

# OPEN SOCIETY IN ITALY

The Open Society Foundations are one of the world's largest private funders of human rights groups—with an annual budget of over \$1 billion. Just under 10 percent of our funding goes to Europe.

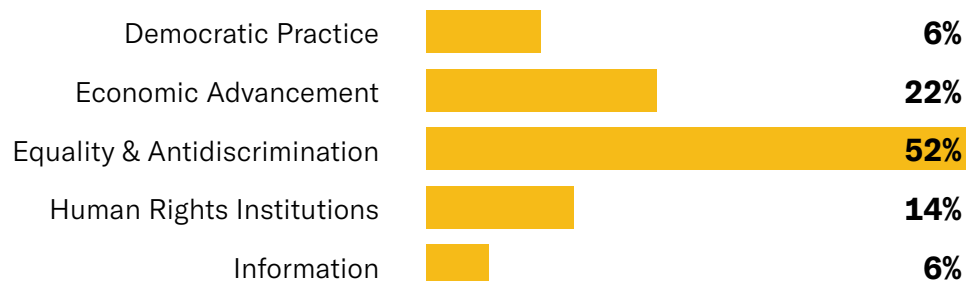
In Western Europe, in countries where democratic traditions are well established, our work has focused on helping people and governments find solutions to the social, economic and political challenges of a rapidly changing, globalized world.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The Open Society Foundations first started working in Italy in 2008. Our work included supporting legal challenges to the concentration of media ownership under the Berlusconi administration, and the successful effort to challenge the legality of draconian legislation targeting Italy's Roma and Sinti minority.

Over the next few years, this focus on combatting discrimination against minorities expanded to address the growing challenge of ensuring the humane treatment of migrants. We have supported groups campaigning to secure media access to closed detention camps, as well as provided backing for efforts to smooth the inclusion of new migrants into Italian society. At the same time, we have worked with groups involved in a range of other issues including: drug policy reform, protecting gay rights, promoting civic and youth participation, and advancing transparency and accountability in government.

## ITALY: 2017 GRANTS BY SECTOR



Total grant giving expenditure in 2017:

**\$2.1M**

Total number of grantees:

**28**

# 9 FACTS ABOUT ITALY

## AND THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

- 1** Open Society Foundations' funding of projects in Italy amounted to around 2.5 percent of our total European grant giving in 2017.
- 2** As part of our global effort to promote accountable government, the Foundations have supported Diritto di Sapere, which helps Italian citizens get answers from government institutions about issues that concern them—such as how much money local authorities allocated to road repairs last year, or the budget of a local hospital.
- 3** In Rome we are supporting the Ecomuseum Casilino ad Duas Lauros to promote a new model of urban planning that responds to the needs of local communities to preserve, interpret, and manage their heritage.
- 4** Across Europe we have supported groups that mobilize local citizens who want to do something to help migrant families. In Italy, Refugees Welcome Italia promotes the integration of refugees who are hosted by Italian families without cost to the state.
- 5** Another of the groups we supported, Terra! Onlus, promotes supply chain transparency and has campaigned for labelling on products to guide consumers towards an informed choice about the products' origins..
- 6** The Open Society Foundations have supported Italian human rights lawyers who have successfully challenged the government on a range of issues, including media ownership, public access to information, illegal data retention and the rights of refugees and Roma.
- 7** We have worked with other philanthropic Italian foundations, including the Nando Peretti Foundation, Fondazione Italiana Charlemagne, Fondazione con il Sud, and Compagnia di San Paolo.
- 8** In the southern city of Naples, we have supported Officine Gomitoli, an inter-cultural center for young people, and ImparareFare, an organization that helps young people to launch their own business ventures and to resume their studies.
- 9** Open Society Foundations is supporting the renovation of a public park in the city of Ventimiglia, on the border with France, as part of efforts to support communities located on European migration routes.