The July 2007 law on the freedoms and responsibilities of universities (LRU) gave them the right to create foundations, recognized as public utilities but not legal entities, that would allow them to benefit from the patronage of businesses and individuals.

A decree that will allow them from now on to institute such foundations was published on April 8, 2008.

It states that donations to the foundations gives donors the right to significant fiscal deductions: tax reductions equal to 60 percent of the total donation, for businesses, and 66 percent for individuals. These foundations can be created and immediately recognized as public by a simple decision by the council for university administration, where the "classic" procedure takes more than a year and places high demands. Additionally, not being a legal entity will allow the foundation to have a more agile management while preserving its financial and decision-making autonomy.