

ESF (Esperantic Studies Foundation)

Por lingva justeco en multkultura mondo | For linguistic justice in a multicultural world

Ekde 1968 | Since 1968



2018: Jarraporto | Annual Report



UN-Simpozio 2018 | UN Symposium 2018

ESF (Esperantic Studies Foundation)

1100 H Street, N.W.

Suite 840

Washington, DC 20005

Enkonduko

Humphrey Tonkin, prezidanto

La jaro 2018 markis la kvindekan datrevenon de ESF. Kreita en 1968, dum kvin jardekoj ĝi provizis daŭran kaj dependeblan subtenon al aro da agadoj rilataj al esplorado kaj edukado pri lingva justeco kaj interlingvistiko, kun aparta atento al Esperanto kaj la Esperanto-parolanta komunumo. Ni strebas krei mediojn, en kiuj lingvoj estas traktataj egale kaj kie komunikado okazas sendiskriminacie. Kiel ni skribis en la pasintjara raporto, "La Fondaĵo donas apartan atenton al "esperantikaj" solvoj: solvoj en kiuj neniu etna lingvo ĝuas avantaĝon super alia."

La pasintjara raporto priskribis 50 jarojn da ekzisto de ESF. Ni ne ripetos la historion ĉi tie. Fakte, ESF planas komisi esplorprojekton, kiu mallonge dokumentos la historion de ESF, por memori, kiel ni atingis la nunan lokon en nia evoluo kaj rekomendi la estontajn direktojn. ESF, ni skribis pasintjare, "estis fondita surbaze de certaj fundamentaj principoj: la esenca kompareblo de lingvoj kiel sociaj sistemoj, la interago de lingvoj kaj komunikado trans lingvaj limoj, kaj la nepreco de egaleco kaj justeco, kune kun efikeco kaj produktivo en tiu interago".



Nia jubilea jaro estis kaj speciala okazo (nia kontribuo al edukado kaj esplorado pri Esperanto, ekzemple, estis agnoskita dum la UK en Lisbono en julio 2018) kaj okazo por plivastigi nian agadon, per la nomumo de doktorino Angela Tellier kiel nia Direktorino pri Esplorado, kaj la divido de nia Konsilantaro en du grupojn: akademia kaj organiza.

Grupigo de diversaj subvencioj kaj programoj por raporti pri ili estas ĉiam komplika: multaj el

nij agadoj kombinas la projektojn, kiujn ni mastrumas, kun projektoj, kiujn ni subvencias, kaj multaj el ili ankaŭ estas farataj kunlabore kun partneraj organizoj. Do ni petas konsideri tion legante nian raporton. Ĉar la plejparto de nia laboro rilatas al esplorado kaj edukado, ni dediĉis po unu sekcion de la raporto al tiuj du temoj, sed ni ankaŭ aldonis trian sekcion, Programoj pri Konservado. Konservado de historio de interlingvistiko, aparte per subvencioj kaj donacado de materialoj al esplorbibliotekoj, fariĝis signifa parto de niaj agadoj. En la kvara sekcio ni parolas pri nia kunlaboro kun partneraj organizoj.

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Introduction

Humphrey Tonkin, President

The year 2018 marked the fiftieth anniversary year of the Esperantic Studies Foundation. Established in 1968, ESF has, over the past fifty years, provided steady and ongoing support for a host of activities related to research and education in linguistic justice and interlinguistics, with particular attention to Esperanto and the Esperanto-speaking community. We seek to create environments in which languages are treated equally and communication among partners takes place in an atmosphere of non-discrimination. As we suggested in our report last year, “The Foundation pays particular attention to esperantic solutions: solutions in which no one ethnic language enjoys an advantage over another.”

Last year’s report described the past fifty years of the Foundation’s existence. We will not repeat that story here. Indeed, the Foundation is in the process of commissioning a brief history of its work, to remind us of how we reached the present point in our development and to provide guidance on the road ahead. ESF, we wrote last year, is “based on certain fundamental assumptions: the essential comparability of languages as social systems, the interaction of languages and of communication across linguistic boundaries, and the need for equality and justice as well as efficacy and efficiency



in that interaction.”

Our jubilee year was both a special occasion (our contribution to education and research on Esperanto, for example, was given special recognition at the World Congress of Esperanto in Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2018) and a time of consolidation and expansion, with the appointment of Dr. Angela Tellier as our Director of Research, and the expansion of our Board of

Advisors into two branches – academic and operational.

Categorizing our various grants and programs for reporting purposes is always complicated: many of our activities combine in-house programs and grant-supported work, or involve not only ESF but also other cooperating organizations. So the reader should bear this in mind when reading the report. Since the bulk of our work relates to research and education, we have devoted a section of the report to each; but we have also added a third section, Programs in Conservation. Conserving the history of interlinguistics, particularly through grants and donations of material to research libraries, has become an important part of our activities. In a fourth section, we describe some collaborative programs with partner organizations.

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Supporting research in linguistic justice, interlinguistics and international linguistic communication

Tekstaro (Tekstaro.com): An Esperanto language corpus

Tekstaro is the largest language corpus available in Esperanto, comprised of more than five million words from approximately eighty important print sources. Texts indexed in Tekstaro begin with Zamenhof's *Unua Libro* (1887) and extend to beyond the year 2000, with selections from the periodicals *Ondo de Esperanto* and *Monato*. Tekstaro allows dynamic research into Esperanto usage, ranging from single-word searches to complex simultaneous comparisons of grammatical and multi-word lexical expressions. ESF has funded several phases of development of Tekstaro, all carried out by the Academy of Esperanto member Bertilo Wennergren. In 2017 additional critical works by Zamenhof were added, along with important works published between 1930 and 1970. Development for 2018 included the addition of more detailed linguistic coding and tags, allowing even more detailed searches.

United Nations

In a world in which thousands of languages are spoken (as many as 7000, according to some experts), no international organization can practice total linguistic equality. The United Nations uses six working languages in the General Assembly, two working languages in its New York and Geneva offices, and various other linguistic combinations in its specialized agencies. Two civil society organizations, the Universal Esperanto Association and the Study Group on Language and the United Nations, concern themselves directly with the promotion of language equity and parity at the United Nations and with the study of UN language policy and practices. The UN's development agenda is focused on the Sustainable Development Goals, designed not only to improve the

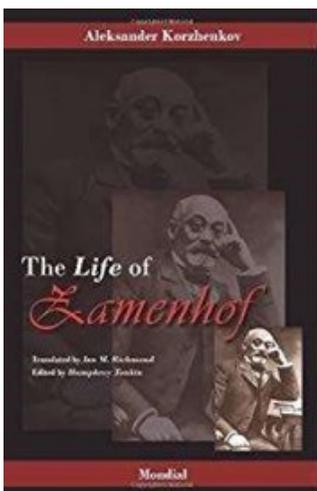


management of the planet, but also to create dialogue and communal action extending beyond the UN itself. Such an effort cannot be successful without listening to, and responding to, all of the world's peoples, regardless of the languages they speak. ESF supports both of these civil society organizations, providing occasional financial support for UEA's New York representation, and underwriting (along with other organizations) the annual symposium of the Study Group.

The topic of the 2018 symposium was "Multilingualism in International Organizations and in International Cooperation." Over 100 members of the UN staff and missions, academics, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and others came together on May 10 and 11 to hear papers, lectures, and panel discussions and to participate in debate. The keynote address was given by Michele Gazzola (Ulster University, UK) and among the panelists were the ambassadors of Argentina, Belarus, and Guyana, along with the Permanent Observer of the International Organization of La Francophonie. A report of the symposium is available at www.languageandtheun.org. ESF joined with the Center for Applied Linguistics (Washington, DC), and Birkbeck, University of London, in underwriting the symposium.

Esperanto and Interlinguistics in Universities

On August 4 and 5, 2018, in Lisbon, Portugal, ESF convened its own Nitobe Symposium on “Esperanto and Universities.” (The occasional Nitobe Symposia honor the memory of Japanese diplomat Nitobe Inazo; the next Nitobe Symposium will be held in Montreal in 2020.) Some fifty scholars and university representatives met to discuss the present state of interlinguistics and Esperanto studies in universities across the world, including universities in Poland, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Spain, and the United States. The Lisbon symposium helped ESF and others to define educational and funding priorities for the years ahead and to establish cooperation around bibliographical services for research libraries and around curriculum development and research initiatives.



The Zamenhof Biography Project

In 2009, the Russian scholar Alexander Korzhenkov published his biography of the founder of Esperanto, L.L. Zamenhof. In 2010, ESF funded the publication of an abridged version in English, translated by Ian M. Richmond. On the occasion of the centennial of Zamenhof’s death in 2017,

ESF launched an effort to translate the book into additional languages. Two such translations have appeared in the period 2017-2018, both with ESF’s support: Italian and Portuguese.

Information for Interlinguists

The year 2018 marked the first full year of ESF’s publication of the Esperanto-language *Informilo por Interlingvistoj* (Ipl) and its English-language counterpart

Information for Interlinguists (IfI). These newsletters provide news and notes on research, publication and teaching on interlinguistics and related topics. Ipl has a long history in previous versions; IfI was launched in 2017. Both newsletters are published three or four times a year and are available on ESF’s website. Editors in 2018 were Yevgeniya Amis, Angela Tellier, and Humphrey Tonkin.

Interlinguistics Support Fund

The Interlinguistics Support Fund is administered by the Center for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems, on behalf of ESF. A three-member committee (Jesper Jakobsen, France; Velimir Piskorec, Croatia; Angela Tellier, UK) reviews and recommends proposals for small grants to attend conferences, travel to libraries, support publications, etc. for researchers on interlinguistic topics.

Among grants in 2018 were support to Byelongo Elisee Isheloke (South Africa), Alessandra Madella (China and Italy) and Xavier Alcalde (Spain) to present papers at conferences. The Fund also supported the organization of a course on interlinguistics at the University of Leipzig (Prof. Sabine Fiedler).

Additional Grants

- The Foundation provided a small grant to support an exhibition on Esperanto writer and activist Tibor Sekelj (Herzberg, Germany).
- Support was provided to Orlando Raola (USA) for a visit to the Planned Languages Section of the Austrian National Library, Vienna, to discuss bibliographical cooperation.

ESF provided funding to the Italian Esperanto Federation for publication of an Esperanto translation of Christopher Chippindale’s *High Way to Heaven*, a biography of pioneer Esperanto poet Clarence Bicknell, born in Britain, resident in Italy, one of the founders of the Italian Esperanto movement.

Disseminating knowledge of Esperanto, language planning and interlinguistics

Lernu! (lernu.net)

One of the earliest on-line courses in Esperanto, Lernu!, has, over the past decade and a half, revolutionized the learning of Esperanto, attracting hundreds of thousands of learners. The course was largely financed in its development stage by ESF. In 2016 it underwent a major redesign and relaunch, completed in July 2016 with ESF support, and offering what is essentially a new Esperanto course with hundreds of exercises, illustrations, and a large searchable library. The course contains abundant exercises, illustrations and audio, and it follows the guidelines of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. It also includes a detailed Esperanto grammar and a revamped forum system, dictionaries, and translation function. In 2018, in what is a remarkable success story, Lernu! was spun off from ESF as a fully functioning independent operation. Lernu! is now based in Germany and operates in 35 languages.



website. The courses ended in 2018 following residential training and exams in Madrid, Spain, and Cotonou, Benin.

Risko: The RISKO educational game celebrated its fifth year in 2018 and is the most popular part of the website.

Offline courses and training: The website's editor, Katalin Kovats, continued to organize or participate in offline courses across the globe, including NASK in the U.S.A., courses in various places in Europe (Poland, Netherlands, France, Spain), and a course during the World Esperanto Congress in Lisbon, Portugal.

Exams: Edukado and its editor organized and administered Esperanto examinations according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The exams have so far been taken by 2242 persons, with 230 successful examinees in 2018. For more information (Esperanto only) click [here](#).

About Edukado: Edukado is a comprehensive website for Esperanto teachers and students, which ESF has supported from the very beginning of the project in 2001. It is also a living and thriving Esperanto community with approximately 5,000 active users from 133 countries. The website has numerous activities in the field of Esperanto education (both online and offline). ESF continues to support Edukado with a monthly honorarium to its editor, Katalin Kovats.

Edukado (edukado.net)

Edukado continues to be the site of choice for Esperanto teachers and students. It includes the following particularly popular programs:

Ekparolu!, which links beginning Esperanto speakers ("nephews and nieces") with more experienced speakers ("uncles and aunts"), began in 2017 and continued to grow in popularity in 2018 with about 60 experienced speakers helping 150 beginners in 1600 Skype sessions. Ten students progressed sufficiently to become an "uncle or aunt."

Klerigejo: Edukado's second most important program started in 2017 with the launching of several intensive online training courses on the education part of the

Advanced Studies in
Interlinguistics and
Esperantology, Adam
Mickiewicz University,
Poznan, Poland



The current cohort of students in the Interlinguistics Certificate Program in Poznan entered their second year

in 2018. This unique and prestigious program in Esperantology and Interlinguistics is taught by some of the world's best-known Esperantists, in one of the largest and most respected universities in Poland, Adam Mickiewicz University.

In addition to a \$5,000 grant in 2018, ESF matched the first \$2,500 in donations received from members of the public, alumni, and other supporters. With facilitation by Katalin Kovats and Edukado.net, the program received donations of \$3,134 resulting in total support of \$10,634. This money is used for tuition scholarships and other



needs.

North American Summer Esperanto Institute (NASK)

The 49th North American Summer Esperanto Institute (NASK), which has had many venues over the years, returned for a fifth time to William Peace University in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Esperanto Performing Arts and Film Festival (KTF) took place concurrently and participants could attend both programs. The 86 participants came from 21 US states, Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, Kenya and Chile, so the atmosphere was really international.

During the eight-day course, formal classes took place every day at three levels, including, for the first time in many years, a course for beginners. The teaching team consisted of Anna Löwenstein (Italy and UK) and Jose Antonio Vergara (Chile) in two higher level courses, Katalin Kovats (Hungary and the Netherlands) in the course for intermediate students, and Thomas Alexander

of the United States teaching the beginners' course.

Many of the afternoon and evening activities enjoyed by the participants were reported in the daily news bulletin "The NASKA FASKO," which was edited by Brian Harmon, who also led many of the interesting excursions within walking distance of the university. You can read the bulletins at: <http://nask.esperanto-usa.org/jurnalo/>.

William Peace University: A course on language

In 2017 and 2018, the Foundation provided a grant to William Peace University, Raleigh, North Carolina, to support its global studies and political science majors and its foreign language offerings. (WPU, as we note above, is also the host institution for NASK, ESF's North American Summer Course in Esperanto.) In 2018 this initial grant was expanded to facilitate the planning and offering, in cooperation with ESF and with the assistance of its network of experts, of a course on world language that would include video presentations by leading linguists from around the world, videoconferences with these individuals, and on-site guidance and support from a WPU faculty member. The course was launched in the spring semester of 2019. It is hoped that the course might be adapted for use by other higher education institutions in the future.

Additional Grants

- The Foundation provided a grant to support SES, a Summer Esperanto Workshop in Europe.
- Support was provided to Thomas Alexander (USA) for the preparation of teaching videos and to Charlotte Burton (USA) for a webinar on teaching Esperanto.
- A major grant to support the Chair in Esperanto and Interlinguistics at the University of Amsterdam, funded in 2017, covers the five-year period 2018-2023.

ESF supported a polyglot meeting in Slovakia and a similar activity, LangFest, in Montreal, Canada.

Conservation

Preserving the history of interlinguistics and Esperantic studies

Princeton University and the University of Massachusetts

In our 2017 report we noted that “Despite the fact that thousands of volumes have been published in Esperanto over the years, the topic is chronically under-represented in US university libraries.” However, “a rise in interest in research on planned languages in general and Esperanto in particular has led to grants by ESF to the Firestone Library at Princeton University and the Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts.” With three tenured faculty members with an interest in Esperanto and planned language, Princeton is augmenting its collection of printed books and expanding its holdings of historically important documents relating to planned languages of all kinds. The University of Massachusetts is building on an earlier gift, namely its Boschen Collection of printed books in and on Esperanto, to create an archival collection of primary materials illustrating the history of Esperanto and planned languages in North America.

ESF is supporting these efforts in two ways: first, by grants to assist in new purchases (Princeton) and financial support for scanning and cataloguing (Massachusetts), and, second, by hunting down and making available to the two institutions the papers of individual Esperantists, local Esperanto groups, and the international Esperanto



movement. It is also amassing printed materials, in the form of gifts from individual Esperantists and books purchased from book services (such as that of Esperanto-USA: a significant purchase in 2018 at the time of the relocation of the E-USA office allowed the Foundation to make substantial in-kind gifts to the two libraries). These ongoing efforts have resulted in several ESF in-kind gifts to both institutions in the course of 2018.

Planned Language Collection, Austrian National Library

The Austrian National Library has one of the world’s largest collections of Esperanto books and periodicals. In 2018 the Foundation provided its Planned Language Collection with a grant to organize, in October 2019, an international invitational symposium on “Esperanto, Planned Languages and Language Planning.”

Hector Hodler Library, Rotterdam

The Foundation has a longstanding interest in the Universal Esperanto Association’s extensive Hector Hodler Library, in Rotterdam. A gift in 2018 for general support helped underwrite the library’s operations.



Collaboration

Working with partner organizations in advancing ESF's priorities



Universal Esperanto Association

As we have already noted, it is sometimes hard to distinguish between gifts to other organizations and active partnerships with these organizations. Support for the Universal Esperanto Association's programs, for example, includes, among other initiatives, gifts to the library, direct and indirect financial support for planning UEA's 2020 World Congress of Esperanto in Montreal, and support for UEA's representation at the United Nations in New York (the Association enjoys formal cooperative relations with the UN's Economic and Social Council).

Esperanto USA

A similar close working relationship exists with UEA's affiliated organization Esperanto-USA. In 2018 the Foundation made scholarships for NASK available to Esperanto-USA and provided it with resources to support new initiatives, particularly among young people.

CALICO

In 2004, ESF began sponsoring an annual award for an outstanding language learning website, in collaboration with the Computer-Aided Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO). CALICO is one of the two largest

organizations in the world focused on computer-aided language learning (CALL), which is the foundation of foreign language teaching all over the world. The award is presented to a CALICO member or group for creating innovative language learning resources in any and all languages. Over its history, sites receiving the 'Esperanto Access to Language Education' (ALE) award have varied from those focused on large languages like Spanish, Chinese, French, and Russian, to the very infrequently taught Macedonian and Aymara, and to specialized language learning sites, such as the multilingual employment-oriented EuroCatering Language Training initiative.

As in previous years, the 2018 award was presented during the CALICO Annual Symposium by ESF Board member Derek Roff. The award was [accepted](#) by Dr. Catherine Ryu and the Michigan State Libraries for their website, Tone Perfect: Multimodal Database for Mandarin Chinese. This site offers students around the world a chance to hear and practice the complex tonal system of Chinese, with nearly ten thousand sound files demonstrating tone examples of many words, spoken by native speakers. The recipients of the ALE award for every year can be viewed on the CALICO Awards website: <https://calico.org/home/awards/>



Operations and Administration

Executive Director

The year 2018 was the first full year that Charles O. Mays served as ESF's part-time Executive Director.

His responsibilities include organizing and documenting meetings, ensuring implementation of Board decisions, keeping track of expenditures and revenue, managing the website, and writing and issuing press releases. Chuck has continued to strengthen the linkage between Esperanto-USA and ESF and he continued to meet most weeks with Filipo Dorcas, the president of E-USA. During the year he served as the main liaison with William Peace University (WPU) for the NASK program team and is working with WPU to find ways to collaborate more closely with ESF. Chuck provides support to Yevgeniya Amis, the ESF development officer, on fundraising and marketing activities and to Angela Tellier on Academic Coordination.

Development

In 2018 our director of development, Yevgeniya Amis, continued to focus on fundraising. Donations in 2018 totaled \$25,788, somewhat less than the previous year (when the total of \$31,000 included a single one-time gift of \$12,500) but still a good result. ESF board members once again gave generously, and support came from many regular contributors and numerous new contributors, with a few new contributors at the \$1000 level.

Starting mid-2018, Paige Miles began posts to Facebook and Twitter on behalf of ESF.

In 2018 Yevgeniya Amis created and coordinated the delivery of materials and presentations for the World Esperanto Congress, and continued to communicate with our audiences through our newsletter.



Academic Coordination

In mid-2018, Angela Tellier of the UK took over the reins from Asya Pereltsvaig as the leader of our academic coordination efforts. Highlights of academic coordination in 2018 include:

- A general publicity flyer, now in Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, English, Romanian, and French, which was advertised to university groups not only in Europe and the USA but also in South America, Asia, and Africa;
- Beginning the work to update the ESF Website;
- Coordinating the translation of the book *La Homa Lingvo* (Collinson) into English;
- An increase in networking activity with ILEI (International League of Esperanto Teachers) and others by reaching out to key individuals in the interlinguistics community;
- Worked with Edukado.net to clarify the database of University contacts.

Angela also worked on the publications *Informilo por Interlingvistoj (IPI)* and *Information for Interlinguists (IfI)* and continues to work with students of interlinguistics to link them with supervisors and to provide support.

Board of Directors

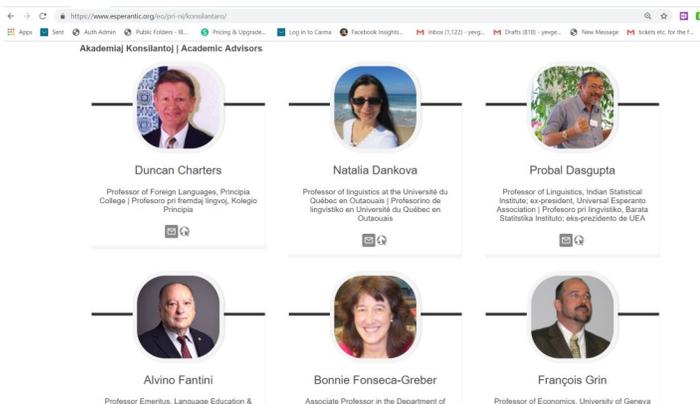
- Humphrey Tonkin (USA) completed his third year as ESF president
- Derek Roff (USA) continued as Secretary
- Ben Speakmon (USA) continued as Treasurer
- Anna Bennett (USA)
- Wallace Du Temple (Canada)
- Mark Fettes (Canada)
- Grant Goodall (USA)
- Geoffrey Greatrex (Canada)
- Esther Schor (USA).

In addition to monthly teleconferences, the Board met in Seattle, Washington, in July for its annual Board Retreat. The day-to-day management of ESF continued to be delegated by the Board to its Operations Committee, consisting of Tonkin, Bennett, Speakmon, Roff, and Du Temple, plus the Executive Director ex officio.

Advisory Board

In 2018, ESF completed the division of the Advisory Board into Academic Advisors and Organizational Advisors. We reluctantly accepted the resignation of John Edwards from the Advisory Board. No new members were added. The two sections of the Advisory Board are now:

Academic Advisors

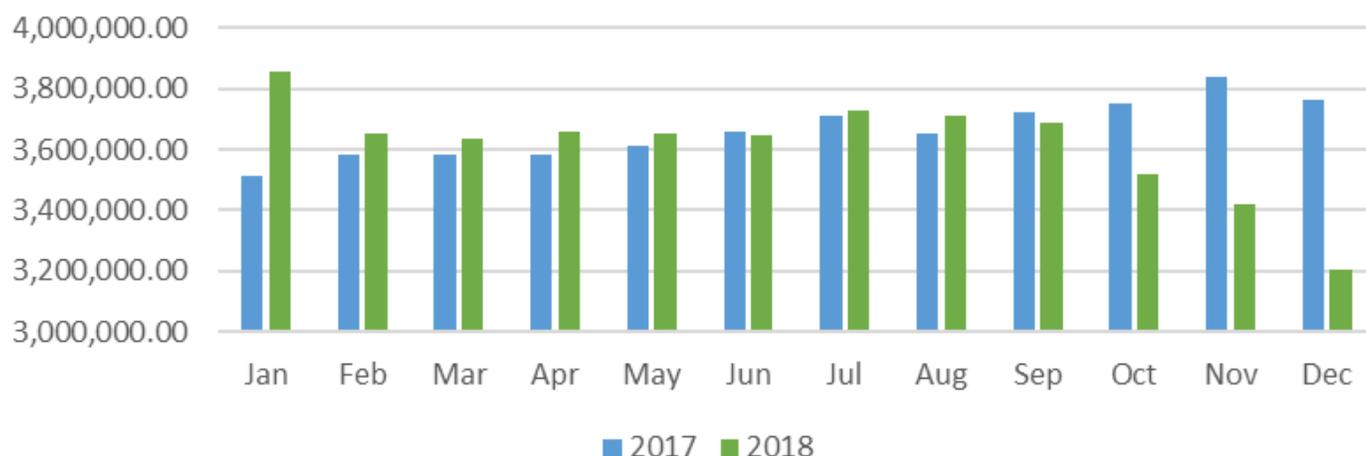


- Duncan Charters (Principia College, USA)
- Natalia Dankova (University of Quebec, Canada)
- Probal Dasgupta (Indian Statistical Institute, India)
- Alvino Fantini (School for International Training, USA)
- Bonnie Fonseca-Greber (University of Louisville, USA)
- François Grin (University of Geneva, Switzerland)
- David K. Jordan (University of California San Diego, USA)
- Sho Konishi (Oxford University, UK)
- Arika Okrent (author, USA)
- Jonathan Pool (Utilika Foundation, USA)
- Timothy Reagan (University of Maine, USA)
- Ian Richmond (Université Sainte-Anne, Canada)
- Klaus Schubert (Universität Hildesheim, Germany)
- Nancy Schweda-Nicholson (University of Delaware, USA)

Organizational Advisors

- Ulrich Becker (publisher, Mondial, New York, USA)
- Normand Fleury (arboriculturist, Canada)
- David Gaines (composer, USA)
- Gary Grady (financial specialist, USA)
- Katalin Kovats (edukado.net, Netherlands)
- Jed Meltzer (neurorehabilitation scientist, Canada)
- Lee Miller (ASL interpreter, USA)
- Erin Piateski (Lernu.net, USA)
- Martin Schäffer (Mondo Foundation, Germany and Mexico)
- Alan Simon (computer specialist, Canada)
- Sebastian Tonkin (software specialist and entrepreneur, USA)

ESF Equity Total 2018 versus 2017



Finances

Income

Dividends contributed \$113,119 and direct public support was approximately \$25,788,000 in 2018.

Cash on Hand

As of 31 December 2018, ESF held approximately \$43,758 in cash. These liquid funds are held in USD and EUR.

Grants and Charitable Expenditures

In 2017, ESF expended \$240,275 in grants. The largest grants went to Princeton University, University of Massachusetts, William Peace University, Esperanto-USA, Canadian Esperanto Association and the Universal Esperanto Association. Among others, charitable projects included NASK, Edukado, Tekstaro, The Vienna National Library and the Study Group on Language and the United Nations.

Administrative Costs

In 2018, a total of \$72,461 was spent on administrative

costs, including \$30,830 for the half-time executive director, \$10,000 for development and marketing, \$7,300 for accounting and \$2,000 for academic coordination. Costs were higher than anticipated for bank charges (international wire transfers) at \$3,070 and shipping (books to libraries) at \$1,389.

ESF Equity

The ESF equity corpus decreased in 2018 by \$525,819 (from \$3,760,869 to \$3,202,516) owing to volatility in stock market conditions and the need to sell some equity to fund grants to meet IRS rules to avoid a high (30%) tax burden. The total equity amount was stabilized by good advice from our financial advisor. Through increased donations in future years, ESF can avoid the need to sell equity to meet the IRS minimum for grants awarded during the year.

