

# Annual Report **2023**

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-Stiftung. 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.

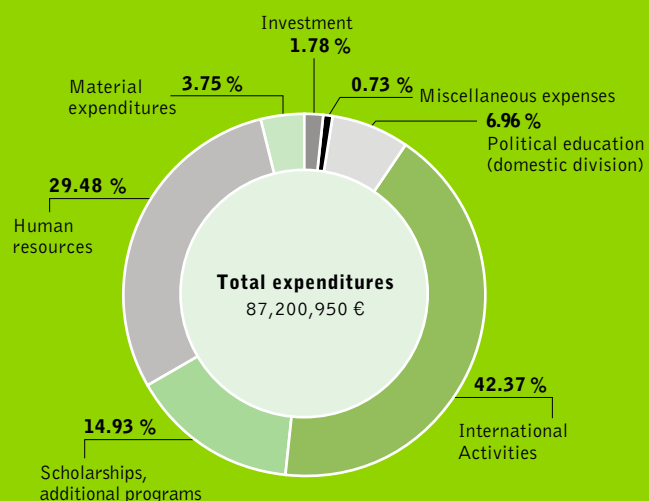
The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung works independently and nurtures a spirit of intellectual openness. We currently maintain a worldwide network with 37 international offices at 34 locations.

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-Stiftung e. V. is mainly funded through public grants. In 2023, the Foundation's income increased by 16% to 97.1 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 Seoul (South Korea)

## Europe

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

## 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

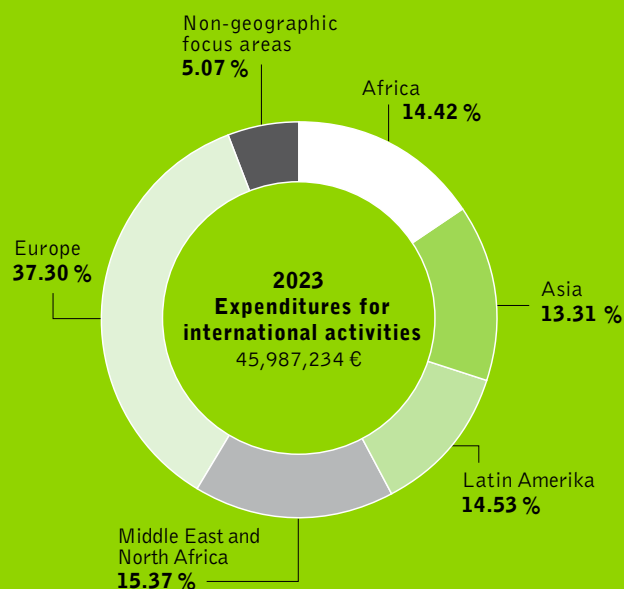
- 36 Washington, DC (United States)

\* 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)

## International cooperation

Project funds for international cooperation amounted to a total of approximately 46 million euros. The share of regular funds from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development increased by around 5 million euros. Funds for special climate initiatives increased by approximately 117,000 euros over the previous year, totaling around 825,000 euros.

The Foundation received approximately 7.64 million euros from the Foreign Office to support socio-political projects. The Foundation used more than 637,000 euros (or around 9 %) of these funds to establish urgently needed infrastructures for exiles in the immediate aftermath of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Special funds for activities in Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan, as well as in Belarus, increased by ca. 122,000 euros to 822,000 euros compared to the previous year.



# Foreword



Imme Scholz und Jan Philipp Albrecht Photo: Sibylle Fendt

“Perpetual crisis” might be the most apt description of the conditions under which we are currently working. The climate crisis, the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, and the rise of authoritarian populist forces around the world present constant challenges. The brutal attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7 and the war in Gaza are having dramatic consequences on the ground as well as globally, including in our offices, for our partners, and on our work as a German political foundation that operates both domestically and internationally. One example of how the wider context impacts our work was the decision not to attend the Hannah Arendt Prize award ceremony, as the awardee, Masha Gessen, had equated Gaza with Jewish ghettos in occupied Europe on *The New Yorker* website on December 9, 2023. Our decision sparked controversy, ranging from accusations of cancel culture towards Jewish intellectuals who criticize Israel, to calls to revoke Masha Gessen’s award. We took these varied reactions as an opportunity to invite Masha Gessen to a public discussion at the Foundation. It was one of many controversial and sometimes emotional conversations we have had on this issue over the past few months, both publicly and internally. How do we honor a variety of perspectives while staying recognizable as a Green political foundation with a clear profile and compass?

As an independent political foundation, we are free from the constraints of bipartisan politics and party loyalty, yet, at the same time, we are an integral part of the Green movement, and we work in partnership with others to advance the Green project. Each day, we feel how the backlash is getting fiercer. Many employees at our International Offices have been working under difficult conditions for a long time. They are subjected to repression and attacks. They have to justify what they do. The situation is exacerbated by an erosion of democratic structures and an ever more polarized public. The colleagues in our German regional offices also have to deal

with an increasingly intimidating environment, and it has become difficult to host certain events unimpeded. The results of the European elections have clearly shown that democracy, and thus also the Green political project, are under pressure. Many do not believe that a socio-ecological transformation will change our world for the better, or that such a change must be achieved by democratic means alone.

In such times, a key factor for our success and reach will be to look to the future rather than act defensively and to communicate success stories great and small. One of many such stories is our new podcast *Pod of Good Hope*, which offers useful ideas on how to address the climate crisis. Internationally, we support the work of human rights defenders, investigative journalists, and climate and environmental organizations in an effort to document injustices and promote change.

Our wide range of programs and activities would not be and never was possible without all those who infuse our daily work with their ideas, political intuition, and passion. We know that for many of our employees, our Foundation is more than just a workplace. They love being part of a project that tackles the big issues of our time with courage and from a variety of perspectives. We are also grateful for the supportive and honest feedback from our Supervisory Board, our General Assembly, our Expert Committees, and many other parts of our organization. They help us set the course in turbulent times.

Finally, we would like to announce that the Executive Board has launched a new format to get our message out - our monthly editorial *böll.kolumne* (written in turns). We look forward to your feedback!

Cordially

Imme Scholz and Jan Philipp Albrecht  
Presidents of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung  
Berlin, June 2024



Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 2023: Laying pipes for a local heating network in Hürup Photo: Stephan Röhl

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## Protect the Climate and Transform our Economy

Climate change is happening faster than previously thought. Its effects, some of them irreversible, are making themselves felt all over the planet. Any further warming exacerbates the risks to humans and nature. The only fail-safe method to slow down global warming and preserve the very foundations of our life on this planet is to rapidly quit fossil fuels and transition to renewable energies. We support building a climate-neutral economy and a society that tackles ecological and social issues integrally.

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### The UN Climate Conference in Dubai

From November 30 to December 13, 2023, the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) took place in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. More than 90,000 people, including heads of state and government, representatives from ministries, NGOs, and indigenous peoples debated measures to address the climate crisis and ways to attain the Paris climate goals, which aim to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era. If we are to achieve this goal, we must significantly intensify our efforts to protect the climate, which is why many countries and the EU called for a complete phase-out of coal, oil, and gas. This demand was rejected – largely by countries that depend on fossil fuels. After a half-day extension of the conference, attendees finally agreed to replace the term “phase-out” with “transition away,” and thus – and this is a first – is the wording in the final document.

The negotiations did achieve one milestone, an agreement to create a *Loss and Damage Fund for the Global South*, financed by UN member states. Germany and the United Arab Emirates each pledged 100 million euros. Colombia, negotiating on behalf of Latin America, played a crucial role in this success.

In the run-up to the climate conference, our Bogotá Office partnered with the organizations *Censat* and *Climate Tracker Latam* to host a series of multi-stakeholder dialogs on climate damage and financing mechanisms. With our support, these dialogs between government officials and legislators on the one hand, and civil society and journalists on the other, inspired a number of podcasts on climate-related damages and losses in different regions of Colombia. A podcast about coastal erosion in Guajira, which drives many families from their homes, was presented at the first public hearing of the *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Climate-induced Migration and Displacement in Latin America* in February 2024 and received a lot of attention. These podcasts provide a starting point for a nationwide appraisal of the damages and losses suffered in Colombia, an issue that will have to be pursued systematically.

### “Debt relief for climate protection and sustainable development” – a project ↗

The year 2023 was very challenging for many emerging and developing countries: They faced an economy grappling to recover from the pandemic, food and energy price shocks resulting from the Ukraine war, rising interest rates and a subsequent boost to the US dollar, which, in turn, made it more expensive to service their national debt and borrow in the financial markets. Many low-income countries struggled to make payments, which made it even harder to invest in climate action and strengthen their resilience. Vulnerability to climate change, in turn, increases capital costs in financial markets and the risk of a default.

↗ Information about the DRGR project  
drgr.org

Our project “Debt Relief for a Green and Inclusive Recovery” (DRGR), analyzed this vicious cycle of climate damage and debt, demonstrating that countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change are punished by the financial markets and suffer from high levels of debt. In several studies, DRGR experts developed a proposal for how to break this cycle: All creditors – private, multi-lateral, as well as bilateral – must agree to relieve the burden on the most heavily indebted countries in order to pave the way towards a program of climate-adapted economic recovery. One of the world’s most pressing challenges is how to finance climate action and environmental protection at affordable prices for low- and middle-income countries. The solution is obvious – a combination of targeted debt relief, higher-quality loans, and a reform of multilateral development banks.

DRGR is a joint project of the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, the *Boston University Global Development Policy Center*, and the *Centre for Sustainable Finance at SOAS University of London*, with co-chairs from Ecuador, Kenya, Botswana, Pakistan, China, the USA, and Germany.

### China’s climate transition: “Outlook 2023” – a report 📄

If global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are to reach their peak in the near future and then decline continuously, China must not only meet its current emission commitments but exceed them. China may be the key factor in the global fight against climate change. For the second consecutive year, we have supported a comprehensive study by Finland-based independent research organization *Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)* on two vital questions: Is China on track to meet its current climate goals? And which developments and sectors require greater attention and adjustment?

Based on benchmarks for various Chinese sectors, and in consultation with Chinese energy experts, this annual report highlights areas where the country has made progress – and others where there is a lack of action. It shows that, while investments in clean energy are on track and emissions in steel and cement production or in the building materials sector are decreasing, there are no set emission targets, and continued investments in coal-fired power plants continue to cloud China’s emission outlook.

### The “Energy Transition Platform South Asia” – a project ↗

Over the past decade, South Asia has made significant progress in expanding renewable energies. However, the region’s primary energy sources remain fossil-based, resulting in high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. South Asia’s energy transition is crucial for achieving the global net-zero target. To promote this, our New Delhi Office has supported the *Energy Transition Platform South Asia* since 2018. This network of civil society organizations and experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh,

📄 Report “Outlook 2023”  
boell.de/de/2023/11/27/chinas-climate-transition-outlook-2023

↗ Database “Energy Transition Platform South Asia”  
energytransitionplatform.org/

Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka collect data on the current state of the energy transition in these countries to identify actions needed to accelerate the transition in a sustainable way. In 2023, the portal was first presented to the public. In addition to country profiles, featuring data on energy production and climate commitments, the portal also contains short articles on topics of energy and climate policy. The intended audience are decision-makers, civil society, journalists, and members of the general public interested in energy and climate issues.

### **Promoting renewable energy in Serbia and Ukraine – two projects**

**Serbia:** Many of our International Offices support local efforts to promote renewable energy. Our Belgrade Office, for example, backed a crowdfunding campaign for the construction of two solar power plants in southern Serbia. So far, the region has predominantly sourced its energy from small hydropower plants, in some places with devastating effects on both biodiversity and the local quality of life. The installation of two 12 kW solar systems on the roofs of the cultural center in Dojkinci and the community house in Temska made both communities independent from hydroelectric plants and enabled them to sell clean electricity. The revenue is then used to revitalize the villages in this underdeveloped part of Serbia. Our first crowdfunding campaign for renewable energy in Serbia demonstrated that renewables don't have to be harmful to the environment, as it is often feared. This is a first small step to get the population on board with the transition to renewables.

**Ukraine:** In the war against Ukraine, Russia deliberately targets the Ukrainian energy system – in June 2023 alone, it occupied, damaged, or destroyed about 50 % of the country's power infrastructure. Ukraine must therefore rapidly expand its alternative energy sources, especially to supply critical infrastructures. Our Kyiv Office supports local civil society organizations that try to persuade Ukrainian communities to transition to renewables. One of our partners is the NGO *Ecoclub*. In 2023, this organization launched a campaign to promote solar power plants, especially for hospitals and water utilities. With support from various partners, they installed twelve community solar power plants. In January 2023, in the city of Zviagel in the Zhytomyr region, a solar power plant in a hospital generated 800 kWh of energy during its first month of operation – enough to operate a respirator non-stop for a month. The hospital can use the savings gained from its solar system to improve its medical services and equipment. Wherever renewable energies help prop up social infrastructure, they will also help displaced women and children to return home.

### **Meeting of local energy communities in Athens – a workshop**

In Europe, interest in local energy communities is growing, not least because of the energy crisis brought on by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Between May 8-10, 2023, Brussels-based NGO *Rescoop* held a *Community Energy Spring Gathering* in Athens. Our offices in Warsaw, Thessaloniki, and Belgrade partnered with the Polish *Cooptech hub* to host a workshop for participants from Greece, Serbia, Poland, and Bulgaria on the legal implications of establishing energy communities in their countries. The results are summarized in the publication *Power to the People. Legal frameworks of community energy in Bulgaria, Greece, Poland and Serbia*.

### **“Energy transition as a societal project” – a conference**

In Germany, the energy transition offers opportunities to reinvigorate our prosperity on a sustainable basis. The conference *Energy Transition as a Societal Project* on September 18, 2023, presented various panels on pathways towards a successful transition. Restructuring our energy supply, with all its economic and social repercussions, will obviously be no easy task. However, it can and will succeed if dedicated people come together in large numbers to identify useful, viable solutions, take active ownership in change, and drive the energy transition in many small ways. Energy transition must become a societal project! Our conference facilitated debate on practical approaches with approximately 230 participants from politics, industry, research, and civil society.

### **“Green Cities 2035” – an event series**

Some German cities have taken the lead by pledging to become climate-neutral by 2035, including Wuppertal, Munich, and Görlitz, as well as many smaller towns and municipalities. To get this going will require the support of their citizens. In our online series *Green Cities 2035: climate-neutral communities with new alliances* local politicians, business people, and citizens discussed how to design ambitious climate policies that will appeal to many local people. One event in September focused on municipal strategies against land consumption. In Germany, every day 55 hectares are newly designated for residential, commercial, or road development. Land consumption exacerbates the climate crisis in multiple ways. The resulting sealing of soils makes it harder to adapt to the consequences of climate change. Other events in this series discussed topics such as: “Traffic transition in urban spaces – how to commute with a small carbon footprint”; “New ways to build – reusing building materials to fight climate change”; and “How can Smart Cities help protect our climate?”





## Cursed Treasures

Global demand for critical and strategic raw materials such as copper, cobalt, lithium, and rare earths is rising. The extraction of these natural resources often entails human rights violations and substantial ecological costs. In many places, civil society organizations are fighting against extraction or for mining that is governed by fair rules. The booklet *Cursed Treasures* highlights the new dynamics in the mining sector, environmental damages, and most importantly, opportunities for change.

The booklet is also available in German, Spanish, and Turkish.

[boell.de/en/boellthema-22023-cursed-treasures](https://boell.de/en/boellthema-22023-cursed-treasures)

## Fighting disinformation about climate change ↗

Science clearly proves that our planet is getting warmer, and yet we continue to see a slew of pseudo-scientific publications that cast doubt on global warming. Disinformation on climate change is being spread systematically, especially on social media. With the support of our EU Office in Brussels, research by *EU Disinfo Lab* found that platforms like TikTok, Meta, or YouTube are, in fact, stepping up their efforts to combat misinformation on climate change, albeit inconsistently and insufficiently. While there is hope that the *Digital Services Act* (DSA) will enhance accountability for climate-related misinformation, online providers would have to hire trained staff capable of recognizing risks related to climate-relevant content.

The *Climate Clarity Hub* at the *EU Disinfo Lab*, which is also supported by our Brussels Office, consolidates knowledge and expertise on misconceptions and climate disinformation. We want to counter climate pessimism, inspire action, and share knowledge, analyses, content, and resources.

The large number of participants in our three-part online seminar *Climate Lies* showed that a growing number of people has become aware of the fact that climate change disinformation presents a problem. The seminar discussed the motives driving disinformation and empowered attendees to take a firm stance against it. The series was organized by Alexandra Geese, member of the European Parliament, and the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*.

## Green Hydrogen: sustainable and fair action – a synthesis report ↗

Hydrogen is the buzz word of the energy transition. It is expected to help make the European industry climate-friendly and to reduce emissions from air and maritime traffic radically. However, it will be difficult to meet the demand for hydrogen with domestic production alone.

Parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America offer optimal conditions for renewable energies and the production of Green hydrogen. For Europe, importing hydrogen from the Global South seems like an attractive option. However, the prospect of international hydrogen trade also harbors risks for developing countries, particularly when it comes to the rights of local populations to land, water, and sound ecosystems. It also entails the uncertainties and financial risks typical for any young industry.

In 2022, we co-created a synthesis report with German NGO *Brot für die Welt*, summarizing the prerequisites and criteria for a fair and sustainable trade in Green hydrogen and its derivatives. For this report, we conducted preliminary consultations in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, South Africa, Morocco, and Tunisia. Multilingual editions of two films that summarize the report's key messages in plain language, have received over 730,000 views.

## Fairer rules for mining in Georgia – a project ↗

Mining inevitably impacts the environment. In Georgia, a country facing serious ecological challenges due to mining, there are few official mechanisms to repair damages to the environment and protect the rights of local populations. In 2022, we supported a study undertaken by the *Social Justice Center*, highlighting legal shortcomings that undermine official oversight of the mining sector and obstruct public participation in decision-making. In 2023, building on this study, the project brought together relevant stakeholders, economists, and other expert groups to analyze and assess existing models of tax and profit-sharing in the mining sector and to find and propose better solutions. The results were published in articles, blogs, videos, and infographics.

↗ "Climate Clarity Hub"  
[disinfo.eu/climate-clarity-hub/](https://disinfo.eu/climate-clarity-hub/)

↗ Dossier "Green Hydrogen"  
[boell.de/en/green-hydrogen](https://boell.de/en/green-hydrogen)

↗ Project "Fair, Accountable and Human Rights-Centered Mining Sector in Georgia"  
[ge.boell.org/en/2023/07/24/fair-accountable-and-human-rights-centered-mining-sector-georgia-social-justice-center](https://ge.boell.org/en/2023/07/24/fair-accountable-and-human-rights-centered-mining-sector-georgia-social-justice-center)



Rio de Janeiro, November 2023: *The Agrarian Reform Kitchen* feeding attendees at the *12th Brazilian Congress on Agroecology*. The kitchen was founded by more than 40 activists from the *Movement of the Landless of Minas Gerais* and by volunteers. Photo: Juliana Chalita/Greenpeace Brazil/CBA

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## Alternative Agriculture and Protecting Biodiversity

The climate crisis is changing agriculture. In some regions, the crop cycles are shifting, extreme weather events are on the rise, and pests are invading new habitats. To secure our food supply, global land use must become more sustainable and adapt to climate change. Alongside the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity is the second major threat to our livelihoods. We are committed to a diverse agriculture that strengthens the human right to food. To achieve this requires, above all, the political will and decisive collective action.

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### Peatland Atlas 2023

Peatlands are impressive ecosystems that are not only home to a wealth of rare animal and plant species but also store huge amounts of carbon. Well over 90 % of Central Europe's peatlands have been drained. Even today, peatlands are being destroyed around the world. The *Peatland Atlas* highlights the consequences of destroying these unique habitats, shows how much they benefit us, and calls on all stakeholders to protect them.

[eu.boell.org/en/PeatlandAtlas](https://eu.boell.org/en/PeatlandAtlas)

### Peatlands to save our climate – an atlas and the Alternative Green Week

Intact peatlands are key to climate protection because they act as carbon sinks and help stabilize the global climate. Peats are hotbeds of biological diversity and protect against floods and droughts. Unfortunately, peatlands around the world are being lost at an alarming rate – due to deforestation, slash-and-burn agriculture, farming, oil extraction, mining, or drainage. Our *Peatland Atlas 2023*, published in cooperation with *BUND*, the *Succow Foundation*, and the *Greifswald Moor Zentrum*, warns of the consequences of destroying these unique habitats and outlines opportunities for rewetting former peatlands. Rewetted surfaces are far from useless to humans. A number of plant species, such as reeds, bog mosses, bulrushes, sedges, or other grasses, thrive in moist environments, and some of their biomass can be harvested and used. However, a sustainable use of wet peatlands (paludiculture) would require more political support. In January, we presented the *Peatland Atlas* during the *Alternative Green Week*. This event also addressed many other topics, such as solutions to the global food crisis, synthetic fertilizers as climate killers, food poverty in Germany, or new genetic engineering methods.

In September, we published the international English-language version of our *Peatland Atlas* and presented in Brussels as well as at the international conference *Power to the Peatlands* in Antwerp.


### Prohibition and reassessment of pesticides in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the largest importers of pesticides in Africa. Surveys have shown that 80 % of the most commonly used pesticides in small-scale farming are


considered highly dangerous. They include substances such as atrazine, chlorpyrifos, and mancozeb – all of which are banned in the European Union. With support from the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, the *Alliance for Action on Pesticide in Nigeria* (AAPN) – a coalition of NGOs, scientists, and experts – has been calling for a ban on these pesticides for several years. In 2023, their efforts bore fruit, when in May of that year, the Nigerian regulatory authority banned the highly toxic pesticide Carbofuran and reclassified 14 other highly dangerous pesticides. Most of them will now be taken off the market. Key factors driving this development were the Nigerian edition of our *Pesticide Atlas* and the booklet *Time for a 'Detox' in Agriculture*, published by our Abuja Office. Both publications highlight the dangers posed by the pesticides in question and propose alternatives to such chemicals in crop cultivation and pest control. Our Abuja Office also initiated additional studies, which the Ministry of Agriculture used as a basis for its ban on chlorpyrifos-based agrochemicals. AAPN also successfully stopped two bills that would have facilitated the import and trade of pesticides, legislation, which may have made Nigeria an international hub for cheap pesticides.

### Reducing environmental toxins in Kenya

For years, our office in Kenya has been working to limit the agricultural use of substances that are hazardous to human health and the environment. In 2023, it published the report *Toxic Business. Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Kenya*, offering an analysis of commonly used pesticides. It found that 78 percent of all agricultural pesticides contain at least one ingredient that is classified as hazardous. In addition, 44 % of all pesticides used in Kenya are banned in the European Union due to

 [Report "Pesticide Atlas"](https://eu.boell.org/en/PesticideAtlas-PDF)  
eu.boell.org/en/PesticideAtlas-PDF

 [Booklet "Time for a 'Detox' in Agriculture"](https://ng.boell.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Time%20for%20a%20Detox%20in%20Agriculture_2021.pdf)  
ng.boell.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Time%20for%20a%20Detox%20in%20Agriculture\_2021.pdf

 [Report "Toxic Business. Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Kenya"](https://ke.boell.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/data-and-facts_highly-hazardous-pesticides-in-kenya-1.pdf)  
ke.boell.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/data-and-facts\_highly-hazardous-pesticides-in-kenya-1.pdf



Rio de Janeiro, November 2023: The *Mayô Pataxó Health Tent* was a space at the 12<sup>th</sup> *Brazilian Congress of Agroecology (CBA)* designed to present, debate and delve into issues relating to the interface between health and agroecology. Photo: Tina Diores/CBA

the hazards they pose to the environment and human health. The report has caused a big stir in Kenya, where public interest in nutrition issues and consumer rights is great. In recent years, both inflation and years of drought have worsened the nutritional situation in the country. As early as 2021, the *Route-to-Food Initiative* by our Nairobi Office had drawn attention to the dangers of highly toxic pesticides. We submitted a list of 30 toxic ingredients to the relevant regulatory authority along with a call to ban them. In 2023, the authority responded by taking seven chemicals off the market by the end of 2024. Five of these substances were on our list. We took an important step towards reducing pesticide-related environmental hazards, and we will continue and expand our campaign @toxicbusiness.

#### **Facts and figures on toxins in Brazilian agriculture – an atlas**

Brazil has the world's fifth largest agricultural area. Most of it belongs to large landowners who farm monocultures of soy, corn, or cotton, or livestock. Since monocultures depend on chemicals, millions of liters

of pesticides and fertilizers are used each year. Many of these substances are classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, and toxic to the human reproductive system. For this, the Brazilian edition of our *Pesticide Atlas* provides facts and figures. Dozens of pesticides have been detected in Brazilian waters, with no penalties for the polluters, since legal limits in Brazil are lax. The intentional pollution of water, soil, plants, and air is increasingly being used as a strategy to displace traditional populations and unlawfully appropriate land. Brazil is the world's deadliest country for those who defend land and environmental rights.

Our Rio Office presented the *Atlas dos Agrotóxicos* in early December 2023, first in Rio, and later elsewhere. Famous chef and influencer Bela Gil was part of the launch, advocating for healthy pesticide-free food. The media response to our Atlas was enormous: it was mentioned over 400 times in the Brazilian press and also covered by international media; our Brazil Office's social media posts received over a million views, and its Instagram account gained over 3,000 new followers immediately after it posted about the Atlas. The first edition of the Atlas was out of stock within a few weeks.



### Atlas dos Agrotóxicos

The *Pesticide Atlas* describes the various hazards of pesticide use for humans and the environment. It sheds light on ruthless profit-seeking by agrochemical companies and proposes alternatives to pesticide use. Its Brazilian edition provides facts and figures specific to Brazil. The Atlas has also been published in German, English and French.

[br.boell.org/pt-br/atlas-dos-agrotoxicos](https://br.boell.org/pt-br/atlas-dos-agrotoxicos)

### Agroecology as an alternative to conventional agriculture – a conference ↗

As an alternative to conventional, pesticide-heavy farming, agroecology has the potential to drive a fair and ecologically sound transformation of agricultural and food systems. This approach relies on locally available resources and largely closed nutrient and energy cycles thus imitating and effectively optimizing natural processes. Agroecology is based on the principles of organic farming, including preservation of soil fertility, the soil-plant-animal-human cycle, and farms that are independent from external inputs. In late November 2023, 20,000 activists and small farmers gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the *12<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Agroecology Congress*, which was supported by our Rio Office. The attendees sought to raise awareness for agroecology as a socially and ecologically fair alternative to conventional agriculture. To go along with the conference, we published an online dossier on agroecology in Latin America; it is available in Portuguese and Spanish.

### Plastic, a growing risk to humans and the environment ↗ 📄

Plastics have become an integral part of our daily lives. While plastic products are convenient, they pose a danger to our health and inundate our planet with waste – an increasing risk for ecosystems and humans. While there is growing awareness of the negative consequences of plastic use, the fossil fuel industry continues to drive a global expansion of petrochemical production

capacities and infrastructures. In September, we launched *Info Hub on Plastic*, a curated media library that offers well-researched reports, podcasts, websites, and other formats that address various aspects of the plastic crisis.

Our *Plastic Atlas*, published in 2019, continues to garner great global interest. It is now available in 24 languages, both as translations and as regional editions. Our book for young readers with the title *Unpacked! Plastic, Waste & Me* is now available in six versions. In 2023, it was translated into Albanian and Spanish.

↗ Dossier "Agroecologia na América Latina"  
[br.boell.org/atlas-da-agroecologia](https://br.boell.org/atlas-da-agroecologia)  
[cl.boell.org/es/agroecologia-en-america-latina-un-futuro-necesario](https://cl.boell.org/es/agroecologia-en-america-latina-un-futuro-necesario)

↗ Media Library "Info Hub on Plastic"  
[infohub-plastic.org/en](https://infohub-plastic.org/en)

📄 Atlas "Plastic Atlas"  
[boell.de/en/plasticatlas](https://boell.de/en/plasticatlas)



Colombia: A mural in memory of Byron Lasso Erazo, who was murdered by state security forces during the social protests in 2021 in Siloé.  
Photo: *The People's Tribunal in Siloé*

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## Enforcing Human Rights

Human rights have never been a matter of course. Every day, somewhere in the world, government critics are arrested, journalists murdered, minorities expelled. In many countries, civic engagement is not welcome and either suppressed or impeded. 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 a liberal constitutional state and freedom.

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### **The search for forcibly disappeared persons in Colombia – project partner**

In Latin America, forced disappearances have a long history. During the military dictatorships and times of internal armed conflict, hundreds of thousands fell victim to this cruel practice. The crimes committed by state security forces remain unpunished to this day, while relatives still search for truth and justice. For many years, our offices in Latin America have been supporting civil society organizations in their search for the missing and their fight for justice and against impunity. In 2023, at the request of our partner organization *Hasta Encontrarlos* and other Latin American organizations, the *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* (IACHR) conducted its first hearing on access to confidential information and/or military archives in Colombia, El Salvador, and Guatemala. On this occasion, and with support from the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, they requested a temporary injunction to open Colombia's military archives on cases of enforced disappearances in the 1980s. At another meeting with *UN Security Council* representatives, we and our partners were able to raise some key points: To make progress, action against enforced disappearances must be gender-specific, military archives must be opened, and institutions such as the *Unit for the Search for the Disappeared* (UBPD) are essential. At the end of the year, with the support of our Bogota Office, *Hasta Encontrarlos* hosted a panel discussing the opening of Colombian military archives from the 1980s in order to uncover the truth about disappearances during that era. High-ranking representatives from the Colombian Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Justice, as well as the *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights* participated in the event. The Ministry of Defense announced it would establish a committee to first secure the contents of the secret military archives, and then make them available for searches.

### **The People's Tribunal of Siloé – a documentation**

In 2021, Colombia saw one of the largest student protests in its history. Over a period of three months, several major cities were paralyzed by nationwide strikes and mostly peaceful street blockades. As one of the epicenters of the protests, Colombia's third largest city Cali saw a police crackdown on the protesters, especially in the neighborhood of Siloé. In response to the numerous human rights violations, the *People's Tribunal in Siloé* (TPS) was founded as an initiative against impunity and for memory, truth, and justice for the crimes committed during the Siloé protests. The TPS team worked with judges to document and analyze

159 cases of human rights violations and state crimes. In 2023, with support from the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, the verdict of the People's Tribunal was published as a book and presented to several members of congress and their legislative offices, who promised to follow up on the cases and conduct a political hearing. Juliette De Rivero, representative of the *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights* in Colombia, also agreed to talk to state institutions, such as the Attorney General's Office, and ask for an individual review of the cases and thorough investigations.

### **FátimaGPT – a bot for detecting disinformation – a project**

On January 8, 2023, disgruntled supporters of defeated President Jair Bolsonaro stormed government buildings in the capital Brasília. It took the police several hours to bring the situation back under control. Overall, 2,170 people were arrested in the wake of the coup attempt, which had been fueled by misinformation on social networks. To make these arrests, the Supreme Court relied on evidence from the database of *Lupa nos Golpistas*, an NGO which collects misinformation that is spread on social networks in photos, videos, and writing. Ever-improving technology is making it increasingly difficult to distinguish fake news from authentic images, audio, or even video recordings, especially highly realistic AI-generated media content called "deep fakes." The dangers of systematic manipulation as a means to undermine democracy cannot be underestimated. Yet, on the other hand, AI can also be used to track down fake content. In collaboration with the news agency *Aos Fatos*, our Rio Office has developed the bot *FátimaGPT*, which checks contents for misinformation. *FátimaGPT* already has over 70,000 users and has received more than two million requests.

### **"Authoritarian elections" in Southeast Asia – dossier, podcast and policy paper ↗**

The year 2023 saw super elections in Southeast Asia, with scheduled polls taking place in Thailand, Cambodia, and even in Myanmar. Democracy indices listed all three of these countries as showing varying degrees of authoritarian tendencies in early 2023. Thailand has been ruled by a de facto military government following a coup in 2014 and elections in 2019; Cambodia has been governed by the same prime minister for over 30 years and is now a one-party state; in Myanmar, a military junta has been suppressing civilian resistance with brute force since the coup in 2021. When elections are held under such conditions, the intention is to legitimize authoritarian rule. We addressed this specific

way of maintaining power in a comprehensive online dossier with a particular focus on Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar. We also published a policy paper, titled *Authoritarian Elections in Contemporary Southeast Asia*, in which we advise German and European decision-makers on how to support democracy and fair elections in such countries. Subsequently, this paper was made into a podcast.

### "Profiles of Courage": 30 years of project work in Cambodia – a booklet

In 2023, Cambodia celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its constitution and its first free democratic parliamentary elections. The *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung* has been working in the country for 30 years, engaging in a number of project partnerships over the years. On the occasion of this anniversary, our Phnom Penh Office has published a booklet featuring 30 stories about our partners, such as the organization *First Step Cambodia*, the only NGO in the country addressing the sexual abuse of boys, a topic widely considered taboo. *First Step Cambodia* supports boys and adolescent males who have been victims of sexual violence. It raises awareness of the issue and helps victims process trauma and overcome patriarchal patterns of thought and behavior. Another example is the organization *Kdei Karuna*. To this day, Cambodia's dark history is a politically sensitive topic the country has not come to terms with. A quarter of Cambodia's population was killed under the *Khmer Rouge* between 1975 to 1979. Women were also involved in crimes for various reasons. *Kdei Karuna* initiated a project with women who worked for the *Khmer Rouge*, many of whom exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder following forced marriages or having lost relatives under the *Khmer Rouge*. These women's personal stories show that it is a mistake to categorize people as either victims or perpetrators. *Kdei Karuna* leverages oral history and inter-generational dialog, aiming to make tackling Cambodia's violent past a prerequisite for a peaceful future.

The publication of *Profiles of Courage* was a tribute to our partners, their courage, and their achievements. We showcased its powerful images in an exhibition in an effort to inspire and motivate our visitors to help build a sustainable future.

### The role of women in the reconstruction of Ukraine – a conference

The war in Ukraine has changed gender relations and disrupted deeply entrenched social roles, at least for the time being. Since many men are fighting at the front or have been wounded or fallen, women can and must prove their leadership qualities. Women will also play a crucial role in the post-war reconstruction of the country. The future of Ukrainian democracy will largely depend on them. In early December 2023, our Kyiv Office held an international conference in Lviv addressing a whole range of women's issues: their role in political leadership; challenges they face in the Ukrainian armed forces; their economic empowerment; strategies for preventing and combating gender-based violence; how to support survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by the Russian military; and the role of women in reconstruction and peacebuilding. At the conference we presented research and had experts report on success stories and innovative approaches from Ukraine and other countries. Interactive workshops provided opportunities for networking. For many of the more than 150 participants, including government officials, activists, as well as representatives of the Ukrainian police, industry, NGOs and international organizations, the conference was a unique opportunity to share ideas not only with peers in Ukraine but also with stakeholders from the EU, thus strengthening cooperation and the transfer of knowledge.

### A decisive victory for Muslim women's rights in South Africa – project partner

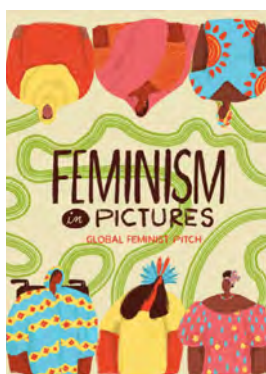
The end of Apartheid in South Africa did not mean the end of all forms of discrimination. Muslim women who married within the confines of their faith did not enjoy the same legal rights as women whose marriages fell under existing marriage laws. The fight for these rights has been long and arduous for Muslim women and our partner organization, the *Women's Legal Centre*. A vital breakthrough occurred after nearly 20 years of continuous lobbying – and after having taken the case all the way to the Constitutional Court. In 2022, South Africa's highest court determined that the non-recognition of Muslim marriage discriminates against Muslim women and their children, leaving them in a precarious social position and causing economic disadvantages. The court instructed the government to remedy these



legal shortcomings. In November 2023, divorce law was updated to officially recognize Muslim marriages for the first time – nearly three decades after the end of Apartheid. Muslim women and their children now enjoy the same legal protections as wives and children in other marriages. The next step is to formulate a new, uniform law for all types of marriages in order to guarantee that people of all sexual orientations and religious and cultural persuasions enjoy the same constitutional rights.

#### **Asylum, refugees, and trauma – a conference**

Since 2011, the Istanbul Convention has been internationally recognized as a comprehensive, legally binding human rights instrument meant to prevent and combat gender-based and domestic violence. It obligates its signatory states to take action and to interpret and recognize the grounds for asylum as spelled out in the 1951 *Refugee Convention* in a gender-sensitive manner. The one-day expert conference on *Asylum, Refugees, and Trauma* held in June 2023 by the *Gunda-Werner Institut*, focused on the particular vulnerability of queer refugees. It discussed how asylum procedures systematically lead to re-traumatization and how the *Istanbul Convention* may help to solve this problem.



#### **Global Feminist Pitch: feminism in pictures**

The 2023 *Global Feminist Pitch* addressed both historic and current feminist resistance movements via the medium of the graphic novel. Seven feminist illustrators from Brazil, Iran, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Georgia, and Turkey showcased the strength and resilience of feminist activists in different global contexts.

[boell.de/en/2023/11/06/feminism-pictures-global-feminist-pitch](https://boell.de/en/2023/11/06/feminism-pictures-global-feminist-pitch)

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Brussels, Belgium: The Future is Europe – street art, Rue de la Loi Photo: Jeremy Segrott/Flickr/CC BY 2.0

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## For a United Europe in Challenging Times

The European Union rests on a foundation of freedom, rule of law, democracy, and security. It must be protected from those who would destroy democracy from within, as well as against attacks from outside. The EU's existing toolkit is no longer sufficient to guarantee prosperity and security for all Europeans. Trust in the EU is waning. The EU needs to be reformed if it is to meet the challenges of the future. In order to highlight ways in which the European project can evolve and remain viable for the future, we commission studies and make policy recommendations.

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### Europe as a Matter of Course!? 2023 – a study

In its coalition agreement, the German federal government pledged to pursue a “proactive European policy” and to “make constructive contributions” to the European Union. However, during its first year, EU policy was in crisis mode as it responded to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The fifth edition of our long-term study *Europe as a Matter of Course!?* examines how the German population assesses Germany’s role in the EU and what they expect. As the study showed, German citizens feel that the Federal Government has not lived up to its promises regarding European policy. A clear majority of 66.6 % would like to see Germany assume a more active role in the EU in the future. The survey also examined which areas of progress citizens identify for European policy. The majority of respondents favor an EU fund for a climate-neutral transformation of our industry. As their current main priorities, respondents mentioned European defense capabilities and energy independence. They also see a need for institutional reform prior to any further EU enlargement: 57.9 % of respondents believe that a single country’s power to veto EU decisions should be abolished prior to any further EU expansion. In February 2023, pollsters of the *Civey* organization conducted an online poll on behalf of the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, surveying a representative sample of 5,000 residents of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### Security in a gray zone – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Foreign Policy Conference

Our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Foreign Policy Conference, which took place from February 6-10, 2023, was marked by Russia’s attack on Ukraine and its far-reaching consequences for the global security architecture. Moscow’s ongoing aggression has left the entire Eastern European region from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea in a precarious security situation. On three consecutive afternoons, we focused on the Eastern European, transatlantic, and global perspective on Russia’s war of aggression. Among other things, we debated possible security guarantees for Ukraine and other post-Soviet states by NATO, EU, OSCE, and the UN. In his keynote address, former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen emphasized the importance of security guarantees for Ukraine. Rasmussen argued that the most efficient way to maintain peace and security on the European continent is to support Ukraine in building a robust defense industry that will allow the country to defend itself on its own strength. Without long-term security guarantees for Ukraine, it will also be difficult to attract private investors for the country’s reconstruction. The closing session placed a special focus on Green foreign and security policy. Regarding Germany’s responsibility

for the countries of the Eastern Partnership, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stated: “Our partners’ trust in our country is a currency of German foreign policy, and in my opinion, perhaps the most important.”

### Feminist foreign policy – events and podcast

In March 2023, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock presented the outlines of a feminist foreign policy. Security, human rights, and equal participation of women and other vulnerable groups should have greater weight in future foreign policy, which will require a change in both domestic and foreign policy. We have addressed the topic of “feminist foreign policy” in various formats. In April 2023, our Paris Office hosted the international conference *Feminist Foreign Policy: From Ambition to Action* in partnership with *Women in International Security (WIIS)* France. Diplomats, scientists, and activists from Germany, France, and other countries came together to explore how to reconcile our dramatically altered security situation with feminist foreign policy. After a presentation of Germany’s key principles by Luise Amtsberg, Commissioner of the German Federal Government for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, experts commented on different perspectives and aspects. The conference addressed the opportunities of feminist foreign policy without downplaying its challenges in the current global situation.

At our event *Feminist Foreign Policy in the Challenging Case of Ukraine* in July 2023, we discussed emerging new core elements of feminist foreign policy in the context of the war of aggression against Ukraine and possible feminist approaches for dealing with its aftermath and Ukraine’s reconstruction.

### China strategies within the EU – a study

In recent years, relations with China have become an increasingly prominent issue. What is the EU’s policy in regard to China? What are the biggest challenges for the EU and its member states? What does China’s global engagement mean regionally and internationally? To address these questions, our EU Office in Brussels published a study on European policy and strategy towards China. It presents the China strategies pursued by different EU member states, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland, highlighting differences between the various approaches. The China strategy papers of EU member states reflect a broader development: In the past five years, in particular, Europe has adopted a tougher stance towards Beijing’s drive to expand its power and made it a priority to reduce its dependencies on China. The study highlights the need to implement solid internal coordination mechanisms within the EU regarding China.

📄 Dossier "Annual Foreign Policy Conference"

[boell.de/en/23rd-annual-foreign-policy-conference](https://boell.de/en/23rd-annual-foreign-policy-conference)

📄 Dossier "Feminist Foreign Policy"

[boell.de/en/feminist-foreign-policy](https://boell.de/en/feminist-foreign-policy)

📄 Study and dossier "Towards a Common European China strategy?"

[eu.boell.org/en/EU-China-common-strategy](https://eu.boell.org/en/EU-China-common-strategy)



*Healed Lands* – reports from Ukraine: *Liubov Is Dancing Again* is a feature by Liubov Prochukhan on a village in the Chernihiv region and its reconstruction after Russian bombings. Photo: Roman Zakrevskiy

### **Healed Lands – reports from Ukraine**

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine began over a decade ago with the annexation of the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, and of Crimea. Then, in 2022, the regions of Sumy, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Zaporizhzhia were occupied. In February 2023, Ukrainian armed forces liberated 40% of the territories, but almost 2,000 settlements remain under occupation. The Russian retreat uncovered numerous war crimes, which are currently under investigation. With support from our Kyiv Office, the media project *The Ukrainians* produced the film *Healed Lands: Stories of the Liberated Territories*. In eight reports, it tells the stories of occupation survivors from the regions of Kyiv, Sumy, and Chernihiv who are now helping to rebuild their communities. Their examples are encouraging proof that healing and reconstruction are possible.

### **Independence Days – European Youth Congress** ↗

Many young Europeans' desire for greater independence is hindered by housing issues, low incomes, or job insecurity. Approximately 100 young people from 31 European countries came to Thessaloniki from October 19-22, 2023 for the 8th *European Youth Congress* – the topic, *Living Independently*. The workshops addressed the above-mentioned obstacles and the important

question of how young people may gain better political representation. The public part of the conference also focused on these topics, featuring contributions from politicians, academics, and representatives of civil society. A varied ancillary program offered tours, exhibitions, concerts, and parties, giving participants the chance to explore the city, its history, and its people. Our project partners presented the work of our offices. Attendees experienced four intense days and took home many new impressions and contacts, which we hope will help them remain politically active in the future. The conference was organized by our Thessaloniki Office in partnership with the *Green European Foundation* (GEF) and the *Young European Greens* (FYEG).

### **A German-Polish perspective on Eastern Europe – a round table and essays** ↗

In parliamentary elections held on October 15, 2023, Poland voted for Europe and democracy. With an unprecedented turnout of 74 % – in some large cities such as Warsaw, it even reached 85 % – Polish citizens sent a clear signal against the illiberal tendencies in their own country and therefore also in Europe. With this change of government, Poland has now returned to the EU negotiating table. German-Polish cooperation also continues under new auspices. Our Warsaw Office

is involved in the German-Polish Round Table, a forum where German and Polish experts discuss Eastern European policy. These meetings are vital for understanding the other country's viewpoints, overcoming differences, and promoting mutual understanding. This exchange is more relevant than ever against the backdrop of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, the increasing importance of German-Polish cooperation for the stability and security of Eastern Europe, and the change of government in Poland. The 5<sup>th</sup> Round Table covered a wide range of topics, from the future of both countries' eastern foreign policy, to the impact of the war in Ukraine on the EU, and Russian disinformation campaigns in the region. Our Warsaw Office published the results of these talks in a podcast series and an essay collection titled *A new opening? German-Polish Cooperation and the War in Ukraine*.

### **Strengthening relations between the EU and Armenia – a project**

Amidst severe global political upheaval and increasing rivalry among the great powers, Armenia is realigning its foreign policy. As the country is opening to the world and turning its back on Russia, its relations with the EU are growing rapidly. After Russia had blocked an Armenian-European association agreement, similarly to what had happened earlier with Ukraine, the Armenian government signed a less comprehensive, yet vital agreement to deepen cooperation with the EU in 2017. In 2021, the EU began to engage in the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks and sent a peace mission to Armenia in 2022. A research project, completed by the Armenian think tank APRI in 2023 in cooperation with the Armenian branch of our South Caucasus Office in Tbilisi (Georgia), explored individual aspects of and ways to strengthen the multifaceted relationship

between the EU and Armenia. Among other things, the project involved civil society actors, members of the European Parliament, and high-ranking diplomatic representatives of the EU and Armenia. The project concluded with a publication containing policy recommendations – for instance, that the EU make its support contingent on reform. The recommendations were discussed with around 200 attendees at public events in the Armenian capital Yerevan and at a non-public round table in Tbilisi.

### **Decolonize yourselves! – 11<sup>th</sup> European History Forum**

The interpretation of history is a powerful tool. It serves political ends and can even justify wars of aggression, as Russia is currently demonstrating. Putin's neo-imperial vision to re-establish Russia as a "Eurasian great power" shows that imperialism and colonialism are not just phenomena from past centuries. In May 2023, our 11<sup>th</sup> *European History Forum* addressed the highly topical decolonization debate in relation to the Soviet Union, Russia, and the Western Balkans. The participating historians, museum staffers, researchers, and journalists explored whether and how the international debate on decolonization relates to the historiography of Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Based on numerous examples, especially from successor states of the Russian-dominated Soviet Union, the researchers demonstrated that the former Eastern Bloc, but also parts of Western research, are still very much beholden to Moscow-centric perspectives. Our view of the Caucasus and Central Asia, for instance, is still shaped by the imperial narrative that Russia civilized these regions and opened them up for European enlightenment and modernity. At the same time, Putin is trying to establish the myth that the war against Ukraine is an anti-colonial battle to defend against Western influence.

## **GreenCampus – Practicing successful politics**

GreenCampus – the political training academy of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung 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.

[greencampus.de](http://greencampus.de)



Munich, July 1, 2023: Anti-populist protest "Dump Trump! For community and future instead of regression and a shift to the right." The protest was organized by an alliance of political parties, labor unions, and civil society groups. Photo: IMAGO/Wolfgang Maria Weber

## Protect and Defend Democracy

Liberal democracies outcompete authoritarian systems on several fronts: They are open and capable of compromise; they allow for a variety of perspectives; and they are able to correct course when necessary. Democracy gives us the opportunity to meet the great challenges of our time, namely, the climate crisis, geopolitical developments, and new technologies. Democracy ensures freedom, prosperity, stability, and security – however it is not a forgone conclusion. Democracy must be fought for, filled with meaning, and it needs constant renewal. We strive to maintain and develop democracy in our society and within our political parties and institutions. This also includes policies for greater gender equality.

### Shaping the Future of Democracy – Future Week

Faced with many simultaneous crises, people find it difficult to believe in the future and in social cohesion. However, a vibrant, free, and democratic society can only thrive if there is mutual trust among citizens, trust in politicians and institutions, and trust in our ability to master the challenges of the present with democratic means. Our *Future Week*, first held in November 2023, is a new format that showcases the potential for creativity, innovation, and proactiveness that comes with change and upheaval. In addition to online events on global democracy, we hosted the conference *Future of Democracy* at the Berlin *EUREF Campus*, with about 280 participants. The *Future Week* creates spaces for debate, arguments, learning, brainstorming, networking, and alliance building.

### Diversity seeks representation – a study

Representation is the bedrock of social and political participation in modern democracies. Groups that enjoy strong representation in a nation's parliaments also have a powerful impact on political decisions. Ultimately, representation underpins the legitimacy of political decision-making. In our study *Vielfalt sucht Repräsentation* ("Diversity seeks Representation" - available only in German), we partnered with the *University of Duisburg-Essen* and the *FernUniversität Hagen* to examine the state of political representation, using the example of local politics in German metropolitan areas. Our key finding was that while elected local officials have become more diverse, disparities in representation remain. This affects various social groups in different ways. Women, who make up 51 % of the population,

only account for 39 % of officials in Germany's large cities. The gap is even wider for people of non-German heritage: Although they make up nearly 30 % of the population, only 13 % of elected officials in the municipalities we studied have such backgrounds. In terms of education, over two-thirds of officials in Germany's major cities have a university degree (69 %), while the same is true for just under a quarter of the population as a whole. In October 2023, we held a conference where we presented the results of this study.

### Never Again is Now – Jewish life and antisemitism in Germany – a dossier

On the very first day of Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel, there were antisemitic incidents in Germany. Since October 7 the number of attacks has risen dramatically and is still at a high level. Many Jewish residents no longer feel safe in Germany. For our dossier *Nie wieder ist jetzt* ("Never Again is Now" - available in German only) we asked Jewish people about how they are coping with this new threat level. Yotam, a 23-year-old nurse, says he still feels safe despite the current wave of antisemitic incidents, but he has become more guarded about speaking Hebrew in public. He emphasizes the importance of interreligious dialogue and of differentiating between legitimate criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism. In addition to the interviews, our dossier presents analyses and commentary, including "Three Forms of Antisemitism," a plea for accuracy by Aleida Assmann. We also explore the topic of Jewish life in the GDR, including a dedicated podcast episode, and we showcase projects against hatred between Jews and Palestinians.

## Democracy Needs Feminism!

With its gender-political and feminist programs, the Gunda-Werner-Institut (GWI) at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung 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](http://gwi-boell.de)

## Arts and Culture

Art has the power to 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.

"Where freedom is threatened, language is  
threatened and vice versa" – Heinrich Böll  
(from a conversation with Horst Bienek, 1961)




Performance 23.02. – 20.23 Reports from survivors of Russian terror from 2022, 2014, and 1944  
Photo: Stephan Röhl

### "23.02. – 20.23" – a performance

On February 23, 2022 at 20:23h, heavy machinery blocked the runways of Ukrainian airports to prevent Russian aircraft from landing. The next day, Russia began a full-scale attack on Ukraine, starting an illegal war with no end in sight. In the first months following the invasion, Ukrainian writer Halyna Kruk stated in a speech: "The war makes everything so unambiguous that there is practically no room for poetry, only for testimonies." On February 23, 2023, Ukrainian artists presented witness statements as a manifesto of survivors to commemorate the Russian terror of the years 2022, 2014, and 1944. The reports bear witness to the vestiges left behind by these crimes, scorched earth and people traumatized by sights unimaginable in a peaceful city. The event was held in collaboration between *Vitsche e.V.*, the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, the *Pilecki Institut Berlin*, and the *Zentrum Liberale Moderne*.

### Heinrich Böll – publications

The year 1968 was intense – and that was also true for Heinrich Böll. As an activist protesting Germany's "emergency laws," or as an accidental witness to suppression during the Prague Spring, Böll always knew how to put events into an illuminating context and to explain his advocacy for human rights. The German-language publication *Heinrich Bölls '68* offers insights into the writer's mind in six short reads: Heinrich Böll as an epistolist, poet, witness of his times, church critic, feminist, and intellectual. This publication is part of our series on Heinrich Böll's life and work, which we kicked off two years ago with a volume on the collaboration between Böll and Beuys and continued in 2022 with a commemoration of Böll's 1972 Nobel Prize in Literature. In addition, we dedicated our November 2023 issue of *Böll.Facts* to Böll's life and his causes. The issue is also available in English.

 [Böll.Facts "Reality is always a bit further afield than the latest news"](https://eu.boell.org/en/2024/04/23/reality-always-bit-further-afield-then-latest-news)

[eu.boell.org/en/2024/04/23/reality-always-bit-further-afield-then-latest-news](https://eu.boell.org/en/2024/04/23/reality-always-bit-further-afield-then-latest-news)



## 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 the association "Heinrich-Böll-Haus Langenbroich e.V." was founded in 1989, 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, became a peaceful haven for politically persecuted authors from all over the world to work and share their experiences. In 2022, the city of Düren acquired the house and assumed operations from the Heinrich-Böll-Haus e.V., which we continue to support financially.



Serhii Vilka in Kyiv, September 2021 Photo:imago/Anna Voitenko

### Our guests in 2023

**Azadeh Karami**, born in Iran, writes short stories and poems. At the *Heinrich Böll House*, she worked on her first novel. Given the difficult social situation in Iran, Azadeh advocates for women's rights in her country from exile.

Iran-born **Esmail Pirhadi**, studied traditional Iranian music, yet after performing political protest songs, he was banned from performing. For many years, Pirhadi leveraged his career as an artist and music teacher for his social activism, which earned him international recognition.

**José Luis Rocha Gómez**, born in Nicaragua, was a sociologist at the *University in Nicaragua* (UCA) whose study on the politicization of Nicaraguan youth became a widely debated reference work. José Luis Rocha passed away at the end of December 2023 in exile in a hospital in Guatemala City.

**Mohamad Abi Samra**, born in Lebanon, works as a cultural journalist and has published several novels. His 2019 novel *Women Without Trace* was nominated for the Arabic Booker Prize.

**Omar Gabryel Sfeir**, born in France and raised in Lebanon, works as a photographer and has released two short films. His art focuses on the representation of human intimacy and the complexity of human relationships.

Ukrainian-born **Serhii Vilka**, is a flutist and composer who performed at over a hundred premieres and various international festivals. His music is performed internationally.

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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, such as political education or tutoring to build key skills. Our goal is to discover talent, to promote our fellows' personal, political, and professional development, and to discover future multipliers who share our convictions and are willing to help us work towards our goals – democracy, solidarity, ecological action, sustainable politics, and human rights.



Berlin, October 5, 2023: new fellows in the scholarship program Photo: Stephan Röhl

### Who receives support?

In two selection rounds, held on September 1, 2022, and March 1, 2023, we selected 312 new fellows in a three-tier process from a total of 1,653 applications. We funded research residences in Germany for a total of 1,650 fellows, including 1,428 undergraduates, 214 doctoral students and eight international post-docs. Our focus is on a number of target groups: 63 % of our fellows are women, 13 % study at technical, art, or music colleges. 26 % (52 % of whom are women) major in STEM subjects. Among the postgraduate fellows, the proportion of PhDs in STEM fields is relatively high at 19 % (of which 58 % are women). Of the 89 beneficiaries who have come to Germany as refugees, 71 are from Syria, four from Afghanistan, three from Iran, and eleven from other countries such as Palestine, Nepal, Turkey, or Eritrea.

A total of 1,537 fellows, 198 of them doctoral candidates, were sponsored with funds from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Of the fellows who were funded by the BMBF, 26 % are of non-German heritage and 33 % are first-generation academics. With support from the Foreign Office, 113 international fellows from 34 countries (outside the EU) were sponsored in Germany.

39 % of them are first-generation academics. The largest groups of international fellows by nationality are Russia (18), Ukraine (10), Brazil (9), Egypt and Iran (8 each), Syria (7), and Colombia (6).

### Non-material support: advice – training – networking

Our event program is at the core of the non-material support we provide. The aim is to spur debate on current political topics, teach crucial skills, encourage interdisciplinary dialog, help prepare participants for their future careers, and foster our fellows' social and political activism.

A key skill we seek to instill in our fellows is their ability to take creative ownership, which is why in 2023, the fellows organized a total of 391 meetings and events themselves. A particularly popular format is thematic work groups, in which fellows choose an overarching topic, submit a project proposal, and design a program for the entire year. For instance, the work group "Foreign and Security Policy" addressed feminist foreign policy; the work group "Education in Transition" dealt with climate change; the work group "China" discussed the relationship between China and Taiwan as well as LGBTQI rights; and the work

group "Gender\* and Feminism" focused on queer and women's rights movements in various countries.

In addition, from the start of their fellowship, we connect our fellows with the various program units of the Foundation in order to provide them with additional opportunities to learn and network, and we also invite them to attend conferences at our Berlin headquarters and in the various German federal states. In 2023, in addition to 39 educational events held by the Studienwerk, our state foundations, departments and program units hosted ca. 50 events that were attended by Studienwerk fellows.

### Program Highlights

**SommerCampus:** One particularly popular program item is our annual SommerCampus in Bad Bevensen. In August 2023 it focused on "Sustainable Economic Design", with 130 fellows in attendance. In addition, there were seminars on topics like the energy transition, fundamental economics, or the circular economy.

**Academy Series "Democracy is ours to make!":** Launched in 2019 as a joint initiative of the 13 German *Begabtenförderungswerke* (organizations for the promotion of highly gifted students) and the *Foundation for the Promotion of Vocational Education* (SBB), the summer academy *Democracy is Ours to Make!* is also a project of the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung's* Studienwerk. It encourages fellows to engage with other worldviews, political opinions, and perspectives. In 2023, the summer academy on the "The Value of Democracy," spearheaded by the *Evangelische Studienwerk Villigst*, was held from August 27 to September 3 in the town of Schwerte.

## Our Alumni



(f. l. t. r.) Dr. Libertad Chavez-Rodriguez, Prof. Dr. Saul Namango and Dr. Mehtap Söyler Photo: Stéphane Chouan

**Dr. Libertad Chavez-Rodriguez** (fellow from 2008 to 2011) is a social scientist and associate professor at the Research Center for Social Anthropology CIE-SAS in Monterrey, Mexico. Her work examines socio-ecological issues from a perspective of gender studies as well as political ecology.

**Prof. Dr. Saul Namango** (fellow from 2003 to 2006) is a Professor of Chemical Engineering and outgoing director of the Eldoret West Campus of *Moi University* in Kenya. His research focuses on water quality, wastewater management, bioenergy, and technical materials for affordable housing.

**Dr. Mehtap Söyler** (fellow from 2007 to 2011) is an Associate Professor of political science at *Izmir Katip Celebi University* and an associate member at the *Leibniz Institute for Global and Regional Studies*. Mehtap's research focuses on the methodologies of social science, political regimes, civil-military relations, and conflicts.

## Prize Winners

The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung awards various prizes and co-sponsors a number of honors. Our signature awards are the Anne Klein Women's Award, the Peace Film Prize and the Hannah Arendt Award.



Joumana Seif  
Photo: Stephan Röhl



Steffi Niedertzoll (film director)  
Photo: Andreas Labes



Masha Gessen  
Photo: Lena Di/Suhrkamp Verlag

### Anne Klein Women's Award 2023 goes to Joumana Seif ↗

The Damascus-born lawyer has championed human rights by supporting democratic movements in Syria since 2001. She left her hometown in 2012, a year after the start of the uprising against the Assad regime. Among other things, Seif is a co-founder of the *Syrian Women's Network* (2013), which advocates for gender justice and the inclusion of women in political decision-making. Since March 2022, she has been a legal advisor at the *European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights* (ECCHR), focusing on Syria and sexual and gender-based violence. "Thanks to dedicated legal professionals like you, sexualized violence is being recognized as a systematically deployed weapon of war and can be legally prosecuted and adjudicated as a crime against humanity in international proceedings," the jury opined in its citation of the award. Endowed with 10,000 euros, the Anne Klein Women's Award was presented at a ceremony on March 3, 2023 in Berlin, with Lotte Leicht, EU Director of Human Rights Watch, giving the main address and honoring the awardee.

### 38<sup>th</sup> Peace Film Award goes to "Seven Winters in Tehran" ↗

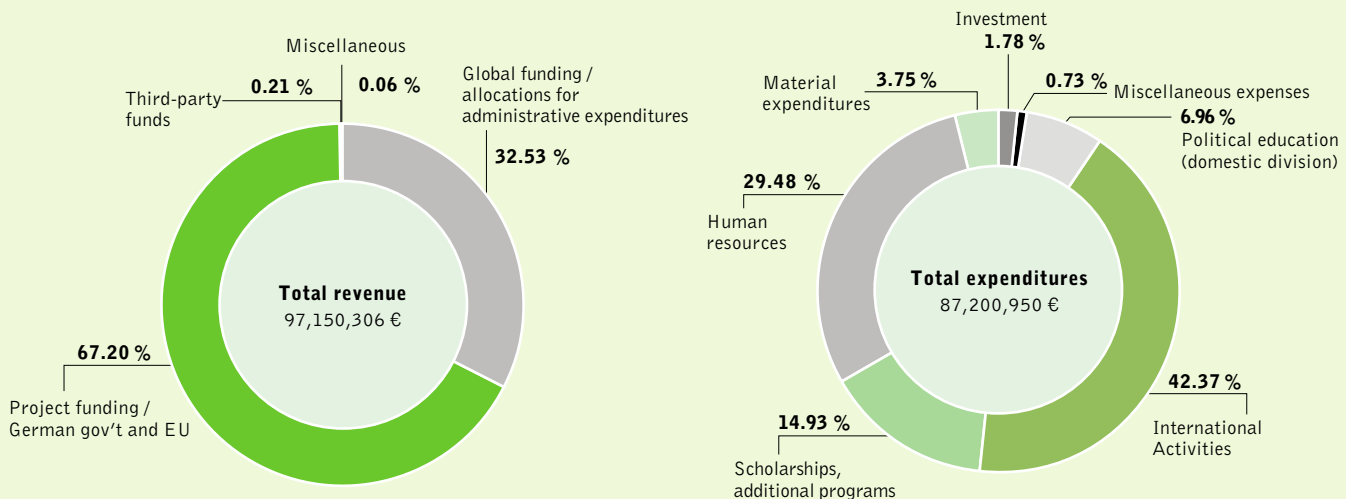
Iranian student Reyhaneh Jabbari was sentenced to death and executed for killing her would-be rapist in self-defense. The film shows her courage and determination not to retract her statement even under the looming threat of a death penalty. Steffi Niedertzoll's documentary is a memorial to Reyhaneh. *Seven Winters in Tehran* gives Reyhaneh's voice an enduring platform by featuring her personal letters and diaries that guide the viewer through the film. Skillfully editing authentic material and connecting it with current protest movements in and outside of Iran, the film creates a sense of proximity to its protagonist. The Peace Film Award is presented by the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, the *Weltfriedensdienst e.V.* and the *Zehlendorf Peace Initiative*. It is an integral part of the *Berlin International Film Festival*. It is the world's only independent award of its kind that is conferred at an A-list film festival. Endowed with 5,000 euros, the award is presented in the form of a bronze sculpture designed by Otmar Alt.

### 2023 Hannah Arendt Prize for Political Thinking goes to Masha Gessen ↗

For years, Masha Gessen has been covering political currents and conflicts in American and Russian society. As an analyst of decline and hope, Gessen reports on power games and totalitarian trends as well as civil disobedience and love of freedom. In an era of autocratic erosion in the USA, hawkish totalitarianism in Russia, and serious conflicts between the great powers, understanding the geopolitical situation becomes a civic duty. Endowed with 10,000 euros, the Hannah Arendt Prize is awarded jointly by the *Hannah-Arendt-Preis für politisches Denken e.V.* and the *Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen*, the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*, and the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Bremen*. The award ceremony took place on December 15, 2023 in Bremen, yet without any *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung* representatives in attendance. The Foundation withdrew from the ceremony in response to an essay, published on website of *The New Yorker* a few days prior, in which Gessen likened the Gaza Strip to the Jewish ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe.

# Our Financial Framework

The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung 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 2023

The Foundation's revenues totaled approximately 97 million euros in 2023. Compared to the previous year, this represents an increase of around 16%, which is mainly due to higher income from general funds and project funds for international cooperation.

## Expenditures in 2023

In 2023, about 64% of the Foundation's expenditures (approx. 56 million euros) were dedicated to program work and in support of undergraduate and postgraduate studies. This share increases to approximately 86% when we include personnel costs for Foundation staff who work directly on our programs. Administrative expenses increased slightly, as did expenditures for investments.

## Preliminary cash-basis accounting 2023\*

Reporting year: January 1 to December 31, 2023 (as of August 26, 2024)

|  | 2023                | 2022              |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | figures preliminary |                   |
| <b>Revenue towards global budget**</b>                               | <b>30,089,362</b>   | <b>26,199,869</b> |
| <b>Revenue towards investments</b>                                   | <b>1,514,146</b>    | <b>771,793</b>    |
| <b>Project funding</b>   |                     |                   |
| <b>International cooperation</b>                                     | <b>45,987,234</b>   | <b>39,537,428</b> |
| BMZ  | 37,372,302          | 32,297,733        |
| German Foreign Office  | 8,467,033           | 7,056,562         |
| EU   | –                   | –                 |
| Other/third party funds for international cooperation                | 147,900             | 183,133           |
| <b>Studienwerk</b>   | <b>13,322,449</b>   | <b>12,372,165</b> |
| BMBF   | 11,933,454          | 11,175,391        |
| German Foreign Office  | 1,366,467           | 1,180,615         |
| Other  | 22,528              | 16,160            |
| <b>Domestic division</b>   | <b>6,176,980</b>    | <b>4,666,125</b>  |
| BMI  | 5,606,691           | 4,157,034         |
| Third party funds  | 570,289             | 509,091           |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>   | <b>60,135</b>       | <b>123,086</b>    |
| <b>Total revenue</b>   | <b>97,150,306</b>   | <b>83,670,467</b> |
| <b>Specialist expenditure</b>  | <b>1,648,012</b>    | <b>1,260,300</b>  |
| <b>Transfers to regional foundations</b>                             | <b>3,991,914</b>    | <b>2,947,246</b>  |
| <b>Project funding expenditure</b>                                   |                     |                   |
| International cooperation  | 36,900,480          | 30,818,888        |
| Studienwerk  | 12,992,570          | 11,930,989        |
| EU   | –                   | –                 |
| <b>Third-party funds</b>   | <b>499,111</b>      | <b>503,110</b>    |
| <b>Personnel (salaries, including management of foreign offices)</b> | <b>25,708,644</b>   | <b>23,777,317</b> |
| <b>Operating expenditure</b>   | <b>3,273,062</b>    | <b>2,934,965</b>  |
| <b>Investments</b>   | <b>1,554,823</b>    | <b>910,330</b>    |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>   | <b>632,334</b>      | <b>289,794</b>    |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>   | <b>87,200,950</b>   | <b>75,372,939</b> |
| <b>Annual result</b>   | <b>9,949,355</b>    | <b>8,297,527</b>  |
| <b>Association revenue</b>   | 174,690             | 200,914           |
| <b>Association expenditure</b>                                       | 165,818             | 202,322           |
| <b>Association result</b>  | <b>8,872</b>        | <b>-1,408</b>     |

\* 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

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# The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

## Mission Statement

### Who We Are, What We Do

The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung 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 dialog 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-Stiftung, 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-Stiftung 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 2023, the Foundation had about 97 million euros in public funds at its disposal.

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