

ZWEITZEUGEN e.V.

Activity report 2021

The association pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes within the meaning of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German Tax Code. The purpose of the association is to promote international sentiment, tolerance in all areas of culture and international understanding. In particular, the association pursues the purpose of actively preventing anti-Semitism and racism and sensitizing young people in particular to the topic.

The purpose of the statutes is realized in particular by (cf. in detail § 3 of the statutes)

1. documenting the life stories of contemporary witnesses of the Holocaust,
2. the promotion of a lively culture of remembrance of the National Socialist era, for example in the form of exhibitions, didactic concepts and publications,
3. Educational measures, especially in schools, with school classes (from the fourth grade) and youth groups,
4. the implementation and publication of academic research projects.

This was implemented in 2021 as follows

1. documentation of the life stories of contemporary witnesses of the Holocaust and their publications

In 2021, three interviews with contemporary witnesses of the Holocaust were scientifically prepared and published as magazines.

The work of contemporary witnesses prevents the Holocaust from being forgotten - especially with regard to personal fates. Documenting the life stories of an ageing generation is an essential basis for the sustainable promotion of a living culture of remembrance. The documented interviews are then processed and made available in the form of publications. This directly promotes mutual tolerance and prevents racism and anti-Semitism. In addition to the development of further interview magazines, the first second-witness podcast "Stories that remain" celebrated its premiere. Each episode focuses on a survivor story of a contemporary witness and is told by a second witness. Enriched by the original voices of the eyewitnesses, a special contemporary form of documentation has been created. The first season comprises 6 episodes.

Maintaining contact with contemporary witnesses and their families:

There is a contact person in the association for contemporary witnesses who are still alive or for their surviving families. In this way, these contemporary witnesses receive regular mail. As far as possible, contact with the eyewitnesses and/or their families is maintained regularly by telephone, email and visits.

In addition, a (grief) support service for volunteers was developed and set up in 2019 to support the association's internal contact persons, which has since offered support in the event of the death of the eyewitnesses and coordinated obituaries and memorial moments for the deceased. The stories of the deceased are passed on by association members. In 2021, the contemporary witnesses Rolf Abrahamsohn, Erna de Vries, Chava Wolf and Elisheva Lehmann passed away.

As part of the school projects, pupils can also write letters to the eyewitnesses. These are regularly handed over to the survivors, some of whom live in Israel, or, in the case of deceased witnesses, to their descendants. In 2021, 1,869 letters from pupils were sent by the association. This also helped to promote international understanding and good relations between people.

Quality assurance:

Internal quality management was the focus in all teams and areas of the association. Team-specific annual goals are developed and their degree of achievement is discussed at regular team leader conferences. Slack is used as a central system for regular internal communication between teams, project groups and for one-to-one meetings. The "Internal Development" team is responsible for and regularly updates the association handbook, which contains all relevant descriptions of the areas of responsibility, guidelines, annual objectives, etc. in a central and accessible location. The handbook also serves as a central tool for training new employees and volunteers.

In 2021, a detailed impact analysis was carried out for the first time and published in our annual report. All participants in an educational unit were surveyed in writing. The evaluation is used for quality assurance and to ensure the sustainable impact of Zweitzeugen e.V.'s work.

2. the promotion of a lively culture of remembrance of the National Socialist era, for example in the form of exhibitions and events

The Long Night of the Second Witnesses took place for the first time on Remembrance Day on January 27, 2021. A digital format in which around 400 participants were informed about the work of the association and got to know the life stories of contemporary witnesses in various individual workshops.

In 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the first exhibition was held in an outdoor format. Over five weeks, 16 banners at two locations in Dortmund told the (hi)stories of five contemporary witnesses of the Holocaust. These were supplemented by banners on various topics relating to the locations.

As part of the exhibition, over 80 people were reached in three public and four private guided tours. In addition, around 3,000 people stopped to look at the exhibition banners. Around 300 people used the multimedia guide to delve deeper into individual (survival) stories, listen to the interviews with the survivors and look at more pictures.

3. educational measures, particularly in schools, with school classes (from the fourth grade) and extracurricular youth groups, as well as the development of didactic concepts and materials:

In 2021, ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. carried out numerous projects at schools and extracurricular educational institutions. In the projects, the personal life stories of contemporary witnesses are presented in their historical context and young people are sensitized to the current topic of racism and anti-Semitism. To this end, the association has developed its own educational concept, in which volunteers are increasingly being trained.

In 2021, a total of 142 analogue and 30 digital workshops were held with children and young people. A total of 3,853 children and young people took part.

This includes special projects and formats, such as the Second Witnesses in Football project, in which the workshops took place at the learning venues of major Bundesliga clubs, and the Talenttage Ruhr festival, in which Zweitzeugen e.V. organized and carried out 10 workshops at schools and a contemporary witness talk.

The second core target group consists of so-called multipliers (educators and social workers in historical-political education and Holocaust education). We reached this target group through the new second-witness podcast and the outdoor exhibition. A multiplier training course was also offered as part of the Talent Days Ruhr.

Our cooperation schools

In 2021, we had a total of 17 ZWEITZEUGEN schools in our network. We work with these schools in three-year collaborations to develop individually tailored offers for each school and implement workshops together at least once a year. We are delighted to have signed new cooperation agreements with KGS Sankt Mauritius in Cologne and Heinrich-Heine-Gymnasium in Bottrop!

Didactic concepts and materials

The existing interviews are continuously adapted to suit the age group. They are shortened and arranged chronologically, as the eyewitnesses often switch between narrative threads in the interviews. Illustrations are created for each booklet and footnotes and explanatory texts are written especially for children and young people. There is also a work section with tasks for the children and young people. They answer in-depth questions about the interview, explain the meanings of quotes and can sometimes write their answers creatively, for example by drawing. The children and young people then take the booklets home with the task of retelling the story. The idea of international understanding can thus be carried on beyond the project boundaries.

Teaching materials in easy language were created for the first time in 2021 to give other target groups access to the stories and break down barriers. In addition, the range was expanded to include video material with audio transcription and subtitling for the target group of visually or hearing impaired children and young people.

In May 2021, a first life story was also created and published as digital storytelling on the learning platform werde-zweiteuge.de. We understand digital storytelling as the telling of a story through multimedia presentation. The life story of Rolf Abrahamsohn can thus be developed independently by children and young people using photos, illustrations, texts, audio quotations and videos.

4. the implementation and publication of scientific research projects

The association works together with institutions, chairs and academics at various universities. This includes presenting the association and the didactic methods that have been explicitly introduced into the current scientific discourse and discussed there. In addition to joint publication projects, these collaborations result in impulses for new methods or formats that are integrated into the association's work, or the joint organization of project seminars for students.

5. other activities

Communication / PR

The “Communication” team is divided into the areas of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), newsletter, website and press relations and is supervised and organized by a team leader. The entire team works on a voluntary basis. The volunteers exchange information on relevant topics through regular meetings and telephone calls. The association tries to fill each area of responsibility with at least two people in order to implement public relations work in a structured and professional manner and to create opportunities for representation.

The Communications team has placed a particular focus on external communication channels in 2021. In particular, the interaction and reception of the various social media channels is changing rapidly, meaning that expert knowledge is required for each channel in order to prepare content in line with the target group. Some of the sub-teams were restructured and editorial plans were better coordinated.

Communication channels:

Member newsletter

Multiplier newsletter

Association website

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn

Other year-round activities

The association was represented at various events throughout the year, in particular commemorative events and networking events in the field of education and remembrance work.

Throughout the year, members gave lectures in a non-academic context on the need for a living culture of remembrance and the promotion of mutual tolerance and the idea of international understanding. This also includes lectures on the association's educational concept, which is gaining increasing recognition.

6. cooperation

Important cooperation partners were acquired in 2021 to ensure the most effective and sustainable implementation of the association's purpose.

OUR MAIN PARTNERS OF THE YEAR 2021 (SORTED ALPHABETICALLY)

Aktion Mensch

Supported in particular by Aktion Mensch, we successfully completed the second year of the educational project "Second Witnesses in Football". Democracy education in the middle of Germany's largest soccer stadiums together with the soccer learning centers of Borussia Dortmund and Borussia Mönchengladbach, among others, offers exciting approaches for children and young people, including those with learning and language support needs.

Ashoka

Our Managing Director Sarah Hüttenberend is being supported until 2023 by the Ashoka network, which brings together changemakers to promote collective action for social change. For our association, this means, in addition to the

network, professional support and advice and, last but not least, financial support for full-time work.

The Paritätische Jugendwerk NRW

Since 2019, the PJW NRW has been advising, networking and supporting us in terms of funding, training and representing our interests in politics and administration. In joint funding projects, we were able to expand our work with non-school partners in particular and further develop our educational work digitally in 2021.

The Anti-Semitism Commissioner of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

In 2021, Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, the Anti-Semitism Commissioner of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, is once again supporting our ZWEITZEUGEN education at schools and extracurricular educational institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia.

LWL Social Foundation

Our barrier-free educational work is supported in particular by the LWL Social Foundation. In order to implement workshops with visually and hearing impaired young people at LWL special schools from 2022, we translated our workshop materials into plain language and provided videos with subtitles and audio descriptions in 2021, among other things, and provided further training for our volunteers and full-time staff.

NRW Welfare Foundation

We have learned that our work to date has been dependent on educational projects taking place in person. For more independence, access and impact, we have started to design and implement three digital storytelling projects, a first digital teaching concept and a visualization concept for children's and young people's projects in 2021 - funded by the Stiftung Wohlfahrtspflege.

Collective donation from guests as part of the JUVE Awards 2021

The industry press publisher JUVE organizes an annual awards ceremony for business lawyers, which takes place as part of a gala event, the JUVE Awards. Participants do not pay an entrance fee, but are asked to donate to two charitable projects selected by the publisher - in 2021, we were one of the two donation recipients as a national project and received funding of €95,300.

OTHER FUNDING PARTNERS OF THE YEAR 2021 (in alphabetical order)

- Amadeu Antonio Stiftung
- Architekt Christoph Damm
- Berns Gruppe
- Christian und Ulrike Reppekus Stiftung
- Dirk Grünewald
- FESCH – das Forum Eltern und Schule
- GAG Immobilien AG
- Haniel Stiftung
- Ingrid und Reinhard Wederhake Stiftungsfond
- Martin Luther Stiftung Ruhr
- Meyer-Struckmann-Stiftung
- neu.land GmbH
- Reemtsma Cigarettenfabriken GmbH
- RheinEnergie Stiftung
- Rotary Club Hannover Leineschloss e.V.
- RuhrFutur gGmbH
- Signal Iduna Gruppe
- Sparkasse Recklinghausen Vest
- Stadt Dortmund
- Verena Ris-Horstmann

Memberships and seals

- Der Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband NRW
- phineo Wirkt!-Siegel

7. prizes and awards

Zweitzeugen e.V. was awarded the following prizes and honors in 2021:

“EngagementWinner” sponsorship award 2021

The German Foundation for Commitment and Volunteering awards the “EngagementGewinner” sponsorship prize to non-profit organizations. It honors inclusive, innovative and exemplary concepts for recruiting young talent for voluntary work. The jury selected ten winners from 357 entries per region. All 50 winners received 10,000 euros each.

WE IS PLURAL

We won gold in the “large projects” category of “WIR IST PLURAL”, the prize for strengthening democracy awarded by the Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb with the Federal Constitutional Court as a partner. After an online vote, we made it into the top 50 out of 140 competitors. In addition to prize money of 5,000 euros, our project will appear in the WIR IST PLURAL book.

Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany - Strengthening peace together

Sarah Hüttenberend, co-founder and 1st Chairwoman of ZWEITZEUGEN e.V., was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2021 by Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier for her commitment against anti-Semitism and racism and for founding ZWEITZEUGEN.

Smart Hero Award 2021

We won the Smart Hero Award 2021 and came in 2nd place in the “Democratic Design” category - with prize money of 10,000 euros! The Smart Hero Award is the first and only award for engagement and social media in Germany. Smart Heroes are social heroes who show the world their commitment online. They are democratic heroes who use the possibilities of social media to stand up for themselves and others and ecological heroes who protect our planet online and offline.

8 The association in figures

Association life in figures

- 225 association members support the association's work in 2021.
- 135 Volunteers
- 18 Full-time employees (6.2 FTEs) - (including 2 on parental leave)

Committees & Teams

General Assembly

Board of Directors & Management

Advisory Board

Teams:

Educational work

Interviews (with team second witnesses)

Exhibitions & events

Communication

Internal development

Fundraising & Network

Scientific work