

NEWS LETTER

2018

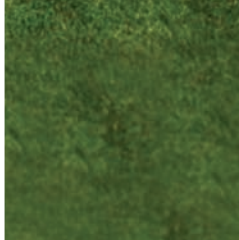


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Kreisau-Initiative e. V.

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In line with our theme of the year “Courage to change, courage to act”, we would like to give a platform this year to young people who have worked to achieve change in their environments and their societies in 2018.

We live in an era of global changes triggered by human activity: climate change, social and economic crises, digitalisation, violent conflicts in many places around the world and also the mass migrations caused by all of these upheavals represent major challenges to humanity. As a consequence, we have to critically question our way of life and our actions and reflect on the influence that our consumption behaviour, political decisions on smaller and larger scales, and even our manner of communicating are having on changes in the world. This process is all the more difficult as many of our participants are faced with corruption, inadequate state structures, restrictions on the rule of law and a lack of democratic participatory rights in their home countries.

In our project work, we would like to identify opportunities to positively shape change and we hope to encourage people not to ignore challenges but to actively ad-

dress them. We invite people to become active – both as individuals and jointly with others. In this regard, we aim to reach across the borders between countries, societal groups and different perceptions so that people can talk to each other, engage in exchanges of knowledge, and contribute with their experience and viewpoints.

Our educational and exchange work in Krzyżowa is an arena where we can develop positive perspectives for the future as part of transnational communities of people that we feel an attachment to – in the manner of work on a practical utopia. One particular component of this work is empowerment, i.e. fostering the capability to act of people and groups who tend to be marginalised in societal discourse.

A particularly enriching feature of this work is contact with very special people who campaign to achieve a more democratic, just and sustainable society and who, through their dedication, inspire others to become active themselves. The six accounts of this type of dedication that follow are as diverse as they are impressive. ■



by Silvia Nicola



Assembled underneath a huge Romanian flag, protesters in February 2017 demonstrate for the strengthening of the rule of law in Romania. Credits: Thea Mihu

While I write this article, people in Romania are commemorating the 64 people who lost their lives in a fire in the “Colectiv” nightclub in Bucharest at a concert by the band “Goodbye to Gravity”. A further 146 people were seriously injured, some of whom are still in a critical condition.

Shortly after the tragic events of 30 October 2015, a range of violations of the law and failures to adhere to safety regulations were identified. These transgressions were committed both by the club owner and by state authorities, as the venue did not fulfil the necessary conditions for a licence.

All of this was exacerbated by the inadequate capacities of the Romanian state to provide medical care in specialised hospitals for those injured.

The fire disaster and the uncovering of these irregularities triggered a wave of outrage among a large section of the Romanian population. The deeply rooted dissatisfaction that already existed provided the impetus for a range of protests.

The demonstrators, who were mostly young, pro-European and from the middle classes, vowed to fight corruption.

Even though a number of officials resigned shortly thereafter, the battle against corruption had not been won by the end of 2015 by any stretch of the imagination. Although the strong emotions involved encouraged members of civil society to become active in shaping democracy in Romania and to rectify problems that are endangering democracy, the stamina of campaigners has been put to the test over the last two years.

After a disappointing turnout of just 39% in the general election, Romania’s Social Democratic Party (PSD) succeeded in assembling a majority with a small coalition partner in parliament and formed a government in late 2016. Under the new government, attempts have been made since then to implement a series of controversial measures. Critics have been of the opinion that these efforts undermine the rule of law in Romania. These policies have often been



People of a range of ages and social backgrounds have been gathering regularly in Romania's urban centres to demonstrate against corruption for the last two years. Credits: Thea Mihiu

compared with the particularly worrying developments in Hungary and Poland. Particular pressure has been exerted on the National Anticorruption Directorate, which has achieved significant successes in recent years.

Despite the progress that has been made, corruption still appears to be an endemic feature of public life in Romania. Abuse of high office is another common occurrence that is difficult to eliminate. Corruption and abuse of office also plague the Social Democratic Party at all levels: from the mayors of small villages right through to the party leader, Liviu Dragnea, who has previously been convicted and is still the subject of investigations. Instead of being guided by the law in this regard, the governing party is instead attempting to change laws – sometimes even retroactively. In early 2017, an emergency decree was drafted that provided for changes to the criminal code and for an amnesty act. A number of arrested or accused officials and politicians would benefit from these changes – in the form of an amnesty, for example.

However, these government plans met with resistance among the civil population. The protests against these changes (many of them had already been declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court of Romania at the time of writing of this article) came to a head in February 2017, when over 600,000 people assembled in Bucharest alone. Similar gatherings took place in all other major cities in Romania. These protests were described by the media as the biggest mass demonstrations in Romanian history.

The emergency decree was eventually withdrawn, but the government is still currently (as of late 2018) trying to have the desired changes implemented in modified form. This resulted in further mass demonstrations on 11 August 2018, although rallies of various scales had also been held regularly all over Romania in 2017 and 2018. These protests, which saw many people from the Romanian diaspora travel back to participate, were the first occasion that the security forces used violence. The pretext for this was provided by violent individuals who, in contrast with other demonstrations, were not removed from the mass of demonstrators (around

250,000 people). An investigation to determine whether mistakes were made in the planning and implementation of police measures is still in progress.

Protests of this nature and active participation by civil society are not one-off phenomena. More and more frequently, citizens in established and emerging democracies are expressing their opinions, support or disapproval in these ways. This development does bring with it the risk of hardening lines of conflict that can lead to divisions in societies that result from differing world views; however, democracies are nourished precisely by the challenge of tolerating and negotiating conflicts. Democracy works best when citizens participate and are actively interested, when they have the courage to act. A prerequisite for this is the courage to change, as democracies are subject to never-ending change processes. ■

Silvia Nicola is a doctoral student at the Free University of Berlin. She worked as a trainer for the KI projects "360° Europa (Restorative Circles for Citizens in Europe)" and "Roots and Borders".



Armenia: The Velvet Revolution

by Mkrtych Dallakyan



Not only young and older people gathered in Republic Square: the youngest generation was also waiting to meet Nikol Pashinyan, respected from his "My Step" movement, which also became the motto of the protests. Foto: Narek Aleksanyan

It is true when one says that change of any sort requires courage: we – the people of Armenia – proved that in April 2018 with regard to the changes that took place in our country!

"With courage" ("dukhov") has become a motto for Armenians who rejected the ex-regime's attempt to continue the corrupt system that had become rooted in Armenia over the decades. The people of Armenia wanted to live in a country where the rule of law and justice are respected, in a democratic society.

Over the past two decades, the oligarchic regime used brute force and economic repression to extend and consolidate its hold on power by taking control of both the political and economic sectors. There had been previous attempts to fight corruption, nepotism and the establishment of a dictatorial regime, but they were not successful.

In April 2018, tens of thousands of Armenians, whom some had described as indifferent and demoralised, began to challenge the regime's hold on power and its legitimacy to

govern. It should be noted that previously there had been cases where locally self-organised civic movements – but not the majority of Armenians – have pursued their own aims without any external financial support or institutionalised structures. The success stories of the Mashtots Park Movement, "100 AMD" and "DEM ENQ" showed that it is possible to influence government policies through civic activism, but the belief that it would be possible to stop the corrupt regime was still not held by a majority of people. If we could go back to March 2018, many people would still not have believed that the resignation of Serzh Sargsyan was possible.

It was in April of 2018 when I joined thousands of other Armenians in taking to the streets of Yerevan with a fair demand – the resignation of then Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan. Until 2015, Armenia had a semi-presidential governance system that foresaw direct elections of the president of the country with a maximum of two terms of service. To maintain power after the expiry of his two terms, ex-President Serzh Sargsyan changed the constitution through a rigged referendum to make Armenia a parliamentary system. The



People gathering in Republic Square in Yerevan and protesting against the re-elected president Serzh Sargsyan. Credits: Artyom Geodakyan Tass

The civic movement that started on April 13 under the motto “Take a step, Reject Serzh” proved to be successful: on April 23, Serzh Sargsyan, the disputed ex-President turned Prime Minister, handed in his resignation. He thus opened the way for a peaceful resolution of the political crisis – one that would end with a democratic transfer of power.

Armenia’s Velvet Revolution is already an established fact in this country. Before the movement’s short-term success, the streets of Yerevan and other cities had not seen so many smiling faces for a long time. The country gained new colours and a new atmosphere in less than a month. The revolution took place not only in the form of a transition of power, but also in the

move was widely seen as a power grab and sparked massive demonstrations. Sargsyan stepped down after 11 days of protests and, days later, opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan, a charismatic former journalist, was sworn in as the new prime minister.

According to official statistics, over one third of the population of Armenia live in poverty. In addition, the population has dropped to 3 million due to both emigration and a declining birth rate. On the one hand, there is a desire to be rid of the oligarchic system of governance and to implement a more democratic and just system of governance which recognises and respects the rule of law and the human rights of Armenia’s citizens. On the other hand, there is a desire to live in a fairer society, where citizens live with dignity and where nepotism and corruption do not lead to extremes of social and income inequality and poverty.

The protests in Armenia draw from all segments of society. People from different backgrounds and political and ideological persuasions have united in their rejection of the regime. People hold banners proclaiming the revolution as being one of “tolerance and love”, rather than hate and revenge.

minds of the people – they started to believe that changes are possible.

We know that it is going to take time and a lot of work to achieve the country we would like to have. But we are ready to face these challenges with open minds and we ardently wish to turn this dream into reality.

This is a story about how one can unite a whole nation to oppose a corrupt and criminal regime. This is the story of how the revolution started and brought the entire nation together, a nation that had the courage to change, the courage to act. ■

Mkrtich Dallakyan is a project manager in the Youth Cooperation Center of Dilijan in Armenia. In 2015, he spent three months as an intern in the Kreisau-Initiative.



Poland: Democracy needs people with courage and hope

by Szymon Osowski



The seven members of the Supreme Administrative Court pronouncing judgement on which cases can be regarded as minor cases. Credits: Borys Bura

Why do politicians in Poland find it so easy to devalue the activities of courts and of the Constitutional Tribunal? The judiciary is of primary importance for the protection of rights and freedoms and in providing an overall sense of justice and legal certainty. Anybody who considers the changes made to the justice system by the current majority in parliament could come to the conclusion that the democratic rule of law is not in very good health.

From the perspective of an organisation that supports activists in ensuring that their rights and freedoms are respected, however, the current changes offer more advantages than disadvantages.

From minor cases right through to the protection of rights and liberties

In 2013, there were media reports that draft legislation was being prepared at the Constitutional Tribunal that would affect this very institution. My organisation’s request to view this draft was refused. The draft was only made public after two years of legal proceedings (ruling no. I OSK 2213/13, in Polish). The draft legislation was sent to the President of Poland, who made a number of minor changes and then submitted it to parliament, after which the draft became law.

Right at the start of the political disputes about the Constitutional Tribunal, we asked ourselves: who will determine the constitutionality of the regulations at the Constitutional Tribunal? The paradoxical situation almost occurred that the authors of the provisions would have to check the constitutionality of these same provisions (case no. K 29/15, in Polish).

In 2012, the Supreme Court of Poland made a landmark ruling concerning transparency in Poland (judgement no. I CSK 190/12, in Polish). This judgement stated that information relating to parties that municipalities enter into civil-law contracts with must be made public. As a consequence of this judgement, a societal movement emerged that demanded a public register of contracts. Public bodies started to comply with this demand in response to public pressure. Disclosure of contracts was also demanded by the Supreme Court, but this request was refused. Faced with the many requests and legal actions demanding the disclosure of contracts (e.g. judgements nos. I OSK 903/12 and I OSK 916/12, in Polish), the President of the Supreme Court applied to have the law on access to public information declared unconstitutional (case no. K 58/15, in Polish). If the Constitutional Tribunal had acted on the arguments of the President of the Supreme Court, it would have been the end of transparency in Poland. The President of the Supreme Court only withdrew this application in response to public pressure and the threat of measures that could have been taken by the Constitutional Tribunal and the majority in parliament.

Even though this may seem hard to believe, judges at the Supreme Administrative Court had considered whether the right to legal proceedings could be limited if judges regarded a case as being of minor importance. These considerations arose from a case where an activist was charged a fee of 0.42 PLN (approx 0.10 EUR) for the disclosure of information (judgement no. I OSK 1922/14, in Polish). If this decision had been taken, this would have been a danger to the protection of rights and freedoms and the right to a fair trial.

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A judge alone would have been able to decide which of his or her cases were minor cases. Ultimately, the Supreme Administrative Court refused to respond to the request as it was formulated.

The three cases described here are symptomatic for the way in which the Polish justice system deals with rights and

dreds of cases that relate to violations of constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms, it appears that we are living in eventful times. Never before have so many people, including judges, used the word “constitution”. A new dimension has been added to the perception of the constitution that manifests itself in two ways, in my opinion: firstly, the manner in which the constitution is read and the man-



At citizens' meetings, exchanges of information and dialogue with authorities are possible. Credits: Marcin Halat

freedoms. The cases related to the fundamental requirements for a democracy: separation of powers, transparency of the legislative process, conflicts of interest, the right to a fair trial, and transparency. One could argue that no thought has been given to these principles and to the Constitution of Poland.

What do have we to thank for the changes to the justice system?

From the perspective of an organisation that has campaigned for the protection of rights and freedoms and that supports activists, we should consider the two levels of the changes in the justice system separately: the formal or institutional level, and the socio-political level. The changes that have been implemented impact considerably on the right to a fair trial. The influence of politicians on courts, the National Judiciary Council, the public prosecution service, the Constitutional Tribunal and the Supreme Court means that the justice system is dependent on political decision-makers at an institutional level. Also relevant here is individual repression of judges and public prosecutors – it is not necessary to explain the dangers associated with this.

Another aspect of the changes relates to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. When one examines the hun-

ner of thinking about the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the constitution and also about constitutional principles; secondly, and more importantly, the constitution is now the basis for decision-making by judges, even though it was always supposed to serve this purpose. Here I do not mean the formal application of the law, but rather the sense of how important this application is. I realise that this is hard to comprehend, but optimistically: nobody is going to stop thinking about the Constitution of Poland.

Rights are there to be made use of

For years now, we have been pointing out that we can change our environments more effectively if we make use of our laws. Many Polish citizens are now aware of this and when they want to see changes implemented, they take recourse to the law. However, the cases described above are examples of how the justice system deals with those to insist on adherence to regulations or who wish to see their rights and freedoms protected. Year by year, the number of cases that relate to the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms is increasing. One example of this is transparency: it has become the norm that people go to court without access to public information. At local level, there are numerous disputes about rights and citizens' liberties. Individuals are campaigning in many places so that their

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municipalities will be better off. To achieve this, they often need independent courts and an objective public prosecution service. Democracy in Poland is dependent on these individuals; they, in turn, are benefiting from the unharmed power of the Constitution of Poland. People who campaign on a local basis possess the courage to change and the courage to act. The result is a completely different Poland. If one takes into account both this and the changing perception of rights and liberties in Poland, one need not

be very worried about the future of the democratic state, and I am very optimistic that we will be able to defend the democratic rule of law. ■

Szymon Osowski is a lawyer and the President of the Civil Network Watchdog Poland. He has received numerous awards for his work.

 www.siecopywatelska.pl



Poland: The courageous act of making a difference

by Emmy Irobi



Youngsters learn how to solve conflicts non-violently thanks to the peer mediation. Credits: Kreisau-Initiative

A story was told about a young man who chose to take on a problem that plagued major cities in his country – potholes. In this case, the problem was one particular pothole. It was located at an intersection near his home, and it had been there for as long as he could remember. Residents of the neighbourhood had developed the habit of driving around it; strangers learned about it the hard way.

One day the young man decided it was time to fix the problem. He and his brother stopped in at a hardware shop and bought sand and cement. Once the shop owner learned what they planned to do, he lent them a shovel and a concrete mixer and even volunteered his son to help out.

As soon as they began filling in the pothole, several passing motorists parked their cars and began directing cars and traffic around the three men at work. Some passing children began making a “wet concrete” sign to put around the pothole once the work was done. In all, nearly 20 neighbours participated in the project. Together, they courageously and boldly handled a problem that had been bothering all of them for years. All it took was one person's courageous step forward to take responsibility for seeing that the problem was properly addressed.

This is my story and it reflects how my Mediation For Education (MFE) foundation was formed in Poland. In the early

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weeks of 2016, I uncovered one of the major problems plaguing some Polish elementary and secondary schools. This problem was: school violence among peers. Many school administrators often pretend this violence does not exist. As a certified mediator, I want to make a difference in



MFE offers training programmes in mediation for teachers too. Credits: Mediation For Education Foundation

the lives of the pupils by helping to reduce the rate of peer to peer violence in schools through peer mediation and a nonviolent problem-solving process. According to statistics provided by Joanna Włodarczyk in her report¹, 59% of school children in elementary schools in Poland have experienced forms of violence or aggression from peers. This is a staggering statistic that challenged my organisation to start doing something.

When asked by sceptics what peer mediation means, the simple answer was: "Peer mediation is based on the assumption that conflicts are simply mutual problems that can be resolved among pupils in ways that benefit all parties." The benefit of giving the skills of mediation and conflict resolution to children is that this will become a useful tool to be used at home, and in adult life. Most importantly, we empower students to take a leadership role in responding to peer conflicts and petty misunderstandings before they escalate.

Similar to the pothole story, as soon as our foundation was officially registered in Białopodlaska, Poland, some volunteers expressed enthusiasm and willingness to support us irrespective of the obvious difficulties that exist in the eastern part of Poland.

My initial contact with the Kreisau-Initiative opened up another channel of cooperation and training for youths and students in Poland for us. With the support and training received after workshops in Kreisau/Krzyżowa, MFE developed a programme for youths and teachers to combat intolerance against immigrants in our society, develop awareness in the classroom, and respond to anti-Muslim or anti-others outbursts or comments in the school environment. In addition, MFE designed learning activities that proactively encourage critical thinking and reflection among the school population aimed at improving pupils' and teachers' awareness of intolerant behaviour in the classroom or outside it. Some of these ideas were born out of brainstorming exercises during workshops organised by the Kreisau-Initiative. We believe that the

occurrence of violence, hate speech and conflict will be reduced and prevented through peer to peer exchanges and peer mediation – a nonviolent means of resolving disputes.

The fruits of MFE's cooperation with the Kreisau-Initiative were also evident when a number of students from a secondary school in Białopodlaska were invited to Kreisau/Krzyżowa in 2017 to attend a European youth training programme. These students returned to their school and informed their peers about what they had learned from the meeting. In Kreisau/Krzyżowa, the four students were able to meet their peers from other Western European countries for the first time. They have become friends with them, especially with their counterparts from the young Muslim community in Berlin.

MFE, as a nation-wide organisation, is positioned to offer pro-bono mediation training in primary and secondary schools in Poland. Having recognised that school teachers are the first responders to acts of violence in schools, MFE has also developed a special training programme in mediation for teachers. This training programme will strongly position teachers as resources for students in problem situations or if they have special needs.

¹ Włodarczyk, Joanna (2013): Przemoc rówieśnicza. Wyniki Ogólnopolskiej diagnozy problemu przemocy wobec dzieci. In: Dziecko krzywdzone. Teoria, badania, praktyka. Vol. 12, Nr 3. https://fdds.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Wlodarczyk_J_2013_Przemoc_rowiesnicza_Wyniki_Ogolnopolskiej_diagnozy.pdf

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MFE can also be very useful for government and education authorities in crafting and implementing various kinds of prevention programmes tailored to reduce peer conflict in schools, consulting with school staff about targeted programmes, and being involved in plans to assist in making our education system a violence-free space for learning. ■

Emmy Irobi is the Director of the Mediation For Education foundation in Poland. He had taken part in two training courses organised by the KI and then came back to Kreisau/Krzyżowa with a group of youngsters for the project "Activists against Xenocide".

 www.mediationforeducation.com



Bangladesh: The road safety movement

by Taskin Ahmed Eera



It is estimated that around 2,4 million drivers in Dhaka do not have a driving licence. Credits: www.flickr.com/photos/joiseyshowaa/2402764792/

That was the sixth ink marker to run out that morning. The scribbling dies down beside me as my friend takes a break with muted satisfaction. The previously huge pile of posters has disappeared from our side, with the posters now changing hands from one protestor to another, while the incomplete wall of portraits smiled down at us. This art installation was meant to be a tribute to the unfortunate victims of road accidents in Dhaka. To our alarm, less than half the photographs donated to the art school would have been enough to cover the sizeable wall.

Heartbreaking as it is, the numbers are unsurprising: road accidents claimed the lives of over 4,200 citizens in 2017 alone while leaving approximately 16,000 seriously injured. It is estimated that about 2,4 million vehicles are being driven by unqualified drivers in Dhaka in 2018. Today, the public transport system remains notoriously dangerous and

the numerous laws and transport safety regulations passed by the government on paper remain resolutely unimplemented.

Given these statistics, it was no wonder that between 29 July and 8 August 2018 Dhaka witnessed a series of public protests demanding safer roads and stricter traffic laws. These protests were set off when two high school students were killed and 12 others injured when a speeding bus ploughed into a bus stop. The protesters, consisting primarily of students between the ages of 12 and 18, blocked all main roads through the city, checking licenses and the roadworthiness of vehicles as an act of peaceful protest.

Like many of my peers, I was an active participant in these protests. On the first day, a few of my friends from school and I settled in one of the busiest city squares, armed with

markers and paper. Our fellow protestors – hundreds of them – quickly surrounded us, forming an effective blockade on eight intersecting roads, bringing our entire town to

welcome sight. Even the stubbornly disagreeable Dhaka weather remained cooperative and the street dogs joined the rallies with their wagging tails.



Everyday traffic in Dhaka. Credits: www.flickr.com/photos/55593279@N04/5152253016

a standstill. The point of this demonstration was this: if high school students can effectively identify, record and penalise unfit drivers and vehicles, then the only thing stopping the authorities is corruption. No unfit vehicle was allowed to access the highway – and you'd be astounded with how few we let through.

This was not my first protest, but it was one where I detected an absolute feeling of solidarity among all our citizens. When our markers ran out of ink, a young man limped across the highway to hand us an entire box. I didn't need to hear his story to know that his injury was the result of a road accident. Another time, a father brought his six-year-old daughter to the protests, with the intention of photographing her with us. The child wore a plastic brace across her ankle, which we later learned was permanent as a result of a car crash. There were lots of mothers raising smiling photos of dead children, and you could hear the screams of families that were grieving again, channelling their barely healing wounds. The protestors' cries varied from expressions of anger to solemn promises and outcries of righteousness. The shouted slogans combined to create an uncomfortable white noise and the group of volunteers carrying packs of cold water and rice crackers for protestors was always a

frightened to let me join the protests. With a heavy heart, I channelled my energy into online efforts – like my peers, I spent hours in social media, downloading pictures and videos of police brutality before they were pulled from the internet by government authorities.

To many, this may not appear to be an act of courage, but every single one of our posts that went viral (or was deleted) brought forth a new sense of anxiety in us. People were disappearing into thin air after a few controversial blog posts, and students were 'investigated' by the police for their less than flattering video blogs. Celebrities who sympathised with the protestors were arrested and hundreds of stories (or threats disguised as warnings) circulated on social networking sites warning us to stay under cover. It was almost impossible to sleep at night, and every loud noise (perfectly normal in the city) sent a jolt of apprehension down our spines. I felt silly then, as I feel ridiculous now, but late night video calls from friends let me know that I was not the only one wide awake and jittery. ■

Taskin Ahmed Eera is a student in Dhaka. In May 2016, she came to the MICC World in Krzyżowa with four fellow students.



by Milena Kula



Celebrating Earth Day on 22 April at the university. Credits: Katrina Gowans

There's nothing more inspiring than seeing people wake up to the realities of environmental and spiritual destruction and, as a result, changing their mindsets and practices completely. In the last year, I have seen countless friends and family members who have reconsidered their actions and taken small (but important) steps to change these (e.g. refusing plastic bags). Even more encouraging is the flurry of media coverage of plastics, waste, and climate change-related topics.

When I was 11, our science teacher dragged us to see "An Inconvenient Truth" in the cinema. Witnessing the urgency of our planetary situation made me realise I wanted to help, in whatever way possible. So I found my way into activism, first locally in our neighbourhood and school, then through international networks such as Friends of the Earth and 350.org. I was part of the "Atomkraft? Nein Danke!" demonstrations and saw the massive change the "Energiewende" (energy changeover) has brought to Germany. During my studies at the University of Glasgow from 2013 to 2018, our student activist group pushed the university to divest from Shell and other oil companies as the first university in Europe to do so.

And yet as the COP 21 (United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015) came and went, I became bitter about companies and governments moving forward (and sometimes backward) at a snail's pace. As an active political citizen, I felt my voice was not heard and respected enough to shift people's thinking. This is when I started working for

the University of Glasgow in its sustainability team. With a team of students, we set out to celebrate sustainable living choices by offering a foodsharing service, gardening sessions, a housing cooperative, and hosting numerous events for people to learn DIY or sewing, repair their bikes, watch films together, and spark a conversation about climate change. This job was a formidable experience for me: bringing people together to share best practice and spark new ideas is the best way to encourage a societal shift.

Despite seeing an incredibly positive change whilst engaging with students and staff, I also realised that institutions run our society and affect our lives and behaviour. If organisations decide to become more sustainable, this has a huge repercussion for the people in these organisations – and for the wider community. For my dissertation, I therefore decided to conduct a case study of the University of Glasgow to understand possible impediments the university is facing on its way to becoming a more sustainable organisation. I was surprised by the results: large organisations such as universities often suffer from a lack of leadership and a phenomenon called "pointing at power", in which responsibilities are pushed from one department to another. Yet so-called "change agents", people with vision and determination, can have a formidable impact on their surrounding department and the direction the institution takes.

The most important insight of my research was that climate change is ultimately about system change: climate change serves as a reminder to re-evaluate our relationship with



Students thanking the University of Glasgow for divesting from fossil fuels. Credits: Glasgow University Climate Action Society

other global challenges and teach us transformational techniques in our workplaces and in our communities as trainers and leaders. Transformative Learning is a relatively new approach in the field of sustainability, and the seminar served as a spark of inspiration. I was not only able to share my previous research with the participants and reflect on what actions we could take in order to encourage sustainable behaviour in our work environments, but we also had the chance to reflect on our own institutional cultures, practices and values.

Ultimately, the many positive discussions throughout the seminar with like-minded people, with my colleagues at work, and with family and friends, give me hope that we can tackle this planetary problem. Whatever we choose to do – be it refusing plastic bags, reducing our number of flights, or cycling – the smallest action can have a ripple effect in the organisations we work in. I think we are ready to take the leap into the future. It is time to act. ■

nature, with each other, and with our most basic values. In September 2018, I was able to deepen this insight at the seminar "Courage to Change, Courage to Act" (organised by the Kreisau-Initiative), focusing on transformational education in the sustainability sector. This series of seminars hopes to change our approach to climate change and

Milena Kula is an environmental activist and a former volunteer (2013-2014) of the Krzyżowa Foundation. She studied political science and economics at the University of Glasgow and is taking part in the "Courage to change, courage to act" training series.



The Kreisau-Initiative in 2018 Report from the Board and the Team

by Ole Jantschek und Nina Lüders

When searching for our topic of the year for 2018, we considered global changes and the challenges that we face in our educational work. The climate crisis, violent conflicts and wars, flight and migration, social and ecological crises, and digitalisation are some of the topics that we deal with in our youth meetings, seminars and training courses. It is vital for our educational work that we put into action what has been learned before and that we are constructive – even if this means questioning your own beliefs or way of life and ultimately allowing change to happen. Courage was a very central concept in our discussions. The uncertainties associated with global challenges that impact us on a local level and in our private lives demand courageous answers. Our topic of the year "Courage to act, courage to change" summarises our discussions very succinctly. This was a recurring theme in 2018 and will guide us in 2019 as well.

Over the course of 2018, we invited people of all ages and backgrounds to be guided by our topic of the year in their participation in over 50 activities in our three focal areas of expertise of Contemporary History, Inclusion and Social-ecological Transformation. These activities mainly took place at the International Youth Meeting Centre in Krzyżowa/Kreisau and also in Berlin, Trebnitz in the neighbouring state of Brandenburg, and other places in Europe. In 2019, we will again be guided by our topic of the year while continuing the legacy of the Kreisau Circle, Eastern European opposition movements and German-Polish reconciliation efforts. Internally, our organisation will address the challenge of institutional courage, because dialogue about a way of life characterised by greater sustainability and solidarity has to be conducted internally too. One thing has already changed: in April 2019 we moved into new offices. The insurance company Allianz, which has provided

us with office space for free for many years, has moved to a new building complex in the district of Adlershof, the most important research and media cluster in Berlin.

The Kreisau-Initiative will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2019. We will be reviewing our varied history and also looking to the future in a range of activities and events to mark this milestone. We are inviting all our members, friends and European partners to celebrate with us at a summer celebration on 17 August. We have also invited our closest European partners to join us at a PartnerLab before this event to

strengthen our network and develop ideas on how we can change our societies for the better.

Our work depends on our European network and on people guided by common ideals. We would like to thank our dedicated trainers and all people working for youth initiatives, NGOs, schools and foundations all over the world who support the ideas of present-day Krzyżowa and our work (see the list on page 25). We would also like to express our gratitude to our donors who make our work possible:



	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	CONTEMPORARY HISTORY & HUMAN RIGHTS	SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION	INCLUSION	PUBLIC RELATIONS
Staff	 Nina Lüders	 Carolin Wenzel	 Patryk Grudziński (until April 2018)	 Elzbieta Kosek (Deputy Executive Director)	 Susanne Schade (on parental leave from September 2018)
	 Beate Kindler	 Kerim Somun	 Elisabeth Kremer (from May 2018)	 Johanna Rogge	 Paulina Jaskulska
				 Malwina Szczypka (parental leave replacement)	

The team of Kreisau-Initiative in 2018



No drawing a line under the past – historical education on human rights is needed right now!

Report from the Contemporary History and Human Rights focal area

by Carolin Wenzel and Kerim Somun



A number of training courses for multipliers are offered as part of "JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights". Credits: Kreisau-Initiative e. V.

In 2018, the focal area of Contemporary History and Human Rights concentrated on current challenges in informal education work in particular. In recent years, the issue of how human rights education and learning about history can succeed in times of increasing nationalism and 'fake news' and within the context of societies characterised by diversity has been attracting great attention. More than ever, we regard demands, particularly from a right-wing, nationalist milieu, for an end to the culture of remembrance of human rights violations committed during the Nazi era as a motivation to deal with these topics with innovative, new approaches. The core task of this focal area has always been to bring together people with diverse backgrounds so that they can participate in an exchange about rights, injustice, and the interpretation of historical narratives and cultures of remembrance. We interpret our theme of the year "Courage to change, courage to act" as a guiding principle for concentrating on new approaches in historical-political education work that foster critical questioning, empathy and tolerance. This area has developed in-depth expertise and methodological skills thanks to its successful implementation of projects such as the "Model International Criminal Court (MICC)", "Once upon today ... in Europe" and "Entangled History". In cooperation with

our international network of partners, we have succeeded in producing our own publications about the background to and application of our methods in the fields of both human rights education and contemporary history. All of the methods that were developed in the course of this work treat diversity and multi-perspectivity as a strength and a positive impetus, and they aim to contribute to understanding and tolerance in times of division and exclusion.



„JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights“
"JustNow" is an interactive learning platform that was created within the framework of a strategic partnership with organisations from Croatia, the Netherlands and Poland as part of Key Action 2 of the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme. This platform represents a refined

No drawing a line under the past – historical education on human rights is needed right now!

version of methodological-didactic materials for (historical) human rights education by the MICC and presents educational contents in other forms and formats for new target groups. In order to make the abstract topic of human rights more tangible for young people and to create links to young people's own real lives, the learning platform offers contents for various types of learning. For example, practical exercises, texts and audio-visual materials such as animated films have been produced that will help young people to acquire knowledge about human rights, diversity, basic democratic values and the rule of law either independently or with the support of specialists in youth work. The aim is that "JustNow" will help young people to recognise human rights violations themselves and to become active in protecting human rights. With the innovative approach of creating small learning modules, institutions that work with young people will have a toolbox of methods available that help them to carry out high-quality educational projects that are tailored for their needs and target groups.

Numerous information events were held in Germany, the Netherlands, Croatia and Poland in 2018 to familiarise specialists in youth work with these new materials. Over 200 international participants attended these events, and further events will be held in 2019. In addition, the project partners aim to develop the materials and make them available to a wide audience. Further information on this project can be found at www.teachjustnow.eu



Young people considering the topic of children and young adults in the Holocaust at an "Entangled History" event. Credits: Kreisau-Initiative e. V.

and how these need to be updated to account for contemporary developments within an intercultural framework. An ever-present core element here is the inclusion of numerous perspectives in order to view the Second World War and the Holocaust as events on a European scale. The perspectives of victims, perpetrators and facilitators, along with viewpoints at the time of the events and current interpretations all play a decisive role here. All of these methods can be downloaded in the online manual of methods available on www.kreisau.de

Carolin Wenzel and Kerim Somun work in the Contemporary History and Human Rights focal area.

„Histoire Croisée as a perspective for non-formal education“

"Histoire Croisée" (or "Entangled History" in English) is a training course for specialists in youth work from Germany, Poland and Ukraine with the aim of further developing methods of historical-political education work using the Entangled History method. At the core of this approach are so-called entanglements of perspectives. "Histoire Croisée" works on the basis of the assumption that historical objectivity does not exist and that nobody (neither students nor teachers) can be neutral. Only by including as many perspectives as possible can an ideal of objectivity or "historical truth" be approached. The term 'perspectives' refers here not just to different national viewpoints, but also to the differing views that result from social, cultural or economic backgrounds and from differing genders or political standpoints. The approach also assumes that no historical event takes place in an isolated manner in a given national framework, but is instead always affected by global developments and influences. As part of this project, a collection of methods for intercultural education was already created back in 2015. In 2017 and 2018, we focussed particularly on methods for Holocaust education

New website for the MICC

The Model International Criminal Court project has been successfully run for several years now. On the updated website www.model-icc.org, you can find dates of the next editions and apply for them, use research tools, and read reports from previous activities.





Larger, more diverse, more ... Report from the Inclusion focal area

by Elżbieta Kosek and Paulina Jaskulska



The International Inclusive Dance Festival with almost 100 participants. Credits: www.harmonyart.eu

“Courage to change, courage to act” is the theme of the year of the Kreisau-Initiative.

When you look at the programme for the year of the focal area of Inclusion, you might first get the impression that not a lot of change happened and that a lot of familiar and proven activities took place. However, more careful examination reveals that our area and, with it, we as a pedagogical team have undergone an intensive and enriching process of development.

An important driving force behind these changes was the in-depth consideration of inclusive and diversity-conscious educational concepts. In our understanding of inclusion, inclusive approaches must create environments that include those who have had little or no opportunities for access up to now, and are also welcoming to all other people at the same time; these environments should create opportunities for exchange between those who would not otherwise have come together or who did not wish to come together in their everyday lives as a result of their origins, social status, education or disabilities. This interpretation of inclusion motivates us to be courageous and to try out new concepts. In this way, new partnerships have resulted, projects have been expanded and new target groups have been reached. Everything has become larger, more diverse and more complex.

For example, 95 young people, supervisors and trainers from seven different European countries took part in our second International Inclusive Dance Festival this year. They included people of a wide range of ages, backgrounds, dis-

abilities, skills and knowledge. The project made inclusion tangible for everyone, and this diversity made it possible for people to come together at various levels, to dissolve received lines of difference and to allow completely new connections to be established.

We have also had similar experiences in our other activities: the “Exchange of Expertise (Fach Austausch)” and “Fair Life” projects took place on a tri-national basis for the first time; “Building Bridges” was expanded with new partnerships and was able to pass on the idea of inclusive international educational work to people in Greece with the implementation of the project in that country.

Another intensive and successful experience for all partners was the “Fit for Mobility” international project, which saw the participation of new target groups (including young blind people from Russia and young refugees living in Germany) and also of new constellations of partners.

We were also faced with new methodological challenges in the development of our projects. Many methods were adapted and refined to enable us to work with such large and diverse groups in the area of non-formal education, to achieve our goals and to open up important learning and development opportunities for young people; this was a very interesting process and also an important one in terms of the quality of our work.

Larger, more diverse, more ... this applies to many of the experiences that we and our partners gathered and evaluated

Larger, more diverse, more ...

in the various activities. Sharing, disseminating and discussing these experiences with specialists was an important issue for us, and we were able to achieve this in 2018 within the framework of specialist programmes.

An important activity in this context was the study trip by representatives of the Polish educational system to Berlin, which we organised in cooperation with the Foundation for Societal Diversity (Fundacja na rzecz Różnorodności Społecznej). The aim was that specialists from Poland should get to know the challenges associated with working with students with a migrant background. They visited a number of different educational facilities and relevant initiatives and obtained valuable inspiration for possible inclusive solutions in Poland.

This year, a training series was initiated within the “Stage is clear (Bühne frei!)” project, which we are offering in Berlin in cooperation with the “VIA Bayern” association for intercultural work and the “Impro à la turka” improvised theatre group from Munich. Specialists learned here about the use of improvised theatre as a method for political education. An important target group for this method is young refugees and young people with a migrant background.

Our multi-module training series for prospective group leaders in international education work began in March 2018 with the “Get involved!” pool of group leaders in cooperation with the Krzyżowa Foundation and Trebnitz Castle Education and Exchange Centre. People who are interested in working together with the partner network had an opportunity here to learn and expand their pedagogical profile in accordance with their interests and preferences within the framework of ten training modules on issues such as inclusion, historical education, global learning, and



Young people participated in workshops at a radio station in Wrocław as part of the “Fit for Mobility” exchange. Credits: www.harmonyart.eu

democracy and anti-discrimination approaches. Temporary project placements also formed part of this training, which allowed trainers to obtain practical experience and benefit from feedback. The pool of group leaders is an important component of quality assurance and result consolidation in our work and will be continued through to March 2019.

Looking back on the work of the partner network in our focal area, we can say that it was important to act courageously and to try out new, sometimes crazy or even awe-inspiring concepts and ideas. Only in this way were we able to develop, inspire and change!

We are now facing into a new year where we will continue to act courageously to create a common space for diversity and exchange and to live the principle of inclusion. ■

Elżbieta Kosek and Paulina Jaskulska work in the Inclusion focal area.

Vision:Inklusion

Since 2015, the Kreisau-Initiative has been working in the expert group of the IJAB project “Vision:Inklusion”. Together with representatives of international youth work, self-help organisations, care for the disabled, research and administration, we developed an inclusion strategy for international youth work. This provides organisations with practical guidelines for becoming active in the area of inclusive international youth work and for opening up access to non-formal educational offerings to all young people.

The publication is available in German or English from the website www.vision-inklusion.de under the heading “Project Publications”.

In 2018-2020, a new project phase is now beginning in “Vision:Inklusion” in which the strategy will be further developed in cooperation with international partners.

You can find out more about this project at the website: www.vision-inklusion.de.





Courage to change Report from the Social-ecological Transformation focal area

by Elisabeth Kremer and Johanna Rogge



Participants in "Local in Global" hugging a tree. Credits: Kreisau-Initiative e. V.

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

As already emphasised by the visionary Buckminster Fuller, we are most open to changes if the focus is not on being "against" them, but if promising, rewarding alternatives are evident. If this is the case, changes at various levels become possible. Optimistic examples that we came across in our field of work in 2018 included: the new Mobility Law in Berlin, which focuses on environmentally friendly and sustainable mobility solutions and was a direct consequence of the 2016 popular petition on cycling; the mass protests in Hambach Forest against the clearance of the forest to mine coal for electricity generation and in favour of a systematic changeover to renewable energy sources; or the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which recently emphasised in its report that global warming could still remain within the upper thresholds that have been agreed on internationally as manageable if far-reaching climate protection measures are taken immediately.

In our work too, we try to develop positive visions for the future for sustainable living together with our participants. We wish to contribute to responsible, sustainable behaviour, guided by a vision of a "good life for everyone". One

of the core issues here is: how can we succeed in acting in a socially just, ecologically sustainable and economically viable manner – in our immediate surroundings and also on a global scale? In the light of the many challenges facing the world, we would like to pursue the following main aims with our educational and exchange formats: creation of an awareness for global problems; encouragement that emerges from interactions at seminars and that also imparts the knowledge that we are not alone with our worries and efforts; and empowerment by identifying options for action and, in this way, strengthening the capacity to act of the participants.

These aims become tangible in our everyday project work, which builds upon many years of dedicated work by Patryk Grudziński and includes tried-and-tested formats and new challenges too.

This year, for example, we continued the established "Local in Global" programme with a training course and a youth exchange. A new component of this project is a low-threshold offering for young people from Germany and Poland that was held in December. In workshops, the participants explored various aspects of sustainability – such as upcycling and cooking with regional and seasonal ingredients – in a creative, playful manner.

Courage to change



In April, Patryk Grudziński left the area of Social-ecological Transformation where he had worked for a number of years. The partner network, projects, contents – he was instrumental in shaping a lot of elements of this focal area! We are very grateful for all his work and we wish Patryk the very best for the future, both professionally and in his private life.

In other areas, we have entered completely new territory: the "Courage to change, courage to act"¹ project started last summer! Supported by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) and the German-Polish Youth Office (DPJW) and in cooperation with seven project partners from Germany and Poland, we provide a series of training courses for multipliers from both the school and extracurricular sectors. Ten thematic modules on various aspects of social-ecological transformation are available, e.g. on issues relating to prosperity and growth, the ecological limits of our planet, and global (in)justice. The participants try out methods that come mainly from the areas of Education

for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Transformative Learning. The latter is an approach in adult education that is regarded as particularly suitable for understanding and actively shaping far-reaching change or transformation processes. This is a major challenge, and we are glad to be receiving concrete support for this (see next page)!

The wide scope of our activities presents us with many opportunities for achieving further progress in our focal area in 2019. The priorities for us are to consolidate the new developments in "Local in Global", to establish "Courage to change, courage to act" on a sound footing, and then to identify potentials for synergies at the interfaces between these two projects and with other focal areas. These are exciting times and we will need both courage and perseverance in our work! ■

Elisabeth Kremer and Johanna Rogge work in the Social-ecological Transformation focal area

How can you contribute?

There are numerous small projects and initiatives in our area of work, and new ones are always being added. Networking is essential here, and maybe you could contribute in this regard?! Do you know of active initiatives – such as an upcycling project in your neighbourhood or the new foundation project on education for sustainable development? Whose work should we get to know – and who should find out about our work? Or maybe you are active yourself? We are looking forward to hearing about your recommendations and ideas! Contact: Elisabeth Kremer (kremer@kreisau.de)

A visit to the EkoCentrum in Wrocław during the kick-off seminar of the "Courage to change, courage to act" series. Credits: Kreisau-Initiative e. V.



Recommendations for reading

A major help for our work: the publications of "Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie und Fairbindung e. V." These collections of methods take a critical and often innovative look at global challenges relating to economic growth, global inequalities and social-ecological alternatives. Ordering and access to digital materials: www.endlich-wachstum.de/kapitel/materials-in-english



¹ This project was announced in the 2017 Newsletter with the originally planned title of "Actors of Transition".

Our partners in 2018

GERMANY

- Akademie für Führung und Kompetenz am Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München
- Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste e. V., Berlin
- Amt für Jugendarbeit der EKvW, Schwerte
- Annedore-Leber-Oberschule, Berlin
- August-Wilhelm-Mende-Schule, Bebra
- Austausch macht Schule, Hamburg
- Berufliche Schulen Bad Hersfeld
- Carl-von-Bach-Gymnasium, Stollberg
- CRISP – Crisis Simulation for Peace e. V., Berlin
- Danceart-Performance, Berlin
- Evangelische Trägergruppe für gesellschaftspolitische Jugendbildung (et)/ Evangelische Akademien in Deutschland (EAD) e. V.
- Europaberatung, Berlin
- FairBindung e. V., Berlin
- Freya von Moltke-Stiftung für das Neue Kreisau, Berlin
- Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium, Bonn
- Gebrüder-Montgolfier-Gymnasium, Berlin
- Gemeinschaftsschule Campus Efeuweg, Berlin
- GFB – Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft zur Förderung Brandenburger Kinder und Jugendlicher, Potsdam
- Goetheschule, Wetzlar
- Graf-Adolf-Gymnasium, Tecklenburg
- Haus Kreisau, Berlin
- Humboldt-Gymnasium, Potsdam
- IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V., Bonn
- Impro ala Turka, München
- Institut für angewandte Geschichte, Frankfurt (Oder)
- Interkulturelles Netzwerk e. V., Neuruppin
- Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie, Leipzig
- Kreuzberger Kinderstiftung, Berlin
- Lebenshilfe Ostallgäu Kaufbeuren Marktobendorf e. V.
- Peripheria.de – Bildung und Begegnung, Halfing
- Philipps-Universität, Marburg
- POP e. V., Köln
- Robert-Bosch-Gesamtschule, Hildesheim
- Schloss Trebnitz – Bildungs- und Begegnungsstätte
- Schule am Rosengarten, Neustadt in Holstein
- Schule St. Vincenzhaus, Cloppenburg
- SocialVisions e. V., Berlin
- Stiftung „Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft“, Berlin
- Südstadt e. V., Berlin
- VIA Bayern e. V. – Verband für Interkulturelle Arbeit e. V., München
- Villa Fohrde e. V., Havelsee OT Fohrde
- YFP - Youth for Peace, Hamburg

POLAND

- Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
- Dolnośląski Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno-Wychowawczy Nr 12 dla Niesłyszących i Słabosłyszących im. Marii Grzegorzewskiej, Wrocław
- Dolnośląskie Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Dzieciom i Młodzieży „OSTOJA”, Wrocław

- Fundacja Aktywnej Rehabilitacji FAR, region dolnośląski, Bolesławiec
- Fundacja EkoRozwoju, Wrocław
- Fundacja Jubilo, Wrocław
- Fundacja „Krzyżowa” dla Porozumienia Europejskiego, Krzyżowa
- Fundacja na rzecz Różnorodności Społecznej, Warszawa
- Gimnazjum nr 34, Szczecin
- Gimnazjum Towarzystwa Ewangelickiego, Cieszyn
- Gospodarstwo Ekologiczne Nowina
- Harmony Art, Łódź
- Instytut Globalnej Odpowiedzialności, Warszawa
- Instytut Głuchoniemych, Warszawa
- Kolektyw Trenerski Lepiej, Warszawa
- Komitet Partnerski Ziemi Goślińskiej, Murowana Goślina
- Kooperatywa124, Krasków
- Kulturanima, Wrocław
- Liceum Ogólnokształcące nr IX, Wrocław
- I Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Terasa Szewczenki, Biały Bór
- Muzeum Gross-Rosen, Rogoźnica
- Ochotnicze Hufce Pracy, Śląska Wojewódzka Komenda, Katowice
- Stowarzyszenie Refugees, Szczecin
- Polis – Stowarzyszenie Młodych Dziennikarzy, Warszawa
- Pracownia Performa, Srebrna Góra
- Szkoła Podstawowa nr 2 im. Henryka Brodatego, Nowogród Bobrzański
- Publiczna Szkoła Podstawowa im. Żołnierzy II Armii Wojska Polskiego, Tomaszów Bolesławiecki
- Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno-Wychowawczy we Frysztaku
- Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno-Wychowawczy w Lesznie
- Zespół Szkół im. gen. Sylwestra Kaliskiego, Góra
- Stowarzyszenie Polites, Szczecin
- Szkoła Podstawowa im. A. Fiedlera, Golina Wielka
- Szkoła Podstawowa im. Marii Konopnickiej, Sosnowka
- Towarzystwo Inicjatyw Twórczych „ę”, Warszawa
- Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno-Wychowawczy, Leszno
- Stowarzyszenie SOS Wioski Dziecięce w Polsce, Warszawa
- Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Wielkopolskiego
- Warsztat Terapii Zajęciowej Murowana Goślina GSPON
- Zespół Szkół Nr 14, Wrocław
- Zespół Szkół Specjalnych, Brzeg
- Zespół Szkół Specjalnych, Oława
- Zespół Szkół Ponadgimnazjalnych Nr 4 im. Kazimierza Wielkiego, Siedlce

ARGENTINA

- Centro Ana Frank

ARMENIA

- Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, Yerevan
- Millennium Foundation for Education and Research, Yerevan
- Peace Dialogue, Vandazor

BANGLADESH

- Onuroron, Dhaka

BELARUS

- Belarusian State University, Minsk

Our partners in 2018

- Belarusian Youth Public Union “New Faces”, Minsk
- International University “MITSO”, Minsk

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- Humanity in Action, Sarajevo
- Mostar University Debate Club, Mostar
- Universität Mostar, Mostar
- Universität Sarajevo, Sarajevo
- Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Sarajevo
- Western Balkan Network, Mostar

BULGARIA

- FAR Verein für demokratische Bildung, Burgas

DENMARK

- Mellem Education, Kopenhagen

ESTONIA

- MTÜ Eesti Pagulasabi (Estonian Refugee Council), Tartu
- MTÜ Laste- ja noortekeskus Valgus, Harjumaa
- Institute of History, Tallinn
- Uinitas Foundation, Tallinn
- Viimsi Keskkool, Tallinn

FRANCE

- Lycée Guillaume Apollinaire de Thiais, Thiais
- Maison de L'Europe de Paris et Foyer de Rencontres Internationales, Paris

GEORGIA

- Caucasus Youth Nexus, Tiflis

GREECE

- Alternative Innovative Development, Larisa
- Demokrit-Universität Thrakien, Komotini
- Enotikos Syllogos Lechoviton “O Profitis Ilias”, Lechovo
- Filoxenia Diapolitismiki Perivallontiki Organosi, Kryoneri Korinthias
- Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs
- Hellenic Youth Participation, Athen
- Inter Alia, Athen
- Kainotomia Center for Lifelong Learning
- “PERPATO” – Association for People with Mobility Problems and Friends, Komotini
- Pitsas Camp, Prinos, Thasos,
- United Societies of Balkans, Thessaloniki

THE UNITED KINGDOM

- Boys’ and Girls’ Club Wales, Cardiff
- CWVYS – Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services, Cardiff

ISRAEL

- Hebrew University, Jerusalem
- Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv
- Tabeetha School, Jaffa

ITALY

- DEMOSTENE | Centro Studi per la Promozione dello Sviluppo Umano, Latiano
- Equipe Europa Giovanni, Altivole

CROATIA

- HERMES (Croatian education and development network), Split
- Ugostiteljsko-turisticko ucliste – Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industry High School, Zagreb
- University of Rijeka

LATVIA

- Agency for International Programs for Youth, Riga

LEBANON

- Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University, Beirut
- Cultural Street Association, Saida

LITHUANIA

- Kaišiadorių šventosios Faustinos mokykla, Kaišiadorys

MACEDONIA

- Center for Intercultural Dialogue, Kumanovo

MOLDAVIA

- National Association of Young Historians of Moldova, Chisinau
- EcoVisio, Chisinau
- Young Journalists Center, Chisinau

MYANMAR

- Theik Khar Myanmar Institute, Taunggyi

NETHERLANDS

- Anne Frank Haus, Amsterdam
- Inclusive Works, Utrecht
- International Association for Intercultural Education, Den Haag

AUSTRIA

- Akademie der Grenze, Wien
- Mosaik GgmbH, Graz

PORTUGAL

- Associação Internacional Intercultural Projects and Research, Porto

ROMANIA

- Associata Burgus, Sf. Gheorghe
- Centrul Școlar De Educație Inclusiv Nr.2, Sibiu
- Colegiul Tehnic Latcu Voda, Siret
- Colegiul Național „Samuel von Brukenthal”, Sibiu
- Grupul Școlar „Latcu voda”, Siret
- Orasul Siret
- Școala Gimnaziala Nr.1 Sibiu
- Spitalul de Psihiatrie Cronici, Siret

RUSSIA

- St. Petersburg Affiliate of All Russia Association of the Blind
- German-Russian Exchange, Sankt Petersburg

SWEDEN

- Öresund för integration och utveckling ekonomisk förening, Malmö

SERBIA

- Grupa Kobra, Donja Toponica
- Open Communication, Belgrad

SLOVAKIA

- Saplinq | Developing Rainbow Communities Together

SPAIN

- Xeracion Valencia

SOUTH AFRICA

- Law Clinic at Rhodes University, Grahamstown

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Dětské Centrum Paprsek, Praha
- For Family.cz, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem
- ZŠ Zlín, Slovenská 3076 příspěvková organizace, Zlín
- INEX - SDRUZENI DOBROVOLNYCH AKTIVIT, Praha
- Jedličkův ústav, Liberec

TUNISIA

- The International Institute of Debate, Tunis

TURKEY

- Genc Hayat Vakfi (Young Lives Foundation), Istanbul
- Özel Atayurt Anadolu & Fen Lisesi, Eskişehir

UKRAINE

- Center for Educational Initiatives, Lwiw
- Center for International Criminal Law, Odessa
- ChangeLog Foundation, Mykolajiw
- Congress of National Minorities of Ukraine, Kiew
- Educational Center Toler Space, Kiew
- Nationale Iwan-Franko-Universität Lwiw, Lwiw
- NGO Welfare Workshop, Mykolajiw
- Odessa National Academy of Law, Odessa
- Ukrainian Catholic University, Lwiw
- Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, Kiew
- Youth NGO Iskra, Mykolajiw

HUNGARY

- Circle Space Group, Budapest

UGANDA

- African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET), Lira

THE USA

- Tufts University, Massachusetts
- New Mexico Human Rights Projects

VIETNAM

- Vietnam and Friends, Hanoi



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Early summer meeting

We would like to invite people to come to Krzyżowa from **7-10 June 2019** to engage in exchange discussions about educational and exchange work in Europe, for hiking or bike tours, and for conversations around the campfire. Anybody from Germany, Poland or other countries who is interested is welcome to attend! This trip will be organised by Ulrike Kind and Dominik Mosaiczuk this year. Information and contact person: Malwina Szczypta (szczypta@kreisau.de).



Anniversary of the Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe

Following on from the Whit Meeting, a conference on "European Understanding – 30 years of work in progress" will be held in Krzyżowa from **10-12 June 2019**. Anybody who feels an affinity with Krzyżowa and who wishes to reflect on previous and future work in the International Youth Meeting Centre, Memorial Site and European Academy is welcome to attend. A major public event to mark the 30th anniversary of the reconciliation mass in Krzyżowa is planned for **12 November 2019**.

Summer festival of the Kreisau-Initiative

The Kreisau-Initiative will turn 30 in 2019! We would like to look back on memories, celebrate and look forward too with a range of activities and events. The highlight of the celebrations will be our summer festival on **17 August 2019**. Note this date in your diary so that you can join in with the celebrations! Up-to-date information is available at www.kreisau.de.

30
JAHRE
KREISAU-INITIATIVE
1989-2019



Krzyżowa trip

The annual trip to Krzyżowa that is organised jointly by the Kreisau-Initiative and the Freya von Moltke Foundation will take place from **26-29 September 2019**. The highlight of the trip will be a lecture held by the specialist in Middle Eastern and oriental studies, writer and essayist Navid Kermani. Please feel free to recommend this trip to friends, acquaintances and other interested persons who would like to get to know Krzyżowa and its history. Information and contact person: Office of the Freya von Moltke Foundation (info@fvms.de).



General Meeting of Members

We would also like to invite you to the General Meeting of Members of our association in Berlin on **21 September 2019**. The location is International Alumni Centre, Linienstr. 65a, 10119 Berlin. Please feel free to send your concerns, suggestions and agenda items to the board beforehand (Ole Jantschek, jantschek@kreisau.de).



Keep to up date with current events:

- Visit our website and subscribe to our newsletter: www.kreisau.de
- Like us on Facebook: Kreisau-Initiative e. V.

Chronicle of 2018

JANUARY	
16.01.2018	Participation in the discussion „Sprache.Macht.Inklusiv. (Language.Makes.Inclusive)“ at the conference hosted by the Erasmus+ National Agency in Germany, Cologne Presentation of the publication „Perspective:Inclusion“
24.-26.01.2018	Shaping change together, Trebnitz German-Polish conference on Education for Sustainable Development
FEBRUARY	
01.-02.02.2018	Programme conference of Kreisau-Initiative and Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe, Berlin
03.-08.02.2018	Practice Peace, Tavankut, Serbia Training course on antidiscrimination for participants from Poland, Germany, Kosovo, Serbia, and Turkey
12.-17.02.2018	Meine Geschichte – deine Geschichte, Lübeck, Germany and Gdynia, Poland Youth exchange on German-Polish history after the II World War for participants from Germany and Poland
24.02.-02.03.2018	Model International Criminal Court (MICC) School, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Simulation of the trials in the International Criminal Court for young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Germany, the Netherlands, and Poland
26.02.-4.03.2018	Her-Story, Trebnitz Youth exchange on the role of women in resistance movements for participants from Germany, Poland, and Croatia
MARCH	
03.-10.03.2018	Local in Global – Prosperity without Growth?, Trebnitz International training course on sustainable development for educators from Armenia, Bulgaria, Germany, Moldova, Poland, and the Ukraine
08.-09.03.2018	Collaboration in the team of the „Europeans for Peace“ programme, Berlin
10.03.2018	General Meeting of Members and open day of the Kreisau-Initiative, Berlin
11.03.2018	Bühne frei!, Berlin 2nd management meeting for the project founded by the „Demokratie Leben!“ programme
10.-16.03.2018	Betzavta Training: Practicing Democracy, Trebnitz Training course for international youth work practitioners from Spain, Germany, Poland, the UK, Romania, Croatia, and Denmark
11.-14.03.2018	Intercultural learning and integration in schools – a study trip by representatives of the Polish educational system, Berlin Study trip to learn the German concept of welcome classes (Willkommensklassen) and gain an insight into teaching students with a migrant background in schools in Berlin
12.-17.03.2018	Once upon today ... in Europe, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange for participants from Germany, Estonia, Moldova, Romania, Poland, and the Ukraine
24.-29.03.2018	Get Involved!, Trainer*innenpool – Pool of trainers, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Basis module of the training series for prospective group leaders in international education
APRIL	
03.-08.04.2018	Model International Criminal Court (MICC) University, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Simulation of the trials in the International Criminal Court for students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the USA, Germany, Poland, Rwanda, Italy, Syria, the Ukraine, Israel, and India
04.-07.04.2018	Participation in the specialist programme Language Animation in the German-Greek youth exchange in collaboration with the IJAB, Cologne
07.04.-25.07.2018	The travelling exhibition “Living in the Truth and Rejecting Lies. On the History of Resistance and Opposition in the 20th Century” in the town museum of Gernsheim
13.-15.04.2018	Advance planning visit for the youth exchange “What’s cooking?“, Kreisau/Krzyżowa
13.-15.04.2018	Advance planning visit for the youth exchange “Activists against Xenocide“, Berlin
19.-22.04.2018	Get Involved! – Pool of trainers, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Module 1 of the training series: Inclusion and methods of the inclusive international educational work
24.04.2018	Meeting of the expert group of the IJAB project „Vision:Inclusion“, Cologne Collaboration of the Inclusion focal area on the development of an inclusion strategy for international youth work
MAY	
14.-17.05.2018	JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights, The Hague Training course for human rights educators
18.-21.05.2018	Early summer meeting for members and friends, Kreisau/Krzyżowa
26.-29.05.2018	Get Involved! – Pool of trainers, Trebnitz Module 2 of the training series: Participatory methods in der international youth work

Chronicle of 2018

JUNE	
10.-12.06.2018	Conference “Educational aspects of school exchange programmes – chances and challenges in Poland“, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Conference for decision makers and experienced actors in the formal and non-formal education in Germany and Poland
13.06.2018	Workshop “Methods for organising international inclusive projects“, Berlin Workshop held during the seminar on organisation of projects of the funding programme “Europeans for Peace“
14.-21.06.2018	Activists against Xenocide, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Training course on migration for specialists in youth work from Germany, Estonia, Greece, the UK, Macedonia, Poland, and Serbia
15.06.2018	JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Training course for human rights educators
19.06.-22.06.2018	SPI Harvesting Conference, Cascais, Portugal
21.-23.06.2018	Advance planning visit for the project “Courage to Change, Courage to Act“, Berlin
25.-30.06.2018	What’s cooking?, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Exchange of expertise on sustainable cooking and food for youngsters from Germany, Poland, and Croatia
28.-29.06.2018	Bühne frei!, München 3rd management and evaluation meeting for the project founded by the „Demokratie Leben!“ programme
JULY	
06.-07.07.2018	JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights, Amsterdam Training course for human rights educators
AUGUST	
04.-11.08.2018	International Inclusive Dance Festival “Be active“, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange for participants from Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Romania, and the Ukraine
24.-26.08.2018	Advance planning visit for the youth exchange “Fair Signs“, Kreisau/Krzyżowa
24.-26.08.2018	Advance planning visit for the youth exchange “Roots and Borders“, Szczecin, Poland
25.-28.08.2018	Get Involved! – Pool of trainers, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Module 3 of the training series: Approaches and methods of the anti-discrimination education
31.08.-2.09.2018	JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights, Zagreb, Croatia Work meeting with organisations from Germany, Poland, Croatia, and the Netherlands
SEPTEMBER	
04.-10.09.2018	Building Bridges: Diversity, Thassos, Greece Inclusive international exchange for participants from Poland, Germany, The Czech Republic, Romania, and Greece
05.-09.09.2018	From Knowledge to Action – an Introduction to Transformative Learning, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Seminar on Transformative Learning and Education for Sustainable Development within the framework of the “Courage to Change, Courage to Act“ training series
08.09.2018	Participation in the Neukölln Open – Festival für Demokratie and Vielfalt (Festival for Democracy and Diversity), Berlin
09.-15.09.2018	Entangled History, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange for participants from Germany, Poland, and the Ukraine
15.-20.09.2018	Fair Life, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange for participants from Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic
21.-23.09.2018	Advance planning visit for the youth meeting “Fit for Mobility“, Berlin
22.09.2018	JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights, Wrocław Training course for human rights educators
22.-28.09.2018	Local in Global: Welcome to Krapowa!, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange for participants from Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, and the Ukraine
22.-23.09.2018	Trip to Krzyżowa, organised by Freya von Moltke-Stiftung and Kreisau-Initiative. Focus of this year’s trip: Poland and Hungary in Europe, reasons for the scepticism about the EU, the revival of the nationalism and its political consequences; Kreisau/Krzyżowa
22.-23.09.2018	Bühne frei!, Berlin Module 1 of the training series for educators: Improvised theatre in the intercultural education
23.-29.09.2018	Model International Criminal Court (MICC) School, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Simulation of the trials in the International Criminal Court for young people from Germany, Poland, and the Ukraine
25.09.2018	Contribution at the conference “Communication in the International Youth Work“, hosted by the IJAB, Cologne

OCTOBER

05.-11.10.2018	Building Bridges: Circus , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Inclusive youth exchange for participants from Germany, Poland, and the Ukraine
08.-14.10.2018	Activists against Xenocide , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange on migration for participants from Poland, Estonia, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, and the UK
11.10.2018	Meeting of the expert group of the IJAB project "Vision:Inclusion" , Cologne Collaboration of the Inclusion focal area on the development of an inclusion strategy for international youth work
13.10.2018	Annual closed-door meeting of the Kreisau-Initiative
14.-19.10.2018	Fair Signs , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange on alternative communication methods for participants from Germany, Poland, and Romania
21.-26.10.2018	Forum Dialog Junior , Kreisau/Krzyżowa German-Polish children exchange on tolerance, diversity and respect
27.-30.10.2018	Get involved! – Pool of trainers, Kreisau/Krzyżowa Module 4 of the training series: Global Learning in international youth work
30.10.-3.11.2018	Model International Criminal Court (MICC) Training of Trainers , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Training course for youth educators from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Lebanon, Turkey, Israel, and Greece

NOVEMBER

03.11.-10.11.2018	Roots and Borders , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange on migration and identity for participants from Germany, France, and Poland
04.-8.11.2018	Once upon today ... in Europe , Brasov (Romania) Training course for youth work practitioners from Germany, Estonia, Moldova, Romania, Poland, and the Ukraine
07.11.2018	Contribution at the 8th Round Table for Education for Sustainable Development Brandenburg , Potsdam Workshop on "From Knowledge to Action – an Introduction to Transformative Learning"
10.11.2018	JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights , Osijek, Croatia Training for human rights educators
10.-16.11.2018	Fit for Mobility , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange on mobility and change for participants from Germany, Poland, and Russia
17.-18.11.2018	Bühne frei! , Berlin Module 2 of the training series for educators: Improvised theatre in the intercultural education
19.-22.11.2018	Get involved! – Pool of trainers, Trebnitz Module 5 of the training series: the Betzavta method in the international youth education
19.-24.11.2018	Model International Criminal Court (MICC) School , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Simulation of the trials in the International Criminal Court for young people from Germany, Poland, Israel, and the USA
24.11.-30.11.2018	Building Bridges: Traditions and Customs , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Inclusive youth exchange on traditions and customs in Europe for participants from Germany, Poland, The Czech Republic, and the Ukraine
26.-30.11.2018	Meine Geschichte – Deine Geschichte , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Youth exchange on German-Polish history after the II World War for participants from Germany and Poland
28.11.2018	Contribution at the conference "International dimension in youngsters' life nowadays" , Riga, Latvia Contribution and workshop on language and communication in international youth work
29.-30.11.2018	Participation in the international kick-off conference for the "Vision:Inclusion" project , Berlin Presentation of the inclusion strategy developed in the IJAB project, "Vision:Inclusion", and a start for its further developing on the international level

DECEMBER

01.-07.12.2018	Local in Global , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Advent youth exchange on sustainability for participants from Germany and Poland
03.-04.12.2018	Bühne frei! , München 4th management and evaluation meeting for the project founded by the "Demokratie Leben!" programme
08.-13.12.2018	Deep Democracy , Kreisau/Krzyżowa Training course on conflict resolution strategies for youth work practitioners from Germany and Poland



Foto: www.harmonyart.eu

Members of the Krzyżowa network

A number of institutions around the world support Krzyżowa as a European meeting place. To provide an overview, we present here the most important members of this network:

The **Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe** (Fundacja „Krzyżowa” dla Porozumienia Europejskiego) emerged from an international citizens’ movement that first came together in June 1989 in the city of Wrocław at the invitation of the “Club of the Catholic Intelligentsia” (KIK). At the end of the conference, the thirty participants sent a letter to the Polish Foreign Minister asking him to promote their cause – the founding of an international meeting centre and a memorial to the European resistance movement – in governmental talks between Poland and Germany. The Foundation is now the owner of the former Kreisau estate and runs an international youth meeting centre, a memorial site, and a European Academy.

The **Kreisau-Initiative e. V.** was founded in summer 1989 by citizens of East and West Berlin in order to support present-day Krzyżowa and European integration. We wish to keep on being an active nongovernmental organisation in the future, one that people from all over Germany get involved with. In addition, we aim to deepen and broaden the connections of Krzyżowa with the civil society in Germany and Europe, introduce the Kreisau-Initiative to a broader public and win over decision-makers to help the realisation of our ideas. We conduct our projects in close cooperation with the Krzyżowa Foundation and are continually developing the contents and methods of these projects. We are a reliable partner for donors and partner institutions as well as a recognized educational institution for innovative projects in Germany and Europe, especially for target groups

that have been neglected in international exchanges up to now.

The **Kreisau-Initiative Würzburg e. V.** was founded in spring 1994 in order to preserve the memory of the Kreisau Circle and resistance to Hitler, especially in Franconia. This organisation works towards these goals by holding events locally, organising visits to Krzyżowa, and supporting the Krzyżowa Foundation with both finance and ideas.

The **Freya von Moltke Foundation for the New Kreisau** (Freya von Moltke-Stiftung für das Neue Kreisau) was established in 2004 by citizens from Poland, Germany and the United States. The Kreisau-Initiative e. V. and the von Moltke family proposed the founding of the Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide sustainable financial support for the activities of the International Youth Meeting Centre as well as promotion of its work and the ideas underlying it in Germany.

Krzyżowa-Music is a non-profit limited liability company. It was founded in 2015 by the Kreisau-Initiative e. V., the Freya von Moltke Foundation for the New Kreisau, and the Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding. During this festival, a selected number of internationally renowned musicians (Seniors) meet a large number of young aspiring musicians (Juniors) from the European classical music scene. Following workshops and concerts in Krzyżowa, the musicians go on a tour of Poland and Germany to present the results of their work at numerous concerts.



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Imprint

Publisher:

Legally responsible for content (V. i. S. d. P.): Ole Jantschek
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Photo credits:

Authors’ portraits: Kreisau-Initiative, private archives of the authors, p. 11 Marcin Bójko, p. 13 <http://engagingconflicts.com>.
Front cover picture: Elżbieta Kosek
Back cover picture: Harmony Art
Small pictures on the cover: Kreisau-Initiative, Harmony Art

Layout:

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BECOME MEMBER OR SUPPORT US WITH A DONATION

Since 1989, the Kreisau-Initiative has been supporting European integration and working to promote the present-day village of Krzyżowa. Working on basis of the legacy of the thinking of the original Krzyżowa Circle and of Eastern and Central European opposition movements, we bring together people of different backgrounds in a dialogue of active remembering, mutual openness and constructive shaping of the future. In cooperation with other organisations within the Krzyżowa Network and international partners, we initiate innovative international educational and exchange projects.

In our capacity as a partner of the Krzyżowa Foundation in Germany,

- We are the point of contact for interested parties from Germany and the rest of Europe;
- We network the present-day Krzyżowa with civil society in Europe;
- We develop new ideas and projects;
- We acquire funding that benefits the Krzyżowa Foundation through projects and other indirect funding;
- We raise public awareness in Germany for the objectives of Krzyżowa today.

We need you and your support in order to be able to carry out our work!

The annual membership fee of just **50 euros** (minimum amount; reduced fee of 12 euros for young people and students, symbolic fee of 2 euros for children) helps us to plan, consolidate and expand our work. We also offer support membership to those who are not able or do not wish to be very active.

The continuity ensured by these fees allows us to tackle long-term projects too in a responsible manner. A stable share of self-generated funds allows us to acquire significantly higher amounts of financial support.

We would be delighted to send you further information material and membership forms. Please write to info@kreisau.de.

Our account for donations:

Account holder: Kreisau-Initiative e. V.

Account no.: 116 3 9 51211

IBAN: DE13 4306 0967 1163 9512 11

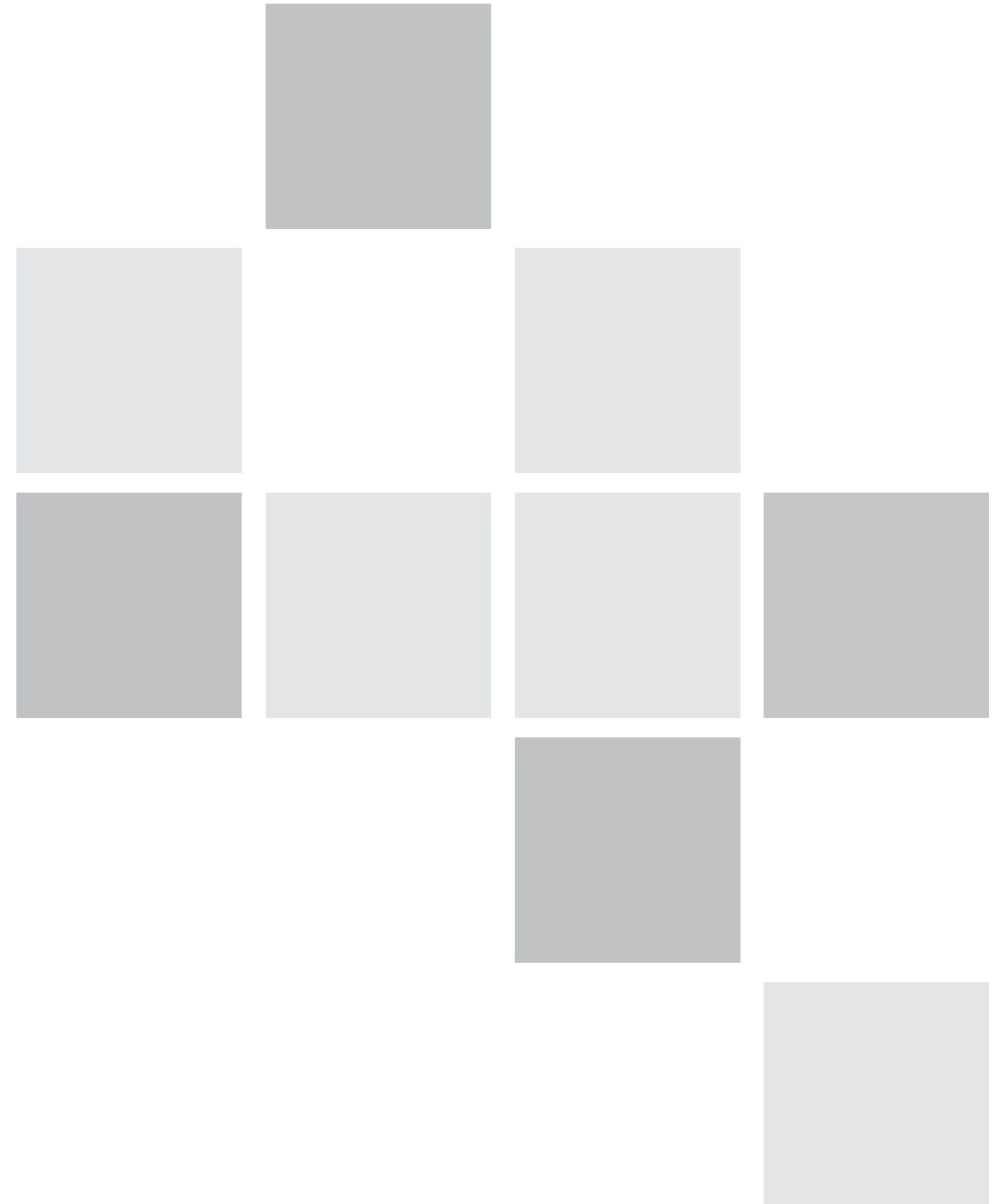
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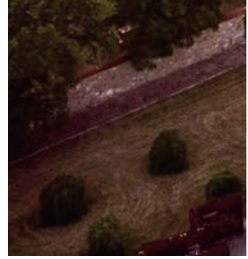
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Donations to the Kreisau Initiative, which is registered as a non-profit organization for the common good in Germany (registration number: 10244 Nz at Charlottenburg Local Court in Berlin), are tax-deductible in Germany.

We will automatically issue you with a donation receipt for donations of over 100 euros if you state your address when transferring funds.

If you have any questions, please contact our treasurer Heimgard Mehlhorn (mehlhorn@kreisau.de).





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