33 years ago in a parking garage in Caracas, Dr. José Antonio Abreu gathered 11 children together to play music. This is the moment when El Sistema was born. El Sistema is a publicly financed voluntary sector music education program in Venezuela. Today more than 350,000 of Venezuelan children participate in it.  
As an effective means against youth crime and delinquency El Sistema attracts people all over the world. Children receive free instruments and free orchestral instructions through the foundation. Through activities of an orchestra, they learn not only musical skills but also sociability, which means El Sistema brings up not only good musicians but also good citizens. El Sistema is one of the most successful music-education projects in the world.