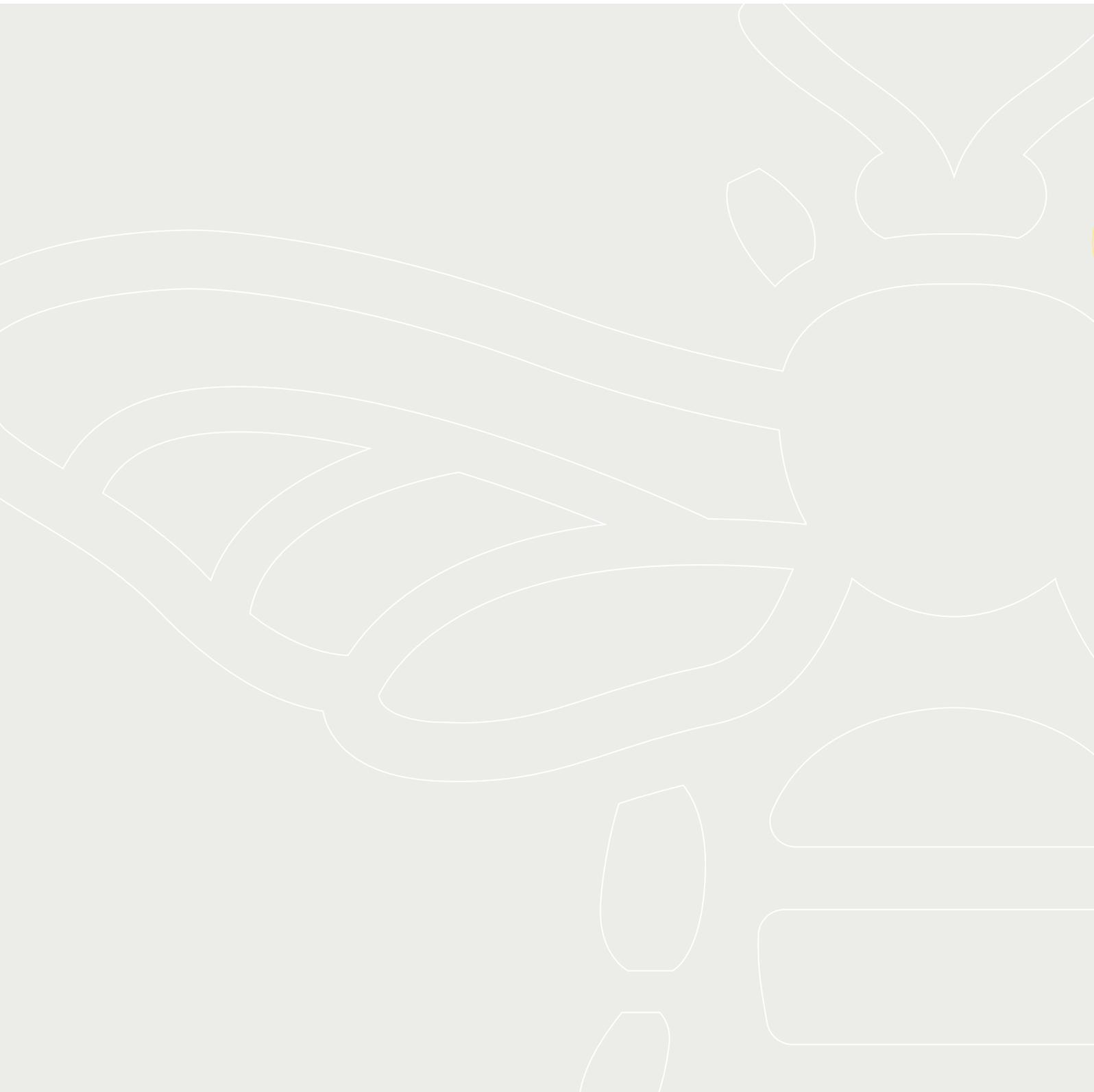




**DIE ERSTE
österreichische
Spar-Casse Privatstiftung**

Annual Report 2014



**DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse
Privatstiftung**

Annual Report 2014
Vienna, June 2015



ERSTE Stiftung

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Practising solidarity is more important than ever

It is with great pleasure that we present you with the 2014 ERSTE Foundation business report. An exciting year filled with challenges is behind us and an equally exciting year lies ahead. Social justice both at regional and global level, military confrontations in eastern Europe that are also about democratic values and social models involving varying levels of civil society participation, and huge, ongoing economic pressure on national budgets, which is also increasingly affecting social systems, educational institutions and the cultural sector – all of these issues made 2014 a year in which it was more important than ever to display solidarity and actively contribute to shaping social change. The economic environment in which ERSTE Foundation operates also kept changing. For this reason, the Managing Board had to make important decisions in 2014. These involved cutting back the foundation's team and aligning it to fit a new strategy, which must take into account the new economic framework, reducing hierarchies and restructuring departments.

Within the programmes, it became necessary to realign processes to a strategic plan with clear-cut priorities. Enhancing our strategy will accommodate the foundation's limited opportunities for growth over the next few years. In future, the key activities of the foundation and its three programmes Social Development, Culture and Europe will focus on awareness raising and social engagement, cultural production, and education and development. Drawing on the expertise of its staff, the foundation itself will play a more active role in project development. The experts in the various programmes will collaborate closely and develop joint strategies to solve social problems.

Doraja Eberle drove forward the process of strategic focussing with vigour and determination. Under her leadership, the work of the foundation has become sustainable. As a specialist in social work and international aid for people in distress, she was able to contribute her full range of expertise in the social sector. We also greatly appreciated her experience and knowledge of local realities when networking with other foundations and funding organisations. She resigned from her position as chair of the Managing Board on 31 December and moved on to the ERSTE Foundation Advisory Board, where she took over the chair from Erhard Busek, who will continue to play an active role in this board of experts. We are deeply indebted to Doraja Eberle and are very pleased that she will stay part of the team as a valuable advisor.

The annual General Assembly and Conference of the European Foundation Centre, the umbrella organisation of European non-profit foundations, was held in Sarajevo this year. ERSTE Foundation was a member of the organisational committee of the well-attended conference. In line with its title "Rethinking Europe", we discussed topics such as solidarity, civil society and political governance with our peers from other foundations. Outside, meanwhile, a large part of the regions of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia was engulfed by floods. We witnessed the worst floods in the Balkans for more than 120 years. One of ERSTE Foundation's emergency relief measures involved organising a PR campaign to support a donation initiative by our "music school Superar Srebrenica" project. Together with well-known musicians from the countries affected by the floods, the Superar youth choir Srebrenica produced a song appealing for donations. The proceeds were used to rebuild music schools that had lost everything in the floods.

The summer saw a possible wind of change in Austria. There was hope that the country might catch up with international standards concerning philanthropic work and civic commitment. Austria is one of the last countries in Europe that lacks legislation giving tax advantages to – and thus actively promoting – non-profit foundations, i.e. making a private commitment for the public good a matter that concerns society as a whole and even the state. In 2014 ERSTE Foundation, for instance, paid EUR 22.782.150,90 in taxes to the Austrian state. One could say, therefore, that it is the greatest beneficiary by far. Together with the Julius Raab Stiftung, we contributed to this process, publishing a foundation atlas and organising a large networking event in Vienna. We are co-founders of the union of



Managing Board (from left to right)
Bernhard Spalt, Franz Karl Prüller,
Richard Wolf

non-profit foundations, which is lobbying for legislative reform modelled on Germany and Switzerland and seeks to make Austria's foundation landscape flourish.

Following development and preparation phases, two new major ERSTE Foundation projects got into full swing in 2014. The ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy is an educational programme for people who work in social integration in the third sector. The academy was developed together with Vienna University of Economics and Business and enables executives and staff members of relief organisations to significantly enhance their knowledge of topics such as strategic planning, social entrepreneurship and communication and provides them with practical examples they can use in their day-to-day work.

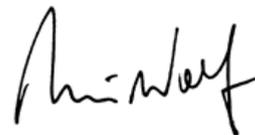
The ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership aims to use simple means to address one of the most complex tasks facing Europe: mainly by directly involving the people concerned. There is no doubt that overcoming the social exclusion of Europe's largest ethnic minority, the Sinti and Roma, is one of the most complex social and economic challenges of our continent. The ERSTE Foundation initiative transfers projects that are successful in providing employment for Roma in Romania, Hungary and Slovakia to other communities and links good-practice initiatives with each other.

In the summer an independent jury presented the 2014 Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory, initiated by the foundation and worth EUR 76.000, to the Russian art critic and author Ekaterina Degot. This decision was a clear sign of support for Russia's new dissident scene. December saw the launch of the foundation's new discussion series "The European Match - Controversies and Encounters", which also focussed on Eastern Europe. Journalists from Russia and Ukraine participated in a lively debate on the media war sparked by the conflict in Ukraine entitled "The Media War: Clash of Realities in the Ukraine Conflict".

ERSTE Foundation plans to keep things moving in future. We will move to the newly built Erste Campus in mid-2016. In the immediate vicinity of Vienna's new main train station, the future head office of Erste Group will provide ample space for the foundation. Located at ground level, we will be able to provide low-threshold access to the public and organise our own events. Not least, our specialised library, which is continually expanding, will become a meeting point for people who are dedicated to social development issues, the strengthening of democracy, European integration and contemporary culture in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. We look forward to this and thank our partners who will continue to accompany us along this path.



Franz Karl Prüller
Chairman



Richard Wolf
Deputy Chairman



Bernhard Spalt
Board Member

The course for a promising future is set



Georg Winckler
Chairman of the ERSTE
Foundation Supervisory
Board

When the ERSTE Foundation Supervisory Board appointed Doraja Eberle to chair the Managing Board on 15 December 2012, she took over an institution undergoing major changes. Over the following years, the repercussions of the financial and economic crisis of 2008 also had an impact on the markets of Erste Group, whose major shareholder is ERSTE Foundation. As a result, it was necessary to cancel dividend payments for 2012, while the foundation's departments had to cope with a strong increase in requests for funding, since an increasing number of public funds and private sponsors in the social, educational and cultural budgets of the countries in which the foundation operates were being cancelled.

When Doraja Eberle took over as chair of ERSTE Foundation, the "chairmanship" and "operational responsibility" functions were subsequently merged in the Managing Board, which was part of the foundation's strategic reorganisation. Still other important decisions had to be made in order to adjust the non-profit savings bank private foundation to the new economic and social environment in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. In response to the persistently difficult economic situation, the foundation reduced the majority of its debt by selling shares. By doing so, ERSTE Foundation set the course for its future successful work in a difficult economic environment.

It was due to Doraja Eberle's personal commitment that ERSTE Foundation was able to continue to fulfil its tasks successfully over the past few years. Working with great enthusiasm she never lost sight of the foundation's actual goal: to change other people's life for the better. Teaming up with Franz Karl Prüller, the foundation's second operational manager, she made quite a difference in two years.

On 31 December 2014, Doraja Eberle passed on her role as chair of the Managing Board of ERSTE Foundation to her fellow board member Franz Karl Prüller, who joined the foundation in 2005. The director of the foundation's Social Development Programme has been an executive member of the Managing Board since late 2012. With this decision, the Supervisory Board accepted Ms Eberle's wish to withdraw from her active role at ERSTE Foundation in its meeting on 15 December 2014. With this step, the management, which consisted of two CEOs, was taken over by a single person, which also helped to streamline structures and reduce costs.

As a result, as of 2015 the ERSTE Foundation Managing Board consists of its chair Franz Karl Prüller as the sole operational manager, Richard Wolf (deputy chairman) and Bernhard Spalt.

We are pleased that Doraja Eberle will from now on provide advisory support to ERSTE Foundation as the new chairwoman of the Advisory Board. To ensure that she will continue to share her experience with the foundation, Erhard Busek, former chairman of the Advisory Board of ERSTE Foundation, recommended Doraja Eberle as his successor to the chair of this advisory committee of experts from Central and Eastern Europe. Erhard Busek will continue to play an active role in a consulting capacity as a member of the Advisory Board.

**Supervisory Board
members**

Georg Winckler
(chairman)
Johanna Rachinger
(deputy chairwoman)
Maximilian Hardegg
Bernhard Kainz
Peter Mitterbauer
Peter Pichler
Markus Trauttmansdorff
Barbara Pichler

We are also pleased to recognise that, under her management, ERSTE Foundation was able to significantly strengthen its role as the main shareholder of Erste Group Bank AG last year by creating a stable group of shareholders. The foundation significantly reduced its debt incurred as a result of the bank's capital increases over the past few years and streamlined its personnel structure. It also managed to keep the budget allocated for project work and grants to partners at previous years' level. Together with Erste Group, the foundation is set to move to the Erste Campus in 2016, which will open up new opportunities to present the foundation's work. Not least, the staff members of Erste Bank will be able to better follow the charitable work of their main shareholder and gain first-hand access to information.

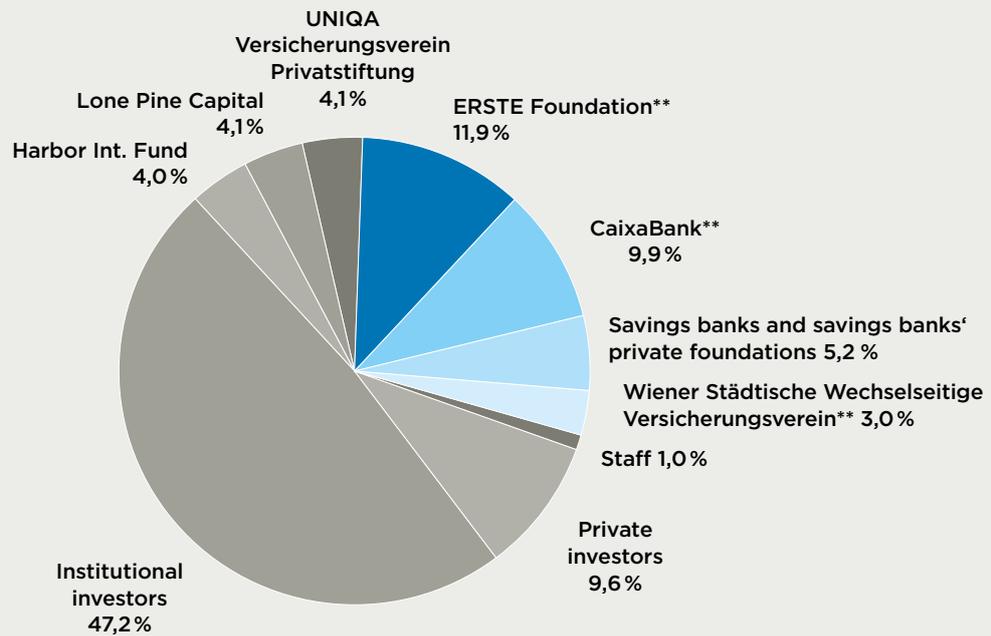
The Supervisory Board members expressly thank Doraja Eberle, Franz Karl Prüller, Richard Wolf and Bernhard Spalt for their excellent work over the past few years. We look forward to future developments with great expectations and curiosity.



Georg Winckler

Chairman of the Supervisory Board

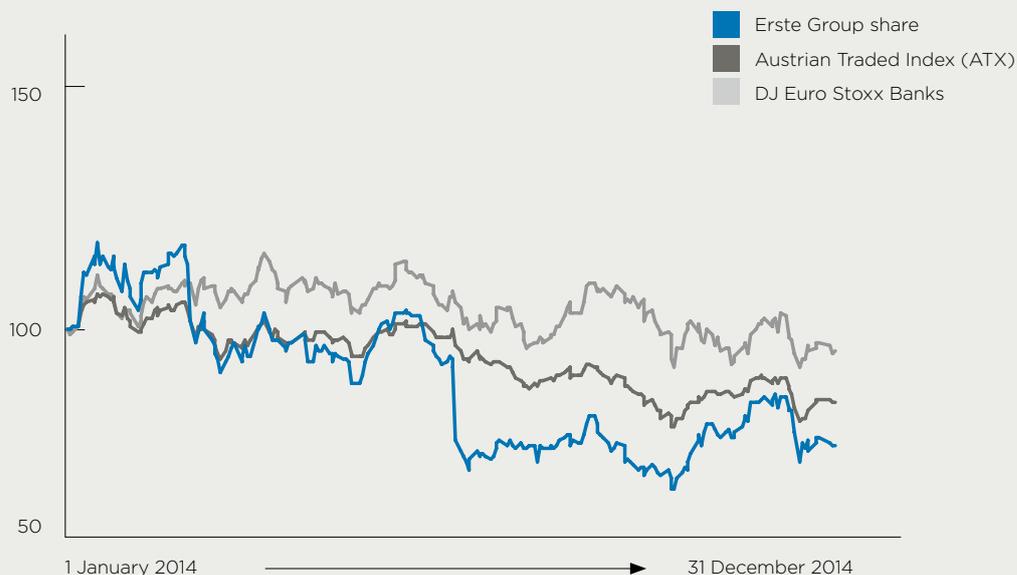
Economic and voting participation of ERSTE Foundation in Erste Group*



* As at 31 Dec 2014, free float: 70.0 %

** ERSTE Foundation controls a total of 30.0 % of shares (including 18.1 % from the shares of CaixaBank, the savings banks and savings banks' private foundations, and Wiener Städtische Wechselseitige Versicherungsverein) and owns an 11.9 % stake in Erste Group Bank AG.

Performance of the Erste Group share and important indices (indexed)



ERSTE Foundation: The main shareholder of Erste Group

Syndicate agreements with several co-shareholders boost control over ERSTE Group

ERSTE Foundation is a private savings bank foundation pursuant to the Austrian Savings Bank Act. This means that it has to perform two tasks at the same time.

ERSTE Foundation shall serve the common good and invest part of its dividends from its stake in Erste Group in philanthropic projects. Each year, the bank's managing board proposes a dividend payment to the general shareholders' meeting for approval. Only non-profit, philanthropic and church organisations are eligible to receive grants from the foundation; individuals and commercial operations may not be beneficiaries. The projects ERSTE Foundation initiates and independently develops therefore always involve partners or beneficiaries who belong to these circles.

In accordance with the foundation statutes, ERSTE Foundation shall, on the other hand, have a permanent and qualified stake in Erste Group Bank AG and support Erste Group Bank AG in its regional and national activities. To this end, ERSTE Foundation has regularly participated in Erste Group Bank AG's capital increases in the past and incurred liabilities. Erste Group Bank AG's expansion is now largely complete. ERSTE Foundation has therefore significantly reduced its debt over the past few years. In 2014 it sold 13.576,817 million shares (which corresponds to about 3 % of the share capital). The net revenue from this sale totalled around EUR 262 million, of which EUR 225,7 million was used to pay off its liabilities in the past financial year. There are plans to use the proceeds to pay back another EUR 214 million in 2015. ERSTE Foundation will thus considerably reduce its debt level to EUR 400 million in the first half-year of 2015.

In 2014 ERSTE Foundation paid EUR 661.776,42 (2013: EUR 639.371,85) in personnel-related taxes and duties. Income-related taxes amounted to EUR 19.661.857,47 (2013: EUR 10.797.050,24).

A particularly positive development was the enlargement of the group of shareholders in 2014, who joined forces under the leadership of the foundation. On 15 December 2014 the Austrian Takeover Commission approved changes to existing syndicate and shareholder agreements which reinforced ERSTE Foundation's position as the main shareholder of Erste Group.

The group of shareholders now consists of ERSTE Foundation, the Savings Banks' Group, which is made up of the savings banks and the savings banks' private foundations, CaixaBank and the main shareholder of the Vienna Insurance Group, the Wiener Städtische Wechselseitige Versicherungsverein.

ERSTE Foundation sold its shares to the group of core shareholders and now owns a direct stake of 11.9 %. CaixaBank and ERSTE Foundation have revised and amended the Preferred Partnership agreement of 2009. The new agreement now includes the right of CaixaBank to nominate a second member of Erste Group's Supervisory Board. CaixaBank increased its stake in Erste Group from 9.1 % to 9.9 %. The Savings Banks' Group entered into a shareholders' agreement with ERSTE Foundation, increased its stake from 3.4 % to 5.2 % and is now entitled to nominate one member of the Supervisory Board of Erste Group Bank AG. The Wiener Städtische Wechselseitige Versicherungsverein adapted the agreement it concluded with ERSTE Foundation in 2013 and has increased its stake in Erste Group Bank AG to approx. 3.0 % over the past few months. The Erste Group thus has a stable group of shareholders, which holds approx. 30 % of the shares. This agreement enables one of the largest retail banks in Central and Eastern Europe to continue to rely on a solid ownership structure, with ERSTE Foundation heading a group of committed partners.

Decline in Erste Group share price due to one-off effects

The development of the European banking sector was affected by the AQR and stress tests conducted by the ECB and EBA. While European bank shares declined by almost 5 %, Erste Group suffered a disproportionate decline in its share price of around 24 %, attributable to non-recurring factors. Increased provisions in Hungary and Romania, the write-off of goodwill, uncertainties related to the conversion of FX loans in Hungary and a high tax burden all played a decisive role in the decline to the annual low of EUR 17,02 in mid-October. After Erste Group had comfortably passed the bank stress test, its share price increased considerably and ended 2014 at EUR 19,235. The market capitalisation of Erste Group declined – due to the downward trend of the share price – to EUR 8,3 billion at year-end 2014 compared to EUR 10,9 billion in 2013.

As a result, ERSTE Foundation's shares in Erste Group Bank AG were worth approx. EUR 1 billion at year-end.



**ERSTE
Foundation
Community**

Alpbach
Meeting
2014

3
days

72
participants

40
organisations

11
countries

In 2014 the ERSTE Foundation Community met on the occasion of the European Forum Alpbach for the fifth time in the Tyrolean village. The following pages provide a sneak peek into the atmosphere of the meeting, which became an integral part and a gladly used opportunity for exchange and reflection of the ERSTE Foundation team and our long term project partners.

This year's active participants in the programme include: President of the European Forum Alpbach Franz Fischler, founder of *Krytyka Polityczna* Sławomir Sierakowski, Katerina Mishchenko of the Kiev Contemporary Visual Arts Center, Bosnian filmmaker Jasmlila Žbanić, Ukrainian writer Oksana Zabuzhko and the Frankfurt-based artists' group finger.





Our Vision

Just societies
of open-minded,
curious and committed
people
in a united Europe.

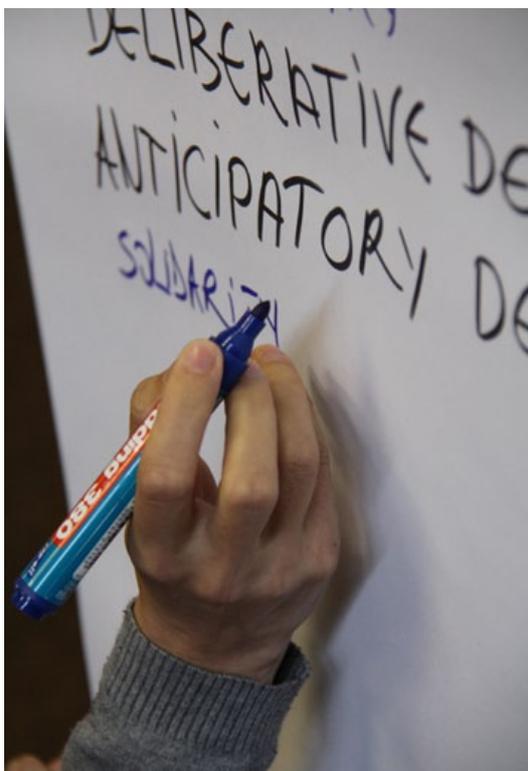
European Forum
Alpach 2014

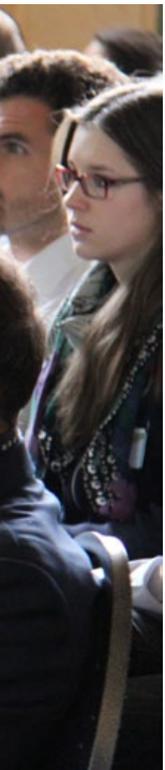
At the Crossroads



ERSTE Foundation
www.erstestiftung.org

ERSTE Foundation Strategy 2014
Vision - Mission - Goals - Activities





HIGHLIGHTS





Preparing the civil society in CEE for existing and future challenges

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy supports civil-society organisations in Central and South Eastern Europe involved in social integration. ERSTE Foundation assists these organisations in managing the difficulties of current and future social challenges through facilitating knowledge, imparting skills (management, leadership) and building up networks.

We talked with Miroљub Nikolić, the Director of Caritas Šabac in Serbia and participant of the first generation of the ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy.

What does Elio stand for?

Elio is an Italian translation of the Greek word Helios, meaning sun. “Why sun?” one might ask. We believe that by providing employment through this project we will give people a new lease of life, that we will bring sun to those who are not able to pay for our services, and that we will continue shining and spreading light to the people who live around us.

Who are the main beneficiaries of Elio?

The main beneficiaries of this project are women from vulnerable groups. Through this employment, they get trained for a real job and have a chance to become equal and economically independent members of the community. The other beneficiaries are people who live on the margins of the society, who are not capable of taking care of themselves and have no means of asking for assistance. We offer them a full, free-of-charge laundry and dry cleaning service.

You've been participating in the programmes of the ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy since 2014. How would you rate them?

So far, we've taken part in the the Social Innovation and Management Programme and in three workshops within the Regional Programme. With the ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy, you provide a unique concept and service to the NGOs in the region. The workshops are tailored to the specific and current needs of the NGOs. To give you one example: you addressed some issues that we never considered important and we came to realise that they might be crucial for achieving some of our project goals. We never considered the need to develop a communication strategy, corporate identity, identify our stakeholders and target groups in and outside of the community. We were only focused on getting the work done.

Was there a session you considered particularly beneficial to your organisation?

As a result of one of the workshops, we are currently developing a communication strategy and defining our target groups. Recognition and acceptance within the broader community are essential for us to become a profitable and sustainable social business. In addition, I would like to underline the importance of the regional dimension of the project. We finally have the chance to work with our neighbours. The programme offers a platform where we can exchange, help and inspire each other and, most importantly, learn that we are not alone with the problems we are facing. The programme is laying a foundation for future synergies between countries which have not been on the best terms in recent years.



Miroљub Nikolić
Director of Caritas Šabac

Caritas Šabac runs the laundry service Elio, a social entrepreneurship which offers employment to socially disadvantaged women and provides an affordable, high-quality laundry, dry cleaning, drying and ironing service to the local community. It was one of the finalist projects of the ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration 2013.

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy is a cooperation project of Vienna University of Economics and Business and ERSTE Foundation.



ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy is based on a capacity-building model and thus enables individual organisations and consequently the entire sector to continue to develop.

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy is made up of the international Social Innovation and Management Programme and the Regional Programme. The international programme comprises central topics such as NGO ecosystems, fundraising, strategy and leadership and is primarily aimed at executives and project managers. The regional programme is composed of events that are largely independent of each other. These events are held in several language groups and topics focus on local realities and needs.

To implement the two programmes, ERSTE Foundation joined forces with the Competence Centre for Non-Profit Organisations and Social Entrepreneurship of Vienna University of Economics and Business. 2014 saw the launch of the programmes, which were planned and setup in the same year, at both international and regional level.

The long-term goal of ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy is to strengthen the civil societies in Central and South Eastern Europe.

Jovana Trifunović

Social Innovation and Management Programme 2014

3 modules
25 participants from different NGOs
12 countries
1 language

Regional Programme 2014/2015

Period: October - December 2014

16 workshops
13 countries
8 cities
7 languages
English, German, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and Romanian

Lecturers 2014 (Selection)

Csaba Bakó
Renate Buber
Erhard Busek
Radka Bystřická
Klaus Candussi
Christoph Chorgherr
Vlad Craioveanu
Sava Dalbokov
Michael Fembek
Gabriela Gandal
Vera Gjokaj

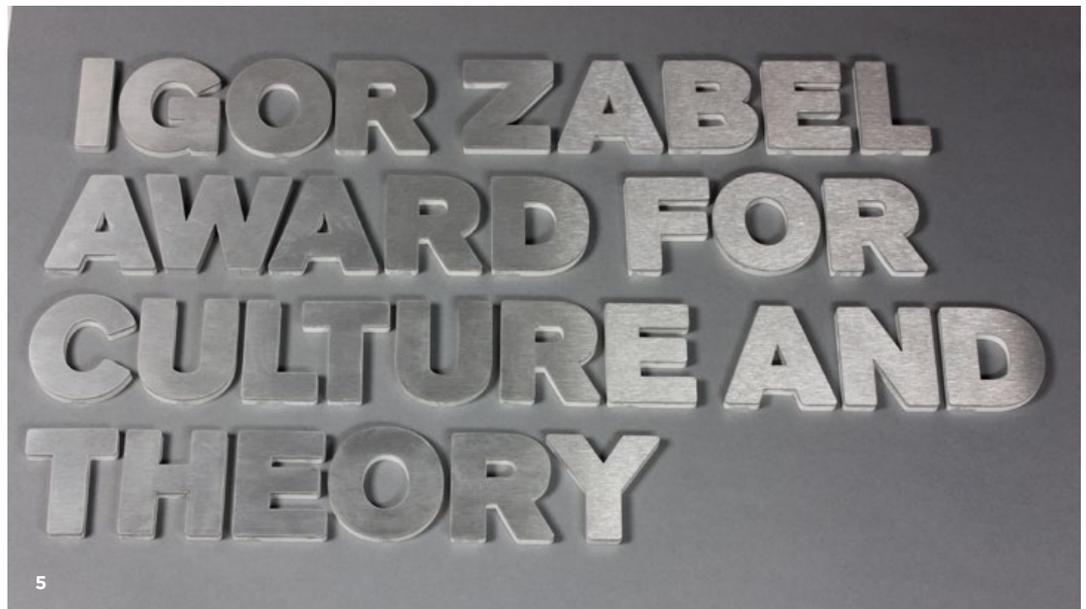
Lukáš Hejna
Nikolaus Hutter
Iván Kepecs
Ilse Klanner
Michael Kleinbichler
Ivan Krastev
Michaela Kreuterová
Christian G. Majer
Daniel Matei
Michael Meyer
Reinhard Millner
Jana Pacalová
Sabine Pöhacker
Florian Pomper

Olivia Rauscher
Matthias Reisinger
Zsófia Rét
Susanne Roiser
Andreja Rosandić
Karin Schetelig
Andrea Schmidt
Christian Schober
Georg Schön
Günther Stahl
Peter Vandro
Josef Waltl
Barbara Weber
Chris Worman

- 1 Short break on the roof deck of the Erste Bank Lounge at Petersplatz
- 2 Andreas Treichl, Chairman of the Management Board of Erste Group Bank AG and member of the Advisory Board of ERSTE Foundation, welcomes the participants.
- 3 Participants of the first generation of the Social and Innovation Management Programme
- 4 Group portrait: Social and Innovation Management Programme participants and organisers of the ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy



ERSTE Foundation
NGO Academy



Hard times for critical art and critical minds

Russian art historian, writer and curator Ekaterina Degot wins the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2014

In early November Austrian artist Josef Dabernig turned the main showroom of the Viennese Secession into an elegant party hall, framed by simple yet luxuriously heavy drapery. Held in Vienna for the first time, the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory celebrated its fourth edition on 6 November. It was a cheerful event that nevertheless also featured many thought-provoking moments and powerful speeches: this time the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory sent out a strong signal to Russia. The first prize (EUR 40,000) went to art historian Ekaterina Degot, known for her critical comments on the official politics of her home country.

With its decision, the jury – consisting of Ketī Chukhrov (Moscow), Apolonija Šušteršič (Ljubljana) and Rainer Fuchs (Vienna) – sent out a clear signal of support for Russia's new dissident scene. Faced with the overheated nationalist climate created by the conflict in Ukraine and a new era of East-West confrontation, the scene is finding it increasingly difficult to attract attention within and above all outside of Russia. Ekaterina Degot was awarded the prize for her interdisciplinary work as a critic and curator who primarily focuses on socio-political and aesthetic topics in Russia and Eastern Europe. Her recent blog contributions to the debate on a boycott at Manifesta in St. Petersburg received a great deal of attention. In a subtle manner, she made it clear that it would have been fatal to cut off Russian artists from international exchange at this moment in time, even though there was always the risk that the renowned exhibition could be misappropriated to cultivate the image of an undemocratic system. "I am extremely thankful for this award, especially because I see it as a gesture of solidarity with intellectuals of Russia in one of the darkest moments in this country's history," said Ekaterina Degot, commenting on the jury's decision.

In addition to the award, three working grants (each worth EUR 12,000) are offered, two of which by the jury. These were given to two theorists who examine the close interaction between political and cultural developments: the art theorist Karel Císař from Prague and the art historian Miklavž Komelj from Ljubljana. Karel Císař is an assistant professor of aesthetics and art theory at the Academy of Art, Architecture and Design in Prague. The jury awarded him an Igor Zabel grant because he "bridges the gap between the western and eastern art and art theory by working and thinking in international and interdisciplinary contexts". In doing so, he uses various media, such as photography, film, literature, architecture and design. Miklavž Komelj is an art historian, poet and translator in Ljubljana. He examines relations between art and politics in a similar way to the man this award was named after and whom he also knew well. Komelj was awarded an Igor Zabel grant for his impassioned writing. His interests focus on art that receives little attention and artists who are often overlooked. He secured Partisan art a permanent place in the collection of Moderna Galerija in Ljubljana. One of the three grants is traditionally awarded by the laureate. This year it went to the Russian activist, writer and translator Kirill Medvedev for his publishing house, Free Marxist Press. The non-profit publishing house sees itself as an educational project to promote contemporary Marxist and critical theory, political art and poetry. Publications and campaigns broach the history of labour, socialist and antifascist groups, as well as women, homosexual and minority movements. →



Igor Zabel (1958 – 2005)

was a Slovenian curator, writer and cultural theorist with many interests and active in a wide variety of fields. As a philosopher, author, essayist, modern and contemporary art curator, literary and art critic and translator, he was a mentor for new generations of curators and critics of contemporary art. In his theoretical and curatorial work, he tirelessly called for the profound exploration of those political, social and cultural undercurrents that had the potential to give us a better understanding of the modern and contemporary art. The laureates – just like Igor Zabel – have brought together specific fields of knowledge and culture and pinpointed their omnipresence in people's lives. The Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory honours this advanced approach to research, analysis and knowledge transfer.

**IGOR ZABEL
AWARD FOR
CULTURE AND
THEORY 2014**

1 Ekaterina Degot, winner of the 2014 Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory

2 In the audience: jury member Ketī Chukhrov, Mateja Kos Zabel and Jasna Zabel

3 Winners and jury with the representatives of the Igor Zabel Association for Culture and Theory and ERSTE Foundation

4, 5 Award Trophy

Excerpt from laureate Ekatarina Degot's acceptance speech. In her speech, entitled "The List of Fiascos", she described the developments of her home country and her own personal background as a history of failure and did so with ruthless candour and a pinch of bitter humour.

(...) At the final moment of the 1980s, still in the chill of the Cold War, I was a freelance art historian. Choosing art history was a means to be as distant as possible from politics, the economy, the public sphere and everything I felt helpless about. Now I strive, desperately, to break through – to the same politics, economy and public sphere without abandoning the art historian in me, whom I still would regret to lose. We art historians and other intellectuals were, and still are, inhabiting the superstructure, dwelling in criticism, wallowing in language, navigating the semiosphere, while the economic conditions were – and still are – taken from us, first by real socialism, now by phantasmatic capitalism. There was no ground under our feet. We art critics and theorists learned to worship distance and independence, irony and sarcasm, the last resorts of someone stripped from all possible two freedoms. We overlooked the one freedom we had – lots of free time. We confused this free time with sleep. One morning in 1989, we woke up and realised we were on the market.

Some people kept telling us we were out there, in the history again, while others claimed history had already ended. That sounded weird since we hadn't yet tasted a single bite of it. But we were out there, in the world, on the market, and so were our texts – for the first time translated, understood, misunderstood, judged, quoted, referred to, looked upon too. Soviet art historians knew all too well how to analyse a particular work of art and

how to put it in context – using metaphors and litotes, paradoxes and oxymorons; but this skill, this craft, was not needed anymore. What was needed was post-fordist knowledge production: rigid cryptic universal-Western umbrella notions, these passwords of international cultural studies that often miss the point, but mark the initiated. It is only much later that in my writing and research, I dared to openly assume my Soviet anti-formalist heritage, ultimately Marxist but rooted in literary narrative and philosophy rather than semiology and political theory.

Even if history was over, time accelerated, and in the 1990s I became a daily newspaper art critic and cultural columnist. Those of us who could not restrain from writing before, started to do it in – and for – bourgeois and wannabe-bourgeois newspapers. The contract was based on the illusion of a writer's freedom. But this freedom of ours, the freedom of choosing quirky, highly personal words, was

in fact legitimising the freedom of choice on the free market, and most importantly, the historical choice of the free market itself. The smartest among us already knew that what we were doing was embellishing the massive redistribution of wealth that was going on, the ecstasy of accumulation, and the aesthetics of the immaterial and immediate transfer. It was only ten years later, in 2007, that I was able to build the online page I wanted to, where I tried to ban ornate art criticism in favor of crude socially oriented factography.

But why, in my own writing, did I continue talking to the public in the first place, rather than to the academic community, even if I was already warned it would not bring me much respect? Why did I always want to make people laugh – and, in my boldest dreams, even cry? Why did I fail at being substantial, strict and serious? (...)



The awards ceremony was held in Vienna in cooperation with mumok and Viennese Secession. The winners presented their work at a conference held at mumok. In line with its motto "Continuing Dialogues", which was borrowed from Igor Zabel, the laureates gave insight into their work. Karel Císař talked to Rainer Fuchs about his exhibition "Figures and Prefigurations", which was on show at City Gallery Prague in 2013. Miklavž Komelj and Apolonija Šušteršič exchanged thoughts and opinions with reference to the secession's motto "To every age its art, to every art its freedom." by Ludwig Hevesi. Conference participants looked forward to the discussion of the Russian panel with great anticipation. Keti Chukhrov, Ekaterina Degot und Kirill Medvedev chose the topic of "Neo-Patriotism and the Options of Dissidentsip". All of them agreed that Russian intellectuals who engage in critical thinking would continue to have a hard time in their home country.

Endowed with a total prize money of EUR 76,000, the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory is an initiative of ERSTE Foundation and is awarded every two years in cooperation with the Igor Zabel Association for Culture and Theory (Ljubljana). It honours exceptional cultural achievements by art historians and theorists whose work is related to Central and South Eastern Europe and encourages cultural dialogue. The Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory was first awarded in 2008 to the Croatian curatorial collective What, How & for Whom (WHW). Piotr Piotrowski, art historian and former director of the national museum in Warsaw won the prize in 2010, and the Macedonian art historian Suzana Milevska was awarded with it in 2012. The next Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory will be presented in 2016.

Maribel Königer



Glasnost. Soviet Non-Conformist Art from the 1980s
Texts by Joseph Backstein,
Ekaterina Degot, Boris Groys
London et al.: Haunch of
Venison, 2010



Jan Mancuska: Against
Interpretation
by Karel Cisar (Author),
Katrin Meder (Author)
Hatje Cantz; Bilingual
edition, 2011



It's no good. Poems, essays,
actions. Kirill Medvedev,
translated from the Russian
by Keith Gessen et al.
New York: n+1 / Ugly
Duckling Presse, 2012

**IGOR ZABEL
AWARD FOR
CULTURE AND
THEORY 2014**

Excerpt from the keynote speech “Insurgent Art in the Theatre of Politics” by Timea Junghaus, whose organisation European Roma Cultural Foundation received an Igor Zabel working grant in 2012.

(...) I am a Roma woman, (...) a first generation intellectual, an art historian, a curator of contemporary art, which means that my family has no idea what I really do for a living – no seriously, it means that I am obsessed with the power of the visual and the affirmation of the notion Roma contemporary art. When I speak in front of a prestigious audience such as the one here tonight, before I speak I have to take a moment to remind myself that even though I come from a people who have been so hated, so despised, so traumatised, and stigmatised, and terrorised, I need not fear talking about my woundedness but take confidence in my achievement of still finding the resources to speak the truth, and find alliances not based on interests – which might be the conventional mode of collaboration in my field – but based on solidarity.

Amongst a few other colleagues and friends, it was Suzana Milevska, art historian and Igor Zabel Award winner in 2012, who showed me and my colleagues at the European Roma Cultural Foundation and Gallery8 that even in this vicious system based on rivalry and competition, we can preserve a commitment to integrity and honesty and decency, and we can do it in such a way that we are always part of a network or a community or a tradition of struggle. In 2012 and with the support of the Igor Zabel working grant that Suzana Milevska awarded to our small organisation – only six



months after the Hungarian authorities closed the last cultural centre in Budapest available for Roma cultural production, presentation and interpretation – we rented a vegetable shop in the 8th district of Budapest, the “chocolate side of town”, the area mostly populated by Roma inhabitants, and we started Gallery8 – Roma Contemporary Art Space. With this support we broke out of the usual Roma NGO destiny, which is many times just a trap in which Roma are waiting for the donor organisations to delegate their “projects”, sometimes crazy ideas or “initiatives” to the Roma organisations. We did not need to apply for project funding announced by any government agency or donor; we had the resources to finally do what we desired. Gallery8 is dedicated to revising the received knowledge about the traditional and contemporary art and culture of Roma by pinning down issues debated through post-colonial theory and critique such as essentialisation of Roma identity, cultural differences, hybridisation and subjectivity. Our research, curatorial and activist projects are engaged in a continual fight against negative stereotypes and hostile attitudes towards Roma communities by dealing with the most delicate and urgent issues, such as the Roma Holocaust, anti-Roma sentiment and racism, and we do this in the extremely hostile nationalist political environment of contemporary Hungary.

Through our curatorial projects and artistic actions we proved and we made visible that white supremacy is real and that patriarchy is real, and our home country has shown us that it can hurt us and endanger us, and destroy us. It is rather difficult to trust in the essential

core humanity of white people when they are going after our Roma people with guns, and still we work with critical consciousness “against the grain” in Hungary, which seems to be the laboratory of the European experimentation.

We are disgusted by the endless “gipsy problem” discourse of mainstream politics and its slogans – such as “gypsies” don’t want to work, they’re welfare freeloaders, thieves, palm-reading charlatans, criminal beasts and oversexed animals – and we know that Roma are just what Europe needs to recover! European economies are beginning to feel the effects of rapidly aging workforces. As European populations fail to produce enough children to replenish outgoing working-age generations, conditions will only get worse. By 2050, the population of ethnic Bulgarians is expected to shrink to 800,000, while the number of Bulgarian Roma is expected to crest 3.5 million. Bulgaria will be, in effect, a Roma country by the middle of this century! A 2010 projection indicated that 20% of Hungary’s population, 30% of Romania’s population and 40% of their workforces will consist of Roma by the same year. Europe needs Roma babies. If European governments effectively invest in Roma inclusion, they will be cultivating the workforce that can help bear the coming load of rising pensions, health care costs and other national disbursements, which will save our aging and ill Europe.

(...)

Igor Zabel warned us that “the idea that art can seriously change the world has become questionable, utopian or even impossible.” There is no doubt, however, that his legacy affirms that cultural criticism can be and is a vital location for the excavations of power and dominance, for the exchange of knowledge and for the formation of new epistemologies.

Jury 2014

The prize winners are selected by an international jury. In 2014 the jury consisted of philosopher Keti Chukhrov (Moscow), artist and architect Apolonija Šušteršič (Ljubljana) and the curator and deputy director of mumok, Rainer Fuchs.

**IGOR ZABEL
AWARD FOR
CULTURE AND
THEORY 2014**



The Media War

The first discussion of a new series of talks organised by ERSTE Foundation highlighted the different realities in media coverage of the conflict in Ukraine

The air was thick with tension in the main hall of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna on 1 December 2014. Three people were sitting on the panel to discuss precisely why there was such incredible tension in this round: one thing was certain – it was impossible to trust one another. Next to the moderator Christian Ultsch (head of the foreign desk of the Austrian daily *Die Presse*) sat Oksana Boyko, host of the biweekly geopolitical show *Worlds Apart* on RT (formerly *Russia Today*). On his other side sat Katya Gorchinskaya, deputy chief editor of the English-language newspaper *Kyiv Post* and host of the Ukrainian TV programme *Free People*, as well as Yevhen Fedchenko, director of the Kyiv Mohyla School of Journalism, where he also works as a professor, and co-founder of *StopFake.org.*, an initiative founded in March 2014. The first edition of the new series of talks, “The European Match – Controversies and Encounters”, which ERSTE Foundation initiated in cooperation with the daily newspaper *Die Presse* and will continue to organise on a regular basis, examined the media war sparked by the conflict in Ukraine, which is trying to steer public opinion in Russia, Ukraine and the states observing events with completely different depictions of the situation in the conflict areas.

It is a known fact and a global phenomenon that the media do not report on international conflicts from a neutral viewpoint, and this phenomenon is by no means new. Instead, they frequently adopt a patriotic position and do not even shy away from using propaganda to the point of manipulating their audiences with false reporting. Nevertheless, with regard to current relations between Russia and Ukraine, all sides are criticising the use of misinformation to manipulate public opinion in a particularly unethical manner. The recent events in Crimea and the Donbass have been visible abroad only through journalistic coverage – through television images of the besiegers and besieged, through commentary, interviews and background reports. In some cases, the media representing the various parties to the conflict have portrayed completely different realities. The battle on the streets has, in fact, become a war between the media, which intentionally stir up their audience's emotions with the antagonistic stance: “It's us against them”.

Discussion of this topic provided an excellent point to kick off “The European Match” series. Over the course of the next few years, this series will seek answers to the fundamental question of why, 25 years after the major social upheavals in Europe, the continent is still dominated by the great powers and ideologies and the separation of East and West; why old and new divisions keep emerging. Europe is still not a unified continent. Economic instability, social inequality and cultural reorientation raise questions concerning social cohesion. The series of talks, “The European Match”, therefore aims to bring together experts and actors from eastern and western Europe to learn from the process of exchanging arguments and to give their adversaries the opportunity to air views that can at times spark very lively debate. →

Oksana Boyko is a moderator of the bi-weekly geopolitical show “Worlds Apart” on RT.

Yevhen Fedchenko is co-founder of the *StopFake.org* initiative and director and journalism professor at the Mohyla Academy in Kyiv.

Katya Gorchinskaya is deputy editor-in-chief of the English newspaper *Kyiv Post* and host of the TV show “Free People”.

- 1 Christian Ultsch intervenes in the heated discussion between Oksana Boyko (left) and Katya Gorchinskaya (right).
- 2 Two different points of view, three panellists. From left to right: Yevhen Fedchenko, Oksana Boyko, Katya Gorchinskaya
- 3 Deputy Chief Editor of the *Kyiv Post*, Katya Gorchinskaya, describes her perspective.
- 4 As the co-founder of the platform *StopFake.org*, journalist Yevhen Fedchenko knows how to point to the dangers of false reporting by the media and to warn of its misuse.
- 5 The European Match – Controversies and Encounters: the first edition of the discussion series at the well-attended Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

In his introductory speech, Filip Radunovic, who planned the series, pinpointed a core problem of 21st-century political discord when he explained that the clash of ideologies had been replaced by the much fiercer conflict of realities (spread by the media). The purpose of this event was to examine this issue.

The discussion, however, initially digressed somewhat from the actual topic – the media war – and focussed on the events of the past year. The panellists acted out their parts as expected: Ms Boyko pointed to foreign interests and national extremists that had played a role in the insurrections on Kyiv's Maidan Square in late 2013 and early 2014, while Ms Gorchinskaya repeatedly emphasised that it had been the Ukrainian people who had got rid of its corrupt, Moscow-dependent government in a legitimate, revolutionary act and had subsequently elected a new government by democratic means. As a result, during the first half of the evening, the audience witnessed the media war live on stage rather than a theoretical analysis of the phenomenon by a panel of experts.

However, it was very enlightening to observe how you can win or lose an argument depending on how you present it, and the debate provided a reflection on the mechanisms of media representation. Oksana Boyko is an anchorwoman at a large TV broadcaster. For years, she worked as a political correspondent and reported on conflicts in Chechnya, Libya, Syria and Afghanistan. She made several references to her personal experiences from that period, even though they were not always applicable to the topic in hand. Her flawless English, which she owes to a Master's in Mass Communication from the U.S., and her exceptionally skilful rhetoric lent a certain credibility to her statements, which was further underpinned by her professional flair and discursive skill.

Ms Boyko repeatedly conceded that Russian activities had not always conformed to international law, that truth had not always been spoken, that both Russia's leadership and its population had sometimes acted and reacted out of irrational fear, and that Vladimir Putin was only human after all. She went on to say that Russia's democracy was certainly not yet as developed as it was in the West and that accomplishing this goal was certainly desirable. However, she claimed that the major powers in the West did not act any differently; they also violated international agreements and applied double standards.

While the two Ukrainian journalists had far less stage presence, they had the moral weight of those whose country had been attacked on their side. Katya Gorchinskaya particularly radiated an air of control that made her petite figure appear tense. It was obvious that she was making an effort to retain her composure and dignity. Ms Gorchinskaya has been analysing the political and ethical state of her country for some years now. In 2008 she



Foto: Emeric Fohlen / Zuma / picturedesk.com



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Foto: Emeric Fohlen / Rex Features / picturedisk.com

became a regional editor for the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting project, a non-profit network of investigative journalism centres, and regularly writes for the Wall Street Journal. Her work is widely cited in Western media. She is also a sought-after commentator at international conferences or on TV programmes examining Ukraine's current political situation.

During the discussion, she certainly did not shy away from criticising her own new government, which was still a long way from implementing everything people had demanded when they took to the streets in spring. With regard to the fighting in eastern Ukraine, she acknowledged that the Ukrainian army had also been involved in abusive activities. While Oksana Boyko conveyed her message in an overall professional and sophisticated manner, which involved methodically weighing up the different perspectives and arguments and ultimately making a seemingly rational decision in favour of one truth from several possible options (for example, viewing the annexation of Crimea as justified in geostrategic terms), Katya Gorchinskaya spoke with the authenticity of someone who has actually been involved. The way she described her reality illustrated how people were struggling to solve existential questions in an acutely political situation which had evolved over a long period of time. Their conclusions were, therefore, very much based on their own experiences.

The evening also saw discussions on media manipulation, with both sides giving examples of one-sided accounts. Yevhen Fedchenko did not do himself any favours by citing a single polemic user comment on the RT's community website as evidence of the political position of the broadcaster and of the Russian public in general. And Oksana Boyko actually kept a straight face when she claimed that Moscow had accepted Ukraine's wish to join the EU from the outset, that the Russian media landscape was truly versatile and that RT was, without a doubt, an independent broadcaster.

In late 2014, Katya Gorchinskaya started her three-month scholarship with the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. She intended to use the Milena Jesenská Fellowships, which is organised in cooperation with ERSTE Foundation, to write a book about the revolution in Kyiv, dealing with "the courage of an individual and with solidarity that defies fear and uncertainty". The book tells a story that oscillates between fiction and documentation and that claims to describe the truth, at least one truth.

Maribel Königer

- 1 In the crowd on Maidan Square women demonstrate for the freedom of Ukraine.
- 2 During the demonstrations against the government in Kiev antagonisms become visible also on Maidan Square.

Association For a Better Life

is interested in developments in rural areas and helps young people get their first step on the professional ladder.
(Košice, Slovak Republic)

BAGazs Association

helps Roma communities cultivate organic vegetable gardens and breed piglets.
(Bag, Hungary)

Community Aid Network

provides up-to-date multimedia training to young Roma and thus enables them to launch their career.
(Săcele, Romania)

Education PRO-SPECT

offers media workshops for young people in order to prepare them for employment in this field.
(Brno, Czech Republic)

IKEDOO

focuses on experimental learning. The organisation has developed a mobile lab which prepares less privileged Roma and non-Roma youth for their future professional life.
(Bucharest, Romania)

Profilantrop Association

develops simple and appropriate technologies, for example biomass briquettes, that improve the standard of living, especially for low-income families.
(Budapest, Hungary)

Pro-Cserehát Association

aims to help disadvantaged people in rural communities to build community gardens.
(Budapest, Hungary)

Romani Design

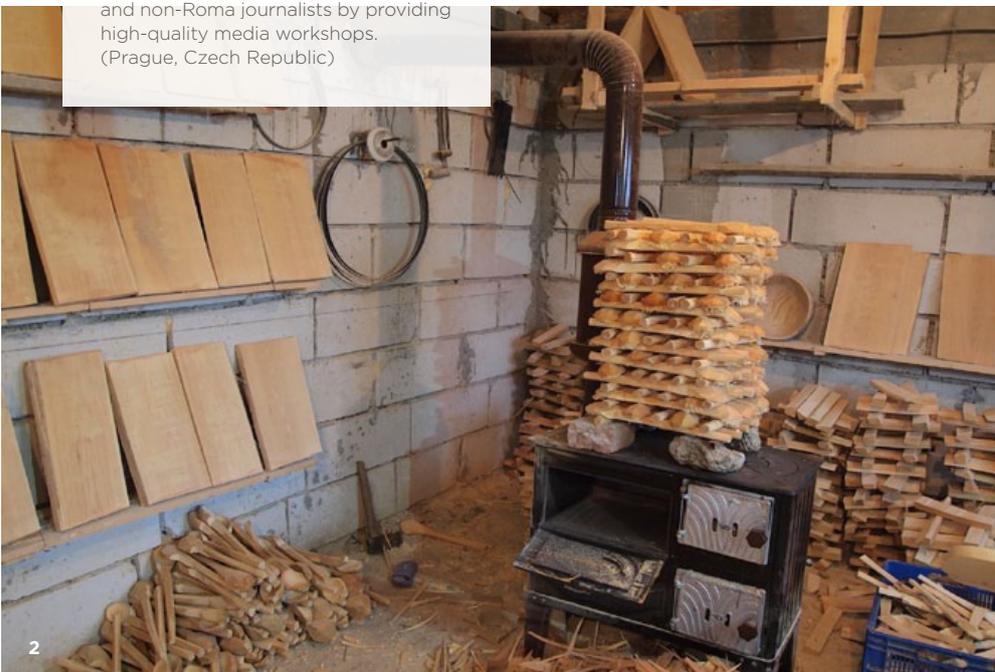
is a design label that reinterprets traditional Roma motifs and tries to fight stereotypes. The design studio is also a learning centre for disadvantaged young people, for unemployed Roma and non-Roma.
(Budapest, Hungary)

Romano ButiQ Association

creates new fields of work for traditional Roma craftspeople and markets them under the brand Meștешukar ButiQ.
(Bucharest, Romania)

Transitions

supports young and talented Roma and non-Roma journalists by providing high-quality media workshops.
(Prague, Czech Republic)



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3

“There is still a strong awareness of working with your hands”

The Romanian organisation Romano ButiQ has been dedicated to reviving traditional Roma handicraft since 2011 and created the Meștешukar ButiQ (MBQ) brand with this goal in mind. A broad network of people who have learned trades such as copper embossing, blacksmithing or tailoring has since evolved. The internationally successful designer Nadja Zerunian and the designer and tailor Peter Weisz have volunteered to collaborate with craftspeople and artisans and develop modern designs for MBQ. We met them both and talked about their impressions and experiences.



When the Vienna-based, award-winning Austrian designer **Nadja Zerunian** is not supporting the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership in her capacity as a pro-bono adviser, she works for famous labels such as AA Watch Company, Georg Jensen, Calvin Klein, Swatch and Rado. Her products have been sold in the Museum of Modern Art shops in New York and San Francisco and at the Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna. Nadja Zerunian regularly writes a blog at roma-handicraft.tumblr.com

All of the organisations that form part of the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership met in December 2014 to coordinate their activities. Nadja, you attended for the second time and you, Peter, for the first time and presented your work. What is so special about this partnership?

NZ: It is a remarkable platform for exchange. NGOs from different countries and working in many different areas get the opportunity to learn from a great number of initiatives.

PW: I was positively surprised by the huge effort that is put into each project and the outcome that this generates. There is such a diverse range of approaches and many of them are successful. Bringing this huge variety of initiatives together certainly plays a role in making the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership so unique.

How did the collaboration between you and MBQ come about? Why do you spend your free time passing on your knowledge to craftspeople?

NZ: ERSTE Foundation approached me in autumn 2013. They asked me to evaluate the design and the proportion of handmade crafts in two of their Roma Partnership projects as a pro-bono expert. I was amazed by the potential and skills I saw. I saw a real chance for MBQ to expand and update its product portfolio in order to reach a broader audience. This was a great challenge and the prospect of working with a group of skilled, traditional craftspeople fascinated me. I was living in my own world far away from reality and I was anxious to broaden my mind. There's always been something magical for me about witnessing a production process from the initial idea to the finished product. Now I have an amazing opportunity to be part of this incredibly exciting process and position a brand that focuses on traditional Roma handicraft.

PW: Nadja told me about this opportunity to make a difference. On the spur of the moment I said, “Yes, I’ll do it”. I have an insatiable appetite for handicraft. My studio is a sort of jumble of treasures, filled with things that I’ve accumulated from flea markets or grandmothers and aunts. I’m interested in handicraft in general and I enjoy creating things with my hands. The fact that I can help someone by doing this is sort of an extra bonus. However, there is another personal reason. My grandparents came from Hungary. I already had some kind of connection to the Roma culture as a child – a romantic stroke of fate, so to speak.



Peter Weisz, born in 1967, is a designer, creative director, fashion director and master tailor in Vienna. Together with Nadja Zerunian he works as a voluntary adviser and designer for the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership. In collaboration with local Roma craftspeople, they develop modern handicraft products with elegant designs.

What kinds of challenges have you faced and what experiences have you had during your travels?

NZ: There have only been a few challenges and a lot of surprises. I basically struggle with the same issues as any craftsman: the lack of suitable raw materials, not many – and sometimes not enough – tools, scarce resources, large distances, and bad roads. But I am amazed by the ingenuity and creativity generated by these bad conditions. There is always a solution. I’ve had some overwhelming experiences and seen some unbearable fates. →

1 Silversmith Nevers (Radu Ion) is working on his first silver jewellery collection in this workshop in Bucharest.

2 An important step in the production process is drying the wood to be treated.

3 A high degree of precision and skilful handling of materials is essential for making MBQ’s stylish products: a carver making a wooden bowl.





The secret of the Romani Design collections is the successful reinterpretation of traditional cloths and motifs.

The ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership is an informal alliance of committed partner organisations that aim to sustainably improve the lives of Roma people in Central and South Eastern Europe. The platform was born out of the common concern to support the development of social entrepreneurship, income generation activities and educational programmes for job creation opportunities at community level, while enabling and reinforcing long-term collaboration between Roma and non-Roma. Besides funding, member organisations are supported with business consultancy and guidance offered by international pro-bono experts, and additionally they are sharing valuable know-how and experiences with each other. **Ten organisations** are members of the network since 2014.

(see page 34)

I now know, for the first time in my life, what poverty tastes, feels and looks like. When I get home, I sometimes feel like I'm entering a surreal dream, completely disconnected from the other, real world.

PW: I also entered a world that was completely new to me and first of all I wanted to know what culture I was dealing with here. It's a complex question because Roma live in different countries and each region has its own rich cultural background. When I try to design products, I need some point of reference, I need to feel something. In our working environment, everything is geared towards industry and advertising. Everything is already spoilt, if you will. It's the same in Romania, but in a different way. People there are not as manipulated by advertising yet. There are still other values and that allows me to create other things. There is still a sense of this simplicity that comes with working with the elements and a strong awareness of working with your hands.

What motivates an internationally established design expert to work with people who, beyond their own ethnic group, almost exclusively experience exclusion and rejection?

NZ: This "ethnic group" has become people with faces and stories, many of whom became friends: Eva and Victor, Zoli and Theresa, Nevers and Simone, Zorin and Maria, Itzok and Bebe. Oh, I almost forgot Alex. I didn't know much about the Roma. They were colourful and foreign. Perhaps I even romanticised these people. I did some research and learned about them – and was ashamed. It is incomprehensible that we – who would like to be perceived as "civilised" Europe – are incapable of treating a minority of 10 million people in an appropriate manner. How is it possible that we have been tolerating discrimination and persecution for centuries? Since when do we think it is okay to look away? I have tried to avoid working with stereotypes my whole life. This project enables me to support efforts aimed at contradicting all of these established labels and prejudices that face this group of people.

Nadja, you work for famous brands and producers. Peter, you are a trained tailor. Tell me about your work with different craftspeople.

NZ: I love to immerse myself in the creation process and very much enjoy being close to people. It's stimulating and very inspiring to work with craftspeople who ultimately create things that were devised on paper. It is an extraordinary experience that every designer should have.

PW: We encounter a great variety of people in different environments and the concept of a designer means nothing to most of them. This is not how we present ourselves either. Instead, with MBQ we want to communicate that we aim to go a step further. We want to get ahead together. All of these people come from a long tradition of craftsmanship and have always produced the same products, possibly for practical reasons. I encourage them to try something new.

Were you successful?

PW: Yes. When we manage to develop a new form, the craftspeople also notice it and realise: it just rocks. In most cases I can't help them with the technical details – I'm a tailor. What we can do is give them access to other forms and provide new ideas and this is often a spontaneous process. Even with the best preparation, we might have to completely change direction on site. Tailoring is a technique. As with any other handicraft, if you master it you can leave the familiar territory and go a step further. But if you don't know the basic rules, you don't know where you can go. There is no path open to you and you can only move within your boundaries.

NZ: From the broom makers in Clejani to the coppersmiths in Medias, I've never heard: "This is impossible!", which is a phrase designers know all too well. The craftsman is your partner. Developing a product is a shared experience. There is always curiosity and, above all, the ambition to demonstrate your skills, plus a general determination to challenge the status quo. I rarely encountered hesitation, but this normally disappears anyway as you experiment with different forms and techniques.

What have the individual craftspeople achieved so far and what still needs to be done?

PW: I was able to teach some techniques to Lenuța, the tailor from Bucharest. She understood that the right draping and ironing technique makes all the difference between H&M and Dior. Each time I visit her, she learns more and we're slowly but steadily managing to build up a tailor's workshop. She recognises the benefit of our work. What's more, she now takes great pleasure in it. Before, she didn't have time to think about how far she could go with her designs. It was a brutal struggle for survival. Together we created seven collections and for the eighth we intentionally opted for a minimalist design. She was proud and happy when she saw the final result. Something like this was only possible thanks to this project.

NZ: Nevers, our wonderful silversmith, not only displayed his works for the first time in two renowned contemporary jewellery exhibitions in Bucharest, but was also able to resign from his part-time job as the head of a warehouse. He now works full-time for MBQ as a silversmith and is able to support his family. This is an amazing achievement and had a very tangible impact on the life of an entire family. In the best-case scenario, we will be able to repeat this success in all of the categories. We can update the range of products, explore alternative sales channels and provide presentation spaces for skills and traditional handicrafts in order to shed new light on this exploited group, but this won't be enough. We also need to create opportunities for them to generate an income. The overall aim is to raise public awareness of craftsmanship. At present, there is not much interest among the next generation of Roma to follow in their ancestors' footsteps and carry on these cross-generational skills. They have few expectations. Many of them believe that fruit picking or other seasonal, low-wage jobs in Europe are the only options they have. By showing them that craftsmanship can generate an income and secure their futures, we will hopefully help reverse this trend.

MBQ and other organisations in the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership make a point of promoting social entrepreneurship. This means that you're also contributing to this with your work?

NZ: That's right. MBQ is a strong advocate of entrepreneurship. Craftspeople are encouraged and trained to found small enterprises. MBQ supports the establishment of cooperatives to facilitate access to resources and legal aid and help tackle the many challenges facing small companies.

PW: Nadja and I work on the creative side of things, but we can also see how much organisation is involved. In the long run, we not only want to develop designs but also to be able to sell them. If we manage to refine our products, they must be marketed professionally. In the beginning, of course, we won't be dealing with large quantities, but some day – and this will be the challenge for MBQ – we will be able to take the next step. Fortunately, craftsmanship is once again becoming increasingly popular. We will have opened the first store by the summer of 2015 and in the meantime there are plenty of avenues to present the products – at Wien Museum in 2015, for example.

Gerald Radinger



Meștешukar ButiQ (MBQ) means "handicraft boutique" and was founded in Bucharest in 2012. It sees itself as a network of independent craftspeople and microenterprises and is dedicated to reviving traditional Roma handicraft. The initiative aims to create new marketing opportunities for the handicraft products of copper smiths, tailors, blacksmiths and carvers and to develop modern products for the national and international market. And it has been a great success. Up until now, the manufactured products have been sold on an online platform. In 2015 the social initiative plans to open several stores in Romania. MBQ is part of the Romano ButiQ association, which supports the development of cultural and educational activities with numerous other projects and campaigns to help the integration of Roma in Romania. Romano ButiQ investigates, develops and promotes the cultural heritage of vulnerable and multi-cultural communities and helps people suffering from all forms of discrimination and social exclusion.



ERSTE Foundation
Roma Partnership

GEMEINNÜTZIGE

Stiftungen



Wie wir Österreich
zum Blühen bringen

Making Austria flourish – working together towards improving conditions for philanthropic foundations

In late October the newly established union of non-profit foundations was presented in Vienna under the motto “making Austria flourish”.

Around 250 founders and representatives of culture, business, civil society and politics attended the kick-off event we organised with the Julius Raab Stiftung in the “Gironcoli Kristall” event hall at the STRABAG Kunstforum. Everyone agreed that it was necessary to improve conditions for non-profit foundations. While 95 percent of all foundations in Germany serve charitable purposes, in Austria it is only 5 percent. Throughout Europe more than 110,000 non-profit foundations promote education, research, culture, social issues and development cooperation with an estimated volume of EUR 83 to 150 billion. In Austria, foundation disbursements to date only amount to approximately EUR 20 to 25 million a year. The participants’ unanimously agreed that it was absolutely essential to also improve the framework for civil society engagement in Austria to overcome future social challenges. At that time, the government had already signalled its support. Since ERSTE Foundation is a savings bank private foundation pursuant to the Austrian Savings Bank Act, it would also greatly benefit from an improvement in provisions for non-profit foundations in Austria.

Presided over by Harald Katzmair, the recently established interest group has more than 40 members and aims to lobby for a new foundation system in Austria. Due to the lack of legal frameworks, non-profit foundations only play a subordinate role here: There are 701 charitable foundations, compared to 2,609 private-interest foundations, while Switzerland, for example, has more than 12,000 active non-profit foundations. Foundation disbursements and funds allocated to finance the third sector in Austria are accordingly low. During the event, Harald Katzmair explained why it is so important to improve the legal and fiscal framework: “The time has come to mobilise private assets for charitable purposes. Non-profit foundations are important civil-society institutions. It is our aim to create a fiscal and legal framework, modelled on Germany and Switzerland, to facilitate bringing capital into non-profit foundations.”

Hedda-Hoffmann-Stuedner, management board member of the Association of German Foundations, and Christoph Degen, managing director of proFonds, the umbrella organisation of non-profit foundations in Switzerland, provided the participants of the kick-off event with insight into the foundation landscapes of Austria’s neighbouring countries and emphasised the importance of “charitable friendly” legal and fiscal frameworks.

There is a new spirit of optimism in Austria. Harald Mahrer, undersecretary for science, research and economy, announced measures to promote civil-society engagement. There are plans to significantly simplify the Bundesstiftungs- und Fondsgesetz (Federal Act on Foundations and Funds) with regard to the establishment of non-profit foundations and to make amendments to the Federal Fiscal Code concerning the tax treatment of non-profit foundation work. Appraisal of the new legal provision is expected to start soon.

The event also featured the presentation of the book *Gemeinnützige Stiftungen – wie wir Österreich zum Blühen bringen* [Non-profit foundations – How we will make Austria flourish], published by the Julius Raab Stiftung and ERSTE Foundation. The Austrian “Foundation Atlas” illustrates the situation of non-profit foundations in Austria and compared to other countries worldwide, and pinpoints what these foundations are capable of today and the potential that can be tapped for and through the non-profit foundation system.

Alexandra Rosetti-Dobslaw

Gemeinnützige Stiftungen – wie wir Österreich zum Blühen bringen

Publisher:
Bund gemeinnütziger Stiftungen
www.stiftungsbund.at

Julius Raab Stiftung
Mozartgasse 4, A-1041 Wien

ERSTE Stiftung
Friedrichstraße 10, A-1010 Wien

You can order the publication here: press@erstestiftung.org



Now Design + Direction, from *Verband für Gemeinnütziges Stiften – wie wir Österreich zum Blühen bringen* [Union of non-profit foundations – How we will make Austria flourish], pages 40–41

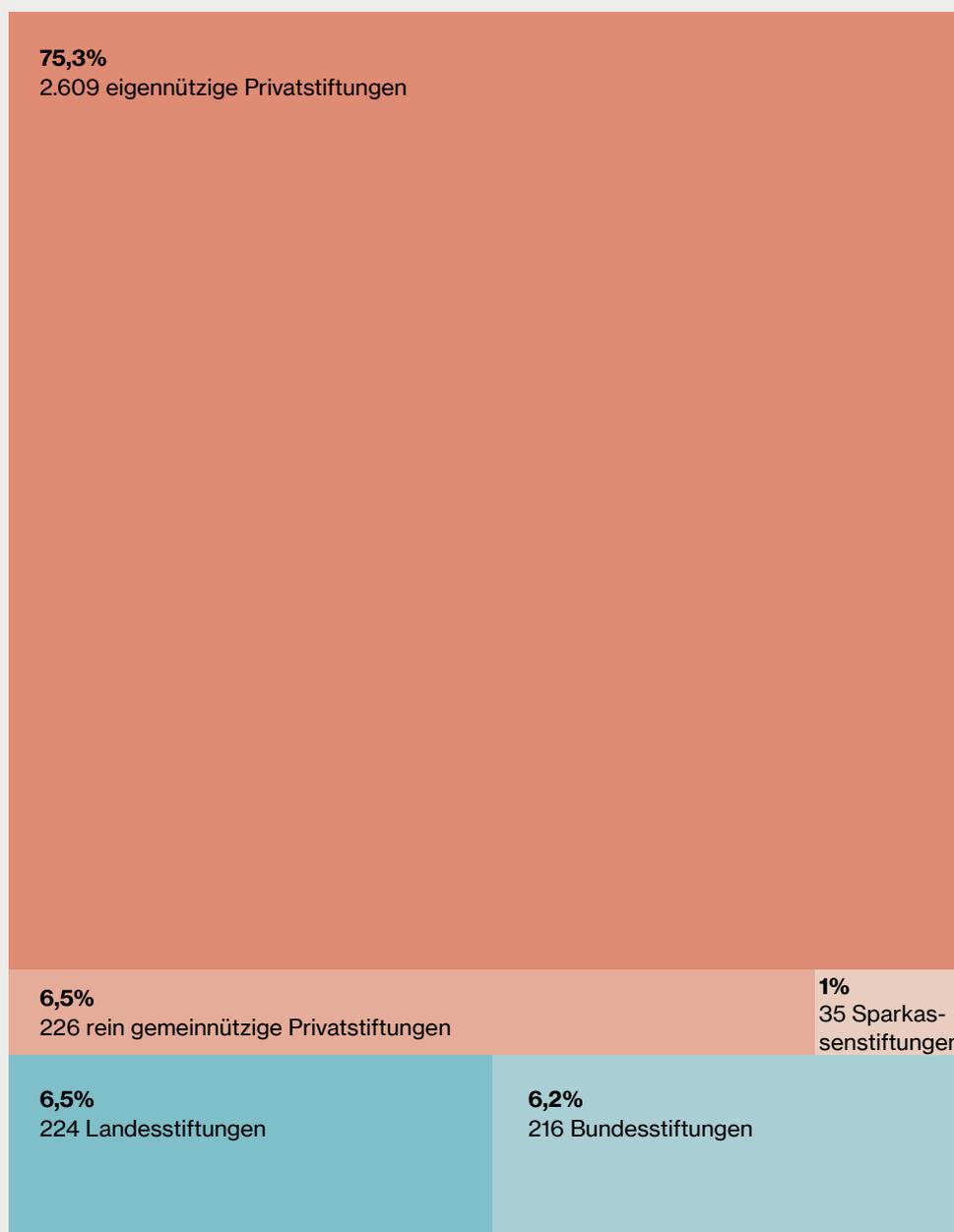
Stiftungen in Österreich

Stiftungen werden in Österreich aufgrund der rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen hauptsächlich zu eigennützigen Zwecken errichtet. Das Potenzial für gemeinnützige Stiftungen ist groß. Gemeinnützige Stiftungen können in Österreich zu wichtigen Akteuren der Zivilgesellschaft werden.

Da ist mehr drin

Anzahl der Stiftungen in Österreich*

Rund 20% aller Stiftungen sind rein gemeinnützig. Das entspricht 701 Stiftungen.



Privatstiftung: Eine Privatstiftung nach dem Österreichischen Privatstiftungsgesetz 1993 ist eine ins Firmenbuch eingetragene Stiftung. Sie kann zu jedem Zweck gegründet werden. Dieser kann eigennützig, gemeinnützig oder doppelntützig sein. In Österreich werden die meisten Privatstiftungen mit eigennützigem Zweck errichtet. Sie dienen im Wesentlichen der Verwaltung von Vermögen. Das zur Errichtung notwendige Vermögen beträgt 70.000 €.

Rein gemeinnützige Privatstiftung: In einer rein gemeinnützigen Stiftung befassen sich die Organe der Stiftung, der Stiftungsvorstand und ein allfälliger Beirat, ausschließlich und unmittelbar mit gemeinnützigen Zwecken.

Sparkassenstiftung: Sparkassen, die ihr Unternehmen in eine Sparkassen-Aktiengesellschaft eingebracht haben, können durch Beschluss des Vorstands in eine Privatstiftung gemäß Privatstiftungsgesetz 1993 umgewandelt werden (s.o.). Ein erheblicher Prozentsatz der Dividenerträge wird jährlich für regionale Projekte ausgegeben. Für alle Sparkassenstiftungen gilt, dass es sich um gemeinnützige, mildtätige oder kirchliche Zuwendungen handeln muss.

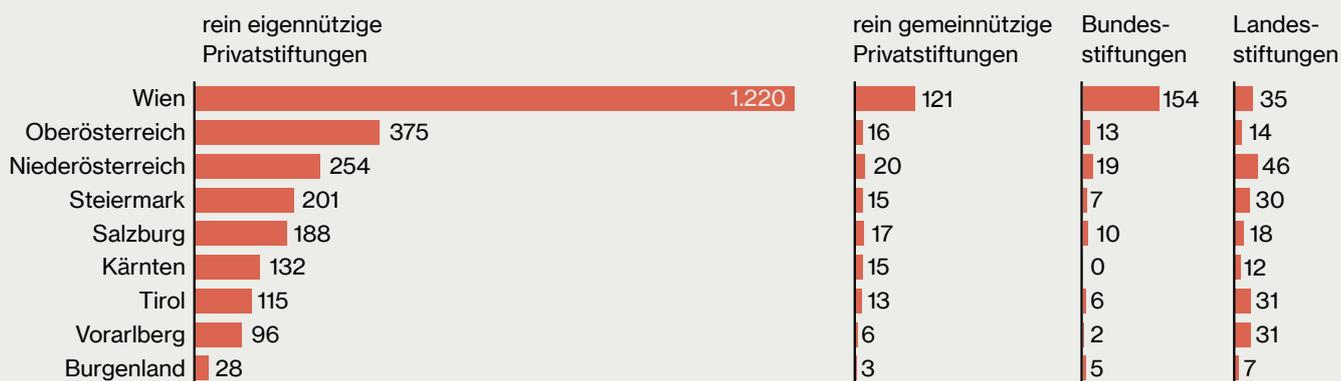
Bundesstiftung: Eine Bundesstiftung auf Basis des Bundes-Stiftungs- und Fondsgesetzes kann zu gemeinnützigen oder mildtätigen Zwecken errichtet werden, die auch über den Interessenbereich des jeweiligen Landes hinausgehen können. Bundesstiftungen können nur mit Bescheid aufgelöst werden.

Landesstiftung: Eine Landesstiftung wird nach dem Stiftungs- und Fondsgesetz des jeweiligen Landes errichtet. Sie kann zu gemeinnützigen oder mildtätigen Zwecken errichtet werden, die aber nicht über den Interessenbereich des jeweiligen Landes hinausgehen. Landesstiftungen können nur mit Bescheid aufgelöst werden.

* auf Basis einer Analyse der Stiftungsurkunden im Firmenbuch bzw. bei den jeweiligen Stiftungsbehörden
Differenz auf 100%: 138 Privatstiftungen mit teilweise gemeinnützigen Stiftungszwecken und 17 Arbeitnehmerstiftungen; Prozentzahlen wurden gerundet
Quelle: Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien 2014, Institut für Nonprofit Management, Millner R., Schneider H. und Meyer M.

Bundesländer-Vergleich

Verteilung von Stiftungen nach Bundesländern und Art der Stiftung



Quelle: Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien 2014, Institut für Nonprofit Management, Millner R., Schneider H. und Meyer M.

Gute Zwecke

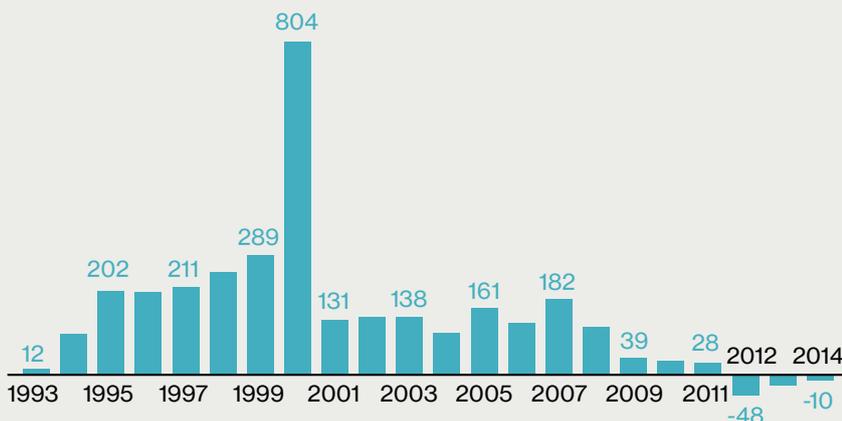
Rein gemeinnützige Stiftungen nach Tätigkeitsbereichen (Mehrfachnennungen möglich)



Quelle: Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien 2014, Institut für Nonprofit Management, Millner R., Schneider H. und Meyer M.

Negativ-Wachstum

Jährlicher Nettozuwachs an Privatstiftungen seit 1993



Quelle: Verband Österreichischer Privatstiftungen, Datenquelle: Compass Verlag, Group, Stand 30.6.2014

Wertvoll

Wertschöpfung* der Privatstiftungen in Österreich

2.096

Die totale Wertschöpfung der Privatstiftungen beträgt 2.095,65 Mio. Euro (davon 1.738,45 Mio. Euro in Österreich).

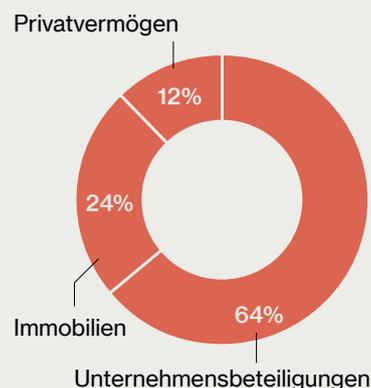
0,79%

Anteil der jährlichen Wertschöpfung in Österreich

* Dieser Betrag stellt den originären Wertschöpfungsbeitrag der Stiftungen dar und enthält nicht die Wertschöpfung der durch Stiftungen gehaltenen Unternehmensbeteiligungen.
Quelle: Verband Österreichischer Privatstiftungen 2014, Datenquelle: Economica 2009

Unternehmen Stiftung

Aufteilung des Vermögens in Privatstiftungen in Prozent



Quelle: Verband Österreichischer Privatstiftungen 2014



Solidarity in and with Bosnia

A topic discussed at an international conference, put into practice by the foundation team and the most precious asset in a flooded land

When it started to rain in Srebrenica on 13 May 2014, we – a small group of ERSTE Foundation staff – were glad we had finished covering the roof the day before. We had been spending a few days in the small Bosnian town near the Drina River, which to this day is still scarred by the horrific genocide that claimed around 8,000 lives in July 1995. We visited the cemetery and memorial to the victims in Potočari and the factory in which Dutch UN peacekeepers and Bosnian refugees spent the last few days before the massacre; we talked to many different people and visited the region's few successful social projects. An extraordinary teambuilding activity had brought us to this site: for four days we had the chance to join forces with three local experts and build a new home for a couple who had been displaced by the war and were now able to return to their homeland, to their parents' property. Thanks to its generous donors, the Austrian-Bosnian NGO *Bauern helfen Bauern* [Farmers Help Farmers] has already built more than a thousand of these small but solid, easy-to-build wooden houses for people who fled the war and have now returned. Chairwoman of the ERSTE Foundation Managing Board, Doraja Eberle, founded the relief organisation more than 20 years ago with the aim of assisting people during the Yugoslav Wars. It felt great to have the opportunity for once to help someone on a very personal and direct level – from person to person, so to speak – and not just as members of a foundation. Like most craftspeople, we also developed a very special relationship with “our” house. So we were delighted that we managed to build the shell of the house while the weather was good and relieved that the roofing shingles we had just finished laying seemed to be waterproof when the rain suddenly began to fall.

It had not only started to rain in Srebrenica but everywhere in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. The next day the little house was finished and some of us drove through the rain-soaked country from Srebrenica to Sarajevo, where the 25th General Assembly and Conference of the European Foundation Centre (efc), the umbrella organisation of European charitable foundations, was set to start on 15 May. This year, ERSTE Foundation was a member of the organisational committee and also hosted one of the discussions designed to illustrate the conference's topic.

“Rethinking Europe. Solidarity, civil society and political governance” was the title of the conference. For the first time, the efc held its General Assembly in an Eastern European country, namely Bosnia, which – compared to its neighbouring countries – had suffered most from the consequences of the Balkan conflicts over the last few decades. Sarajevo was selected as the host city, not least because of the symbolism of 2014. Three key events shaped its history in the last century: the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie in 1914 triggered the outbreak of the First World War; as the host of the Winter Olympics in 1984, Sarajevo presented itself as a cosmopolitan city, home to many different cultures; not even 10 years later, from 1992 to 1996, its inhabitants experienced the longest siege of a capital city in modern history. It lasted 1,035 days. 1914, 1984, 1994 – enough reasons to take a look back in 2014 and learn from history. →

25th EFC Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Conference

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 15-17 May 2014
Theme: “Rethinking Europe: Solidarity, civil society and political governance”.

Over 400 key figures from the world of foundations in Europe and further afield tackled this pressing challenge and also addressed other related issues such as social and economic renewal, health, gender, environment, youth, education, the arts and media, which all play a part in building and sustaining unified, stable and peaceful societies. The conference, which took the form of three plenaries and 22 themed parallel sessions, featured a plethora of informed and influential speakers to discuss many of the issues that are most pertinent to Europe today. In addition, delegates had the opportunity to network with their peers during informal social events and got engaged with and experienced Bosnia's history and culture through several organised visits.

About the EFC

The European Foundation Centre (EFC), founded in 1989, is an association representing more than 230 public-benefit foundations and corporate funders active in philanthropy in Europe and beyond. The EFC develops and pursues activities in line with its objectives: creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment for foundations; documenting the foundation landscape; strengthening the infrastructure of the foundation sector; and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond. www.efc.be

1 “Rethinking Europe” was the title of the 25th EFC Annual General Assembly and Conference.

2 With combined efforts the house was built within a few days and the keys were handed over to the new owners.



The conference's primary aim, however, was to look ahead. Its organisers believed that the example of Sarajevo was "extremely important to ward off any threat to European society and to return to a Europe in which democratic values, human rights and faith in its strengths play a key role". They went on to point out that solidarity, the acceptance of diversity and the importance of reconciliation were examples of these strengths, which had the potential to reinvigorate civil society throughout Europe – a key challenge facing all foundations.

Around 500 foundations, partners and local stakeholders came together for three days to discuss topics such as social and economic renewal, reconciliation, health, gender equality, the environment, peace, youth, education, culture and the media. All of these issues play a role in building and maintaining just, stable and peaceful societies in Europe and across the world. The various workshops and debates examined three central groups of topics: solidarity (with a particular focus on youth unemployment and the acceptance of diversity as opposed to xenophobia and hate speech), cross-border justice, reconciliation and conflict resolution as well as civil society, responsible governance and the role of foundations in the debate on the future of Europe.

The discussion round organised by ERSTE Foundation on the premises of Sarajevo University raised the question of whether social inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe was a myth or – at least in some areas – had become reality. Moderators Alina Serban and Robin Gosejohann, both project managers at ERSTE Foundation, kicked off this round by outlining the social context. They pointed out that the increasing social, ethnic and economic exclusion of certain sections of the population was mainly, but not exclusively, a phenomenon found in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as some other parts of Europe. The first presentation by Timea Junghaus, managing director of the European Roma Cultural Foundation in Budapest, struck a fierce note. As a member of the Roma community herself, she made it clear that she was at the end of her patience when it came to the slow progress of integrating Roma and that intolerance, extremism, social exclusion and ethnic hatred were part of everyday life for all Roma, in every country across Europe. Sergej Kara, the founding director of the NGO *vagus.sk*, which cares for homeless people in Bratislava, also gave a first-hand account of his experiences. He agreed with the director of the Centre for Youth Integration in Belgrade, Milica Djordjević, who believed that exclusion was primarily a structural problem: political frameworks either enable or prevent racism and create an unequal battle for scarce resources between different social groups.

Romanian art critic and curator, Raluca Voinea, from *transit.ro* and Bosnian musician and director of the integration choir Superar in Srebrenica, Ismar Porić, spoke from their perspective as practitioners in the cultural sector and pinpointed the importance of developing cultural concepts for integration. Goran Svilanović, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council in Sarajevo, provided the closing words, calling once again on politicians to create the framework necessary to enable integration.

It was still raining outside during this debate. And it continued to rain over the next few days and did not stop. While we were discussing Europe's future with our peers from other European foundations in the conference rooms, the real world outside – the country and a large part of the region – was slowly submerging under water. Led by the conference's host, the Bosnian foundation Mosaik, and helped along by the energetic support of

Superar Bosnien | ((superar))

2012 Superar took over the music school from its partner organisation "Bauern helfen Bauern" in Srebrenica. In close cooperation with the B&B team they have developed the music programme for the children, have organised regular concerts for parents in the local communities and developed a close cooperation with the colleagues in Vienna. 80 school children receive intensive voice and instrument coaching in the premises of the elementary school.

1 Superar: Also in Bosnia, the music initiative helps young people discover and tap their full potential.

2 A group stares in disbelief into the floods of Miljacka river.

→Doraja Eberle, an emergency relief scheme was organised for those hardest hit by the floods, while the General Assembly continued. Other initiatives followed later on when we had made it back to Vienna, after making long detours past large swathes of land that had turned into lakes, and realising that we had witnessed the worst floods in the Balkans for more than 120 years. Following ERSTE Foundation's suggestion, Erste Bank Austria sent several truckloads of cast-off but well-preserved office furniture to the flooded regions.

In line with the motto "When Hearts Unite", the Superar choir from Srebrenica and pop legend Mladen Vojičić Tifa presented the song "Love People" to the public in Sarajevo on 30 July 2014. It kick-started a campaign that called for donations to support the victims of the flood disaster and specifically raised funds for four music schools that had suffered serious damage in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. Within a short period of time, the initiative of Superar Bosnia and the NGO *Bauern helfen Bauern* was able to inspire twelve renowned musicians from the region to record the music video „Love People“ with the children's choir. ERSTE Foundation organised the PR campaign and helped with logistics to support the campaign.

"People have displayed incredible solidarity during the floods that have left thousands without homes, schools and incomes. Help is still needed in the aftermath of the floods and now more than ever, it is essential for us to should stick together," said Ismar Poric, choirmaster of Superar Bosnia and initiator of the campaign. "Linking music and solidarity is part of the everyday lives of the Superar choir, which brings together over 120 children. Now our music is contributing to re-building the classrooms of music schools in Doboij, Maglaj, Gunja and Obrenovac. These schools have been severely affected by the floods and need to buy new musical instruments and other materials that were destroyed."

Superar enables children and young people from disadvantaged families to take regular music lessons and thus helps build their character and boost self-confidence. Superar Bosnia in Srebrenica was initiated by *Bauern helfen Bauern* in 2012 to forge closer ties between children from all ethnic groups through music and to develop their self-confidence and life skills. The musicians who have joined the campaign are among the big names of the regional pop and rock music scene, such as Alen Islamović, Mladen Vojičić Tifa and Jasna Gospić, as well as stars like Maid Hecimovic, Igor Vukojević, Dragana Kajtazovic and Geronimo from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ivana Kindl, Ivana Husar and Jacques Huodek from Croatia, Daniel Kajmakoski from Macedonia and Zoe Kida from Serbia.

For these stars, helping and participating in this cross-border project was also an expression of solidarity.

Maribel Königer



**CALENDAR
2014**



January 2014, Vienna

Artists-in-Residence: 10 new artists

The programme by tranzit.org and ERSTE Foundation selected 10 new artists who received a one-month stipend to live and work in Vienna.



10 January 2014, Vienna

Kakania - New Homelands: Episode 5

Author Michael Stavarič presented his host Peter Matic, actor at the Burgtheater, with a litany of thoughts about polyphonic, European song. Viennese musician and media artist Klaus Karlbauer played music - on a zither that he reconstructed himself.



14 January - 1 March 2014

Call for applications: 2014 Paul Celan Fellowships for Translators

10 January - 14 February 2014, Budapest

Exhibition: "{roma} The contract to sell the ethnicity"

The exhibition was produced as part of the PATTERNS Lectures and was dedicated to the deconstruction of stereotypes.

Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence

16 January - 5 March 2014

Call for applications: 2014 Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence on the topic of "Generations"



19 January 2014, Vienna

Debating Europe

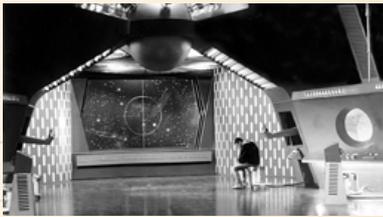
Answers to the question "What are the repercussions of the year 1914?" Manfred Rauchensteiner, Timothy Snyder, Biljana Srbljanović, Eduard Habsburg-Lothringen and Alexandra Förderl-Schmid at Vienna's Burgtheater.



23 January 2014, Chișinău

Teatru Spălătorie: "Independent Moldova. Erratum"

The performance by the artists Ion Borș, David Schwartz, Dumitru Stegărescu, Doriană Talmazan and Irina Vacarciuc took a critical look at the official historiography of Moldova.



24 January – 13 April, New York

“Report on the Construction of a Spaceship Module”: tranzit turned the New Museum into a spaceship

The curators of tranzit.org transformed the exhibition space into a spaceship inspired by Eastern European science-fiction films from the Cold War era. The interior of the fictitious space station featured more than 100 exhibits by renowned artists from Central and Eastern Europe.



28 January – 12 February 2014, Cluj

Exhibition: “Children should be supervised when consuming this product”

In this exhibition, Romanian artist Vlad Iepure took a closer look at the role of sunflower seeds and their relevance as the country’s most important export product and discovered that seeds are in fact imported from the United States, Germany and Hungary and sold as a Romanian product.



29 January 2014, Vienna

Book presentation: “Balkan Reloaded”

Archis Interventions Network in South Eastern Europe presented their latest publication on urbanism and interventions at the Architekturzentrum Vienna. Afterwards, publisher Kai Vöckler moderated a discussion with Orhan Esen, Dragan Krstevski, Filip Radunovic, Tatjana Rajic, Katharina Ritter and Aneta Spaseska at the Architekturzentrum Vienna.



February 2014, Vienna

tranzit.org: Artists-in-Residence

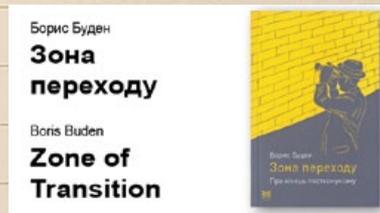
Hungarian artist Szilvi Német moved into quartier21/MuseumsQuartier.



9 February 2014, Budapest

tranzit.hu: Catalyst Award Ceremony

“Gallery8 Roma Contemporary Art Space” won the Motor category, while “The Missing Classmate” was awarded the best socially engaged project.



10 February 2014

“The Zone of Transition has moved to Maidan Square”

Within the scope of the Paul Celan Fellowship for Translators, translator and editor Nelia Vakhovska translated Boris Buden’s text “Zone of transition” into Ukrainian.



12 February 2014, Vienna

Kathrin Rhomberg was appointed chairwoman of the board of Kontakt. The Art Collection of Erste Group and ERSTE Foundation.



21 February - 6 April 2014, Prague
Chto delat: "Anti-anticommunism"

The Russian art collective addressed the question of why, after watching the Soviet Union disintegrate over many decades, a new kind of disappointment has taken the place of an anti-communist stance.



March 2014

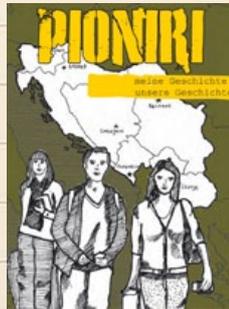
Call for applications for fellowships for curators and artists at the Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts



26 February 2014, Vienna

"Sweet Sixties" book launch

The Vienna Secession presented the texts and results of the Sweet Sixties project, a trans-regional research initiative that explores art, media and educational contexts and examines underrepresented cultural events and connections in the revolutionary period of the 1960s.



7 March 2014, Salzburg

Film screening: "PIONIRI - my story, our story"

Young people from Salzburg recounted their experiences, memories of the war and their connection to former Yugoslavia.



March 2014

Call for applications for the 2014 Social Impact Award



March 2014, Vienna
tranzit.org: Artists-in-Residence

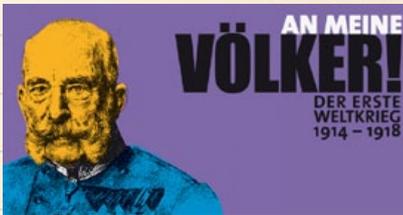
Hungarian artist Gergerly Hory moved into quartier21/MuseumsQuartier.



8 March 2014, New York

tranzit presents "New Maps Old Gaps"

A symposium accompanied the exhibition "Report on the Construction of a Spaceship Module".



12 March - 2 November 2014, Vienna

"To My Peoples! - The First World War 1914 - 1918"

The Austrian National Library commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War with a major exhibition.



11 March 2014, Vienna

Endowed professorship for Central and South Eastern European Art Histories extended for another year

The professorship, which was granted for the first time in cooperation with the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and is currently held by Macedonian art historian, visual culture theorist and curator Suzana Milevska, was extended for another academic year.



16 March 2014, Vienna

Debating Europe

Lee A. Brudvig, Martin Schulz, Hans-Christian Ströbele, Werner Weidenfeld and Alexandra Förderl-Schmid addressed the question, "Are Europe and the US drifting apart?"



13 and 14 March 2014, Ljubljana

Elke Krasny: "Unplanned History"

In cooperation with the Igor Zabel Association for Culture and Theory, a public lecture and workshop was held examining critical curatorial practice.

13 - 16 March 2014, Leipzig

ERSTE Foundation goes Leipzig Book Fair

For the first time, the ERSTE Foundation Library presented its own publications as well as those that it funds to a broad audience.

www.erstestiftung.org



17 - 23 March 2014, Bucharest

“Human rights film festival: One World Romania”

Several cinemas in Bucharest played host to Romania's only human rights documentary film festival. The 2014 festival focussed on the works of Polish director Marcel Lozinski.



20 - 22 March 2014, Vienna

Performance: “Delicate Instruments Handled With Care”

As part of the Imagetanz festival, Romanian choreographer Alexandra Pirici presented her new performance, which explores specific moments that are deeply rooted in our cultural memory.



23, 26 and 28 March 2014, Timișoara, Sibiu, Bucharest

“Slobodija Odyssea, mon Amour!”

This theatre production digs deep to the roots of democracy as we know it and throws up topical questions on European identity and the role that human rights play today.



24 - 28 March, Vienna

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy started in Vienna

2014 saw the launch of the Social Innovation and Management Programme, which was developed and organised in collaboration with Vienna University of Economics and Business. Twenty-five representatives of social initiatives from Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe participated in the first module held in Vienna.



26 March 2014, Berlin

Book presentation: “re.act.feminism #2 - a performing archive”

The book is the result of a multi-year exhibition and archive project and documents a gender-critical performance practice inspired by feminism in a trans-cultural context.



25 March 2014, Brussels

Awards Ceremony: “Social Innovation in Ageing”

“Passion for Life”, a Swedish self-improvement and empowerment initiative for older people, won the first prize. The second and third prizes went to Abitare Solidale (Italy) and Protocol 3 (Belgium) respectively.

www.erstestiftung.org



27 March - 30 September 2014, Zagreb
“AT YOUR SERVICE - ART AND LABOUR”

The exhibition, which was curated collaboratively by Vienna Technical Museum and ERSTE Foundation, moved on to Zagreb Technical Museum.



27 and 28 March 2014, London

Conference: “Post-crisis recovery in Southeast Europe and beyond: policy challenges for social and economic inclusion”

Five fellows of the ERSTE Foundation Fellowship for Social Research were invited to participate in the conference organised by the London School of Economics and to present their research results.



28 March - 4 May 2014, Bratislava

“Committed to Change @ tranzit.sk”

The exhibition was devoted to the potential of art as a driving force behind and initiator of social and individual change. Daniel Grúň curated the exhibition in cooperation with Lydia Pribišová.



April 2014

PATTERNS Lectures selected university courses for 2014/2015.



1 - 4 April 2014, Senec

The 2014 aces Academy ended the seventh cycle of the school network

Almost 300 pupils and teachers along with representatives from the education ministries of the 15 partner countries attended the final event in Senec in western Slovakia to present the results of the projects they developed together. The five most innovative and most inspiring projects were awarded a special prize.



April 2014, Vienna

tranzit.org: Artists-in-Residence

Romanian artists Xandra Popescu and Larisa Crunceanu moved into quartier21/ MuseumsQuartier.



6 April 2014, Vienna

Debating Europe

"The destruction of knowledge" was the topic of the discussion round involving a range of prominent figures at Vienna's Burgtheater. Lawrence Lessig, Armin Nassehi, Cornelia Klinger and Sara Miller McCune answered questions from Nicholas Lemann.



9 April 2014, Vienna

Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence: 10 participants were selected for this year's programme.



11 April - 24 May 2014, Bucharest

"Haunting Monumentality II"

Group exhibition at the Club Electroputere about the relationship between contemporary, object-based conceptual art practices and monumentality.



17 April 2014, Cluj

tranzit.ro: "When is happiness possible?"

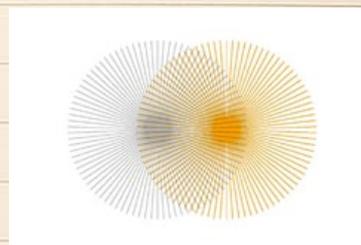
In this exhibition, the artist-collective h.arta group examined the neoliberal ideal of (material) happiness and raised the question of whether individual happiness is still possible.



25 April 2014, Budapest

Schlingensief's "Ausländer Raus"

Screening of the film by Paul Poet about Christoph Schlingensief's controversial art project, "Ausländer raus. Bitte liebt Österreich" ("Foreigners Out. Please Love Austria"). Panellists included theatre critic Andrea Tompa, curator Kathrin Rhomberg and Dóra Heygi (tranzit.hu).



30 April - 3 August 2014, Brno

"Grey Gold" opened at the Brno House of Arts

The exhibition explored the works of renowned Czech and Slovak artists aged over 65, whose career began in the post-war period of the 1950s and 1960s.



30 April - 1 June 2014, Vienna

"SEE New Perspectives"

World Press Photo and the Robert Bosch Stiftung organised workshops for 15 photographers. The photographic essays broached current social topics in the Balkans and showcased them to the public in an exhibition.

www.erstestiftung.org



May 2014, Srebrenica

ERSTE Foundation goes Srebrenica

A large part of ERSTE Foundation's staff went to Srebrenica, Bosnia. Supervised by the initiative "Bauern helfen Bauern", they provided a family with a roof over their heads.



May 2014, Vienna

tranzit.org: Artists-in-Residence

Romanian artist Cristian Nae moved into quartier21/MuseumsQuartier.



2 - 31 May 2014, Zagreb

Exhibition: "Liquidation"

Initiated by New York curator Sarah Lookofsky, this interdisciplinary project was presented to the public in Zagreb following an exhibition in Prishtina.



5 May 2014, Vienna

5th Hospice and Palliative Care Day

Representatives of disability rights organisations and politics lectured on and discussed topics such as every day assistance, palliative care and bereavement counselling for people with disabilities.



8 May 2014, Vienna

Kakanien - New Homelands: Episode 6

Based on the novel "The Bust of the Emperor" - a melancholic reflection on displaced people, wanderers and the dubiousness of national virtues in the work of Austrian author Joseph Roth, who was born in eastern Galicia -, Sabine Haupt, an actor at Vienna's Burgtheater, presented texts that had been written by the Ukrainian authors Marjana Gaponenko and Jurko Prochasko specially for this evening. She was accompanied by Austrian musician Bernhard Moshammer.



9 - 11 May 2014, Berlin

Conference: "Performing Arts in the Second Public Sphere"

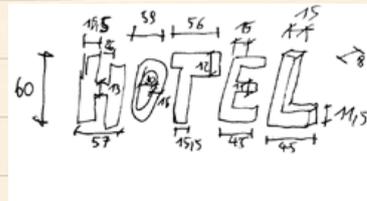
At Literaturwerkstatt Berlin, international experts from various fields of academia discussed potential stimuli for the production of performance art.



9 - 30 May 2014, Budapest

tranzit.hu: "How Much Fascism?"

"Art under a dangerous star: The responsibility of art" is a three-part event and exhibition series about artists and the reality of their lives during the Second World War.



14 May - 15 June 2014, Bad Kleinkirchheim

Hotel Konkurrenz

This hotel existed for 30 days in a typical Austrian tourist resort. Planned by artists as a "laboratory for hospitality satisfying the most sophisticated requirements", the house was occupied by staff from the existing hotel and assistants and served as a shared space for tourists, seasonal workers and neighbours.



16 May 2014, Vienna

Hemayat summer party

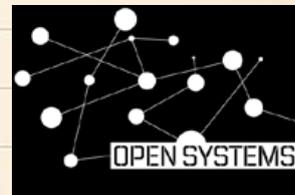
The Hemayat initiative once again organised a charitable summer party to support people traumatised by war.



12 - 15 May 2014, Ljubljana

Paul O'Neill: "Did Somebody Say Curating, Again?"

A lecture and several workshops by the New York curator, artist and author examined current developments in curatorial practice.



15 May - 15 August 2014, Freising

Open Systems: "Artslab 06 - What if... and beyond"

A panel discussion on "Balkan(s). Now" held on 7 June accompanied the exhibition at the European House of Art Upper Bavaria.



15 - 17 May 2014, Sarajevo

"Social inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe: Myth or reality?"

ERSTE Foundation hosted a panel discussion during the 25th annual General Assembly and Conference of the European Foundation Centre (EFC), entitled "Rethinking Europe: Solidarity, Civil Society and Political Governance".



20 May - 10 June 2014, Ljubljana

ARCHITECTURE ≠ ART

A three-part series of lectures and discussions about the relationship between architecture and art tried to find answers to the question of whether, and to what extent, architecture is also art.



23 May - 22 June 2014, Bratislava

tranzit.sk: "The Need for Practice"

Judit Angel, director of tranzit.sk, curated an exhibition examining the future, based on the premise that there is an omnipresent feeling of volatility in our society and a yearning for a "better" world. Rather than abandoning oneself to this yearning and waiting for the future, the artists call upon everyone to actively confront the present and to live in the moment.



28 May - 20 June 2014, Budapest

Exhibition: "PAST, CONTINUOUS"

This show focussed on the relations between the official culture of the socialist era and its collective legacy.

28 May 2014, Vienna

Selection of fellows for the Milena Jesenská Fellowships for European culture journalists

Benjamin Cunningham, Victor Martinovich, Judit Klein and Albená Shkodrova were selected to conduct research and work at the Institute for Human Sciences between July 2014 and June 2015.



June 2014

Call for papers for the 2015/2016 ERSTE Foundation Fellowship for Social Research



June - July 2014, Vienna

tranzit.org: Artists-in-Residence

Romanian artist Miklós Szilárd moved into quartier21/MuseumsQuartier.



2 - 4 June 2014, Moieciu de Sus

European Schools for a Living Planet

Thirty-three school classes from eleven countries participated in the closing event of the international educational initiative on the environment.



3 June 2014, Arad

Superar at the Austrian Culture Days

The initiative to promote music and dance in children's everyday lives gave a performance at the Culture Days in Arad, Romania.

10 June 2014, Bucharest

tranzit.ro & tranzit.at book launch

Editors Andreiana Mihail and Georg Schöllhammer presented their book "Ion Grigorescu: Diaries 1970 - 1975".



18 June - 18 September, Bucharest

tranzit.ro: "Teodor Graur - Nostalgia"

A show featuring photographic works by the Romanian artist over the last thirty years



19 June 2014, Ljubljana

Book presentation: "Performative Gestures Political Moves"

This book not only presents research on performance art in Eastern Europe, but also establishes what performance art means today



25 June 2014, Bratislava

Book presentation: "Galéria Ganku"

This book is dedicated to one of the most important artworks by Július Koller. The GaneK Gallery enjoyed a legendary reputation and was located on a summit in the High Tatras Mountains. Even though it never exhibited any works of art, the gallery came to play an important role as a location for ideas and thoughts that were neither welcome nor given space in Czechoslovakia.



25 June 2014, Vienna

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy Social Innovation and Management Programme ended successfully after 3 modules

www.erstestiftung.org



July 2014, Sarajevo
Superar: "When Hearts Unite"

Together with the relief organisation "Bauern helfen Bauern", the children's choir of Superar Bosnia organised assistance for people affected by the floods in Bosnia. In cooperation with twelve popular musicians from Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina they produced the moving song "Love People", which was a successful appeal for solidarity and donations.



10 - 24 July 2014, Kyiv

Ivan Melnychuk and Oleksandr Burlaka: "Island"

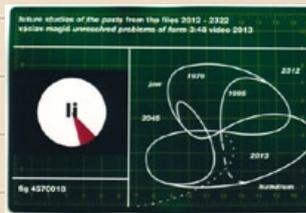
As part of the exhibition series "Unrendered Spaces" at the Visual Culture Research Center in Kyiv, the two artists contributed utopian - perhaps even fragile - impressions from "Island" to the current discourse on a chaotic world order.



21 July - 30 August 2014, Salzburg

Salzburg Summer Academy: "How does the world come into picture?"

A total of seven curators and artists were granted fellowships at the Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts.



25 July - 14 September 2014, Gdansk

Exhibition: "Artonautics"

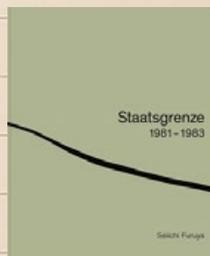
Within the scope of "THERE IS NO MEANING IF MEANING IS NOT SHARED" Gdansk city gallery showcased a large variety of art documents from tranzit's archive.



August 2014, Vienna

tranzit.org: Artists-in-Residence

Marcela Steinbachová moved into quartier21/Museumsquartier.



30 August 2014, Heidelberg

Book presentation: Seiichi Furuya's "Staatsgrenze"

The photographer is the founder of the "Camera Austria" magazine and presented her current book project under the motto "Where the Truth Lies" at Heidelberg Kunstverein.



September 2014, Vienna

**tranzit.org:
Artists-in-Residence**

Ladislava Gažiová moved into quartier21/
Museumsquartier.



22 September 2014, Ljubljana

“World of Art 2014 Lectures”

Lectures of the art historians Klara Kemp-Welch
 (“Continuity and Rupture. Networking and
 Collaboration from the 70s to the 00s”) and Piotr
 Piotrowski (“The Global NETwork. Approaching
 Comparative Art History“)



25 September 2014, Bratislava

**tranzit.sk opened new
gallery**

tranzit.sk director Judit Angel opened the
 new exhibition space in the city centre with
 “Revised Version”, an exhibition of works by
 the Slovakian artist Ilona Németh.



2 - 5 October 2014, Vienna

**VIENNAFAIR: Kontakt. The Art
Collection of Erste Group and
ERSTE Foundation**

At the renowned art fair, Kontakt presented a
 selection of photographs by Margherita Spiluttini
 portraying Vienna’s Südbahnhof over a period of
 three decades.



October - December 2014, Budapest

**Seminar: “Art in the Age of
the Anthropocene”**

Autumn saw the launch of the “Experimental
 Reading Room”, an ongoing series of public
 seminars and guest lectures.



October 2014, Vienna

Artists-in-Residence

Andrea Kalinová moved into quartier21/ Museumsquartier.



9 October 2014, Bratislava

tranzit.sk: "Curating 'Eastern Europe' and Beyond: Art Histories through the Exhibition"

Mária Orišková hosted a discussion between Louisa Avgita (Thessaloniki), Cristian Nae (Iasi) and Suzana Milevska (Skopje, Vienna).

8 - 10 October, Palermo

Grantmakers East Forum

During the 19th Grantmakers East Forum, Alina Serban from ERSTE Foundation moderated a panel discussion entitled "Should we stay or should we go".



10 October - 30 November 2014, Bucharest

Exhibition: "Enchanting Views"

The exhibition brought together previously unseen items on the development of tourism on the Black Sea coastline and post-war modernity in Romanian architecture in the 1960s and 1970s.

10 October - 28 November 2014, Budapest

tranzit.hu: "Open Doors: Király Tamás '80s"

This exhibition explored the early works of the Hungarian fashion designer and performance artist.



18 October 2014, Bucharest

IKEDOO mobile lab

The research institute for innovative learning for children, IKEDOO, started its tour of the country with the first mobile and interactive laboratory for experimental learning.



18 October 2014 - 1 February 2015, Leipzig

Exhibition: "Creativity Exercises"

The exhibition organised by the Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig and tranzit.hu examined how people learn and how this influences their personalities and their behaviour from a variety of perspectives.



21 - 22 October 2014, Venice

Conference: "Local Modernities. National Architecture and International Style in the Soviet Empire post 1953"

A cooperation between the Armenian Pavilion at the 14th Venice Biennale of Architecture and tranzit.at



29 October 2014, Vienna

The Association of philanthropic Foundations

Under the motto "Making Austria flourish", this event presented the union's aims and a publication to the general public.



November 2014, Vienna

Artists-in-Residence

András Cséfalvay moved into quartier21/Museumsquartier.



6 November 2014, Vienna

The Russian art historian, curator and writer Ekaterina Degot wins the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory.

The working grants went to Kirill Medvedev, Karel Cisař and Miklavž Komelj. Jury members: Keti Chukhrov, Rainer Fuchs and Apolonija Šušteršič.



9 November 2014, Budapest

Romani Design on the catwalk

Social entrepreneur and fashion designer Erika Varga presented her fashion creations at the "Marie Claire Fashion Days" in Budapest. Her fashion label Romani Design is part of the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership.



10 - 16 November 2014, Vienna

Conference: "Putren Le Jakha! – Open Your Eyes!"

The international youth conference on Antiziganism took place in Vienna.



12 November 2014, Budapest

2014 Civic Auction

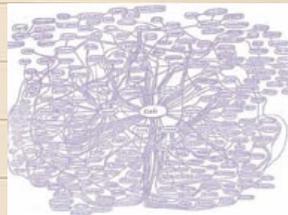
For the seventh time, social initiatives put their ideas and services up for auction.



14 - 17 November 2014, Bratislava

2014 Central European Forum: "Us and Them"

To commemorate the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, the sixth edition of the Central European Forum was held in Bratislava featuring top-class speakers.



18 - 28 November 2014, Bratislava

tranzit.sk: "Revolution without Movement"

Ten days featuring experimental and process-oriented discursive projects, performative lectures and yoga practice



20 November 2014, Vienna

Grenzgänger/Grenzdenker (Cross-border travellers/thinkers): Putin's new Russia

Austrian historian and author Martin Pollack curated the new event series at the Kasino am Schwarzenbergplatz. His guests were Svetlana Alexievich and Mischa Gabovich.



27 November 2014 - 15 February 2015, Prague

Exhibition: "Trinh Minh-ha"

tranzitdisplay presented films by the Vietnamese documentary and experimental filmmaker.



28 November 2014, Săcele

Film screening: "Happiness? Easy!"

Pupils in Săcele presented the film "Happiness? Easy!" ("Fericare? Simplu!"), which they had produced as part of the "Multimedia-Preparing for Life" programme, an initiative launched by one of our partners in the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership.



29 November 2014, Sarajevo

"Syria's War: A Journal of Pain"

Gallery 11/07/95 played host to the exhibition of works by Pulitzer laureate Narciso Contreras.

December 2014

Call for applications for the 2015/2016 Paul Celan Fellowship for Translators



December 2014

Eighteen social scientists were granted an ERSTE Foundation Fellowship for Social Research.

December 2014, Vienna

Franz Karl Prüller took over the chair of the ERSTE Foundation Managing Board from Doraja Eberle.



December 2014, Belgrade

Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence

Kosovar journalist Jeta Abazi wrote the best article of the 2014 Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence. Prizes were also awarded to articles by Kosta Kallergis from Greece and Krassimir Yankow from Bulgaria.

1 December 2014, Vienna

The European Match: "The Media War: Clash of Realities in the Ukraine Conflict"

The first edition of the new series of talks featured Oksana Boyko, Yevhen Fedchenko and Katya Gorchinskaya. Christian Ultsch, head of the foreign desk of DIE PRESSE, moderated the discussion.



4 - 13 December 2014, Vienna

Film festival: "This Human World"

The renowned film festival in Vienna once again brought together national and international films examining social topics from around the world.



5 - 9 December 2014, Belgrade

Off Frame Festival

This year's festival was dedicated to boundaries and their various meanings.



12 - 13 December 2014, Vienna

Symposium: "Going East"

The two-day symposium focussed on Eastern European traditions in translations and translation studies.

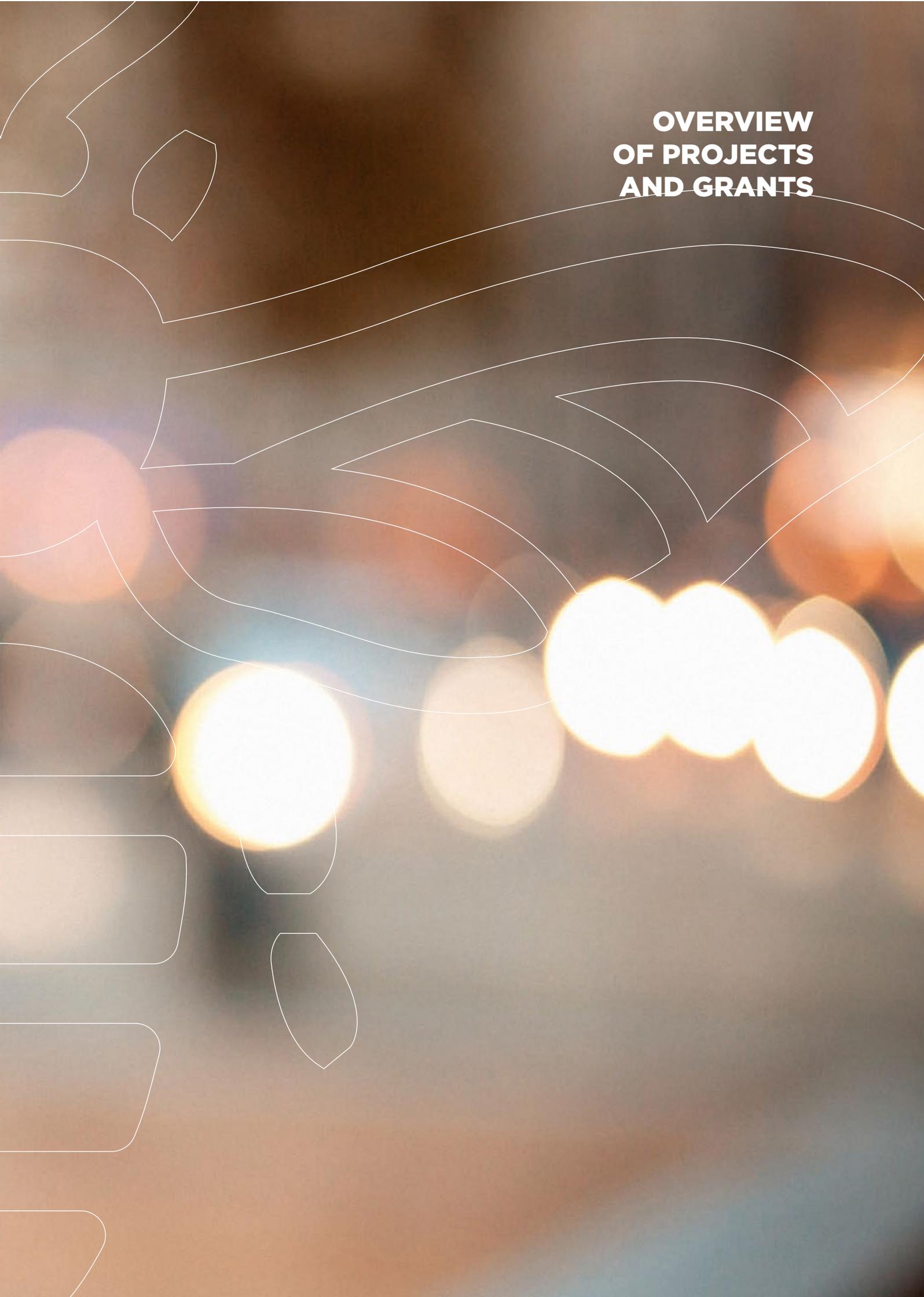


17 - 23 December 2014, Cluj

Progress in regress. Roma people in the capitalist postcommunism

Numerous workshops, talks and discussions examined the situation of the Roma.

**OVERVIEW
OF PROJECTS
AND GRANTS**



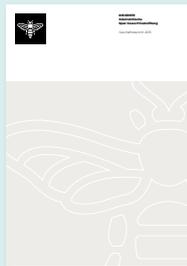
PUBLICATIONS 2014

Publications we produce and co-edit



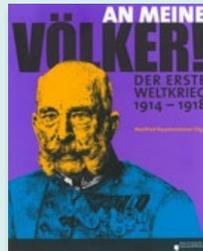
Handbook for International School Projects

Editors: Michaela Münster,
Carmen Teubl
Vienna: Interkulturelles Zentrum, 2014



2014 Annual Report

Funded Publications



An Meine Völker! Der Erste Weltkrieg 1914-1918

Editor: Manfred Rauchensteiner
Vienna: Amalthea Signum, 2014



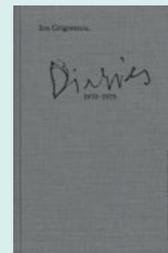
Država u krevetu. Međunarodna izložba / State Abed. International exhibition

Editor: Natasha Kadin
Split: Gallery of Fine Arts, 2014



Civil Society Index - Rapid Assessment. Rahmenbedingungen für die Zivilgesellschaft in Österreich

Authors: Eva More-Hollerweger, Ruth Simsa, Günther Kainz et al.
Vienna: IGO - Interest Group of Public-Benefit Organisations, Competence Centre for Nonprofit Organisations and Social Entrepreneurship, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, 2014



Ion Grigorescu: Diaries 1970-1975

Editor: Georg Schöllhammer
Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2014

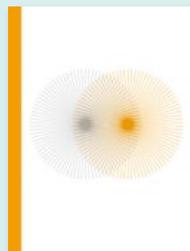
Give Citizen a Chance - Central European Forum, Bratislava 2013

Editor: Andrea Puková
Bratislava: Projekt Forum, 2014



Július KOLLER - Galéria Ganku

Editor: Daniel Grúň
Vienna: Schlebrügge Editor, 2014



Grey gold. Czech and Slovak female artists over 65

Editors: Vendula Fremlová et al.
Brno: The Brno House of Arts, 2014

Liquidation

Editors: Ana Kovačić, Sanja Sekelj,
Lea Vene
Zagreb: KUD INA, 2014

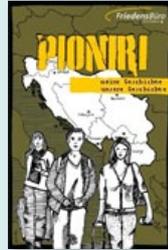
Make.a.Match

Editor: Katharina Schendl
Berlin: Revolver, 2014



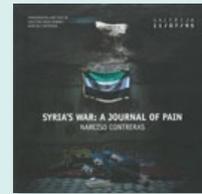
Parallel lives. A Documentary Theatre Project on Secret Police in Eastern Europe

Editors: Martina Vannayová, Ján Šimko
Berlin: Theater der Zeit, 2014



DVD: Pioniri. Meine Geschichte, unsere Geschichte

Directors: Markus Weisheitinger-Hermann, Sandro Pfeiffer, Edin Smajilbašić
Salzburg: Friedensbüro, 2014



Syria's war. A journal of pain

Author: Narciso Contreras
Sarajevo: Culture of Remembrance – Galerija 11/07/95, 2014



Parallel lives: Reader

Editor: Martina Vannayová
Nitra: Association International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra, 2014



Re.act.feminism #2 – A performing archive

Editors: Bettina Knaup, Beatrice Ellen Stammer. Nürnberg: Verlag für moderne Kunst, 2014

Team 10 East. Revisionist Architecture in Real Existing Modernism

Editor: Łukasz Stanek
Warsaw: Museum of Modern Art, 2014

“Traducerile au de cuget să îmblînzească obiceiurile ...” – Rumänische Übersetzungsgeschichte. Prozesse, Produkte, Akteure

Editors: Larisa Schippel, Magda Jeanrenaud, Julia Richter
Berlin: Frank & Timme, 2014



Performative Gestures Political Moves

Editors: Katja Kobolt, Lana Zdravković
Ljubljana: City of Women, 2014

Sixpackfilm – Distribution catalog

Editor: Brigitta Burger-Utzer
Vienna: Sixpackfilm, 2014

Spasi znak

Authors: Rosana Ratkovčić, Sanja Bachrach Krištofić, Mario Krištofić
Zagreb: Umjetnička organizacija Kultura umjetnosti, 2014



Was bleibt. Fragmente einer fortwährenden Vergangenheit / What remains. Fragments of a continuous past

Author: Marika Schmiedt
Vienna: ARTBRUT, 2014



Staatsgrenze 1981 – 1983

Konzeption: Seiichi Furuya
Leipzig: Spector Books, 2014

CALLS 2014

PATTERNS Lectures

This initiative supports the introduction of new university courses in Central and South Eastern Europe in the fields of art history and cultural sciences. Furthermore, it enables lecturers to go on international study visits and promotes the international academic exchange through guest lectures.

University courses in the academic year 2014/2015:

Czech Republic

Popular culture and subcultures in the post-socialist societies of Central Eastern and South Eastern Europe
Charles University of Prague, Faculty of Arts, Department of Czech and Comparative Literature
LECTURERS: Ondřej Daniel and Tomáš Kavka

Opening the archive. Artistic research into the Czechoslovak alternative culture of the 1970s and 1980s
Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Fine Arts
LECTURERS: Barbora Klímová and Michal Moravčík

Hungary

Facts, methods and interpretations. Key exhibitions, collections and programmes in post-1945 Hungarian (neo) avant-garde art in Hungary and in Western and Eastern Europe, with a particular focus on the organizational activity of László Beke and Dóra Maurer with regard to West-East contact and on the plurality of the media
Eötvös Loránd University, Institute of Art History, Budapest
LECTURERS: Annamária Szőke and Judit Király

Latvia

Readings in regional art histories. Theoretical approaches to the art of Eastern Europe and the Baltic states
Art Academy of Latvia, Faculty of History and Theory of Arts, Riga
LECTURER: Mara Traumane

Poland

Transforming sexual norms and national identity in Poland after 1989. A critical discourse analysis
Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Slavic Studies, Warsaw
LECTURERS: Anna Kurowicka and Anna Jawor

The public and art. Ways of engaging with the public sphere, the proletariat and counterpublics in Poland from 1968 to the present day
Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Warsaw
LECTURER: Ewa Majewska

Feminist new materialism – a political perspective in the context of Polish post-transition gender politics
University of Warsaw, Institute of Philosophy
LECTURERS: Monika Rogowska-Stangret and Olga Cielemeńska

Romania

(Collective) dignity and (the rhetoric of) belonging. A fragmented history of the production of national identity in Romanian art and culture from the 1970s to the present day
National University of Arts Bucharest, Art History and Theory Department
LECTURER: Veda Popovici

Clowns of catastrophe: A decade of radicalism, humour and identity politics in Romania, former Yugoslavia and ex-Soviet territory
National University of Arts Bucharest, Photo-Video Department
LECTURERS: Cristina David and Alina Șerban

Slovakia

Curating archives. Critical perspectives on parallel cultural histories
Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Department of Theory and History of Art, Bratislava
LECTURER: Daniel Grúň

Slovenia

DIWO art systems: Corrections to the dominant yet deficient system and narrative of visual art in Slovenia from 1960 to 2000
University of Nova Gorica, School of Arts
LECTURER: Petja Grafenauer

The living archive – Feminist curating and contemporary art practices
University of Ljubljana, Academy of Fine Arts and Design
LECTURER: Jelena Petrović

Tu was, dann tut sich was.

Austria's first social festival supports ideas to improve community life and thus funds a range of projects submitted in various categories. The project, which aims to encourage citizens in Austria's rural areas to take matters into their own hands, is funded by *Sinnstifter*, an association of private foundations which ERSTE Foundation, as a founding member, is part of. In 2013 and 2014 the festival took place in the Mühlviertler Alm region and gave significant impetus to social issues in the north-eastern part of Upper Austria.

Submitted projects 2013/2014:

Solidarity and Community

Erleben, lernen, staunen

Submitted by: Karin Reindl

Family Fit

Submitted by: Gabriele Hölzl

Lerne deine Gemeinde kennen

Submitted by: Regina Fragner and Alois Reithmayer

Moosgruttis Begegnungshaus

Submitted by: Monika Pragerstorfer

Speed-Dating auf der Alm

Submitted by: Alois Reithmayer

Spielerische Freizeitgestaltung mit dem Partner Pferd

Submitted by: Fritz Kriechbaum

Tag des Ehrenamts

Submitted by: Franz Xaver Hölzl

Fußballländermatch mit Asylwerbern

Submitted by: Michael Paireder

Montagskochen – gesundes Essen statt Gefrierkost

Submitted by: Fritz Frühwirt

Tu was: lebt (weiter)!

Submitted by: Bruno Peböck

Babytreff und Stillrunde

Submitted by: Manuela Etlzstorfer

Kinderflohmarkt

Submitted by: Anita Farthofer and Nina Holzmann

Zeit-Bankerl

Submitted by: Melitta Paulinec and Berthold Moser

Pierbach, ein Netzwerk – wir für dich und uns

Submitted by: Martin Mayringer

Gemeinsames Singen im Betreubaren Wohnen

Submitted by: Christa Mayrhofer

Spiele on tour

Submitted by: Birgit Pfindel

Ich-Du-Wir-Tag der Begegnung

Submitted by: Gertrude Fragner

Selbsthilfegruppe Prostatakrebs

Submitted by: Wolfgang König

Kreuz am Haiderberg

Submitted by: Ernst Steininger

KI-SE-Tage

Submitted by: Julia Höfer

Weltverbesserung konkret – Beim Reden kommen d'Leut zamm

Submitted by: Maria Sabaini

Gemeinsam aktives Tun beim Bau einer Ökohütte von Eltern und Kindern

Submitted by: Irene Tober and Susanne Stütz

Vorleserinnen und Vorleser für daheim zu buchen

Submitted by: Maria Atteneeder

Gedenkort für Kinder, die vor, nach oder während der Geburt von uns gegangen sind

Submitted by: Waltraud Moßbauer and Team

Integrations-Frühlingsfest

Submitted by: Hans Furthlehner and Frau Kastler

Aktion Mittagstisch – miteinander schmeckt's!

Submitted by: Gottfried and Marianne Wittibschlager, Gerhard Leimlehner, Renate Giretzlehner, Franz Klingler, Waltraud Moßbauer and Franz Schmalzer

Handtaschenverleih

Submitted by: Elisabeth Schmalzer and Renate Schübl

Wir wollen zum Gemeinwohl unserer Gemeinde einen Beitrag leisten

Submitted by: Herbert Wurz

Regionalism, Nature and Environment

Xund, guat und va dahoam

Submitted by: Gertrude Haider

AuthenTisch

Submitted by: Bernhard Kern

MILAN – Miteinander landwirtschaften

Submitted by: Alexander Hunger

Regional is LeckaSchmecka

Submitted by: Klaus Aumair and Team

Gemeinsam Gartln

Submitted by: Monika Umgeher

Unsere Natur ist kein Mistkübel

Submitted by: Erika Glocker

Aufblühen – Säen von Blumenwiesen

Submitted by: Erich Pölzl and Alfred Haas

Mühlviertler Almkisterl

Submitted by: Sabine Moser, Rosa Brandstätter and Markus Thauerböck

Spazieren einmal anders – mystische Plätze der Mühlviertler Alm

Submitted by: Robert Diensenreither

Tag des Kaltenberger Winterroggens

Submitted by: Mario Thauerböck

Gemeinschafts- und Nachbarschaftsgarten Bad Zell

Submitted by: Michaela Fröhlich

Wasser, die treibende Kraft zum Tun

Submitted by: Mathilde Hinterreither

Unsere Geschichte – Leben auf der Mühlviertler Alm

Submitted by: Josef Kramer

Nahversorgung ist Lebensqualität

Submitted by: Maria Hölzl

Rund um die Honigwabe

Submitted by: Franz Stütz

Gemeinschafts-Kräutergarten: ein Dorf blüht auf

Submitted by: Ulrike Grad

Montagskochen – gesundes Essen statt Gefrierkost

Submitted by: Fritz Frühwirt

Education and Culture

Wenn's kompliziert wird

Submitted by: Annemarie Luger

Vastehst – JugendTheater

Submitted by: Michael Paireder and Albin Scharthmüller

AlmA – AlmAnthologie

Submitted by: Zita Eder and Karl Hackl

Krawuzzi – Kapuzzi in St. Leonhard

Submitted by: Nicole Mayrhofer

Die Buch.Bar

Submitted by: Zita Eder and Rudi Wiesmayr

Play English

Submitted by: Gabriele Hölzl

Kinesthätik-Kurs für pflegende Angehörige

Submitted by: Gabriele Hölzl

Bühne bildet!

Submitted by: Josef Kramer

Grenzenlos! In der Geschichte wurden wir getrennt – die Gegenwart vereint uns wieder

Submitted by: Benedikt Herzog

Jung sein ohne Handy & Co.

Submitted by: Ingrid Patti and Schüler/innen

Vorleserinnen und Vorleser für daheim zu buchen

Submitted by: Maria Atteneder

Die Nacht des Feuers

Submitted by: Petra Scharthmüller and Birgit Brunner

Kunst und Begegnung

Submitted by: Margit Kriechbaumer and Heidemarie Url

Sprachen verbinden und eröffnen neue Möglichkeiten

Submitted by: Edith Kern-Klambauer and Květa Pohlhammer-Lauterbachova

Musik- und Erlebnispädagogik

Submitted by: Magdalena Mühlbacher

Sozialkompetenz für Lebensqualität im Alter auf kommunaler Ebene

Submitted by: Gerda Diesenreither and Anton Hoser

Babytreff und Stillrunde

Submitted by: Manuela Ettlstorfer

Crafts and Tradition

Kochen wie anno dazumal

Submitted by: Romana Buchberger

Handwerk erleben

Submitted by: Manfred Riepl, Josef Mitmannsgruber and Walter Punkenhofer

Volkstanz für alle

Submitted by: Bernhard Naderer

Brauchtum erleben – Wissen weitergeben

Submitted by: Miriam Zeitlhofer and Lisa Wimmer

Tarockrunden für Jung und Alt

Submitted by: Thomas Kreindl

Gemeinsam aktives Tun beim Bau einer Ökohütte von Eltern und Kindern

Submitted by: Irene Tober and Susanne Stütz

Zeit-Bankerl

Submitted by: Melitta Paulinec and Berthold Moser

Youth and Mobility

Jugend(T)raum – Treffpunkt für alle

Submitted by: Veronika Lumetsberger, Marion Achleitner and Magdalena Windhager

Driver auf der Alm

Submitted by: Robert Diensenreither

Tag der Baumaschinen

Submitted by: Johann Leutgeb, Manfred Pilz

Dorfbus

Submitted by: Thomas Kreindl

Wir schreiben Sportgeschichte

Submitted by: Simon Stangl, Alexander Penz, Sebastian Schmalzer and Martin Hackl

Foahst mit?

Submitted by: Christian Haider, Dominik Raffetseder and Markus Raffetseder

Babysitterbörse

Submitted by: Julia Schmalzer

PROJECTS FOR STUDENTS 2014

Academy of Central European Schools (aces)

The Academy of Central European Schools (aces) is one of the largest Central European school networks and enables cross-border school projects. Each year it launches a call for proposals for its programme, aiming to encourage pupils and teachers to get involved in intercultural exchange. As in previous years, in 2013/2014, the selected schools in the 15 partner countries joined forces to work on a given topic. More than 500 schools participated in the call for proposals on the topic: "I and the others: Discovering diversity around and within me". The following 105 schools were selected.

Participating schools in 2013/2014:

School	City	Country
28 Nentori	Burrel	Albania
Shkolla 9 vjecare Ali Demi	Tirana	Albania
Neue Mittelschule Dr. Renner	Graz	Austria
Bundesgymnasium Wien VIII	Vienna	Austria
Sonderpädagogisches Zentrum (special needs education centre)	Vienna	Austria
JU Deseta Osnovna Škola Bijela	Brčko	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Srednja Ekonomsko Trgovinska Škola Tuzla	Tuzla	Bosnia and Herzegovina
SOU Dimcho Debelyanov	Belene	Bulgaria
Profesionalna Gimnazia Po Veterinarna Meditzina Prof. Dr. G. Pavlov	Dobrich	Bulgaria
I OU Sv. Paisii Hilendarski	Galabovo	Bulgaria
Osnovno Uchilishte Hristo Botev	Krainitsi	Bulgaria
SOU Sv Sv Kiril i Metodii	Novo Selo	Bulgaria
Konstantin Velichkov Secondary School	Plovdiv	Bulgaria
Sredno Obstoobrazovatelno Uciliste Sveti Sofroni Vrachanski	Plovdiv	Bulgaria
Gimnazia Hristo Botev	Popovo	Bulgaria
Osnovno Uchilishte	Rakovski	Bulgaria
Zemedelska Profesionalna Gimnazia Kliment Timiriazev	Sandanski	Bulgaria
The Secondary Vocational School Of Economics, Administration and Service "Atanas Burov"	Silistra	Bulgaria
Profesionalna gimnazia po ikonomika Karl Marx	Smolyan	Bulgaria
139 OU Zaharii Krusha	Sofia	Bulgaria
22 SOU Georgi Rakovski	Sofia	Bulgaria
Mejdunarodna Gimnazija Prof. Dr. Vassil Zlatarski	Sofia	Bulgaria
Profilirana Gimnaziya za Izuchavane na Chuzhdi Ezitsi	Targovishte	Bulgaria
Sredno obshtoobrazovatelno uchilishte	Topolovgrad	Bulgaria
Osnovno Uchilishte Sveti Patriarh Evtimii	Varna	Bulgaria
Private Trade School Varna	Varna	Bulgaria
Gimnazia s prepodavane na chujdi ezici	Vidin	Bulgaria
Srednja strukovna škola Antuna Horvata	Djakovo	Croatia
Gimnazija Eugena Kumičića Opatija	Opatija	Croatia
Ekonomska Škola Šibenik	Šibenik	Croatia
Elektrostrojarska škola Varaždin	Varaždin	Croatia
Osnovna Škola Josipa Matoša	Vukovar	Croatia
Střední průmyslová škola elektrotechnická a informačních technologií	Brno	Czech Republic
Zakladni skola a materska skola Ostrava-Poruba, Ukrajinska 19, prispevkova organizace	Ostrava-Poruba	Czech Republic

School	City	Country
ZŠ a MŠ Ostrava-Zábřeh	Ostrava-Zábřeh	Czech Republic
Střední Odborná Škola Obchodu, Užitého Umění A Designu	Plzeň	Czech Republic
Základní Škola	Prague	Czech Republic
Obchodní Akademie A Vyšší Odborná Škola	Příbram	Czech Republic
Zakladni skola Bernarda Bolzana o.p.s.	Tabor	Czech Republic
Széchenyi István Római Katolikus Közgazdasági és Informatikai Szakközépiskola	Hatvan	Hungary
Kalocsai Kunszt József Általános Iskola	Kalocsa	Hungary
Táncsics Mihály Közoktatási Intézmény És Tehetségközpont Vörösmarty Mihály Tagintézménye	Orosháza	Hungary
Mileniumi i Trete	Prishtina	Kosovo
OU Elpida Karamandi	Bitola	Macedonia
Straso Pindzur Primary School	Karbinci	Macedonia
OU Goce Delcev	Mogila	Macedonia
Opstinsko Osnovno Uciliste Goce Delcev	Negotino	Macedonia
Sredno opshtinsko uchilishte Gjorche Petrov	Prilep	Macedonia
Obshtinsko Osnovno Uchilishtse	Probistip	Macedonia
NOVA International Schools	Skopje	Macedonia
OU Vasil Glavinov	Skopje	Macedonia
Privatno sredno uciliste Petta privatna gimnazija	Skopje	Macedonia
SETU Mihajlo Pupin Skopje	Skopje	Macedonia
SUGS Nikola Karev	Skopje	Macedonia
Straso Pindzur	Sokolarci	Macedonia
The Theoretical Lyceum	Calarasi	Moldova
Colegiul Financiar-Bancar	Chişinău	Moldova
Lyceum Natalia Dadiani	Chişinău	Moldova
Lyceum Lucian Blaga	Iargara	Moldova
JUSMS Danilo Kis	Budva	Montenegro
Milija Nikčević primary school	Nikšić	Montenegro
Srednja elektrotehnička škola	Podgorica	Montenegro
Liceul Tehnologic Iuliu Maniu	Arad	Romania
Colegiul National Gheorghe Sincai	Bucharest	Romania
Liceul Tehnologic Special Nr. 3	Bucharest	Romania
Scoala Gimnaziala Nr. 188	Bucharest	Romania
Liceul De Arte	Buzau	Romania
Scoala Gimnaziala Sfantul Apostol Andrei	Buzau	Romania
Scoala Nr. 2 Constantin Gerota	Calafat	Romania
Carol I Commercial College	Constanta	Romania
Colegiul National Pedagogic Constantin Bratescu	Constanta	Romania
Colegiul Vasile Lovinescu	Falticeni	Romania
Liceul Particular Marin Coman	Galati	Romania
D.D.Patrascanu Secondary School	Iaşi	Romania
Scoala Gimnaziala Speciala Constantin Paunescu	Iaşi	Romania
Liceul Teoretic Mircea Eliade	Intorsura Buzaului	Romania
Scoala Gimnaziala Prigoria	Prigoria	Romania
Scoala Gimnaziala Puchenii Mari	Puchenii Mari	Romania
Scoala Gimnaziala Nr. 1	Remetea	Romania
Colegiul Naţional Kölcsey Ferenc	Satu Mare	Romania
Colegiul Tehnic Elisa Zamfirescu	Satu Mare	Romania

School	City	Country
Liceul Teoretic German	Satu Mare	Romania
Scoala Gimnaziala Nr. 12	Timisoara	Romania
I. L. Caragiale	Tulcea	Romania
Branislav Nušić Primary School	Belgrade	Serbia
OŠ Vasa Čarapić	Belgrade	Serbia
Osnovna Škola Dušan Dugalić	Belgrade	Serbia
Škola za oštećene sluhom - nagluve	Belgrade	Serbia
Dule Karaklajic	Lazarevac	Serbia
Karlovačka Gimnazija	Sremski Karlovci	Serbia
Hemijsko-medicinska skola	Vrsac	Serbia
Economsko Trgovinska Shkola	Zajechar	Serbia
Sukromne Gymnazium Galileo School	Bratislava	Slovak Republic
Spojená Škola	Detva	Slovak Republic
Sukromna Stredna Odborna Skola	Giraltovce	Slovak Republic
Stredná Priemyselná Škola - Ipari Szakkozépiskola	Komárno	Slovak Republic
Stredná priemyselná škola	Košice	Slovak Republic
Gymnazium Lipany	Lipany	Slovak Republic
Gymnázium Antona Bernoláka	Senec	Slovak Republic
Zakladna skola Sama Cambela	Slovenska Lupča	Slovak Republic
Súkromná Obchodná Akadémia Žiar Nad Hronom	Žiar Nad Hronom	Slovak Republic
Gimnazija Bežigrad, OU International School	Ljubljana	Slovenia
Gimnazija Ptuj	Ptuj	Slovenia
Škofijska Gimnazija Vipava	Vipava	Slovenia
Osnovna Šola Vransko-Tabor	Vransko	Slovenia

European Schools for a Living Planet

In cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), this project aims to encourage young people to take joint responsibility for Europe's environment and nature. Teachers and pupils implement nature conservation projects which have been submitted and which are meant to reach and motivate as many people as possible to get actively involved in environmental protection and nature conservation.

Participating schools in 2013/2014

School	City	Country
GRG 15 Schmelz	Vienna	Austria
St. St. Cyril and Methodius Primary school	Bachevo	Bulgaria
High Vocational School of Transport	Razlog	Bulgaria
Vocational High School of Clothing and Design Princess Maria Luisa	Sofia	Bulgaria
Osnovna škola	Drenje	Croatia
Osnovna škola	Popovac	Croatia
Elementary School Deblín	Deblín	Czech Republic
G. SOŠE a SOU Kaplice	Kaplice	Czech Republic
SŠ Infis	Plzeň	Czech Republic
Purkynovo gymnázium	Strážnice	Czech Republic
Saint Benedict School Center	Budapest	Hungary
Bocskai István Református Oktatási Központ	Halásztelek	Hungary
Mohácsi Kisfaludy Károly Gimnazium	Halásztelek	Hungary
Adrian Păunescu High School	Căzănești	Moldova

School	City	Country
Orizont Lyceum	Chişinău	Moldova
Puhoi Theoretical Lyceum	Chişinău	Moldova
Colegiul Tehnic Energetic	Cluj-Napoca	Romania
Lorin Salagean Technical College	Drobeta	Romania
Colegiul Tehnic Matei Corvin	Hunedoara	Romania
Şcoala Gimnazială Nr. 1	Neamţ	Romania
Drinka Pavlovic Elementary School	Belgrade	Serbia
Beška Brothers Grulović	Beška	Serbia
TS Mileva Marić-Ajnštajn	Novi Sad	Serbia
OŠ Gavriilo Princip Primary School	Zemun	Serbia
ZŠ a Gymnázium s VJM	Bratislava	Slovak Republic
Gymnázium Pázmána S. UJM - Pázmány Péter Gimnázium	Nové Zámky	Slovak Republic
Gimnazija Jožeta Plečnika Ljubljana	Ljubljana	Slovenia
Biotechnical School Centre, secondary school	Naklo	Slovenia
OS Preserje	Preserje	Slovenia
Kharkiv Secondary School No. 91	Kharkiv	Ukraine
Kostopil Secondary School No. 6	Kostopil	Ukraine
Science and Math Lyceum	Smila	Ukraine
Secondary School No. 24	Ternopil	Ukraine

Democracy Workshops in Montenegro

Based on the model of democracy workshops held in the Austrian Parliament, in Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro workshops are organised for children and youth from 9 to 15 years. Close to the Parliament, the children learn in a playful manner about the function of the National and European Parliaments, the concept of democracy, legislation procedures and role of the media in a pluralistic society. In 2014 16 schools took part. At mid-year, the Parliament of Montenegro took over the financing of this initiative.

Participating schools in 2014

School	District
Blažo Jokov Orlandić primary school	Bar
Kekec primary school	Bar
Nedakusi primary school	Bijelo Polje
Druga Osnovna Škola primary school	Budva
Njegoš primary school	Cetinje
Milosav Koljenšić primary school	Danilovgrad
Nikola Đurković primary school	Kotor
Njegoš primary school	Kotor
Radomir Rakočević primary school	Mojkovac
Branko Božović primary school	Podgorica
Milan Vukotić primary school	Podgorica
Pavle Rovinski primary school	Podgorica
Vlado Milić primary school	Podgorica
Vuk Karadžić primary school	Podgorica
Zarija Vujošević primary school	Podgorica
Maršal Tito primary school	Ulcinj

FELLOWSHIPS 2014

ERSTE Foundation does not directly grant individual fellowships. Together with partner organisations, however, it develops scientific and practice-oriented programmes that provide fellowships for researchers, journalists, translators, artists and curators. All fellowships encourage participants to work, research, communicate and think across borders.

Endowed professorship for Central and South Eastern European Art Histories at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

The endowed professorship programme is a cooperation between the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and ERSTE Foundation. It enables scholars with outstanding qualifications in the field of Central and South Eastern European art histories (focussing primarily on the period after 1960) to teach in Vienna as guest lectures. Based on a broad concept of art history, the position was designed to enrich the students' curricula by interrelating with other fields of art history and cultural sciences, particularly the critical reflection of economic, political, cultural and queer-feminist contexts as well as postcolonial theory formations and institutional critique.

Endowed professor in 2013–2015:

Suzana Milevska, art historian and curator, Skopje, Macedonia

Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence

The Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence was initiated by ERSTE Foundation and the Robert Bosch Stiftung in cooperation with the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) to foster high-quality reporting in South Eastern Europe and encourage regional networking among journalists. The aim is to improve their knowledge, in particular on topics related to European policy, in order to help them provide better information to the public in South Eastern Europe. Furthermore, it aims to spark interest among the fellows in the work done by the media in their neighbouring countries. Each year, the jury selects up to ten experienced journalists from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia to participate in the seven-month programme. In addition, the three best articles are awarded a prize at the end. The 2014 Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence was organised by ERSTE Foundation and the Open Society Foundations in cooperation with BIRN. Media partners: *Der Standard*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*.

2014 Topic: "Generations"

2014 Fellows:

Jeta Abazi Gashi, Kosovo

Fighting for their fair share (first prize)

Kostas Kallergis, Greece

The great leap rightward (second prize)

Krasimir Yankov, Bulgaria

Syrian refugees leave Bulgaria for German limbo (third prize)

Boryana Dzhabazova, Bulgaria

Entrepreneurs strive to make Balkans buzz with tech startups

Marija Knezevic, Croatia

Islands seek direction in seas of change

Branko Krivokapic, Montenegro

Building Bridges Over Troubled Water

Tanja Matic, Serbia

Blood Ties

Marija Mitevaska, Macedonia

Macedonians migrate south for illegal tourism work

Dragana Peco, Serbia

Moonlighting Serbian police suspected of violence and corruption

Lina Vdovii, Romania

Romania's resilient generation: The kids 'left behind' who get ahead

ERSTE Foundation Fellowship for Social Research

Every two years, ERSTE Foundation grants fellowships for social research on a given topic. Researchers or research teams (max. 2 people) submit their project proposals which are selected by an international jury of experts. The research results are published on the Internet and summaries are made available to policy-makers, civil society and business. Furthermore, social scientists have the opportunity to network and get together regularly with international experts in their respective areas during events and in meetings.

2013/2014 Topic: “Labour markets and employment in Central and Eastern Europe”

Fellows:

Viktorija Atanasovska and **Tijana Angljekovska**, Association of Economic Researchers Stoke, Skopje, Macedonia
Opening the black-box of labour market for women in Macedonia

Kitti Baracsi, Education and Society Doctoral School, University of Pécs, Hungary
Rom Slavi, Rom Rumeni, Rom Ungheresi, Rom Bulgari. Four Case Studies of Roma from CEE Countries in Campania

Anna Baranowska and **Iga Magda**, Department of Economics I, Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland
What makes young people the marginalized labour market group? Evidence from Poland

Almina Besic, Department of Human Resource Management, University of Graz, Austria
Internationalisation and Human Resource Strategies of Austrian companies in South-Eastern Europe

Nina Brankovic, FEA environmental protection organisation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Exploring education and labour policy mismatch and its influence on the unemployment rate in Western Balkan countries

Svitlana Buko, Precedent Academics, Indianapolis, USA
Barriers to inclusion of IT entrepreneurs-leaders into the formal sector of employment in Ukraine

Elma Demir, Trade Union of Workers in Commerce and Services, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Illegal work and its impact on economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Anca Dohotariu and **Ioana Baluta**, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest, Romania
Child minders in Bucharest: A shadowed category between law, employment and social norms

Olena Fedyuk, Budapest, Hungary
Costs and benefits of labour migration on migrants' professional trajectories and their households' well-being: Comparative case study of Ukrainian labour migration to Italy and Ireland

Réka Geambaşu, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania
The socio-economic characteristics of female labour market participation in two Central and Eastern European countries. The role of part-time work in improving women's access to paid work

Jan Grill, University of Manchester, United Kingdom
Roma migrations and socio-economic mobilities of labour markets in Central Eastern Europe

Daniel Horn, Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow, European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy
School-based vocational or work-based apprentice training? An assessment of the Hungarian vocational training system

Alice Iancu, Hyperion University Bucharest, Romania
Lucky to live in the capital city? A space and relational approach to women's social exclusion in Bucharest

Katarina Jirsa, counselling centre for legal aid and psycho-social support for women who have suffered domestic violence, Kikinda, Serbia
Competitiveness of women victims of domestic violence on labour markets – Problems and perspectives

Klara Kališková, Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education – Economics Institute (CERGE-EI), Prague, Czech Republic
Public Policies and Female Labour Supply in the EU: Microeconomic Approach

Lucie Kalousova, Sociology and Health Policy, University of Michigan, USA
Does greater prevalence of high strain working conditions lead to greater rates of early retirement in Central and Eastern Europe?

Asja Korbar, Nansen Dialogue Centre, Osijek, Croatia

The effects of separate schooling on employment possibilities of youth of Serbian national minority in Vukovar-Sirmium County in Croatia

Jelena Laušev, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade, Serbia

The impact of public sector employment on local labour markets in CEE countries: Evidence from Croatia, Hungary and Serbia

Olena Nizalova, Kyiv Economics Institute, Kyiv, Ukraine

Inequality in Working Conditions: Ukrainian Experience

Timea Pal, European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy

Manufacturing on the Move: Employment Implications of Multinational Enterprise Restructurings in Central and Eastern Europe

Tatjana Perić, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Expectations against exclusion: Young educated Roma and labour markets in Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Norbert Petrovici, Urban Sociology and Urban Economy at Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania

Imagining the Economy and the Labour Market as an Unemployed

Oleksii Polegkyi, University of Wroclaw, Poland and University of Antwerp, Belgium

Ukrainian labour migrants in Poland: Part of society or unwanted visitors

Anca Simionca, GAS Organisation, Cluj, Romania

Career flexibility between labour market precariousness and personal choice: The case of middle managers in Romania

Alexandra Szőke, Department for Cultural and Social Anthropology, Vienna University, Austria

A 'Road to Work'? – Public work and (un)employment in the Hungarian countryside

Jelena Žarković Rakić and **Marko Vladisavljević**, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade, Serbia and Foundation for the Advancement of Economics, Belgrade, Serbia

Addressing rising inactivity of older people in Serbia

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy

ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy offers a comprehensive range of capacity-building programmes for civil-society organisations in Central and South Eastern Europe. The various programmes aim at supporting the executives and members of these organisations, the organisations themselves and indirectly also their stakeholders and helping them tackle existing and future challenges in their sectors. The academy is a cooperation project between ERSTE Foundation and Vienna University of Business and Economics.

SOCIAL INNOVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Social Innovation and Management Programme focuses on capacity building at individual and organisational levels and helps participants apply the skills they have gained to strengthen their organisations and leadership.

2014 Participants: Ognjen Andrić, Green Gold – Society for Social Ecology; Viviana Denisa Anghel, apd – asociația pro democrația; Muhamet Arifi, Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo; Anikó Bakonyi, Hungarian Helsinki Committee; Anna Cristina Burtea, Heart of a Child Foundation; Iveta Chovancová, Odyssey; Lilia Doibani, ProAbility Moldova; Teia Marina Gavrilescu, FuturePlus; Tereza Jurečková, Pragulic; Klára Kalibová, In IUSTITIA; Sergej Kára, Vagus; Petra Kocjan, The Ypsilon Institute; Lejla Kusturica, Mozaik Foundation; Vladimir Lazovski, Open the Windows; Olesea Lujan, CCF Moldova; Ana Măiță, Mothers for Mothers; Andreea Pătru, Romano ButiQ; Reka Primuszne-Sara, Shelter Foundation; Kushtrim Puka, Forum for Civic Initiatives; Tamás Simon, Open Doors Association; Irina Sorescu, CPE – Center for Partnership and Equality; Reinhold Tritscher, Theater ecce; Angelika Vanek-Enyinnaya, Die Schwalbe; Tamara Žakula Desnica, Home for children „Tic“; Franc Zlatar, Slovene Philanthropy.

24 – 28 March 2014, Module I, Vienna

Fundraising: Communications, Community, Strategy
Innovation Management in Civil Society Organisations
Creative Design Thinking Lab
Opportunity Radar, Assignment

5 – 9 May 2014, Module II, Vienna

Reconnect and Expert and Peer Dialogues
Group Tweets, Patterns and Emergent Topics
Business Planning
Project Management
Marketing Management for Nonprofit Organisations

16 – 20 June 2014, Module III, Vienna

Reconnect and Expert and Peer Dialogues
From Output to Impact
Leading People and Organisations
Leadership and Teams

REGIONAL PROGRAMME

The Regional Programme is focused on developing topically specific management competences that are inclusive of local contexts and local development needs.

22 – 23 October 2014, Vienna
Projektmanagement in NPOs (in German)

24 October 2014, Cluj-Napoca
Curs de marketing online pentru ONG-uri (in Romanian)

29 – 30 October 2014, Bucharest
Workshop de Planificare Strategica (in Romanian)

4 – 5 November 2014, Belgrade
Financijska održivost (in Croatian)

11 – 12 November 2014, Zagreb
Upravljanje projektnim ciklusom (in Croatian)

13 – 14 November 2014, Prague
Online fundraising – fundraising ve světě jedniček a nul (in Czech)

18 – 19 November 2014, Budapest
Stratégiai tervezés a gyakorlatban (in Hungarian)

24 November 2014, Vienna
Das Ökosystem des Social Entrepreneurship (in German)

1 December 2014, Budapest
CSR stratégiák (in Hungarian)

3 – 4 December 2014, Zagreb
Marketing Management in Nonprofit Organisations (in English)

9 – 10 December 2014, Vienna
Marketing Management in Nonprofit Organisations (in English)

Milena Jesenská Fellowships for Journalists

The fellowship programme is designed for journalists who want to pursue in-depth research on a topic related to European cultural issues. Founded by the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) and the European Cultural Foundation, the fellowship is supported by Project Syndicate and ERSTE Foundation. Milena Jesenská (1896-1944), whom the programme is named after, was an outstanding journalist of her time, who was murdered in the Ravensbrück concentration camp because of her political resistance.

Fellows supported by ERSTE Foundation 2014/2015:

Benjamin Cunningham, freelance journalist, Prague, Czech Republic
Roma and the New Nationalism

Victor Martinovich, deputy editor-in-chief at BelGazeta, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Marc Chagall, Long Way Home

Judit Klein, freelance journalist, Pécs, Hungary
Where do we stay? The role of journalists in post-socialist countries

Albena Shkodrova, editor-in-chief at Bacchus, Leuven, Belgium
Kitchen Dissidents and Other Communist Gourmet Stories

Paul Celan Fellowships for Translators

With the help of ERSTE Foundation, the fellowship programme of the Institute for Human Sciences (Vienna) supports the translations of key works in the humanities and social sciences into the languages of the Central and South Eastern European region. It is named after the author and translator Paul Celan, whose work advocates the diversity of European culture and cross-border dialogue.

2014 Fellows:

Christian Ferencz-Flatz, researcher at the Alexandru Dragomir Institute of the Romanian Society for Phenomenology, Bucharest
Walter Benjamin, *Das Passagen-Werk*, translation from German into Romanian

Michał Filipczuk, freelance translator, Krakow
Judith Butler, *Parting Ways. Jewishness and the Critique of Zionism*, translation from English into Polish

Kateryna Mishchenko, freelance translator, author, editor and publisher of the magazine *Prostory*, Kyiv
Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, *Träume*, translation from German into Ukrainian

Halyna Petrosanyak, freelance translator and author, Ivano-Frankivsk
Elisabeth Freundlich, *Die Ermordung einer Stadt namens Stanislaw. NS-Vernichtungspolitik in Polen 1939-1945*, translation from German into Ukrainian

Roumiana Preshlenova, associate professor of Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
Konrad Clewing, Oliver Jens Schmitt (ed.), *Geschichte Südosteuropas. Vom frühen Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart*, translation from German into Bulgarian

Artists-In-Residence at quartier21/MuseumsQuartier Vienna

The Artists-in-Residence programme is a project of ERSTE Foundation and tranzit. It aims to support young contemporary artists from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic and promote cross-border dialogue. Each year, tranzit selects five artists who each live and work in a guest studio at quartier21/MuseumsQuartier in Vienna for two months.

2014 Artists:

Szilvi Német, Hungary

Gergely Hory, Hungary

Xandra Popescu, Romania

Larisa Crunteanu, Romania

Cristian Nae, Romania

Szilárd Miklós, Romania

Marcela Steinbachová, Czech Republic

Ladislava Gažiová, Czech Republic

Andrea Kalinová, Czech Republic

András Cséfalvay, Czech Republic

Fellowships for curators and artists at the Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts

Each year, ERSTE Foundation grants four fellowships to young artists and four fellowships to young curators from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic, which enables them to participate in a course of their choice at the Salzburg Summer Academy of Fine Arts.

2014 Fellows

Vlad Basalici, Romania

Marta Fiserova, Czech Republic

Radoslav Istok, Slovak Republic

Anna Juhasz, Hungary

Diana Marincu, Romania

Tímea Anita Piróth, Hungary

Jana Písaríková, Czech Republic

Fellowship for journalists of Roma/Ashkali/Balkan Egyptian origin

This fellowship aims to promote integration and help journalists of Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptian origin to act against deep-rooted prejudices by reporting on these ethnic groups in public media. The Ashkali live as an ethnic minority in Kosovo, central Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria and Macedonia; Balkan-Egyptians live in Kosovo, in Albania and Macedonia.

2014 Fellow

Serdjan Baftijari, Montenegro

AWARDS 2014

Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2014

Presented every two years in cooperation with the Igor Zabel Association for Culture and Theory, the award honours the work of art historians and theorists in Central and South Eastern Europe. It boosts the profile of art and culture from this region and contributes to the exchange of cultural knowledge between “East” and “West”. The award was founded in memory of, and named after, the Slovenian curator, writer and cultural theorist Igor Zabel, who died in 2005. The prize was awarded at the Vienna Secession on 6 November 2014. The winners presented their work to the public during a conference (see also p. 24–29).

2014 Winner

Ekaterina Degot, art historian, writer and curator, Moscow, Russia / Cologne, Germany

2014 Working grants

Karel Císař, art theorist, Prague, Czech Republic

Miklavž Komelj, author and translator, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Kirill Medvedev, writer, publisher and activist, Moscow, Russia

**OVERVIEW
OF FUNDING AND
PROJECT EXPENSES
BY PROGRAMME**



Funding

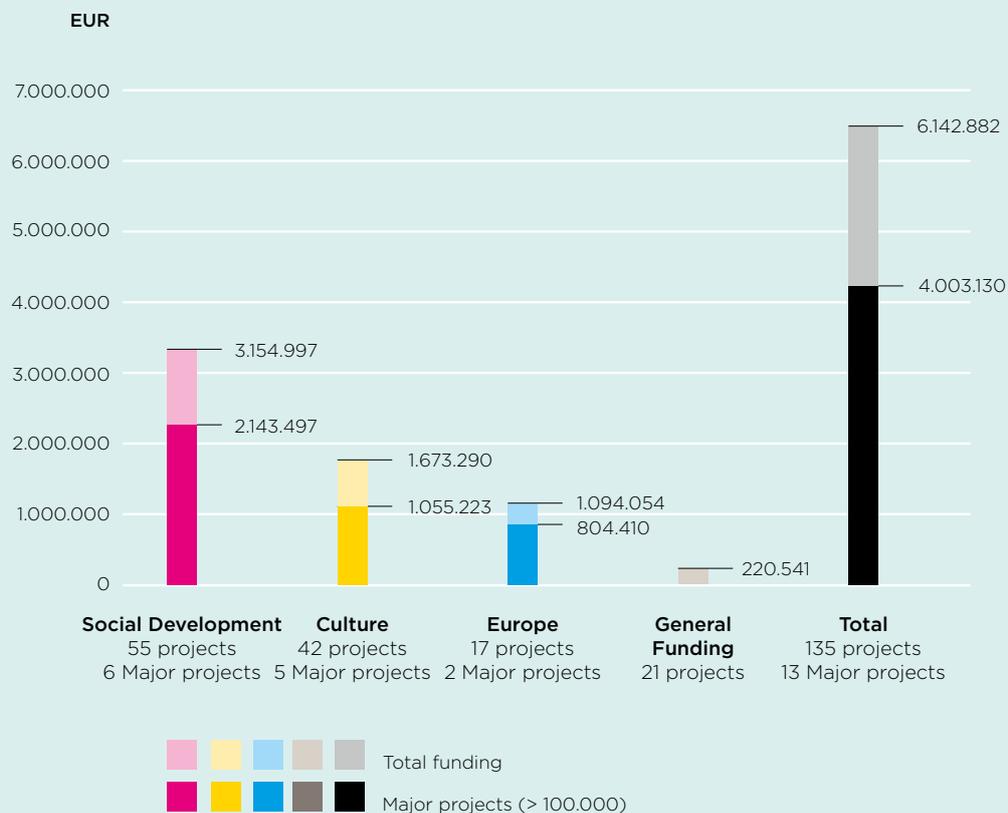
In 2014 ERSTE Foundation allocated EUR 6.1 million for projects run by non-profit organisations, of which it disbursed EUR 3.2 million and assigned EUR 2.9 million to amounts owed for approved projects. 4,3 % (EUR 0.3 million) of EUR 6.1 million was paid in capital gains tax or set aside as reserves. In total, the foundation implemented 135 individual projects with project partners in Austria and Central and South Eastern Europe.

Funding is divided between the programmes as follows:

Disbursements and binding commitments in 2014



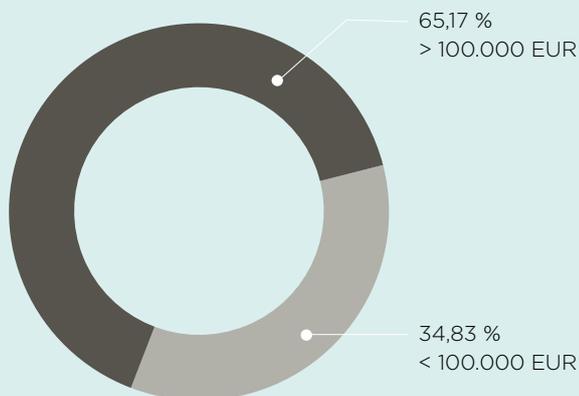
Funding by programme



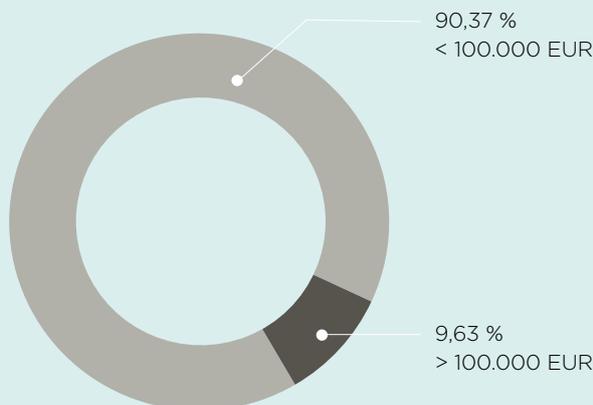
Funding of major projects

9,63 % of all projects in 2014 received funding exceeding EUR 100.000. 65,17 % of the allocated funds was used for these projects. The average value of funding for the foundation's major projects totals EUR 307.933,08. ERSTE Foundation has increased the focus of its work to achieve a greater impact.

Funds for projects



Number of projects



Major projects of ERSTE Foundation

Project name	Grant	Programme
aces - Academy of Central European Schools, 9th year	662.700	Europe
Democracy Workshop in Montenegro	141.710	Europe
ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration	960.000	Social Development
ERSTE Foundation Fellowship for Social Research	345.000	Social Development
ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy	181.830	Social Development
Igor Zabel Award and Association for Culture and Theory	146.160	Culture
KomenskýFond - Learning for Life	450.000	Social Development
Kontakt. The Art Collection of Erste Group and ERSTE Foundation	241.667	Culture
Social Impact Award	106.667	Social Development
Endowed Professorship for Central and South Eastern European Art Histories at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna	186.570	Culture
Support of People with Disabilities in Eastern and South Eastern Europe	100.000	Social Development
tranzit.at	310.827	Culture
tranzit.sk	170.000	Culture
Total	4.003.130	

Project expenses

In addition to the funds that were allocated directly to the project partners, in 2014 EUR 761,617 was spent on project development and implementation as well as on research into the programmes and General Funding:

Social Development	245.169
Culture	278.872
Europe	223.059
General Funding	14.517
Total	761.617



ERSTE FOUNDATION LIBRARY



The ERSTE Foundation Library is the knowledge hive of ERSTE Foundation. Since 2007 the library and its collections have provided access to knowledge and all of the information resources connected to ERSTE Foundation's topics, objectives and diverse range of projects. The collection focuses on current socio-economic and cultural developments as well as the political framework in Central and South Eastern Europe. This includes topics such as conceptual art since the 1950s, minority and gender discourse, social banking and social entrepreneurship, NGO and project management, demography, integration, migration and education. We support knowledge transfer by providing low-threshold access to the information available in the library. The library also has digital knowledge resources, which include complete texts that can be accessed online.

In 2014 the library purchased 358 media items in various formats, ranging from printed books to digital resources. A total of 1,000 new bibliographic entries have been added to the catalogue thanks to donations and the cataloguing of research materials.

Around 9,000 media items are currently available for research, use and lending. As in 2013, loans exceeded 1,000 media items in 2014. Online catalogue usage increased significantly to 6,500 visits. In 2014 we expanded our digital collections, which explains the huge increase in catalogue requests. In addition, the library's services include BibSonomy, a social bookmarking platform developed by Kassel University, which enables all foundation staff members to assign jointly managed bookmarks and tags to online resources. Via a tag cloud, visitors of www.erstestiftung.org can generate and retrieve more detailed information from the foundation's knowledge pool.

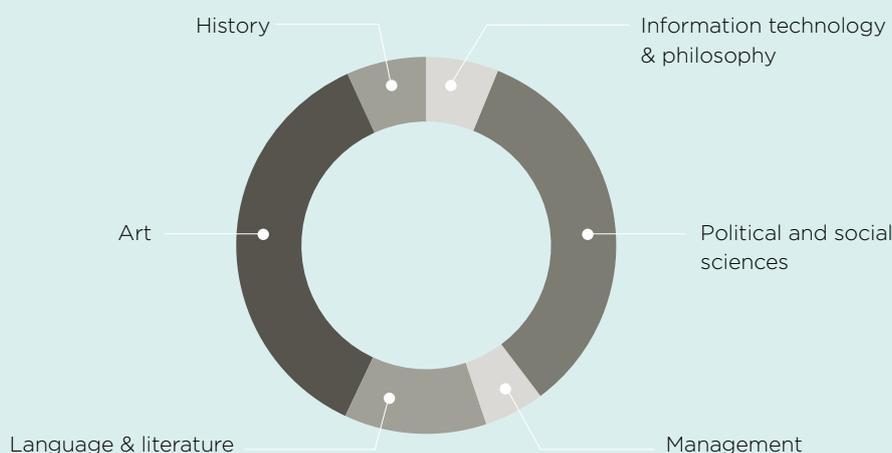
The development of the library over the past five years

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Users	70	86	118	153	183
Loans	383	461	847	1032	1019
Purchases	650	496	471	317	358
New catalogue entries	1300	1620	2051	946	1108
Search requests in the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)	500	1100	1400	3200	6500



Subject areas in the ERSTE Foundation Library

(Media per subject area in relation to the total holdings in 2014)





**European Integration
is for us more than a
project. It is the reality
we live in. We come from
ten European countries
and speak twelve
languages fluently.**



ERSTE FOUNDATION BOARDS AND TEAM

(as at 31 Dec 2014)

Supervisory Board

Georg Winckler, Chairman
Johanna Rachinger, Deputy Chairwoman
Maximilian Hardegg
Bernhard Kainz
Peter Mitterbauer
Barbara Pichler
Peter Pichler
Markus Trauttmansdorff

Advisory Board

Erhard Busek, Chairman
Christoph Badelt
Caroline Hornstein-Tomić
Ivan Krastev
Johanna Mair
Boris Marte
Franz Salm
Andreas Treichl
Ivan Vejvoda

Managing Board

Doraja Eberle, Chairwoman
Franz Karl Prüller (Chairman from 26 Jan 2015)
Richard Wolf, Deputy Chairman
Bernhard Spalt

Susanne Schaller, Assistant to the Board

Social Development Programme

Ursula Dechant, Project Coordinator
Barbora Orliková, Project Coordinator
Alina Șerban, Project Manager
Hajnalka Bessenyei, Project Manager
Nicole Traxler, Project Manager

Culture Programme

Maria Derntl, Project Manager
Christiane Erharter, Project Manager
Miroslava Holečková, Project Coordinator
Heide Wührheim, Project Manager

Europe Programme

Robin Gosejohann, Project Manager
Filip Radunović, Project Manager

ERSTE Foundation Library

Jutta Braidt, Head of ERSTE Foundation Library
Aleksandra Aleksić, Member of Library Staff

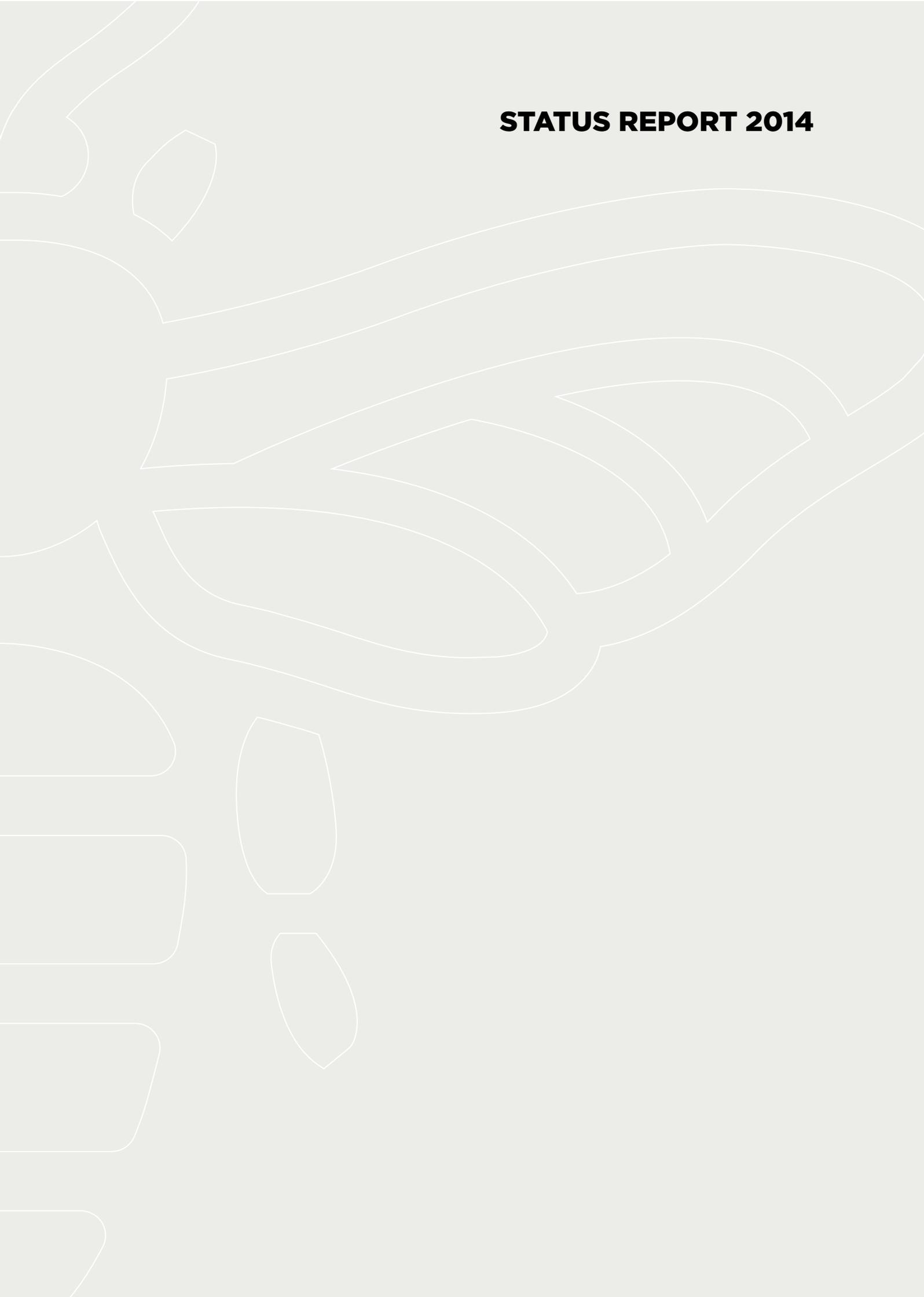
Communications

Maribel Königer, Head of Communications
Andreea Gurău, Communications Manager
Gerald Radinger, Communications Assistant and Project Coordinator
Alexandra Rosetti-Dobslaw, Communications Manager
Jovana Trifunović, Communications Manager

Budget & Organisation

Anna Nöst, Executive Director, Finance and Organisation
Veronika Dworzak, Team Assistant
Iveta Hosova, Assistant
Monika Kampl, Controller
Vera Millauer, Head of Office and Facility Management
Christine Platzer-Ehalt, In-house Counsel
Ivo Reinprecht, Team Assistant
Simona Rhomberg, In-house Counsel
Eva Schieder, Junior Controller
Christiane Seifriedsberger, Team Assistant
Daniel Torres, Team Assistant
Lubica Vopickova, Assistant
Eva Zalesky, Board Meeting Management Assistant

STATUS REPORT 2014



ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

In 2014, as in the previous year, three of the four most important rating agencies gave Austria a triple-A credit rating, the best possible mark. The country is thus considered to have the highest possible creditworthiness, with a virtually negligible risk of default.

Preliminary calculations by the Austrian economic research institutes forecast Austrian GDP to grow 0,3 % or 0,4 % in 2014, with this figure increasing ever so slightly in 2015 (to between 0,5 % and 0,8 %). The euro area as a whole rose by 0,8 % in 2014 (preliminary figure). The preliminary indicators for Austria continued to move sideways as the year drew to a close and did not give any strong hints of a more significant economic recovery in 2015.

It must be said, however, that the risks for economic development were very high. Events that were difficult or impossible to foresee, such as the rapid drop in the price of oil in December, ongoing geopolitical tension to the east, and the rapidly falling euro exchange rate, are the latest examples of this. The resurgence of the international sovereign debt crisis remained a serious danger as well.

The Austrian business cycle lacked drivers of expansion both domestically and abroad in 2014. Private consumption stagnated and domestic exports have been declining since the second quarter of 2014. Corporate investment was restrained as a result of the gloomy business climate and weak end user demand.

Austria's trade balance has been in positive territory since 2002, confirming the country's competitive strength in international markets. Its trade surplus for 2014 was EUR 3.2 billion (forecast) or 1 % of GDP.

The Austrian unemployment rate rose in 2014 from 4,9 % to 5,1 % (preliminary figure), but it remained the lowest in the European Union, as in the previous year. The number of non-self-employed workers averaged 3,503 million for the year, some 0,6 % or 20.383 persons more than the year before. Unemployment (as at November) rose by 9 % or 32.395 persons, to 331.756.

As of 30 September 2014 Austria's public debt was 80,7 % of GDP or EUR 264,5 billion. Thus the Maastricht target of 60 % of GDP remains far out of reach. The budget deficit is expected to have risen by 1,5 % of GDP in 2013 to (forecast) 3 % of GDP, the very same level of the Maastricht limit.

Insolvency statistics for 2014 show a favourable decline both in the number of corporate bankruptcies (down 0,7 %) and private bankruptcies (down 6,3 %). Insolvency liabilities in the corporate sector plummeted by 54 % to EUR 2.9 billion. It must be said, however, that EUR 3.5 billion of the 2013 total was due to a major insolvency in the construction sector. There were also favourable developments in the number of service providers affected by insolvencies. At 21.000 persons, the figure was 34 % lower than the previous year (previous year: 36,5 %).

The ECB implemented stronger measures in 2014 to strengthen lending to businesses in Europe and, in turn, to support the economy. It lowered key interest rates twice to their current level of 0,05 % and reduced the deposit facility to -0,2 %, making the negative rates that had been expected for some time a reality.

The ECB did not get support for the sovereign bond programme it had announced until the closing date of the balance sheet on 14 January 2015, when the EU Advocate-General at the EU Court of Justice declared the OMT programme to be compatible with EU law. Another highly significant event for the Austrian banking sector after the closing date of the balance sheet was the surprising move by the Swiss National Bank (SNB) on 15 January 2015 to discontinue the minimum exchange rate of CHF 1.20 per euro. Financial markets reacted strongly to the decision, and the euro lost approximately 14 % against the Swiss franc (CHF). The Swiss franc became much stronger overnight, making currency borrowings considerably more expensive for Austrian CHF borrowers.

With interest rates at historical lows, the domestic loan volume rose by 1,7% from the end of 2013 (as at November 2014). Deposits also rose (up 2,0 %), but the increase was less than the long-term average. The household savings ratio fell from 7,3 % in 2013 to 7,1 % in fiscal year 2014 (forecast). Inflation fell year-on-year from 2,0 % in 2013 to 1,7 % in 2014 (preliminary figure). The loan-to-deposit ratio (customer loans divided by customer deposits) declined significantly from previous years and stood at 119,3 % in the third quarter of 2014 (2013: 122,5 %).

According to the euro area bank lending survey, banks slightly eased lending requirements for SMEs during the third quarter of 2014 for the first time in over four years.

The consolidated profitability of the Austrian banking sector remained under pressure as 2014 progressed, with goodwill write-downs at several institutions being part of the cause. The National Bank of Austria has recommended that Austrian banks continue their efforts at cost-reduction, proactively address credit risks, and increase their equity contribution to sustainably strengthen their profitability and risk-bearing capacity. On the capital markets, the year ended with record highs on the world's leading stock exchanges and falling bond yields. The Vienna stock exchange, however, lagged behind the international curve. While other exchanges posted significant gains, Austria's ATX posted double-digit losses. Property prices in Austria, meanwhile, continued to climb during the first three quarters of 2014, although this price growth slowed somewhat at the end of the year.

In November 2014 Austria's Financial Market Authority (FMA) transferred bank oversight to the ECB for all banks categorised as significant in the euro area. Five of the six Austrian credit institution groups that were subjected to the European stress test emerged well and proved to have adequate buffer capital to survive even the most extreme stress scenario. Beginning in 2015 Austria's Banking Intervention and Restructuring Act (Bankeninterventions- und -restrukturierungsgesetz - BIRG) will be replaced by the new Federal Act on the Recovery and Resolution of Banks (Bundesgesetz für die Sanierung und Abwicklung von Banken - BSAG) in implementation of Directive 2014/59/EU for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms. The FMA will act as the resolution authority. The new law aims to both efficiently stabilise banks in danger of default as well as prevent the use of additional public funds to stabilise banks.

No macroeconomic events of particular significance for Erste Group Bank AG have occurred since the balance sheet date of 31 December 2014 that might have led to a different picture of its net assets, financial position and results of operations.

However, the move by the Swiss National Bank (SNB) on 15 January 2015 to discontinue the minimum exchange rate of CHF 1.20 per euro did come as a major surprise. International financial markets reacted strongly to the decision, and the euro lost approximately 14 % against the Swiss franc (CHF). The Swiss franc became much stronger overnight, making currency borrowings considerably more expensive for Austrian CHF borrowers.

The preliminary indicators for Austria continued to move sideways as the year drew to a close and did not give any strong hints of a more significant economic recovery in 2015. The latest forecasts anticipate that Austrian GDP will grow between 0,5 % and 0,8 % in 2015, with this figure potentially increasing slightly in 2016 (to between 1,1 % and 1,6 %). However, the downside risks for economic development remain high. It is still impossible to rule out a resurgence of the international sovereign debt crisis or of geopolitical tension to the east.

The inflation rate is predicted to remain below 2 % in 2015 and 2016. In the banking sector, growth prospects will continue to be moderate, according to current forecasts. Loan volume is likely to rise only very modestly in 2015 (0,1 %) and 2016 (0,5 %), while deposit volume could show stronger growth both years, at 4,2% and 3,4% respectively.

BALANCE SHEET CHANGES

The **balance sheet total** reached EUR 981.4 million as at 31 December 2014. The decline in assets from participating interests is essentially counterbalanced by a reduction in amounts owed to credit institutions and debts evidenced by certificates.

Loans to credit institutions of EUR 262.8 million show a decline of EUR 16.6 million from their 2013 close. Demand deposits comprise EUR 262.6 million of the balance sheet.

In assets, **investments** as at 31 December 2014 fell by EUR 219.9 million from the previous year to EUR 564.8 million. This drop is the result of the sale of 13,576,817 Erste Group AG shares.

ERSTE Foundation directly holds 42,912,951 shares in Erste Group as at the balance sheet date, with a book value of EUR 564.1 million as at 31 December 2014. Along with its syndicate partners and Sparkassen Beteiligungs- GmbH & Co KG, the foundation directly and indirectly controlled 30,01 % of Erste Group Bank AG's share capital. The average book value per share of directly held shares is EUR 13.14 per share (previous year: EUR 13.88).

The participating interests item also includes good.bee Holding GmbH (stake of 40 %), whose book value remains unchanged at EUR 0,7 million according to accounting records.

The shares in group undertakings item shows the participating interest in Sparkassen Beteiligungs- GmbH & Co KG unchanged with a book value of EUR 124.4 million.

Other assets has risen by EUR 17.3 million from the previous year to EUR 29.0 million. This item primarily comprises amounts expected to be recovered from taxation authorities, which essentially consists of the prepayment of 2014 corporation tax of EUR 22.1 million.

Amounts owed to credit institutions declined from their 2013 close, down by around EUR 22.2 million to EUR 241.5 million.

Debts evidenced by securities fell by EUR 203.5 million during the current year to EUR 371.0 million. This reduction came primarily through the redemption of bonds:

Floating rate notes were converted to fixed rate bonds through swaps done by Erste Group Bank AG.

Year-on-year, **other creditors** declined by EUR 2.0 million to EUR 15.3 million. This item primarily contains deferred interest for loans, bonds and derivatives (EUR 10.4 million in total) as well as liabilities from grants promised but not yet dispersed (EUR 4.5 million).

The **provisions** item has increased by EUR 8.2 million, and as at the balance sheet date it totals EUR 20.2 million (previous year: EUR 11.9 million) and comprises provisions for taxation totalling EUR 19.0 million (previous year: EUR 11.2 million) as well as staff costs and other costs totalling EUR 1.2 million (previous year: EUR 0.7 million).

Foundation assets (share premium accounts and appropriated surpluses), after grants to beneficiaries totalling EUR 6.1 million and after pre-allocation of net income for the year 2014 to the reserve in the amount of EUR 5.3 million, stand at EUR 333.3 million as at 31 December 2014 (previous year: EUR 334.1 million).

The **free reserve** includes EUR 2.673.597,49 in unused funds from the grant budget for previous years, as at the balance sheet date. These funds are available for grants in 2015 - in addition to the current 2015 budget.

The **income statement** shows the following changes during the reporting period:

The **net interest income** item shows an excess of interest payable over interest received amounting to EUR 25.2 million (previous year: EUR 29.0 million), or EUR 3.8 million less than the previous year, which can essentially be traced to a lower average level of liabilities for the year as well as a lower interest rate.

Income from securities and investments totalling EUR 13.7 million involves a distribution from "Erste Group Bank AG PS Dividendenberechtigung" for 2013 shares totalling EUR 0.9 million, a dividend distribution to Erste Group Bank shares totalling EUR 11.3 million, and income from participating interests in Sparkassen Beteiligungs-GmbH & Co KG in the amount of EUR 1.5 million.

After taking into consideration net income from commissions, income from other financial transactions, and other operating income, **operating result** stood at negative EUR 12.2 million (previous year: positive EUR 6.8 million).

After deducting general administrative costs and depreciation of tangible and intangible fixed assets, there was a **negative operating result** of EUR 17.9 million (previous year: EUR 0.9 million).

After taking into account the value readjustment for the evidence account for interim tax of EUR 0.6 million and the realisation of profits from the sale of Erste Group Bank AG shares totalling EUR 42.3 million (previous year: EUR 60.5 million) from the sale of 13.576.817 Erste Group AG shares, the **result of ordinary activities** is EUR 25.0 million (previous year: EUR 60.8 million).

After income taxes of EUR 19.7 million (previous year: EUR 12.7 million) there is **net income for the year** in the amount of EUR 5.3 million (previous year: EUR 48.2 million), which is available for allocating to reserves.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT GOALS

ERSTE Foundation's relevant risks from financial instruments are:

The exchange rate risk from its participating interest in Erste Group Bank AG: Holding a qualified participating interest in Erste Group Bank AG is defined in the foundation's mission.

The interest rate risk from received loans and interest rate derivatives: The foundation has hedged positions in interest rate derivatives to protect against rising interest rates.

Liquidity risk: Interest payments for received loans are to be financed in the long-term particularly through dividend income from the participating interest in Erste Group Bank AG.

The participating interest in Erste Group Bank AG represents the foundation's key asset. This creates an income dependency on the dividend income from Erste Group Bank.

There is no foreign currency risk and no credit risk from debtors.

MISSION OF THE FOUNDATION: NON-PROFIT ACTIVITY

ERSTE Foundation was created in 2003 by Erste Österreichische Spar-Casse Anteilsverwaltung, one of the two successors of Erste Österreichische Spar-Casse. In 1819 this association of savings banks in Vienna opened the first bank for people who until that time had no way of providing for their future by themselves. The foundation inherited its commitment to people from its founders.

ERSTE Foundation supports the idea of a shared Europe. After 1989 a divided continent grew back together. ERSTE Foundation has the shared cultural area of Central and South Eastern Europe in mind. It supports social participation and civil engagement and promotes human interaction and knowledge of the recent history of a region in which the Schengen area, the European Union and the euro area create new divides, but also hopes and expectations.

ERSTE Foundation is involved in operational activities and develops its own projects in three programmes: Social Development, Culture, and Europe. Project decisions aim for long-term impact as well as interdisciplinary, cross-border collaboration.

In 2014 ERSTE Foundation launched two new major projects after having completed their development and preparation phases: The ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy and the ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership. The NGO Academy is an educational programme for people working in the social integration space. It will initially be open to winners of the ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration, with other organisations attending the courses later on. The ERSTE Foundation Roma Partnership aims to counteract the social marginalisation of Europe's largest ethnic minority, the Sinti and Roma. The initiative seeks to transfer successful job-creation projects for Roma in Romania, Hungary and Slovak Republic to other communities while interconnecting best-practice initiatives.

ERSTE Foundation's international community met in August at the European Forum Alpbach, whose theme for 2014 was "At the Crossroads". Another major meeting brought together the alumni of the eight generations of the Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence in Belgrade.

In the summer an international jury chose Russian art critic and author Ekaterina Degot to receive the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2014. Their decision was a clear signal of support for the new Russian dissident scene. The award ceremony held at Vienna's Secession in early November was accompanied by a conference at MUMOK that also included the winners of the Igor Zabel working grants.

In December ERSTE Foundation initiated a new series of talks called The European Match – Controversies and Encounters. The first discussion, "The Media War: Clash of Realities in the Ukraine Conflict", brought Ukrainian and Russian journalists to the table to exchange views. The series takes place in cooperation with daily newspaper *Die Presse* and will continue in 2015.

The year 2014 also focussed on intensive association work and assisting with the network meetings of philanthropic organisations. The Annual General Assembly and Conference of the European Foundation Centre, the umbrella association of European non-profit foundations, was held in Sarajevo in May 2014. This time ERSTE Foundation was a member of the organising committee and organised a podium discussion entitled "Social Inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe: Myth or Reality?"

October saw the creation of the Association of Philanthropic Foundations in Austria, which advocates legal reform to provide tax advantages for donations to non-profits and hence actively promotes such donations. That same month the Julius Raab Stiftung and ERSTE Foundation co-published a foundation atlas and organised a large network event in Vienna.

OUTLOOK FOR 2015 AND EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Strengthening our role as core shareholder by concluding syndicate agreements with the savings banks, CaixaBank and Wiener Städtische Wechselseitiger Versicherungsverein while also reducing debt late in the year represented an important step. This formed a strong core shareholder group that is bound to the goals of the foundation and that ensures the foundation can continue to pursue its mission as a strong association for public utility. Greater collaboration with savings banks and savings bank foundations in Austria deserves a very special mention here.

The budget plans drawn up for 2015 are consistent with an austerity budget, especially as regards operating expenses, while grants to project partners will be able to be provided in the same amount as in previous years. This ensures that the foundation's public-utility initiatives and projects continue to evolve.

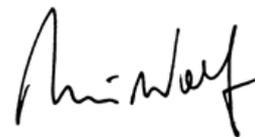
In 2015 we aim to put a focus on projects that have a long-term impact in order to play a stronger role in development partnerships by leveraging the expertise that is available within the foundation. We will continue to reduce funding for smaller projects and search for qualified partners in the international foundation space with whom we will be able to implement larger initiatives and share costs.

Vienna, 3 June 2015

Managing Board



Franz Karl Prüller
Chairperson

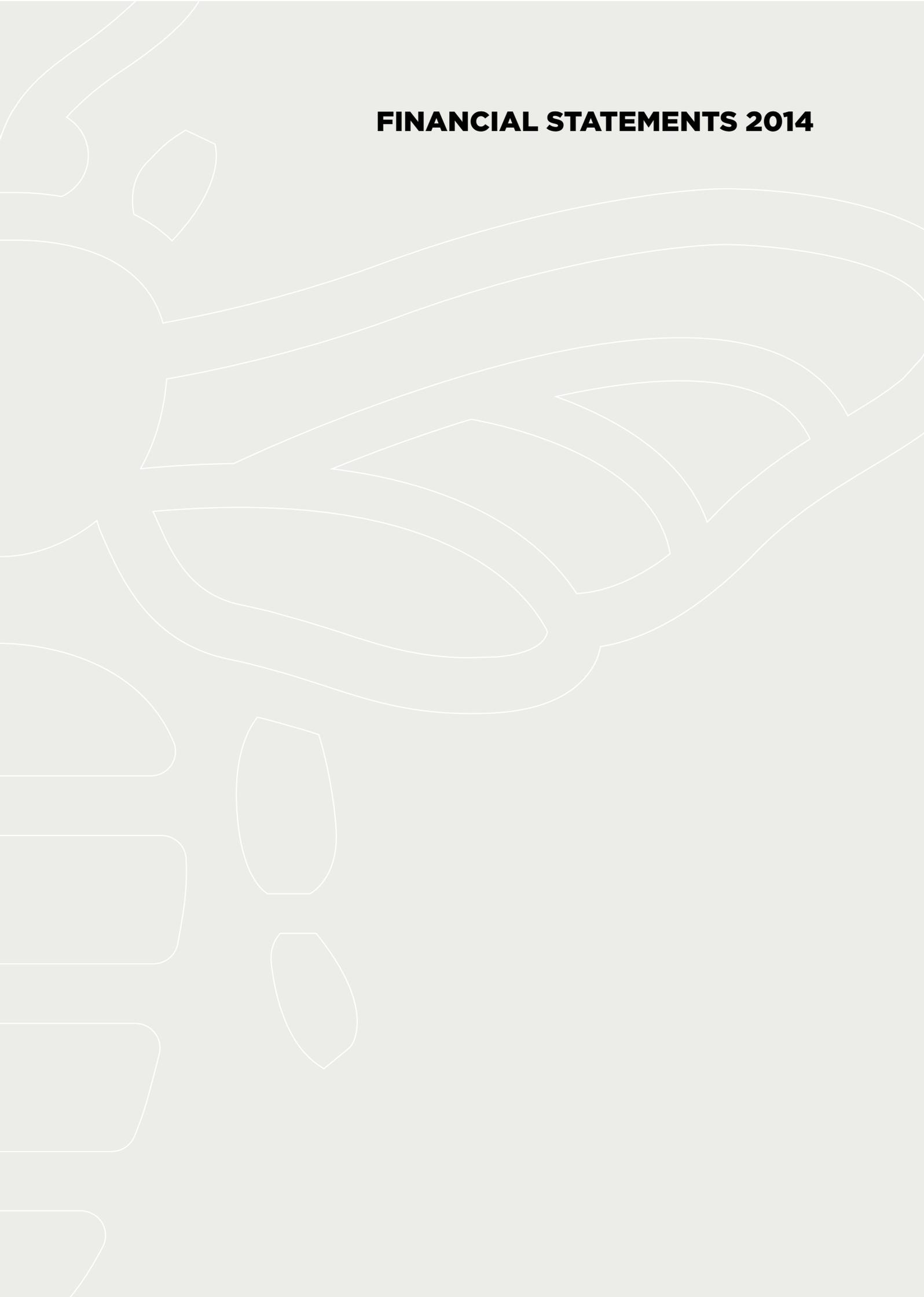


Richard Wolf
Deputy Chairperson



Bernhard Spalt
Member of the Board

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014



BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung

Assets	EUR	EUR	TEUR 31. 12. 2013	TEUR 31. 12. 2013
1. Cash and balances with central banks and post giro offices		0,00		0
2. Sovereign debt instruments and bills eligible for refinancing at central banks		0,00		0
a. Sovereign debt instruments and similar securities	0,00		0	
b. Bills eligible for refinancing at central banks	0,00		0	
3. Loans to credit institutions		262.842.421,29		279.423
a. Payable on demand	262.642.421,29		49.923	
b. Other debtors	200.000,00		229.500	
4. Loans and advances to customers		0,00		0
5. Bonds and other fixed income securities		0,00		0
a. Issued by public borrowers	0,00		0	
b. Issued by other borrowers	0,00		0	
of which: own debt securities	0,00		0	
6. Shares and other variable-yield securities		0,00		0
7. Equity interests		564.794.437,12		784.648
of which: in credit institutions	564.081.437,12		783.935	
8. Shares in group companies		124.480.500,00		124.481
of which: in credit institutions	0,00		0	
9. Intangible fixed assets		102.975,00		160
10. Tangible assets		39.722,00		65
of which: land and buildings used by the credit institution for its own operations	0,00		0	
11. Own shares and shares in a controlling company		0,00		0
of which: par value	0,00		0	
12. Other assets		29.028.964,10		11.695
13. Subscribed capital called-up but not yet paid-up		0,00		0
14. Prepaid expenses		70.423,49		1.103
TOTAL ASSETS		981.359.443,00		1.201.575
Off-balance-sheet items				
1. Foreign assets		0,00		0

Liabilities	EUR	EUR	TEUR 31. 12. 2013	TEUR 31. 12. 2013
1. Amounts owed to credit institutions		241.500.000,00		263.700
a. Payable on demand	0		0	
b. With agreed maturities or periods of notice	241.500.000,00		263.700	
2. Amounts owed to customers		0,00		0
a. Savings deposits	0,00		0	
of which:				
aa) payable on demand	0,00		0	
bb) with agreed maturities or periods of notice	0,00		0	
b. Other creditors	0,00		0	
of which:				
aa) payable on demand	0,00		0	
bb) with agreed maturities or periods of notice	0,00		0	
3. Debts evidenced by securities		371.000.000,00		574.500
a. Debt securities in issue	0,00		0	
b. Other debts evidenced by securities	371.000.000,00		574.500	
4. Other creditors		15.333.066,39		17.297
5. Prepayments and accrued income		0,00		0
6. Provisions		20.176.946,84		11.935
a. Provisions for severance pay	0,00		0	
b. Provisions for pensions	0,00		0	
c. Provisions for taxation	18.984.472,01		11.232	
d. Other	1.192.474,83		703	
6a. Funds for general banking risks		0,00		0
7. Tier 2 capital set out in Part Three Title I Chapter 4 of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013		0,00		0
8. Additional Tier 1 capital set out in Part Three Title I Chapter 3 of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013		0,00		0
8.A Compulsory convertible debentures set out in Section 26 Banking Act (BWG)		0,00		0
8.B Nonvoting instruments set out in Section 26a BWG		0,00		0
9. Subscribed capital		0,00		0
10. Capital reserves		79.147.249,86		79.147
a. Appropriated capital reserves	79.147.249,86		79.147	
b. Unappropriated capital reserves	0,00		0	
c. Reserve for own shares	0,00		0	
Carryover		727.157.263,09		946.579

Liabilities	EUR	EUR	TEUR 31. 12. 2013	TEUR 31. 12. 2013
Carryover		727.157.263,09		946.579
11. Revenue reserves		254.202.179,91		254.996
a. Statutory reserve	145.135.386,32		121.915	
b. Reserves provided for in articles of association	0,00		0	
c. Other reserves	109.066.793,59		133.081	
d. Reserve for own shares	0,00		0	
12. Risk reserve set out in Section 57 Par. 5 BWG		0,00		0
13. Retained earnings		0,00		0
14. Tax-free reserves		0,00		0
a. Valuation reserve due to special depreciation	0,00		0	
b. Other tax-free reserves	0,00		0	
of which:				
Investment reserve set out in Section 9 Income Tax Act 1988	0,00		0	
bb) Investment allowance set out in Section 10 Income Tax Act 1988	0,00		0	
cc) Rental fee reserve set out in Section 11 Income Tax Act 1988	0,00		0	
cc) Transfer reserve set out in Section 12 Income Tax Act 1988	0,00		0	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		981.359.443,00		1.201.575
Off-balance-sheet items				
1. Contingent liabilities		0,00		0
of which:				
a. Acceptances and endorsements amount from bills of exchange	0,00		0	
b. Guarantees and assets pledged as collateral security	0,00		0	
2. Credit risks		0,00		0
of which: liabilities from repurchase agreements	0,00		0	
3. Liabilities from trust transactions		0,00		0
4. Eligible capital set out in Part 2 of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013		0,00		0
of which: Tier 2 capital set out in Part Three Title I Chapter 4 of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013	0,00			
5. Capital requirements set out in Art. 92 of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013		0,00		0
of which:				
capital requirements set out in Art. 92 Par. 1	0,00		0	
a. Common Equity Tier 1 core capital quota of 4%	0,00			
b. Common Equity Tier 1 core capital quota of 4%	0,00			
c. Total capital ratio of 8%	0,00			
6. Foreign liabilities		0,00		0

Profit and loss	EUR	EUR	TEUR 31. 12. 2013	TEUR 31. 12. 2013
1. Interest income and similar income		8.548.694,73		9.483
of which: from fixed rate securities	191.254,43		264	
2. Interest expenses and similar expenses		33.771.201,32		38.501
I. NET INTEREST INCOME		- 25.222.506,59		- 29.018
3. Income from securities and investments		13.711.513,60		31.805
a. Income from shares, other ownership interests, and variable-income securities	868.560,00		1.359	
b. Income from investments	11.297.953,60		29.226	
c. Income from shares in affiliated companies	1.545.000,00		1.220	
4. Commission income		3.924,34		13
5. Commission expenses		260.510,36		49
6. Expenses from financial operations		- 516.071,32		- 16
7. Other operating income		13.033,48		4.037
II. OPERATING INCOME		- 12.270.616,85		6.772
8. General administrative expenses		5.470.397,33		5.644
a. Staff expenses	3.050.948,09		2.809	
of which:				
aa) Wages and salaries	2.360.859,63		2.147	
bb) Expenditures for statutory social security contributions and compulsory commitment related to wages and salaries	526.466,99		515	
cc) Other social security charges	36.687,04		31	
dd) Expenses for retirement and related benefits	94.530,33		84	
ee) Allocation to pension provision	0,00		0	
ff) Expenses for severance pay and benefits to corporate staff provision funds	32.404,10		32	
b. Other administrative expenses (operating expenses)	2.419.449,24		2.835	
9. Depreciation and amortisation of asset items 9 and 10		118.596,53		255
10. Other operating expenses		0,00		0
III. OPERATING EXPENSES		5.588.993,86		5.899
IV. OPERATING RESULT		- 17.859.610,71		873

PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR 2014

DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung

Profit and loss		EUR	EUR	TEUR 31. 12. 2013	TEUR 31. 12. 2013
Carryover (IV. Operating result)			- 17.859.610,71		873
11.	Value adjustments to loans and advances and allocations to provisions for contingent liabilities and commitments		0,00		- 1
12.	Income for value adjustments to loans and advances and provisions for contingent liabilities and commitments		587.900,00		0
13.	Value adjustments to securities recognised as financial fixed assets and equity interests and shares in group companies		0,00		553
14.	Release of value adjustments of securities valued as financial fixed assets and of equity interests and shares in group companies		42.282.184,50		60.505
V.	RESULT FROM ORDINARY BUSINESS ACTIVITIES		25.010.473,79		60.826
15.	Extraordinary income:		0,00		0
	of which: Distributions from the funds for general banking risk	0,00		0	
16.	Extraordinary expenditures:		0,00		0
	of which: Transfers to the funds for general banking risk	0,00		0	
17.	Extraordinary result (subtotal from items 15 and 16)		0,00		0
18.	Income taxes		19.661.837,47		10.797
19.	Other taxes not covered in item 18		0,00		1.878
VI.	NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR		5.348.636,32		48.151
20.	Changes in reserves		5.348.636,32		48.151
	of which: Allocation of risk reserve	0,00		0	
	Liquidation of risk reserve	0,00		0	
VII.	PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		0,00		0
21.	Profit carried forward		0,00		0
22.	Profits transferred under a profit transfer agreement		0,00		0
VIII.	ACCUMULATED PROFIT		0,00		0

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014

DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung

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1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The 2014 financial statements were prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Austrian Private Foundation Act (PSG) by analogy with the relevant provisions of the Commercial Code (UGB) in force at the time.

1.2 Structure of the financial statements

Due to the conversion of legal form of „DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Anteilsverwaltungssparkasse“ bank to „DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar- Casse Privatstiftung“ (hereinafter ERSTE Foundation) and the associated retention of book value, the structure of the financial statements of the private foundation retain the structure stipulated under the Banking Act (BWG).

1.3 Liability of ERSTE Foundation for Sparkassen AG

According to Section 27b Par. 1 of the Savings Bank Act (SpG) in connection with Section 92 Par. 9 of the Banking Act (BWG), ERSTE Foundation is liable with its entire assets (jointly and inseparably) for all creditors of Erste Group Bank AG (previously Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG) der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG.

ERSTE Foundation was created when an entry was made in the commercial register according to Section § 7 Par. 1 PSG. The *Anteilsverwaltungssparkasse* (share management savings bank) continues to exist as a private foundation according to Section 27b Par. 1 SpG. ERSTE Foundation has been entered in the commercial register at the commercial court since 19 December 2003 under company number 072984f and company name „DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung“.

2 DETAILS ON THE ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

2.1 Fair presentation

The financial statements were prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and the fair presentation concept, which stipulates that preparers provide the most accurate picture possible of the net assets, financial position and results of operations of the private foundation.

In the valuation of assets and creditors, the principle of individual valuation was applied and assumed to apply in future for ERSTE Foundation.

Allowance was also made for prudence.

2.2 Valuation principles

2.2.1 Foreign currency debtors and creditors

Foreign currency debtors and creditors, values and foreign currency checks were valued using the ECB's reference exchange rate.

Currency conversion income was accounted for in the income statement.

2.2.2 Equity interests and shares in affiliated companies

Participating interests and shares in group undertakings were valued at initial value as long as no devaluation was required by reason of foreseeable lasting depreciation.

2.2.3 Accounts receivable

Loans to credit institutions, and other debtors were valued in accordance with the regulations in Section 207 UGB. Discernible risks were accommodated for through a corresponding value adjustment.

2.2.4 Securities

Investments (debt securities and other fixed rate investments, shares and other non-fixed rate investments) are valued at initial value and grouped with the financial assets that they pertain to, and are valued at a lower market value in the event of foreseeable lasting depreciation (moderate lower of cost or market rule).

Investments are grouped according to the organisational guidelines passed by the managing board.

2.2.5 Intangible assets and tangible assets

Intangible fixed assets and tangible assets were valued at their initial value or production cost, less scheduled linear depreciation.

The depreciation period is

- 4 years (25 %) for intangible fixed assets
- Between 4 and 7 years (between 25 % and 14,29 %) for other tangible assets.

Low-value assets were depreciated in full in the year of acquisition.

2.2.6 Liabilities

Creditors were assessed at the sum payable at maturity.

2.2.7 Provisions

Provisions were represented in the amount required based on a reasonable commercial appraisal.

3 DEVIATIONS FROM ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

No changes were made to the accounting and valuation principles versus the previous year.

4 DETAILS ON THE BALANCE SHEET

4.1 Structure of terms for receivables and obligations

Structure of terms for loans not repayable on demand, deposits not payable on demand, and obligations to credit institutions and non-banks not payable on demand (by remaining life):

	31. 12. 2014	31. 12. 2013
	EUR	TEUR
Loans not repayable on demand, deposits not payable on demand		
Up to 3 months	0,00	50.000
More than 3 months to 1 year	0,00	160.000
Obligations not payable on demand		
Up to 3 months	160.000.000,00	51.200
More than 3 months to 1 year	54.000.000,00	247.000
More than 1 year to 5 years	398.500.000,00	540.000

4.2 Relations with affiliated companies

Relationships to group undertakings were managed within the typical industry framework.

4.3 Participating interests and shares in affiliated companies

Participating interests and shares in group undertakings comprise shares in the following key undertakings and show the following shareholders' equity and result according to the most recent financial statements available to us:

Company and headquarters	Share of total equity (of which indirect) in %	Shareholders' equity/own funds EUR	Last result EUR	Financial statements for year
Erste Group Bank, Vienna	9,98 %	9.008.414.681,75	0,00	31. 12. 2014
good.bee Holding GmbH, Vienna	40,00 %	2.552.282,12	- 50.214,50	31. 12. 2013
Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG, Vienna	50,20 %	339.977.305,05	- 31.968.351,80	30. 06. 2014
Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH, Vienna	100 %	28.241,20	- 6.758,80	31. 12. 2013

The book value of participating interests in the amount of EUR 564.794.437,12 (previous year: Th.EUR 784.648) is composed of EUR 713.000,00 (previous year: Th.EUR 713) from the 40 % participating interest in good.bee Holding GmbH and EUR 564.081.437,12 (previous year: Th.EUR 783.935) from the participating interest in Erste Group Bank AG. This book value represents total holdings of 42.912.951 Erste Group Bank shares, which are managed – depending on their acquisition period – in two different custody accounts with different acquisition costs, and which represent 9,98 % of the share capital as at 31 December 2014 (previous year: 13,14 %). The market value of this participating interest was 825.430.612,49 at the end of the year as calculated from the closing price of EUR 19,235 on the Vienna stock exchange.

As DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung is not a superordinate credit institution (credit institution or financial holding company) in relation to Erste Group Bank AG, which would constitute a credit institution group for the purpose of Section 30 Par. 1 BWG, there is no need to include ERSTE Foundation in the undertakings to be consolidated according to the BWG. No consolidated accounts need to be drawn up under commercial law either according to Section 244 UGB.

The shares in group undertakings balance sheet item shows the participating interest in Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG to have a book value of EUR 124.445.500,00 from the issue of 7,9 million EGB shares for a consideration other than cash. ERSTE Foundation indirectly holds 1.84 % of Erste Group Bank AG's share capital via Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG. ERSTE Foundation therefore directly controls a total stake of 11,82 % as at 31 December 2014. The shareholder agreement (Preferred Partnership Agreement) concluded between Caixabank S.A. and ERSTE Foundation in 2009 was renewed on 15 December. It shows Caixabank S.A. joining the alliance of core shareholders, which also includes ERSTE Foundation, the savings banks, their foundations, and Wiener Städtische Wechselseitiger Versicherungsverein – Vermögensverwaltung – Vienna Insurance Group. As at 31 December 2014 Caixabank S.A., headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, held 42.634.248 shares (previous year: 39.195.848 shares) in Erste Group Bank AG, which is equivalent to 9,92 % (previous year: 9,12 %) of Erste Group Bank AG's share capital. Along with its underwriting partners, the foundation directly and indirectly controlled 30,01 % of Erste Group Bank AG's share capital.

The average valuation rate per Erste Group share for the shares that ERSTE Foundation holds directly and indirectly in the form of its stake in Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG was EUR 13,55 as at 31 December 2014. The 100% stake in Sparkassen Beteiligungs-GmbH, founded in 2011, has a book value of EUR 35.000,00.

4.4 Transactions with closely related companies and persons

There were no related party transactions that were significant or unusual for the market.

4.5 Securities

Investments with the character of financial assets were valued according to the moderate lower of cost or market rule.

	Admitted to trading: Listed EUR	Not listed EUR	Of which valued as: Fixed assets EUR	Other valuation EUR
Debt securities and other fixed rate investments	200.000,00	0,00	200.000,00	0,00

As at the balance sheet date of 31 December 2014 there were no lending transactions involving Erste Group Bank shares (previous year: 164.297 shares). However, individual savings banks did lend 3.649.436 Erste Group Bank shares (previous year: 3.681.436 shares) to ERSTE Foundation temporarily.

4.6 Financial instruments in fixed assets

The following derivative contracts were concluded with Erste Group Bank AG as at 31 December 2014:

31. 12. 2014

Type	Concluded	Life	Nominal value	Market value
IRS	2010	2010 – 2015	3.000.000,00	- 213.030,29
IRS	2010	2010 – 2016	100.000.000,00	- 1.311.537,84
IRS	2011	2011 – 2015	1.000.000,00	- 79.031,85
IRS	2011	2011 – 2016	75.000.000,00	- 4.969.002,19
IRS	2011	2012 – 2017	3.000.000,00	- 317.804,30
IRS	2012	2012 – 2017	100.000.000,00	- 3.768.667,43
			282.000.000,00	- 10.659.073,90

31. 12. 2013

Type	Concluded	Life	Nominal value	Market value
IRS	2010	2010 – 2015	3.000.000,00	- 168.401,60
IRS	2010	2010 – 2016	100.000.000,00	- 1.622.212,97
IRS	2011	2011 – 2015	1.000.000,00	- 64.130,74
IRS	2011	2011 – 2016	75.000.000,00	- 6.433.420,06
IRS	2011	2012 – 2017	3.000.000,00	- 366.315,81
IRS	2012	2012 – 2017	100.000.000,00	- 3.636.491,87
			282.000.000,00	- 12.290.973,05

The managing board endeavours to keep expenses calculable and plannable.

For this reason the floating rate for notes with a volume of issues of EUR 282 million was converted to a fixed rate by concluding swaps in the same amount with Erste Group Bank AG.

The parameters of the basic contracts (issues) and the hedging contracts (swaps) are in principle identical, thus enabling the formation of valuation units. The hedge period corresponds to the life of the issues, and the variable conditions are identical. Early buybacks reduced the volume of issues by EUR 11.000.000, and the resulting inefficiency in the amount of EUR 516.069,41 was considered as a provision.

4.7 Debt securities maturing during the following year

Of the issued, admissible debt securities, EUR 4.000.000,00 (previous year: Th.EUR 199.500) will mature.

4.8 Subordinated assets

	31. 12. 2014	31. 12. 2013
	EUR	TEUR
Loans to credit institutions	0,00	2.500

4.9 Fixed assets

Changes in fixed assets (fixed asset register) can be found at the end of the appendix as Supplement 1.

4.10 Interim corporation tax according to Section 22 Par. 3 Corporation Tax Act (KStG)

The Republic of Austria owes an amount of EUR 8.554.194,20 from the settlement of interim corporation tax.

As of preparing the financial statements, no prediction can be made as to whether or when the amount owed by the Republic of Austria from the prepayment of interim corporation tax can be offset against capital gains tax on grants. For this reason the value of the amount has been adjusted to 50 %.

4.11 Obligations to affiliated companies

There were no significant obligations to group undertakings not shown in the balance sheet.

4.12 Other liabilities

Other creditors included the following significant individual items:

	31. 12. 2014	31. 12. 2013
	EUR	TEUR
Amounts owed to taxation authorities	0.00	725
Amounts owed to unsettled accounts	339,949,30	319
Amounts owed to grants	4.532.870,90	4.531
Deferred interest owed to credit institutions	1.895.198,19	1.961
Deferred interest owed on issues	2.187.907,53	3.486
Deferred interest owed on derivatives	6.308.544,33	6.259

4.13 Provisions for taxation

Provisions for taxation were made in the amount of EUR 18.984.472,01 (previous year: Th.EUR 11.232). This provision essentially results from sales of Erste Group Bank shares. Accumulated losses from past years were used up in fiscal year 2013. The inland revenue inspection for fiscal years 2005 to 2007 was completed during the fiscal year. Although the legal opinion of the inland revenue inspection was respected when calculating the tax burden for fiscal year 2014, ERSTE Foundation disagrees with the opinion on a substantive level and is fighting it with an appeal.

4.14 Deferred taxes arising from the conversion of legal form from Anteilsverwaltungssparkasse to ERSTE Foundation

According to Section 13 Par. 5(1) KStG, the conversion of legal form from Anteilsverwaltungssparkasse to ERSTE Foundation is considered to take effect at the end of the conversion date, that is, as of 1 April 2003. The conversion date is the day on which the final balance sheet of the *Anteilsverwaltungssparkasse* was prepared according to Section 27a Par. 6 SpG.

According to Section 13 Par. 5(2) KStG, the tax liability resulting from the conversion (for the differences between the tax-relevant book values and the current values of the individual assets on the final balance sheet of the *Anteilsverwaltungssparkasse*) can be partially deferred until the assets from the ERSTE Foundation are sold or otherwise disposed of, provided a corresponding application has been filed. This application was filed with the 2003 tax return.

The difference on the list results from the difference between the commercial value and the taxable value of Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG (henceforth Erste Group Bank AG) shares before the conversion and was calculated as follows:

The taxable value of Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG shares was EUR 31,48 per share before the conversion (EUR 7,87 after the split). The commercial value of the shares was calculated as the six-month average from October 2002 to March 2003, or EUR 61,10 (EUR 15,28 after the split). The difference of EUR 29,62 (EUR 7,41 after the split) was put on the list as the difference for 19.831.809 shares (or EUR 587.418.182,58). Sales in 2004, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 reduced this to EUR 308.068.338,54 as at 31 December 2014. The difference for 1,500,000 shares was taxed in 2003.

ERSTE Foundation primarily generates income from capital and other income from the sale of participating interests that, according to Section 13 Par. 3 KStG, are subject to interim tax of 12.5 % up to and including 2010 and interim tax of 25 % from 2011. No interim tax is collected if the foundation makes grants and ends up paying capital gains tax on them. An evidence account needs to be kept for paid interim tax and any returned interim tax; the amount entered there is EUR 8.554.194,20 as at 31 December 2014.

4.15 Other provisions

	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
	31. 12. 2013	Used	Liquidated	Allocated	31. 12. 2013
Provisions for taxation including deferred taxation:	11.231.804,76	11.231.804,76		18.984.472,01	18.984.472,01
Provisions for personnel:	247.157,00	187.631,74	59.525,26	258.171,00	258.171,00
Auditor's remuneration:	20.000,00	16.522,00	3.478,00	25.000,00	25.000,00
Operating expenses:	436.330,17	272.505,48	132.517,50	361.927,23	393.234,42
Contingent loss from derivatives:	0,00	0,00	0,00	516.069,41	516.069,41
	11.935.291,93	11.708.463,08	195.520,76	20.145.639,65	20.176.946,84

5 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

		2014	2013
		EUR	EUR
	Net income for the year	5.348.636,32	48.150.913,46
-/+	Returns on investments	-42.314.074,50	-60.292.022,53
+	Value adjustments in fixed financial assets	0,00	0,00
+	Depreciation (operational)	118.596,53	255.030,36
+	Increase in long-term provisions		0,00
+	Tax burden		0,00
=	Operating cashflows	-36.846.841,65	-11.886.078,71
+/-	Increase/decrease in short-term provisions	8.241.654,91	2.320.675,81
+/-	Increase/decrease in inventories, trade debtors, and other assets	-16.300.294,34	-332.486,67
+/-	Increase/decrease in creditors (without banking liabilities and notes payable) and other liabilities	-1.963.921,01	-2.935.817,57
=	Cash inflow/outflow from ongoing business activities	-46.869.402,09	-12.833.707,14
-	Payments for investment in fixed assets	-35.845,53	-178.742,02
-	Investment in shares and other variable-yield securities	0,00	17.183.900,00
+/-	Participating interest in good.bee	0,00	0,00
+/-	Investment in shares in group undertakings Sparkassenbeteiligungs GmbH Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG	0,00	-31.165.500,00 -31.165.500,00 0,00
+	Purchase/sale or non-cash issue of EGB shares Sparkassen Beteiligungs GmbH & Co KG non-cash issue Purchase/sale of EBG shares Gains from the sale of EBG shares	262.167.880,61 219.853.806,11 42.314.074,50	294.818.210,00 234.526.187,47 60.292.022,53
=	Cash inflow/outflow from investing activities	262.132.035,08	280.657.867,98
+/-	Debts evidenced by certificates	-203.500.000,00	-196.539.000,49
+/-	Payments from discharging/taking on banking liabilities	-22.200.026,57	14.500.010,35
=	Cash inflow/outflow from financing activities	-225.700.026,57	-182.038.990,14
	Grants	-6.142.881,80	-7.098.175,46
	Net change in cash and cash equivalents	-16.580.275,38	78.686.995,24
+/-	Change in cash and cash equivalents from exchange rate		0,00
-	Balance of liquid resources at the beginning of the period	279.422.696,67	200.735.701,43
+	Balance of liquid resources at the end of the period	262.842.421,29	279.422.696,67
	Total change in cash and cash equivalents	-16.580.275,38	78.686.995,24

6 DETAILS ON INCOME STATEMENT

6.1 Interest income and similar income

Interest received amounting to EUR 8,548,694.73 (previous year: Th.EUR 9,483) essentially results from income from interest rate hedging activities.

6.2 Interest expenses and similar expenses

Interest expenses total EUR 33,771,201.32 (previous year: Th.EUR 38,501), of which EUR 22,076,010.41 (previous year: Th.EUR 26,579) concerns interest expenses for borrowing from credit institutions and for issued bonds, while EUR 11,695,190.91 (previous year: Th.EUR 11,922) concerns derivative transactions. Borrowing was aimed primarily at financing the acquisition of GiroCredit shares in 1998 and shares of then-Firste Bank AG (today Erste Group Bank AG) on the occasion of its capital increases in October 2000, July 2002 and January 2006. The decline of roughly Th.EUR 4.7 from the previous year essentially results from repaying loans and redeeming bonds.

6.3 Income from securities and investments

This item comprises the distribution from „Erste Group Bank AG PS Dividendenberechtigung“ for 2013 shares totalling EUR 868,560.00 (previous year: Th.EUR 1.360), the dividend payment of EUR 0.20 per share (previous year: EUR 0.40) for Erste Group Bank AG shares totalling EUR 11,297,963.60 (previous year: EUR 29,226), and income from participating interests in Sparkassen Beteiligungs- GmbH & Co KG in the amount of EUR 1,545,000.00 (previous year: Th.EUR 1,220).

6.4 Capital gains or losses from the sale of fixed assets

Sales of 13,576,817 Erste Group Bank shares (previous year: 11,874,266 shares) generated a capital gain of EUR 42,314,074.50 (previous year: Th.EUR 60,505).

6.5 Auditor expenses

Auditor expenses for auditing the financial statements stood at EUR 25,000.00 (previous year: Th.EUR 20). No other services were provided.

6.6 Tax burden resulting from ordinary business activities

An income tax burden of EUR 25,010,473.79 was imposed on the result of ordinary business activities of EUR 19,661,837.47.

6.7 Allocation to reserves

Net income for the year of EUR 5,348,636.32 (previous year: Th.EUR 48,151) has already been allocated entirely to the reserves in the financial statements. To maintain foundation assets, EUR 17,871,473.00 (previous year: Th.EUR 1,256) of the free reserve was liquidated and allocated to the statutory reserve.

6.8 Development of the ERSTE Foundation assets

	31. 12. 2014	31. 12. 2013
	EUR	TEUR
Fixed endowment as at 1 April 2003	79,147,249.86	79,147
Fixed appropriated surplus as at 31 December 2012	72,508,808.00	72,509
Plus allocations from 2003 to 2013	244,036,627.58	195,886
<u>Less grants to beneficiaries from 2005 to 2013</u>	<u>- 61,549,010.19</u>	<u>- 54,451</u>
Foundation assets as at 31 December 2013	334,143,675.25	293,091
Less grants to beneficiaries in 2014	- 6,142,881.80	- 7,116
Plus unused project budget from previous years	0.00	17
<u>Plus allocation in 2014</u>	<u>5,348,636.32</u>	<u>48,151</u>
Foundation assets as at 31 December 2014	333,349,429.77	334,144
Of which fixed reserve as at 31 December 2014:	224,282,635.18	201,063
Of which free reserve as at 31 December 2014:	109,066,793.59	133,081

As at the balance sheet date of 31 December 2014 the book assets of ERSTE Foundation stand at EUR 333,349,429.77 (previous year: 334,144) as shown above, without hidden reserves and hidden burdens. This change in foundation assets results from the allocation of the fixed reserve from the net income for the year 2014 in the amount of EUR 5,348,636.32 on the one hand and on the other hand from the appropriation of reserves in the amount of EUR 6,142,881.80 in accordance with Section 3 of the foundation's articles of association.

7 LIQUIDITY

The surplus from 2013 was used in fiscal year 2014 to redeem bonds and repay loans in the amount of EUR 225.7 million.

During the second half of 2014 the foundation sold around 13,577 million of its Erste Group Bank AG shares. The resulting liquidity will be used to repay foundation creditors in the amount of EUR 215 million, which come due in early 2015.

The foundation intends to defer a portion of the loans that are due in 2015 and use the remaining liquidity to repay debts evidenced by certificates.

Hence there is adequate liquidity available throughout fiscal year 2015 to service all creditors, carry out planned activities, and continue deleveraging as planned.

8 DETAILS ON BOARDS AND STAFF

8.1 Number of staff

The foundation had an average of 28.6 staff (previous year: 27.6). A total of 38 staff (previous year: 35) were employed as at 31 December 2014.

8.2 Board remuneration

According to Section 13 of the foundation's articles of association the members of the foundation's managing board receive remuneration consistent with their tasks and with the situation of the ERSTE Foundation, the amount of which is to be determined by the supervisory board, unless the member of the foundation's managing board receives regular remuneration from Erste Group Bank AG or from one of the companies it controls.

Total remuneration for members of the managing board amounted to 375,225.40 (previous year: Th.EUR 345). No remuneration was paid to former members of the managing board or their heirs.

Total remuneration for active members of the supervisory board amounted to EUR 86,666.67 (previous year: Th.EUR 80).

No remuneration was paid to former members of the supervisory board or their heirs.

8.3 Names of board members

The following persons were active as members of the managing board:

Theodora Eberle, Chair of the Board (until 31 December 2014)

Dr Richard Wolf, Deputy Chair of the Board

Franz Karl Prüller

Bernhard Spalt

The following persons were active as members of the supervisory board:

Dr Georg Winckler, Chair of the Supervisory Board

Dr Johanna Rachinger, Deputy Chair of the Supervisory Board

Dr Dietrich Blahut (until 1 April 2014)

Maximilian Hardegg

Dr Peter Mitterbauer

Bernhard Kainz

Friedrich Lackner (until 15 December 2014)

Pichler Barbara (from 16 December 2014)

Dr Peter Pichler (from 2 April 2014)

Dr Markus Trauttmansdorff (from 2 April 2014)

The **general assembly** was made up of 107 members (previous year: 105) and 34 honorary members (previous year: 33).

President of the Association: Dr Georg Winckler

FIXED ASSET REGISTER

Description	Acquisition costs per 1. 1. 2014 EUR	Additions 2014 EUR	Disposals 2014 EUR	Transfers 2014 EUR	Acquisition costs per 31. 12. 2014 EUR
Investments					
a) Sovereign debt instruments	19.839.375,00	1.731.890,00	21.368.265,00	0,00	203.000,00
Total	19.839.375,00	1.731.890,00	21.368.265,00	0,00	203.000,00
Participating interests	786.029.243,23	0,00	219.853.806,11	0,00	566.175.437,12
Shares in group undertakings	127.776.068,76	0,00	0,00	0,00	127.776.068,76
Intangible assets					
b) Other	887.525,37	28.104,00	0,00	0,00	915.629,37
Total	887.525,37	28.104,00	0,00	0,00	915.629,37
Tangible assets					
b) Plant and equipment	508.736,57	7.263,53	0,00	0,00	516.000,10
Total	508.736,57	7.263,53	0,00	0,00	516.000,10
Total fixed assets	935.040.948,93	1.767.257,53	241.222.071,11	0,00	695.586.135,35

Description	Appreciation 2014 EUR	Cumulative depreciation EUR	Book value per 31. 12. 2014 EUR	Book value per 31. 12. 2013 EUR	Depreciation 2014 EUR
Investments					
a) Sovereign debt instruments	0,00	3.000,00	200.000,00	19.500.000,00	31.890,00
Total	0,00	3.000,00	200.000,00	19.500.000,00	31.890,00
Participating interests	0,00	1.381.000,00	564.794.437,12	784.648.243,23	
Shares in group undertakings	0,00	3.295.568,76	124.480.500,00	124.480.500,00	0,00
Intangible assets					
b) Other	0,00	812.654,37	102.975,00	160.033,00	85.162,00
Total	0,00	812.654,37	102.975,00	160.033,00	85.162,00
Tangible assets					
b) Plant and equipment	0,00	476.278,10	39.722,00	65.415,00	32.956,53
Total	0,00	476.278,10	39.722,00	65.415,00	32.956,53
Total fixed assets	0,00	5.968.501,23	689.617.634,12	928.854.191,23	150.008,53

*) Balance may include currency conversion according to Section 58 Par. 1 BWG

2014 Financial statements

DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung

Vienna, 3 June 2015

Managing Board



Franz Karl Prüller
Chairperson



Richard Wolf
Deputy Chairperson



Bernhard Spalt
Member of the Board

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE

Report on financial statements

The Savings Bank Auditors' Association has audited the attached financial statements of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna, for the fiscal year beginning 1 January and ending 31 December 2014, including its bookkeeping records. These financial statements comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2014, the income statement for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2014, and the notes.

Responsibility of the legal representatives for the financial statements and accounting records

The legal representatives of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna, are responsible for keeping the accounts and for preparing financial statements that provide the most accurate picture possible of the net assets, financial position and results of operations of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna, in accordance with Austrian regulations on corporate law and the provisions of special law. This responsibility involves: designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system, in so far as this is important to preparing the financial statements and providing the most accurate picture possible of the net assets, financial position and results of operations of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna, so that the financial statements are free of significant misrepresentations, whether as a result of intentional or unintentional errors; selecting and applying appropriate accounting and valuation principles; and making estimates that seem to be appropriate in the given context.

Responsibility of the auditor and description of the type and scope of the statutory audit of financial statements

The Savings Bank Auditors' Association is responsible for giving an audit opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We have performed our audit in compliance with the statutory regulations applicable in Austria and with generally accepted standards for the audit of financial statements. These standards require us to follow a code of professional ethics and to plan and perform the audit in such a way that we are capable of forming an opinion, with reasonable certainty, on whether the financial statements are free of significant misrepresentations.

An audit involves performing audit procedures to obtain audit evidence relating to the amounts and other information in the financial statements. The selection of audit procedures lies in the professional judgment of the auditor, considering its assessment of the risk of the occurrence of significant misrepresentations, whether as a result of intentional or unintentional errors. When performing this risk assessment, the auditor considers the internal control system, in so far as this is important to preparing the financial statements and providing the most accurate picture possible of the net assets,

financial position and results of operations of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna, in order to determine appropriate audit procedures for the context, but not in order to give an audit opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna. In addition, the audit involves judging the appropriateness of the accounting and valuation principles that have been applied and the significant estimates made by the legal representatives as well as acknowledging the overall message of the financial statements. We believe that we have obtained enough suitable audit evidence for our audit to provide a sufficiently firm foundation for our audit opinion.

Audit opinion

Our audit did not lead to any objections. Based on the insights gained during the audit, we conclude that the financial statements are in compliance with statutory regulations and provide the most accurate picture possible of the net assets and financial position of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna, as at 31 December 2014, and of the results of operations of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna, for the fiscal year beginning 1 January and ending 31 December 2014, in accordance with Austria's generally accepted accounting principles.

Statements on the status report

Statutory regulations require the status report to be audited with the aim of determining whether it is consistent with the financial statements and whether the other information in the status report might create a wrong sense of the position of DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung, Vienna. The auditors' certificate is also required to contain a statement on whether the status report is consistent with the financial statements. We have come to the conclusion that the status report is consistent with the financial statements.

2014 Financial Statements
DIE ERSTE österreichische Spar-Casse Privatstiftung

Vienna, 3 June 2015
Savings Bank Auditors' Association
audit office



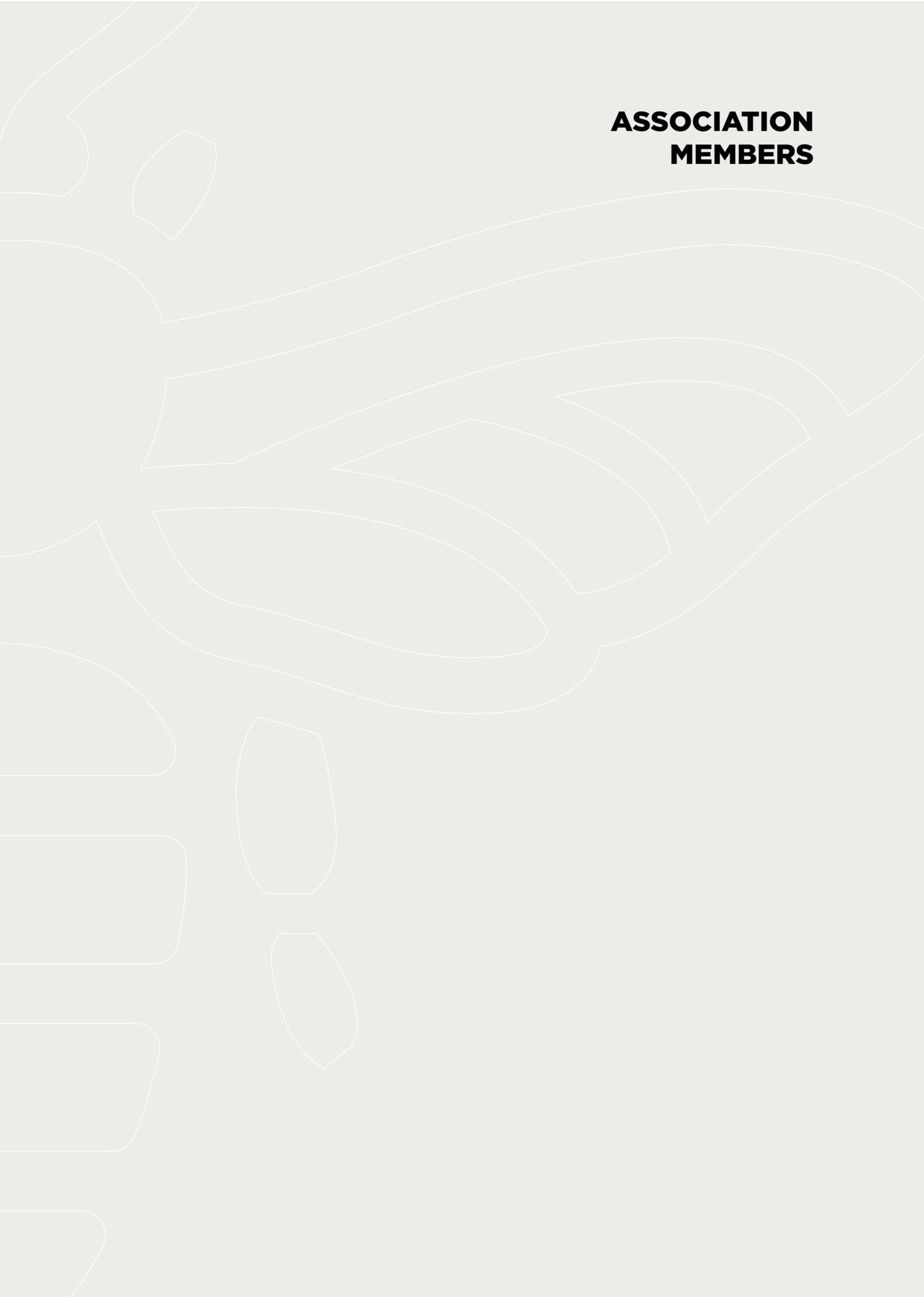
Mag. Friedrich O. Hief
Auditor



Mag. Erich Steffl
Auditor

Publishing or disseminating the financial statements in a form that differs from the verified version requires an additional opinion from us in advance if quoting from our auditors' certificate or referring to our audit.

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Dkfm. Dr. Ernst Walter (joined 10. 4. 1959)

45 years membership

Dr. Harald Sturminger (joined 18. 4. 1969)

35 years membership

Dr. Ernst Oder (joined 22. 6. 1979)

Dr. Karl Korinek (joined 22. 6. 1979)

Dr. Friedrich Gleissner (joined 22. 6. 1979)

30 years membership

Dkfm. Herbert Retter (joined 22. 3. 1984)

Rudolf Humer (joined 22. 3. 1984)

Dkfm. Harald Bollmann (joined 22. 3. 1984)

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Dr. Fritz Trestler (joined 22. 3. 1984)

Dr. Heinrich Marenzi (joined 22. 3. 1984)

Dr. Heinrich Wiesmüller (joined 22. 3. 1984)

25 years membership

Dr. Michael Zerdik (joined 3. 10. 1989)

Dr. Hans Haumer (joined 3. 10. 1989)

Dr. Maximilian Eiselsberg (joined 3. 10. 1989)

Dkfm. Dr. Franz Dolezal-Brandenberger (joined 3. 10. 1989)

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