

## Highlight events 2026

With four flagship events lined up, we look forward to interacting with grantees and other stakeholders in 2026:

May  
2026

**Y15 Anniversary Gala**  
Zurich, Switzerland

May/June  
2026

**American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)**  
Chicago, United States

August  
2026

**Grantee Summit**  
Schaffhausen, Switzerland

October  
2026

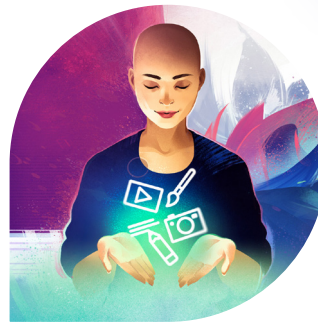
**European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)**  
Mardid, Spain

December  
2026

**Co-Creation Forum**  
Canary Islands, Spain

## Patient Arts for Health Global Exhibition

Share your artwork! To participate, visit our exhibition application page, and submit your personal piece of art. Any modality is welcome: painting, poetry, music, video, photography, or mixed media.



Share your artwork

## Contact

**RISING TIDE FOUNDATION**  
**RISING TIDE FOUNDATION FOR CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH**  
Herrenacker 15  
CH-8200 Schaffhausen, Switzerland  
+41526307080  
[www.risingtide-foundation.org](http://www.risingtide-foundation.org)

Editor: Sabine Hutter  
©2025 Rising Tide GmbH

**RISING TIDE**  
Foundation

**RISING TIDE**  
Foundation for Clinical  
Cancer Research

**RISING TIDE**



**Annual Brochure**  
**2025**



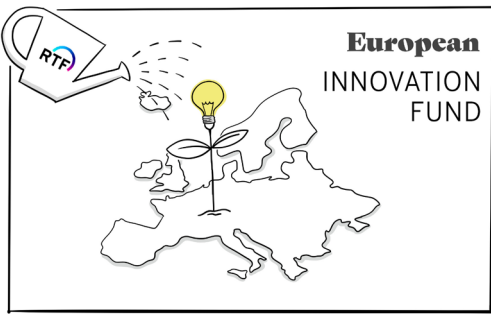
Freedom in Practice

Liberty Communications Lab

In collaboration with Young Voices, a non-profit dedicated to promoting classical liberal voices in the media, we launched the **Liberty Communications Lab**. In Europe, many pro-liberty organizations produce exceptional research and content but often have limited capacity to cut through the noise of today's media landscape. The Liberty Communications Lab supports European think tanks with specialized hands-on training and consultancy to improve their writing ability and media connections, strengthen their social media outreach, and amplify their public relations to help them ultimately make a stronger case for freedom across the continent.



Liberty Communications Lab



European Innovation Fund

In June 2025, the Rising Tide Foundation launched the **European Innovation Fund**. This program will reinvigorate and nurture the spirit of innovation and optimism in Europe by supporting creators, builders, and unorthodox thinkers to test their new ideas, challenge the status quo, and uncover market-based solutions to some of the continent's most pressing challenges. We envision a Europe where individuals and organizations can experiment, challenge entrenched systems, and establish new pathways for progress.



European Innovation Fund

European Free Speech Network

The freedom to speak, debate, and dissent is the bedrock of a flourishing society, yet this fundamental right faces unique challenges across Europe. To combat this trend, RTF, in collaboration with the British-based **Academy of Ideas**, co-funded a foundational project to build a **European Free Speech Network**. This continent-wide initiative is bringing together over 50 organizations, and experts to better understand the key threats to free speech. In September 2025, more than 30 individuals from across the continent came together to lay the groundwork for a collaborative community dedicated to defending freedom of expression in Europe for years to come.



Mission

Promote freedom to improve quality of life everywhere

Vision

To be the partner that empowers individuals to live on their own terms



Shawn Stephenson  
Board Chairman of  
Rising Tide Foundation

A word from our Chairman

As Rising Tide approaches its 15th anniversary, I am immensely proud of what our foundations have achieved together. Over the last decade and a half, we have supported over 300 projects that have touched the lives of millions of individuals and empowered them to live on their own terms. These projects have focused on two main areas: improving patient outcomes with better treatment and care and igniting sparks of freedom across the globe.

In recent years, we have undergone a pivotal evolution, transitioning from a purely grant-making organization to becoming a leader within an ecosystem dedicated to advancing global agency and flourishing. This transformation means bringing together diverse actors, both in civil society and the medical community. Through this ecosystem, we can remove barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their potential, support patient-centered innovation, facilitate new collaborations, and identify pathways that no single actor could have envisioned alone.

Throughout 2025, we have developed a comprehensive strategy that emphasizes deepening and expanding this ecosystem around our core activities—both in Cancer Research and Freedom in Practice. This strategic direction also represents a unique opportunity to explore the intersection between these two fields bridging our foundations' complementary strengths and find new opportunities to improve quality of life everywhere.

As we embark on this next chapter in Rising Tide's journey, we do so with purpose and passion. Together, we will continue building a world where every individual has the agency to flourish and the freedom to thrive.

The best is yet to come.



Wendelin Zellmayer  
CEO of Rising Tide GmbH

A message from our CEO

This year at Rising Tide has been defined by connection and innovation. As we undergo our own strategic review, collaboration and a dream to cultivate a vibrant ecosystem that empowers individuals to live on their own terms remain at the heart of our work. In 2025, while we expanded our programs across the world, we actively increased our activities in Europe.

In our Freedom in Practice program, we are building the infrastructure for a more vibrant civil society in Europe. In collaboration with the Academy of Ideas, we helped launch the European Free Speech Network, connecting over 50 organizations and experts in defending freedom of expression. With the Liberty Communications Lab, we are providing media training to pro-liberty think tanks, and our new European Innovation Fund will support a new generation of market-based solution builders.

This collaborative spirit is mirrored in our Clinical Cancer Research program, which is championing a more cooperative and patient-centered approach to clinical research. As part of the ATTRACT initiative to fund Pan-European cancer trials, we have fostered multidisciplinary partnerships among key stakeholders. Together with the Anticancer Fund, we supported a position paper advocating for EU regulatory changes to accelerate drug repurposing, thereby enabling faster and cost-effective access to treatments.

From strengthening civil society to advancing patient-led research, our work demonstrates that we are stronger together. As we finalize our future strategy, our commitment to a freer and healthier world grows stronger. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Clinical Cancer Research

Grantee Spotlight

The SAKK 01/18 trial, "Reduced-intensity radiochemotherapy for stage IIA/B seminoma," co-funded by RTFCCR and led by Dr. Alexandros Papachristofilou (University Hospital Basel, RTFCCR Advisory Board member), demonstrated that reduced-intensity treatment is safe and effective, with fewer side effects, including fertility. Patient partner Kai Ronecker, diagnosed at 25, helped expand inclusion criteria to recurrent cases. This work led to an NCCN guideline update, marking a milestone in patient-centered cancer care.



Grantee Spotlight



Dr. Alexandros Papachristofilou and Kai Ronecker



European Charities Partnership

ATTRACT is an international program funding collaborative clinical trials for rare cancers. Launched in September 2024 by six European cancer charities, including RTFCCR, it unites researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates to address the challenges of developing therapies for these cancers. RTFCCR contributed to the Patient Involvement strategy, ensuring all trials are patient-centered with active patient partner participation in design and execution.



ATTRACT Collaboration

Anticancer Fund Position Paper 2025

In April 2025, the Anticancer Fund published a position paper on overcoming barriers to repurposing authorized drugs in the EU—a cost-effective way to develop treatments for rare or pediatric cancers. RTFCCR contributed to this document, advocating for policies like Article 48 of the proposed EU Pharmaceutical Regulation, which would allow non-profits to submit evidence for new uses and speed patient access to innovative therapies.

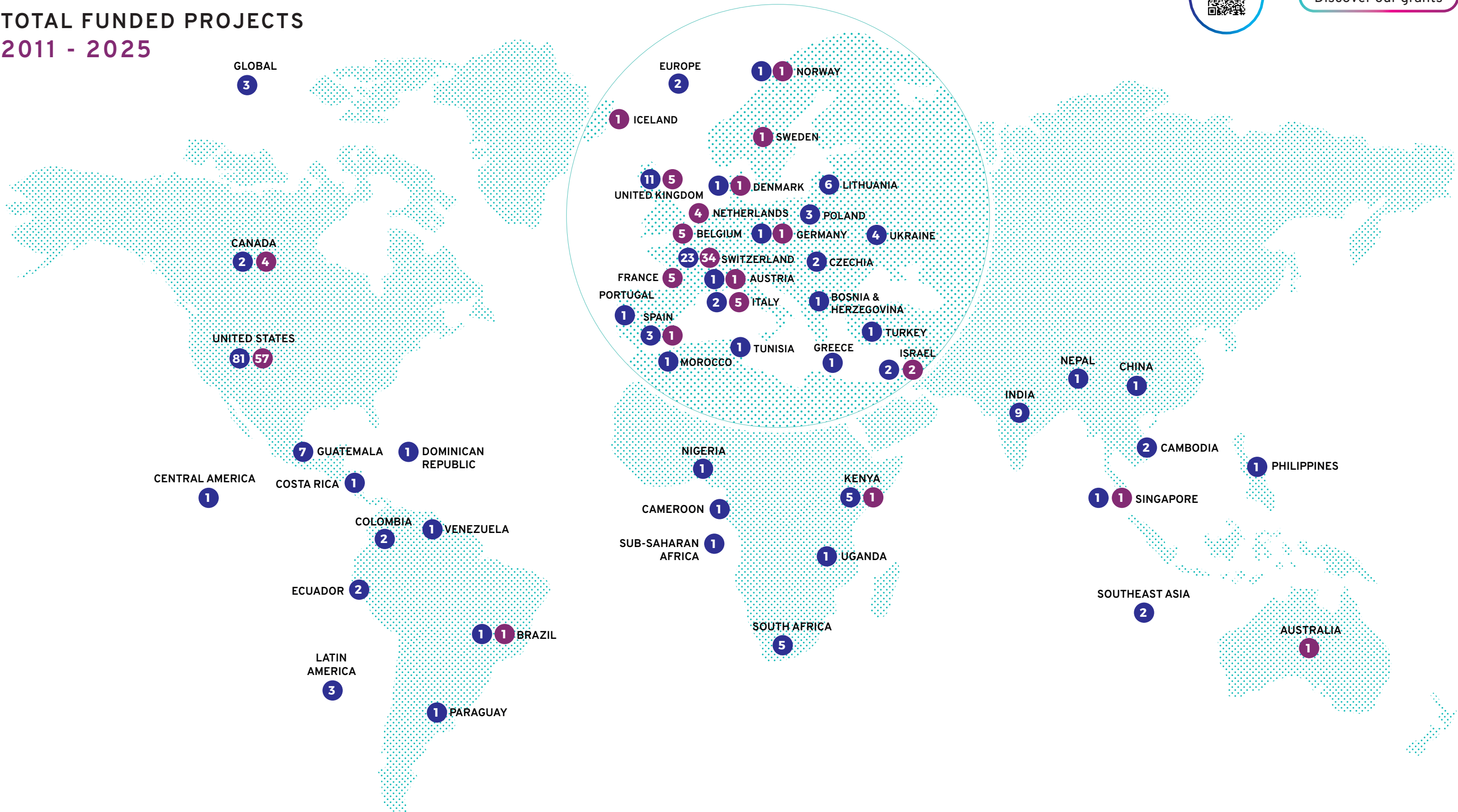
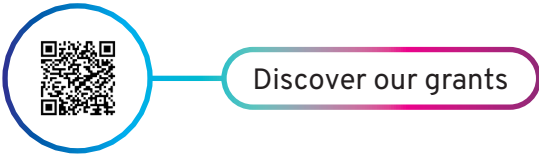


ACF Position Paper



# A world of difference

TOTAL FUNDED PROJECTS  
2011 - 2025



RTF

206  
FUNDED  
PROJECTS

61 ACTIVE GRANTS  
145 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED GRANTS

RTFCCR

133  
FUNDED  
PROJECTS

54 ACTIVE GRANTS  
51 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED GRANTS