



Annual Report **2022**

Who we are

What we want

How we work

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What we want

Fostering democracy and upholding human rights, taking action to prevent the destruction of the global ecosystem, advancing equality between women and men, securing peace through conflict prevention in crisis zones, and defending the freedom of individuals against excessive state and economic power – these are the objectives that inspire the ideas and actions of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. We maintain close ties to the German Green Party (Alliance 90 / The Greens) and, as a think tank for green visions and projects, we are part of an international network encompassing partner projects in approximately 60 countries.

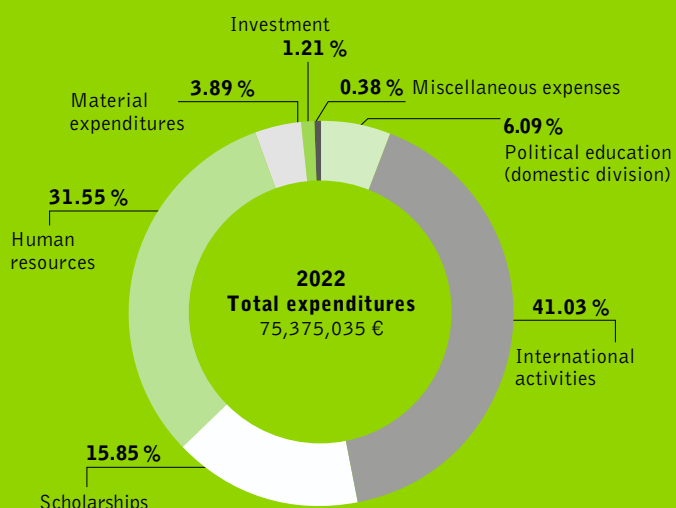
The Heinrich Böll Foundation works independently and nurtures a spirit of intellectual openness. We currently maintain a worldwide network with 38 international offices at 35 locations.

We cooperate closely with the Böll Foundations in Germany's federal states, and we support talented, socio-politically engaged undergraduate and graduate students in Germany and abroad.

We gladly follow Heinrich Böll's exhortation for citizens to get involved in politics, and we want to inspire others to do the same.

Sources and allocation of funding

The Heinrich Böll Foundation e. V. is mainly funded through public grants. In 2022, the Foundation's income increased by 5.5% to 83.7 million euros (preliminary figures). Over two-thirds of the Foundation's overall worldwide spending goes toward program and scholarship activities, and our international activities continue to account for the largest share of expenditures.



Heinrich Böll Foundation worldwide



Africa

- 1 Cape Town (South Africa)
- 2 Abuja (Nigeria)
- 3 Nairobi (Kenya)
- 4 Nairobi (Horn of Africa)
- 5 Dakar (Senegal)

Asia

- 6 Bangkok (Thailand)
- 7 New Delhi (India)
- 8 Beijing (China)
- 9 Phnom Penh (Cambodia)
- 10 Yangon (Myanmar)
- 11 Hong Kong (China)
- 12 Seoul (South Korea)**

Europe

- 13 Belgrade (Serbia)
- 14 Berlin (Germany)
- 15 Brussels (Belgium)*
- 16 Istanbul (Turkey)
- 17 Kyiv (Ukraine)
- 18 Paris (France)
- 19 Prague (Czech Republic)
- 20 Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)*
- 21 Tbilisi (Georgia)
- 22 Thessaloniki (Greece)
- 23 Tirana (Albania)
- 24 Warsaw (Poland)

Latin America

- 25 Bogotá (Columbia)
- 26 Mexico City (Mexico)
- 27 Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- 28 San Salvador (El Salvador)
- 29 Santiago de Chile (Chile)
- 30 Buenos Aires (Argentina)**

Middle East and North Africa

- 31 Beirut (Lebanon)
- 32 Ramallah (Palestine)
- 33 Rabat (Morocco)
- 34 Tel Aviv (Israel)
- 35 Tunis (Tunisia)

North America

- 36 Washington, DC (United States)

Russian Federation

- 37 Moscow (Russia)***

* At these locations we maintain a different type of office:
Global Unit for the Support of Democracy (Brussels)
Global Unit for Feminism and Gender Democracy (Sarajevo)

** Under development

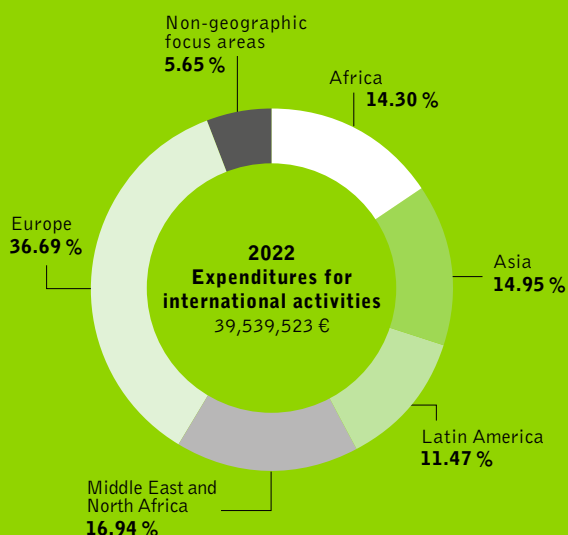
*** In April 2022 Russia's Ministry of Justice cancelled the accreditation of our Moscow office

International cooperation

In 2022, the Heinrich Böll Foundation received approximately 30.79 million euros in funding from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

Our International Cooperation Division received approximately 6 million euros from the Federal Foreign Office. In addition, the Federal Foreign Office provided roughly 700,000 euros in special funding for activities in Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, and for Belarus.

In 2022, Russia's attack on Ukraine – a clear breach of international law – was a momentous turning point. The Foundation received 400,000 euros for programs that directly support civil society in Ukraine and neighboring countries.



Foreword

A year is not a long time. We humans, who passed the eight-billion-mark last year, have been changing our earth for more than 3,000 years. Today, every single year matters since climate change could make parts of the world uninhabitable if we don't act quickly. On March 20, 2023, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published a synthesis report urging that we must correct course and get back on the 1.5-degree path, as laid out in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. We know very well what we must do to achieve this: phase out all fossil fuels and expand renewable energies across the board, make great strides in energy efficiency, and massively reduce our energy usage. Our mantra must be: All hands on deck and full speed ahead! All sectors, all social classes, and all countries must join the effort.

A year is a long time. In a year dominated by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, an energy crisis, protests in Iran, inflation, and climate change, we at the Heinrich Böll Foundation have achieved a lot – in climate and energy, agricultural and environmental, as well as in foreign policy areas, and also for Europe and in defense of the rule of law. One of our key missions is to promote democratic movements, especially when they operate under difficult circumstances. For example, prior to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, our Kyiv Office supported human rights activists who had fled Belarus – but then Ukraine became a dangerous place for them too. Since the outbreak of war, our team in Kyiv has continued its work under the direst conditions. In Mexico, we support the establishment of a nationwide victims' network, as people there are searching for an estimated 100,000 victims of enforced disappearance.

We were delighted to learn about the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureates: the Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties, Belarusian human rights activist Ales Bialiatski, and the Russian human rights organization Memorial, our oldest partner organization.

Our tasks as a political foundation also include communicating knowledge – by means of publications, podcasts, educational films, or through basic training. Here our Atlases have been particularly successful, gaining wide circulation and with translations into many languages. In 2022, we published the *Pesticide Atlas*, which provides visual information about toxins in agriculture. Other successful formats include the climate podcast *Karbon*, which we sponsored and which received the German-Czech Journalist Award. The newsletter *Free Courts* by NGO *Wolne Sąd*y, published with the

support of our Warsaw Office, keeps the wider public informed about threats to the rule of law in Poland.

For us personally, this annual report also means taking stock of our first year as Foundation Presidents. We have learned that the Foundation is a place to develop ideas and solutions to complex problems and then pitch them to policymakers. But as of 2023, it is also an institution in need of structural renewal. That is why we at the Heinrich Böll Foundation have launched the 360-degree change agenda. What do we mean by that?

360 degrees refers to our realization that the old departments and sectors, within which we operate, no longer work, that is, domestic and foreign affairs, environment and climate versus economic policy, the West as opposed to the Global South. The world's problems have become too complex for such compartmentalization. We can only hope to solve them when we consider and understand them from all angles, in other words: with a 360-degree view. That is why our efforts at institutional reform are not a self-centered act of navel-gazing; reform is the groundwork that empowers us to do our work effectively.

As an example, let's take the following fundamental question: How do we achieve a just transformation of economic structures – nationally as well as internationally – and how do we promote it in the political arena? What does this mean for Germany and Europe, for our international partnerships and collaborations? These complex questions require input from the point of view of ecology, of foreign and development policy, of feminist, and economic, as well as financial perspectives – and that from all continents. This annual report serves three purposes: It is a tribute to all of our hard work as a network of foundations, for which we would like to thank all our partners, volunteers, and employees around the world; it is a tool for strategic reflection that enables us to recalibrate our efforts; and it is a reminder that we must change now in order to mobilize all our energy and move forward in different ways. Doing this, we will be mindful of our objectives so we can make a difference with invigorated efficacy.

We wish you an inspiring and stimulating read!

Cordially

Imme Scholz and Jan Philipp Albrecht
Berlin, May 2023



Imme Scholz and Jan Philipp Albrecht Photo: Sibylle Fendt

We Are a Hub for Key Societal Discourses

Interview with the new Foundation Board

Compared to other political foundations, the Heinrich Böll Foundation is rather small. What is its role?

Imme Scholz: Russia's attack on Ukraine has challenged many erstwhile certainties. In such a situation we need places where we can discuss the impacts and categorize them, so as to understand what corrections are needed in politics but also in analysis. Such processes of comprehension need to reach beyond the "Green family": In such major crises, we have to establish a broad social and political consensus in order to react and move forwards in appropriate ways.

Jan Philipp Albrecht: People expect a lot from us – and that is not only because the Green Party is part of the German coalition government but also because we are a hub for key social discourses, such as the transformation towards a decarbonized society, social cohesion, and questions of democracy and international governance.

We are no longer a small foundation. We have grown in recent years, and we are currently growing at an enormous pace. This also presents a challenge. Compared to just a few years ago, the party close to us has doubled its membership, and thus our programs do not only address a section of this society but, at least here and there, the majority. This is something we are definitely trying to tackle via the range of issues we are active on.

Imme Scholz: I would like to add one more thing: In these times of crisis, it is important to incorporate the perspectives of our partners from the countries we are active in – and this means we have to go beyond those that are directly affected by the war in Ukraine. The war in Ukraine is also a challenge for the United Nations and international law, and many from around the world do want to defend this, and, consequently, our partners have a lot to contribute.

What should be the future priorities of the Heinrich Böll Foundation regarding networking?

Jan Philipp Albrecht: We already have a large network, namely our regional foundations in Germany and our partners in Europe and around the world. This joins up a large number of actors, making us a key point of call for many who seek to contact our partners in order to explore their own avenues for action. Still, there is huge potential to use the network better for our own purposes. For example, when we talk about the industrial transition or the energy transition, there is simply too much of a disconnect between the domestic debates on industrial, corporate, and economic policy, on the one hand, and on trade, raw materials, or future international energy networks on the other. These are all issues that need to be dovetailed – and we want them to resonate across different networks.

Imme Scholz: The transformation regarding climate neutrality, that is towards modes of production and consumption that do not deplete the environment, calls for local solutions, yet in ways that produce positive results globally. The rich countries must stop living at the expense of others or of future generations. We care about both. Our international offices support local networks and individual organizations that drive transformation. Countries in the Global South believe in themselves, as they know that things can't move ahead without them. We support this approach.

Is networking also about new target groups, meaning about people the Foundation has not yet addressed or represented?

Jan Philipp Albrecht: Yes, of course! But it's not merely about addressing new audiences. We always have to keep in mind the potential outcome, the question of what it is we do want to achieve. For example, we are very keen to share ideas with the climate movement because there is great potential in connecting it with those that are implementing the transition, such as trade associations or small and medium-sized companies. They, in turn, could mitigate their shortage of skilled workers by connecting with energized young people. There is a good chance that this approach may forge new alliances with different groups or milieus than the ones we usually cater to. For us, of course, this means addressing new people and reaching out to new milieus.

Imme Scholz: In many of the countries where we have offices, the average age is much lower than in Germany. Young people who feel that their future is at risk are

very bold and innovative, and this is also true for social movements. Regarding feminism and queerness, social movements in some of our partner countries are way ahead of us, for example in South America. They demand change with great confidence because they know: We are the future. This is also enriching for our work in Germany. Let me just mention the Gunda Werner Institute, which is spearheading activism on topics such as online sexualized violence and antifeminism. The German government has just appointed a Representative for Queer Issues and is beginning to fight various forms of discrimination. This is very encouraging and will impact our work for years to come.

The Foundation is named after Heinrich Böll. What is his significance for you?

Imme Scholz: To me, he was as an incredibly keen and alert observer, holding up the yardstick of ethics and of political and human action to politics. And he was also prepared to pay a price for it – as an activist in the peace movement, or when he reminded us that members of the German terrorist organization RAF were also entitled to a fair trial under the rule of law. Our commitment to human rights, to the rule of law, to democracy is a tribute to the man whose name we bear. I feel that political education is key when working with young people or in rural areas, or wherever we aim to strengthen democracy and push back anti-democratic forces.

Jan Philipp Albrecht: Böll was not only active in the peace movement but also very interested in democracy and freedom movements in Eastern Europe, where he participated via the PEN organization. Ultimately, bearing the name not of a career politician, but of a political person who earned his living as a writer, is also a statement. His work is an important cultural asset and crucial for the political debate of the postwar years and Germany's historic memory – and that is something we cultivate too.

The interview was conducted by Vera Lorenz.



For climate protection, the expansion of renewable energies must be greatly accelerated and the associated infrastructure quickly strengthened.
Photo: picture alliance/dpa/Sebastian Willnow

Radical Realism – Now!

The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Floods, droughts, and storms of increasing severity are already threatening the livelihoods of millions. CO₂ emissions – especially from burning coal, oil, and gas – must be reduced faster and more drastically than before. There is still a small window of opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Every tenth of a degree of warming that we can avoid will make a big difference. We support the development of a climate-neutral economy that considers ecological and social concerns as joint issues – in Germany and worldwide.

COP 27: Climate Conference in Egypt ↗

The 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from November 6-18, 2022. The objective was to develop further rules and mechanisms for addressing the global climate crisis in international negotiations. However, the results fell short of expectations. The closing statement made no

mention of phasing out oil and gas, partly due to pressure from many petrostates. One breakthrough, however, was the establishment of a climate fund to compensate particularly vulnerable regions for climate-related loss and damage. Countries of the Global South have long demanded financial compensation, something that many industrialized countries had previously rejected.

↗ [Information on geoengineering](https://geoengineeringmonitor.org)

geoengineeringmonitor.org

[Online dossier on geoengineering](https://boell.de/de/geoengineering)

boell.de/de/geoengineering

In climate negotiations, fossil fuel lobbyists keep pushing for high-risk geoengineering technologies as solutions to the climate crisis. These efforts will ultimately do nothing but prolong the fossil fuel business model and delay the urgently needed global phase-out of coal, oil, and gas. In Sharm El-Sheikh, our networks helped block poorly defined and risky recommendations for tradable permits from carbon removal activities, sending them back to the oversight body on Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement for reconsultation. Ill-advised or poorly regulated carbon removal activities can have massive negative environmental, social, and human rights impacts worldwide. Most of the time, proponents of geoengineering technologies underestimate or ignore the associated risks. For several years, the Foundation has been a core member and co-sponsor of the alliance *Hands Off Mother Earth!* (HOME), which works globally to combat geoengineering activities, educate about its dangers, and provide information to civil society networks and policy makers.

COP 27: The Commitment of Civil Society

With Brazil's President Lula da Silva, a prominent actor has returned to the negotiating table of international climate policy. Lula and key figures in his cabinet elect traveled to COP 27 shortly after the elections. With the support of our Rio de Janeiro Office, a group of young, highly qualified Black Brazilian climate activists were also able to attend the conference in Sharm El-Sheikh. They presented their climate policy commitment and discussed urgent climate protection measures with government representatives at the highest level. Our Rio Office also sponsored trips to Egypt for dedicated journalists. Midia Ninja, for example, kept her several million followers apprised of the debates, such as including forests in CO₂ trading – an issue of particular importance to Brazil.

The Al Sisi regime's massive repression of civil society made it virtually impossible for Egyptian activists to participate in the conference, and any protests or demonstrations outside the UN zone were banned. Despite the strong presence of the Egyptian State Security Service on the conference grounds, there were expressions of solidarity with Egyptian activists, such as imprisoned blogger Alaa Abd El-Fattah and other human rights defenders, garnering much-needed international attention.

South Africa: Stop Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration – a Partner Project

It's a story of David versus Goliath: In September 2022, the Makhanda High Court halted Shell's oil and gas explorations off South Africa's Wild Coast. This ruling not only curbs the aspirations of fossil fuel companies

but also recognizes, for the first time, the spiritual and cultural importance of the sea for local and indigenous communities. It also defines a new "more democratic" form of participation in consultations and decision-making processes. This is not only a victory for affected communities and civil society organizations, including the partners of our Cape Town Office, who were the plaintiffs in this lawsuit, but for the entire continent.

Leveraging the Law to Save the Climate – a Seminar Series

More and more people around the world are using legal avenues to enforce better climate protection. These lawsuits are either brought against governments or companies that are substantial CO₂ emitters. This past year, we resumed our online seminar series *Leveraging the law to save the climate* in partnership with Germanwatch, Client Earth, and Green Legal Impact, featuring expert lawyers who provided information on practical issues of litigation. They reported on current lawsuits, such as the one filed by Peruvian farmer Luciano Lliuya against German energy giant RWE. A growing glacial lake is threatening to flood Lliuya's property, and Lliuya demands that RWE, as Europe's largest greenhouse gas emitter, help finance the urgent measures necessary to protect him from this threat. The speakers also addressed the United Nations Human Rights Committee's landmark decision in the case of the Torres Strait Islanders versus Australia. The Committee determined that Australia had failed to adequately protect the indigenous Torres Strait Islanders from the negative impacts of climate change. In addition, Australia was found to have violated the islanders' right to maintain their culture and their freedom from arbitrary interference in their private lives, families, and homes.

Turkey: Raising Awareness About the Consequences of Climate Change – a Scholarship for Young Scientists

Floods, forest fires, and water shortages – while Turkey acutely felt the consequences of the climate crisis in recent years, it had little impact on the country's climate policy. Although Turkey did ratify the Paris Climate Agreement in 2021, the country has yet to pass a national climate protection law. Turkey has been ridden by a series of crises for some time: terrorist attacks, an attempted coup in 2016, the authoritarian transformation of the country, and an economic crisis. These crises oust environmental disasters from the headlines, leaving the population uninformed about the consequences of climate change. In a 2021 survey, only 14 % of respondents saw a connection between the devastating fires that summer and global warming, while 30 % thought they had a terrorist background.

Since 2008, in an effort to strengthen a science-based discourse on the climate crisis in Turkey, our Istanbul Office has been awarding scholarships to young scientists whose master's theses address climate-related issues, the energy transition, and rural developments. The fellows receive financial support, get to meet other environmental policy actors from civil society and academia, and are sent on a one-week educational trip to Germany.

Czech Republic: Lack of Knowledge About Climate Change and the Green Transformation – a Study

The Czech are eager to protect nature, their landscapes, and the climate, however they know little about the causes and effects of climate change. There is also very little awareness of policies and agreements to transform the economy. This was the result of a survey-based study conducted by our Prague Office in cooperation with the opinion research institute STEM and the European Climate Foundation. Only one tenth of respondents feel sufficiently informed about the European Green Deal, around half stated that they know little, and one third knew almost nothing about it. At the same time, Czech citizens are very concerned about the economic and social effects of the transformation, as well as its anticipated massive scope and pace. The authors of the study conclude that the Green transformation will only be accepted if it is a socially just transition, and they make numerous recommendations on how to better communicate the implications and impacts of the Green Deal.

The Future Role of Gas in Europe – a Report

Current EU energy policy sets us on a path towards continued dependence on fossil gas, pushing the 1.5-degree limit far out of reach – thus the result of a joint report by an expert group from six EU member states, which we presented together with *Deutsche Umwelthilfe* in July 2022 at a parliamentary breakfast organized in cooperation with the *German Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection* and several members of the *German Bundestag*. The report identifies the phase-out of fossil gas as a central pillar of Europe's energy transition. It also outlines what is needed to achieve this – especially in light of the current energy security and supply crisis. Renewable energies, energy efficiency, green hydrogen, and heat pumps will play a crucial role in this effort. On the other hand, we will have to reconsider new gas infrastructure projects such as LNG terminals, which are being discussed in the wake of Russia's war of aggression. Experts believe that many of these projects will become obsolete once the European Green Deal is implemented and the demand for gas declines.

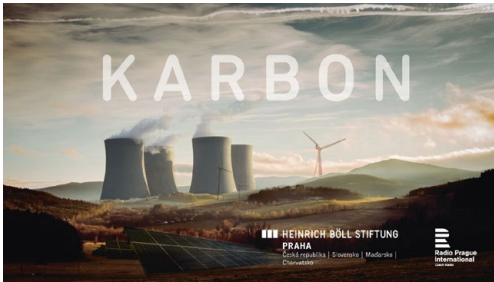
Green Cities 2035 – an Online Series

In light of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, communities' independence from fossil fuels has become more urgent than ever. Some cities and municipalities in Germany have already declared their goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2035. Communities possess powerful levers to mitigate both climate change and the transition to renewable energies. To activate them, however, local politics and administrations depend on citizens' participation. How may a community garner popular support for ambitious climate policies? In our series of events, held in cooperation with the *Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik* (German Institute of Urban Affairs), we focus on different sectors that can be leveraged for climate protection – for example, wind and solar energy or decarbonized heating. Our speakers are local politicians as well as businesspeople, citizens' initiatives, and other stakeholders.

Does the City of the Future Make the Climate of the Future? A German-Chinese Exchange

While the EU aims for climate-neutrality by 2050, the People's Republic of China has set its deadline for 2060. In December 2022, our Beijing Office joined forces with the *National Climate Strategy Center* (NCSC) of the *Chinese Ministry of the Environment* to host a webinar on German-Chinese climate cooperation at the community level. Participants from academia, government, business, and civil society in both countries exchanged ideas on how cities can support the path to climate neutrality. "Above all, this transformation must be equitable," said NCSC Director Xu Huanqing. For China, this is an enormous balancing act between rising urbanization (currently at 65 %) and ambitious climate targets. Technological know-how and financing instruments are the key levers for systemic change, as Ang Ye from the German energy agency *dena* explained. Ming Dengli from the *Beijing Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment* explained how the city promotes public participation in environmental protection activities.

The exchange highlighted the crucial role that communities can play in the Green transformation, despite the very different political frameworks in the two countries. In 2023, China will present further, more detailed strategy papers on climate adaptation at the provincial level. In addition to our shared interest in good local practice, this is yet another reason to continue and deepen the exchange between the two countries.



Climate Podcast *Karbon*

Karbon, the first German-Czech climate podcast, is produced by our Prague Office in cooperation with *Radio Prague International*. It hosts experts, activists, and politicians and wants to offer a bi-national perspective on various issues of climate and energy policy, from nuclear power to electromobility. Its two creators were awarded the German-Czech Journalism Prize.

deutsch.radio.cz/node/8714052/o-poradu

Poland: Energy Cooperatives as an Opportunity – a Project

In 2022, our Warsaw Office supported a variety of endeavors in energy transition and security. One of the key projects was *Fair Cooperative Transformation*. Its objective was to explore how energy cooperatives can facilitate structural change in Upper Silesia and Eastern Greater Poland, the country's former coal regions. Representatives of self-government, local companies, and NGOs as well as local residents discussed the implications of setting up energy cooperatives, the necessary preparations for a sustainable and equitable transformation in the region, and how to win the support of local people. The project involved drafting the statutes for energy cooperatives for the municipalities of Dbrowa Górnicza and Konin, which could serve as models for other regions.

Green Hydrogen: Is Fair Trade Possible? ↗

Enormous amounts of Green hydrogen will be needed to decarbonize major sections of our industry. Green hydrogen or its derivatives are also required for long-distance air and sea transport and as a flexibility reserve for the power system. Even if we focus on central sectors, it will hardly be possible to fully cover this demand from domestic renewables. This means that hydrogen must be imported, including from countries in the Global South, with which Europe has a long history of unequal trade relations. In a joint project with the German charity *Brot für die Welt*, we investigate ways to ensure fair trade in Green hydrogen and its derivatives for all parties involved. To this end, we have held consultations in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, South Africa, Morocco, and Tunisia with people involved in Green energy production, investment, trade, and consumption. Our synthesis report emphasizes the need to do no harm, calls for comprehensive land use planning, rigorous standards that respect the local communities' rights to land and water, and the right to prior informed consent.

As a future importer and consumer of Green hydrogen, Germany and Europe must agree on strict environmental and social standards with producer countries, and treat them not merely as resource suppliers, but as equal partners on the road to sustainable prosperity. To this end, we must support exporting countries in their efforts to secure value creation at the local level. Done right, the emerging international trade in Green hydrogen could herald a new, equitable trading relationship between the Global North and South.

Serbia: Can Lithium Be Mined Without Environmental Damage? – an Exchange

In 2004, the mineral Jadarite and the Jadar deposit were discovered near the western Serbian town of Loznica. Due to its high concentration of lithium and boron per ton of ore it is considered one of the world's major lithium deposits. Experts fear that opening a mine would create significant environmental burdens. It would require pumping large amounts of water, which could cause droughts in the summer and floods during the rainy seasons. Also, the toxic chemical mix that is pumped out of the ground during lithium extraction could contaminate nearby rivers and threaten water supplies. Experiences with lithium mines worldwide point in that direction, which is why resistance against mining is stirring in Serbia too. However, the actual risks in the region remain obscure, as there are only two other mines in the world that use a similar process as the one that could be used at the Jadar deposit.

Germany is also interested in Serbian lithium, as it seeks to ease its dependence on China. To promote a dialogue between equals and share knowledge about lithium extraction, our Belgrade Office has arranged several meetings with German politicians, diplomats, local civil society organizations, and experts. Our office will continue this open dialogue because the public needs appropriate expertise to be able to judge the risks involved in lithium mining.



Berlin, January 2022: Activists of the alliance We're fed up! demonstrating in front of the *Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture* for a sustainable agricultural and food policy. Photo: IMAGO/epd/Christian Ditsch

For Alternative Agriculture and Sustainable Development

The climate crisis is also changing agriculture. In some regions, growing seasons are shifting, extreme weather events are on the rise, and pests are invading new habitats. To secure human food supply, global land use must become more sustainable and adapt to climate change. We are committed to diverse forms of agriculture that strengthen the human right to food and that work with nature rather than against it. We provide expertise on sustainable food systems and support activists as they push ahead with the transition in agriculture.

Pesticides in Agriculture: A Danger for People and the Environment – an Atlas

Whether in beer and honey, on fruits and vegetables, at playgrounds, or in the air – traces of pesticides can be detected anywhere and everywhere. The negative health impacts of pesticides have long been known. For years, we have been aware that they cause massive damage to

insects and plants and contaminate bodies of water. In our *Pesticide Atlas*, published in January 2022, we drew attention to the many dangers of toxins in agriculture. With this, it seems, we struck a nerve: In the first year after its publication, the *Atlas* was downloaded over 10,000 times and nearly 70,000 people viewed our online dossier on the topic. In addition, we received

a great deal of international interest: In October, our Brussels Office published the first English version of the Atlas in cooperation with *BUND*, *Friends of the Earth Europe*, and the *Pesticide Action Network Europe*. A Kenyan version followed shortly after.

Plastic Waste – a Global Risk for People and the Environment ↗

Plastic waste in the environment, in landfills, and in the world's oceans poses an ever greater risk to ecosystems, and thus also to humans. To help stem this flood of plastic, we have been involved in the German alliance *Exit Plastik*, as well as in the global network *Break Free From Plastic* (BFFP) for many years. *Exit Plastik* calls for a fundamental curb on the use of plastics, sustainable product design, reduced use of plastics in the supply chain, a legally binding global agreement against plastic pollution, and more. Since November 2022, the *United Nations Environment Assembly* (UNEA) has been working on such an agreement, a process we are monitoring. In addition, we educate about the risks of plastics, for example with our *Plastic Atlas 2019*, now in its 8th edition. It has been translated into numerous languages, most recently into Korean and Japanese.

Combating Global Hunger as a Political Task ↗

According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), nearly 828 million people worldwide are affected by hunger, and approximately 2.3 billion people are malnourished. The world food crisis is not a new phenomenon, but it has been significantly exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Hunger and malnutrition are issues we address in our work around the world. For example, in 2022, our Kenya Office partnered with the *Right to Food Coalition*, a civil society alliance in which we are much involved, to unveil the *Food Manifesto* – a policy program to address food insecurity. It identifies the necessary steps to mitigate the current hunger crises in East Africa, proposing struc-

tural solutions to the problem. Many political parties and coalitions initially did not make nutrition a campaign topic in the upcoming Kenyan elections, but the *Food Manifesto* brought the right to food into the political spotlight, and all major media reported on it.

Agro-ecological Practices in Response to the Food Crisis in Lebanon – a Partner Project

Since 2019, Lebanon has been experiencing a colossal economic and financial collapse. In just one year, food prices jumped by 396%, while the poverty rate nearly doubled from 42% in 2019 to 82% in 2021. In Lebanon, the food supply has always depended heavily on imports. Agro-ecological practices and a holistic approach to agriculture could be helpful to strengthen food sovereignty in the country. Our aim is to design agro-ecosystems with the greatest possible stability and a high capacity for self-regulation and optimal synergies. In its efforts to reinforce this alternative agricultural approach in Lebanon, our partner organization *Jibal* is organizing a local group of activists, farmers, and practitioners who are willing to cooperate and find sustainable solutions to the agri-food crisis in the country.

More Coverage for Sustainability Topics in Southeast Asia's Media Landscape – Scholarships

So far, the topic of sustainability receives little coverage in Southeast Asian media. In order to make it more prominent and stimulate debates on sustainability, our Bangkok-based Southeast Asia Office worked with the organization *Reporting ASEAN* to launch a *Sustainability Series*. We award scholarships to journalists from the region who cover environmental topics or conduct surveys on the relevance of sustainability topics in news departments. In addition, we publish easy-to-understand graphics to visualize regionally relevant issues. In 2022, we also issued a handbook for journalists summarizing key facts about the climate crisis and sustainability to enable well-informed reporting.



Pesticide Atlas 2022

Pesticides are the most widespread hazardous substances in nature. Their effects on human health, animals, and plants are serious, and yet politicians are more than hesitant to react. Our *Atlas* presents facts and figures on pesticides in agriculture as well as better alternatives.

The *Atlas* is available in German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, and Turkish. A podcast series is also dedicated to the topic.

eu.boell.org/PesticideAtlas



Berlin, February 2022: Tens of thousands demonstrated against Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Photo: Stephan Röhl

#StandWithUkraine

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. This war of aggression has left the world horrified and bewildered by its nefariousness, its brutality, and the serious war crimes against civilians. Ukraine, large parts of which have been destroyed, is still engaged in an existential struggle to defend against the aggressor. The country will have to deal with the economic, social, and psychological fallout of the war and its violence for a long time to come. Last year, we worked rigorously on the situation in Ukraine and its neighboring countries, as well as its consequences for the international peace order.

Berlin: Kyiv Talks

Although Germany is one of Ukraine's staunchest supporters, the German government's often hesitant stance has diminished Ukraine's confidence in Germany. This loss of trust, as well as ideas for a new type of German-Ukrainian partnership were the focus of our *Kyiv Talks*, held at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin on October 12-13, 2022, and that were attended by close to 300 people.

Warsaw: Conference Focus on Ukraine

The trilingual conference (Polish, Ukrainian, and English) *Focus on Ukraine* was held on October 17-18, 2022. In five panel discussions, 17 experts, 12 of them Ukrainian, spoke about the situation in their country, explaining current challenges and outlining possible future scenarios, also regarding the future energy supply. In addition, the discussion focused on food security, flight and migration from the Ukrainian perspective, as well as Green reconstruction scenarios for the aftermath of the war. The debates are available on *YouTube* in Polish and English.

Belgrade: Writer-in-Residence Program Spaces of Freedom

Supported by our Belgrade Office, the *Krokodil Association* has sponsored a Writer-in-Residence Program since 2012. Currently, *Krokodil* is focusing its program entirely on Ukrainian authors and has welcomed Elina Slobodianiuk, Mark Livin, Inna Volosevych, and Hanna Janovska as writers-in-residence in Belgrade. During their stay, they held several readings, lectures, and other meetings with Serbian authors and students. Other supporters of the project include the European Cultural Foundation and the women's collective *Pobunjene čitateljke*.

Berlin: Poster Exhibition Sleepless

The exhibition *Sleepless*, on display at the Heinrich Böll Foundation from October 10-28, 2022, presented illustrations by Ukrainian artists created after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The illustrations offer different perspectives on war, the horror, the suffering, but also the will to resist. Conceived and organized by our colleagues in the Kyiv Office, Sofia Oliynyk, Oksana Aliieva, and Anna Dovgopol, the exhibition was curated by Kateryna Mishchenko. *Sleepless* was subsequently shown in various German cities and abroad.

Faces of Our Kyiv Office



Photo: private

Olena Medvid

"On the first day of the great war, February 24, I was evacuated from Kyiv to Nadvirna in the Ivano-Frankivsk region. I went with my family: my 74-year-old mother, my 15-year-old daughter, and our small dog. Although we were in relative safety, I found it difficult to adjust to our new life and the uncertainty about the future: whether my house would be safe, whether I would have a place to return to.

We returned to Kyiv at the end of June. And although we were glad to be back home, new fears entered our lives. Especially after shelling damaged the power infrastructure, it became difficult to plan and do our work efficiently, as we had to adapt to the power outages, make sure we had stable communications, and balance our work with our issues at home. I'm very grateful to my employer, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, for its support and flexibility in these difficult times. I can keep working and help bring us closer to victory."

Sofia Oliynyk

"The Russian attack on Ukraine in February 2022 has thwarted any concept of normalcy and stability for everyone in this country without exception. Our new 'normal' is a balancing act between war, work, and life, when in between power outages, air raid alarms, and news from the frontlines, you try to live your life, run your projects, and provide support to those who need it. Project and partnership management has changed, as it requires more flexibility and understanding of the often-challenging circumstances in which you, your teams, or your partners find themselves. At the same time, you can feel a great sense of solidarity and persistence to defy Russia's efforts to undermine people's resilience and spread fear by regularly shelling our energy infrastructure and residential buildings, taking hundreds of lives. Regardless of all of this, I draw my energy from the people around me, and I appreciate all those projects and initiatives that continue amidst blackouts, shelling, and tragedy. I always remind myself of the enormous cost and efforts it takes."



Photo: Anastasia Telikova



Photo: Taras Bezpalyi

Viktoriia Solohub

"Life has changed since the first explosions that woke us on that February morning, and the realization that full-scale war was coming, although we had been living a sort of 'peaceful' life while at war since 2014.

Living and working in the conditions of martial law in the country became a challenge. My choice was and is to stay at home, in Kyiv, Ukraine. Indeed, it is difficult, in terms of morale and sometimes also physically. There is the challenge of living without light, without heat in winter, with shells and sirens. On the other hand, there's the effort to do your job, however without the ability to perform your tasks on time and with good results. The war took away my opportunity to plan freely, to look for new opportunities and connections to improve my work, and to build networks. Even a trip to the office must always be carefully planned to take into account all safety factors and circumstances.

What remains? There are principles and values – they have not changed. Mutual assistance, empathy, and faith in humanity. I am very grateful to those who have helped and continue to support us. Thanks to these people, faith in dignity and freedom has remained. Now the task is to be indomitable, march towards freedom, preserve the right to life, and continue to work in a free country.



Cologne, February 27, 2022. Thousands of people took part in the Ukraine protest on Roncalliplatz to send a signal for peace and to commemorate the victims of the conflict with a minute of silence. The protest was organized by *Pulse of Europe Köln* and *Blau-Gelbes Kreuz Köln*. Photo: picture alliance/Geisler-Fotopress/Christoph Hardt

For a United and Democratic Europe

Ukraine and its struggle for freedom and sovereignty require the full military, moral, and financial support of European countries. In addition, improving our own defense capabilities will be a major task over the coming years. The same applies to decarbonizing industry because we still have a long way to go before we reach the target of climate neutrality in 2050. In all policy areas we are working towards European solutions because it takes a joint effort to overcome the current crises.

“Actually European!?” – a Study

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine marks a turning point for European peace and security. It also calls for a reorientation of Germany's policy towards Europe. In this context, the 2022 study *Actually European?!?* investigated how the German public views their government's actions and what they think Germany's role in Europe should be. For the fifth consecutive year

this long-term study, conducted in cooperation with the *Progressives Zentrum*, looked into how Germans view the role of their country within European politics; the result – there still is a desire for active and cooperative German policy towards Europe. In response to Russia's war of aggression and its consequences, a large majority wants Germany to play an active role in safeguarding energy independence and in rebuilding European secu-

city. To this end, respondents support new investments in the future at the EU level, in particular EU investment funds for energy independence and defense. Clearly, only an EU capable of action can master current and future threats and challenges. Against this background, the survey also provides an impetus for substantive and institutional reforms to strengthen Europe's capacity to act.

A Turning Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina? "Bosnia Forum 2022"

April 6, 2022, marked the 30th anniversary of the outbreak of the Bosnian War, the first war in Europe since the Second World War. Back then, the conflict was fueled by ethno-political interests and politics, which still dominate the crisis-ridden country to this day. With our *Bosnia Forum*, held jointly with the *Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft*, we offered a platform to discuss current developments, especially against the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as this war also fuels existing nationalist currents in the region. The revisionism and revanchism that come with it seem to fall on fertile ground, especially in Serbia. In addition, certain political parties and the Orthodox Church are spurring nationalism in the region. This also applies to the Republika Srpska, a region fraught by ethnic division and driven towards secession. Samir Behari, a youth activist from Bosnia and Herzegovina, stressed that the EU must support civil society and progressive parties in the country instead of continuing to strike deals with secessionist forces that deepen ethnic rifts, dismantle the state, and put peace at risk.

At the close of the Bosnia Forum 2022, we showed a film production of the play *How we laughed – collective experience of a siege*. The play, which premiered in 2021, is based on an idea by Berlin-based artists Maja Zeo and Ina Arnautali. Following the screening, Zeo and Arnautali spoke about their decision to process their personal experiences of war and siege in the Bosnian War (1992 to 1995) in a humorous way.

The Bosnia Forum was accompanied by the exhibition: *Wake-up Europe! Mobilizing Support and Solidarity for Bosnia and Herzegovina and its Citizens during the 1992–1995 War*. It was on display at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, presented and curated by historian Nicolas Moll.

The "Western Balkans Strategy Group"

In 2022, after decades of stalemate, the EU integration of the Western Balkans gained some momentum when new accession talks began with Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia. However, we should not gloss over real obstacles to accession: reservations on the part of certain EU member states; many Balkan leaders' reluctance

towards reform; and the fact that the EU has lost credibility as a transformative force in the region. If the EU is to regain its status as the undisputed role model for the political and economic development of the Western Balkans, it must change and adapt its policies towards these countries.

To better support and analyze the developments in the Western Balkan countries on their path towards EU membership, we initiated the *Western Balkans Strategy Group* back in 2017. The group includes prominent civil society representatives from each of the Western Balkan countries. In addition to informal discussions, the Group also appeared at the 2022 Bosnia Forum, issued a statement on the *Open Balkans Initiative*, and supported the *Common Regional Market* initiative. The strategy group is a joint project of our Berlin, Brussels, Sarajevo, Belgrade, and Tirana Offices.

Forum "New Security Policy"

The war in Ukraine also dominated the expert discussions at our 2022 forum *New Security Policy*. This forum gathers 39 Green-affiliated security policy experts from think tanks, universities, the *Bundestag* parliamentary group, and government institutions, to discuss emerging topics in Green foreign and security policy. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann (FDP), chairwoman of the Defense Committee, and Anton Hofreiter, European policy spokesman of the Green Party in the Bundestag, also took part in one of the expert talks on Ukraine. Both are among the most prominent voices in the German government coalition advocating robust military support for Ukraine. Liberal party member Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann offered her views at an event we held jointly with the *Naumann Foundation*. This was the continuation of a project we had launched the previous year with a Social Democratic (SPD) foreign policy circle: We want to expand our horizon beyond our expert network in the Green political family, seeking multilateral dialogue across party lines on major foreign policy issues.

In 2022, the podcast series by our Forum *New Security Policy* focused on topics directly related to the war in Ukraine: The state of the German armed forces, Putin's nuclear threats, prosecution of Russian war crimes, and German-Ukrainian relations.

Towards a New Climate Foreign Policy – "22nd Annual Foreign Policy Conference"

Part of the German government's coalition agreement is a new foreign climate policy. At our *Annual Foreign Policy Conference* that took place between January 13-28, 2022, we explored possible avenues for foreign climate policy under the current government that includes the Green party. Prominent guests were Omid

Nouripour in his new role as Federal Chairman of *Bündnis 90/Die Grünen*; Susan Biniaz, deputy to U.S. Special Envoy for climate change, John Kerry; Chinese climate expert Hongquiao Liu; Indian environmental activist Sunita Narain; Green MEPs Reinhard Bütikofer and Sergey Lagodinsky; the head of the DGAP foreign climate policy program, Kira Vinke; and the new foreign policy spokesman for the Green parliamentary group in the Bundestag, Jürgen Trittin. It featured three public online debates on transatlantic climate policy, EU-China relations, and North-South relations. Taking the EU's ambitious *Green Deal* as our starting point, we explored opportunities for a transatlantic climate alliance, the necessary trade and fiscal incentives the EU needs to offer to support China's decarbonization policy, and the financial instruments the industrialized countries need to provide to address climate change in the Global South.

The conference concluded with an expert debate on EU options for climate partnerships in its own neighborhood, focusing on four regions: Ukraine, the Western Balkans, Morocco, and Turkey. Sabrina Schulz, director of the *Sustainable Solutions Network*, summarized the recommendations of this expert conference in an e-paper. We documented the conference in a comprehensive online dossier, including video recordings of the debates, video messages from victims of climate change, and analyses by foreign policy and climate diplomacy experts.

Feminist Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus

The new German government's coalition agreement states that a feminist foreign policy is one of its objectives. The question is how to implement this, especially in regions where feminist ideas have little resonance at

the state level, and in contexts fraught with internal and external crises and conflicts. Here, we took a closer look at the South Caucasus region, which is engulfed in a multi-layered conflict involving Georgia, Russia, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Our Tbilisi, Yerevan, and Istanbul Offices asked local experts to participate in this difficult debate and help develop a viable feminist approach for a complex conflict region. Germany, on the one hand, could pursue a more pronounced feminist foreign policy, be a stronger ally of civil society and women's and LGBTQI rights, and get more involved in peace and security issues. On the other hand, local feminist actors have developed and sometimes already implemented many promising ideas for social transformation and conflict resolution, for example projects that improve the living conditions of disadvantaged groups.

European Law of Associations – an Expert Discussion

In February 2022, the European Parliament, with a cross-party majority, adopted the *Report for a Statute for Transnational European Associations and Non-Profit Organizations*, demanding that the European Commission strengthen European civil society. The initiative, introduced by MEP Sergey Lagodinsky, aims to create European minimum standards and a single legal form for non-profit organizations. His initiative builds on one of the founding ideas of the EU: the Europeanization of civil society. The need to foster and protect civil society organizations is great: for one, to facilitate cross-border civil society engagement in the EU and, secondly, to offer legal protections to associations and organizations that are under pressure.

To support these goals, we hosted an expert discussion on September 16, 2022. German and European civil society representatives shared their views on the



A Pathway Towards Feminist Global Collaboration

As women's rights organizations stress, a feminist foreign policy requires more than representation, rights, resources, and labeling things as diverse. This brief contains recommendations for practitioners of the international development sector to shift the status quo of development and move towards feminist global collaboration.

boell.de/publications

Feminist Foreign Policy

There is no internationally valid definition of feminist foreign policy, nor is there a binding definition under international law. Governments pursuing feminist foreign policy must therefore develop their own definitions. For years, the “Gunda Werner Institute” (GWI) of the Heinrich Böll Foundation has been advancing the “Women, Peace, and Security” agenda via “Netzwerk 1325”. It also advocates for a definition of feminist foreign policy that is decolonial and transformative. The position paper “Annäherung an eine feministische Außenpolitik Deutschlands” (Working Towards a Feminist Foreign Policy for Germany), published by GWI in August 2022, builds on the perspectives of “Netzwerk 1325” and the organizations it represents, outlining a process of institutionalizing feminist foreign policy, financially secured by gender budgeting, and implemented in areas such as multilateralism, disarmament, combating sexualized/gender-based violence, and foreign climate policy. “Netzwerk 1325” presented this position paper to the relevant departments at the German Foreign Office and discussed it with foreign policy experts in the cabinet. The GWI seeks to get both parliament and feminist civil society more strongly involved in shaping a future feminist foreign policy.

opportunities and risks of this initiative with European politicians. The conference highlighted strong support for such a set of rules, as well as stakeholders’ different needs on specific issues and in different contexts, pointing to the challenges faced by such a European legislative endeavor – for example, on how to define a non-profit.

European-Asian Dialogue on Regulating Artificial Intelligence Applications

Our Hong Kong Office launched a special new digital program to promote exchange between Europe and Asia on the potential and risks of emerging digital technologies. In 2022, one of its topics was regulating artificial intelligence (AI). The European Union is currently preparing legislation meant to regulate AI applications that may have a global impact. Using a so-called risk-based approach, the EU is breaking new regulatory ground. In collaboration with the *Association of Pacific Rim Universities*, our two offices in Brussels and Hong Kong held a webinar series with experts from Asia, Oceania, and Europe. It focused

on the EU’s risk-based approach to regulation, the problem of “explainability” and thus transparency in AI-based decision-making processes, as well as questions of protecting personal rights and data security when using big data. One of its key messages was: The risks of specific AI applications are extremely context-sensitive; regulation must be highly precise and reactive to new developments.

Free Courts – A Newsletter on the Situation of the Polish Judiciary

Since 2015, Poland has seen an ongoing crisis of the rule of law. Many civil society initiatives have been protesting against the political appropriation of the judiciary. With their commitment, they have helped raise public awareness for the issue. Statements issued by European and national institutions often presuppose a certain level of legal expertise. With support by our Warsaw Office, a newsletter by the Polish NGO *Wolne Sąd* (Free Courts) regularly reports on the complex situation of the Polish judiciary in plain language that is accessible to a wider public.

Webinar Series

hk.boell.org/en/regulating-ai-debating-approaches-and-perspectives-asia-and-europe

Newsletter “Free Courts”

wolnesady.org



More than 100,000 people have been reported as “disappeared” in Mexico. The project *Huellas para la Memoria* (Traces for Memory) showcases stories of people’s desperate but futile search for their loved ones. The stories are written on the soles of their shoes. Photo: Daniela Rea

Strengthening Democracy and Human Rights

Fundamental rights, such as freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, are prerequisites for political participation. Around the world, these rights are increasingly being restricted. In many countries, engagement for civil society has become downright dangerous. We work with our partner organizations around the world to validate human rights and protect human dignity. With our joint projects, we seek to keep democracy alive and defend or facilitate the liberal constitutional state and freedom. This also includes concepts for gender equality.

Press and Media Freedom under Pressure – a Conference on European Democracy

The backbone of any liberal democracy is an independent press and a diverse media landscape. Yet increasingly, in Europe, and in the EU in particular, freedom of the press and media are coming under pressure. For years, we have seen growing restrictions in Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, and, most recently, also in Greece –

all for various reasons. Independent reporting is made impossible by monopolization or government cooptation. Investigative journalists are threatened, attacked, and flooded with lawsuits; violent assaults are also on the rise. Our two-day *European Democracy Conference* in October focused on the causes and consequences of these threats to freedom of the press in Europe. We shared ways to counter such trends, for example more

➤ Info and podcast of the “European Democracy Conference 2022”

boell.de/european-democracy-conference

effective regulation of disinformation in social media and ways to stem the erosion of media diversity. In our online dossier, we delved deeper into the topic, analyzing phenomena such the cooptation of media in Central Europe, the growing threat to journalists from spyware, the significance of gender-based disinformation, and the debate on the *European Media Freedom Act*, which was introduced by the EU Commission in September 2022.

Press and Media Freedom in Central America

In recent years, Central America has seen some of the most severe restrictions on press freedom worldwide. The effects are felt by many of our project partners. In El Salvador, for example, our partner *El Faro*, the country's foremost online newspaper, has been facing increasing persecution since Nayib Bukele took power in 2019. In early 2022, it became known that the government had been using the software Pegasus for months to spy on journalists critical of the government. Following a reform of the penal code, journalists who report on gang violence face up to 15 years in prison. In September 2022, we organized an expert talk in Berlin with journalist Julia Gavarrete (*El Faro*) on surveillance with Pegasus to raise awareness of this threat to journalists. We also discussed political instruments to protect journalists and freedom of the press. In October 2022, in Brussels, a conference on freedom of expression and freedom of the press in Central America and Mexico took place, which we co-organized with the EU-LAT network and Tilly Metz, Chair of the European-Central American Parliamentarians' Group.

Forced Disappearances – Memory Work in Mexico 📌

More than 100,000 people are considered forcibly abducted in Mexico, most of them during the drug war of the last 15 years. In 2022, alongside the Mexican Institute for Human Rights and Democracy, our Mexico Office helped establish a victims' network that is searching for the disappeared. As early as five years ago, the government enacted a federal law to search for disappeared persons, which the nationwide network is now helping to implement. It is also involved in political lobbying and it promotes dialogue between judicial authorities and family members, especially mothers of the disappeared.

The nationwide phenomenon of enforced disappearances has generated numerous civil society and artistic initiatives. Our Mexico Office has systematized, documented, and made publicly accessible forty of those initiatives in its art project *Experiencias de la Memoria* (Experiences of Memory). More projects will be added. Memory work during ongoing violence was also the topic of the international conference *Mosaico de memorias*, held by our Mexico Office in October.

The Power of Militias in Rio de Janeiro – an Educational Project by the Civil Society Network 📌

For several years now, the Foundation has been part of a network of academics, journalists, lawyers, and some police officers who have been tracking and publishing information on the seemingly unstoppable rise of militias in Rio de Janeiro. These militias usually consist of current or former members of the military, police, or private security forces, and are classified as organized crime groups. They now control more than half of the city's territory, have developed political and economic shadow infrastructures, and are closely intertwined with local politics. This also means that they exert massive influence on voting in areas they control. In the run-up to the Brazilian elections, the network provided detailed information about militia action, generating intense media coverage. As a result, political candidates were specifically scrutinized for militia contacts.

The militias are particularly active in Rio de Janeiro, but they have also appeared in other parts of the country. In a first national meeting, sponsored by the Foundation, participants reported on the spread of these groups in their regions. *Poderes Fáticos*, published by our five offices in the region, provides insights into the power grab by these often criminal powers that are on the rise across Latin America.

Democracy under Pressure – Elections in Brazil

In late October 2022, after a nail-biter runoff election, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was elected President and Jair Bolsonaro voted out of office. Had Bolsonaro been re-elected, Brazil's democratic institutions would have come under considerable pressure. However, despite Lula da Silva's victory, the country still faces huge challenges. Overall, the extreme right actually scored significant gains at the state and federal levels. Bolsonaroism is now bigger than Bolsonaro himself.

In the election year, our Rio de Janeiro Office focused particularly on ways to push back the extreme right in Brazil. In the previous elections, the extreme right won the battle for votes on the internet, via WhatsApp groups, and with an onslaught of fake news. The far right was also very well positioned on social media in 2022. In the run-up to the elections, our office therefore supported fact-checking initiatives on social media and in the press that were able to debunk numerous fake news stories.

In December, our Rio de Janeiro Office organized a meeting of podcasters and influencers who publish content on democracy, ecology, or human rights, some with several hundred thousand followers. They shared experiences, including how to successfully communicate their content, and discussed strategies for dealing with the far right.

Nobel Peace Prize 2022 for Our Partners “Memorial” and Ales Bialiatski

We were delighted that the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize went to the “Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties”, Belarusian human rights activist Ales Bialiatski, and the Russian human rights organization “Memorial”, our oldest partner organization. All three have spent decades standing up for a Europe of human rights, respect, and peace. We were particularly pleased that “Memorial”, our longest-standing partner, received this well-deserved prize. Since 1988, “Memorial” and the Heinrich Böll Foundation have been very close as regards topics, politics, and personal friendships. Our relationship has been based on a shared sense of responsibility, as we champion human and civil rights and process the historical atrocities of the 20th century, such as war crimes and acts of violence. “Memorial’s” research and educational work has set standards for European remembrance culture. At the same time, “Memorial” is a staunch advocate for civil and human rights. In early 2022, Russian courts ruled that “Memorial International” was to be forcibly disbanded. On the day the Nobel Prize was announced, the “Memorial” building in Moscow was confiscated by the Russian state by court order. Ales Bialiatski received the Petra Kelly Award of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in 2012. He is a major courageous voice of Belarusian civil society, which even total repression has failed to silence. Since July 2021, he has been in Belarusian custody as one of over 1,300 political prisoners.



Ales Bialiatski, founder and chair of *Viasna* human rights center
Photo: picture alliance/ASSOCIATED PRESS/Vitaly Pivovarchyk



Irina Scherbakowa, co-founder of the human rights organization *Memorial* Photo: picture alliance/dpa/Bodo Schackow

Midterm Elections in the USA

US midterm elections were held on November 8, 2022. Not only was the vast majority of Congress seats up for election, but governorships, state legislatures, municipal governments, and numerous other political offices were also on the ballot. Not only were these the first elections since the Capitol Riots of January 6, 2021, when right-wing militias and violence-prone Trumpists attacked the US Capitol, but they were also the first elections since the rise of “election deniers” who, to this day, reject President Biden’s election victory. Given this, the elections were anticipated with a great deal of anxiety and received much international attention. Our Washington, D.C. Office produced an extensive online dossier analyzing the difficult conditions under which these elections took place and highlighting how attacks on voting rights in Republican-led states are challenging the foundations of the rule of law in the United States.

Agora – Scholarships for Turkish Students

With inflation rates surpassing 86%, many families in Turkey, including middle class households, are struggling to pay for their children’s higher education. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many students dropped out of college because they had to help earn their families’ livelihoods. At the same time, many young people in Turkey are frustrated by politics. In surveys, more than 70% say they would like to leave the country and that they have no confidence in traditional politics.

With *Agora! Scholarship for Democracy and Movement*, our Istanbul Office helps young people continue their studies while, at the same time, educating them on human rights and civil society issues. The program not only supports students’ college careers but also helps strengthen a new generation for democratic engagement in the country.

Shaping Policy in Cities – Exchange at the Community Level

For the second time, our Prague Office was a strategic partner of the *Budapest Forum*, a high-level international conference organized by the think tank *Political Capital* and the City of Budapest. Its focus is on opportunities for cities to protect liberal democracy and support greater sustainability. In 2022, the focus was on the impact of the Ukraine war and the current energy crisis, but also on fake news and state-funded disinformation campaigns. We hope that the forum will establish a productive exchange between the participants, which included politicians, especially mayors, experts, academics, and journalists, as well as various interest groups. Moreover, the forum aims to put Hungary back on Europe’s intellectual and democratic map, sending a clear signal that the country is by no means synonymous with Viktor Orbán and his illiberal rule.

In September 2022, our Paris Office joined forces with the Green Mayor of Strasbourg, Jeanne Barseghian, for a Franco-German conference with mayors and delegates from communities that are governed by or jointly with the Green Party. The goal of this exchange was to learn from successes, challenges, and difficulties of local governance, and to shape local policy via joint training sessions on topics such as sustainable mobility, energy conservation, refugee policy, and biodiversity. This conference will become an annual event.

“Almost There” – Lebanon Film Festival

Since 2016, our Beirut Office has been hosting the *Almost There* film festival, which focuses on human rights and migration from different perspectives; admission is free. In 2022, the festival’s motto was *The Role We Play*, and it screened a total of 15 documentaries and animated films. Topics included dictatorship, disappearances, queer life, the Beirut port explosion, and accountability. For the past two years, the festival has expanded beyond Beirut to include four other locations: Hammana, the Bekaa Valley, Saida, and Tripoli. With this film festival, we aim to provide an impetus for a broader, nationwide political and social debate and encourage a change of perspective according to the motto: “Good films don’t just make us laugh or cry, they help us see the world from a new perspective. Sometimes they even help us understand the reality of other people’s lives, teaching us things we didn’t know before!”

Towards New Ethical Standards in the Relations between Africa and Europe – “Decolonial Dialogues”

To this day, colonialism as a system of injustice and its consequences continue to shape relations between Africa and Europe. Coming to terms with a country’s colonial legacy is a multi-layered, often contradictory and, above all, open-ended process, which unfortunately is still in its infancy in Germany. Given centuries of intertwined history between the two continents, systemic decolonization can only succeed as a joint effort. We therefore launched the online series *Decolonial Dialogues* in 2022. Conceived as a digital, interactive think tank, we hope that these dialogues will reveal blind spots in the public perception of decolonization and facilitate conversations based on multi-perspectivity and polycentrism. For example, one of the events addressed the question of how to overcome Europe’s (neo-)colonial foreign relations and what visions Africans have for the political, economic, and legal reorganization of their societies.



Berlin, September 2022: Photo campaign during our conference "Our Aging Society" ("Greenlight the visibility of care in our aging society")
Photo: Stephan Röhl

For an Inclusive Society and Social Cohesion

Demographic change, rapidly changing workplaces, opportunities presented by immigration – all these issues that are critical to our future must be addressed today. With our programs, we want to help shape society in a democratic, ecological, and socially sustainable way. Our goal is an open and inclusive society. In order to make participation part and parcel of all our activities the Foundation has initiated the joint task Participation, Gender Democracy, and Anti-Discrimination.

"Work in Progress: Our Aging Society" – a Conference

In Germany, the number of senior citizens is ever increasing, which has implications for society at large, our economy, prosperity, and social cohesion. As the last baby boomers enter retirement age, the pressure to make changes is greater than ever. At our *Work in Progress* conference 2022, we explored the question

of how demographic change can best be tackled across various policy areas. The conference also focused on the personal situation of senior citizens: barrier-free mobility, age-appropriate housing, access to medical and culturally sensitive care. Social and family networks and opportunities for social activities for senior citizens are also gaining in importance. Over the course of three

panels, five forums, presentations, and animated discussions, 170 participants exchanged ideas and learned more about various aspects of an aging society.

“What is the Green Narrative of ... Responsibility?” – a Conference

In the spring of 2022, the question of political responsibility suddenly took center stage as Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine put pressure on the German government and its partners. The humanitarian, geopolitical, and economic implications are enormous – and add to this the climate crisis and the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. In May, as part of our conference series *What is the Green Narrative ...?* we discussed the responsibility of the Green political movement to engender a comprehensive renewal of the country in these trying times: How can we be radical in our analysis of problems and opportunities, while, at the same time, following a socially sustainable path towards a socio-ecological transformation? What new approaches may the Green movement bring to our joint project of nationwide renewal? During the two-day conference, numerous civil society groups presented how they live up to their political responsibilities.

What Glue Holds Our Society Together? – a “Social Atlas”

The social question is one of the key issues of our time, and to answer it means to go beyond the issue of redistribution. The social question has to do with fair participation and equal opportunities, security, and recognition of life achievements. Our rapidly changing workplaces, demographic change, and migration are creating new challenges. Whenever change is imminent, people need to feel safe – otherwise they will not support change. Our *Social Atlas*, published in German

in early March 2022, we provide a fact-filled volume on the state of social affairs in Germany. The *Atlas* clarifies the complexities of our social system, yet it also shows that the status quo is by no means static but dynamic and subject to change. Social cohesion is based on cooperation between society, the state, and the economy – and its future development has to be a joint endeavor.

Diversity in Local Politics – Studies

The demand that women should wield half the power has been around for a long time, yet it still has to become a reality in Germany. Since 2008, the *FernUniversität Hagen* has published our major diversity study, now in its fifth edition. The first part of the most recent version found that the representation of women in local politics lags far behind, especially where mayorships are concerned. Only 11.7% of municipal leaders are women. However, there are also some areas of progress.

In the second part of the study, researchers from the University of Duisburg-Essen examined the extent of hostility and aggression in local politics. Such assaults are alarming because they pose a particular threat to democratic society and its institutions. After all, at the local level, politicians and citizens are particularly close – for better or for worse. The study shows that there is widespread hostility and aggression against local politicians. Approximately 60% of the surveyed local councillors reported experiencing personal insults, threats, or physical assaults. At the same time, there is remarkable resilience – only few consider quitting politics because of such threats.

The third part of the diversity study, to be published in the fall of 2023, will focus on the political representation of social diversity (people with migration backgrounds, people of color, and different social classes).

Democracy Needs Feminism!

With its gender-political and feminist programs, the Gunda Werner Institute (GWI) at the Heinrich Böll Foundation examines power structures and relations of dominance between genders, as well as the effect of power relationships on gender relations. The goal is to achieve a just, non-violent, and gender-democratic society. The GWI offers platforms and debates for a variety of feminist and gender-political approaches. It serves as a hub between science, politics, and activists, providing intersectional, feminist inputs for Green policy development and gender politics. Its work is organized according to the following focus areas: strengthening feminist public spheres – combating anti-feminism; feminism for a post-migrant society; sexual self-determination and reproductive justice; feminist internet policy; and feminist foreign policy.

gwi-boell.de

Arts and Culture

Art can anticipate, simulate, or critically observe social developments. It triggers emotions, raises questions, and often helps us see beyond the narrow constraints of our everyday lives – in short: It enriches our society. We therefore promote art and culture as expressions of social self-exploration.



Cologne, November 2022. Ceremony at the Historic City Hall on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Heinrich Böll Photo: Sadija Kavagic

Heinrich Böll – The 50th Anniversary of His Nobel Prize for Literature

In the fall of 1972, Heinrich Böll received the Nobel Prize for Literature. It had been a difficult year for Böll; it was a time of intensifying political tensions in West Germany, and, for Böll personally, a year fraught with legal disputes. Böll was not only attacked for his political views but also defamed by the media as a sympathizer of the terrorist RAF group.

To commemorate the awarding of the Nobel Prize, we have published the volume *Die Vernunft der Poesie* (The Reason of Poetry, available in German only). It offers a glimpse into these tumultuous times of the early 1970s and into Heinrich Böll's work and his poetics, which he spelled out in his famous Nobel Lecture *An Essay on the Reason of Poetry*.

Our Warsaw office published the German-Polish volume *Między wierszami – Heinrich Böll – Between the Lines*, including previously untranslated excerpts from Heinrich Böll's writings in Polish. The volume was presented at an event in the library of the *Goethe-Institut* in Warsaw.

“African Moot” – a Documentary

Every year, more than one hundred of Africa's top law students gather to try a fictitious case in a simulated hearing at the *African Court of Human Rights*. In her documentary *African Moot*, filmmaker Shamila Seedat, herself a human rights lawyer, followed teams from Uganda, Kenya, Egypt, and South Africa as they spent months preparing a case on refugee rights. The film follows their progress through various events and rounds of the competition, leading to a dramatic finale in front of international judges at Botswana's highest court. Our South Africa Office supported the filmmaker in her research, as well as in organizing events debating the film. Not only law students, all of us can learn a lot from a human rights-based approach to migration and mobility on the African continent. The film premiered in 2022 and was first shown in Europe at the *DOK.fest* Munich in the spring of 2023.

The Heinrich Böll House in Langenbroich

Artists around the world take stances on political and social issues. Their fight for intellectual freedom is a valuable contribution to the development and preservation of democracy and human rights. We support this commitment with a scholarship program, offered in partnership with the city of Düren.

Since 1989, when the association Heinrich-Böll-Haus Langenbroich e. V. was founded, we have hosted more than 200 guests from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Southeastern Europe in cooperation with the city of Düren and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The house, purchased by the Böll family in the 1960s, has become a peaceful haven where politically persecuted authors from all over the world are able to work and share their experiences. In 2022, the city of Düren acquired the Heinrich-Böll-Haus and took over its operation from the association Heinrich-Böll-Haus e. V.



Viktor Yerofeyev is one of Putin's most outspoken critics.
Photo: IMAGO/Jürgen Heinrich

Our Guests in 2022

Amir Chehelan, born in Tehran in 1956, has published numerous novels that have been translated into English, German, Italian, Norwegian, Lithuanian, Arabic, and Hebrew, and other languages. His novels revolve around everyday life in Iran against the backdrop of its checkered history and the interplay between religion, state, and modernity.

Fariba Vafi started writing in the 1980s. She belongs to the Azerbaijani minority in Iran. Her works have been translated into several languages, including English, Turkish, Armenian, French, Spanish, and Norwegian. Her novel *My Bird* has been translated into English.

Viktor Jerofejew studied literature and linguistics and has been a writer since the mid-1970s. In 1979, he was expelled from the Writers' Union of the USSR for his participation in the literary magazine *Metropol*. He became internationally known for his 1990 novel *The Moscow Beauty*, which has been translated into 27 languages.

For 17 years, **Kadir Özdemir** has been offering trainings on intersectionality. In addition to political education, his passions are contemporary literature, theater, and performative arts. In early 2021, he founded the theater collective *Heirs of Migration*, and they appeared at the international festival *Forms of Theater* in Hanover.

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Studienwerk – Supporting Young Talent

We support students and doctoral candidates of all disciplines from Germany and abroad. In addition to scholarships, we also provide non-material support – that is, political education or tutoring to build key skills. Our goal is to discover talent and promote the personal, political, and professional development of our fellows and to discover future multipliers who share our convictions and work towards the goals of the Foundation – democracy, solidarity, ecological action, sustainable politics, and human rights.



Our new scholarship recipients after their introductory seminar on April 8, 2022 Photo: Stephan Röhl

In two rounds that took place on September 1, 2021, and on March 1, 2022, we selected, from a total of 1,855 applications, 384 new fellows through a three-tier process. We have funded a total of 1,630 fellows, including 1,410 undergraduates, 213 doctoral students and seven international postdocs for a research residence in Germany. Our focus is on a number of target groups: 64% of our fellows are women, 13% study at technical, art, or music colleges, and 27% (53% of whom are women) major in STEM subjects. Among doctoral fellows, too, the proportion of those in STEM subject is particularly high at 23%, 62% of whom are women. Of the 90 fellows who have come to Germany as refugees, 69 hail from Syria, six from Afghanistan, three from Iran, one from Russia, and eleven from other countries such as Palestine, Nepal, or Eritrea.

Funds provided by the German Foreign Office helped support 114 fellows from 36 countries outside the EU with their studies in Germany, among them 19 doctoral candidates. The largest group among them is from Syria, with 12 Russians, 11 Ukrainians, eight Egyptians, six Brazilians, and six Iranians.

Non-material Support: Guidance – Tutoring – Networking

Our events form the core of our non-material support program. They aim to stimulate political debate, teach crucial skills, encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, help participants prepare for their future careers, and foster our fellows' social and political activism.

One of our major objectives is to promote self-organization and independent thinking, as well as teaching creative skills. The event program is designed for and with our fellows. For example, our fellows organized a total of 286 meetings and events with 3,343 participants. In 2022, the Studienwerk held a total of 33, and our state-level foundations and other departments and program units 86 educational events that were attended by many of our fellows. From the very start, we are trying to connect our fellows with the Foundation's various program units. For example, our series *Begleitprogramm plus* offers specialist events and skills training for our fellows through other Foundation departments, state-level foundations, and our training academy *GreenCampus*.

Highlights of the 2022 Event Program

After a two-year hiatus, due to the pandemic, our annual summer campus was finally able to return to its usual in-person format. Many of our fellows consider the summer campus the highlight of the event program. From August 15-20, 2022, 99 fellows spent a week in the idyllic town of Bad Bevensen, where they debated how to *Shape Politics Globally*, designed their own seminars, and attended workshops on key skills.

The 2022 *PhD Forum* was focused on *Science in Public Discourse*. Topics included improving media coverage and social awareness of scientific topics and strategies for scientists to enable them to better communicate their findings to the general public.

As part of the research cluster on socio-ecological transformation, which is a focus area of our doctoral programs, 50 fellows from various fields are currently working on sustainability issues. Since its inception

in 2012, several partners have supported the cluster, including the *German Institute of Development and Sustainability* (IDOS), the *Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change* (MCC), the *Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie gGmbH*, and the *Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung e. V.* (DIW).

The Alumni Salon on November 19, 2022, focused on the challenges that come with socio-ecological transformations. Approximately 150 former fellows (spanning 20 years of funding) met in Berlin for a panel discussion with Jan Philipp Albrecht (Foundation President), Franziska Wolff (*Öko-Institut*), and Paulina Fröhlich (*Progressives Zentrum*). The aim was to explore how, in times of multiple crises, confidence in change can be boosted and what role broad-based social participation has in shaping such transformations.

Our Alumni



Photo: private

Dr. Roland Azibo Balgah (PhD 2008-2011) is Associate Professor of Development Studies, Lecturer at the *College of Technology* at the *University of Bamenda*, and Dean of the *Higher Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development* at *Bamenda University of Science and Technology* in Cameroon. His research interests include climate change in the context of disaster management, livelihoods, sustainable development, and (non)migration. He is a member of many scientific associations, including the *RISK Research Center at the University of the Bundeswehr Munich*.



Photo: David Beach

Prof. Dr. Selen Ayirtman Ercan (PhD 2001-2002) is a political scientist and director of the *Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance* at the *University of Canberra*, Australia. Her work examines the potentials of public deliberation in addressing pressing problems facing democracies, ranging from the crisis of formal representation in politics to the rise of violent extremism.



Photo: Vano Andiashvili

Dr. Nino Jvania (PhD 2002-2003) is a pianist, musicologist, and Associate Professor at the *Tbilisi State Conservatory of Music*. After graduating from the *Tbilisi Conservatory*, she continued her studies at the *Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf*, supported by scholarships from the *DAAD*, the *Alfred-Toepfer-Stiftung*, and the *Heinrich Böll Foundation*. She then completed her doctorate on Karlheinz Stockhausen's piano works. Her published works include two monographs on contemporary performance practice and artistic research. She is currently researching the relationship between composers, performers, and listeners.

Awardees

The Heinrich Böll Foundation awards various prizes and co-sponsors various additional honors. Our most important awards are the Anne Klein Women's Award, the Peace Film Prize, and the Hannah Arendt Award.



Yosra Frawes
Photo: Youssef Ben Ammar, CC-BY-SA



Teresa A. Braggs
Photo: Ole Schwarz, CC-BY-NC-ND



Serhij Zhadan
Photo: IMAGO/Zoonar

The Anne Klein Women's Award – Yosra Frawes

Tunisian feminist, lawyer, and poet Yosra Frawes fights for women's rights and respect for human dignity, both in Tunisia and beyond. Back in 2000, long before the Arab Spring, she launched a petition for gender equality in Tunisian inheritance law. In a historic achievement, *Law 58 on the Elimination of Violence against Women* was passed in 2017, thanks in part to her participation in a *National Coalition to Combat Violence against Women*. By awarding the Anne Klein Women's Award to Yosra Frawes, we aim to strengthen and encourage the feminist movements of Tunisia. For decades, women in the MENA region have been fighting for their rights, against exclusion, and for equality on all political and social levels.

The Anne Klein Women's Award is endowed with 10,000 euros. It was presented at a ceremony on March 11, 2022, in Berlin. The speech in honor of the awardee was held by Franziska Brantner, member of the German Bundestag and State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection.

The Peace Film Prize – Teresa A. Braggs

The Peace Film Prize went to Teresa A. Braggs from India for her film *Sab changa si*. The jury was compelled by its combination of cinematic proximity, personal solidarity, and critical reflection that is communicated in empathetic portraits of young people searching a common language during student rallies in Bangalore that were held in protest against tighter restrictions included in the *Indian Citizenship Act* of 2019. "With a small camera and minimalist resources, Indian activist and filmmaker Teresa A. Braggs draws us right into the heart of the movement, following nightly discussions around the conditions of resistance," the jury stated.

The Peace Film Prize is presented by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the *Weltfriedensdienst e. V.* and the *Friedensinitiative Zehlendorf*. It is an integral part of the *Berlin International Film Festival*, and the only independent award of its kind that is conferred at an A-list film festival. It is endowed with 5,000 euros and is presented as a bronze sculpture designed by Otmar Alt.

Hannah Arendt Award 2022 – Serhij Zhadan

Serhij Zhadan is as prolific a writer as he is a translator, poet, and musician. Zhadan, who grew up in the Donbass, represents the culture of young Ukrainians who discovered themselves and their commitment to Europe through resistance to Russian occupation and aggression. He is undoubtedly one of the major writers of Europe's younger generation. With his band *Zhadan i Sobaky* (Zhadan and the Dogs), he takes up current issues without regard for political authorities. After the Russian army invaded Ukraine, the band members gave charity concerts for Kharkiv residents who were taking shelter from shelling in subway stations; they played in hospitals and volunteered. Zhadan and his band traveled to Germany for the award ceremony.

The Hannah Arendt Award, which is endowed with 10,000 euros, is given by the City of Bremen and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. The award ceremony took place on December 2, 2022, at Bremen City Hall.

Spring 2022: Farewell to our Presidents



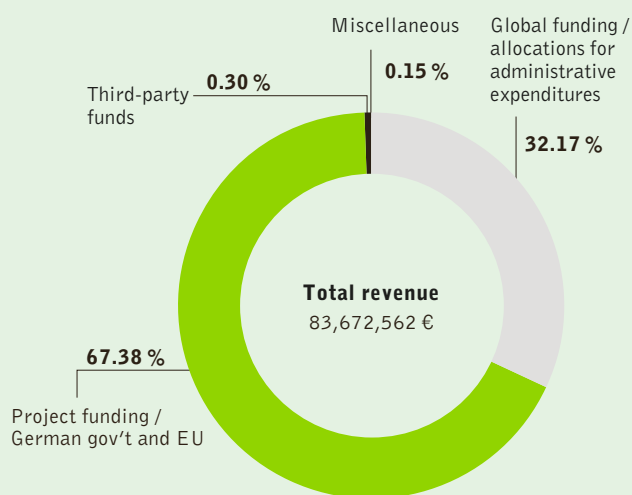
Barbara Unmüßig and Dr. Ellen Ueberschär Photo: Bettina Keller

After 20 years, **Barbara Unmüßig** stepped down as Foundation President. During her long tenure, she tirelessly worked to develop innovative approaches, build great capabilities and networks, and set standards while continuously monitoring international politics with a focus on issues of injustice and inequality. She has always been passionate in her commitment to climate and environmental protection, human rights, gender equality, and global justice. Ralf Fücks, Korinna Horta, Claudia Roth, Frauke Seidensticker, and Jürgen Trittin lauded her on March 18, 2022. The ceremony was a worthy sendoff into retirement – however, we are sure that she will continue with her untiring efforts.

Dr. Ellen Ueberschär bade farewell as Foundation President in a panel discussion on April 25, 2022. On this occasion the “breathing space of freedom” and how we can live up to our responsibilities were the topics she discussed with history professor Hedwig Richter and Minister of Agriculture Cem Özdemir. Both questions have always been dear to Ellen and at the center of her political mind. Her commitment to Europe and Eastern Europe, in particular, has left its mark on the Foundation. At the ceremony, Ferda Ataman, Rebecca Harms, Sylvia Löhrmann, and Omid Nouripour paid tribute to her achievements over the past five years. Ellen Ueberschär did not run for re-election and thus concluded her regular term of office.

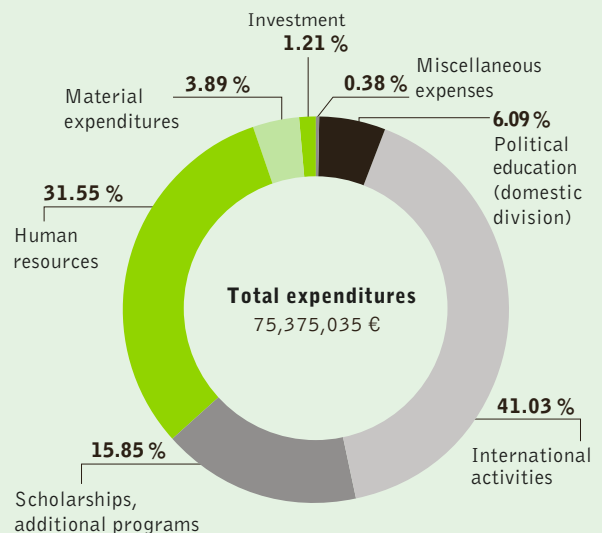
Our Financial Framework

The Heinrich Böll Foundation is an incorporated association registered with the district court of Berlin-Charlottenburg and tax-exempt as a non-profit organization. Our work is largely financed through public grants. Transparency about how we use our funds is of utmost importance to us, which is why our financial reporting goes beyond the legal requirements. We are a member of the Transparent Civil Society Initiative and committed to an anti-corruption code of conduct. In addition, we voluntarily prepare an annual financial report, which is guided by the rules of Germany's Commercial Code and have it independently audited.



Revenue in 2022

The Foundation's revenue totaled approximately 83.7 million euros in 2022. This is an increase of approximately 5.5 % compared to 2021, due in particular to higher revenue from funds for international work as well as support for undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Germany.



Expenditures in 2022

In 2022, about two thirds of the Foundation's expenditures (approx. 48.3 million euros) were dedicated to program work and in support of undergraduate and postgraduate studies. This share increased to approximately 86 %, including payroll for Foundation staff who work directly on our programs. Non-payroll administrative expenses decreased slightly, as did expenses for investments.

Preliminary cash-basis accounting 2022*

Reporting year: January 1 to December 31, 2022 (as of June 18, 2023)

	2022	2021
	figures preliminary	
Revenue towards global budget**	26,149,357	22,949,741
Revenue towards investments	771,793	347,988
Project funding		
International cooperation	39,539,523	40,205,886
BMZ	32,299,785	33,508,594
German Foreign Office	7,056,606	6,580,047
EU	—	—
Other/third party funds for international cooperation	183,133	117,245
Studienwerk	12,372,165	11,648,117
BMBF	11,175,391	10,469,896
German Foreign Office	1,180,615	1,178,221
Other	16,160	—
Domestic division	4,716,637	4,077,890
BMI	4,207,546	3,994,355
Third party funds	509,091	83,535
Miscellaneous	123,091	86,859
Total revenue	83,672,562	79,316,481
Specialist expenditure	1,260,300	1,324,452
Transfers to regional foundations	2,947,246	2,669,903
Project funding expenditure		
International cooperation	30,820,984	32,589,284
Studienwerk	11,930,989	11,314,474
EU	—	—
Third-party funds	503,110	45,273
Personnel (salaries, including management of foreign offices)	23,777,317	21,405,226
Operating expenditure	2,934,965	2,705,798
Investments	910,330	437,233
Miscellaneous	289,794	127,566
Total expenditure	75,375,035	72,619,210
Annual result	8,297,527	6,697,271
Association revenue	200,914	268,053
Association expenditure	202,322	246,557
Association result	-1,408	21,497

* all figures in euros

** including carryovers from the previous year

BMZ: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, AA: Federal Foreign Office, BMBF: Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Publications



“Unpacked! Plastic, Waste, & Me”

The book about plastic for people aged 12 and over

Specifically developed and designed for a young international audience, the digital book *Unpacked! Plastic, Waste, & Me* answers 70 questions about plastic in colorful infographics and six true stories. Book designer and author Gesine Grotrian and a team of experts from the Heinrich Böll Foundation together with an advisory board of young people from all over the world have created an exciting non-fiction book for young people aged 12+.

boell.de/en/unpacked-plastic-waste-me



“Petra Kelly – A Graphic Novel”

Petra Kelly was a co-founder of the German Green Party and known worldwide as a champion of ecology and human rights. She was tireless, fascinating, and inspiring. So it's no surprise that her ideas and initiatives live on in today's politics: in the fight against climate change, for gender justice, and the global validity of human rights. In 2022, we celebrated her 75th birthday and commemorated her violent death 30 years ago.

boell.de/en/2022/09/12/petra-kelly

GreenCampus – Practicing successful politics

GreenCampus – the political training academy of the Heinrich Böll Foundation and its Co-Foundations at the state level – pools our diverse spectrum of advanced training programs in the field of political management. GreenCampus offers skills development, capacity-building, and management consulting for people active in politics – whether they work as volunteers, in political parties, or in organizations. In this way, we make a key contribution toward building and upgrading the skills that people need to engage in successful political work and effective social participation.

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The Heinrich Böll Foundation

Mission Statement

Who We Are, What We Do

The Heinrich Böll Foundation is part of the Green political movement that has developed worldwide as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. Our main tenets are ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice. We place particular emphasis on gender democracy, meaning social emancipation and equal rights for women and men. We are also committed to equal rights for cultural and ethnic minorities and to the societal and political participation of immigrants. Finally, we promote non-violence and proactive peace policies.

To achieve our goals, we seek strategic partnerships with others who share our values. We are an independent organization, that is, we determine our own priorities and policies.

We are based in the Federal Republic of Germany, yet we are an international actor in both ideal and practical terms.

Our namesake, the writer and Nobel Prize laureate Heinrich Böll, personifies the values we stand for: defense of freedom, civic courage, tolerance, open debate, and the valuation of art and culture as independent spheres of thought and action.

We Are a Green Think Tank

- We promote democratic reforms and social innovation.
- We work on ecological policies and sustainable development on a global level.
- We provide space for presenting and discussing art and culture.
- We transfer knowledge and skills from experts to political actors.
- We provide a forum for open debate and promote dialogue between politics, business, academia, and society.
- We support talented students active on sociopolitical issues both in Germany and abroad.
- We document the history of the Green movement in order to promote research and provide political inspiration.

We Are an International Policy Network

- We are part of the global Green network and promote the development of the Green political movement on all continents.

- We focus especially on the broadening and deepening of the European Green movement.
- We work actively for the development of a political European public.
- We support the participation of civil society in politics and, within the framework of multilateral organizations, take part in conferences and negotiations.

We Are Active on Ecology, Democracy, and Human Rights Worldwide

- We consider ecology and democracy to be inseparable.
- We therefore support individuals and projects that are committed to ecology, human rights, democracy, and self-determination.
- We support respect for the rule of law and democratic participation in all parts of the world.
- We promote the abolition of conditions of dominance, dependency, and violence between the sexes.
- We consider ethnic and cultural diversity to be an essential part of democratic culture.
- We encourage civic and civil society activism.
- We train activists so that they can successfully self-organize and participate in political processes.

Our Culture

Commitment, expertise, social skills, creativity, and flexibility describe our employees, both in Germany and abroad. They are highly qualified, team-oriented and, with their high level of motivation, they constitute the most important asset of the Foundation.

Equality of opportunity and respectful dealings between women and men of different ages, religions, ethnic origins, and sexual orientations are constitutive for the foundation. Intercultural competence and a productive engagement with diversity are part of our corporate culture.

Mutual respect and trusting cooperation among ourselves and with our partners are the bases of our business relationships.

We constantly evaluate and improve our work. We undertake and take seriously both internal and external evaluations. We handle the funds at our disposal economically and efficiently and assure transparent operations.

We work in close cooperation with our co-foundations in all of Germany's 16 states.

We are a reliable partner for volunteer work and for cooperation with third parties. As a political foundation, we act independently; this also applies in respect to our relationship with the German Green Party.

We are autonomous in selecting our executive officers and staffing our committees.

■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation, affiliated with the Green Party and headquartered in the heart of Berlin, is a legally independent political foundation working in the spirit of intellectual openness. ■ The Foundation's primary objective is to support political education both within Germany and abroad, thus promoting democratic involvement, sociopolitical activism, and cross-cultural understanding. ■ The Foundation also provides support for art and culture, science and research, and development cooperation. Its activities are guided by the fundamental political values of ecology, democracy, solidarity, and non-violence. ■ Heinrich Böll's call on citizens to meddle in politics is the example upon which the work of the Foundation is modeled. The Heinrich Böll Foundation strives to stimulate sociopolitical reform by acting as a forum for debate, both on fundamental issues and those of current interest. The Foundation places particular importance on attaining gender democracy – signifying a relationship between the sexes characterized by freedom from dependence and dominance. ■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation's educational activities have a political basis, an ethical outlook, and strive to promote various forms of cultural expression. The Foundation supports art and culture as part of its political education work and as a crucial element of each society's self-image. By way of its international collaboration with a large number of project partners the Foundation aims to strengthen ecological and civic activism on a global level, to intensify the exchange of ideas and experiences, and to keep our sensibilities alert for change. ■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation's collaboration on sociopolitical education programs with its project partners abroad is on a long-term basis. Additional important instruments of international cooperation include visitor programs, which enhance the exchange of experiences and political networking, as well as basic and advanced training programs for committed activists. ■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation's Scholarship Program considers itself a workshop for the future; its activities include providing support to especially talented students and academicians, promoting theoretical

work of sociopolitical relevance, and working to overcome the compartmentalization of science into exclusive subjects. ■ Dr. Imme Scholz and Jan Philipp Albrecht are the current Presidents. Steffen Heizmann is the CEO of the Foundation.

■ The members assembly, comprised of 49 persons, is the Foundation's foremost decision-making organ; its responsibilities include electing the Presidents. Expert advisory boards (7–10 people each) are staffed by independent experts who consult with the Foundation and formulate suggestions regarding conceptual issues raised in the educational programs.

■ The Foundation's by-laws provide for a quota of women and immigrants on all the Foundation's bodies and among its fulltime staff. ■ The Foundation currently maintains foreign and project offices in Belgium (EU), France, Poland, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Greece, Georgia, Ukraine, Bosnia, Albania, Serbia, Israel, Lebanon, the Arab Middle East, Tunisia, Morocco, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, India, China, South Korea, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, El Salvador and the United States. In 2022, the Foundation had about 83.7 million euros in public funds at its disposal.

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