

Foundation



Remembrance  
Responsibility  
Future

# Activity report 2021







**Foundation**

**ewz**

Remembrance  
Responsibility  
Future

# Who we are...

In memory of the victims of National Socialist injustice.  
Let us take responsibility. Together for the past, present and future.  
For equal dignity and rights of all people.



## Our Mission

- We support survivors of National Socialist persecution and strengthen the commitment of their descendants.
- We act together with young people for living remembrance of the fates of the persecuted.
- We initiate contemporary education for a critical examination of National Socialism as well as its aftermath.
- We campaign for equal dignity and equal rights for all people and against antisemitism, anti-gypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination, racism and all forms of discrimination.
- We enable effective action by self-organizations and are a strategic partner and supporter of civil society.

Against the background of its founding history, the EVZ Foundation is particularly active in Central and Eastern Europe, Israel and Germany.

# ...and what we do

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# Welcome!

The Julius Hirsch Platz has recently been established in Achern, Baden. You may be thinking: "What a funny way to start an activity report." And yet, this message includes an important aspect of what the EVZ Foundation stands for. Born in 1892, Julius Hirsch played for Germany in the national soccer team and participated in the 1912 Olympics with his team. As a Jewish athlete, his career ended with the rise of the National Socialist regime: Forced labor and forced segregation followed. Julius Hirsch was murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. His life and suffering – and that of other athletes – is commemorated in the exhibition "Between Success and Persecution: Jewish stars in German sport till 1933 and beyond" funded by the EVZ Foundation as well as other organizations. In the light of this new examination of his life, the square was named after Julius Hirsch.

Cooperative, effective, multi-perspective: In the EVZ Foundation's Agenda for the Future, which was developed last year and has subsequently been implemented, we have set out to bring about precisely this way of working and this way of having an impact. We give a voice to the perspectives of survivors of National Socialist persecution, victims and survivors of the National Socialist injustices who have been less heard until now, and link them to a place of remembrance. We engage with partners – across organizations, sectors and countries – in order to promote a living, active culture of remembrance.

For this purpose, we consistently use innovative, digital, and diversity-sensitive methods that we develop together with our target groups in co-creation and participation processes. We disseminate the results of our work and those of our project partners via various channels and formats to achieve greater coverage and with multiple thereby contribute to debate and discourse in line with our mission.



The need for debate and discourse is now more relevant than ever: A war of aggression at the heart of Europe, instrumentalization of history, fading historical eyewitnesses and increasing misanthropic attacks.

The EVZ Foundation leads these debates and creates impulses for a value-based and responsible coexistence. In accordance with our mission to keep alive the memory of the injustice of National Socialist persecution, to accept the resulting responsibility in the here and now and to actively shape it for the future and subsequent generations.

Are you shaping it with us?

*Dr. Andrea Despot & Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto  
Directors of the EVZ Foundation*

*Note: Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto was a member of the Board of Directors of the EVZ Foundation until May 2022; she now heads the Equal Opportunities Department at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.*

# Three questions for ...

**Annette Schavan, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the EVZ Foundation**



## **How did you perceive the year 2021 – from your perspective as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the EVZ Foundation?**

2021 was an interim year. Although the Covid-19 pandemic had not yet completely lost its horror, societies had come to terms with the "new normal": the digital learning curve was steep; and working under the conditions of "social distancing" became an everyday reality. Our project sponsors have adapted their work to these conditions in an impressive way. Visits at the window or Zoom calls to survivors of National Socialist persecution became commonplace. We must continue to do all we can together to bring the very elderly into our social center and perception.

At the same time, the historical upheaval we are experiencing as we write these lines is not yet finished. Ukrainian, Russian, and Belarusian participants still came together in our youth projects. The first ban of Memorial at the end of 2021 was an alarming sign of the brutal repression of civil society organizations, the lack

of freedom of expression and historical revisionism that now go hand in hand with Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine in an even more intensified form.

## **The EVZ Foundation's 2021 Agenda for the Future states that the Foundation "is positioning itself as more capable of action and more effective." What does this mean?**

This reflects the Foundation's new beginnings and the ambition for its commitment. The Foundation has strategically reconfigured itself, questioned stakeholders, identified and formulated needs through participatory formats, and applied new funding approaches. To illustrate this: In the field of activity "Action", we will strengthen self-organizations with even greater commitment in the future. In the field of activity "Education", we address gaps in knowledge within society with innovative narrative forms – e.g. relating to marginalized victim groups.

## **2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the start of payments to former forced laborers. What do you take with you from the founding mission into the future?**

As we state on the Foundation's anniversary website: The issue of how we shape the future also depends on our understanding of the past. This applies to our society, its knowledge of National Socialist injustices and the persistence of exclusion and discrimination into the present. But this also applies to the EVZ Foundation itself. The Foundation was established in a cooperative spirit, a unique private-public partnership across organizational and national organizational boundaries and national borders. We continue to implement this mission of dialog, change of perspective and mediation – it is now more important than ever.

*Annette Schavan  
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees  
Former Federal Minister*

# Asking our partners

## Our partners and project participants review the year 2021



### **Prof. Dr. Luise Hölscher**

*State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Finance*

“In 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance, in cooperation with the EVZ Foundation, launched the Education Agenda on NS Injustice - with a total of 17 projects and a funding volume of up to EUR 9 million. This is a first important step towards achieving the objectives of the Education Agenda on NS Injustice: to keep alive the memory of National Socialist persecution and to close gaps in knowledge about the National Socialist injustices and in the process of coming to terms with it on the political level. Germany's ongoing moral responsibility for the victims of National Socialist persecution must be conveyed in a lasting way, especially to the younger generations, so that antisemitism, anti-Roma discrimination as well as all other forms of misanthropic prejudice is no longer possible. This is precisely where the projects come in. It is important for us to focus on all victim groups. We look forward to the project results with keen anticipation.”

[www.stiftung-evz.de/bildungsagenda](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/bildungsagenda)



### **Leonie Schöler**

*Historian and journalist. Reports on TikTok under @heeyleonie about history and present.*

“How can modern and sustainable commemoration be successful – not just across nations but, also across generations? Contributions and discussions at the Young People Remember event of the EVZ Foundation's YOUNG PEOPLE remember funding program have clearly shown: Young people do not just want to be informed, they also want to actively shape discussions with their ideas and perspectives. Between fake news and hate speech, the digital space is a challenging place in many respects. But it also gives us many new opportunities to involve young people in commemorative work and to network with each other. Let's make good use of it!”

[www.tiktok.com/@heeyleonie](https://www.tiktok.com/@heeyleonie)





## **Ruth Weiss**

*Journalist, writer and  
historical eyewitness to  
National Socialism*

I am being asked over and over again why I still put up this big an effort at an old age. And I can only say that I do it because, thanks to the questions asked, I realize again and again that, despite the culture of remembrance and the school lessons, much about the time of National Socialism has not really reached young people. Who, then, is this Jewish population – then as now a minority, at that time in Germany, now worldwide – which was supposedly the misfortune of the great German people? Against the background of this reality, I see it as my personal duty to answer questions and to make it clear that all prejudices are unjust and must be dismantled, whilst tolerance and respect towards others should be practiced.

The 2020 and 2021 reading tours, which I was able to do despite the Covid-19 pandemic, were also associated with this problem, although they were also personally encouraging. I saw with some satisfaction that the new wave of right-wing violence, right-wing agitation and right-wing hate, such as the attacks on the synagogue in Halle and on fellow citizens of Muslim faith, had awakened young people's interest in the history of National Socialism, antisemitism as well as racism. And so, I was not surprised that a recent study highlighted how clear it is that the 19-25 age group is much more interested in these issues than their parents' generation. Talking to these young people is a particular concern of mine, and I hope to continue this work as long as I can.

<https://ruthweiss.net>



## **Dr. Martin Auerbach**

*Psychotherapist and  
Clinical Director*

*AMCHA – National Israeli  
Center for Psychosocial Support  
of Survivors of the Holocaust  
and the Second Generation*

This second year of the Covid-19 epidemic has also been very challenging for our clients and therapists at AMCHA. We continuously had to readjust our activities and adapt them to the restrictions and regulations of the health authorities. This has meant, above all, a flexible adaptation of encounters in face-to-face contact and meetings, to telephone and video meetings, home visits, and sometimes a hybrid mix of several forms. In this way, it has been possible to maintain and ensure constant contact with the vast majority of patients and social club members.

An added dimension were the new services of crisis intervention and short-term therapy for people who needed emotional help because of the epidemic. These interventions have been conducted both with Holocaust survivors, but also with other senior citizens and members for whom we conduct therapy sessions.

An additional stress factor was a security crisis involving rocket fire and fighting a year ago, which led to a reactivation of trauma.

Intergenerational activities have been taking place as far as possible even during these difficult times.

[www.amcha.org](http://www.amcha.org)

# What we funded

In 2020, we funded a total of 280 projects with 9.854 million euros. Because of the pandemic, many projects had to be rescheduled and events and encounter projects were either canceled or took place digitally. All facts and figures are available at [www.stiftung-evz.de/facts-and-figures](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/facts-and-figures)

247

PROJECTS

12

RECHESTS,  
EXAMINATIONS,  
STUDIES

36

CONFERENCES AND  
WORKSHOPS

The EVZ Foundation has incorporated the Guiding Principles of Good Practice for Foundations of the Association of German Foundations into its work. It is also part of the Initiative for a Transparent Civil Society launched by Transparency International (in German): [www.stiftung-evz.de/transparenz](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/transparenz)

26

EXHIBITIONS

50

PODCASTS, FILMS,  
AND PHOTO  
DOCUMENTARIES

46

PUBLICATIONS AND  
EDUCATIONAL  
MATERIAL

16

PLAYS/  
PERFORMANCES

12

TEACHING AND  
EDUCATION  
FORMATS

15

GAMES, APPS,  
AND DIGITAL  
PRODUCTS

47

WEBSITES AND  
CAMPAIGNS

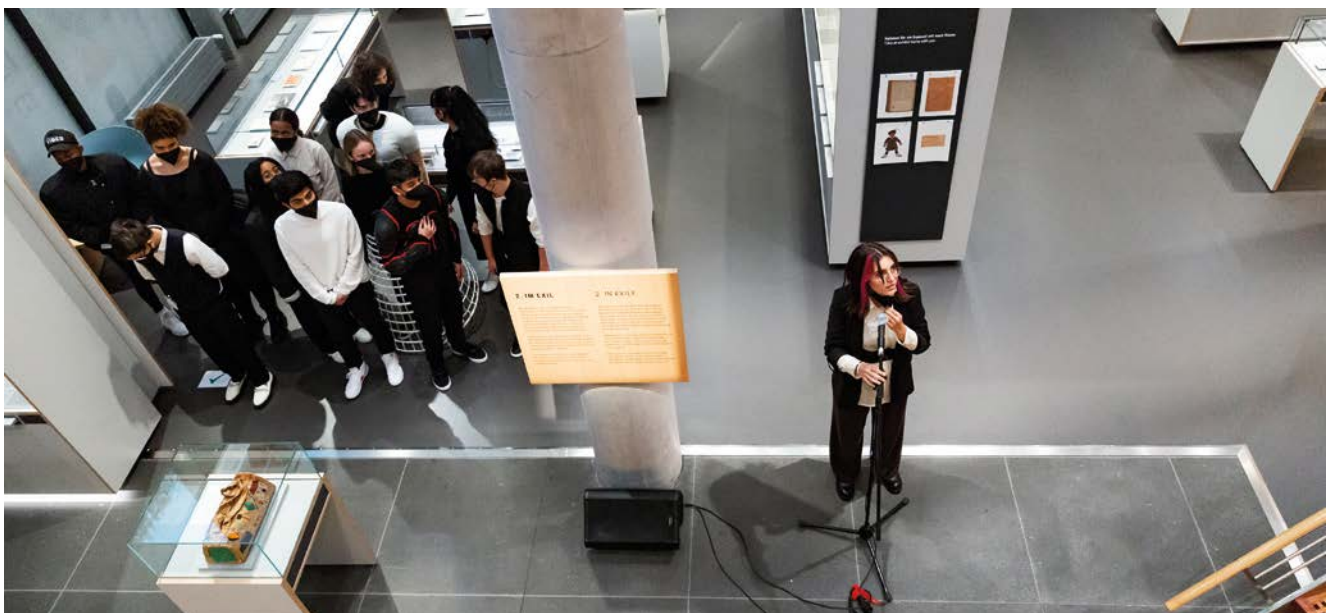
➔ All our projects can be found in the project finder, where they can be filtered by year and country (in German): [www.stiftung-evz.de/projektfinder](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/projektfinder)

# How we work

Our overarching goal is to strengthen the impact of the Foundation's work and integrate the remembrance of the victims of National Socialist injustice and a living culture of remembrance more firmly into our society. The Foundation is a strategic partner and supporter of civil society. It is positioning itself to be sensitive to diversity and discrimination, viable for the future, digitalized, able to raise third-party funds, efficient, and participatory. For more than a year, together with hundreds of committed partners, we have been working on the strategic further development of the EVZ Foundation. The guidelines of the Agenda for the Future have been implemented in our activities since June 2021.

One of the goals of the Agenda for the Future is to make the EVZ Foundation fit and ready for the future. For this reason, we launched a new project in June 2021 at the initiative of the Federal Ministry of Finance: the NS Injustice Education Agenda. By initiating the first 17 projects, we have launched innovative and effective ways for a critical examination of National Socialism and its ongoing impacts.

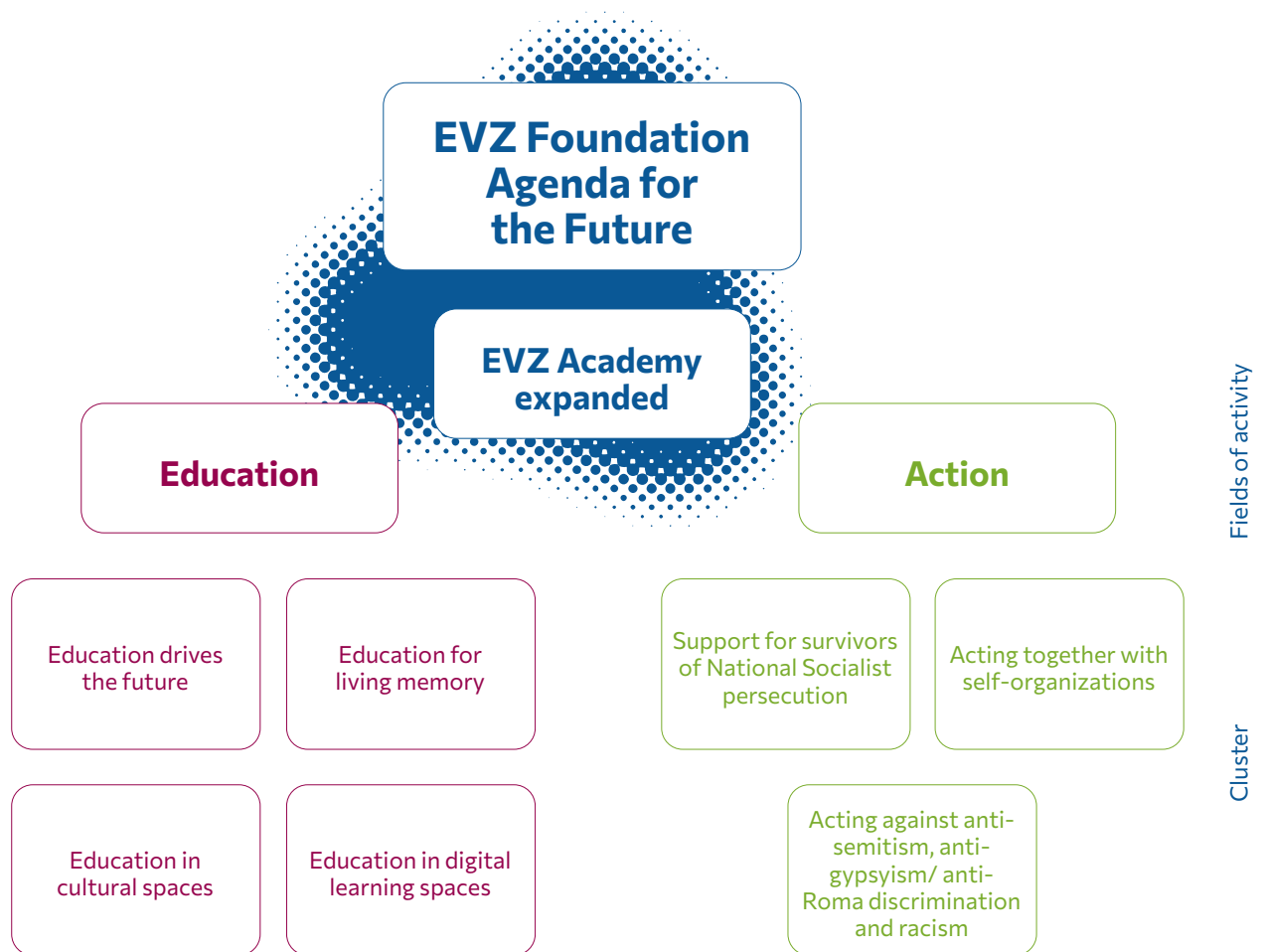
**In the financial section starting on page 40, you can read more about our funding activities.**



# How we are set up

One aspect of the Agenda for the Future is the reconfiguration of our fields of activity. Our funding work is carried out within our fields of activity, EDUCATION and ACTION. Each field of activity is subdivided into a total of seven areas (clusters). Our fields of activity and their respective clusters transform the work into a future-oriented and activating funding program.

Within the context of the Foundation's own EVZ Academy expanded (see page 26), educational offers in the fields of activity EDUCATION and ACTION are bundled and mediated. The academy serves as a platform and forum for exchange, acquisition of knowledge, interaction, and commitment to the Foundation's themes.



# Education drives the future

International understanding, international youth exchange and building democracy



## Topics

- international understanding
- international youth exchange
- youth participation
- building democracy
- combating antisemitism, anti-gypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination and racism
- equal participation
- transnational future topics



## Target groups

- young people aged 14-35 years
- international youth exchange players



## Regions

- Germany
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Eastern Partnership countries



## Objectives

- facilitating present-related, transnational project learning and imparting judgement expertise for critical examination of historical narratives
- opening up less well-known places of remembrance and learning in Europe for historical/political education
- networking and professionalization of players in international youth education in the target countries



## Our partners

- Federal Foreign Office as grantor for the programs "YOUNG PEOPLE remember" and "MEET UP! Youth for Partnership"
- memorial sites
- NGOs and government institutions in Europe

## On the Crossroads of History: A German-Ukrainian Encounter



### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

As a result of the collaboration of participants from both countries, an online theater piece and an online platform are being developed which document individual biographies and are accessible to the general public.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

The project is an educational and artistic initiative for young Roma and non-Roma from Ukraine and Germany. The participants deal with culture and history, as well as the genocide perpetrated to combat the Roma. The project consists of online and offline training, as well as creative workshops. The aim is to secure and pass on historical memories.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

The project is aimed at young Roma and non-Roma and in this way it brings together different perspectives and worlds. The very striking feature is the present-day approach combined with references to the history of the genocide perpetrated against the Roma.

**Project sponsor:** Youth Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture „ARCA“

**Duration of the project:** August-November 2021

**Funding amount:** 28.846 Euro

**Project sponsor:** Youth Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture ARCA

**Funding countries:** Ukraine, Germany

**Website:** <https://denkglobal.org/meetup>

## Reappraisal of the Porajmos: Holocaust education at historical sites as well as online



### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The reappraisal and communication of the atrocity of the Porajmos, the genocide against the European Sinti and Roma during the time of National Socialism, is an important concern for the EVZ Foundation. Sinti and Roma continue to be discriminated against and marginalized. The Foundation intends to counteract this through educational formats as well as the strengthening of self-organizations.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

Young people and youth organizations in ten countries across Europe are working to bring about a reappraisal and countering antigypsyism.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

The project builds on the digital "RomArchive" which is about arts and cultures of Sinti and Roma and in this way it develops new formats and methods of Holocaust education at historical sites and also online. This raises awareness about the Porajmos and strengthens the role of (Roma) youth organizations in commemorative practices and debates.

**Project sponsor:** Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma [Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V.], Heidelberg

**Duration of the project:** 2020-2022

**Funding amount:** EUR 86,850

**Funding countries:** Croatia, Poland, Germany and other European countries

**Website:** <https://2august.eu>

# Education for living memory

Strengthening multi-perspective and  
inclusive remembrance cultures



## Topics

- critical examination of the history of National Socialism
- remembering those who were persecuted and murdered at that time; Holocaust denial; falsification of history



## Target groups

- young people
- adults with an interest in history



## Objectives

- strengthening multi-perspective and inclusive remembrance cultures
- making history tangible in the here and now by means of local references
- decisively opposing historical revisionism and conspiracy stories
- highlighting the relationships between contemporary experiences of anti-semitism, racism and discrimination and the history of National Socialism



## Regions

- Germany
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Europe
- Israel



## Our partners

- history initiatives
- players in formal education and supporting organizations of non-formal education
- academics (history, didactics, culture of remembrance, post-migration)
- educators
- self-organizations



## Perspectives on the Past and the Present – a multilingual history workshop on radio



### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

In the project, gaps in narratives of dealing with the history of National Socialism from the perspective of people with a migration history and refugees are rendered more audible and visible. Making radio programs together supports the collective historical awareness. The project also includes: Visits to memorial sites, local searches for traces of National Socialist history in Halle, as well as conversations with historical eyewitnesses.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

The multilingual history workshop is implemented by and with people who have experienced migration and refugees as part of the Radio Corax platform. It reaches out to history enthusiasts nationwide across communities.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

The history workshop opens up a multi-perspective examination of National Socialist history. It sheds light on its ongoing effects and explores the question of how memory/memories can be shaped in society as a whole.

**Project sponsor:** Common Voices Radio des Radio Corax e. V. in Halle (Saale)

**Duration of the project:** 2021-2023

**Funding amount:** EUR 57,995

**Funding country:** Germany

**Websites:** [wir-erinnern.radiocorax.de](http://wir-erinnern.radiocorax.de),  
[https://commonvoices.radiocorax.de](http://commonvoices.radiocorax.de)

## "Helena Bohle-Szacka. Przenikanie" – a multidisciplinary exhibition and research project

### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The project keeps alive the memory of Helena Bohle-Szacka – an artist, fashion and graphic designer, and also a concentration camp survivor – and puts her into the context of local history in Łódź.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

With its artistic approach, the project reaches diverse target groups who are concerned with the topics of persecution and NS forced labor in a local context.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

History and art are interconnected. Spaces are created to look at the biography of Helena Bohle-Szacka as well as the history of NS forced labor. The exhibition does not only show the past; it looks at the present and gives a warning against hatred and aggression within societies.

**Project sponsor:** Centralne Muzeum Włókiennictwa w Łodzi

**Duration of the project:** 2021-2022

**Funding amount:** EUR 58,206

**Funding country:** Republic of Poland

**Website:** <https://cmwl.pl/public>



# Education in cultural spaces

## Creative and emotional educational approaches to the history of National Socialism



### Topics

- creative and emotional educational approaches to the history of National Socialism and perspectives of the persecuted and their descendants
- strengthening empathetic, pro-social attitudes and promoting commitment against antisemitism, antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination, racism and hostility towards LGBTIQ and disabled people



### Target groups

- Young people and adults without family biographical references to National Socialist history and with little access to political-historical and cultural education



### Region

- Germany



### Methodologies/Formats

- didactically supported, immersive art and culture-related educational activities in the network
- (digital) art projects
- exhibitions



### Our partners

- Federal Ministry of Finance as grantor for the project “Education Agenda NS-Injustice”
- theaters, museums and other visual and performing arts institutions
- memorial sites and other players in (non-) formal education and organized urban and civil society
- media partners



### Objectives

- opening up creative, emotional and empathy-enhancing educational approaches to the history of National Socialism
- anchoring various groups of victims and persecuted persons in the public consciousness
- raising awareness for continuities of National Socialism in the form of today's prejudices, discrimination and hatred

## Fragile Connections

The project "Fragile Verbindungen (Fragile Connections)" refers to a series of performance and theater projects by Junges Schauspiel Frankfurt: Young people with varied educational backgrounds, limitations and migration histories explore and find their own way to deal with the history of National Socialism in Frankfurt am Main through artistic approaches. In this way, they address contemporary references to the history of National Socialism, such as current forms of antisemitism, antigypsyism, racism and group-focused misanthropy, as well as the opportunities for young people to participate in society. The first performance project "Am Leben bleiben (staying alive)" is shown in the exhibition of the Exile Archive of the German National Library (1933-1945). Within the performance "Erinnern verändern (Changing memories)" a young and diverse ensemble examines its own (family) biographical references to the exhibition "Frankfurt and Nazism" in the CityLab of the Historical Museum Frankfurt.

### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

Young people have the opportunity to find their own way in dealing with history. In historical exhibitions and memorial sites, they find out about the significance of memories for the present: remembering the fates of unaccompanied children and young people who emigrated from the National Socialist dictatorship and the situation of forced laborers from Poland and the Soviet Union who were deported to Frankfurt. The thematic arc integrates aspects of forced migration, home and exile, foreignness and arrival, participation and belonging.



### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

As part of the project, the theater cooperates with the Historical Museum Frankfurt, the Anne Frank Educational Center, the Exile Archive of the German National Library (1933-1945) and the Studienkreis Deutscher Widerstand 1933-1945 [Academic Circle on German Resistance 1933-1945]. The target groups comprise young people with varied educational backgrounds, migration histories or limitations, as well as theater educators and educators working in disfavored and migration-dominated districts. This project also involves organizations of the civil urban society and education such as memorial sites, museums, libraries, (vocational) schools, self-organizations of people persecuted by National Socialism and their descendants.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

Through immersive learning formats, the project makes a special contribution by transmitting historical facts to Frankfurt's urban society, which is strongly characterized by migration. Participants experience the history of National Socialist persecution in a new way by means of creative, emotional and empathy-enhancing methods. Thanks to its participatory approach, the project turns the young people involved into active agents of the city's communities. The themes of the history of National Socialism are addressed in an emotional, personal, and multi-perspective way, and are brought closer to their own age group as well as to the residents of Frankfurt.

**Project sponsor:** Schauspiel Frankfurt

**Duration of the project:** 2021-2022

**Funding amount:** EUR 300,000

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.schauspiel frankfurt.de/jungesschauspiel/fragile-verbindungen](http://www.schauspiel frankfurt.de/jungesschauspiel/fragile-verbindungen)

*As part of the Education Agenda on NS Injustice, the project is supported through funds from the Federal Ministry of Finance.*



Bundesministerium  
der Finanzen

# Education in digital learning spaces

## Culture of remembrance in the digital sphere: exemplary digital tools and formats for contemporary education



### Topics

- NS injustice and its consequences
- a culture of remembrance in the digital sphere
- skillful ways of countering hate speech, antisemitism, antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination and disinformation



### Target groups

- young people
- adults with an interest in history



### Objectives

- developing and implementing of model digital lighthouse projects in historical-political education for increasingly tech-savvy target groups
- preserving the memory of National Socialist crimes under the premises of the “digital turn” and consolidating a Culture of Remembrance 4.0
- ensuring the professional, educational and didactic quality of digital and hybrid applications in the field



### Regions

- Germany (focus)
- Central and Eastern Europe
- Israel



### Our partners

- Federal Ministry of Finance as grantor for the project “Education Agenda NS-Injustice”
- the civic tech scene & digital “think-and-do-tanks” players
- non-formal education players
- culture and media professionals (or institutions)
- memorial sites
- places of remembrance
- universities

## The "digital//memory" program

As part of the "digital//memory" program, historical sites and events are combined with digital tools and methods of a Culture of Remembrance 4.0. Projects funded under the program address topics such as group-focused misanthropy in the digital space. The projects use innovative digital tools to reach out to younger audiences in particular and promote thoughtful reflection on hate speech disseminated online, new forms of antisemitism, and Holocaust denial. Specifically, the funding program supports non-profit organizations and institutions working in the field of historical-political education or possessing special digital expertise, e.g., think tanks or educational institutions working in an innovative way. To establish a sustainable, transnational exchange on digital themes, the participating projects are invited to international network meetings.



## Young people in Poland design commemorative signs



### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The project combines analog and digital: an interactive tool is used to process data from an existing database. In this way, printing forms are created that are then printed by laser or using 3D technology, depending on the materials available at the location. Personalized and customized commemorative signs are created in this way.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

Young people, in rural areas in particular, become familiar with regional history and mark relevant places of remembrance in their immediate surroundings. The young people work together with historians and educators in this project. At an international event, participants exchange ideas and experiment together with the use of modern technologies for teaching history.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

The project is captivating with the combination of a digital tool, craft and artistic ambitions. It exemplifies how digital and analog memory work can be brought together.

**Project sponsor:** Zapomniane Foundation, Warsaw

**Duration of the project:** 2020–2021

**Funding amount:** EUR 41,460

**Funding country:** Republic of Poland

**Website:** <https://zapomniane.org>

# Support for survivors of National Socialist persecution

Dignified aging of survivors, social participation, and voluntary commitment



## Topics

- dignified aging of survivors
- social participation
- voluntary commitment
- consequences of extreme traumatization
- descendants and intra-family memory
- coming to terms with and recognition of National Socialist persecution
- continuities of experiences of discrimination and racism

- shaping their participation in social life and protect them from loneliness,
- raising awareness of and appreciate survivors, their biographies, life achievements, and their present-day contributions to their societies
- driving structural and capacity-building of civil society organizations and meet the changing needs of very elderly survivors
- strengthening the descendants of the survivors in their social commitment



## Methodologies/Formats

- home visiting services
- voluntary services
- meeting points
- legal and social counselling
- case management
- individual assistance
- digital tools
- therapeutic biography work
- enhancing structures of supporting organizations



## Regions

- Central and Eastern Europe
- Israel
- Germany



## Our partners

- civil society organizations, including many Jewish and Roma self-organizations
- associations of victims of National Socialist persecution
- state institutions
- non-governmental and governmental funding partners



## Objectives

- ensuring that the survivors of National Socialist persecution age in a psychologically, physically and socially stable manner and with dignity

## Support for survivors of National Socialist persecution and caring families in 9 Ukrainian cities

### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The project improves the quality of life of survivors of National Socialist persecution from nine Ukrainian cities – Cherkasy, Ternopol, Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Mykolaiv, Khmelnytskyi, Zhytomyr, Hlukhiv – by enabling them to take part in social life.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

The project is carried out by volunteers who, for example, make home visits to survivors and assist them in their everyday life, accompany them to a doctor or represent their interests, for example, vis-à-vis the authorities. Consultations, information events and care training courses are attended in particular by relatives.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

The provider, Turbota pro Litnih, advocates for the rights of elderly people and works well with social centers and local authorities. This project focuses on supporting relatives, which in turn has a positive effect on survivors.

**Project sponsor:** Ukrainian charity organization "Turbota pro Litnih v Ukraini" (Age Concern Ukraine)

**Duration of the project:** 2019-2022

**Funding amount:** EUR 74,778

**Funding country:** Ukraine

**Website:** [www.tlu.org.ua](http://www.tlu.org.ua)

*Since the war in Ukraine started, elderly NS forced laborers have been exposed to acute danger to their lives and possible renewed trauma. Therefore, we help with emergency relief measures on site and support the aid network for victims of National Socialist persecution:*

[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/ukraine](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/ukraine)



## Psychosocial center with therapy and counselling services

### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany has been providing low-threshold access to individual support services for Shoah survivors at the Frankfurt meeting point since 2004. Regular afternoon meet-ups at cafés, group activities, therapeutic services and excursions facilitate contact between people with similar life experiences as well as an exchange with professionally trained specialists.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

The meeting point is a protected space in which social participation is made possible for traumatized Shoah survivors, thereby improving their quality of life. Volunteers, frequently members of the second or third generation, support the services. During the pandemic, the work switched to a variety of individual services, for example meals prepared by community members. This was brought to the homes of survivors in order to stay in touch with them.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

In addition to very elderly survivors, so-called child survivors as well as descendants are making increasing use of the services. The project team fosters exchanges between practice and research, e.g. with scientific institutes as well as trauma experts in Germany and internationally.

**Project sponsor:** Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland e. V. (ZWST)

**Duration of the project:** 2020-2022

**Funding amount:** EUR 140,000

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** <https://zwst.org/de/angebote/ueberlebende-der-shoah/treffpunkte>



# Acting Together with self-organizations

## Self-empowerment, agency and equal participation of Sinti and Roma and LGBTIQ persons



### Topics

- Self-empowerment
- agency and equal participation of Sinti and Roma and LGBTIQ persons

- support the building of alliances of LGBTIQ self-organizations in Eastern Europe with the majority society aiming to protect them from violence and repression and to strengthen their rights



### Methodologies/Formats

- transfer of knowledge, experience and expertise
- capacity and structure building
- community building
- coalition building
- advocacy



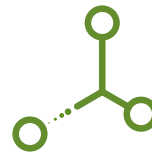
### Regions

- Central and Eastern Europe
- Germany



### Objectives

- strengthening of Roma self-organizations as bearers of Roma history and as active, recognized voices in remembrance cultures
- enabling Roma self-organizations to form alliances in Central and Eastern Europe and to strengthen their communities on site
- addressing antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination and improve equal participation
- improving equal participation of Roma and Sinti in Germany



### Our partners

- self-organizations of Sinti and Roma and LGBTIQ communities, their national and European networks as well as third-party funding partners are committed to this approach



## Study: Unequal participation. On the situation of Sinti and Roma in Germany



### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

Determining the needs: What is the status of the current educational situation of Sinti and Roma living in Germany? What has changed since the 2011 study?

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

More than 600 interviews were conducted with Sinti and Roma. A total of 15 self-organizations participate in the study.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

The study is participatory; Sinti and Roma are actively involved at all levels and play a role in the decision-making process. There are plans for a second, extended and edited publication of the study in German and, for the first time, in English.

**Project sponsor:** RomnoKher gGmbH

**Duration of the project:** 2019–2022

**Funding amount:** EUR 70,000

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.sinti-roma.com/romnokher/](http://www.sinti-roma.com/romnokher/)

**Study:** [www.stiftung-evz.de/bildungsstudie](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/bildungsstudie)

## Training courses on the history of Sinti and Roma for employees in the educational sector



### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The materials meet the need for accessible, flexible educational materials against anti-gypsyism and for imparting the history of Sinti and Roma.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

Educational stakeholders, including schools and higher education institutions, are reached through both in-person and online events.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

Often, educational materials are prepared without involving those affected. Within this project, members of the minority community were largely responsible for drafting materials and training courses. Several collaborations have been established. After the project has been completed, the training courses will be continued, among others, at two training institutes.

**Project sponsor:** Madhouse non-profit limited company

**Duration of the project:** 2019–2021

**Funding amount:** EUR 50,000

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.madhouse-munich.com](http://www.madhouse-munich.com)

# Acting against antisemitism, antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination and racism

**Structural approaches: Transmitting of knowledge, intervention skills, example projects and networking against antisemitism, anti-Roma discrimination, and racism**



## Topics

- structural approaches against anti-semitism, antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination and racism

- develop, implement and evaluate transnationally transferable examples of structural approaches to the defense of those affected, to rendering them visible and to enforcing their rights



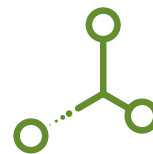
## Methodologies/Formats

- knowledge transfer and experts on intervention for multipliers in the world of work, key players in society, and institutions
- model projects for structural approaches to support those affected, to render them visible, to argue and to enforce the law
- networking and network building



## Regions

- Germany
- Central and Eastern Europe



## Our partners

- Federal Ministry of Finance as grantor for the project “Education Agenda NS-Injustice”
- experienced non-formal education providers
- state stakeholders
- committed companies
- organized civil society
- international networks
- organizations
- experts



## Objectives

- transmitting of knowledge and intervention skills on antisemitism, antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination and racism to key players in the world of work, society and institutions in Germany
- establishing a climate that is critical of antisemitism and antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination

## Antisemitism on the dark social web

### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

Potential antisemitic dangers in the "new dark net" should be made known and discussed publicly. Qualified mapping analyzes the ideologies of perpetrators as well as their narratives in radicalization spaces beyond the classic platforms.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

The advisory network polisphere has analyzed antisemitic phenomena in the "dark social web" to understand the role of radicalization spaces beyond the classical internet platforms. The spectrum of networks analyzed ranges from anonymous image boards such as 8kun to the messenger service Telegram. The Jüdische Studierendenunion Deutschland (JSUD) [Jewish Student Union Germany] provides professional support for this project. A website renders the project results visible to different target groups.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

As a pilot project, it is part of the further development in the funding area of digital antisemitism. A practice-oriented catalog of ideas is developed with countermeasures for platform operators, politics and civil society.

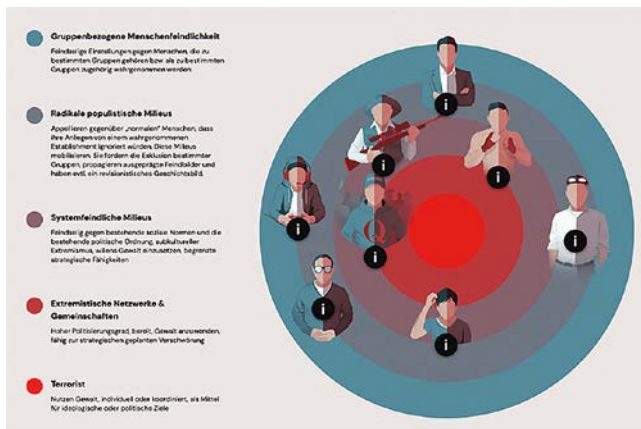
**Project sponsor:** Polisphere

**Duration of the project:** 2020-2021

**Funding amount:** EUR 110,955

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** <https://dark-social-antisemitismus.de>



## Coalition Building: Alliances for a society based on solidarity

Since 2019, the EVZ Foundation has been supporting projects in the Coalition Building funding program in their commitment to a society based on democracy and solidarity.

### What does the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

Local initiatives from the Jewish, Roma, Sinti or Muslim communities are networked and strengthened. Antisemitism, antigypsyism and anti-Muslim racism are thus counteracted at a regional level – for a pluralistic, open society based on solidarity in which diverse life approaches are self-evident, tangible and visible.

### Who's involved, and who does the project reach?

In Germany, Jewish and Muslim organizations and communities carry out alliance projects with a thematically diverse orientation. These include Jewish campus weeks or Jewish-Muslim cultural days. These events reach local organizations, professional audiences as well as the general public.

### Why is the Foundation supporting this project in particular?

The alliances are designed on a long-term basis and therefore have a lasting effect on a society based on democracy and solidarity.

**Duration of the projects:** 2019-2022 (in part up to 2023)

**Funding amount:** EUR 1,312,095 for a total of 19 projects

**Funding countries:** Germany, Lithuania, Poland and the Czech Republic

**Website:** [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/coalition-building](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/coalition-building)



# EVZ Academy expanded

Forum for acquisition of knowledge,  
commitment, and interaction

The EVZ Academy is a platform and forum for exchange, acquisition of knowledge, interaction, and commitment to the Foundation's themes. The virtual knowledge and information platform bundles and mediates educational offers for society. As a multiplier of the fields of activity Action and Education, she organizes meetings for networking, exchange and learning: off- and online.

When it comes to participatory, transnational, and innovative offers and ways of working, the EVZ Academy expanded is a response to the ambition formulated in the EVZ Foundation's 2021 Agenda for the Future to strengthen the impact of the Foundation's work. EVZ Academy expanded emerged from EVZ expanded - the laboratory for new funding formats of the EVZ Foundation - and continues to develop the think-tank and do-tank concepts with operational formats.

The Academy operates as an interactive educational player and knowledge manager, providing easy access to relevant knowledge and learning opportunities in the context of historical-political education. Moreover, as a transnational networker and coordinator, it opens up new spaces for encounters and action, to which the EVZ Foundation invites not only members of civil society but also other stakeholders, especially from the areas of media, politics, economy, and applied research.



## EVZ Academy expanded Learning, Commitment, Encountering

### info:media

#### Digital knowledge and learning platform

- Info Library
- Learning platform
- Podcasts and tutorials

### expanded:lab

#### Laboratory for topics and innovative formats

- EVZ Conversations!
- EVZ co-creative
- EVZ makes an impact

### evz:networks

#### Agile networking

- Digital collective memory
- EVZ Fellowships
- Alumni activities

#### info:media

The EVZ Academy expanded bundles and structures the subjects and information of the EVZ Foundation, thereby creating an overview and easy access to information and acquisition of knowledge in the Info Library. In addition, an interactive learning platform is launched. Both promote the transfer of skills to the world of work, civil society, and science.

[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/info-library](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/info-library)

#### expanded:lab

In its experimental field "expanded:lab", the EVZ Academy expanded conceives and creates space for new formats and events on forward-looking topics and current social challenges from the Foundation's fields of action. Together with the funding teams, the communications team and external cooperation partners, the EVZ Academy team also evaluates contemporary methods of Foundation activities to improve the effectiveness, transparency and accessibility of the funding programs and the Foundation's own activities.

#### evz:networks

The activities of the EVZ Foundation are always interconnected. In the area of "networks", the EVZ Academy expanded strengthens existing networks through new offerings and establishes new networks of and for stakeholders in Germany and worldwide. This includes also, in the long term, the development of suitable programs for the Foundation's alumni.

# Info and media library

The Info and media library provides publications of the EVZ Foundation and our project partners in various languages and formats: Educational materials, studies, apps, videos and more. We present a selection from 2021 here.

## Podcast

### RYMEcast strengthens Sinti and Roma

RYMEcast is the first podcast by and about Sinti & Roma in Germany and Europe. RYME stands for Roma Youth Media Empowerment and aims to enable its own community and educate and raise awareness in the majority society. Sinti & Roma who have little or no presence in mainstream society are talk about their community in interviews. The team produces the podcast itself: in conception, research, graphics, marketing and post-production. The EVZ-funded format "Comic vs. Reallife Helden [Comic vs. Real Life Heroes]" digitally presents real and fictional heroes of Sinti, Roma, migrants and BIPOC\*. Nominated for the CIVIS Media Prize in 2022.

Language: German

<https://open.spotify.com/show/2ZKrZlu8rFjPDly1T-iVsn7>



## App

### The "11 STAGES" app combines history and education on human rights

Dive into the past and discover forgotten heroes of everyday life? The 11 STAGES app restores the memory of forgotten or less-known individuals who helped others with their courageous actions during World War II. The app combines reliable historical knowledge in the context of human rights, lesser-known facts about National Socialism, as well as inspiring stories from or about eyewitnesses.

Languages: English, Polish, and German

[www.humanityinaction.org](http://www.humanityinaction.org)



## Video

### "Living Memorials": Art project at historical places

The movie documents a German-Belgian-Belarusian project: at two very different historical places – the House of the Wannsee Conference in Berlin and the camp of the Bielski partisans in Belarus – the participants develop and test the performative, artistic concept of a "living memorial". On the extensive project website, users can upload their own videos, images or texts about the historic places.

**Languages:** English, German, Russian, French  
[www.livingmemorial.app](http://www.livingmemorial.app)



## Publication

### Study: MEMO Germany – Multidimensional Remembrance Monitor

The fourth MEMO study provides evaluations of digital mediation services on the topic of National Socialism, specific knowledge about the diversity of groups of victims as well as the extent of NS forced labor. The study analyzes National Socialist era continuities in relation to conspiracy narratives, the Covid-19 pandemic and incidents in recent German history related to National Socialism. As an extension of the MEMO study, a MEMO youth study will be published for the first time in early 2023. The first results are already available online: in late summer 2021 a total of 3,485 representatively selected young people between the ages of 16 and 25 were asked about Germany's culture of remembrance and the history of National Socialism.

**Languages:** German, English  
[www.stiftung-evz.de/memo](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/memo)



Further publications and products are available at [www.stiftung-evz.de/infotehek](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/infotehek).

\* BIPoC: Abbreviation of Black, Indigenous, People of Color. These terms are political self-designations. They emerged from a resistance and still stand today for the struggles against oppression and for greater equality. Source [www.migrationsrat.de](http://www.migrationsrat.de)

# Networked

The EVZ Foundation is involved in various platforms and networks; it supports the establishment of networking formats such as round tables or memorial site meetings. As a member of the **Association of German Foundations** it committed itself to the Principles of Good Practice for Foundations in 2021. It is also a signatory of the **Transparent Civil Society Initiative**.

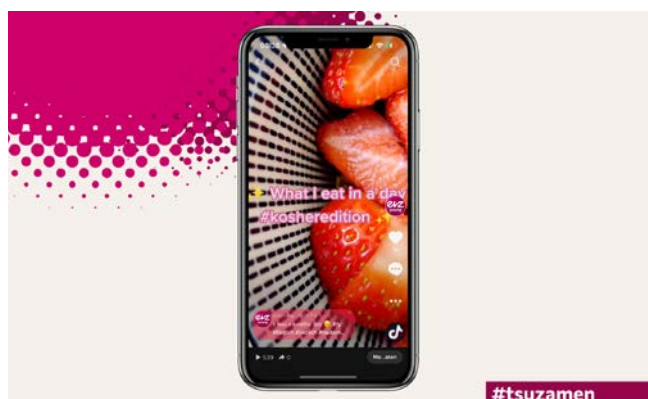
You can find out more about the networks at [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/who-we-are/foundation/initiatives-and-networks](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/who-we-are/foundation/initiatives-and-networks).

## #EVZSupported on social media

In order to support the work of our project sponsors, we present the funded projects on our social media channels with various series and campaigns:

### #tsuzamen – Young Perspectives on Jewish Life

For the celebratory year "1,700 Years of Jewish Life in Germany," we presented the participatory youth campaign #tsuzamen. Momentum for contemporary historical-political education and diverse exchange opportunities for young people were created. The student advertising agency Goldene Zwanziger [Golden Twenties] from Jena carried out the campaign for our TikTok channel and rendered Jewish life visible to the target group with short videos on religion, history, and culture.



### #WeRememberEveryday

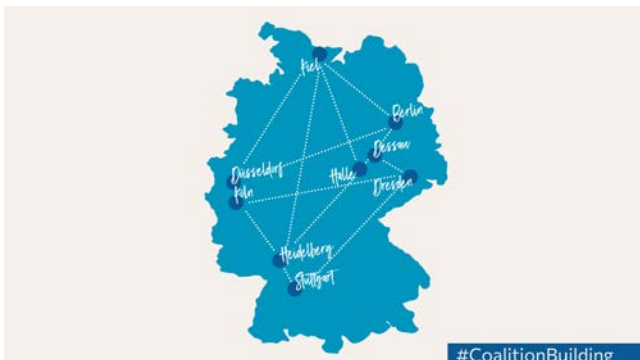
Our project sponsors are committed to assisting survivors of National Socialist persecution – on a daily basis and increasingly during the Covid-19 pandemic. This often goes unnoticed by the general public – just like the survivors themselves. Our series #WeRememberEveryday reports on the work of our sponsors as well as the people behind it.





## #CoalitionBuilding

Liberal democracy and social cohesion are increasingly in danger in many European countries: Antisemitism, antigypsyism as well as racism are clearly visible. In the Coalition Building funding program, we support projects in their commitment to a society based on democracy and solidarity. How and where do coalition building projects operate? Find out now on our Instagram account.



## #MEMOMontag (MEMO Monday)

Since 2018 the study #MEMODeutschland [MEMO Germany] has been looking into how and what we have learned from the time of National Socialism – and what we have not (yet) learned. The study, conducted by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence Bielefeld (IKG), looks at current issues such as conspiracy narratives and asks about the continuities of exclusion and discrimination. On MEMO Monday, we present different facts resulting from the MEMO study and encourage discussion.



You can find an overview of our social media activities at [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/social-media](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/social-media).

Joint the debate at:    @evzfoundation   @evzyoung



## Anniversary website: 20 Years EVZ Foundation

The first former forced laborers and other victims of National Socialist injustices received humanitarian compensation payments in June 2001. The first humanitarian project of the EVZ Foundation started in the same year: Holocaust survivors in Israel were supported by psychologists and social workers by means of home visits. 20 years later, we looked back with an anniversary website in our new corporate design: we recalled the injustice of NS forced labor, outlined the responsibility that this entailed for the Foundation's work, and also presented the Agenda for the Future. The website won the IF Design award 2022 in the "Communication/Web-site" category.

[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/history](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/history)



# Award-winning

## App HIDDEN CODES nominated for the Deutsche Computerspielpreis (German Computer Games Awards)

The game HIDDEN CODES enables young people to recognize problematic content or statements in a playful way and to respond in a skillful way. Players chat, browse profiles and respond to stories and comments from other users in a simulated social media environment. In this way, young people are trained to recognize and counter radicalization.

<https://hidden-codes.de>



## berlinHistory.app nominated for Grimme Online Award

The berlinHistory.app, which is funded as part of the Young People Remember program, shows impressive images from various eras in Berlin's history. Its participative approach is a special feature, allowing users to upload and comment on images themselves. The app already won the DigAMus Award in 2020 for "Best App".

<https://berlinhistory.app>



## App "ART. Dachau Concentration Camp in Drawings" shortlist for the DigAMus Award

Using augmented reality, the app provides virtual access to the Dachau Memorial Site and shows the pictures of prisoners in a new way. It encourages an examination of prisoners' biographies and thereby facilitates an individual approach to active remembering. Augmented reality applications will be shown on site, and an ART tour will take visitors through the memorial sites online.

[www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de](http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de)



## Rolf Joseph Award goes to four school classes

Using the theme "Na, alles kosher?! – Jüdisches Leben damals und heute" [Well, everything kosher? – Jewish life then and now], four projects by school students in grades 8 to 11 were awarded and published on the "Jugend schreibt" [Youth Writes] page of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. This award is named after the Holocaust survivor Rolf Joseph, who was born in Berlin in 1920.

<http://rolfjosephpreis.de>

## Student Peace Prize for Carl-Friedrich-Gauß School,



## Hemmingen

The Carl-Friedrich-Gauß School received the 3rd prize of EUR 1,000 in the Niedersächsische Schülerfriedenspreis [Lower Saxony Student Peace Prize]. Under the title "Celebrate Diversity – Identitätskonstruktionen" [Celebrate Diversity – Identity Constructions], Polish and German school students addressed the question of participation or exclusion of Sinti and Roma in Europe. The jury was especially impressed by the intensity with which the school students went into the issue of dealing with minorities and the forms and effects of discrimination.

<https://t1p.de/vzro>



## Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for project partners

For many years, **Dr. Noemi Staszewski** has been committed to helping very elderly survivors of National Socialist persecution, many of whom are severely traumatized. As head and co-founder of the "meeting point" for Holocaust survivors of the Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany, she initiated a telephone service during the Covid-19 pandemic, organizing support in everyday life and bringing those affected out of their forced isolation.

<https://t1p.de/dnx4>



The psychologist, therapist and Shoa survivor **Dr. Giselle Cycowicz** and the clinical director of AMCHA Israel, Dr. Martin Auerbach, have been awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for their outstanding commitment to psychosocial help for Holocaust survivors. Both of them have worked for many years with the AMCHA organization, which has been funded by the EVZ Foundation for over 20 years.

[t1p.de/4jnxw](https://t1p.de/4jnxw)



**Jacques Delfeld** was awarded the Cross of Merit on Ribbon of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his great work for equality and diversity, in particular for issues of the Sinti and Roma. The long-standing chairman of the Rhineland-Palatinate Regional Association of German Sinti and Roma supports, among other things, the online reporting platform against antigypsyism and online training courses for Sinti and Roma, which are funded by the Foundation.

<https://t1p.de/02yc>



## Friesland Taler for Christel Schwarz

**Christel Schwarz** received Friesland's highest award, the Friesland Taler, for his work for the history and concerns of the Sinti in the region. Schwarz is, among other things, chairman of the Freundeskreis für Sinti und Roma [Circle of Friends for Sinti and Roma] at the Oldenburg cultural center MaroKher – a place for counseling and encounters by and for Sinti and Roma, which is supported by the EVZ Foundation.

<https://t1p.de/7xlr3>

# Lost letters

## A historian looks at forced laborer letters that were hidden in Ukrainian archives for 78 years

This text was written in December 2021, prior to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. It is authored by the Ukrainian filmmaker Lesya Kharchenko, who has spent several years accompanying mainly humanitarian projects of the EVZ Foundation in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. She came across the following story by coincidence during a discussion with historian Tetiana Pastuschenko.

The discovery of numerous letters from forced laborers in Ukrainian archives started with a family story and a secret. The three Strojewa sisters were deported to Germany in 1943 from a simple village hut in Kalynivka in the Makariv district, close to Kiev, to carry out forced labor in a rolling stock manufacturer in Gotha, Thuringia.

Nonna, the eldest of the three sisters born in 1922, returned home after the war but didn't even survive. Six months later, she died of tuberculosis that she had contracted in Germany. Tamara, the middle sister, born in 1925, never returned from Germany; what happened to her was unknown. And Josephina, born in 1927, lived into the 2000s – but she never talked about forced labor or her missing sister Tamara. But without her great-nephew Witali, no one would have known about the fate of one of the sisters.

### The historian and his family history

Witali Geds, a historian and specialist on World War II, was told by his grandmother after defending his dissertation on the occupation of Kiev: "You're the expert, why don't you ask around and see if you can find out anything about my sisters?" And so, he began to search. In a monograph, he read that letters from "Eastern workers" were stored in the archives of the Kiev administrative region. In this way, the family learned for the first time that their sister Tamara had not died in the course of forced labor and that they might have relatives living somewhere in France.

There, in the archives, Witali also found the so-called "filtration file" of one of the other sisters, his grandmother Josephina, and now understood why she never wanted to talk about her years in Germany. Until Stalin's death in 1953, she was summoned for interrogations every six months and asked about her sisters.



Letters of forced laborers that had lain in Ukrainian archives for 78 years



*Vitaly Geds, a historian and specialist on World War II, presents letters from forced laborers that had been lying in archives for many decades.*

Witali brought his mother a copy of Tamara's letter. Her reaction was unusually fierce: She cried looking at the pictures of her aunts, two of which she had never met, overwhelmed with memories. When she learned that there were ten more letters from her village in the archives, she said: "I got this letter, why shouldn't others get their letters as well?" And so Witali began to deliver the letters in his village.

### **How did the letters end up in the archives?**

In November 1943, Soviet troops liberated Kiev, and the NKVD immediately had all letters from Germany confiscated from post offices. All letters that came from Germany were "adorned" with the National Socialist coat of arms or with a portrait of Hitler.

Instructions were not to deliver them to the relatives. At the end of the war, the NKVD ordered these letters to be transferred in sacks to the Kiev archives for secret storage, to be burned over time.

The "secret" marking was removed from the letters after perestroika. However, officially they were not yet published due to the personal data included therein. In 2018, the 75-year secrecy ended and Witali Geds and other historical researchers had the opportunity to copy the letters and pass them on to the addressees or their descendants.



*Lesya Kulinska and Vitaly Geds at the handover of letters*

# 3,000

*of 50,000 letters from forced laborers were delivered in the Kiev region*

### **The archives today**

In the meantime, other historians are also participating in this work; they want to ensure that all letters reach their addressees. Or at least their children and grandchildren. In addition, Witali and his colleagues dream of building an electronic database of forced laborers where all information from the archives with photos, letters and filtration files are to be stored.

**“When you look into the eyes of people who have received letters from the past you understand that there are people for whom this work is very important. And as long as that work is needed, we'll keep on doing it.”**  
Witali Geds, Historian

*Editor's note: Witali Geds currently lives near Kyiv in an area occupied by Russian troops with his family (as of May 31, 2022). He is hoping for the war to end soon so he can continue to deliver letters to the people.*

# Members of staff

[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/department](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/department)



Péter Adamik



Judith Ambros



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Monika Bertele



Judith Blum



Martin Bock



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Elke Braun



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Daliso Cifire



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Claudia Fein



Sonja Folsche



Mathis Frese



Dirk Gerls



Anna Gleser



Anton Granowskyy



Wanja Hargens



Saskia Herklotz



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Annemarie Hühne-Ramm



Corinna Jentzsch



Nadine Klück



Olga Kohn



Hanna Komornitzyk



Manuel Kowalewski



Katrin Kowark



Anja Kräutler



Maria Krell



Viktoria Lambrecht



Teresa Laudert



Ann-Grit Lehmann



Magdalena Lovric



Leonore Martin



Christa Meyer-Prochnow



Karyna Milova



Andreas Neidhart



Marion Neumann



Minh Tuan Nguyen



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Jacqueline Rux



Evelyn Scheer



Jens Schley



Merle Schmidt



Holger Seidler



Johanna Sokoließ



Eva Spanka



Malte Switkes vel Wittels



Jürgen Taubert



Dr. Ingo Techmeier



Helge Theil



Brigitta Ulrichs



Dr. Valentina Valtchuk



Ulrike Vasel



Maria Wilke



Sophie Ziegler

**As of: May 31, 2022.**

Employees until December 31, 2021:

Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto (Director)

Artem Iovenko

Mariam Kublashvili

Marianna Matzer

Madeleine Rau

# Committees

## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees decides on all fundamental questions that fall within the scope of the EVZ Foundation. It shapes the focus of the Foundation's funding and activities, and establishes guidelines for the use of resources. The Board of Trustees is an international committee. Its members are delegated for four-year terms, for example, by the German Bundestag and Bundesrat, German economic players, and the states and organizations involved in the international negotiations that led to the EVZ's establishment.

The chair of the Board of Trustees and her deputy are appointed by the Federal German Chancellor.

Chair of the Board of Trustees is Annette Schavan, and her deputy is Dr. Jörg Freiherr Frank von Fürstenwerth.





## Board of Directors

The Board of Trustees elects the Board of Directors for a four-year term. The Board of Directors is responsible for current business activities of the EVZ Foundation and implements the resolutions of the Board of Trustees. Chief Executive Officer Dr. Andrea Despot and Director Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto\* are responsible for designing the Foundation's strategy, developing the organization, and ensuring its resources are used for the designated economic purpose. The Board of Directors represents the Foundation in and out of court.

We dedicated the year 2021 to the development and introduction of the Agenda for the Future. Through its strategic reconfiguration, the Foundation is positioning itself as more capable of action and more effective.

*\* Note: Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto was a member of the Board of Directors of the EVZ Foundation until May 2022; she now heads the Equal Opportunities Department at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.*



All committees, including finance committees, can be found at [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/committees](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/committees).

# Financial report

## Foundation capital

When the EVZ Foundation was established, 700 million German marks (357.9 million euros) were set aside from the total assets for the purpose of setting up a foundation providing funding at an international level. The EVZ Foundation finances its promotional activities from the proceeds of this capital.

The EVZ Foundation is aware of its historical responsibility and is therefore guided by the following criteria in its investment strategy:

- preserving and managing this special capital in compliance with sustainable investment principles,
- generating income that is used in accordance with the Foundation's purpose.

## Investment principles

The EVZ Foundation pursues three main objectives in the investment of its assets:

1. Capital investments are to generate sufficient ordinary net income to cover the Foundation's funding activities and institutional expenses with a controllable level of risk.
2. The capital is to retain its real, inflation-proof value over the long term.

3. The availability of adequate liquidity for the Foundation's ongoing business must be ensured at all times.

These three goals are at the core of the Foundation's investment strategy while at the same time taking into account social, environmental, and good governance criteria (hereafter: ESG criteria). The Board of Trustees of the EVZ Foundation updated the Foundation's Investment Principles in the fall of 2021.

## Sustainability and Transparency

The Board of Trustees of the EVZ Foundation adopted ESG investment guidelines in November 2021, paving the way for a more sustainable investment of the Foundation's assets. The focus is on environmental, social and corporate governance aspects that are linked to the foundation's purpose. This includes, in particular, the exclusion of current forms of unfree labor and human rights violations in its financial investments. In this way, the foundation will align its investments with key social and political goals, as defined in particular by the Paris

Climate Accords, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Global Compact. In addition, various levels of exclusion criteria have been defined.

The EVZ Foundation is a member of Transparency International's initiative Transparent Civil Society. The signatories of the initiative commit themselves to publishing ten transparency reports in order to strengthen trust and credibility for the public and donors.  
[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/transparency](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/transparency).

# Investment strategy

The EVZ Foundation’s investment strategy seeks to diversify risks as broadly as possible by investing in highly diversified investment classes including shares, pensions, property, and infrastructure.

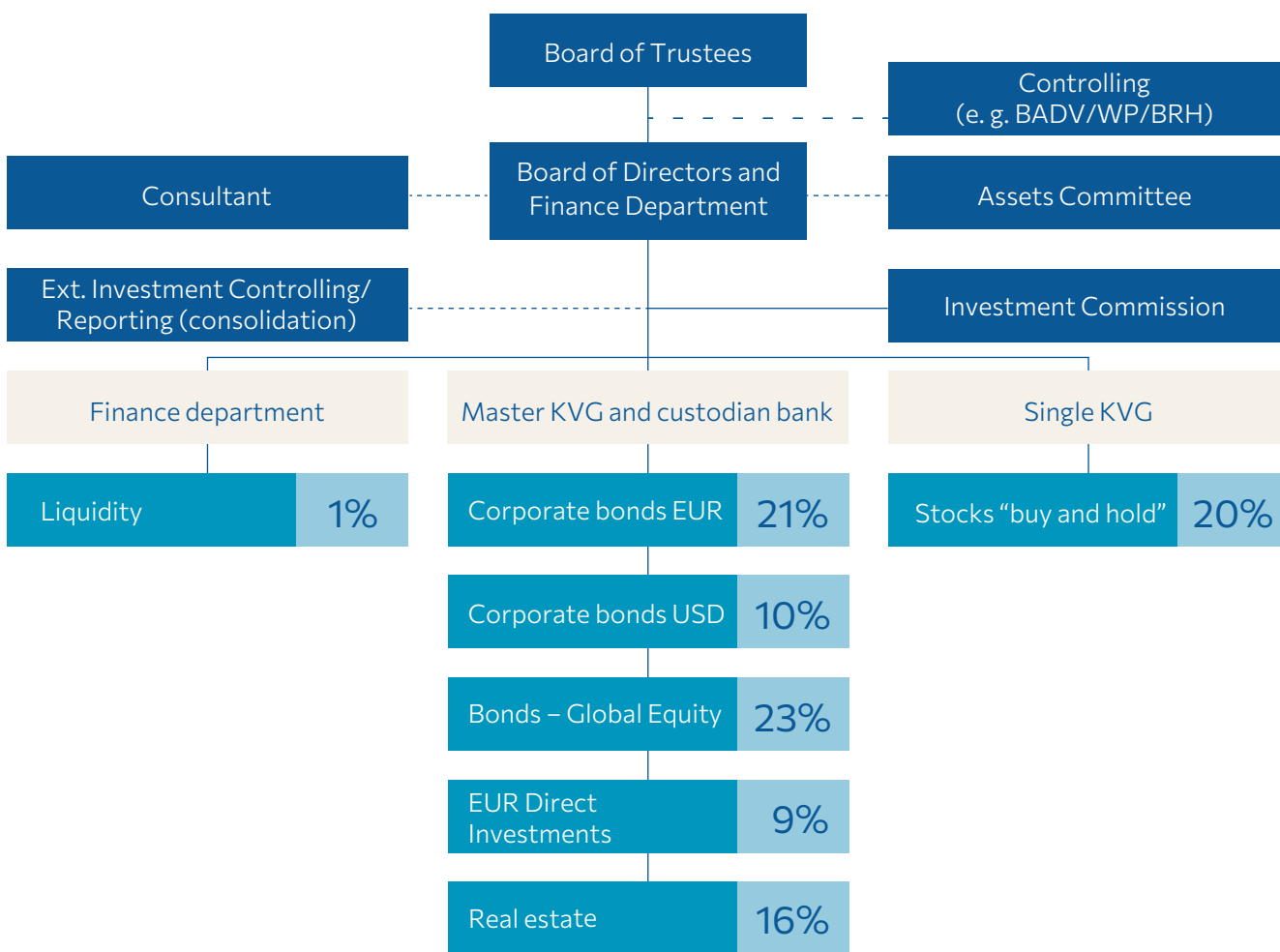
Its asset management pursues the principle of a “steady hand.” Strategies and earnings targets are based on a long-term approach. Short-term disruptions on the capital markets do not lead to modifications to the EVZ Foundation’s capital investment strategy. Nonetheless, the investment strategy undergoes an in-depth review every year. Modifications to support tactical measures are still permitted. The Foundation’s asset investment process is documented in full, follows modern compliance requirements, and is designed so that decisions can

be made on the basis of scientific findings and up-to-date knowledge at any time. Activities are consistently subjected to the multiple-control principle and the requirements for corporate governance in the capital investment area.

**As of December 31, 2021, the Foundation’s assets amounted to 601.5 million euros.**

**In 2021, the Foundation generated current income amounting to 14.6 million euros.**

All facts and figures on assets and Funding statistics can be found here: [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/finances](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/finances).



## Financial committees

The EVZ Foundation has two financial committees: The asset advisory committee and the investment commission.

The asset advisory committee generally meets once a year and provides the Board of Directors of the Foundation with advice regarding strategic matters and topics. Operational decisions relating to the management of the EVZ Foundation's assets are made by the investment commission. The Directors bear full responsibility for the decisions made by the body.

The members of the finance committees can be found at [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/committees](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/committees).

In 2021, dealing with the low interest rate environment, volatile markets, and the Covid-19 pandemic formed some of the agenda items for ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the EVZ Foundation's financial committees.

## Audited

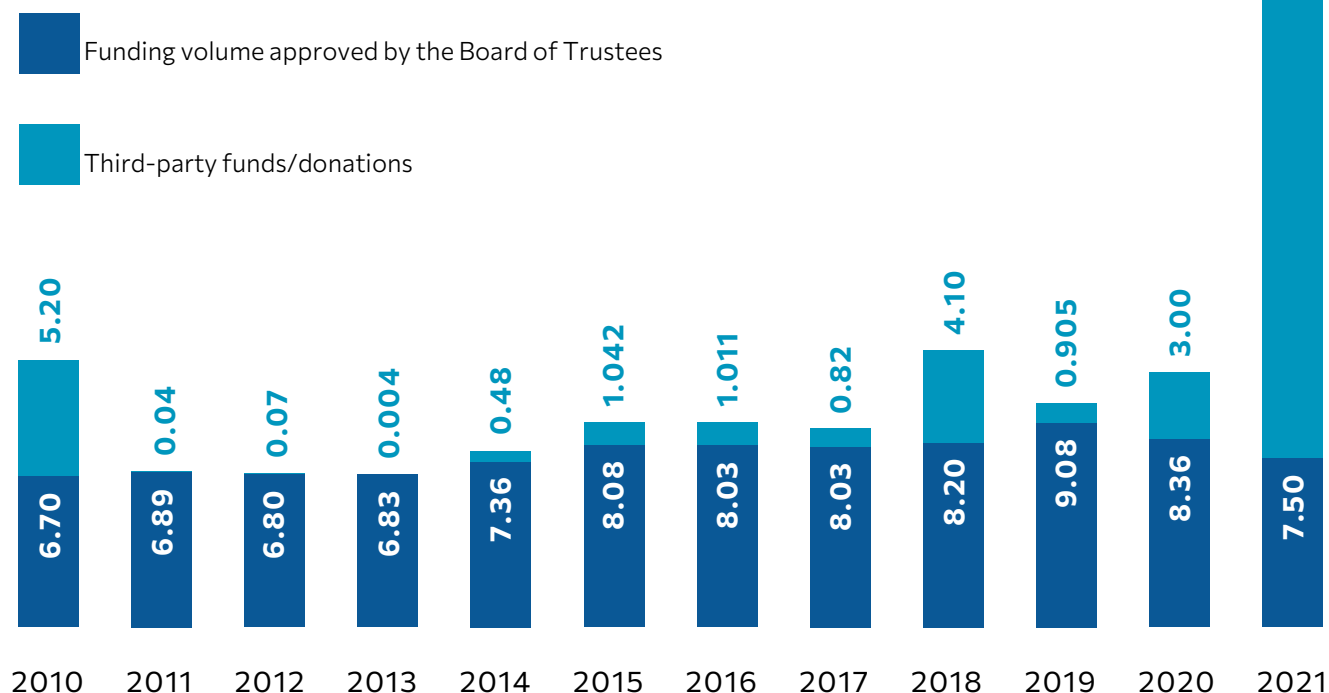
A total of EUR 7.5 million was available for project funding in 2021 from the investment income of the Foundation's assets. This amount was supplemented by third-party funds and donations (see chart below).

The annual financial statement of the EVZ Foundation is compiled in accordance with the provisions of the German Commercial Code (HGB). An audit of the execution of the EVZ Foundation's budget is conducted annually as per the German federal budget code by the Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues (BADV) and the Federal Central Tax Office (BZSt), which are commissioned by the legal supervisory body of the EVZ Foundation. Finally, audits are conducted by the Federal Audit Office at irregular intervals.

Information on project funding as well as facts and figures at [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/facts-and-figures](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/facts-and-figures).

## FUNDING ACTIVITIES AS OF 31.12.2021

(in million euros)



The EVZ Foundation's funding activities are supported by own and third-party funds.

In 2021, the increase in third-party funding is largely related to funds from the Federal Ministry of Finance.

Approved projects (247), total:

**17.775 million euros**

## KEY FIGURES FOR 2021\*

Excerpt from the balance sheet (acc. to German Commercial Code, HGB)

<b>Assets</b>	
Financial assets	<b>464.1 million euros</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Basic assets	<b>357.9 million euros</b>
Revenue reserves	<b>96.0 million euros</b>
Payables resulting from project funding	<b>11.2 million euros</b>
Annual net profit	<b>7.2 million euros</b>
<b>Balance sheet total</b>	<b>479,4 million euros</b>

\*as of 03.06.2022

## Cost expenditure at a glance

Purpose of the Foundation	<b>7.5 million euros</b>
Personnel	<b>2.4 million euros</b>
Public relations work	<b>0.14 million euros</b>
Administration	<b>1.29 million euros</b>

# About This publication

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