

Foundation



Remembrance
Responsibility
Future

Activity Report 2020





Cover photo:

2nd place Photo Competition 2020 of the EVZ Foundation

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Project "InDUSTreal", Funding program "MEET UP! German-Ukrainian Youth Encounters": Young activists from Melitopol (Ukraine) gained experience in the revitalization of industrial buildings in Germany at German-Ukrainian youth encounters.

www.stiftung-evz.de/photocompetition



Foundation

eVZ

Remembrance
Responsibility
Future

Who we are ...

The EVZ Foundation testifies to the political and moral responsibility part of the state, the industry and for National Socialist injustices. It commenced its work in 2000 with an initial capital of 5.2 billion euros, which was made available in equal amounts by the German Federal Government and German industry. The EVZ Foundation made payments to former forced laborers under the National Socialist regime until 2007.



Since 2001, the EVZ Foundation has provided ongoing funding for the following key topics:

- Payments to **former forced laborers under the National Socialist regime** (until 2007)
- Reflecting on the **history of National Socialism**
- Strengthening the **sense of responsibility for the interests of victims of National Socialism** and their participation in society
- Fostering the ongoing development of European **remembrance cultures**
- Supporting international **youth projects**
- Standing up for **human rights** and the interests of **minorities**

... and what we do

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Welcome!



2020 was an exceptional year. For people as individuals, for the way we live and interact with each other, but also for entire societies and some of the habits and certainties they took for granted. But the pandemic was not the only source of far-reaching changes. The continued rise in hate crimes, antisemitism, antigypsyism, and other forms of discrimination and racism was also a source of bitter concern for the EVZ Foundation in its twentieth year of existence – yet, at the same time, this served as motivation and provided a renewed sense of purpose.

Since taking office in June 2020 of this extraordinary year, our guiding aim has been to align the EVZ Foundation's activities with new realities while also bringing the responsibility reflected in its founding mission to bear in a forward-looking program of work.

Mitigating the impacts the pandemic is having on vulnerable target groups, particularly the elderly survivors of the National Socialist dictatorship, was and continues to be a pressing concern. Another essential factor was implementing a rapid, unbureaucratic approach to ensure our partner organizations could adapt their

ongoing and planned education and encounter projects and transfer them to the virtual space. Despite these adverse conditions, 2020 saw the Foundation supporting 280 projects, setting up emergency assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic, and funding and fostering new projects, including serious games and apps designed for historical education.

The Foundation also laid the groundwork for its third decade. In 2021, we will be reorganizing the Foundation's work and activities and updating our funding architecture as part of a newly initiated strategy process accompanied by consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. The goal is to actively drive our mission forward and make the EVZ Foundation a highly effective, socially relevant organization for the future.

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

www.20-jahre.stiftung-evz.de

“Caring for survivors is still our primary duty”

Let’s take a look back at the Foundation’s twentieth anniversary year – what were the key aspects that shaped this extraordinary year?

The most significant change for the Foundation is that it is working on a new Education Agenda National Socialist Injustices, which includes plans to set up initiatives and create impetus in Germany and in Europe. This represents a huge opportunity. And the Foundation’s future strategic alignment naturally has an important role to play in the effectiveness of this agenda.

What tasks lie ahead for the EVZ Foundation in its third decade?

We will still be working to care for the survivors of National Socialist persecution, who are now very elderly, as well as their descendants. This has been our primary duty since our inception – that is, the Foundation supports initiatives that organize assistance and create meeting places in many countries around the world. Education and research are now set to play a more prominent role. The EVZ Foundation is involved in new approaches to historical and political education that encourage each new generation to shape remembrance culture themselves and take active steps to counter discriminating ideologies. The Foundation will also be funding projects that work through documents and prepare them for teaching purposes, such as evaluating 15,000 requests for assistance sent by Jews to Pius XII, who was pope at the time.

Why is the Foundation’s work important now and in the future?

The work of the EVZ Foundation will still be largely focused on developing remembrance and conscience also in the future. Aspects that are embedded in a community’s cultural memory also shape attitudes in a society and our life together in present times. Considering the history of our own families, cities, and country isn’t something



that automatically happens on its own. People need to be invited and prompted to do so. And the Foundation can play a role in this.

The Foundation promotes research into how citizens remember National Socialist injustices by conducting the MEMO study. What kind of impetus does the Foundation hope to create with MEMO, the remembrance monitor?

The MEMO study makes it clear that remembering is a process, and never a finished article. Generational, background, and educational factors are what determine our remembrance – and also make it clear that addressing the injustices of National Socialism is a matter of life-long learning. Extracurricular formats, continuing education, digital and cultural points of access – the EVZ Foundation is stepping up its focus on these funding approaches.

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

We ask our partners

Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the survivors of National Socialist persecution and the culture of remembrance



Floriane Azoulay

*Director of the
Arolsen Archives*

“New and valuable opportunities”

“The pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation and opened up new and valuable opportunities that we can use to approach target groups we haven’t reached before. Suddenly, digital ways of remembering were the only option we had to commemorate the victims of National Socialism together.

After the very positive experiences we had with around 1,000 school students, we launched the #everynamecounts crowdsourcing project as an international initiative in an incredibly short space of time. Since then, many tens of thousands of volunteers have been helping us to transform our archive into a digital memorial. Young people who don’t have a personal link to the Holocaust are grateful for this simple opportunity to play a personal, sustainable part in ensuring that the names of the victims are not forgotten. This project has taught us that good ideas can build bridges: between the commemoration of the victims of National Socialism and people’s desire to get involved today – for remembrance, and, at the same time, for respect, diversity, and democracy.”

www.arolsen-archives.org



Christoph Kulesa

CEO, Maximilian-Kolbe-Werk

“At Maximilian-Kolbe-Werk, 2020 was a year that shifted the focus of our work to different means of providing direct support to the survivors of concentration camps and ghettos. These ways of helping were and continue to be incredibly important during the pandemic. When meeting in person suddenly became impossible, virtual contacts increased. Phone and Internet became the most important means of communication.

It was impressive to see how the people we are working to help cared for, strengthened, and comforted each other. Many of them struggled with the feeling of being locked in and the uncertainty of when they would be allowed outside again. Some associated this with the time they were interned in the camps.

At the same time, the new digital reality changed and enriched our remembrance work. We are now fostering dialogs between young people in Germany and eye-witnesses who otherwise would not have been able to accept an invitation to Germany due to their age.”

www.maximilian-kolbe-werk.de

2020 was an exceptional year in which we all had to continuously adapt and digitize our work, our collaboration with partners, and the focus of our projects, along with making them more flexible. And we succeeded in doing this. We asked a few of our partners to share with us what they learned during this time.



Dr. Haim Gertner

*Managing Director,
International Relations Division,
Yad Vashem Holocaust
memorial site*

“Even before the pandemic, Yad Vashem had identified the challenge of adapting to an increasingly online society with multiple messages, sources of authority and approaches to consuming content. So, while the enforced closure of our campus and global lockdown were unprecedented, they were also a catalyst for initiatives that were already in development.

Once face-to-face encounters became impossible, Yad Vashem rapidly adapted online activities in some 15 languages for hundreds of thousands of people around the world, thirsty for high-quality, compelling and historically accurate content, including matchless educational materials, historical resources, exhibitions and virtual tours.

Through our new YVNG platform – supported by the EVZ Foundation – information is more accessible and includes, for example, the possibility of visitors to our websites creating ‘clusters’ of documents that paint a fuller picture of the life and fate of individual Shoah victims. In the past year, these contributions, together with activities simultaneously connecting people around the world, enabled Yad Vashem to create a dynamic community of stakeholders seeking substance in an uncertain world.”

www.yadvashem.org



Roberta Bartkutė

*Studying toward her master’s
degree in historical sciences at
Humboldt University Berlin.
Lithuanian participant in the
“Malyj Trostenez. the history of
the site of annihilation” project*

“I think the pandemic has had a positive impact on the culture of remembrance. First, it sped up efforts to digitize archive documents, which, not least, can be used in the context of projects like ours. This brings the names and stories of the victims to light and lends new life to our remembrance of them.

Second, the pandemic will end at some point, but the results of our digital project and others like it will hopefully remain available online for an indefinite time and will therefore be accessible to the general public. Unfortunately, the pandemic is having a negative impact on international exchanges. Working together on site is very important in terms of making contacts and fostering tolerance. I hope that we will be able to make up for lost time once the travel restrictions have been lifted.”

<https://ibb-d.de>

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 available at www.stiftung-evz.de/facts-and-figures

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APPS AND
GAMES

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PUBLICATIONS

25
(ONLINE)
CONFERENCES AND
WORKSHOPS

11
REPORTS AND
STUDIES

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

DELIVERY OF
229,600
PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS

29

ENCOUNTERS WITH
EYEWITNESSES
TO HISTORY

21

WEBSITES AND
CAMPAIGNS

14

SETS OF
EDUCATIONAL
MATERIAL

12

PODCASTS AND
AUDIO
PRODUCTIONS

36

PHOTO AND VIDEO
DOCUMENTATIONS

➔ 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

How Germany remembers

MEMO study on the culture of remembrance

How do Germans see the National Socialist era? Since 2017, “MEMO Germany – Multidimensional Remembrance Monitor” has been investigating questions relating to the remembrance of and responsibility for National Socialist injustices. The representative survey of 1,000 individuals is supported by the EVZ Foundation and conducted by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence (IKG) at Bielefeld University. The study also draws connections with current topics, including conspiracy theories and the Covid-19 pandemic.

To what extent would you say the following aspects protect us as a society against something like National Socialism happening in Germany again?



The illustration shows the percentages of respondents who indicated they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the respective statement.

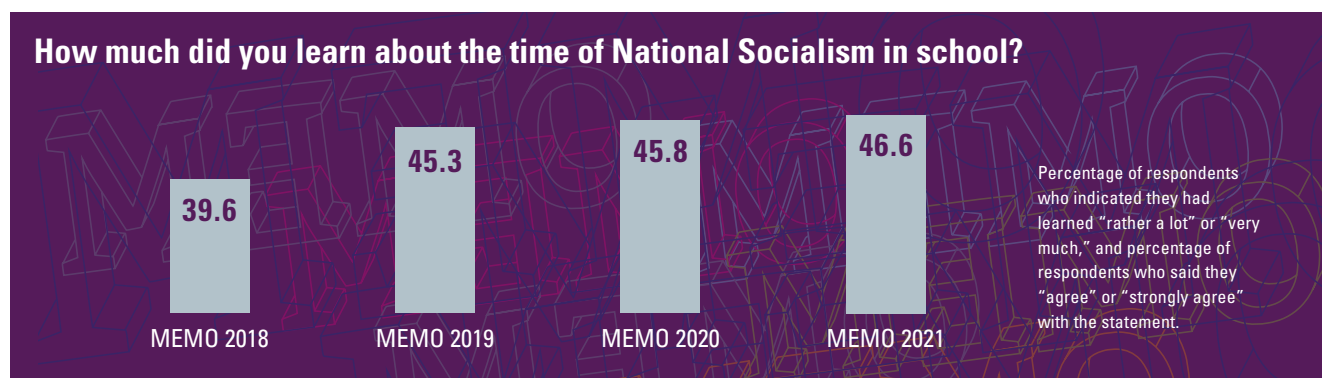
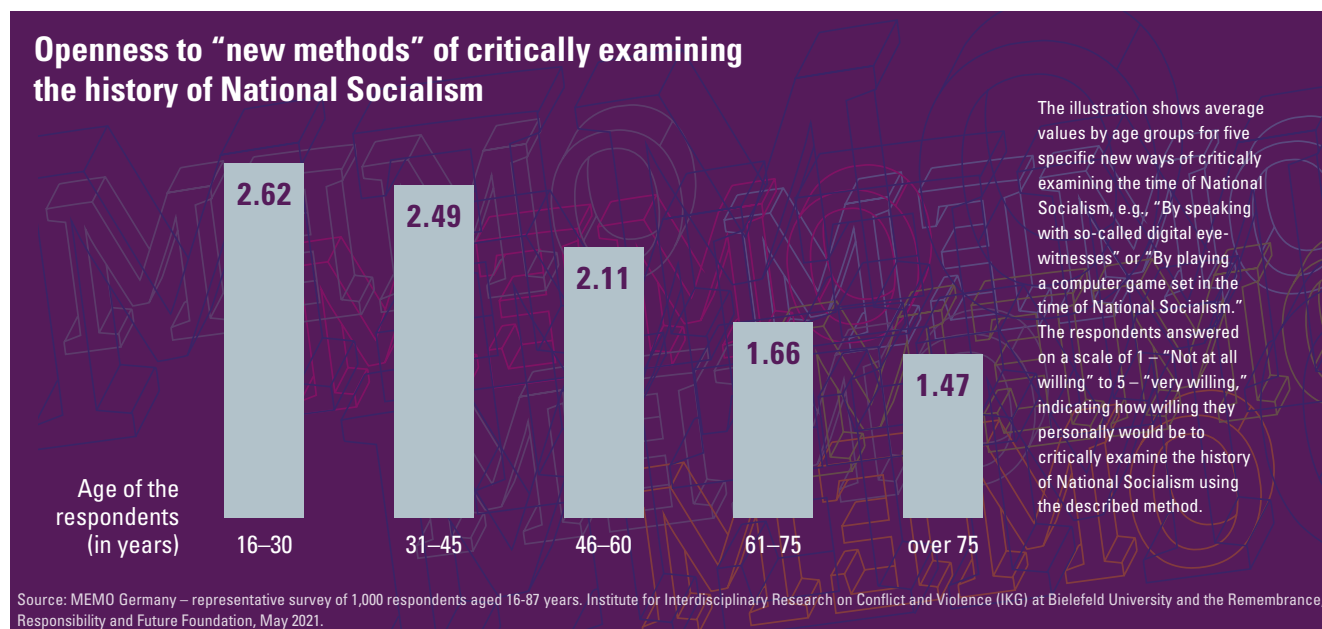
Source: MEMO Germany – representative survey of 1,000 respondents aged 16-87 years. Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence (IKG) at Bielefeld University and the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation, May 2021.

The fear that the events of the past could repeat themselves and the parallels we are observing between current political developments, the end of the Weimar Republic, and the time of National Socialism prompt vigilance and helplessness in equal measure. I see learning sites for historical and political education as centers of expertise that can help us to tackle current challenges in society and enter into a dialog on these issues that transcends generational and social boundaries.

Stefan Querl, Villa ten Hompel memorial site, Münster

Communicating history in different ways

The study also looks at how open respondents are to new forms of critically examining the history of National Socialism. They indicated they were most interested in participating in conversations with “digital eyewitness” (40 percent), critically examining the National Socialist era by listening to podcasts (27 percent), or making virtual visits to concentration camp memorial sites (26 percent). At the same time, a comparatively high percentage of the participants said they would not make use of new approaches. In conclusion, the study showed that digital methods are attractive – but when it comes to remembering in a way that evokes understanding and empathy, there is no perfect solution. We need to take a close look at how innovation, education methods, and mediating these approaches can be combined – across different learning methods, age groups, and countries.



In the coming years, MEMO plans to place a greater focus on identifying trends and deriving comparative values from the study – as illustrated in the above diagram. The study and summaries are available in German, English, and Russian.

www.stiftung-evz.de/memo

EVZ expanded — laboratory for new funding formats

The think-and-do tank designs new
methods and future
funding formats.

BR



**DIE BEERREIUNG
THE LIBERATION**

Yad Vashem Next Generation: digital archive and expert exchange

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

The Yad Vashem memorial site houses the world's most important archive on the Holocaust. Existing digital archives are being transferred to the new digital platform, "Yad Vashem Next Generation" (YVNG). This will make it possible to use eye-witness accounts and other materials for historical and political education from any location.



Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

International historians and practitioners in the field of historical and political education meet at an annual workshop to discuss how eye-witness interviews, documents, and photos can be used for teaching purposes. Archivists from eleven countries have formed a network to discuss online access and teaching methods.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

Yad Vashem is a leading international institution in the area of digital media and the use of historical archives. The project is a prototype for digital Holocaust and National Socialist forced labor archives worldwide. It ensures that current and future generations learn about and remember the Holocaust on the basis of facts while positioning the EVZ Foundation as a key partner in digital historical education, an area that is set to play a key role in the future.

Duration of the project: 2018–2020

Funding amount: EUR 570,000

Funding countries: Israel, international

Project website: www.yadvashem.org/collections

App, website and podcast on the history of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

The Foundation is seeking to convey the history of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp in a way that is compatible with current media by creating a podcast and a mobile augmented reality (AR) application, in addition to promoting digital narrative formats in memorial work. The project provides education offers on the topic of National Socialism for anyone who primarily uses digital media.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

School students tested the app, which was downloaded 10,000 times until the end of 2020. The project was nominated for the DigAMus Awards, the Prix Europa, as well as the Grimme Online Award. It is a cooperation between Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten (Bavarian Memorial Sites Foundation) and broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk. ZAUBAR developed the technology behind the app.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

The project is appreciated by the professional public and was nominated for three awards. The experiences from this pilot project will be used sustainably: they will flow into another app about *Stolpersteine* (stumbling stones), which works with infographics, swipe stories, and AR content.

Duration of the project: 2020

Funding amount: EUR 82,489

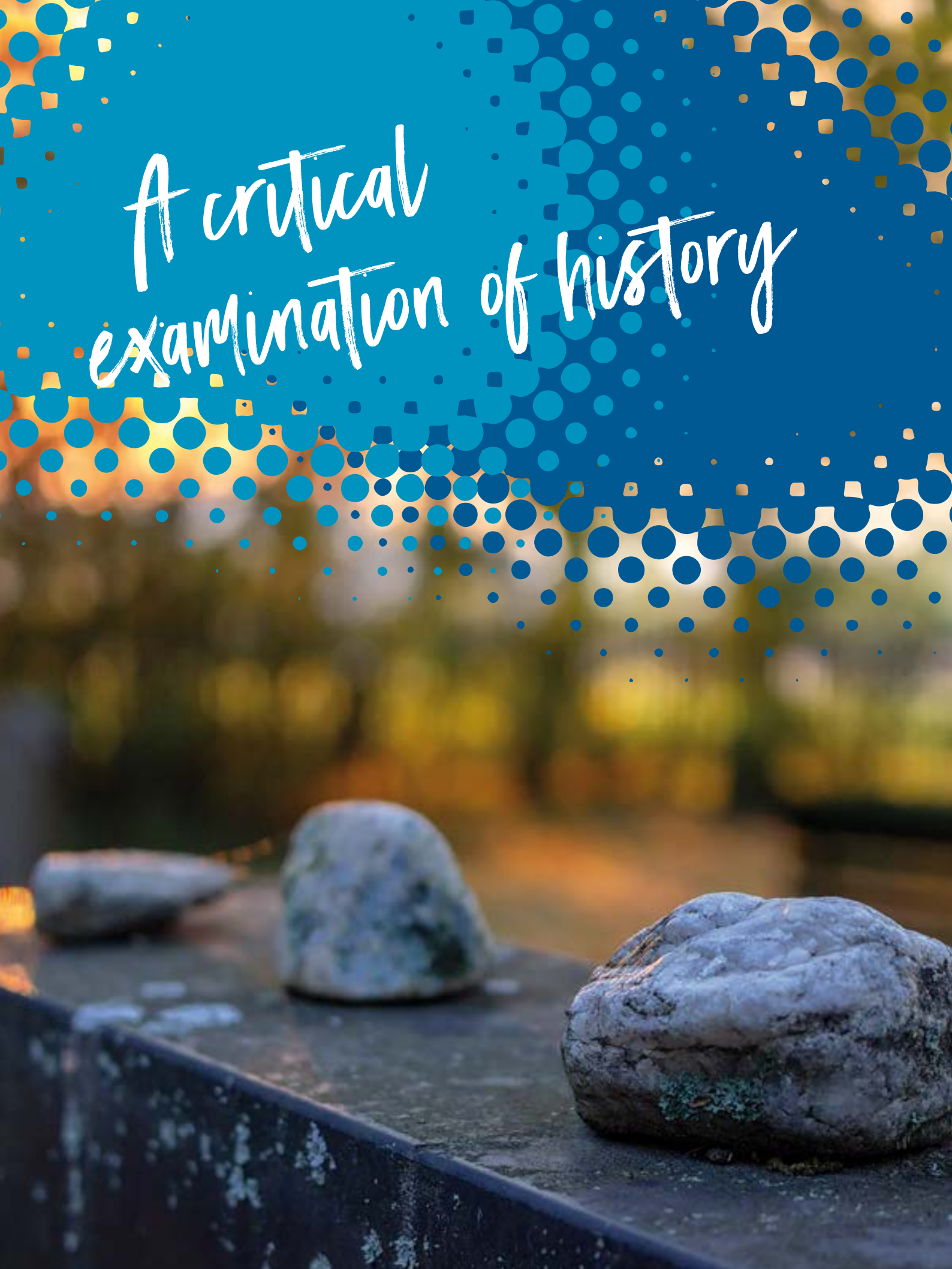
Funding countries: Germany, international

Project website / web-based version of the app:

<https://diebefreiung.br.de>



A critical
examination of history



Forgotten victims: Exhibition honoring patients murdered in Vinnytsia and the Soviet prisoners of war in Stalag 329

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

In the Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia, 1,500 patients were abused for the purposes of medical experiments and shot dead by SS task forces so the institution could be used by the Wehrmacht. National Socialist prisoners of war, and particularly the Soviet prisoners, suffered appalling conditions and were forced into labor. The exhibition is intended to draw attention and facilitate access to this largely unknown chapter in history and the victims' stories in the regions occupied by the National Socialists.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

Deutsche Jugend in Europa (German Youth in Europe, DJO) is cooperating with Ukrainian NGO Narodni Majdan Vinnytsia on the project. The Ukrainian-language exhibition shows numerous photographs and includes many source references that were used on site as the basis for investigating and preparing information relating to the crimes committed by the National Socialists.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

The EVZ Foundation is working to foster remembrance of forgotten groups of victims of National Socialism and to raise awareness of the fact that the history of groups of victims is often closely intertwined at the local level.

Duration of the project: 2017–2021



Funding amount: EUR 36,920

Funding countries: Ukraine, Germany

Project websites:

Exhibition display boards on patient murders:

https://memory.org.ua/klinik_5

Exhibition display boards on the stalag:

https://memory.org.ua/shtalag_5

A serious game for the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds in Nuremberg



What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

Ways of learning and communicating are changing, and serious games are a format within the games community that offers a good way to create new momentum in the context of historical and political education. By setting up this project, the EVZ Foundation is aiming to reach a new target group and tackle the relevant didactic challenges.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

The "Behind the Scenes: Nuremberg '34" project is being implemented by the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds in Nuremberg. Different users from various countries and age groups visit the center, so the project is reaching very heterogeneous target groups. The University of Erlangen-Nuremberg is designing the historical and didactic concept and evaluating the project. Visuals created by: comic illustrator and designer Hamed Eshrat, game developer: Dr. Patrick Ruckdeschel with Zockrates Laboratories UG.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

The pilot project connects the tech area with the memorial work in which the game will be developed and used. It serves as a link between established historical/political education formats and creative/technical innovation potential and will be implemented as part of the digital // memory funding program.

Duration of the project: 2019–2021

Funding amount: EUR 165,000

Funding country: Germany

Project website: t1p.de/88b3

MAZEWA: European youth encounter on forgotten locations and National Socialist injustice

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

The Foundation aims to get young people interested in local history and stories and to create inclusive places of learning. In this way, forgotten places that were part of Jewish life and National Socialist injustices in the border area between Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany will be made visible and preserved.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

Young adults (18–28 years of age) from all over Europe are participating in the project, which is a cooperation between Hillersche Villa Zittau, the Jewish community of Liberec, the Jewish community in Dresden, Vereinigung junger Freiwilliger (Association of Young Volunteers), HATiKVA e.V., Besht Yeshiva Dresden, European Heritage Volunteers, and the city of Zittau.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

The project covers a wide range of topics, including Jewish life, the Holocaust, National Socialist “euthanasia,” and Soviet prisoners of war. It is also setting up the “Jüdischer Friedhof in Zittau” (Jewish Cemetery of Zittau), which is a digital, inclusive place of learning, as well as cross-border partnerships in Central Eastern Europe. The trilateral project is being funded together with the Federal Foreign Office as part of the Young People Remember project.

Duration of the project: 2020–2022

Funding amount: EUR 40,525

Funding countries: Poland, Czech Republic, Germany

Project website: www.mazewa.eu



Those who have been following the Foundation’s work for some time will have noted that the scope of its programs is incredibly dynamic. [...] [I hope that] formats designed to help young people to remember the fates of eyewitnesses will continue to be developed and receive funding. Peter Wetzels, Geschichtswerkstatt Merseburg-Saalekreis e.V.

Working for human rights



Workshop:

* watch "White Saviour" the movie trailer

Extend your reading list

Educate yourself

listen & do your homework

Accept that you'll get it wrong sometimes



#BLACK LIVES MATTER

IN TIMES OF CORONA

now & then

Andrea-Vicky Amankwaa - Birago

where do you see **EFFECTS**?

- DEMONSTRATIONS
- GRAFFITI ACTIONS
- PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES
- MORE FOCUS ON COLONIAL HISTORY

- SOCIAL MEDIA PROTESTS
- MORE CONVERSATIONS on racism and privilege
- BOOKS & PODCASTS
- RENAMING OF STREETS
- CHANGED VIEWS ON AMERICAN POLITICS
- APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE SPACES
- PRIVILEGED PEOPLE REALIZE HOW BAD IT IS



Breonna Taylor
 Natasha McKenna
 Miriam Carey
 Malissa Williams
 Kathryn Johnson
 Tyisha Miller
 Vanelle Daniels

SAY HER NAME!

GET YOUR KNEE OFF MY NECK!

ROOTS:

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
 BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT

Check out: organisations in Germany

- ISD
- ADEFRA
- EOTO e.V.
- BLM Berlin
- Citizen for Europe

German/Ukrainian youth encounter: Sustainable action for human rights

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

The NEXUS project aims to inspire young people from Ukraine and Germany to get involved in human rights and sustainability issues. Networks are developing between local activists and civil society structures in both countries as a result.



Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

Fifteen young people discovered NEXUS – the connections between water, energy, food security and environmental protection – in the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv. They created educational videos and spoke with local activists, researchers, and residents at regional parks, nature reserves, and a solar power station. Project partners: IWEK e.V. (an initiative for knowledge exchange, empowerment, and culture based in Berlin, Germany), Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University, and Admiral Makarov National University of Shipbuilding (Mykolaiv, Ukraine).

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

The project from the MEET UP! German/Ukrainian Youth Encounters program offers an in-depth insight into a topic that is highly relevant for young people in Europe today. It supports the Foundation's efforts to promote human rights and sustainable development, and to develop ideas for implementing these aims.

Duration of the project: 2020

Funding amount: EUR 12,713

Funding countries: Ukraine, Germany

Project video:

<http://youtu.be/M3pROL6FBuE&t=5s>

EUROPEANS FOR PEACE: international youth exchange celebrates 15 years

– 17,000 participants

– 705 projects

– 40 countries

For the Foundation, these figures sum up the success achieved in the EUROPEANS FOR PEACE funding program. For 15 years, young people from Europe have networked with each other on the topics of human rights, National Socialist history, diversity, and inclusion.

A huge thank you to all project partners and participants – your commitment has been inspiring!

Same topics – new name: We are continuing to promote youth encounters in the MEET UP – Youth for partnership program. Please see our social network channels for all the details:

   [evzyoung](#)

EmpoR – Empowerment for Roma



What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

Disseminators and volunteers from Roma communities in North Rhine-Westphalia are being mobilized to represent their own interests in order to strengthen their sense of self-worth. They are being trained as educational consultants, and four qualification activities with over 20 participants each were still held in 2020 despite the restrictions on interpersonal contact due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Participants will receive a certificate from the European Council after completing their training through four additional qualification activities in 2021.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

The project is strengthening Roma organizations in North Rhine-Westphalia and linking local communities and initiatives organized by the majority population. The executing agency is the Carmen association, which has a total of five local offices.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

Together with the Freudenberg Foundation, the EVZ Foundation is one of only a few foundations working to promote the empowerment of Roma in Germany. Providing training to educational consultants is a promising, tried-and-tested approach to creating equal educational opportunities for Roma school students and helping Roma to become established players in the education sector.

Duration of the project: 2020, supplementary funding in 2021

Funding amount: EUR 25,000

Funding country: Germany

Project and project sponsor websites:

www.carmen-ev.eu

www.facebook.com/pg/CarmenduseV

Funding program successfully completed: SOGIarity. Against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

The SOGIarity program has supported the equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons (LGBTI+) in Germany, Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine since 2015. Funding was primarily provided for networking and collaboration as well as raising the profile of organizations that work for LGBTI+ human rights in civil society. Alliances between LGBTI+ organizations and stakeholders were developed and networked across borders in civil society, communities, and the economy. The program approach, which linked capacity building with coalition building, proved to be innovative and successful and has been transferred to other programs at the EVZ Foundation. Initiated together with Dreilinden gGmbH, the funding program has been implemented exclusively with resources from the EVZ Foundation since 2018. Several projects will continue their work until 2022. LGBTI+ projects will continue to be part of the Foundation's work in the future.

Scope of funding: 23 projects with EUR 1.2 million · **Duration:** 2015–2021

Funding countries: Germany, Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine

Check out examples of projects: www.stiftung-evz.de/sogidarity-en

Coalition building in the Jewish, Ukrainian, and Roma community



What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

The aim is to strengthen alliances and networks in the Jewish, Ukrainian, and Roma communities in Poland in order to combat antisemitism, racism against Roma, and other forms of discrimination in Central and Eastern Europe. The project is working to highlight the expertise of the coalition's members. It also supports capacity building, i.e., the sustainable development of structures and expertise in order to effectively improve the target group's health.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

Various minority groups in Poland are coming together to form a network and are collaborating with local authorities. The Jewish Association Czulent, the ZUSTRICZ Foundation, the JawDikh! art foundation, and the Research Center for Cultures of Remembrance are the project executing agencies.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

Four external and internal experts recommended that funding be provided to the project, which will be evaluated following its conclusion. The experiences gained during the project will be incorporated into a follow-up project: "Antisemitic hate crimes and hate speech: Monitoring, data collecting, and reporting system in Poland. Advice for affected individuals" (duration 2021–2022).

Duration of the project: 2019–2020

Funding amount: EUR 49,999

Funding country: Poland

Project and project sponsor website:

<https://czulent.pl>



The EVZ Foundation offered us a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the dangers of online hate speech [...]. Thank you for paying attention to the dangers that Europe has to face today and your desire to help societies identify and react to these dangers.

Ana, Elie Wiesel National Institute

Commitment to The victims of National Socialism



Advice, support, and participation for survivors of National Socialist persecution and their families in Nuremberg

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

The aim is to improve the life situations of the Russian-speaking victims of National Socialism by organizing offers such as chess groups and choir singing so they can experience social participation and recognition within society. The EVZ Foundation supports them in leading self-determined and dignified lives at an advanced age.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

The offers of the Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Welfare Association, AWO) are geared toward Russian-speaking survivors and their families. Care and support staff as well as volunteers provide advice to individuals with dementia, trauma patients, and family members caring for them on aspects relating to home care and applying for assistance at all care levels.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

The survivors are assisted in their mother tongue, which makes it easier to identify their needs. Participants and their carers share a trusting relationship, and a transport service reduces the burden on family members caring for the participants. The project's offers have been adapted during the Covid-19 pandemic, so contact with the victims of National Socialism is being maintained through regular phone calls, small gifts, and letters.

Duration of the project: 2016–2022

Funding amount: EUR 40,000 (2020–2022)

Funding country: Germany

Project sponsor website:

www.awo-nuernberg.de/senioren-und-pflege

Counseling centers for Holocaust survivors in Israel

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

Holocaust survivors live in precarious circumstances in some cases. The project is improving their living conditions and their participation in society.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

The Aviv for Holocaust Survivors organization operates four counseling centers in Jerusalem, Holon, and Bat Yam. Around 1,800 Holocaust survivors and their families can seek individual advice from lawyers and volunteers. A 24-hour phone hotline is also available for concerns and difficulties. Informational events and further training for 150 professional workers who care for the elderly are a further component of the offer.



Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

Aviv provides information to Holocaust survivors, files applications on their behalf, and ensures that their rights are exercised. In many cases, the applicants are poorly informed due to language barriers, with the complex, frequently changing legal situation presenting further difficulties. The organization offers these services at no cost. A further objective is to identify and support new beneficiaries in the course of partnerships.

Duration of the project: 2020–2022

Funding amount: EUR 80,864

Funding country: Israel

Project and project sponsor websites:

www.facebook.com/avivforsurvivors

www.avivshoa.co.il

(Online) activities for Holocaust survivors in Ukraine

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

Various offers encourage survivors of National Socialist persecution to become active, thereby helping them to age with dignity.

Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

A total of 140 Holocaust survivors and other older people in the cities of Zaporizhzhia, Berdyansk, Melitopol, and Mariupol participated in a wide range of activities, including theater and art therapy groups as well as psychological counseling groups. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that activities to prevent dementia were held in an interactive online format, which was gratefully received. Medical and rehabilitation aids as well as food were also provided. The project sponsor was Jewish welfare institution Chesed Michael together with NGO Masal Tow and the Jewish community of Melitopol.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

Executing agency Chesed Michael has a very effective network and is raising a great deal of public awareness for Holocaust survivors and the topic of dementia. The project will be financed by another donor organization going forward.

Duration of the project: 2019–2020

Funding amount: EUR 20,273

Funding country: Ukraine

Project sponsor website: t1p.de/ixr2

Home care, support, and advice for victims of National Socialism in Pskov, Russia

What is the EVZ Foundation aiming to achieve with this project?

The support provided by the project enables survivors of National Socialist persecution to live in their own homes for longer and to age with dignity.



Who is involved in the project, and who is it reaching?

Two carers, along with a social worker and driver from the Russian Red Cross in Pskov, provide care for the survivors of National Socialist persecution. Over 200 victims of National Socialism receive food packages and transportation services, while 31 are provided with nursing services and care. The Russian Red Cross exchanges experiences with two other social services – the German Red Cross in Neuss and the “Help” medical and social service in Vitebsk, Belarus.

Why is the EVZ supporting this particular project?

The project sponsor is a long-standing, reliable partner in the funding program focusing on partnerships for victims of National Socialism. Efforts are underway to provide further funding in the Dialogue Forum program.

Duration of the project: 2017–2020

Funding amount: EUR 61,145

Funding country: Russia, exchange with German and Belarusian partners

Project website: t1p.de/oq10

"The grass was high"

A quick glimpse through a window, a warm embrace – Ukrainian photographer Lesya Kharchenko takes us along on an exploration of the memories of survivors of National Socialist persecution. Over 30 portraits and quotes show how their experiences continue to live on for the victims to this day. This is also reflected in the exhibition's title: the quote is from a Roma woman who says she had to hide in the grass to survive during the war. A selection of twelve portraits can be seen on the Foundation's website. The exhibition opened on October 4, 2020, in Kiev and – despite the pandemic – has already been shown in six other cities in Ukraine.



We were taken to Germany. Nobody wanted to take for work a mother with three kids. We were separated. My brother was repeatedly beaten by a housewife. My sister had to work hard. Volodymyra Shnaidruk

An exhibition with portraits and stories of survivors of National Socialist persecution from Ukraine

There is nothing more difficult than admitting one’s fault and repenting. I was very much eased after the Germans admitted their guilt and apologized. Kataryna Hopkalo

Concept, photos, and text: Lesya Kharchenko. Scientific editor: Tetiana Pastuschenko.



www.stiftung-evz.de/ausstellung-ns-ueberlebende-ukraine

20 YEARS EVZ

PHOTO AND VIDEO COMPETITION
 #TELLINGHISTORY #20YEARESEVZFOUNDATION

What do an alpaca, an angel, and two climbers have in common? They are the winning images of the EVZ Foundation's photo competition! The jury considered around 100 video and photo submissions from projects funded by the EVZ. Entrants had the chance to win cash and other prizes worth over 4,000 euros.

Winning photos



1st place: Aleksandra Kossowska, project "Assistance, awareness, dignity – volunteer home visits and group activities for lonely elderly people", Poland

Winning videos



1st place: Konstantin Buchholz and Yaroslav Bulavin, "Meiosis" art project, Ukraine/Germany



2nd place: Mark Chikivchuk, project "InDUSTreal", Ukraine



2nd place: Ofa Feldman/Lucia Bontjer. Project: "67/871" play, Russia/Germany



2nd place: Marcus Welsch, "The chronicler": Willi Waibel and the reconciliation with Ukrainian forced laborers, Germany



3rd place: Robert Schulzmann, "ХАЙМ-HEIM": Robert Schulzmann, "ХАЙМ-HEIM": The search for the identity of a Russian-Jewish contingent refugee, Germany

We invite you to check out the best photos and videos from the competition here:
www.stiftung-evz.de/photocompetition

Bringing digital communication to life



Interactive eyewitnesses: Beta test with school students

“A life-sized video screen shows Auschwitz survivor Anita Lasker-Wallfisch sitting in a darkened room. She squints, turns her head, taps her foot. Does she remember the first deportations from Wrocław? The picture shakes for a second, and then she answers with a deep sigh: ‘Yes.’ The room is completely silent as she tells how her parents only had 24 hours before they had to report for their transport out of the city in April 1942!” The scene described here was part of the public presentation by interactive eyewitness Anita Lasker-Wallfisch at the German Museum of Technology in Berlin in February 2020. School students had the opportunity to put their questions to the digital eyewitness, and the so-called beta testing was primarily conducted online due to the pandemic.

Personal access to history and dialog

The project’s goal is to open up personal access to history for future generations and to reach new target groups – independent of time and location. The living eyewitness responded to around 1,000 questions regarding her life story in front of a green screen with several cameras and a microphone so the digital eyewitness would be able to provide answers. This recording produced a database of answers that can be accessed by asking questions verbally. A wide range of technology is required for this to work. When a question is spoken into the microphone, voice recognition programs and database queries work in real time to identify suitable video answer sequences and then play the responses. The system is undergoing a learning process during the test phase with school students until 2021 in order to improve the accuracy of the answers.

Project video:

<https://youtu.be/nGzAc9mIoTM>

1 Source: Deutsche Welle, Andrea Grunau: www.dw.com/de/holocaust-überlebende-interaktives-zeitzeugnis-von-anita-lasker-wallfisch/a-52430862

During the pandemic, we can’t always be in the office – but we hope to welcome international guests to our premises again soon. Until then, you can follow us and join the discussion.

   **evzfoundation**

For news on our youth projects, check out @evzyoung

   **evzyoung**

Award-winning

DigAMus award for the berlinHistory.app, nominations for the Die Befreiung (The Liberation) app

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. Presented for the first time in 2020, DigAMus is the digitalization award for German museums. The berlinHistory e.V association received the award in the "Best Apps" category following deliberations by an expert jury and a nationwide public vote.

<https://berlinhistory.app>



The Die Befreiung app designed by the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial was also nominated for the DigAMus Award. The multimedia app recounts the experiences of prisoners and US soldiers during the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp in a powerful, compelling way. The app was also nominated for the Grimme Online Award and the Prix Europa.

<https://diebefreiung.br.de>

Comenius-EduMedia-Award for *Fluchtpunkte* (Points of Escape) educational material

Fluchtpunkte features seven representative life stories involving experiences of flight and migration and highlights the interconnections between German and Austrian history and the history of the Middle East. Six learning modules provide the didactic framework for the biographies and facilitate discussions on historical and political processes, identities, and various narratives. The material enables education work on the topics of flight and migration as well as antisemitism and racism in the context of the history of National Socialism and in light of the impacts of Europe's (Middle East) policy throughout history.

www.fluchtpunkte.net



Project on the remembrance of forced labor in Biesenthal receives award

School students at Freie Naturschule Barnim participated in the "Demokratisch handeln" (Acting Democratically) competition set up by the nationwide learning scheme on democracy with their project titled "Die Würde des Menschen ist (un)antastbar – Erinnern an Zwangsarbeit in Biesenthal" (Human dignity is (in)violable – remembering forced labor in Biesenthal). The students created an exhibition centering on remembering the fates of forced laborers during the time of National Socialism. The German-Czech cooperation project received the award as one of the 50 top democracy projects.

t1p.de/jsd7



Yad Vashem International Book Prize for study on forced child labor

Professor Johannes-Dieter Steinert was honored with the Yad Vashem International Book Prize 2020 for his book *Holocaust und Zwangsarbeit. Erinnerungen jüdischer Kinder 1938–1945* (Holocaust and Forced Labor. Jewish

Children's Memories, 1938–1945). The jury had particular praise for the sensitive and multifaceted way in which Professor Steinert portrayed the topic of forced child labor, which had been systematically examined only rarely prior to this. The author is Professor for Modern European History and Migration Studies at the University of Wolverhampton in the UK.

“Das Zelig”, a film on Munich survivors of the Shoah, nominated for the German documentary film award

Survivors of National Socialist persecution meet every week at Café Zelig in Munich, where they come together to laugh, sing, and celebrate, but also to argue and mourn. The EVZ Foundation has supported this meeting place of the Jewish religious community of Munich and Upper Bavaria since its founding in 2016. Filmmaker Tanja Cummings visited and filmed the café and the people who meet there over several months. The resulting documentary, “Das Zelig”, celebrated its premiere in October 2020 at the Hof International Film Festival, where it was nominated for the Dokumentarfilmpreis (German documentary film award).

<https://daszelig-film.de>



Eyewitness Anastasia Gulei awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

Anastasia Gulei, who survived imprisonment by the Gestapo as well as internment in the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps, received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in July 2020. A native of Ukraine, Gulei has been sharing her experiences as an eyewitness with younger generations for over 20 years – including in Germany. She received the award at the German Embassy in Kiev in honor of her steadfast dedication in remembrance of the victims of the National Socialist dictatorship.

t1p.de/2fzg



German Jewish History Award for two EVZ projects

The Geschichtomat project received the German Jewish History Award in the “Anniversary Awards” category. In this project, school students in Hamburg use a digital city map of Jewish Hamburg to record their impressions in videos, photos, and texts. The Geschichtomat helps the students to learn about history in their local area outside the classroom, and is being successfully used as a hands-on model project in Hamburg’s schools.

<https://www.geschichtomat.de/en/>

Sabeth Schmidthals, a teacher in Berlin, received the German Jewish History Award in the “Outstanding Achievements” category. Schmidthals supported school students at Theodor-Heuss Community School in Berlin as they worked together to develop the staged reading “Dokumentartheater: Gleis 69 – zum Deportationsweg des Moabiter Bahnhofs” (Documentary Theater: Platform 69 – on the Deportation Route at Moabit Train Station).

t1p.de/8aw7

Committees

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees decides on all fundamental questions that are part of the remit of the EVZ Foundation. It determines the focuses of the Foundation's funding and activities, adopts the annual budget, and establishes guidelines for the use of the resources. The Board of Trustees is international, and its 27 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 EVZ's establishment. The Board of Directors is responsible for current business activities of the EVZ Foundation and implements the resolutions of the Board of Trustees.

www.stiftung-evz.de/board-of-trustees



Digital meeting of the Board of Trustees

The EVZ's founding history challenges us to raise awareness of the responsibility we have where reservations lead to denial, marginalization, and violence. It challenges us to work for a new phase of remembrance culture: First, it should do justice to the victims of the Shoah – we want to be there for them, take care of them, and keep their memory alive. Second, we want to enhance the impact of historical education and help a young generation assume an active role in shaping remembrance culture themselves.

Annette Schavan, Chairperson of the 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. 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 and was appointed on March 4, 2020, at an extraordinary meeting of the international Board of Trustees. The Directors took office in June 2020.

www.stiftung-evz.de/board-of-directors



Annette Schavan, Dr. Andrea Despot, Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto and Dr. Jörg Freiherr Frank von Fürstenwerth

What we find impressive is the promising way our projects developed despite the difficult conditions due to the pandemic and that the objectives set for the projects were achieved—just in new and different ways, from digital tools to practical help like packages of food and hygiene products for older people in need of assistance. We want to say a big thank you to all of the organizations we support and the stakeholders for their incredible commitment in this extraordinary situation. Dr. Andrea Despot, Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto

Department



Pavel Baravik



Dr. Sonja Begalke



Monika Bertele



Judith Blum



Stephanie Bock



Martin Bock



Sonja Böhme



Elke Braun



Kateryna Churikova



Daliso Lea Cifire



Hana Čopić



Dr. Andrea Despot



Sigrun Döring



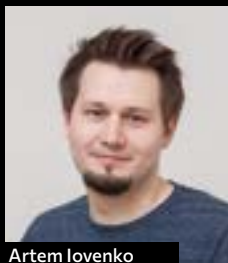
Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto



Wanja Hargens



Annemarie Hühne



Artem Iovenko



Corinna Jentsch



Adriana Koch



Olga Kohn



Katrin Kowark



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Nadine Reimer



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Merle Schmidt



Ute Schweewe



Holger Seidler



Malte Switkes vel Wittels



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Helge Theil



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Dr. Valentina Valtchuk



Ulrike Vasel



Maria Wilke



Tatjana Zelenina



Sophie Ziegler

All contacts available at www.stiftung-evz.de/department

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 the international level – in keeping with the basic concept that the remembrance of the past must go hand in hand with a commitment to the future.

The purposes for which this capital would be used were the subject of heated and contentious debate. The “inheritance of the forced laborers who did not survive” was a key phrase during the EVZ’s formation, and this phrase expresses a particular sense of responsibility that continues to guide the Foundation’s capital investments to this day.

Based on this responsibility, we have two obligations:

- to preserve and manage this special capital in compliance with sustainable investment principles
- to generate income that is used in accordance with the Foundation’s purpose.

PRINCIPLES OF THE FOUNDATION’S INVESTMENT POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Investment principles

The EVZ Foundation pursues three main objectives in the investment of its assets. First, 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. Second, the capital is to retain its real, inflation-proof value over the long term. Finally, the availability of adequate liquidity for the Foundation’s ongoing business must be ensured at all times.



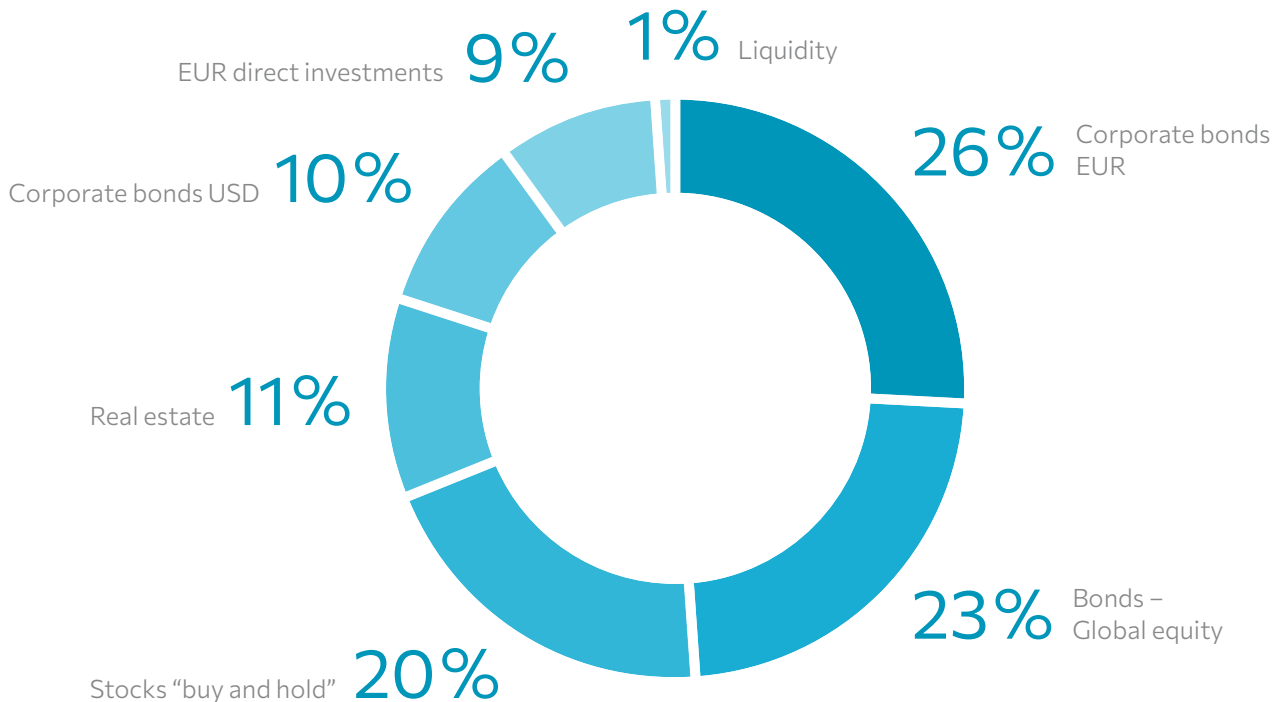
In 2020, the EVZ Foundation won the Portfolio Institutional Award for its strategic asset allocation activities.

Sustainability: ethical investment

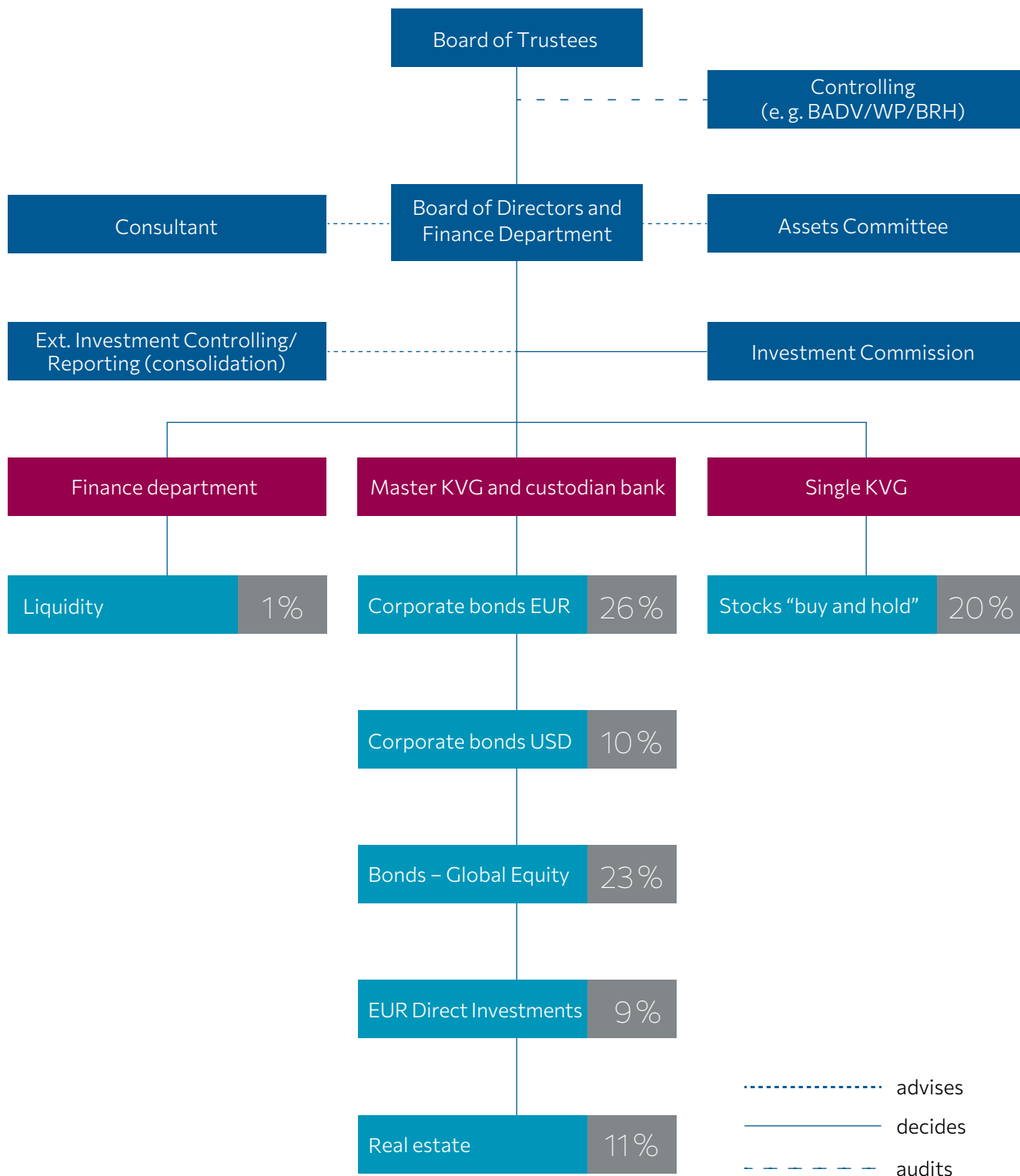
The EVZ Foundation has updated its sustainability strategy, which was initially rolled out in 2019 in the course of a pilot project for a special equity fund. The Foundation is continuing to move forward with the strategy's implementation in 2021, and standards are being harmonized. The Foundation prefers to invest in individual invest-

ments that meet comparatively high ESG standards and are moving in a positive direction in terms of their approach to sustainability. In addition, the EVZ Foundation has defined various levels of exclusion criteria. Major issuers have been divested as a result of a global dialog with issuers.

Investment classes



INVESTMENT STRATEGY



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, 2020, the Foundation's assets amounted to **562 million euros**. The capital investments are administered by two capital management companies (KVG) with a central depository and implemented by means of specialized fund mandates. The liquidity required to meet the Foundation's short-term requirements is held and managed by the Finance department in the direct portfolio.

In the first quarter of 2020, the Foundation was faced with severe disruptions on the international capital markets due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the help of our rule-based risk management system, we succeeded in reducing volatility and improving the risk profile of our capital investments. The broadly diversified manner in which capital investments are allocated also proved to be an essential approach in light of the market fluctuations caused by the pandemic.

In 2020, the Foundation generated current income amounting to 12.9 million euros.

Asset advisory committee and 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.

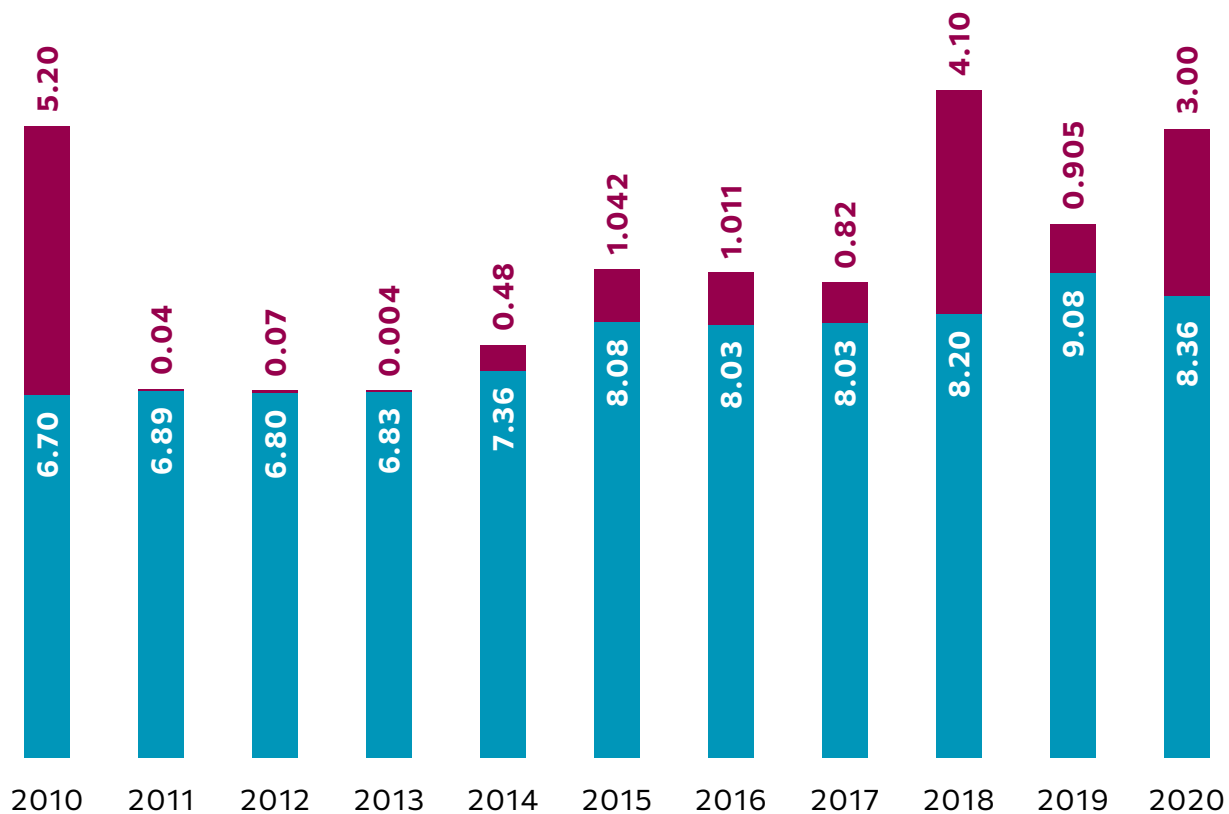
A list of the members of the advisory committee and the commission can be found at the following link:
www.stiftung-evz.de/finance-bodies

FUNDING ACTIVITIES AS OF 12/31/2020

(in million euros)

■ Funding volume approved by the Board of Trustees

■ Third-party funds/donations



Approved projects (280), total:

9.854 million euros

Actual amounts disbursed:

8.768 million euros

KEY FIGURES FOR 2020*

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

Assets	
Financial assets	460.0 million euros
Liabilities	
Basic assets	357.9 million euros
Revenue reserves	91.0 million euros
Payables resulting from project funding	9.4 million euros
Annual net profit	0.17 million euros
Balance sheet total	470.0 million euros

*as of May 2021

Excerpt from profit and loss statement

Expenditures for the purpose of the Foundation	9.07 million euros
Personnel expenditures	3.41 million euros
Public relations work	0.18 million euros
Other administrative expenditures	1.34 million euros

Asset management expenses

The expenses for managing the Foundation's assets amounted to around 1.2 million euros in 2020 and consisted of expenses for the depositary, capital manage-

ment companies, manager remuneration, and expenses for advisory services.

Audits

The annual financial statement of the EVZ Foundation is compiled by the responsible individuals at the Foundation in accordance with the provisions of the German Commercial Code (HGB) and audited by an auditing firm. In addition, 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.

About this publication

Publisher:

Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ Foundation)




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Translation: Sprachwerkstatt Berlin

Proofreading: Kennedy Translations GmbH

Design and layout: HEILMEYERUNDSERNAU GESTALTUNG, Berlin

Printed by: H. Heenemann GmbH & Co. KG, Berlin

Illustration credits: The material used in this report has been largely taken from the photography archives of the EVZ Foundation or provided by the participants and organizers of the projects funded.

Individual illustration credits:

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Back cover:

*Photo from the exhibition "The grass was high", portraits of survivors
of National Socialist persecution from Ukraine who took part in
humanitarian projects of the EVZ Foundation*

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www.stiftung-evz.de/projekte/ausstellung-ns-ueberlebende-in-der-ukraine

