

George Soros foundation's cuts in Europe anger beneficiaries

Open Society Foundations' decision to cut staff and spending in Europe is worrying beneficiaries, who argue a withdrawal of resources could be detrimental to human rights and the foundation's reputation.

The foundations' leaders told staff in Berlin and Brussels that they will be cutting staff by 80% and 60%, respectively, according to an internal email and current employees via the *Associated Press*. Offices in London and Barcelona have already learned that their office will either close or reduce staff significantly, causing several OSF members to leave.

The planned European cuts signal a break from a decadeslong initiative led by billionaire and founder George Soros to provide support for education, human rights, and other policies. OSF leadership intends to complete the layoffs by January.

Alex Soros, George Soros's son, announced in June that the foundation would switch to a new operating model. He took over as head of the OSF's board of directors in December.

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