

ZWEITZEUGEN e.V.

Activity report 2022

The association pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes within the meaning of the 'tax-privileged purposes' section 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.

Brief summary of the most important developments in the association:

Zweitzeugen e.V. has made important progress in the development of its content over the past year. The focus was on promoting the hand/head focus in order to recognize and combat the continuities of anti-Semitism. Training courses and workshops were developed to raise awareness of this issue and to develop countermeasures.

Another focus was on expanding the promotion of accessibility. Pilot projects were implemented and materials developed to improve accessibility. In the area of soccer, special formats such as "Football meets history", "Remembrance for tomorrow" and "Together 1" were carried out to highlight the importance of remembrance and commemoration in sport.

In the area of digital communication, four digital storytelling sessions, an episode in plain language, a learning tool and another season of the ZWEITZEUGEN podcast were developed to make the stories of contemporary witnesses digitally accessible. A hybrid concept was developed to engage with users in the digital world.

A new concept for multipliers such as teachers and social workers was developed and implemented that is tailored to the needs and interests of the target group. The exhibition concept was also revised and improved.

Zusätzlich wurden alle **Interviews** mit noch lebenden Zeitzeugen in fünf Heften veröffentlicht, um deren Erinnerungen und Erfahrungen zu bewahren. Im Bereich Wissenschaft wurden wichtige Erkenntnisse gewonnen und in Forschungsprojekten umgesetzt.

Another important point was the implementation of social media training to improve the association's presence on social media and enable better communication with the public.

This was implemented in 2022 as follows

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

In 2022, six interviews with contemporary witnesses of the Holocaust were scientifically processed and published as magazines: Hermine Liska, Herta Goldmann, Peter-Paul Klinger, Margot Friedländer, Tamar Dreifuß and Peter Finkelgrün.

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.

The second season of the ZWEITZEUGEN podcast 'Geschichten, die bleiben' ('Stories that remain') was published with six regular stories from contemporary witnesses and two special episodes from educational work. In the special episodes, listeners accompany a group of trainees to the 'Kinder vom Bullenhuser Damm' memorial site and a primary school class from Cologne on a project day at their school.

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 eyewitnesses 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 (bereavement) support service for volunteers was developed and set up in 2019 to support the association's internal contact persons and 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 October 2022, contemporary witness Hannah Pick-Goslar 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 2022, 2,476 letters from pupils were sent by the association.

Quality assurance:

In all teams and areas of the association, the focus was on internal quality management and the automation and optimization of processes. This included revising and expanding the methodology and analysis of the evaluation of educational work.

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 individual discussions. 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 the induction of new employees and volunteers.

In 2022, another detailed impact analysis was carried out and published in our annual report. All participants in an educational unit were surveyed in writing. The evaluation serves to ensure quality assurance and 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

In 2022, we completely rethought and revised the ZWEITZEUGEN exhibition, which has been running since 2011: Whereas previously various (survival) life stories were exhibited in the form of portraits without commentary and were only accessible to adults with the relevant background knowledge, the new concept has been created specifically for children and young people. With the title 'Become a Second Witness', our exhibition is therefore aimed directly at young people for the first time, who can become second witnesses themselves with the ZWEITZEUGEN exhibition: They follow a (survival) life story, get to know it in depth, make themselves aware of overarching themes, find their own positions and ultimately consider for themselves how they can advocate for an active civil society as second witnesses. To test in advance how the exhibition would be received by its target group, we set up a small section as a test exhibition at the Geschwister-Scholl-Schule in Detmold and invited several classes to visit: The young people between the ages of 14 and 16 learned about the (survival) story of Dr. Leon Weintraub and were able to deepen their knowledge about continuities of anti-Semitism. In 4 workshops, 78 children and young people were reached.

For six weeks from September 2, 2022, a small exhibition was also held in the Kulturhafen of the Stiftung für Heerdt in Düsseldorf. The (survival) stories of contemporary witnesses Henny Brenner and Eva Weyl were presented on two large banners.

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 2022, ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. carried out numerous projects at schools and extracurricular education centers. Our educational program offers an answer to the question of how remembrance can succeed in the future, even without contemporary witnesses and especially with young people in the here and now. Our non-profit association ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. is a recognized provider of independent child and youth welfare services and is primarily active in the areas of historical and political education, Holocaust education and anti-Semitism prevention.

In 2022, a total of 246 analogue, 3 digital workshops and 3 blended learning workshops were held with children and young people. 6,033 children and young people took part.

In 2022, a pilot project grant from the LWL Social Foundation enabled us to hold workshops at special schools with a focus on hearing, communication and vision for the first time. At the Martin Bartels School in Dortmund, nine visually impaired young people became Michaela Vidláková's second witnesses and created a very personal audio message for her. In three workshops at the Rheinisch Westfälische Realschule in Dortmund, 26 hearing-impaired young people became second witnesses. As part of this funding, we are continuously developing our methods, materials and didactic offerings for specific target groups, for example by using tactile objects, interactive materials and materials in plain language.

The digital teaching concept and digital storytelling have evolved from the digital offerings developed to date. With the so-called Zweizeugen+ offer, schools and educational institutions can independently and digitally integrate second-witness educational work into their lessons or prepare for and follow up on a visit by ZWEITZEUGEN e.V..

Our educational work also 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 multipliers (educators and social workers in historical-political education and Holocaust education). In 2022, 4 training courses for multipliers and 8 for adults took place. Furthermore, the 2nd season of the ZWEITZEUGEN podcast was released with six episodes.

Our cooperation schools

In 2022, we have a total of 21 ZWEITZEUGEN schools in our network. We organize workshops with these schools at least once a year in three-year collaborations by individual arrangement. In addition to this offer for children and young people, the ZWEITZEUGEN schools are provided with an annual digital information event, which is often used for parents' evenings; alternatively, formats for teachers are also possible. We are delighted to have signed new cooperation agreements with Arnold Freymuth Gesamtschule in Hamm, Berufskolleg Senne, Gymnasium an der Corveystraße in Hamburg and Max Windmüller Gymnasium in Emden in 2022!

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.

In 2022, 4 life stories were created and published as digital storytelling on the learning platform werde-zweitzeuge.de: Elisheva Lehmann, Henny Brenner, Erna de Vries and Erna de Vries as a low-barrier version in easy language and suitable for screen readers. We understand digital storytelling as the telling of a story through multimedia presentation. The life stories can 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 scientists from various universities. This includes presenting the association and the didactic methods that have been explicitly introduced into the current academic 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 Communications team is divided into the areas of social media (Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube), newsletter, website and press relations and is managed and organized by two team leaders. The social media area is managed by volunteers and a part-time employee. The volunteers exchange information on relevant topics through regular meetings and telephone calls. The association tries to staff each area of responsibility with at least two people in order to implement the public relations work in a structured and professional manner and to create opportunities for representation.

Communication channels:

Member newsletter

Multiplier newsletter

Quarterly newsletter to all interested parties

Association website

Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube

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, employees and volunteers gave lectures in a non-academic context on the need for a living culture of remembrance and the promotion of mutual tolerance and 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 2022 to ensure the most effective and sustainable implementation of the association's purpose.

OUR MAIN PARTNERS OF THE YEAR 2022 (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Aktion Mensch

Supported in particular by Aktion Mensch, we successfully completed the third 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 not only the network, but also professional support and advice and, last but not least, financial support for our 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 test and evaluate our new blended learning format in 2022.

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

In 2022, Sabine Leutheusser Schnarrenberger, the Anti-Semitism Commissioner of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, once again supported our ZWEITZEUGEN education at schools and extracurricular educational institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia.

LWL Social Foundation

Our barrier-free education work is supported in particular by the LWL Social Foundation. In 2022, we carried out pilot projects at two LWL special schools with visually and hearing impaired young people. In 2023, we will be working with further LWL special schools.

Meyer-Struckmann-Stiftung and NRW-Stiftung

Funding from the Meyer-Struckmann-Stiftung and NRW-Stiftung made it possible to develop and produce a high-quality new traveling exhibition. This celebrated its premiere in the NRW state parliament in January 2023. The development of the exhibition also received funding from the guests' collective donation as part of the JUVE Awards 2021.

RheinEnergie Foundation Youth, Career and Science

Funding from the RheinEnergie Foundation for Youth, Career and Science enables numerous creative ZWEITZEUGEN workshop formats lasting several days in Cologne. Thanks to this funding, we can create synergies between school and extracurricular institutions, funding and network partners in Cologne and reach socially disadvantaged children and young people in the metropolis on the Rhine in particular.

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 designed and implemented three digital storytelling projects, a first digital teaching concept and a visualization concept for children's and young people's projects with funding from the Stiftung Wohlfahrtspflege in 2022.

OTHER FUNDING PARTNERS OF THE YEAR 2022 (in alphabetical order)

- Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung
- Architekt Christoph Damm
- Berns Gruppe
- Christian und Ulrike Reppekus Stiftung
- Dirk Grünewald Stiftung
- Ela Mo

- FESCH – das Forum Eltern und Schule
- GAG Immobilien AG
- Givio gGmbH
- Haniel Stiftung
- LVM Versicherungen
- Martin Luther Stiftung Ruhr
- Rotary Club Berlin Pariser Platz
- Rotary Club Hannover Leineschloss e.V.
- RuhrFutur gGmbH
- Signal Iduna Gruppe
- Sparkasse Recklinghausen Vest
- Verena Horstmann

Memberships and seals

- Der Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband NRW
- phineo Wirkt!-Siegel

7. prizes and awards

We are delighted to have received the 'Active for Democracy and Tolerance 2022' award from the Federal Agency for Civic Education in 2022. In this nationwide competition, exemplary and replicable civil society projects were sought that address the topics of the Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance: Democracy, Tolerance, Integration, Prevention of Violence, Extremism and Anti-Semitism. From 313 submissions, the jury made the final selection of 57 award winners from 13 federal states in the Active Competition 2022. We received prize money of 6,000 euros for our educational work.

Last year, our corporate member, the Signal Iduna Group, was awarded the special InnoWard prize for our joint ZWEITZEUGEN workshops with trainees, which is awarded as part of the German Insurance Industry Education Congress (BIKO).

8. The association in figures

Club life in figures

1. 225 association members support the association's work in 2022
2. 144 volunteers
3. 18 full-time employees (8.96 FTEs) - (including 2 on parental leave)

Committees & Teams

General Assembly

Board of directors & Management

Advisory Board

Teams:

Educational work

Interviews (with team second witness)

Exhibitions & events

Communication

Internal development

Fundraising & Network

Scientific work