisions on applications

were documented. In addition, reporting, financial accountability and evaluation of the outcome of the support were further improved and standardized.

Donors and sponsors

With regard to the acquisition of financial resources, the system of sending annual donation slips and newsletters to Yvonne's network was abandoned and replaced by a combination of fund raising events and recruitment of sponsors from the network of the board and committee members. To this end, the former website of the Peter van Tilburg Fund was renewed as a central means of communication and information. Updated logos, flyers, leaflets, posters, banners, etc. were produced free of charge by sponsors. Furthermore, support in countries where insufficient continuity of country commissions was possible was deliberately reduced and active contact was sought to replace this with persons and organisations that were already active in "disadvantaged" countries for related objectives and from there had insight into individual talents that fit the objective of the Talent Foundation. More recently, contact was made with organizations, companies and individuals who have a connection with the general objective of the foundation and/or specific countries and talents in the programme and can provide the multi-year funding for this. A start was also made on recording multi-year private donations in tax-attractive donation agreements.

Financial development

In the first 10 years the foundation was only able to spend the available funds and acquire new income to a limited extent. As a result, the assets had grown to almost 13,000 euros in 2001 and then, due to the sum of bequests and successful fund raising events, quickly increased to more than 100,000 euros. On the basis of the renewed (country committee) approach, the deployment and acquisition of (sponsor) resources made it possible to acquire an average annual income of 15 – 20 k€ in the past 10 years.

Due to a deliberately greater use of available resources to support talents, the capital decreased to approximately 60 k€ in 2020, of which approximately half was reserved for the multi-year financing of talents already included in the program. In total, approximately 500,000 euros in income has been acquired since the foundation started, on the basis of which more than 250 individual talents have been supported, of which 85% in the last 15 years.