



STICHTING MENSA FONDS

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A flying start

On April 20th 2013, the Dutch Mensa Foundation was launched during the AGM of Mensa The Netherlands. Recently the foundation published its first Annual Report, showing where the Foundation is now. A summary of this report follows in English. The entire report is available in Dutch on the site of the foundation, www.mensafonds.org.

The foundation got off to a flying start thanks to a donation from Mensa The Netherlands and the Foundation's 'Founding Friends', who all donated 1,000 euro each. When the Foundation was launched we already had the support of 10 Founding Friends and during the rest of the year 12 more joined, getting us up to 22 Founding Friends in total. Other donations were also made. Thank you to everyone! The Foundation is recognized as a charity by the Dutch Tax authorities, so that donations to the foundation are tax deductible.

During 2013, several people started spontaneous initiatives to support the foundation as part of Mensa The Netherlands 50th 'Gold' Anniversary: a 'Gold Concert', the 'Gold Pin-Up Calendar' and the farewell party for the chairman of Mensa raised funds for the Foundation. These initiatives are proof of the wide support for the Foundation.

Spending money wisely

The Foundation doesn't only raise money, but seeks to spend it wisely. In 2013 the necessary steps were taken so that it is transparent how and why the Foundation supports what it does. The first requests for financial support were received and of five requests, two were honoured.

The first Mensa Foundation Awards were presented in November. In the category 'Education', Bart Smoors and Tanja de Ruijter won an award for their project 'Talent Huizermaat', an educational programme within the school for highly intelligent children. In the category 'Work', Wilbert Paulissen received an award for his inspiring leadership within the Police High Tech Crime Team. In the category 'Society', Dolores Leewin (a TV presenter) received an award for the way in which she is a role model for highly intelligent people. The awards gathered together many inspiring examples of how the talents of highly intelligent people can be harnessed.



Jury chairperson Leila Prnjavorac (left) and Mensa Fonds chairperson Angela Riddering (right)

The internal design

A great part of our energy was spent in designing and documenting our internal business processes. It takes time to design a nomination process and to design the criteria for a selection process. The investment we made there will be paid back in the future.

Also the design of the financial support projects took quite some time. But here too, we expect that the careful design and the internal discussion have led to a robust framework.

Future cooperation

Two organisations that are active in the field of high-giftedness approached us for possible cooperation. They both look very promising; however, in the first year we have chosen to prioritize the structure of our internal organization to alliances. A very promising contact is the one with the American Mensa Foundation. That organization has been an inspiration to us and we are very grateful for the support they have given us.

Finance

On the financial side, the Foundation follows the guidelines of the national charity 'trademark'; in three years time we will be able to apply for this important certification. The financial report is downloadable from our website and has been looked at and accepted by an independent CPA.



2013 was a good year for the Dutch Mensa Foundation. We intend to continue at this pace during the next few years in order to achieve more of our goals.

Board

The board members in 2013:

Angela Riddering	Chairperson
Dirk Hanke	Secretary
Rob Scipio	Treasurer
Roeland van Zeijst	Fund raising
Edith Trieblinig	External programs
Ellen Cattenstart	PR and media
Willem Bouwens	ICT and alliances

More information and original annual report

At the 2013 EMAG in Bratislava, we gave a presentation on the one and a half year process to establish this organization. At the 2014 EMAG we intend to give another presentation with a focus on the plans for the future.

We publish a monthly newsletter in Dutch, go to this [link](#) for a subscription.



The original version of the annual report (in Dutch) can be found on the [website](#).

This English version is an unaudited version and a summary of the original Dutch report.