

# Stichting Volle Zon

Policy paper 2020-2025

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## 1. Introduction

Stichting Volle Zon is a public benefit organisation based in the Netherlands and exclusively organized for non-profit and charitable purposes. Stichting Volle Zon was created end 2014 in Amsterdam. The motivation of the founders was to create an institution that would finance impactful projects that make a real difference in the lives of children in need and people living with autism. This policy plan gives an overview of the mission, strategy, activities and financial planning set out for Stichting Volle Zon for the period 2020 - 2025

## 2. Mission

The mission of the foundation is two-fold:

1. Support education and skills training for children and youth in developing countries
2. Help people living with autism lead fulfilling and rewarding lives

## 3. Strategy and Activities

Volle Zon provides financial support in the form of grants to non-profit organisations, social purpose institutions and educational projects and organisations that share the same mission. Hereunder a more detailed description of the two grant making programs of the foundation and the heart of the work of the foundation.

### Education

The foundation supports schools, educational programs and skills trainings for children and youth living in poverty in developing countries. The focus of this grant making program is to support the educational development of children and youth in order to provide them with an opportunity to become self-sufficient in the future and lift themselves out of poverty. The focus on children lies in primary education. The focus on youth lies in providing technical skills trainings in order to give them an opportunity to learn a trade. Apart from supporting organisations, in the area of education, the foundation also grants specific scholarships to individuals so they can pursue a higher level education.

The beneficiaries of the education grants are children in need, living in the poorest countries in the developing world. During the period 2015 - 2020 covered by this policy paper, the foundation will keep focussing its education grants on projects in Haiti. In the previous period the foundation gave grants to Plein Soleil at Port au Prince in Haiti. They run two primary schools for poor children.

### Autism

The foundation supports a broad range of projects dedicated to advancing the understanding and awareness of people living with autism as well as direct support for people living with autism. The types of projects and organisations the foundation supports in the field of autism include research, advancing treatments, clinical care, advocacy, education, job coaching and placement, policy, awareness raising and information dissemination.

The main beneficiaries of the autism related grants are people living with autism and their families. The foundation funds projects and institutions working on autism around the world and does not have a particular regional focus.

### Strategy and activities

The foundation actively seeks partner institutions and organisations that share the same mission and goals. Individuals, institutions and projects are sought proactively by the Board of Directors and are invited to send funding proposals. The foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals. Once the foundation finds its partners, it believes in fostering and building long-term partnerships with its partners. The Board of Directors is in charge of finding and funding its partners.

## 4. Organizational Structure

The organization was set up with the following two Board of Director members:

- Klaas de Poel Chairman
- Michele Vaillaud, Treasurer
- Pascale Marchal, Secretary

Board members serve a 6 year term and may be re-elected indefinitely.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the governance policy. Responsibilities of the Board of Directors are described in detail in the bylaws of the foundation. Hereunder a short summary of some of the most important tasks of the Board::

- Ensure the organization carries out the mission it has set for itself
- Ensure the organization respects laws that apply to its activities (tax and legal)
- Manage the financial affairs of the organization (assets, budgets, spending, grant-making and funding projects)
- Maintain records required such as minutes of meetings and grant making transfers
- Find and review funding proposals as well as allocate funding to the approved grants
- Nominate and elect new Board members in the event a member's term is terminated by choice, disability or death

The Board of Directors has two annual meetings. One meeting focuses on grant making and the second meeting revises the annual financial status. Extra meetings take place whenever the Board determines is necessary.

Board meetings take place in meetings where members are present in person or by telephone conference call. Written records (minutes) are made during the annual Board of Director meeting by the foundation's secretary or other person requested by the Chair. Decisions are taken by majority vote. In the event of meetings held by telephone conference call, written consent is signed by the members not present at the meeting.

## 5. Financial management & grant making budget

### Endowment investment policy

The endowment of the foundation was created from a gift of a donor in 2014. The purpose of the endowment is to generate a permanent expendable income stream in order to allow the foundation to carry out its mission today and in the future. The endowment permits the foundation to be independent of any fundraising activities and allows it to plan programs into the future. It is expected that the endowment fund will exist in perpetuity and that the foundation is able to continue its funding purpose for generations to come.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the investment policy and guidelines for the foundation. The objectives of the endowment are to: a) maximize long-term total return, b) preserve and enhance the real purchasing power of the endowment, and c) maximize the grant making ability of the foundation in the future.

The endowment “spending policy” (pay out) is expected to be between 3%-5%, computed over a three to five year period, depending on the annual return earned by the endowment fund. The investment policy aims to protect the endowment from the effects of inflation while at the same time allow for a high enough return in order to pursue the grant making goals and purpose of the foundation. In the event the endowment creates financial returns that are lower than expected, the Board of Directors may choose to spend part of the endowment capital. In years with large financial return, the Board of Directors may choose to allow the endowment to grow in order to increase grant making activities in the future.

### Grant making budget

During the period of 2020 - 2025 the foundation hopes to have an annual grant making budget of around USD 50.000.=. It is expected that 80% of the grant making budget will be allocated to Education grants and the remaining 20% to Autism grants. The board will review this split occasionally and if considered necessary, adjust the split.

### Expected costs

The foundation does not have any major administrative costs during the next five years. The foundation has no staff and all work is undertaken voluntarily by the Board of Directors. The costs made by the foundation are limited to costs such as website, bank account and accountant controls.

## 6. Annexes

Extract Chamber of Commerce of Amsterdam  
Copy of the Bylaws  
Copy of the ANBI Status