

Foundation



Remembrance  
Responsibility  
Future

# Activity report 2023





## Winning pictures of the Photo Competition



1st place: "The end is near," by Carsten Karstensen



1st place and Cover: "Ms. Mariška," by Barbora Haviarová



2nd place: "The ruins of Ban Saint-Jean," by Marianne Spiller

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

### Cover:

"Living Memorials" is a project by the Belgian NGO MÈDIÈL, the House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial in Berlin and the Belarusian Novogrudok Museum of History and Regional Studies as part of the YOUNG PEOPLE Remember International program. It uses art to connect historical events with the present: For example in the Naliboki Forest in Belarus participants researched the history and survival of the Jewish Bielski Partisanen during World War II. ([www.livingmemorial.app](http://www.livingmemorial.app))

© Roman Kroke



# Annual Theme

When it comes to the collective memory concerning crimes committed by the National Socialists, there are still many gaps and forgotten stories. The EVZ Foundation is portraying lesser-known events, places and biographies of victims of National Socialist crimes under the motto #WatchOutHstry.

Have you ever heard the names Babyn Yar or Khatyn? What both names have in common is their role in the horrific crimes committed by the National Socialists - and their limited publicity. One in Ukraine, the other in Belarus, both symbolize gaps in the German landscape of remembrance.

The EVZ Foundation fills these gaps with reports, interviews and photographs. We report under #WatchOutHstry on **social media** about events such as the 80th anniversary of "Operation Harvest Festival" (Aktion Erntefest) on November 3, 1943, the Khatyn massacre on March 22, 1943, or the uprisings of the camp prisoners in Sobibor and Treblinka in 1943.

**Experts** also speak out: What about making November 9 a National Day of Commemoration? Prof. Dr. Thomas Weber and Dr. Wolfgang Niess respond to this question in a pro and con article. In her guest article, historian Dr. Katja Makhotina writes about gaps in the culture of remembrance.

In addition to these publications, the EVZ Foundation also displays funded projects such as the one on Stalag 352 in Minsk on its **website**. The long-obscured history of the prisoner-of-war camp is presented in a multimedia web documentary, and an awareness of it is raised.

In the true sense of the word, the **photo competition** for the annual theme also sheds light on little-known events and biographies. One of the two winning photos portrays Ms. Mariška, who survived the Porajmos (the genocide committed against the Roma) in the Slovak Republic as a child. The 2nd prize-winning photo captures the ruins of the former camp in Ban Saint-Jean, the history of which has been little researched: Supposedly up to 20,000 Soviet forced laborers died in the vicinity of the buildings used by the Wehrmacht. The result of the competition: 48 submissions from 14 countries and three delighted winners. The best photos from the competition can be seen here:

Read all articles on the annual theme on the EVZ website:



# Who we are...

In memory of the victims of National Socialist injustice.  
Let us all take responsibility 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, antigypsyism/anti-Roma discrimination, racism and all forms of discrimination.

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



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# Welcome!

"Truly, I live in dark times!" exclaimed the playwright Bertolt Brecht in his political poem "To Those Born After" on the eve of World War II. Today, in view of the overlapping crises and armed conflicts, it would not be difficult to feel discouraged. But let us not forget: Brecht's prophetic words also included a message of solidarity and peace for the future.

This message has been fulfilled: After the horrors of World War II, who would have thought that young Germans and Israelis would one day work together on the topics of climate change and security? That's what became reality in 2023 in the "Change Makers" project funded by our Foundation and the German-Israeli Future Forum.

However, **2023 was a challenging year**. A war of aggression in breach of international law is still raging in the middle of Europe. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is entering its third year. Crises require bravery, initiative and determination. For this reason, the EVZ Foundation also channeled its funding to the places where it is most urgently needed. Just in October 2023, following the Hamas terror attack on Israeli men, women and children, we allocated **100,000 euros for emergency aid projects** to help survivors of National Socialism in Israel. At the same time, we also supported Jewish communities in Germany by funding projects to combat antisemitic agitation. Our solidarity with Ukraine also remained unchanged. Thanks to our **solidarity budget of 800,000 euros**, we support organizations working in and for the invaded country. The **"Memory Savers" project**, which provides material and methodological support to Ukrainian museums and young people who are interested in a career in these cultural locations, is an example of what aid to Ukraine looks like in concrete terms. The project participants are digitalizing museum collections and preserving Ukrainian cultural assets from being irrevocably destroyed by the war.

Despite the difficult conditions, we also continue to **sup-**

**port those believing in a democratic future for Russia and Belarus:** dissidents, exiled activists, human rights organizations and NGOs from both countries.

The aim of the EVZ Foundation, especially in such a turbulent year, was to contribute to democracy and living memory by means of innovative approaches and programs. This included, in particular, working together with young people the future bearers of the culture of remembrance. We are therefore also campaigning for international youth exchanges, supporting young people from Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan in their civic commitment and promoting locally lived history in Europe.

In 2023, we also shed light on lesser-known places, stories and biographies of National Socialist persecution with our **annual theme #WatchOutHstry**, illuminating blank spots in the landscape of remembrance.

So let us, as those born later, take Brecht's mission seriously and be a "helper to mankind." As pioneers of change, let us work together **towards a peaceful future based on solidarity!**

**Dr. Andrea Despot**  
CEO



**Jakob Meyer**  
Director



# From The Board of Trustees

Peace is in greater danger than it has been for a long time. Autocrats are forging alliances against democrats. The tone of debates in politics and society is becoming harsher. Enemy stereotypes are flourishing. Courageous people who stand up for **democracy and human rights** are disappearing in jails and dying in penal camps.

Alexei Navalny, who battled unceasingly for freedom in Russia, is representative of the men and women who are the martyrs of our age.

The EVZ Foundation continues to develop in order to provide a substantial counterweight to these depressing signs of the times. What began with the adoption of the 2021 Agenda for the Future is now bearing fruit. The funding portfolio is diverse and needs-oriented; the Foundation's activities have been growing considerably; the financial funding volume has increased significantly. In 2023, we dedicated 7.66 million euros of our own funds to support 143 projects.

The **commitment to survivors of National Socialist violence**, financial **support for groups that accompany and support people persecuted today**, the **fight against antisemitism and all forms of racism** – these will continue to be the **focus** of the Foundation's work in 2023.

Hamas' barbaric attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and Iran's direct attack on Israel on the night of April 13/14, 2024 make it terrifyingly clear that the attackers' goal is the annihilation of Jews. The number of antisemitic acts of violence is increasing across the world. This will challenge us and other foundations in the coming years. **Clear signals of solidarity with Israel and Jews** are needed everywhere.

Our funding program **"Building Structures for Combating Antisemitism"** is already establishing contact persons in a targeted way to prevent antisemitism in institutions such as cultural and sports facilities or trade unions. With this innovative approach, antisemitism is seen as an issue that needs to be taken on by society as a whole.

The **"Informed, courageous, committed!" program of the Education Agenda NS-Injustice** combats antisemitism where many people spend a large part of the day: at work. Read more about this on page 23.

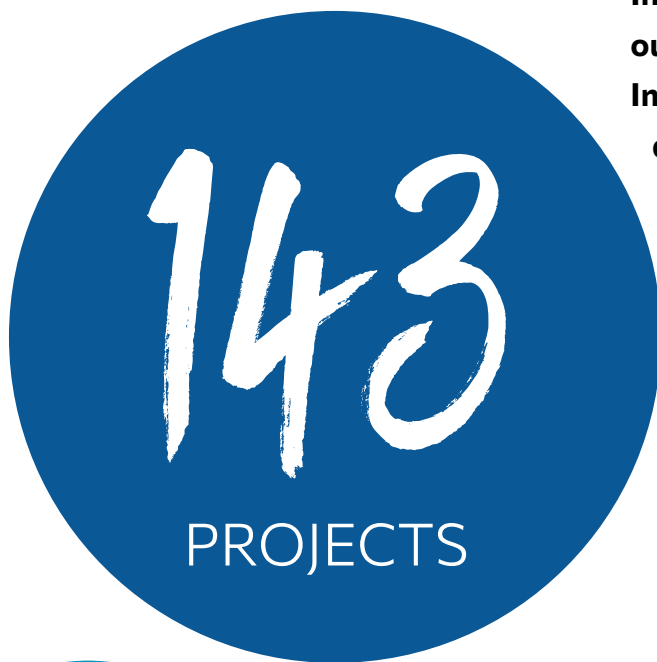
In 2024, the EVZ Foundation will launch the new funding program **"YOUNG PEOPLE remember on site & committed."** Young people are involved as active shapers of the culture of remembrance. This is important because personal experience in the projects enhances resilience against all forms of misanthropy, violence, and political extremism.

The EVZ provides vital impetus and thus receives international recognition.



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

# The EVZ Foundation in Figures



In 2023, we dedicated 7.66 million euros of our own funds to support 143 projects. In addition, there are third-party funds and donations amounting to 34.71 million euros.

All facts and figures are available at:  
[www.stiftung-evz.de/facts-and-figures](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/facts-and-figures)



The EVZ Foundation attaches great importance to an open foundation culture of mutual trust and transparency. For this reason, the Foundation is a member of Transparency International's Transparent Civil Society Initiative: [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/transparency](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/transparency)

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➔ 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)



# Asking our Partners

**Our partners and project participants  
review the year 2023**



## **Marius Balan**

*Young expert from the Republic of Moldova for our program "MEET UP! Youth for Partnership"; studies art history at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, Austria*



## **Tamara Or**

*Executive Director,  
German-Israeli Future Forum*

### **Participatory decision-making is at the heart of democratic progress, integrating the perspectives and experiences of young individuals**

My journey within MEET UP! began in 2022 when I was invited to join the project as a Young Expert for the Youth Conference 'Power of Youth' in Tbilisi, Georgia. The role of the Young Experts is to be an intrinsic part of youth projects from the start to the very end of the process and all the stages it involves. Including young people is crucial because it ensures that our perspectives, experiences, and voices are authentically represented throughout the project's lifecycle. Participatory decision-making is at the heart of democratic progress, integrating the perspectives and experiences of young individuals. Moreover, there are many ways in which projects like MEET UP! can help counteract the brain drain in Eastern Partnership countries, among its many other achievements. However, the most tangible one in my opinion is the fostering of a culture of continuous learning by boosting knowledge, developing talent, and promoting the perpetual development of skills.



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

### **Now more than ever, it is important not to give up hope**

7 October is etched in our memories. Many people in our networks have lost relatives or friends in the inhuman massacres or are still desperately waiting for the return of the abductees. Participants in the German-Israeli youth exchange project 'Change Makers,' which we supported together with the EVZ Foundation, were also in Israel on 7 October. The innovative project, which was largely developed by the young people themselves, had to be cancelled due to the terrorist attack. The ongoing war and the indescribable suffering of the people of Israel and Gaza make it difficult to look to the future with optimism. But now is the time to keep hope alive. Now, more than ever, we need forward-looking perspectives for youth exchanges. I am very grateful to Dr. Andrea Depot and the EVZ team for their professional and deeply collegial cooperation. The valuable work of the EVZ gives me hope, even after the end of the project, that we will all continue to work together for German-Israeli exchange, human rights and a democratic future.



[www.dizf.de](http://www.dizf.de)  
[@zukunft\\_atid](https://www.instagram.com/zukunft_atid)



**Stefanie Schiffer**  
*Director, European Exchange*

### Elves against Kremlin's propaganda

Originating in the Baltic States, the 'Cyber Elves' movement is a response to the threat posed to open societies by politically motivated disinformation. The Kremlin is investing enormous resources in hybrid warfare, not only against Ukraine but also in the EU. Adolescents with a biographical background based in the former Soviet Union are particularly exposed to this disinformation, which seeks to divide families and societies. Thanks to our project, young people were able to learn about how algorithms work on social platforms and explain the neurological processes behind exposure to disinformation. One achievement of the project is that a small core group of activists has expanded its efforts to combat disinformation. We consider it another success that the Federal Ministry of the Interior has proposed the 'Cyber Elves' project for funding as part of the AMIF program. Together with our European partners, we want to use this to expand the work of the 'Cyber Elves' in Germany. The EVZ Foundation has laid an important base for this with its funding.



[www.european-exchange.org](http://www.european-exchange.org)  
[www.initiative-quorum.org](http://www.initiative-quorum.org)



**Esther Petri-Adiel**  
*Project lead for meeting points  
for Shoah survivors and relatives  
in Frankfurt, Dessau, Dresden,  
Fulda and Hanover  
Central Welfare Board of Jews in  
Germany*

### That we have to experience it again

The Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023 and the growing hatred of Jews on German streets, in schools, universities and in almost every area of everyday and public life in connection with every escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict evoke the darkest memories and re-traumatization in Shoah survivors and the immediate successor generations.

The survivor generation is forced to witness once again how people are brutally abused, raped and murdered because of their Jewish identity. The granddaughter of one of the Shoah Survivor in Frankfurt am Main discovered that her house had been defiled by a swastika. A largely absent awareness of the extent of this in society as a whole has led to a feeling of isolation.

After the isolation during the pandemic and the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine, the next catastrophe follows. After October 7, 2023, psychosocial care and support for Holocaust survivors provided have become essential. The aim is to continue to strengthen their resilience through home visits, joyful gatherings and events. The continuation of Jew-hatred underlines the urgent need to strengthen Jewish life in Germany.



<https://zwst.org/de>  
[@zwst\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/zwst_official)



You can read more interviews with our project partners in the newsletter or at  
[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/three-questions-for](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/three-questions-for)

# Award-winning

Several of the projects, partners and organizations funded by the EVZ Foundation have received a variety of prizes and awards for their commitment.



## HONOR

### Badge of Honor of the City of Frankfurt am Main

Anna Hadda for her commitment to the meeting point for Shoah survivors  
*Project sponsor: Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST)*



## PODCAST

### DigAMus Award

Nomination for the MEET UP! podcast "Therese Giese und wir" (Therese Giese and Us)  
*Project sponsor: Jewish Museum Berlin; Tatjana Schoeler, Viktoria Lewowsky*



## WEB PORTAL

### DigAMus Award

Project "Sichtbar machen - Kommunikation im und über den Holocaust" (Bringing the past back to light - communication in and about the Holocaust); shortlisted in the hybrid offerings category  
*Project sponsor: Cologne Museum Service*



## WEBSITE

### German Digital Award

Shoah Memorial Frankfurt for "Frankfurt and National Socialism. A Memory Platform";  
Categories: Website and Digital for Good  
*Project sponsor: Jewish Museum Frankfurt; Historical Museum Frankfurt*



## GAME

### Games Innovation Saxony Awards

2nd place for "Tracing Remembrance"  
*Project sponsor: Theatre of the Young World Leipzig*



## THEATER PLAY

### Theatertreffen [meeting of theaters] of Young people

Selection of the project "Stolpern" [stumbling] for the Theatertreffen of the Youth in Berlin  
*Project sponsor: Piccolo Kinder- und Jugendtheater Cottbus, Schaubühne Berlin*



#### **VIRTUAL REALITY**

##### **Brandenburg Design Award**

Nomination for the branding of the project "For Real?" Category: Communication Design / Digital Design

*Project sponsor:*

*Brandenburgische Gesellschaft für Kultur und Geschichte gGmbH (BKG) (Brandenburg Society for Culture and History); Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF*



#### **DIGITAL PROJECT**

##### **European XR Award**

Nomination for the Volumetric Virtual Reality Experience with Holocaust Survivor Eva Umlauf

*Project sponsor: Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich*



#### **Continued funding**

The successful digital project #LastSeen, funded from 2021 to 2023 as part of the Education Agenda NS-Injustice, received follow-up funding from the Alfred Landecker Foundation until 2025.

*Project sponsor: Arolsen Archives and others*



#### **Success story**

Ilan Jacobi, a Holocaust survivor, met Pope Francis in the "Asking the Pope for Help" project after researchers from Münster found a petition letter from his mother in the Vatican archives.

*Project sponsor: University of Münster*



#### **Job stories**

Fellow Petro Rusanienko works at the organization ERIAC, which he visited during the Vidnova fellowship. Ksenia Paltsun researched historical heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the fellowship. Following her fellowship, she returned to Ukraine, where she is involved in the protection of historical monuments and architecture and in the NGO "Map Renovation".

*Project sponsor: CommitMitOst*

# Education drives the future

**Strengthening multi-perspective and inclusive remembrance cultures**

## **Our Funding Programs:**

- **YOUNG PEOPLE Remember International (2022 to 2025)**
- **MEET UP! Youth for Partnership (2021 to 2023)**

**Funding is also provided for two joint projects with the German-Israeli Future Forum Foundation and the Franco-German Youth Office.**



### **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 antisemitism, 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



### **Target groups**

- young people
- adults with an interest in history



Federal Foreign Office





#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### **YOUNG PEOPLE Remember International: [Re]Shape Places of Memory**

#### **What does the EVZ Foundation want to achieve with the program?**

The MEMO V study revealed that Germany has serious gaps in its remembrance of places of National Socialist crimes in Central and Eastern Europe. Simultaneously, according to the MEMO Youth Study 2023, young people want to learn at historical sites. The "[Re]Shape Places of Memory" funding line targets this need, helping institutions in Central and Eastern Europe to further develop their educational offerings in a target group-oriented manner. Little-known places of National Socialist persecution become more visible, European networks are expanded and memorial sites are strengthened.

#### **Who is involved, and whom does the program reach?**

Together with their European partner institutions, three memorial sites – in Poland, Latvia and Croatia – are developing approaches and tools for modern, multi-perspective, and transnational historical-political education. Each project involves an international exchange of youth and professionals.

#### **Why is the Foundation funding these projects in particular?**

The pilot funding line strengthens memorial sites in Central and Eastern Europe in a sustainable way and contributes to a broader remembrance landscape in Europe. The results of the impact-oriented funding can be transferred to other funding programs of the EVZ Foundation.

**Project sponsors:** EVZ Foundation and Federal Foreign Office as grantors

**Funding period:** 2023 to 2025

**Funding amount:** 600,000 euros

**Funding countries:** Poland, Latvia, Croatia, Netherlands, Germany

**Website:** [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/young-people-remember](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/young-people-remember)



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### **War(s) in Europe. Shared Experience, Collective Memory?**

#### **What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve?**

The German-French-Bosnian pilot project centers on the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries in Europe: How do they determine our coexistence? How can European memory be shaped? Educators and young people are searching for answers to these questions in an international youth exchange and seminars. The ideas and methods developed in the project are presented on a website.

#### **Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?**

Stakeholders developed the project together with the Franco-German Youth Office as part of a co-creative process. "War(s) in Europe. Shared Experience, Collective Memory?" targets and mobilizes professionals in formal and non-formal education as well as youth aged 18 to 24 from the participating countries.

#### **Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

War in Europe, disinformation, and rising nationalism present challenges for international youth educational work. The EVZ Foundation counters these issues by raising young people's awareness of social and political coexistence in Europe. This is achieved by dealing with the wars in Europe on a personal, local, and transnational level.

**Project sponsors:** EVZ Foundation and Franco-German Youth Office

**Funding period:** 2022 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 100,000 euros

**Funding countries:** Germany, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

# Education for living memory

Creative and emotional educational approaches  
to the history of National Socialism

## Our Funding Programs:

- **Local.history**
- **Critical Remembrance**

Funding is also provided for encounters with historical eyewitnesses in Germany and the MEMO study on the culture of remembrance in Germany.



### 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



### 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



### 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



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### "Shout, Sister, Shout!"

#### What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The art exhibition "Shout Sister, Shout!" tells the stories of Jewish women from Bytom who were marginalized and murdered during the National Socialist era. By juxtaposing historical and current experiences of women's marginalization, the exhibition builds a bridge between past and present. The project is designed to encourage reflection by asking about individual and collective responsibility, the importance of active citizenship, and how certain factors destroyed and might destroy democratic values.

#### Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?

The Kronika Centre of Contemporary Art has been carrying out critical social and educational activities for 30 years and collaborates with artists and art centers in Poland and abroad. Numerous artists also took part in "Shout Sister, Shout!" The starting point of the exhibition is locally rooted; it reaches the local population.

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

Curators and artists are constantly confronting each other with fundamental questions around the function of art. The project tests how art formats can be applied to historical and current topics: Conceived as an educational tool, the core of the project is the contemporary art exhibition.

**Project sponsor:** Kronika Centre of Contemporary Art

**Funding period:** 2023 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 59,926 euros

**Funding country:** Poland

**Website:** <https://kronika.org.pl/en>



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### Frauen im Schatten der Guillotine (Women in the Shadow of the Guillotine)

#### What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve?

More than 40 Polish women were executed for high treason in the Plötzensee Prison between 1939 and 1945. Who were they? Why were they executed? The project "Frauen im Schatten der Guillotine" (Women in the Shadow of the Guillotine) focuses on a group of National Socialist victims that has fallen into oblivion. Biographies of 24 Polish women who were persecuted and murdered are compiled in workshops, documented on a website, and artistically presented in an exhibition.

#### Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?

Alongside Ambasada Polek e.V., the project sponsors and partners are the Rainbow Factory cultural center in Berlin, the Dziewuchy BERLIN group, and the International Council of Polish Women. The project, which is based in Berlin, reaches people in Germany, Poland, and worldwide with its website and an exhibition on the women's biographies it has compiled, as well as thanks to lively social media activities.

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

Until now, the stories of the persecution and murder of Polish women under National Socialism have been only marginally known. The project brings these stories to the public's attention. The project also makes an important contribution to the feminist and LGBTQ+ perspective: Polish women were not only Eastern or forced laborers and victims of war. They were also fighters.

**Project sponsor:** Ambasada Polek e.V.

**Funding period:** 2023 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 40,206 euros

**Funding country:** Germany



# Education in cultural spaces

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

## **Our Funding Program:**

### • **Education Agenda NS-Injustice**

**Funding is also provided to cultural institutions  
in Germany that develop multidimensional  
educational projects.**



#### **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



#### **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

Funded by:



Federal Ministry  
of Finance

on the basis of a decision  
of the Bundestag





#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### Theater projects: (Escape) Stories

#### What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

Once the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine began, the Wheels association has helped students and lecturers from the Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts (Kharkiv) and actors from the Kharkiv Theater to escape from the war zone by placing them at drama schools in Germany and other European countries. Thanks to the project, Ukrainian actors have developed and performed plays such as "The Little World War" and "Once Upon a Time (Es war einmal)."

#### Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?

Numerous cultural institutions such as theaters, fair-ground theaters and drama schools participate in the project. The theater projects support Ukrainian students in exile and reach a local theater audience, artists, as well as German and Ukrainian families.

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

The project gives Ukrainian artists and their (escape) stories visibility in Germany. The funding has enabled Ukrainian actors to settle in Germany and the German-Ukrainian ensemble to receive additional funding from the Fonds Darstellende Künste (Fund for Performing Arts).

**Project sponsor:** Wheels e.V.

**Funding period:** 2022 to 2023

**Funding amount:** 50,000 euros

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.wheels-berlin.de/projekte/eswareinmal](http://www.wheels-berlin.de/projekte/eswareinmal)



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### They're still here! - Children of Forbidden Relationships During the National Socialist Era

#### What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve?

The project examines forbidden relationships under National Socialist law between Germans and prisoners of war or forced laborers and their descendants. Their stories have long been taboo, have barely been researched, and are lacking in the culture of remembrance. "They're still here!" is an innovative example of a participatory curated exhibition from the perspective of those persecuted under National Socialism, their descendants, and young people.

#### Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?

Children of forbidden relationships under National Socialist law are also involved in the project. In addition to the Sandbostel Camp Memorial, the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, the "Multi-peRSPEKTif" project at the "Denkort Bunker Valentin" memorial site, and the Bad Bederkesa Education Center for Teacher Training are participating. The project is supported by a scientific advisory board. A comprehensive social media campaign will reach predominantly young people.

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

Historical eyewitnesses and their representatives are developing the exhibition in a highly participatory way, including the perspectives of people with a history of migration.

**Project sponsor:** Sandbostel Camp Memorial

**Funding period:** 2022 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 522,880 euros

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.trotzdemda.de/en](http://www.trotzdemda.de/en)



# Education in digital learning spaces

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

## Our Funding Program:

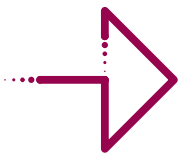
### • Education Agenda NS-Injustice

**Funding is provided for collaboration among historians, educators and civic tech stakeholders across the country.**



#### Regions

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



#### 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



#### 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



#### Target groups

- young people
- adults with an interest in history

Funded by:



Federal Ministry  
of Finance

on the basis of a decision  
of the Bundestag



## PROJECT EXAMPLE

### Have You Seen This Book? The Theft and Rescue of a German-Jewish Library

**What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?**

The project commemorates the history of the library of the Berlin Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums [Higher Institute for Jewish Studies] (from 1872-1942), which was destroyed by the National Socialists. Remnants of the library are now scattered all across the world. "Have You Seen This Book?" involves interested parties as citizen scientists in the search for the lost books and thus tests the possibilities of citizen participation in research on stolen items. To reach younger people, the project uses digital storytelling methods.

**Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?**

As leading Israeli research institutes in the field of German-Jewish history, the Leo Baeck Institutes London and Jerusalem are involved. Other participants are the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, the Moses Mendelssohn Center in Potsdam, the Jewish Museum in Prague, and Leo Baeck College in London. In addition, the project reaches a diverse, non-academic audience.

**Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

The project brings the topics of exile, flight, and translocation into the digital space. Using a citizen science approach, the project attracts new target groups and generates new formats and content for the culture of remembrance thanks to the objects being researched.

**Project sponsor:** Friends and Sponsors of the Leo Baeck Institute

**Funding period:** 2023 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 497,030 euros

**Funding countries:** Germany and Israel

**Website:** <https://libraryoflostbooks.com>



## PROJECT EXAMPLE

### For Real? - Virtual Encounter with Historical Eyewitnesses on Tour

**What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?**

In this project, institutions, sponsors, and disseminators of historical-political education are enhancing their formats in the digital space. Innovative digital offerings such as virtual reality applications are being developed and social media narrative and presentation formats used. The project strengthens the fact-based, historically aware, and critical culture of remembrance in digital spaces.

**Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

The tour of mobile, virtual encounters with historical eyewitnesses to National Socialism made stops at five locations in Brandenburg and reached 250 to 350 users and ten school classes. History education and culture of remembrance players, disseminators, and a general audience took part in three workshops.

**Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

The project builds a bridge between imparting knowledge and strengthening skills. It deals with the question of how a culture of remembrance can be shaped without historical eyewitnesses. The cross-media project reaches young, tech-savvy people. The so-called historical eyewitness experiences are kept in the House of Brandenburg-Prussian History, which ensures their sustainable use.

**Project sponsor:** Brandenburgische Gesellschaft für Kultur und Geschichte gGmbH (BKG) Potsdam, Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF

**Funding period:** 2022 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 511,707 euros

**Funding country:** Germany



# Support for survivors of National Socialist persecution

Dignified aging of survivors, social participation,  
and voluntary commitment

## Our Funding Programs:

- **Lacho Dives**
- **Dialog Forum**
- **We are here!**
- **Support for NS survivors in Israel and Germany**



## 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



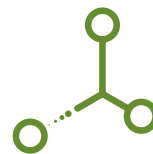
## Objectives

- ensuring that the survivors of NS persecution age in a psychologically, physically and socially stable manner and with dignity
- shaping their participation in social life and protecting them from loneliness
- raising awareness of and appreciation for 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



## 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



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### **Local Alliances for Survivors of National Socialist Persecution in Berlin, Heidelberg and Nuremberg**

#### **What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?**

Care for elderly survivors of National Socialism requires exceptional awareness. The aim of the Local Alliances for Survivors of National Socialist Persecution in Berlin, Heidelberg, and Nuremberg is to improve the networking of helpers, place the commitment to survivors on a wider social level, and enhance their support in the long term.

#### **Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?**

Self-organizations from the Jewish, Sinti and Roma communities as well as organizations such as the Workers' Welfare Association (AWO), higher education institutions, counselling centers and municipal players are involved in all alliances. High-profile measures increase the public visibility of the concerns of survivors of National Socialism. The Alliance gives victim groups that have had little contact with each other so far a space for encounters and experiences.

#### **Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

Survivors of National Socialist persecution and their helpers still require and deserve our commitment. The alliances will augment the existing support and embed this support in society. The project adopts a sustainable approach by aiming to create regular structures. The EVZ Foundation will support a consolidation phase of the alliances in 2024 to strengthen these structures.

**Project sponsors:** Club Dialog e.V., Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma, AWO Arbeiterwohlfahrt Kreisverband Nürnberg e.V. (Nuremberg Workers' Welfare Association)

**Funding period:** 2022 to 2023

**Funding amount:** 262,974 euros

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.stiftung-evz.de/lokale-buendnisse](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/lokale-buendnisse)



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### **There are no foreigners: Supporting Survivors of the Genocide Against the Roma and Internally Displaced Persons**

#### **What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?**

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine poses an acute threat to the lives of survivors of the genocide against the Roma and often causes re-traumatization. The project provides support to survivors and internally displaced persons in the city of Odessa and the northern districts of the Odessa and Mykolaiv regions with the aim of ensuring their material and physical well-being and social stability, even under wartime conditions.

#### **Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?**

Sixty-five survivors of the genocide against the Roma are receiving basic goods and domestic help from Ukrainian and Roma volunteers. Around 300 people displaced from disputed areas are receiving humanitarian goods, legal and psychological counseling, and support with job seeking. The project sponsor works together with Roma activists, municipalities, authorities, and social, religious, and international organizations.

#### **Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

Supporting survivors of National Socialism is one of the core tasks of the EVZ Foundation. The war in Ukraine has made this social and political task even more imperative. The project's broad social participation is not just intended to expand the target group, but also to promote tolerance and a willingness to help the Roma.

**Project sponsor:** "Planet of Good People" Charitable Foundation

**Funding period:** 2023 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 40,014 euros

**Funding country:** Ukraine

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



# Acting Together with self-organizations

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

## Our Funding Programs:

- **Empowering Sinti and Roma in Germany**
- **Strengthening of Roma self-organizations in Southeast Europe and Ukraine**
- **Strengthening of LGBTIQ self-organizations in Eastern Europe**



### 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
- 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



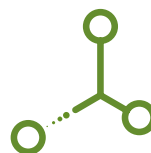
### Methodologies/Formats

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



### Regions

- Central and Eastern Europe
- Germany



### 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



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### Citizens' initiative "Center for Joint Action and Help"

#### What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The war in Ukraine has aggravated the precarious situation of the Roma, who are facing poverty and discrimination. Displaced persons from the disputed areas are particularly affected. Civil society players in Transcarpathia have joined forces to build a permanent coalition aimed at improving the humanitarian situation of displaced Roma, promoting their social participation, and coordinating existing aid services.

#### Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?

This coalition includes 12 Ukrainian and Roma associations, charitable organizations, free churches, activists, and local politicians. Humanitarian and financial aid has already been provided to about 200 Roma families. More than 200 children attended a vacation camp as part of the project. Ten young Roma earned their driver's license and enhanced their employment opportunities.

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

Supporting the building of civil society coalitions is one of the EVZ Foundation's strategic objectives. The initiative is already having a multiplier effect: its reach is extending to other districts. The participation of Ukrainian players is strengthening the stand against discrimination and raising public awareness.

**Project sponsor:** Roma self-organization "Tschatschimo"

**Funding period:** 2023 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 49,050 euros

**Funding country:** Ukraine

**Website:**

[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/strengthening-roma-in-Ukraine](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/strengthening-roma-in-Ukraine)



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### Strengthening LGBTIQ Self-Organizations in Times of Great Change

#### What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?

The ongoing war in Ukraine has led to high risks and uncertainties for LGBTIQ organizations. ILGA-Europe's program responds to this challenge with long-term and flexible support for LGBTIQ organizations in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as strategic strengthening, support, and capacity building.

#### Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?

ILGA-Europe supports 14 projects by LGBTIQ organizations, four of which are long-term projects in Ukraine. The project sponsors selected are organizations that have an impact on the entire LGBTIQ movement in Ukraine: Insight Public Organization, Women Association Sphere, Gender Stream, and Fulcrum UA. The NGO Fulcrum UA, for example, aims to promote equality for LGBTIQ individuals in companies. This involves advising people who have lost their jobs as a result of the war and holding workshops in companies.

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

LGBTIQ individuals are also subject to stigmatization, discrimination, and state repression in the EVZ Foundation's focus countries. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has aggravated their situation. ILGA-Europe represents an experienced project sponsor with a far-reaching network of LGBTIQ organizations capable of reaching target groups directly and thereby better empowering them.

**Project sponsor:** ILGA-Europe – International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

**Funding period:** 2022 to 2025

**Funding amount:** 900,000 euros

**Funding countries:** Central and Eastern Europe

**Website:** [www.ilga-europe.org](http://www.ilga-europe.org)

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

Structural approaches: Transmitting of knowledge, intervention skills, example projects and networking

## Our Funding Program:

- **Education Agenda NS-Injustice**
- **Building Structures for Combating Antisemitism**



### Regions

- Germany
- Central and Eastern Europe



### 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



### 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



### 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

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium  
der Finanzen

aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### **Informed, courageous, committed! A Joint Initiative Against Antisemitism**

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

"Informed, courageous, committed!" combats antisemitism in the workplace, where thousands of people with diverse backgrounds meet every day. The project uses a blended learning program to empower and motivate employees from various companies to take an active stance against antisemitism and thereby promote a positive and discrimination-sensitive working environment.

#### **Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?**

The project is aimed at employees and disseminators from the areas of communication, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and HR in companies. Employees on works councils and those in charge of vocational and continuing education are targeted. In 2023, employees from Mercedes-Benz and Borussia Dortmund attended pilot runs. Various players from the realms of business, science, civil society, and education have been closely involved in the creation of the program.

#### **Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

The working world in particular often lacks the necessary sensitivity when dealing with antisemitism. The project counteracts this: it's an interactive offer with an innovative approach, developed by an interdisciplinary team of experts. The program is continuously developed and adapted to the needs of the target group by means of in-depth evaluations.

**Project sponsor:** EVZ Foundation (own project)

**Funding period:** 2022 to 2024

**Funding amount:** 665,205 euros

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/informed-courageous-committed](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/informed-courageous-committed)



#### PROJECT EXAMPLE

### **Asking the Pope for Help**

#### **What do the project sponsor and the EVZ Foundation intend to achieve with the project?**

Thousands of Jews appealed to Pope Pius XII for help during the National Socialist regime. In the "Asking the Pope for Help" project, their letters are systematically recorded in the Vatican archives and prepared in a digital edition for the public and academia. In this way, the project is making an important contribution to research.

#### **Who is involved, and whom does the project reach?**

"Asking the Pope for Help" is sponsored by the Federal Foreign Office, Bayer AG, and the EVZ Foundation. The team – from University of Münster – is investigating the estimated 15,000 petition letters. Along with the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation, committed citizens and students are providing support for the researchers. A wide-ranging public relations campaign enables the project to reach the general public.

#### **Why is the Foundation funding this project in particular?**

Access to the Vatican archives has only been possible since 2020. The project sheds new light on the relationship and behavior of the Church, the Vatican, and Pope Pius XII regarding persecuted Jews. The project also brings the individual fates of people persecuted by the National Socialists to public attention. The cataloguing of the petition letters and their didactic preparation make an important contribution to the cross-border culture of remembrance as well as to the exemplary transfer of knowledge and the fight against antisemitism from school lessons to political education for society as a whole.

**Project sponsor:** Universität Münster

**Funding period:** 2021 to 2026

**Funding amount:** 2,141,003 euros

**Funding country:** Germany

**Website:** [www.uni-muenster.de/FB2/en/aph/](http://www.uni-muenster.de/FB2/en/aph/)



# EVZ Academy

**The EVZ Academy is a driving force and disseminator of the EVZ Foundation's strategic, programmatic and communicative approaches: an analog and digital European forum for learning, innovation and exchange.**

## **The EVZ Foundation's learning platform**

The digital learning world provides interactive **educational formats**, promotes **networking** and encourages **commitment**. The **pilot phase** of the online platform with selected formats started in May 2023. The digital EVZ Academy will be developed continuously and expanded with learning offerings and events. Generally accessible offerings will also be available by the end of 2025.

## **EVZ Networks – Global Hub for Transitional Justice**

The EVZ Foundation's commitment to the **Global Hub for Transitional Justice** is one example of its networking activities. Funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and initiated by the Berghof Foundation, the network is dedicated to issues relating to *transitional justice and peace building* together with eight partners from the Global North and South. The members of the Global Hub organized an international conference in 2023 with 100 experts and politicians.



*Visit to the memorial to children murdered during the siege of Sarajevo.*



### Future Lab Ukraine and the YeMistechko funding program

Despite the extended Russian war of aggression, the commitment of Ukrainian civil society is still alive today – in the country itself as well as in exile. How can the EVZ Foundation contribute to exploiting this potential for Ukraine's democratic future? At the **Future Lab**, the EVZ Foundation tackled this issue together with experts from Ukrainian civil society.

“It was nice to dream together about what a better future for Ukraine might look like. It has been a while since I laughed so much.”

*Ukrainian participant*

The Foundation developed the new **YeMistechko** funding program from the ideas that emerged there: The program aims to convert places in Ukraine that create identity, such as museums or libraries, into places of encounter where people can redefine their community life.



### EVZ Conversations!

In 2023, the EVZ Conversations! discussion series can look back on three events. The series kicked off with the topic **"The Russian war against Ukraine. Consequences for politics of memory,"** in which the speakers analyzed the meaning of the war for the German, Jewish, and Ukrainian culture of remembrance.

In June, three Nobel Peace Prize laureates discussed shrinking spaces for civil societies and historical-political education in wartime under the title **"Civil Societies under Pressure."**

The topic **"Uprooted – Children in War: Strengthen Victims, Punish Perpetrators"** rounded off the 2023 EVZ Conversations! The panel participants discussed the abduction of Ukrainian children to Russia, the consequences under criminal law and the possibility of protecting children's rights in war.



[Watch short videos of all events](#)



# The Year in Pictures



At the launch of the MEET UP! Youth for Partnership online magazine, young experts from seven countries introduced and discussed their projects.



Andrea Despot (Chief Executive Officer) at the New Year's Reception of the Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

© Bundesregierung / Steffen Kugler



Nobel Peace Prize laureates of 2022 spoke on June 8 on the topic of "Civil Societies under Pressure": Oleksandra Matviichuk, head of the Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine), Irina Scherbakowa, Memorial (Russia), and Natallia Pinchuk, wife of imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski (Belarus).



During the "Education in Motion" event series, Dr. Ronen Steinke (keynote) and experts discussed how to deal with antisemitism in the police and judiciary.



Ukrainian Nadija Slesarewa tirelessly reported on concentration camp imprisonment, NS forced labor, the Stalinist terror and Holodomor she experienced. Her most recent appearance was in a video interview with the EVZ Foundation in November 2023. She passed away in December 2023. Her appeal to humanity and her enjoyment of life despite her experiences will remain an inspiration.

Visit to the USA by the Board of Directors of the EVZ Foundation, including a stop at the New York-based Leo Baeck Institute and the Jewish Claims Conference (JCC), with which the EVZ Foundation conducts the "Holocaust Education" program. Here, visitors take part in a guided tour through the permanent exhibition of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. lead by Senior Curator Steve Luckert.



Placing a wreath at the Sobibor Memorial in Poland: A group of prisoners took the risk of carrying out an uprising in the Sobibor NS extermination camp 80 years ago. Several hundred people were able to escape into the surrounding forest as a result of the armed action, and around 40 of them survived the war.



The EVZ Foundation exhibited and gave away publications and materials on the Foundation's subjects at the Berlin Book Festival. On Bebelplatz, visitors commemorated the book burning that took place 90 years ago with a variety of activities, readings, an exhibition and an interview with historical eyewitness Ruth Winkelmann.



# 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. In 2023, Annette Schavan was confirmed by the Federal Chancellor in her office as Chairperson until 2027.

[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/board-of-trustees](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/board-of-trustees)



## Board of Directors



The Board of Directors is responsible for current business activities of the EVZ Foundation and implements the resolutions of the Board of Trustees. It is responsible for designing the Foundation's strategy, developing the organization, and ensuring its resources are used for the designated economic purpose. In November 2023, Dr. Andrea Despot was confirmed as Chief Executive Officer of the EVZ Foundation until 2028. [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/board-of-directors](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/board-of-directors)

## Other Committees

The EVZ Foundation works with experts from various areas in addition to the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees. In the area of asset management, the Asset Management Advisory Committee and the Investment Commission convene. Also, external experts advise the Foundation, for example in law and in the selection of projects. [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/finance-bodies](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/finance-bodies) | [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/network](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/network)

# EVZ-Team

In 2023, more than 70 employees in the Berlin head office worked on the EVZ Foundation's projects and topics:  
[www.stiftung-evz.de/en/departement](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/departement)



Board of Trustees

Board of Directors

Communications

EVZ Academy

Funding and activities

Field of Activity  
Acting

Field of Activity  
Education

Administration

Asset  
Management

Legal  
Department

Staff  
Council

Data Protection  
Officer

Compliance  
Officer

# Financial report

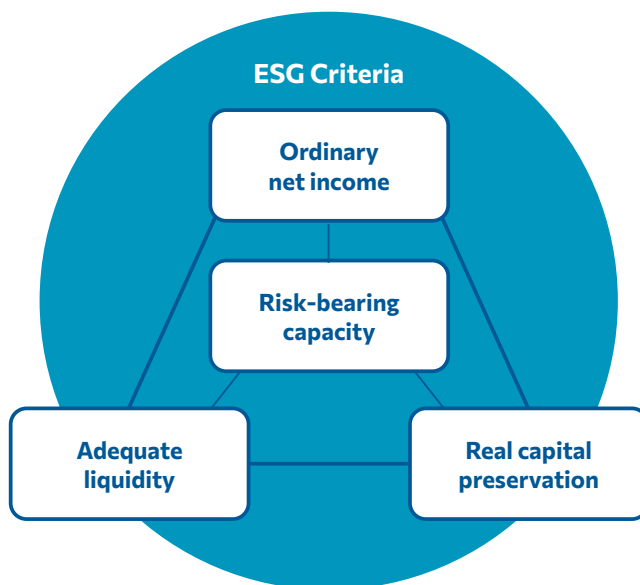
## Foundation capital

**When the EVZ Foundation was established, 700 million German marks (357.9 million euros) were set aside from the total assets as funding capital. The EVZ Foundation finances its funding activities from the proceeds of this capital.**

## 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 and institutional expenses to cover the Foundation's funding activities at a controllable level of risk.
2. The capital is to retain its real, inflation-protected value over the long term.
3. The availability of adequate liquidity for the Foundation's ongoing business must be ensured at all times.



## 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 the financial investments. In this way, the Foundation aligns its Capital Investment Strategy with key social and political goals, as defined in particular by the Paris Climate Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Global Compact.

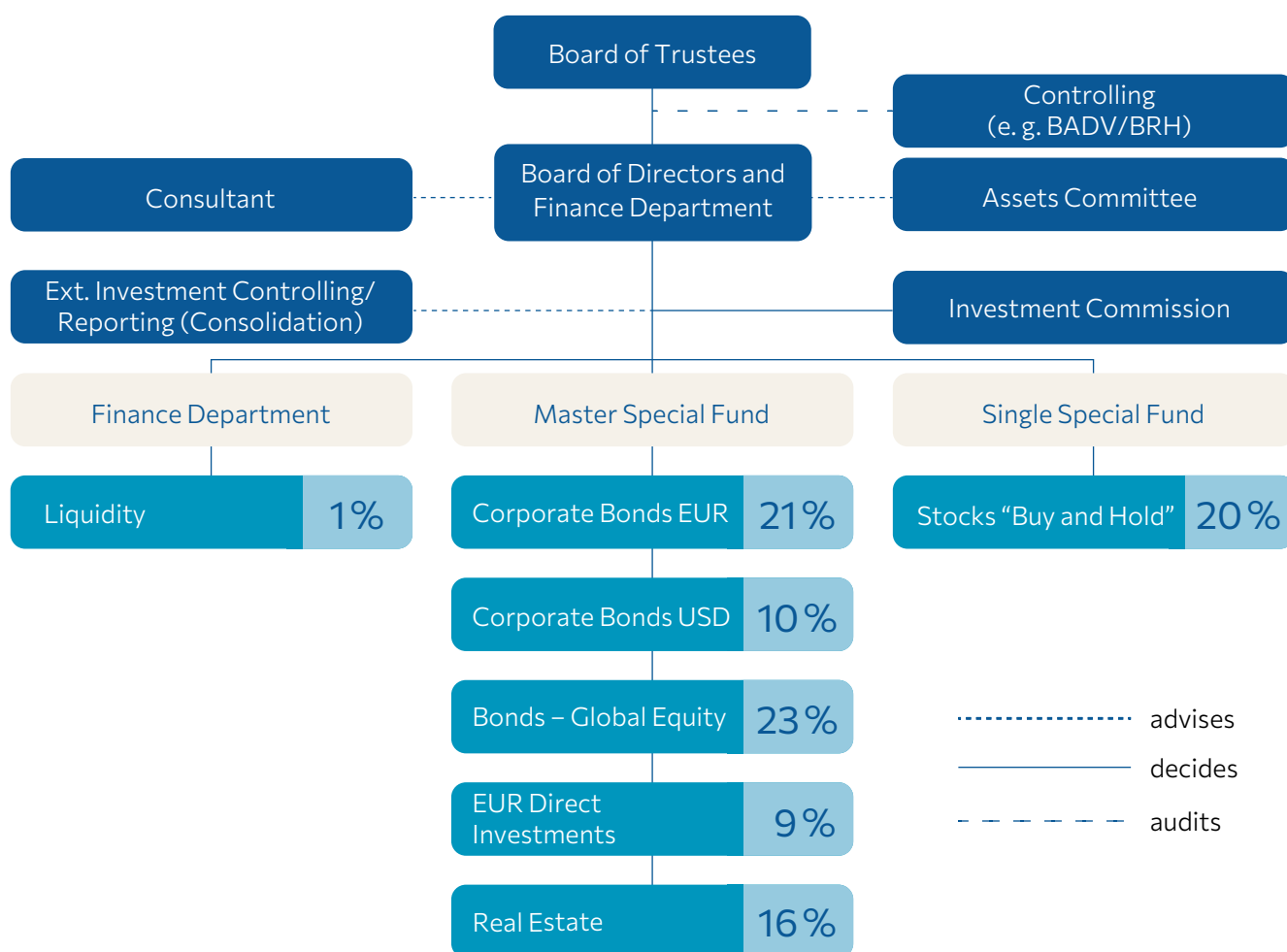
# Capital Investment Strategy

The EVZ Foundation's investment strategy seeks to diversify risks as broadly as possible by investing in highly diversified asset classes including equities, pensions, property, and infrastructure. The EVZ Foundation's 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 of the EVZ Foundation's Capital Investment Strategy. Nonetheless, the Capital 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, 2023, the Foundation's assets amounted to 586.4 million euros.**

**In 2023, the Foundation generated current income amounting to 18.6 million euros.**



The capital investments are managed by a capital management company with an associated custodian and implemented by means of special fund mandates.



# Financial committees

The EVZ Foundation is supported by two financial committees: The Asset Management Advisory Committee and the Investment Commission. The Asset Management 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 Board of Directors bears full responsibility for the decisions made by the body. The members of the financial committees can be found at:

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

## Audited

A total of 8 million euros were available for project funding in 2023 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 statements of the EVZ Foundation are 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 Act 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. In accordance with the EVZStiftG (law establishing a Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future) and the EVZ Foundation's Statutes, the Federal Audit Office also has the right to conduct audits, which is exercised at irregular intervals.

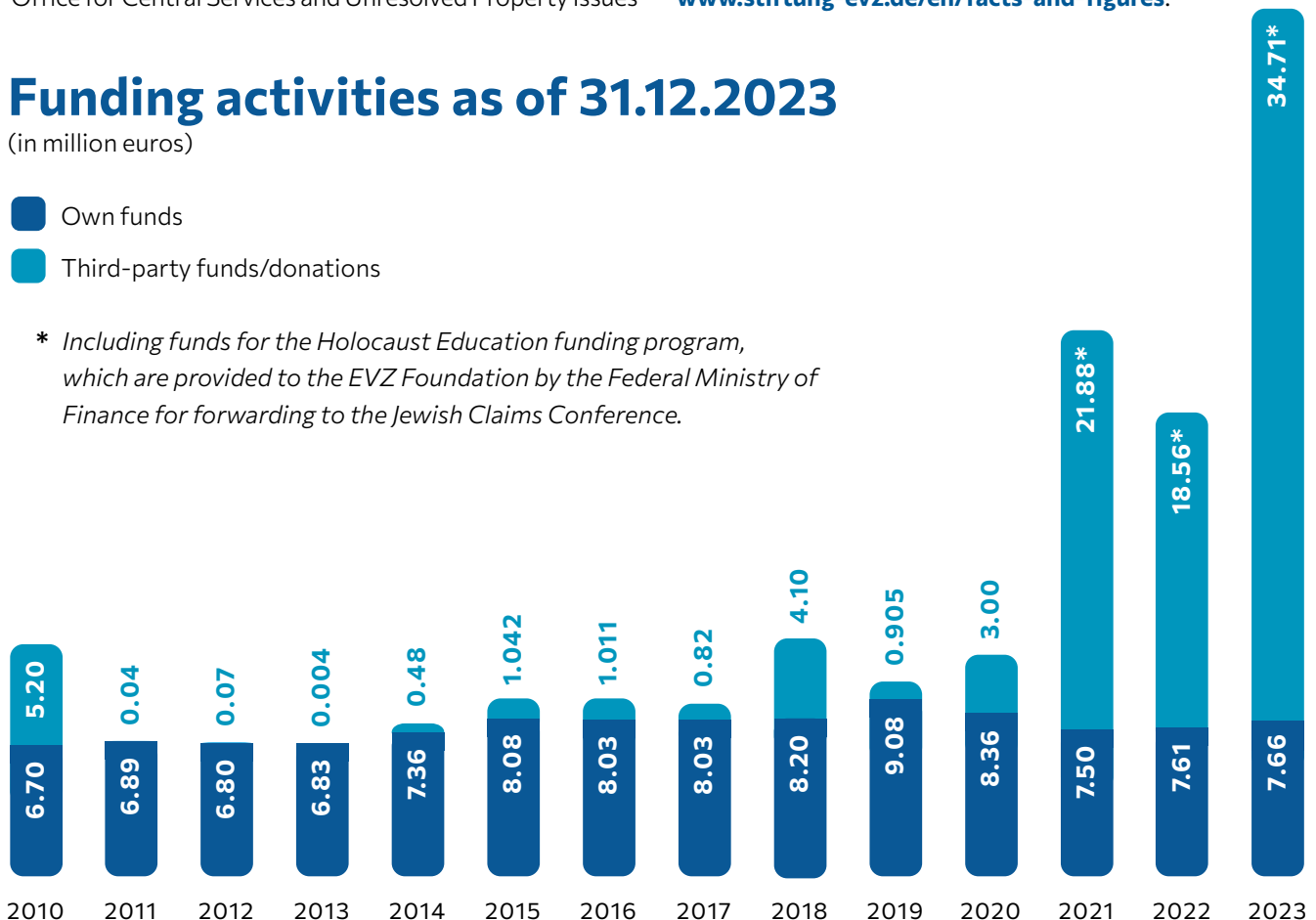
All project funding facts and figures can be found at [www.stiftung-evz.de/en/facts-and-figures](http://www.stiftung-evz.de/en/facts-and-figures).

## Funding activities as of 31.12.2023

(in million euros)

- Own funds
- Third-party funds/donations

\* Including funds for the Holocaust Education funding program, which are provided to the EVZ Foundation by the Federal Ministry of Finance for forwarding to the Jewish Claims Conference.



The funding activities of the Foundation EVZ are financed by funds from the Foundation and third-party funds. The increase in third-party funding since 2021 is largely attributable to funding from the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF). Another third-party donor is the Federal Foreign Office.

# Key figures for 2023\*

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

## Assets

Financial assets

475.5 million euros

## Liabilities

Basic assets

357.9 million euros

Revenue reserves

109.5 million euros

Payables resulting from project funding

48.8 million euros

Annual net profit

13.4 million euros

## Balance sheet total

533.2 million euros

\* as of 29.05.2024

## Cost expenditure at a glance

Purpose of the Foundation

8.0 million euros

Personnel

2.6 million euros

Public relations work

0.1 million euros

Administration

1.1 million euros



### Making an impact together

By donating, you support the work of the EVZ Foundation and its project partners. Get in touch with us - we will find the right support option for companies and private individuals together.



# About This publication

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Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ Foundation)

Friedrichstrasse 200

10117 Berlin

Phone: +49 (0)30 25 92 97-0

info@stiftung-evz.de

www.stiftung-evz.de

       evzfoundation

  evzyoung

**Authors:** Nadine Klück, Katrin Kowark, Maria Krell

**Editor-in-chief:** Dr. Andrea Despot

**Translation:** Kennedy translations GmbH

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**Back cover:**

*A painting-like, touching photo of "Ms Mariška" who survived the Romani Holocaust in the Slovak Republic as a child: "Ms. Mariška recalls and speaks of the soldiers, her parents, and siblings during the times of WWII, but also of the hunger and (...) about the life in a village where you belong to an ethnic minority. Today her memories have become muddled, one moment she talked about girls hiding in the woods, then about her loneliness and then again about how all of her body aches."*

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