

WeMove Europe gGmbH

Annual Report 2018

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Foundation

WeMove Europe gGmbH was founded on 11/03/2016 as a 100% daughter organization of WeMove Europe SCE mbH.

The non-profit “We Move Europe gGmbH” – Society for EU-wide education, Democracy and international understanding –promotes education, democratic principles, European political discourse for, and by, European citizens to create international understanding and action within the European community.

Given that the European project is currently in a state of crisis challenged by the promotion of nationalism, it is all the more important that European citizens are educated about, and given access to, instruments of democracy. This aim is best achieved when citizens are engaged, creating their own petitions addressing European institutions through instruments of citizen participations made available by the European Commission.

This provides citizens the ability to directly critique and learn about European institutions.

Precise Activities

In 2018, Citizen Assemblies were the main focus of WeMove Europe gGmbH activities. Citizens met through assemblies, learned about the European institutions and the forms of participation they offer, and discussed possible reforms in several countries at the same time.

Our YouMove platform, which allows citizens to connect and act together, has been technically revised starting in 2018 and we plan to complete the revision in 2019.

CARE (Citizen Assemblies for Renewing Engagement)

We organized citizen assemblies in cooperation with the University of Liverpool, Asociatia Efectul Fluture and de-clic Initiative in Romania, as well with European Alternatives in Italy and Dem Nets in Hungary. The assemblies organized by WeMove Europe gGmbH were held in Berlin over two weekends in May and June 2018. The participants were chosen at random representing people from all ages, genders and backgrounds. During the assemblies participants discussed the opportunities available to citizens to participate and be involved in EU politics. Accompanied by a panel of presenters, the assemblies determined their priorities for the various options of citizen participation, and discussed the advantages and disadvantages associated with them. One of the highlights of the second weekend was the presentation of the results from assemblies organized by the aforementioned organizations in their respective countries, as the results obtained from the various countries were surprisingly similar.

The assemblies were accompanied by a digital forum which offered the chance to discuss democracy in Europe in a borderless fashion in various languages. More than 5,000 people took part in the online debate.

In December 2018 we invited participants to join us at the University of Liverpool to discuss the results of the assemblies. Participants included representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, representatives of the various organizations, as well as citizens who took part in the assemblies.

YouMove

In 2018, the number of petitions created and disseminated by both committed citizens and organisations on our youMove platform (<https://www.wemove.eu/you/your-campaign-starts-here>) has continued to rise.

In 2018, petitions on YouMove were signed about 534,000 times. Through WeMove SCE mbH, WeMove Europe gGmbH gained 233,612 new contacts for the YouMove platform. As a result the number of contacts increase by 106,876 compared to the previous two years to a total of 340,488.

The feedback we receive informs the development of technical improvements, the implementation of which we have started and mostly completed in 2018. By doing this, we make it more user-friendly to create and promote petitions across linguistic and cultural boundaries and in cooperation with others.

European Citizen Initiatives (ECI)

After working significantly with the ECI "Stop Glyphosate" in 2016 and 2017, we passed on our knowledge to other interested parties in 2018. We have received a number of enquiries regarding the project from various universities in Europe. Often it was students conducting research for a master's or doctoral thesis. We are, of course, pleased with this reaction, although it is a great deal of work to deal with the specific requests for information. Unfortunately, when the works are published, they receive little public attention.

In 2017 we agreed to work with the Migration Policy Group on the European Citizens' Initiative "We Are a Welcoming Europe". We have given MPG extensive advice on how to achieve the best possible participation of citizens in this ECI and have also imparted our knowledge in the use of the OpenECI software. The ECI, which was registered on 15.02.2018, did not reach the required number of at least one million signatures by 14.02.2019.

On 11.09.2018 the ECI "End the Cage Age" was officially registered. At the end of 2018, cooperation on the ECI was agreed for 2019.

Participation in European Congress

We took part in a major congress on the future of the European Union, which took place in Kassel from 5 to 7 October 2018, entitled "Another Europe is possible"! Around 650 guests came to the University of Kassel, including people from ten European countries, e.g. from Greece, France, Ireland, Russia and the Czech Republic. There were three podiums, ten forums and 60 workshops which discussed the future of Europe in general, the EU in particular and its role in a changing world. A broad alliance of civil society organisations from Germany were also invited.

Through a workshop we were able to report on our experiences to the platform YouMove, in which 40 interested parties had a lively discussion.

Eurozone Video

In Winter 2017 and early 2018 the European Union has sought to strengthen the Eurozone (the monetary union of the EU) through reform. This is a topic which is not easily accessible to many EU citizens. The Eurozone is characterized by untransparent decision structures and a lack of oversight by the European Parliament.

WeMove Europe gGmbH created a video to explain what the Eurozone is. The aim of the Eurozone Video is essentially to improve citizens' knowledge on the Eurozone while also making reform suggestions known. The video has been made available in 5 languages (German, English, Spanish, Italian and French) and has been shared through Facebook and Youtube. Across both platforms it has been viewed by over 35,000 times without any budget being invested into advertising.

Website and Logo

On www.wemove-charity.eu, we regularly provide information about our activities.



Our Team

2018 was characterized by the transition of management from Christoph Bautz to Laura Sullivan. Through the shareholder resolution of 07.12.2018, Laura Sullivan has been appointed as Executive Director. At the same time, Anne Assehn was granted individual procurement. This ensures that gGmbH can be represented to the outside world at any time. Paola Pierri continues to take care of the large donors as well as the coordination of the CARE project.

Financial Development

In 2018 we generated 464,000 euros. We also received a grant of around 50,700 euros through the University of Liverpool for CARE (Citizen Assemblies for Renewing Engagment).

We have also added EUR 60,600 to the free reserve. For the relaunch of YouMove, we had created a project-linked reserve of 130,000 euros in 2017 and around half of this was spent in 2018. For future expenditure, EUR 68,000 remains in the reserve, which is expected to be spent in 2019. We plan to take action in the European election campaign in spring 2019 in order to give citizens a means by which to voice their concerns. For this purpose, we are setting up a project reserve of EUR 60,000. The large number of questions we receive for European Citizens' Initiatives presents us with the challenge of whether we want to play a coordinating role for European Citizens' Initiatives in Europe. We will be working harder on this in 2019 to clarify our future role, setting up a project reserve of 60,000 euros.