

Impact Report 2021

ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. – Passing on history

This brochure contains the English translation of a part of our »Impact Report 2021«. It was designed for those survivors and their families who do not speak German. Herewith we want to express our gratitude to you who are the reason for and the source of our work.

Thank you for everything you shared with us through the years. We value your trust in us and hope that you are delighted and encouraged when you read about the latest results of the work you enable us to do, now, as well as in the future.

We hope that you appreciate the information we're sending you and please feel free to contact us for questions or feedback.

Sincerely,
your ZWEITZEUGEN-Team



SUMMARY

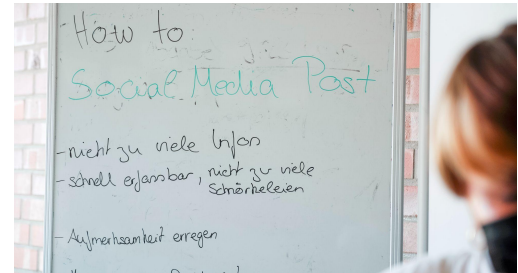
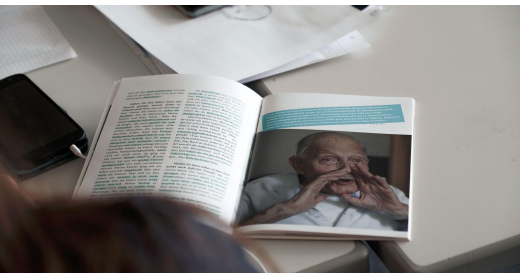
2021 we were expanding accesses

- Outdoor-Exhibition with a historical reference to Dortmund and about 3000 visitors
- 2 magazines were translated in Easy Language
- Barrier-free materials for participants with visual and auditory impairments
- +3853 children and teenagers were reached in 172 educational projects
- 1 digital storytelling „WERDE-ZWEITZEUGE.DE“ (become a secondary witness)
- 6 Podcast episodes were produced
- 193 multipliers were reached in 10 trainings

OUR VISION

What do we want for society in the future?

»Every person in Germany actively participates in an accepting, open and diverse society that no longer allows something like the Holocaust.«



OUR MISSION

What are we doing to achieve our vision?

»ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. encourages and empowers (young) people to actively stand up for themselves as secondary witnesses against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination in today's world.«

Contemporary witness Elie Wiesel once said, »Anyone who listens to a witness today will become a witness themselves.«

Guided by this, ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. documents life stories of those who have survived the Holocaust in order to tell them to future generations as witnesses of the contemporary witnesses - as secondary witnesses. We recount these impressive and courageous stories when the eyewitnesses themselves are no longer able to do so. Through analog and digital educational projects, exhibitions, events and publications, we offer children and young people from the age of ten a personal approach to the abstract topics of National Socialism and the Holocaust.

The goal of our work is to encourage and enable (young) people to actively stand up against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination today. With the help of the life stories we sensitize for historical as well as current antisemitism. Together, we establish a connection to their own lives and encourage them to pass on the life stories as secondary witnesses, to become active themselves and to take on social responsibility.

**»I'm 85. I can't do this much longer.
But the secondary witnesses will do it for me!«**

*[witness Eva Weyl on the necessity of the work
of the ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. association]*

OUR WORK BEHIND THE SCENES

- Maintaining contacts to contemporary witnesses and/or their families
- Training and further education of our team
- Development of methods and didactical concepts
- Editing of the interviews
- Scientific examination/debate

Basis

- Public Relations
- Administrative Management
- Support of Volunteers
- Networking & Fundraising

Resources

- An interdisciplinary, enthusiastic team of 135 volunteers
- and 18 full-time staff members (full-time equivalent: 6.2)
- 12 years of expertise and experience
- Material and financial means (328.413€)

CONCEPT AND DATA GATHERING

We put all our love, time, experience and financial resources into achieving our mission. Every year, we take a critical look at how we can best use these resources for our target groups. Currently, for the children and young people, these are above all our didactic offers.

In order to fully reach out to them our concept is a holistic one. Our method address

- the heart (getting a personal access to history),
- the mind (gaining knowledge and connecting it to the own lifeworld)
- and the hand (finding ways of standing up against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination).

In order to determine whether the didactic concept on which our work is based is adequate and contributes to the achievement of the set impact goals, we surveyed, among others, the participants of our educational projects.

In 2021, a total of 868 online questionnaires were completed, 803 of them by children and young people and 65 by educators.

Evaluation showed that 45% of the children and teenagers we worked with graded us with a 'very good', 44% with a 'good'.

97% of the educators would unreservedly recommend a workshop to others.

Of course the surveys also revealed what can be improved and we already work on various aspects of our workshops and materials. Our work is a constant process of developing and evaluating and we are continually striving for enhancement.

STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS ON THE WORKSHOP

The impact field *HEART*:

»I learned something about a concrete life story. That somehow helped me a lot to understand the time rather.« (Student, 17 years old)

»In the media you often hear about former times, but it was different to experience it in a personal way and through that you learn more.« (Student, 13 years old)

»After hearing this life story my interest in these topics has even grown.« (Student, 17 years old)

The impact field *MIND*:

Answers to the question »What did you learn today?«

- 23,5 % : a personal life story
- 13% : about the antisemitic laws during the Nazi-era
- 11,0% : about the life of those who were persecuted as Jews during the Nazi-era
- 11% : concrete terms, facts and incidents of the Nazi-era
- 8% : general facts about the Nazi-era

»Overall, I learned more about life during World War II and what prohibitions and laws applied to those persecuted as Jews. Also, before the workshop I didn't know what antisemitism is and that not only Jews [...] were persecuted.« (Student, 13 years old)

The impact field *HAND*:

Answers to the question »What can you do being a secondary witness now?«:

- 52% : talking about the life stories to family and friends
- 17% : political commitment and civil courage
- 15% : educational work / informing others
- 8% : arouse attention and sensitize to the topic
- 2% : develop own projects such as workshops or social media stories

»Educate other people about antisemitism and racism and intervene when someone makes antisemitic or racist remarks. Dare to do something for the own future!«
(Student, 13 years old)

»In the future, I will spend more time on the topic of commemorative culture in class.«
(Teacher)

DIGITAL EDUCATING

In our educational projects, we tell of special personal encounters with contemporary witnesses because the direct exchange between people creates a special dynamic. Nevertheless, digital solutions offer a variety of ways to spread and amplify the impact of our work and to overcome regional or pandemic distances. That's why we've taken new, digital paths to bring the life stories of those who have survived the Holocaust to the world.

Digital Storytelling

In May 2021, we were able to publish a first life story as *Digital Storytelling* on www.werdezweitzeuge.de or www.werdezweitzeugin.de. We understand *Digital Storytelling* as the telling of a story through multimedia processing.

The life story of Rolf Abrahamsohn can already be read independently by children and young people aged 12 and older through photos and illustrations, texts, audio quotes and videos.

The project, which is funded by *Stiftung Wohlfahrtspflege*, will continue until September 2022: The life stories of contemporary witnesses Henny Brenner and Elisheva Lehmann will also be worked up as *Digital Storytellings*. In addition, a learning module on the continuities of antisemitism will be developed. Through this module, children and young people can independently learn about different forms of antisemitism and understand the connections up to the present day.

Digital teaching concept

We would like to support multipliers in teaching the topic of the Holocaust and the Nazi era. To this end, we have developed a digital teaching concept to complement the *Digital Storytellings*. It is based on the Storytellings and enables teachers to independently turn children and young people into secondary witnesses in the long term.

Visualization of the activities of secondary witnesses

For greater visibility of children and youth activities, we are developing a digital visualization in 2022. This shall not only illustrate the impact of our work, but also specifically strengthen it. Particularly projects of young secondary witnesses shall be given a public space and promote a sense of community in the fight against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

Podcast

With our podcast '*Stories that stay*' we can reach even more people and make them secondary witnesses. Since January 2022, the first season with six episodes can be heard on all popular podcast platforms. In each episode, secondary witnesses talk about the life stories of Holocaust witnesses (www.zweitzeugen.de/podcast).

ACCESSIBILITY

Inclusive education and participation should be a matter of course in our democratic society. Since this is not yet the case, we see it as our duty as a nonprofit association to work on this. With our work we especially remind of the time of National Socialism, when about 300,000 people with disabilities were murdered in the context of 'euthanasia'. In order to be able to give access to our work to all people from a wide range of educational institutions and groups today, we have revised our existing didactic materials: Translated texts into Easy Language, added subtitles and audio descriptions to video material, and trained ourselves in the area of accessibility.

We also plan lower barriers for our exhibitions in the coming years. This includes, for example, the use of barrier-free rooms, the preparation of information in Easy Language and the addition of audio description and subtitles to video material. To make our social media work more accessible as well, we provide our posts with alternative text. This enables screen reader software to capture and read out the image content.

AWARDS

Sometimes we get so bogged down in our structures and tasks that an external view has to show us what we have achieved and what we can still achieve.

We are very happy about the appreciative awards we received in 2021, which once again confirm our effectiveness and reach!

We received awards for our development, professionalism, content, concepts and structures in four areas that are very important to us - volunteerism, social media, democracy promotion and anti-discrimination work.

FUNDING PARTNERS

A strong network of funding and cooperation partners, companions and friends, professional structures as well as determination and commitment made 2021 a solid year also financially.

Thanks to the various funding through membership fees, donations and grants from foundations, companies, public funders and private individuals, we were able to realize more projects and have such a great impact!

We owe those funding partners our greatest thanks for their reliable cooperation, their trust, their encouragement and their will to break new ground with us!

COOPERATIONS

Our association cooperates with a wide variety of educational institutions and partners, both in and out of school. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to work with 80 schools and more than 40 extracurricular cooperation partners, for example from associations, churches, professional soccer, politics and the nonprofit sector. We build local partnerships and cooperate at regional and national level to anchor our work locally in a sustainable and multifaceted way. We are convinced: only together can we have an impact and multiply it.

KEY DATA

Name: ZWEITZEUGEN e.V.

Board of Directors

Sarah Hüttenberend, Chairperson
Katharina Müller-Spirawski, Chairperson
Ruth-Anne Damm, Chairperson
Vera Klocke-Eickmann, Treasurer
Philipp Tybus, Assessor

Place of the organization according to statutes

Essen

Legal form: Registered association

Foundation date: 15.02.2014
(registered as HEIMATSUCHER e.V. until 04.2020)

Register entry

Essen Local Court, Zweigertstraße 52, 45130 Essen

Registration number: VR. No. 5989

Tax number: 112 / 5743 / 1279

Postal address

ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. – P.O. Box 18 80 in 32218 Bünde, Germany

Homepage: www.zweitzeugen.de

Mail address: kontakt@zweitzeugen.de

Nonprofit status

The association ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. pursues according to its statutes exclusively nonprofit purposes in the sense of §§51 ff. of the tax code. The purpose of the association is the promotion of international spirit, tolerance in all areas of culture and the idea of international understanding.

Notice of exemption

dated 23.04.2020 from the Essen tax office.

Number of employees

18 (6.2 FTE, as of end of 2021)

Number of volunteers

135 (as of end of 2021)

Affiliation with third parties under company law

None