



# A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR OF DEMOCRACY 2018



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## EXPERIENCING AND CO-SHAPING DEMOCRACY

Democracy can be experienced in Leipzig on a daily basis – and not only in the City Council. Numerous citizens spend 365 days a year fighting for a democratic society. They take advantage of the numerous opportunities to get involved in society and are playing an active role in the shaping of Leipzig's future.

The Year of Democracy in 2018, under the motto "Du.Wir. Leipzig" ("You.We.Leipzig"), illustrated the various ways in which residents show their social commitment. In addition, the project made it clear how co-determination and participation function at the municipal level. The aim was to strengthen local democracy and urban cohesion in Leipzig on a sustainable basis.

This brochure takes a look back at an eventful year, with all the projects, events, measures, experiences, questions and answers.

## POLITICIANS DO WHATEVER THEY WANT ANYWAY **ONLY THOSE WHO SPEAK OUT CAN** HEARD. GET INVOLVED. AFTER ALL. **DEMOCRACY MEANS DIALOGUE.**

## "WE WANTED TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION AND SHOW POSSIBILITIES."

Ulrich Hörning is the Municipal Commissioner (Beigeordnete) and Mayor for General Administration of the City of Leipzig. He played a leading role in the Year of Democracy. In the following interview, he discusses the objectives for the year and gives a personal assessment of the results.

Mr Hörning, why did Leipzig need a Year of Democracy?

**ULRICH HÖRNING:** The initiative for the project came from the political groups of the Leipzig City Council. In recent years, we have been seeing increasing trends toward radicalisation – many people feel that their concerns aren't being heard by their political leaders. At the same time, there are many Leipzig residents who are active in shaping the city's future through democratic processes. By organising the Year of Democracy, we wanted to not only give everyone the opportunity to express their views, but also show how any citizen can get involved and make contact with local politicians and administrators.

"BY ORGANISING THE YEAR OF DEMOCRACY, WE WANTED TO GIVE EVERYONE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS."

#### What role does local democracy play in a city?

**UH:** A very significant role that affects our lives in many ways. At the local level, direct negotiation processes take place between municipal policymakers, administrators and society. It's important to look for solutions together – however, this requires transparency and trust. I firmly believe that the foundations of our democracy can be strengthened through local involvement. This is where we wanted to start, with the aim of motivating residents to play a more active role in shaping their own communities.

How successful was the Year of Democracy, in your opinion?

**UH:** I am very impressed with the many different ways in which residents have taken action. Many projects managed to reach out to people in their communities. One good example was the "Great Gripe World Theatre", which was performed at Leipzig's markets. I'm also pleased that we were able to experiment with new outreach formats, like the tram ride where citizens and political leaders had the chance to converse in a laidback atmosphere.

"IT HAS CERTAINLY ONCE AGAIN CONFIRMED HOW IMPORTANT DIALOGUE IS."

#### Will the Year of Democracy have an impact beyond the year 2018?

**UH:** It has certainly once again confirmed how important dialogue is. I, myself, have learned that many problems are also based on misunderstandings between citizens and the City Administration. This is why we are now offering additional consultation hours with the mayor at the City Offices. We are also working on giving the district advisory and local community councils better meeting locations and equipment in order to make it easier for people to access local democracy in their neighbourhoods. Our aim is to establish an improved culture of democracy and strengthen the political participation of our citizens. This includes a commitment to continue recognising and supporting the projects of our active residents.



Ulrich Hörning has been serving as Deputy Mayor for General Services of the City of Leipzig since November 2015.



#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. **FACTS AND FIGURES.** THE YEAR OF DEMOCRACY 2018 AT A GLANCE.

#### WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO **ORGANISE THE PROJECT?**

The idea for the Year of Democracy came from the political groups of the Leipzig City Council. The aim of the theme year was to strengthen democratic values in general. In addition, the organisers strove to make citizens more aware of the existing opportunities for getting involved in local democracy in Leipzig. The decision to organise the Year of Democracy was made at the council meeting on 26 October 2016.

**FUNDING** APPLICATIONS WERE **SUBMITTED** 

#### WHO ORGANISED **AND CARRIED OUT** THE YEAR OF **DEMOCRACY?**

The Municipal Department for General Administration held overall responsibility for the Year of Democracy. The Coordination Office for the Promotion of Civic Involvement "Leipzig weiter denken" ("Thinking Leipzig Ahead") at the Department for Construction and Urban Development was responsible for process organisation and implementation.

#### **HOW MUCH FUNDING DID THE PROJECTS RECEIVE?**

The projects were divided into two categories based on the level of funding. Smaller projects with funding between €1,000 and €15,000 were categorised as Type A. Larger projects were categorised as Type B and received between €15,000 and €40,000 in funding.



Participant in the project "Democracy Days 2018 – Making Schools and Society More Democratic"

PATE MORE IN DECISION-MAKING."



**INITIATIVES AND ORGANISATIONS TOOK PART** 

#### **WERE LOCAL POLICYMAKERS** INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

Yes. In the spring of 2017, a City Council Advisory Group began offering support in planning content for the Year of Democracy. One representative was named for each political group of the City Council. Members of the CDU, Die Linke, SPD, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, AfD and Freibeuter took part. Advisory Group representatives also actively supported the projects and campaigns throughout 2018, the Year of Democracy.

#### **HOW MUCH TIME WAS SPENT ON THE PLANNING PROCESS?**

Planning meetings were held on 29 June and 14 August 2017. At these meetings, stakeholders from local politics and civil society discussed the direction and organisation of the theme year. A key-issues paper served as the basis for the planning process and was further developed in various working groups. Around 80 people took part in the planning meetings.

**PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE PLANNING MEETINGS** 



#### **HOW WERE THE PROJECTS SELECTED?**

On 13 February 2018 the call for applications was published on the Year of Democracy website, in the Official Journal and in additional media. The deadline for submitting project proposals was 14 March 2018. A total of 131 applications were submitted to the project team for the theme year. After a formal evaluation, the extended monitoring committee for the strategy "Leipzig. City of Diversity" with the City Council Advisory Group chose 13 smaller projects. The five large projects were selected by the City Council Advisory Group. The Division for International Cooperation of the City of Leipzig chose the ten international projects.



#### WHAT CRITERIA WERE USED FOR SELECTING THE PROJECTS?

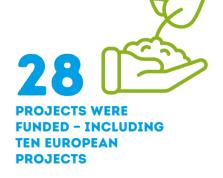
After the first planning meeting, the City Council Advisory Group came up with four criteria to be taken into consideration in the selection of the funded projects: cooperation, innovation, the reaching of new target groups and the extent to which the projects would be hands-on, interactive and visible. This is how the organisers were able to provide participants and guests with a direct, unmediated would be hands-on, interactive and visible of the Year of Democracy – particularly residents who had previously taken little advantage of the opportunities for getting involved in local democracy.





#### **HOW MUCH DID THE** THEME YEAR COST?

The Leipzig City Council budgeted €500,000 for the planning and implementation of the theme year. Collectively, the 28 selected projects received a total of €270,000. The various outreach measures for strengthening local democracy cost an additional €215,000. These measures included the website, campaigns and cargo bikes for the Year of Democracy. Another €15,000 were spent on project management.









## **PROJECTS**

The City of Leipzig funded 28 projects for the Year of Democracy: 28 very different examples of what democracy can look like and how it can be experienced. You can find an overview of these projects on the following pages.

#### **01** THE GREAT GRIPE WORLD THEATRE

I'M SO TIRED OF FILTHY BUS STOPS. **RISING RENTS ...** 







LEAD PARTNER Theater der Jungen Welt



**COOPERATION PARTNERS** Leipzig Market Office, various members of the Leipzig City Council, Council of the Community of Liebertwolkwitz



FUNDING €34,750

Community-level exchange on the big stage - and right in the middle of Leipzig's weekly markets. That was the idea behind the "Great Gripe World

Puppet theatre boasts a long tradition as a form of popular touring theatre. It was viewed as a reflection of the respective period and society. This is why the Theater der Jungen Welt chose this format for its "Great Gripe World Theatre". It sought to discover and process the thoughts, opinions and fears of residents in an artistic manner at Leipzig's weekly markets.

In the fall of 2018 actors spoke with citizens in various local neighbourhoods. Between fruit and vegetable stands, they collected their wishes, concerns and suggestions. The actors then used this input to create several short sketches that were performed with hand puppets on the same site a few days after the initial discussion sessions. The main characters were Volker, Protest Paloma and the Saxon Sheriff. They complained about various issues, such as filthy bus stops and closed shops, and expressed their concerns about safety and rising rent prices.

After these performances, citizens had the chance to discuss the issues with each other and with members of the Leipzig City Council.

#### 02 A TO Z - POSTER SERIES AND CREATIVE WORKSHOPS **AT YOUTH CLUBS**



At 21 workshops, numerous children and young people designed a total of eight posters, as well as a mobile exhibition about various aspects of democracy - including courage, equal rights, respect, inclusion and diversity. This project focused on a cooperation with youth clubs that are also frequented by children and young people with a migrant background.



LEAD PARTNER Kulturbahnhof e. V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS Kinder- und Jugendfreizeitzentrum Holzhausen, Jugendclub Crazy in Paunsdorf, Club Sellerhausen Jugendclub Tante Hedwig, Lebenshilfe e. V., Geschwister-Scholl-Schule, Bürgerverein Neustädter Markt e. V., Mütterzentrum e. V.



€12,000

#### **03 EVERYONE'S INVOLVED**



In this project, around 30 primary school pupils used direct democracy to develop the theatre play "Stell dir vor, die Schule wird von Kindern regiert!" ("Imagine a school governed by children"). In the process, the children had the chance to experience participative and constructive collaboration first-hand. The project also included a democracy project week and a scavenger hunt focused on topics like equal rights, children's rights and freedom of speech.



LEAD PARTNER

Friends' association of the Astrid-Lindgren-Grundschule (primary school and after-schoolcare programme)



**COOPERATION PARTNERS** Theater Bühnenzauber, Förderschule Schloss Schönefeld (special-needs school), Leipzig Children's Office, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst (Leipzig Museum of Contemporary Art), Schönefeld District Office



**FUNDING** 

#### **04 EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ABOUT** FORMS OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN EUROPE



In December 2018 the Leipzig Youth Parliament invited similar bodies from the cities of Frankfurt am Main, Görlitz, Copenhagen, Krakow and Gdańsk to a project in Leipzig. In workshops, the 15 participants learned about various approaches to youth participation and discussed related problems and solutions. The results were presented at a public event.



LEAD PARTNER Leipzig Youth Parliament



FUNDING €4,088





#### **05** BUILDING BRIDGES - BRÜCKEN BAUEN



Three authors from the US were invited to Leipzig in the context of the series "Leipziger Literarischer Herbst". The aim was to promote exchange between the US and Germany - through poetry slams, lectures, book presentations and discussions - on both literary and socio-political issues. The democratic processes of both countries were also discussed.



LEAD PARTNER Kulturwerk deutscher Schriftsteller e. V.



**FUNDING** 

#### 06 BRIDGE FESTIVAL - COME, TAKE A SEAT, GET INVOLVED.



The Bridge Festival in Clara-Zetkin-Park has established itself as a multifaceted format for community building. During the Year of Democracy, the event was held for the fourth time - under the motto "Co-Shaping Democracy". The highlight of the event was the exhibition "Straße der Begegnung" ("Street of Encounter"). It offered insights into various political systems and presented biographies of people with a migrant background.



LEAD PARTNER Say it loud e.V.



**COOPERATION PARTNERS** Aktionsnetzwerk Leipzig nimmt Platz, Werk 2, Demokratie für Brasilien, Initiative Weltoffenes Gohlis / Dialoge für Gohlis, Netzwerk gegen Islamfeindlichkeit und Rassismus Leipzig + 47 other partners



**FUNDING €**12,150

#### **07 COMMUNITY PICNIC "DEMOKRATIE AIRLEBEN"**



On 27 May a community picnic was held in in a park in Kleinzschocher. The event was open to not only residents but also organisations, initiatives, schools, nursery schools and civil society actors from the neighbourhood. In a relaxed picnic atmosphere, participants were able to discuss a widerange of issues, including neighbourhood problems.



LEAD PARTNER Action group "Bürgerinitiative Kleinzschocher"

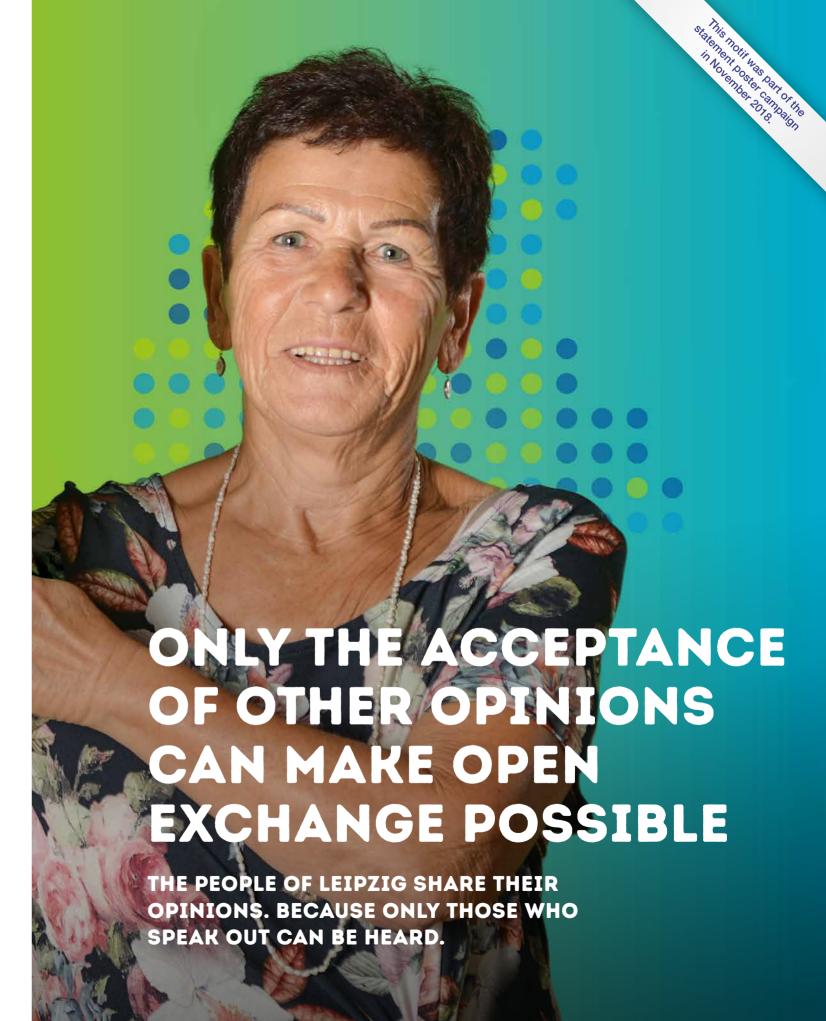


COOPERATION PARTNERS

Mütterzentrum e. V., Zollschuppen e. V. with the project Zirkomania, Musik-Vereinigung Euscacore, Kantatenweg 31 e.V., team "Kleinzschocher" from nebenan.de, Haus- und WagenRat Leipzig e. V.



**FUNDING** 





12 PROJECTS **PROJECTS** 

#### **08** DEMOCRACY, WHAT'S THAT?







Democracy is practised and experienced around the world - but what is it? This question was examined by pupils from Leipzig and its partner cities of Thessaloniki and Travnik. They summarised their results in a programme for a grand closing gala.

Previously, several workshops took place in which various aspects of democracy were discussed. First, the term was examined in a historical context and in the context of current European politics. Participants also reflected on their understanding and use of democracy and looked into the future by developing visions for democracy in the year 2030.

In Leipzig 14 pupils from the Humboldt Gymnasium, a secondary school, examined the topic in a creative manner. They used modelling clay to create objects that they felt symbolised democracy. They also asked their families and friends, as well as members of the public, for their thoughts on democracy. On 15 September 2018, the International Day of Democracy, representatives from the three project cities met for a final workshop with the aim of reaching a consensus. That evening, their findings were presented to the general public at the Theater der Jungen Welt. The programme included a discussion with politicians, a poetry slam and a catwalk of nations.



**YEAR 2030?** 

LEAD PARTNER Städtepartnerschaftsverein Leipzig-Thessaloniki e. V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS Verein zur Förderung der Städtepartnerschaft Leipzig-Travnik e. V., German School of Thessalonik Humboldt Gymnasium Leipzig (secondary school), Europa-Haus e. V., Theater der Jungen Welt



**FUNDING** €5,200

#### **09 COMMUNITY LAWN IN GRÜNAU**



In the summer of 2018 the garden of the "Müzel" Family Centre Grünau was transformed into a "Community Lawn" for the neighbourhood - through a resource-friendly and democratic process. Participants, including Grünau residents, worked together to create flower beds using old tires and plastic wastes. The visionary concept included not only the use of upcycling approaches, but also the future care of the beds by children.



LEAD PARTNER Mütterzentrum e. V. Leipzig

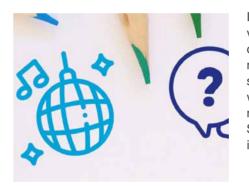


COOPERATION PARTNERS Mütterzentrum e. V. Leipzig, "Müzel" Family Centre Grünau, Restlos - The **Creative Upcycling Project** 



FUNDING €1,326.50

#### **10 CLUB POLITICS**



In three workshops, individuals from various music clubs in Leipzig exchanged ideas on the options and methods of emancipatory, critical and self-reflective event policy. This project was focused on the promotion of nonmale artists, the prevention of anti-Semitism and how to deal with precarious working conditions.



LEAD PARTNER **UT Connewitz** 



COOPERATION PARTNERS Conne Island, Werk 2, Institut für Zukunft, Moritzbastei, So&So, Mjut, Täubchenthal, Pracht and independent programme-makers, as well as Landstreicher, Powerline and other booking agencies



FUNDING €4,270

#### 11 THE FLYING FORUM



The "Flying Forum" is a mobile, wooden amphitheatre-like structure that can be quickly assembled. With its circular seating arrangement, it was able to offer an optimal space for presenting information and facilitating dialogue at numerous events, including the Bridge Festival, the Day of Democracy and "Whose City Is It".



LEAD PARTNER Tripolis GbR



COOPERATION PARTNERS Interaction e. V., Bridge Festival, Anker e. V., Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie e. V., Helden Wider Willen e. V., GeyserHaus e. V.







#### 12 EXPERIENCING DEMOCRACY - BEYOND LEIPZIG



The basketball club BBV Leipzig Eagles has been in close contact with its partner club, KK Travnik, for many years. In 2018 this partnership was further strengthened. At a workshop and a "future lab", participants exchanged ideas cross-culturally. In this democratic context, they decided how the cooperation should be managed in the future. The project ended with a friend-



I EAD PARTNER BBV Leipzig Eagles e. V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS KK Travnik Basketball Club



**FUNDING** 

#### 13 EXPERIENCING DEMOCRACY -DIRECTLY.DIGITALLY.BARRIER-FREE



Three partner schools took part in this media project. The aim was to promote the participation of people with disabilities in society and the media. Interviews on subjects like democratic traditions, threats to democracy and opportunities for participation were filmed. The results were presented to the public and made available online.



LEAD PARTNER Landesfilmdienst Sachsen für Jugend- und Erwachsenenbildung e.V.



**COOPERATION PARTNERS** Archiv Bürgerbewegung Leipzig e. V., Lindenhofschule – School for the Mentally Handicapped, Samuel-Heinicke-Schule Leipzig - Saxon State School for the Hearing Impaired Leipzig, Wladimir-Filatow-Schule - School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



**FUNDING** €13.500

#### 14 DEMOCRACY IN ANGER-CROTTENDORF



In the fall of 2018, the citizens' association Bürgerverein Anger-Crottendorf organised two workshops where citizens could speak directly with local political representatives. At these workshops, participants discussed opinions, wishes and suggestions for a positive development of the local community. The Leipzig Transport Authority (LVB) and various government offices took part in the workshops.



LEAD PARTNER Bürgerverein Anger-Crottendorf e.V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS Neighbourhood project "Dresdner 59", neighbourhood management project Quartiersmanagement Leipziger Osten, Transport and Civil Engineering Office and the Office for Urban Renewal and Housing Development of the City of Leipzig



FUNDIT €1,266 **FUNDING** 

#### 15 DEMOCRACY DAYS 2018 - MAKING SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY MORE DEMOCRATIC



On 14 and 15 September 2018 the event Democracy Days Leipzig offered a forum for bringing together pupils, parents, teachers, school social workers and individuals from the field of extracurricular education for the first time. In a total of 28 workshops, more than 350 participants networked, developed new ideas and exchanged opinions on various subjects concerning the teaching of democratic principles in schools.



LEAD PARTNER Initiative Bildung in Zukunft e.V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS Representatives from the network "Demokratie.Macht.Schule". beta - die Beteiligungsagentur, Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung, Evangelische Schule Berlin Zentrum, State Office for Schools and Education + 9 other partners



FUNDING

#### 16 THE LONG PATH TO DEMOCRACY FOR ALL -100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN GERMANY



Twenty women between the ages of 16 and 100 were asked questions about voting and suffrage. In addition, four podcasts were created on the history of women's suffrage in Leipzig, Saxony and Germany. All pieces show the constructive achievements and changes behind terms like democracy. The interviews were broadcast on the station Radio Blau. They can also be heard on Soundcloud.



LEAD PARTNER Louise-Otto-Peters-Gesellschaft e.V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS

**Department of Gender Equality of** the City of Leipzig, Advisory Board for Gender Equality, Department of Migration and Integration of the City of Leipzig, Migrant Advisory Board, Leipzig Municipal Archives, Geschichtsverein Leipzig e. V., Archiv Bürgerbewegung Leipzig e. V., Hörfunk- und Projektwerkstatt Leipzig e. V., Radio Blau, Radio-Verein e. V.



**FUNDING** 

#### 17 INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE - NETWORK OF **MOVEMENTS FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY 2018**



This project brought German and international representatives from oppositional organisations together with civil and human rights activists and stakeholders from the field of civic education. At the round-table discussions, participants shared experiences concerning the political situation in their respective countries. In addition, all participants were able to network and support one another.



LEAD PARTNER Stiftung Friedliche Revolution



FUNDI €8,000 **FUNDING** 







#### **18 CALENDAR-GOERS**



"What does democracy in Leipzig mean to me?" - this was the key question of the media education project "Calendar-Goers". In this project, citizens designed a calendar from an intergenerational perspective.

Participants discussed the meaning of the term democracy, as well as their personal perception of democracy in their own surroundings. In addition, they created photo motifs with selected positive statements on democracy. One product of this work was a free calendar that has been available since November 2018. The motifs can also be seen as a travelling exhibition at Leipzig's municipal libraries.

Through the project, participants were able to make new contacts and recognise that they often have the same interests and wishes as other people - regardless of whether they are 11 or 75 years old, and regardless of where they live. All decision-making and individual tasks were carried out in mixed-age teams.

The finished calendar was presented at the closing event. And a "speed dating" session was organised, giving all project participants the opportunity to reflect on and share their perspectives on democracy in a casual format. The differing opinions were what made this exchange particularly valuable.



LEAD PARTNER



COOPERATION PARTNERS
Leipzig Municipal Libraries



FUNDING €2,482



18 PROJECTS PROJECTS

#### 19 LEIPZIG DEBATES



Differing opinions are the lifeblood of any democracy. In order to teach students about real debate, several debate coaches visited 45 school classes in Leipzig. These coaches provided more than 1,000 pupils with information on the art of debating. Teachers and student teachers also received training. In addition, two public debates were held, one of them with Mayor Burkhard Jung.



I FAD PARTNER Leipziger Debattier- & Disputationsgesellschaft e.V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS Leipzig University, Parents Council of the City of Leipzig, Centre for Teacher Education and School Research, Initiative Bildung in Zukunft e. V., Volkshochschule Leipzig, Carl und Anneliese Goerdeler-Stiftung



FUNDING €23,000 **FUNDING** 

#### **20 LEIPZIG. A EUROPEAN CATALYST** FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION



In this project, 15 young adults from Leipzig, Berlin and the Czech Republic were trained as workshop leaders. With the help of innovative methods, the participants learned fundamental skills of non-formal, discrimination-sensitive education in Europe. These skills will be used in the future to identify the wishes of young people and discuss them with local politicians.



LEAD PARTNER CUBE. Your Take on Europe (organisation in process of founding)



COOPERATION PARTNER Social Impact Lab Leipzig



**FUNDING** 

#### 21 MY SPORT. OUR HISTORY. **DEMOCRACY IN ATHLETIC EXPERIENCES**



The values and norms of democracy are also becoming visible in the world of popular and competitive sports. This fact was demonstrated by the project "My Sport, Our History" on the basis of three interactive event formats. It was co-organised by local institutions from the fields of sports, art and science. The participants met in discussion groups and worked on a film project.



LEAD PARTNER Initiative für interdisziplinäre Kooperation Leipzig



COOPERATION PARTNERS

Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen (Cultural Heritage Foundation of the Free State of Saxony). Halle 14 - Centre for Contemporary Art, Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (HGB), Sportuniversität Leipzig, FSR Sport, Student Council of the Faculty of Sport Science, Leipzig University private individuals, 16th and 20th Oberschule (secondary schools), **Humboldt-Gymnasium** (secondary school), BSG Chemie Leipzig e. V., SC DHfK Leipzig e.V., Roter Stern Leipzig '99 e.V., Luru Kino



**FUNDING** €24,000

#### 22 PHOTO VOICE AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT -A CONTRIBUTION TO DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION



How attractive is our school environment - and how could it be sustainably improved? These are the questions that were discussed by pupils of the Vocational School Centre 12 and students from the department of Special Needs Education at Leipzig University. The participants first took photos of the school environment, then discussed possible improvements and made changes. The project will be continued with a vocational school in Addis Ababa.



LEAD PARTNER Leipzig University



COOPERATION PARTNERS **Vocational School Centre 12** "Robert Blum", GCS in Addis Ababa, Leipzig University



FUNDING

#### 23 MEETING OF STUDENTS IN TRAVNIK WITH DEMOCRACY **WORKSHOP "DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL"**



The Vocational School Centre 12 "Robert Blum" has been in close contact with the Travnik Vocational School since 2015. In 2018 metalworking students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds took part in an exchange programme. There, they met students from Travnik and learned about concepts of global thinking, other cultures and international employment opportunities.



LEAD PARTNER Vocational School Centre 12 "Robert Blum" Leipzig



COOPERATION PARTNERS Vocational school in Travnik. partner-city association Leipzig-Travnik e. V.



FUNDIN €1,495 **FUNDING** 

#### **24** SHOW YOUR VOICE!



In five creative workshops, participants were able to discover individual, artistic forms of expression at the Inclusive Community Centre on Lindenauer Markt. Dancing, writing, singing and presenting, they explored issues related to the social participation of people with disabilities. The produced works were presented in late 2018 in four locations on the Lindenauer Markt



LEAD PARTNER Protegat gemeinnützige UG



**COOPERATION PARTNERS Inclusive Community Centre on** Lindenauer Markt (project of the Mobile Behindertenhilfe), Eva Geckeler (freiraus e. V.), **Robert Klement (Theater Rote** Rübe). Vera Rosner (DanceAbility Austria), Franz Sramek (SlowForward Performances), bookshop SeitenBlick, "INTERIM" Project and State Parliament Member Office of the Left Party (Die Linke), Tanzlabor Leipzig, Kippe Leipzig



FUNDING €8,500





#### **25 WHOSE CITY IS IT**



Leipzig has developed into a quickly growing city. In the project "Whose City Is It" residents had the opportunity to use an artistic approach to address the challenges associated with this growth.

The collaborative project was carried out by Leipzig's nine socio-cultural centres. They identified various pressing issues, including the development of infrastructure, the creation of housing, care services, educational programmes and the integration of people with a migrant background.

At the participating locations, seven creative workshops were organised, where people of different ages and with different cultural backgrounds came together to address the project topic. The artistic activities ranged from theatre, dance and visual arts to installations and music.

During the week of rehearsals at the "Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz", a central square in Leipzig, director Stefan Ebeling merged the artistic contributions from the workshops into a single performance. In the end, a public performance was organised. The programme of fringe activities for the rehearsal week included numerous open formats and an info café, providing more opportunities for people to come in contact with one another and join in spontaneously.



LEAD PARTNER GeyserHaus e. V.



COOPERATION PARTNERS Anker e. V., Budde-Haus -Fairbund e.V., Frauenkultur e.V., Haus Steinstraße e. V., Mühlstraße 14 e. V., Kultur- und Kommunikationszentrum naTo e. V., VILLA e. V. and Werk 2 - Kulturfabrik Leipzig e. V.



FUNDING €24,000

#### **26 MANY CHAIRS - (NOT) ONE OPINION!?**



In the context of the project, two regular meetings of the District Advisory Council North West were held at the newly designed square "Renftplatz". At both meetings, local residents had the opportunity to express their concerns and wishes. Representatives from the City Council and City Administration were also in attendance. The discussions in public spaces were so well received that they were repeated in 2019.



LEAD PARTNER Anker e. V.



**COOPERATION PARTNERS District Advisory Council North** West, Tilo Esche, Wolfgang Zeyen, Annika Taute, Pinder VA-Technik, Victoria Schätzle, Social Street Work "Team North", Social Street Work for Adults "Team Residential". Werner-Heisenberg-Gymnasium (secondary school), Wilhelm-Hauff-Grundschule (primary school), Office for Youth, Family and Education Leipzig, Public Order Office Leipzig, Office for Building Management, Police Station Leipzig-Nord



**FUNDING** 

#### **27 RESISTANCE, YESTERDAY AND TODAY**



Pupils from six countries explored the issue of political resistance. In the process, they examined the aims and values of emancipatory youth groups and individuals - from both historical and country-specific perspectives - as well as the dangers they faced. Each school discussed the issues individually. The results were presented at a closing workshop in Leipzig.



LEAD PARTNERS

The foundations Europäische Stiftung der Rahn-Dittrich-Group für Bildung und Kultur and Carl und Anneliese Goerdeler-Stiftung



COOPERATION PARTNERS Schools in Addis Ababa, Warsaw, Kiev, Lyon, Cairo, Leipzig; Leipzig **City Administration** 



FUNDING €17,300

#### **28 #WEHAVETOTALK**



Several international artists were featured in the 2018 programme of the theatre Lindenfels Westflügel. Some of them offered the opportunity for discussions with experts and Leipzig residents. Topics included political approaches in theatre, the effects of Brexit on artistic work and the promotion of culture in an international context.



LEAD PARTNER Lindenfels Westflügel e. V.



**FUNDING** 







### LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The Year of Democracy sought not only to support projects, but also to provide the citizens of Leipzig with information about existing opportunities to participate in local democratic decision-making. For this purpose, various information-sharing formats were developed.

24 LOCAL DEMOCRACY LOCAL DEMOCRACY

#### **EYE-CATCHING DEMOCRACY**

The Year of Democracy was promoted using programme flyers, newsletters, press releases, a website and, last but not least, a high-profile poster campaign. The aim of the poster campaign was to use bold statements to make local residents think and give them information on existing options for getting involved in the democratic future of their city.











The campaign was carried out in two stages. For its launch in May 2018 the focus was on thought-provoking motifs. They used common opinions, such as "Politicians do whatever they want anyway". Then, in November 2018, a statement campaign was launched, showing various local residents with positive statements about democracy. The motifs were created in a photo box that was set up at seven different events. For these photos, the residents could use pre-written statements or formulate their own. Participants came up with a total of 45 statements, of which seven were chosen for the second stage of the poster campaign.

#### **DEMOCRACY ON WHEELS**

Not only are cargo bikes useful for the environmentally friendly transport of small loads in the city - they can also be used for teaching citizens about democracy. This is why the City Administration purchased two cargo bikes with campaign motifs for the Year of Democracy.

The bikes were on site for most major events, where they served as central points of contact. They provided visitors from Leipzig with free informational materials on local democracy and gave them the opportunity to speak with a local politician. The cargo bikes are now available for use by organisations and initiatives, as well as local politicians and administrators.









#### **DEMOCRACY ON THE GO**

Trams are a permanent fixture of Leipzig's urban landscape. Thanks to the Leipziger Gruppe (public services body), a type NGT 8 tram was decorated with promotional graphics for the Year of Democracy. On 17 May 2018 the Democracy Tram took its maiden voyage through the city, presenting selected campaign motifs on its external surfaces. In addition to its use for daily public transport services, it offered a total of three free city tours during which citizens could chat with local politicians. During its period of use, the Democracy Tram travelled thousands of kilometres through the streets of Leipzig.

"IN THESE TIMES OF SOCIAL RADICAL-ISATION. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPOR-TANT THAT WE TALK ABOUT OUR FUN-**DAMENTAL DEMOCRATIC VALUES - FOR EXAMPLE. AT THE TRAM STOP."** 

Ulrich Hörning, Municipal Commissioner (Beigeordnete) and Mayor





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#### **DEMOCRACY ROLLED OUT**

A roll-up exhibition was developed as an additional outreach format. It comprised 20 large roll-up banners that could be used modularly or as a complete set to provide information about the people, responsibilities and processes of our local representative democracy. The banners were on display at several locations, including the "Festhalle" (banquet room) of the New Town Hall, and various events in the context of the Year of Democracy.

"WE SUCCEEDED IN GIVING RESI-DENTS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY USING MANY DIFFERENT CAMPAIGNS AND OUTREACH FORMATS."

Silvia Haas, Head of Coordination Office for the Promotion of Civic Involvement

#### **DEMOCRACY EXPLAINED**

How does local democracy actually work? What responsibilities do the City Council and Local Community Council have? And how can citizens get involved? In the context of the Year of Democracy, several one- and two-minute explanatory videos were made, providing an overview of the most

important processes, institutions and roles of local democratic decision-making with descriptive infographics and easy-to-understand text blocks. The videos can be found online. In early 2019 they were also featured on the passenger TV programme of the Leipzig Transport Authority (LVB).











☑ Watch videos at: https://demokratie.leipzig.de

#### **DEMOCRACY ON YOUR DOORSTEP**

What many citizens fail to realise is that democratic participation starts in their own neighbourhood, meaning right on their doorstep. In Leipzig, ten district advisory councils and 14 local community councils advocate for matters of local concern. Their members meet once a month for public council meetings and discuss current issues affecting their district or community. They also follow ideas and suggestions from local citizens.

With the project "Democracy on Your Doorstep", several brochures were published for each city district. These brochures provide information on the members and meeting dates of the respective district advisory councils and local community councils. The brochures were updated after the local elections in 2019 and are available at all local administrative offices, as well as online.









"THIS YEAR, WE STARTED SEVERAL PROJECTS THAT WILL HAVE A LONG-TERM IMPACT. AND, OF COURSE, THE CITY **ADMINISTRATORS AND POLITI-**CAL LEADERS WILL CONTINUE TO APPROACH CITIZENS IN ORDER TO BREAK DOWN **BARRIERS AND OBSTACLES."** 

Ulrich Hörning, Municipal Commissioner (Beigeordnete) and Mayor for General Administration of the City of Leipzig

#### **EQUIPPING LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

Local democracy requires good infrastructure. This is why, in 2018, an agency was commissioned to assess the meeting locations of all district advisory and local community councils, including the entrances, rooms and technical equipment. On the basis of their findings, potential changes and concrete measures for optimisation were recommended.

The Bureau for Municipal Councils is now in the process of implementing these changes in stages. There are also plans to renovate the City Council's assembly room in the New Town Hall with the aim of creating a contemporary setting for a modern democratic debate culture and making it easier for all citizens to experience the Council meetings first-hand.

#### **RELOCATION OF THE CITY OFFICES**

Another stepping stone in the development of citizen participation in Leipzig is the relocation of the City Offices. In April 2019 they were moved from the Market Square into the rooms of the former citizens' registration office in the "Stadthaus". Since then, this location has been the central point of contact for all local residents looking for information on urban planning, local democracy and citizen involvement. The City Offices can also be used by organisations and initiatives.







On 14 March 2019 a closing event was held at the New Town Hall with the lead partners, City Administration and local political leaders. This event offered individuals who had been involved in the Year of Democracy the opportunity to discuss their insights and experiences. The most important points have been summarised here.



#### **REACHING NEW TARGET GROUPS**

Democracy is quite an abstract topic. This is why it is important that the main aspects and processes be made clearly relatable to the real-life experiences of as many citizens as possible. In order to accomplish this, existing networks should be taken into account and further developed with the aim of better establishing public spaces and community-based "everyday places" as sites for mutual exchange.

The Year of Democracy, with its 28 successful projects, offered a great variety of activities and covered numerous issues. In particular, the various outreach formats made it possible to reach a wide range of target groups. A conscious effort was made to ensure that the hurdles to participation in the planning and implementation of the theme year were low – this is why it was possible for private individuals, as well as organisations and companies, to submit funding proposals for their project ideas. The applicants were also not required to show any proof of co-funding sources.



At the closing event, great emphasis was placed on the integration of younger target groups. Many of the projects were aimed at reaching out to pupils and educating them about democratic processes. However, it was often a challenge to squeeze these projects into the pupils' tightly packed school days. A future alternative could be to work with after-school-care programmes, as they generally have more flexible schedules.

#### **CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT REQUIRES SUPPORT**

Many of the project leaders who shared their feedback about the theme year expressed a wish that the City Administration offer even stronger support - for example, in the submission of applications and the implementation and organisational management of the projects.

It was also suggested that the projects be more closely linked to the respective district advisory and local community councils. Through the active inclusion of local councils, it would be possible to establish valuable interfaces between the various stakeholders of the community. Furthermore, the opportunities offered by local representative democracy could be made significantly more visible.



Participant in the project "The Great Gripe World Theatre"



#### **CREATING SPACE FOR NEW THINGS**

The freedom and scope that was offered in the design of individual projects was seen as a major strength of the Year of Democracy. This flexibility made it possible to not only develop but also try out innovative project formats. However, it also required the courage to accept the possibility of failure.

The objectives and requirements were associated with challenging tasks for many stakeholders. In some cases, changes had to be made over the course of the year in order to reach the respective target groups and achieve project aims. This approach of learning by doing required a certain level of professionalisation among everyone involved. Another aspect of the theme year that received positive feedback was the opportunity to network and exchange ideas with "new" partners. These opportunities made it possible to gain new experience and create a basis for future cooperation, particularly as the City Administration will continue to support projects for strengthening local democracy in the future.





#### **PHOTO CREDITS**

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## THIS WAS THE YEAR OF DEMOCRACY 2018. ALL 12 MONTHS AT A GLANCE.





