“What is the added value of your faith?”
Questions of identity for European Faith-Based Organisations

Rick James and Brian Pratt
INTRAC

FBOs across Europe are currently engaging more explicitly with their faith identity than many have done in the past. Increasing donor interest in the role of religion in development and changes in power dynamics arising from demographic shifts in membership have influenced this. In response to questions about their distinctiveness and value-added, many FBOs are now focusing on their faith.

But how European FBOs operationalise their faith is extremely diverse. INTRAC’s consultancy experience reveals ten organisational variables that can make FBOs distinctive. We consider that any organisation is likely to be more effective if these variables are congruent with its core beliefs about the world.

The choices taken in these sensitive areas make for very different types of FBO. We all need to understand the particular organisational characteristics of FBOs in order to work well with them. INTRAC is therefore initiating research to explore how European FBOs define and operationalise their faith and the implications this has for partnership and capacity building.