

Event agenda

Thursday, 12 March Open day				
12.00 - 13.30	Lunch			
13.00 - 13.30	Welcome & registration			
13.30 - 14.50	Opening plenary: Investing for Impact: Visions and Resources for Local Philanthropy			
14.50 - 15.00	Plenary: Power of partnership: 5 years of Fund for a Better Future			
15.00 - 15.15	CNFC Connector: Home groups			
15.15 - 15.30	Break			
15.30 - 17.00	Session 1 Generating shared value for communities	Session 2 Științescu: the future seen from communities	Session 3 Active boards, strong governance: from formal to functional	Session 4 Youth engagement: how to build communities with and for young people
17.00 - 17.30	Coffee break			
17.30 - 19.00	Marketplace of possibilities Architects of the future: living infrastructure of change <i>Featuring social trend insights with Adina Vlad (Unlock Research)</i>			
19.00 - 21.00	Community dinner			
Friday, 13 March Network Day				
09.30 - 10.00	Welcome & coffee			
10.00 - 10.50	Plenary: Making sense of the future together: collective response capacity			
10.50 - 11.00	Break			
11.00 - 12.30	Session 5 Financial resilience and new business models	Session 6 When i've had enough... can I still keep going? A conversation on wellbeing	Session 7 Communication as trust infrastructure	
12.30 - 13.00	Open space (optional): Experiment Lab			
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch			
14.30 - 16.00	Session 8 What motivates corporate giving?	Session 9 Between us and them: belonging, trust and community courage	Session 10 Making room: civic leadership and legacy	
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee break			
16.30 - 17.00	Plenary: Building Hope			
17.00 - 19.30	Break			
19.30 - 22.00	Community Foundations' Gala (dinner included)			
22.00 - 04.00	Party			

Organised by



Supported by



Session details

Thursday, 12 March | Open day

Investing for Impact: Visions and Resources for Local Philanthropy

- Opening plenary CNFC26
- Thursday, 12 March, 13.30 - 14.50
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Moderators: Laura Popeea (FFCR), Alina Kasprovschi (FC București)
- Speakers: Suzana Dobre (Romanian-American Foundation), Dana Pîrțoc (ARC), Kathrin Dombrowski (European Community Foundation Initiative), Jenny Hodgson (Global Fund for Community Foundations)

The opening session brings together leaders and influential voices from Romanian philanthropy to take a big-picture look at the present and future of community investment. We will explore recent developments and shifts shaping the sector, as well as the ecosystem's key resources - financial and social capital, community infrastructure, partnerships, and knowledge - and how they can be mobilised for long-term change. At the same time, we will discuss current community needs, emerging trends, and external opportunities for more responsible, high-impact investment.

Power of partnership: 5 years of Fund for a Better Future

- Plenary
- Thursday, 12 March, 14.50 - 15.00
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Teodora Albiter (FC Oradea, FFCR), Ștefan Cibian (Institutul de Cercetare Făgăraș)

We celebrate five years of the "Fund for a Better Future in Communities": a programme that has strengthened how the community foundations network collaborates and acts locally, with national-level impact. This moment highlights the findings of the five-year impact study carried out by the Făgăraș Research Institute, as an invitation to gratitude and reflection on how we nurture local potential, build capacity, and spark community initiative.

Generating shared value for communities

- Session 1 (parallel sessions)
- Thursday 12 March, 15.30 - 17.00
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Alina Kasprovschi (FC București), Laura Popeea (FFCR)

A conversation about how the relationship between community foundations and companies is maturing. Building on concrete examples of partnerships that work, we explore where value is created - and how we can move from project funding to the co-design of long-term solutions to community challenges.

Științescu: the future seen from communities

- Session 2 (parallel sessions)
- Thursday 12 March, 15.30 - 17.00
- Room: Panoramic 2, 5th floor
- Coordinator: Sorina Miclea (FFCR)

In a context shaped by uncertainty, rapid change, and accelerated technological developments, this session invites you - together with grant managers from the Științescu network - into a space for connection and reflection on the programme's future and our role in building change from within communities. Through analysis, reflection, and guided imagination exercises, we will explore which needs and resources are becoming essential, what practices need to adapt, and where collective responses are needed so we can build better, together, in the years ahead.

Active boards, strong governance: from formal to functional

- Session 3 (parallel sessions)
- Thursday 12 March, 15.30 - 17.00
- Room: Ametist, 6th floor
- Facilitators: Ana Maria Bugneriu (FC Sibiu), Irina Șerban-Atanasiu (FC Galați)
- Speakeri: Alina Porumb (APT / Inspire), Marius Geru (Board Member, FC Galați)

What does governance really mean for a community foundation? Beyond formal roles and statutory meetings, what does an active, engaged board - one that truly makes a difference to the community - actually look like? This session invites an honest conversation about the opportunities within the Board-Executive relationship. We will explore models that work in practice, create space for reflection and peer exchange, and identify concrete steps to shift governance from a formal requirement into a real engine for direction, coherence, and accountability.

Youth engagement: how to build communities with and for young people

- Session 4 (parallel sessions)
- Thursday 12 March, 15.30 - 17.00
- Room: Safir, ground floor
- Facilitators: Emilia Ciurchea (FC Țara Făgărașului), Maria Ursu (FC Oradea)
- Speakers: Casian Balș (FC Oradea), Ștefania Pică (YouthBank Făgăraș, Board Member FC Țara Făgărașului)

A session on the role of youth programmes as safe spaces (tangible or intangible) where young people can build courage, trust, and the motivation to engage civically. We will have an open conversation about what works, what feels uncomfortable, and the tensions that arise when working with young people from diverse backgrounds, including rural or disadvantaged communities.

The session is designed as a dialogue across perspectives, not to seek consensus, but meaning, learning, and shared directions. We will explore what ecosystems can look like when young people are not only programme participants, but co-creators of their communities, with voice, responsibility, and initiative. We will touch on sensitive topics such as segregation and inequality of opportunity, as well as the very real challenge of working with non-linear processes, while also looking at clear opportunities: the role of youth hubs, intergenerational dialogue, alumni involvement in mentoring, and the potential for innovation and co-design in youth programmes.

Marketplace of possibilities | Architects of the future: living infrastructure of change *Featuring social trend insights with Adina Vlad (Unlock Research)*

- Plenary session followed by a facilitated marketplace of possibilities
- Thursday 12 March, 17.30 - 19.00
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Presentation by Adina Vlad, Unlock Research
- Marketplace facilitators: Alexandra Ștef (Collective Futures), Community Foundation members

The session starts from the major shifts already reshaping society and how they are influencing communities. We will open with a presentation by Adina Vlad (Unlock Research), sharing key insights from Unlock's 2025 trends report and wider research: what changed from mid to late 2025, what we are seeing in people's behaviours and expectations, and emerging movements around social utility and sustainability.

Building on these anchors, we will translate trends into questions that are useful for communities and continue with an ideas world café, bringing together perspectives from NGOs, communities, and companies to shape shared directions and possible solutions—grounded in the resources we have together.

Friday, 13 March | Network Day

Making sense of the future together: collective response capacity

- Plenary
- Friday 13 March, 10.00 - 10.50
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Alexandra Ștef (Collective Futures)

More than one trajectory for Romanian society is already in motion. Some are visible in the public sphere; others are growing more quietly within communities. Building on emerging trends and concrete examples from our network, we will explore possible futures for 2030 and reflect on the kind of collective capacity that helps us influence the direction we want.

This is not an exercise in prediction, but in strategic orientation. The central question is: what future do we make more likely - together?

Financial resilience and new business models

- Session 5 (parallel sessions)
- Friday 13 March, 11.00 - 12.30
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Mihai Căprioară (FC Bacău)

Change is inevitable. How do we make it work for us? Together, we will examine what is already working in our operating models, what should be strengthened or simplified, and where there is room for innovation, so we can adapt creatively to new economic realities and build financial resilience without losing sight of our mission.

When i've had enough... can I still keep going? A conversation on wellbeing

- Session 6 (parallel sessions)
- Friday 13 March, 11.00 - 12.30
- Room: Panoramic 2, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Emilia Ciurchea (FC Țara Făgărașului), Delia Grigoriu (Asociația Roz)

This session is for those who, even when they feel they can't anymore, still push a little further - but want to get to "when I can't anymore, I rest." Expect reflections, dialogue, and shared experiences inspired by a coaching journey that a community foundation executive director didn't think she needed.

Communication as trust infrastructure

- Session 7 (parallel sessions)
- Friday 13 March, 11.00 - 12.30
- Room: Ametist, 6th floor
- Coordinators: Mihaela Gălie (FC București), Sonia Constantin (FFCR)

A practical conversation about how we can build trust, not just visibility, in a polarised society. Starting from community foundations' core assets, such as grantmaking processes and relational capital, we will explore transparency, public voice, and what a genuine relationship with the community looks like.

Experiment Lab (Open space)

- Optional open space
- Friday 13 March, 12.30 - 13.00
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Alexandra Ștef (Collective Futures)

A fast, hands-on space where we turn session insights into concrete experiments you can test over the next 30–90 days. We will work agile, in small teams, to define clear hypotheses, practical next steps, and simple learning criteria. Open to local ideas, cross-foundation collaborations, or network-level initiatives.

What motivates corporate giving?

- Session 8 (parallel sessions)
- Friday 13 March, 14.30 - 16.00
- Room: Panoramic 1, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Alina Kasprovschi (FC București)

A practical workshop on why companies give, what is essential versus what truly sets apart a partnership, and what to do before reaching out to a company, throughout the prospecting process, and after the partnership is secured.

Between us and them: belonging, trust and community courage

- Session 9 (parallel sessions)
- Friday 13 March, 14.30 - 16.00
- Room: Panoramic 2, 5th floor
- Coordinators: Daniela Chesaru (FC Timișoara), Cristina Văileanu (FC București)

A safe and honest space to reflect on how our communities have changed. We will explore how polarisation and transactional mindsets show up in our efforts to bring local communities together and strengthen people's sense of belonging. At the same time, we will surface strategic insights from broader trends and draw inspiration from what is already emerging within our communities.

Making room: civic leadership and legacy

- Session 10 (parallel sessions)
- Friday 13 March, 14.30 - 16.00
- Room: Ametist, 6th floor
- Coordinator: Ana Bugneriu (FC Sibiu)

“Making room” is about how community foundations create the conditions for others to lead within their teams, local networks, and the wider community. We explore leadership through a broader lens: not as a position or title, but as a collective practice that makes room for authentic civic initiative, redistributes responsibility and power, and builds lasting impact. We will look at alternative leadership models and at how a foundation can become the architect of a space where people, groups, and ideas can grow - leadership that is “about them, not about us”.

The session is both practical and reflective: how do we build these conditions in the community, step out of the “main engine” mindset, and lead from clarity rather than ego, so that legacy is not tied to individuals, but to the community’s capacity for civic growth and evolution.

Building Hope

- Closing plenary
- Friday 13 March, 16.30 - 17.30
- Coordinators: Laura Popeea (FFCR), Alina Kasprovschi (FC București)

This session brings together the red threads running through the conference workshops and weaves them into a shared sense-making process - shaping our insights into a common vision of what the “architecture of the future” means, the invisible infrastructures we believe in and draw strength from, and how we can co-create what comes next in our communities and in the world ahead.