10 YEARS

HASSO PLATTNER FOUNDATION

A DECADE OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Hasso Plattner Foundation at Ten:
2015–2025

FOUNDER

The Foundation's first decade was a formative chapter, during which we learned to create opportunities that expanded the impact of our initiatives.

Hasso Plattner
Founder

Hasso Plattner

Hasso Plattner's focus on innovation has guided his engagement across technology, art, and philanthropy.

As a co-founder of SAP in 1972, Hasso Plattner played a defining role in software engineering. Under his leadership, SAP developed software that transformed how businesses manage their operations worldwide.

His striving for excellence is evident not only in his business approach but also in his philanthropic projects. Hasso Plattner's engagement in education is deeply personal, stemming from his gratitude towards public education, which played a key role in his achievements. This appreciation drove his determination to establish the Hasso Plattner Foundation in 2015.

AMBITION

The Beginnings

The Plattner family's philanthropy precedes the establishment of the Foundation. In 1998, Prof. Plattner founded the Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI) aiming to build a science hub in Potsdam. Today, HPI is a leading institute in digital engineering.

Hasso Plattner's patronage of the University of Cape Town began in 2003 with a €6 million donation to the Isisombululo program, aiding youth health and education in South Africa. That same year, the Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford was founded, sparking a global movement in design thinking. In 2005, Hasso and Sabine Plattner hosted the 46664 concert at Fancourt to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, ensuring all ticket revenue went to the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

In 2008, Sabine Plattner launched an initiative to support the development of locally adapted educational resources for teachers across Africa under the umbrella of Sabine Plattner African Charities.

What started as an idea in the late 1990s became a clear commitment in 2015 when the Hasso Plattner Foundation was established as an ecosystem of philanthropic initiatives by the Plattner family.

“Through education and community involvement, our projects are not just preserving nature. They are supporting the next generation to act, from the classroom to the rainforest.

Sabine Plattner
Initiator of Sabine Plattner African Charities

EDUCATION

Inspiring Generations, Shaping the Future

As we mark our tenth anniversary in 2025, we take a moment to reflect on the journey of the **Hasso Plattner Foundation**. Hasso Plattner's wish to make a lasting contribution to society led him to sign the Giving Pledge in 2013. He highlighted Germany's largely tuition-free education system which played a pivotal role in his success. "I want to give back to the society that made this possible," said Plattner upon establishing the Foundation in 2015, focusing its philanthropic initiatives on **education**.

Since then, the Foundation has enabled 50 projects across 26 countries, having disbursed approximately 1 billion Euros as philanthropic giving. Today, the Hasso Plattner Foundation is **a diverse ecosystem** supporting transformative projects in **science and education, environmental conservation, and art**.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of **educating and inspiring generations**. This work continues to be driven by a shared sense of purpose and an openness to change. Many thanks to our teams, project partners, and the communities they serve for their trust and collaboration. Together, we will continue building the Foundation's ecosystem in the next decade.

> **Since 2015, we have built an ecosystem where digital technologies, conservation, and culture meet – guided by a drive for lasting change.**

John Flüh
Chair of the Foundation Council

> **The Foundation's philanthropy lays the groundwork for people and communities to thrive, with digital innovation and education at its core.**

Prof. Sabine Kunst
Member of the Foundation Council

OUR FOCUS

Ideas in Action

At the Hasso Plattner Foundation (HPF) we strive to empower individuals and communities through world-class education, scientific research, cultural and art preservation, nature conservation and social initiatives.

We are committed to inspiring the next generation of innovators, educators, and creators, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to make a meaningful difference in the world.

We focus on long-term projects and collaborate closely with experts, rather than offering one-time grants. This approach lays the groundwork for enduring progress in our initiatives. Our three foundational pillars – Science & Education, Social & Conservation, and Art & Culture – remain central to our mission.

> **We keep pushing forward with entrepreneurial mindset, step by step.**
>
> Dr. Rouven Westphal
> Member of the HPF Executive Board

> **At the Foundation, our currency is impact.**
>
> Dr. Stephanie Ullrich
> Member of the HPF Executive Board

Science + Education

Empowering the Next Generation

During the last years, our initiatives under the focus area of Science & Education contributed to the adoption of digital technologies. They did so by teaching design thinking approaches, establishing digital health partnerships, and building one of the leading institutes in digital engineering – the Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI).

Our Contribution

Digital sovereignty is a key factor for an economically stable, free, and self-determined European society. But Europe is lagging behind in the development of future technologies. Therefore, our focus is on educating young talents, advancing research, and supporting innovations in Europe. All our activities in the area of Science & Education promote Europe's digital sovereignty, with the Hasso Plattner Institute acting as a catalyst.

10M
patient records
made available for specified scientific research projects by **Data4Life**, **HPI**, and **HPI·MS**.

300
startups
incubated through the **HPI** ecosystem.

The **Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika** recognized as the top green-certified academic building in Africa in 2024.

2.700
students graduated
in digital engineering and computer science at the **Hasso Plattner Institute** since 1999.

Social + Conservation

Preserving Our Planet

During the last decade, our initiatives under the focus area of Social & Conservation supported environmental education and conservation. To preserve our planet for future generations, the Foundation championed locally-led initiatives through one of its flagship initiatives – Sabine Plattner African

Our Contribution

Many countries in Africa are facing major challenges in the areas of conservation and sustainable development. The loss of habitats and poaching are acutely threatening plant and species diversity. Our long-term conservation and education initiatives are committed to preserving natural resources and contributing to the well-being of local communities.

up to **5K** **young learners** in George, South Africa, reached by **Embark in Knowledge** per year.

SPAC's efforts have directly supported the conservation of **1.3 M** in the Odzala-Kokoua National Park.

up to **80K** **young learners reached** with **SPAC EduConservation** Teacher's Toolkits during the pilot phase in six African countries.

UNESCO inscribed the Forest Massif of Odzala-Kokoua on its World Heritage List in September 2023.

Art + Culture

Inspiring Minds

To foster exchange through art and culture, we support the Museum Barberini and DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam. We are also active in provenance research, the preservation of cultural heritage, and initiatives that connect diverse social groups through art and new technologies.

Our Contribution

Not everyone has equal access to art and culture. With digital offerings and a wide range of educational programs, our projects strive to make art and culture an experience that is open to everyone.

300
mythologies
from Congo, Romania, India and Brazil collected to create stories for the "World of Us" game by **TALES.**

130K
archival items
available online for free for art historical research thanks to the **Wildenstein Plattner Institute** and **Navigating.art.**

7
exhibitions
at **DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam** since its opening in 2022.

2.5M
visitors
at the **Museum Barberini** since its opening in 2017.

Impressionism: Hasso Plattner Collection grew into one of the world's leading Impressionist and Post-Impressionist landscape collections, on view at the Museum Barberini with 115 masterpieces – 40 by Claude Monet alone.

ECHOES

Alexander Kuscher
HPI Alumnus,
Senior Director Product Management & Design, Google

"The freedom and the healthy disregard for the impossible are things that I cherish from my time at HPI."

"HPI showed me that entrepreneurship is indeed a great path to take."

Dr. Gero Decker
HPI Alumnus, General Manager & Co-Founder, SAP Signavio

Roxana Azimi
Journalist, Le Magazine du Monde,
29 September 2024

"For many, the exhibition at DAS MINSK is a revelation. And as it will tour in 2025 to London's Barbican Centre, then to the prestigious Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, it's the harbinger of worldwide recognition Noah Davis had vainly hoped for during his lifetime."

Rabbi Dieu-Veille Missilou Boukaka
Researcher with SPAC Conservation Research in Ngaga, Northern Congo

"As soon as I saw what was at stake, I realized the importance of protecting the wild animals."

Ibra Fall
SPAC EduConservation Educator

"Thanks to EduConservation, we have additional teaching materials. This helps us to strengthen children's understanding of ecology. This is important because we are counting on them to protect the environment in the future."

"This collaboration offers an opportunity to grapple with what an ethical approach to storytelling might look like."

New York Times on "Congo Tales", initiated and developed by TALES

Jackie Wullschläger
Journalist, Financial Times,
19 August 2020

"A moment of joy, a beacon of hope, a spirit of generosity, an homage to nature (…) Plattner's is Europe's biggest, most important collection of 19th and early 20th-century French painting outside Paris (…) a must-see destination for the birth of modern art."

THE NEXT DECADE

Looking Ahead

The last ten years have been a period of early successes in the Foundation's ecosystem, but also one abundant with learnings from challenges we tackled. Throughout this time, the Foundation's initiatives were guided by the Founder's entrepreneurial mindset, drive for excellence, and the wish to create positive change. As we enter our second decade of philanthropic giving, we are set to deepen our support for digital technologies, nature conservation, and art initiatives.

Looking ahead, we will continue to support our current projects while setting more ambitious goals. By expanding the Hasso Plattner Institute we hope to contribute to Europe's digital sovereignty. We also see potential in combining different areas of work, such as art and technology.

Through our Special Purpose Funds – such as the Emergency Response Fund or Civil Society Fund – we aim to respond nimbly to the urgent societal needs and address new challenges while staying true to our core philanthropic mission. We view emerging technologies as enablers across our focus areas. Building on our founder's vision and our ecosystem, we move into our second decade with confidence and clarity of purpose.

Stay curious, be bold, and hold tight to our mission.

Stefanie Plattner
Member of the Foundation Council

HASSO PLATTNER FOUNDATION

Learn more about our projects at

plattnerfoundation.org

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