

Intervention!

Who we are and what we do. An introduction to our Foundation



Our namesake is the writer and Nobel laureate Heinrich Böll who stands for the principles we are committed to: the defence of freedom, civic courage, active tolerance, and the cherishing of art and culture as independent spheres of thought and action. Photo: Toni Richter

The Heinrich Böll Foundation

- is a catalyst for green visions and projects, a think tank for policy reform, and an international network
- is closely affiliated to the German Green Party
- promotes the development of democratic civil society at home and abroad
- defends equal rights and equal opportunities regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or nationality
- supports cultural projects as part of our civic education programmes
- assists gifted, socially and politically active students and graduates in Germany and abroad
- co-operates with state foundations in all of the 16 German states
- is mostly financed through public funds (currently around 45 million euros per year)

The primary objectives guiding our work are

- establishing democracy and human rights
- fighting against environmental degradation
- safeguarding everyone's rights of social participation
- supporting non-violent conflict resolution
- defending the rights of individuals

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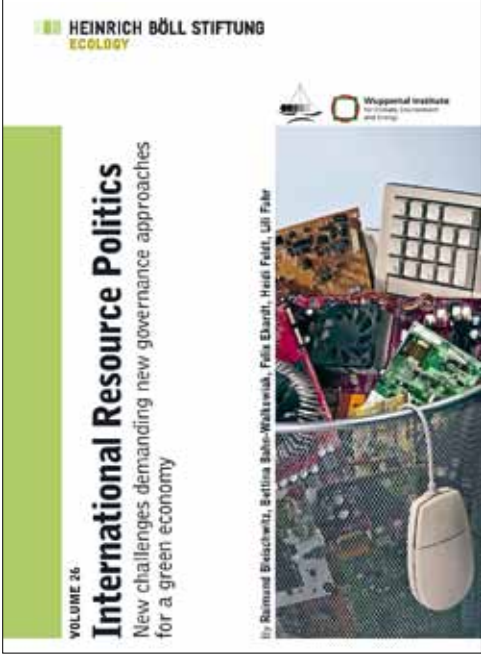
Promoting Democracy, Asserting Human Rights

Democratic Participation We support people in their efforts to achieve social participation and autonomy. This includes working in stable democracies, however, we are also active under authoritarian and sometimes repressive conditions. As the Arab Spring has shown, the change from autocratic regime to democracy cannot be achieved overnight, as institutions have to be developed, corruption reined in, and encrusted power structures broken up. Our aim is to support societies on their thorny road towards democracy – within the Arab world and elsewhere. Wherever we encounter courageous partners, we attempt to create greater leeway for political and social participation and emancipation.

Gender Policy Around the world, discrimination based on gender and sexuality is still a daily reality. Women are being forced into traditional roles – and are thus excluded from the political arena, homosexuals and people with non-standard gender identities are living in fear of public humiliation or even physical violence. We want to turn gender issues into political issues, bundle forces for change, and expand existing and create new networks in this area. To achieve this, we have set up relevant projects in many parts of the world.



Mexico City, national rally for justice and against impunity, May 2011 Photo: Claudia Wondratschke



Justice in a Finite World

Globalisation and Sustainability Germany's Energiewende – that is, the decision to transform energy production – sends a very positive signal to the rest of the world: Here is a highly industrialised and export-oriented economy making the transition to renewables*. Our international offices are working to spread this message. We are partnering with groups committed to achieving green transformations – by phasing out a global economy based on fossil fuels; by promoting resource-efficient development; and by pushing for a global shift in agricultural production. In addition, we support those adversely affected by the status quo and by misguided responses to the multiple crises, such as oil extraction from shale and tar sands, nuclear power, large-scale dams, land expropriation, and agrofuel monocultures.

* <http://energytransition.de>



Green New Deal Our carbon-based economic model not only threatens our climate and environment but also endangers the livelihoods of present and future generations. We have to restructure industrial society, and this requires everyone's involvement. We will have to achieve a sustainable economy, a new social contract, a Green New Deal! We provide a forum for people who are committed to ecological transformation, and we promote new ideas and experimental approaches worldwide. We seek to identify solutions and answers to the limits of growth and support those who pioneer social innovation, as well as new and different lifestyles.

Committed to a United and Democratic Europe

European Policy The European Union is facing a real test. The financial crisis presents European institutions and national governments with the difficult task of developing a sustainable structure that will bolster the future of the EU. A common European vision no longer appears to exist. In key areas, European policy is on the defensive, and the next two years will show how and in what form the European project will continue. We promote debate on the future of the EU and are trying to stimulate greater European integration in crucial policy areas. In doing this, we oppose all populist movements that are trying to undermine European solidarity. Solidarity and co-operation are crucial for Europe's future.

Foreign and Security Policy The European Union is light years away from a common foreign and security policy, yet for Europe to play a central role regarding global challenges the member states will have to develop common guidelines towards a "global domestic policy." We want to promote such efforts and are thus organising international exchanges on security policy. We are committed to a sustainable German and European foreign policy, a policy based on democratic and human rights values.



The Heinrich Böll Foundation's 2011 Foreign Policy Conference Photo: Stefan Röhl



"No cribbing!" – Education is key to participation and getting ahead Photo: Waltraud Grubitzsch, dpa/Isn

Equal Opportunities and Participation

Education A fair chance to get ahead is a crucial precondition for social equity – and it also makes good sense economically. The promise that one may better oneself through endeavour does make a society more innovative and more dynamic. However, this will only work, if ethnic, spatial, or social barriers are being broken down. We support policies that promote social mobility, enable advancement, and break down structural barriers. We are committed to improving the access to education and the means to communicate, and we are striving to support resourcefulness and civic self-governance.

Integration Integration is only possible, if it offers the chance to better oneself. Despite the fact that Germany is a country of immigration, a migration background still counts as an unfavourable factor in school or on the job market. We support policies that enable everybody to participate, policies that do not discriminate against any group or person. We are committed to a diverse, yet solidary society and we develop strategies towards greater integration. Our aim is an inclusive society, one where everybody feels at home, no matter what his or her age, gender, religion, or roots.

Art and Media as Barometers of Society

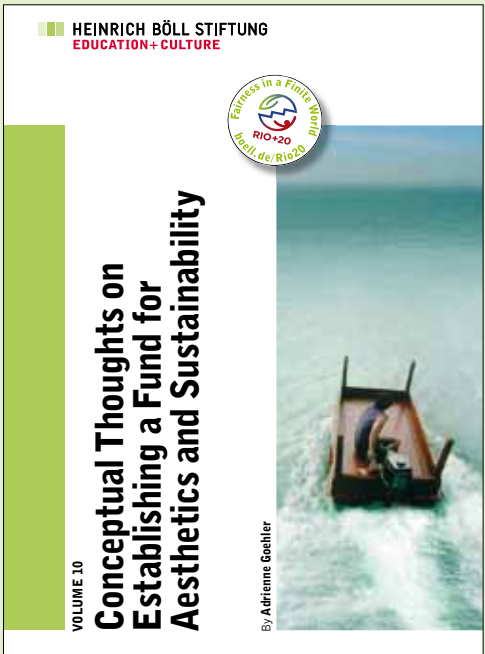
Democracy and the public sphere The internet is transforming political culture, as new forms of participation (such as online petitions) and new tools (such as liquid democracy) have the potential to reclaim popular democracy and put a stop to political apathy. We are exploring ways to increase participation, ways that go along with parliamentary democracy – in order to make citizens more than mere naysayers and let them instead become responsible actors that take up matters of public interest.

Art and cultural policy In times of crises the arts are of great importance, as photographs, film, video installations, theatre, performances, and literature let us view and consider everyday phenomena in a new light. We promote art and culture as expressions of social self-understanding and reflection and thus support exhibition and theatre projects and host film festivals, readings, and panel discussions on cultural issues.

Heinrich Böll House in Langenbroich

In many countries, artists are being persecuted for their commitment to freedom. With the grants offered by the Heinrich Böll House in Langenbroich we are trying to create an environment in which, for a certain period, such artists are enabled to pursue their work in a calm atmosphere and under conditions free of material need. In 2012, our resident artists were writers from the Arab region and China.

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Current Publications

Our studies, policy papers, and memoranda cover a broad spectrum of topics that are divided into separate publication series on democracy; economic and social issues; ecology; Europe; and education and culture. The Gunda Werner Institute also has its own publication series.

All publications can be ordered directly from the Foundation. Usually they are free of charge, we request a contribution only for cover shipping and handling.

orders buchversand@boell.de
downloads www.boell.de/publications

www.boell.de/en

- Get information about our programmes, current events and conferences, as well as our publications
- Visit our blogs at www.boellblog.org
- Video is available at www.boell.de/youtube, photos can be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/boellstiftung/
- Audio is available at www.soundcloud.com/boellstiftung
- If you would like to receive information and invitations via mail please register at www.boell.de/post
- For updates and news about the Heinrich Böll Foundation visit www.boell.de/facebook

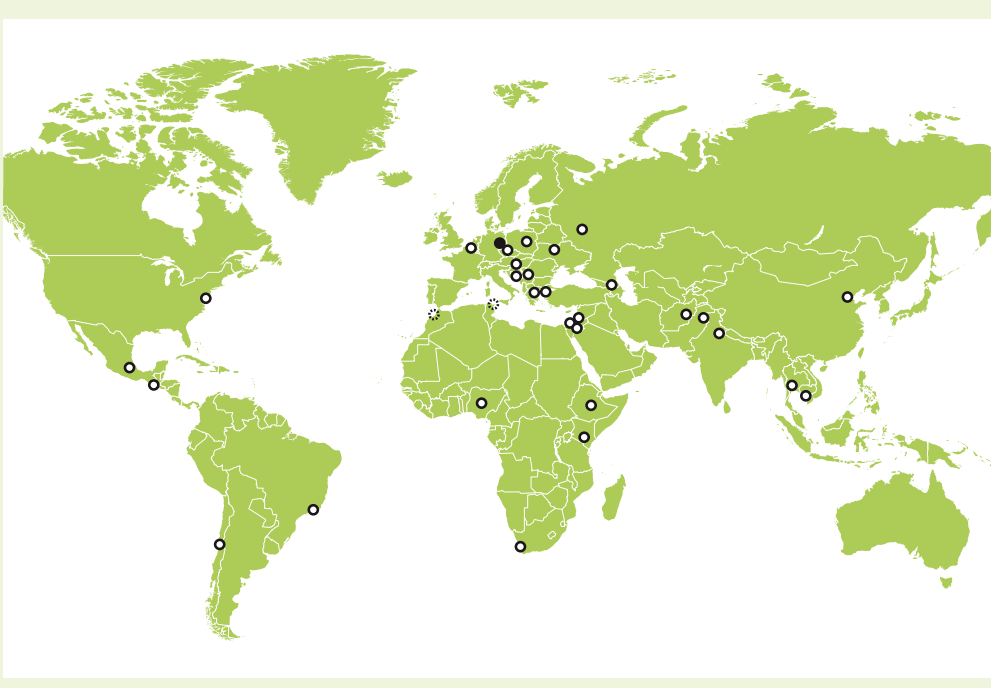


In Berlin, and Around the World

We work with 160 project partners in over 60 countries and currently maintain 29 international offices. About half of our funds are dedicated to projects abroad. Depending on the region and the political situation, our work has a range of thematic priorities such as:

- globalisation and sustainable development
- climate and energy policy
- strengthening civil society
- gender policy
- promotion of democracy
- European policy
- transatlantic dialogue
- political consulting
- arts and culture
- promoting young talent

www.boell.de/worldwide



graphic: bioto

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Making Green History Accessible



Photo: Markus Bollen



Photo: Markus Bollen

The **Archiv Grünes Gedächtnis** (that is, the Green Memory Archive) collects documents concerning the history of the German Green Party, as well as source material about the new social movements. All documents are accessible to academic researchers, as well as to the general public. In addition, the archive hosts conversations with living witnesses of these political and social developments.

Opening hours
Mon., Tue., Thu. 9-17 h; Wed. 12-20 h; Fri. 9-16 h.
For archival queries or expert services please make an appointment via phone or e-mail. The reference library can be accessed without prior appointment.

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A Space for Debate and Meetings

The *Beletage*, the Heinrich Böll Foundation’s **conference centre** has become a well-established venue in the centre of Germany’s capital, hosting around 450 events per year, ranging from panel discussions, to expert talks, seminars, and visiting groups. The centre’s ambience with its transparency, elegance, and convenience allows for open communication, professional meetings, and creativity. Its functional architecture blends ecology with state-of-the-art technology. Sliding panels and shutters make its well-lit spaces adaptable to a wide range of needs. In addition, the spacious foyer allows for informal get-togethers, presentations, and exhibitions.

All spaces are accessible to people with special needs. Additional services such as catering, interpreting, digital recording, or decoration can be easily met, as we collaborate with a number of highly professional contractors. It is possible to rent our spaces, including multimedia technology, either as individual rooms or in combination.

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Photo: Jan Bitter

Promoting Young Talent

The Heinrich Böll Foundation’s scholarship programme provides support to approximately 1,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students from both Germany and abroad – and that across all academic disciplines. Support includes a stipend, advisory services, and skills development. To promote diversity, the Foundation especially encourages applications from groups underrepresented in academia. This is shown by the fact that, for example: 32% of our scholarship recipients come from outside of Germany or have an immigrant background; 63% of the students we support are women; 30% of all doctoral candidates have children; other target groups include students with non-academic family backgrounds, as well as students in the fields of natural or applied sciences.



Photo: Malgorzata Lewandowska

Our Scholarship Programme

We expect from our fellows a high level of academic achievement, a profile of community and volunteer involvement, political awareness, as well as an active commitment to the Foundation’s fundamental values of ecology, non-violence, solidarity, and democracy.

Application deadlines: For students (even those just about to take up their studies) and post-graduates there are, as a rule, two application deadlines: 1 March and 1 September.
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The staff of the Gunda Werner Institute Photo: Stephan Röhl

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
GUNDA WERNER INSTITUTE
Feminism and Gender Democracy

The Gunda Werner Institute focuses on issues and current debates surrounding gender policy and it promotes discussions on feminism and gender democracy.

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Gender Democracy
– and Taking Feminism Ahead

Feminism and Gender Democracy are fundamental to the Heinrich Böll Foundation and have thus, in our charter, been enshrined as “common tasks.” This means that all our employees have to make these outlooks part of their daily routines, be it regarding communication or when developing new projects. In addition, the Gunda Werner Institute, an autonomous entity within the Foundation, researches and discusses feminist and gender policy perspectives on certain issues and core themes of our work. It is the Institute’s mission to develop critical approaches in the areas of feminism, gender democracy, and emancipatory men’s policies.

Political Education

on the federal and state levels

Our 16 state foundations – all of them incorporated independent associations – co-operate closely with one another and with the federal Foundation. Examples for such cooperation are the “Campus Tour,” a series of events at many German universities, or the Green New Deal initiative that, through numerous types of events, aimed to popularise approaches towards a sustainable economy. In the Membership Assembly, the Foundation’s supreme decision-making body, each state foundation has one delegate in order to make sure that regional issues are being considered in the Foundation’s programmes.



The staff of GreenCampus-Team Photo: Stephan Röhl

greencampus
education | politics | management

GreenCampus is the Foundation’s umbrella organisation in the field of continuing education – and especially political management. Our aim is to provide professional politicians as well as unsalaried representatives and activists with the tools for successful political work. At present, we are offering around 20 modules based on thematic areas and methodological steps covering communication, media, and organisational aspects.

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Friends & Supporters

The Friends of the Heinrich Böll Foundation support the Foundation’s aims and values. In the spirit of Heinrich Böll they are especially committed to the areas of human rights, as well as arts and culture. In this they do make an important contribution towards guaranteeing the long-term quality of the Foundation’s activities and its autonomy.

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TuWas
Stiftung für Gemeinsinn

Germany’s political foundations are financed almost exclusively through public funds. However, there are many projects that may not be pursued using such funds, no matter how important they are. To a certain degree this gap is filled by the Friends of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, yet to give such projects a more solid base we are setting up, in 2012, the TuWas Foundation for Public Spirit. Please contact us, if you would like to receive further information.

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Green Academy

The Green Academy is a network of individuals from academia, politics, and civil society that aims to interconnect political and scientific discourses. The Academy was founded in 1999 by the Heinrich Böll Foundation and comprises 60 honorary members who, in conjunction with the board of the Foundation and the management of the Academy, decide on its thematic focus.

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