

# Activity Report of the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany

Prepared for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of WFUCA, Beijing, 21-25 July 2015

In the General Invitation Letter of 16 March 2015 to all Members of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA), the following request was made:

*It would be highly appreciated to receive an activity report of your Federation for 2011-2015 with any relevant documentation.*

The Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany is pleased to present the following report. Its focus is on activities that were implemented during the last four years, following the 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of WFUCA.

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## Summary

Currently eight UNESCO Clubs operate in Germany. Most of them were founded from 1980 onwards.

Their activities focus on issues and themes such as world heritage, sustainable rural and urban development, human rights, and peace building.

Most UNESCO Clubs in Germany maintain effective partnerships, in particular with UNESCO Associated Schools, and support a range of projects in Germany and abroad.

UNESCO Clubs in Germany disseminate information about UNESCO's ideals and activities. This is achieved through staging of local events, of presentations and discussions, of exhibitions, and of study tours and meetings with international partners.

Flyers, newsletters and brochures are provided. Individual UNESCO Clubs as well as the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany maintain websites.

The Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany holds bi-annual meetings of its member clubs. The meetings also serve to maintain communication and coordination with the German Commission for UNESCO.

# 1. UNESCO Clubs in Germany

## Background and Status

In Germany, most of the UNESCO Clubs we founded during the years 1981 to 2004. Only one, the "Berlin Committee for UNESCO"<sup>1</sup>, dates back to the year 1950.

Currently there are eight UNESCO Clubs in Germany:

- Aachen
- Berlin
- Bonn Region
- Frankenthal
- Joachimsthal
- Kettwig
- Kulmbach-Plassenburg
- Wuppertal.

In Germany, no UNESCO Associations or UNESCO Centres are registered.

All UNESCO Clubs in Germany are non-profit organisations, registered under German law. Their budgets are generated from membership fees, from subsidies provided for specific activities, from fund raising, and from private donations.

UNESCO Clubs in Germany have no paid staff. All of their activities are run by volunteers.

## Activities

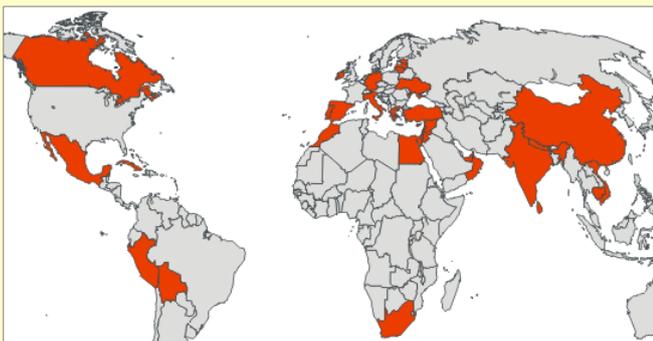
UNESCO Clubs in Germany perform a wide range of activities. The following examples may illustrate this:

### World Heritage

UNESCO Clubs engage in dissemination of knowledge about World Heritage in Germany and abroad. This includes presentations, discussions, and study tours.

The UNESCO Club of Kulmbach-Plassenburg, for example, has recently arranged visits to World Heritage sites in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

For more than 25 years, study tours to World Heritage sites have been conducted under the auspices of the UNESCO Club of Berlin:



Study tours under the auspices of the UNESCO Club of Berlin target World Heritage sites worldwide

In 2013, the UNESCO Club of Berlin staged a panel discussion on "UNESCO World Heritage in Danger?". It was broadcast by a regional radio station.

### Berlin Peace Clock Award

Since 2003 the UNESCO Club of Berlin has been presenting the "Berlin Peace Clock Award"<sup>2</sup> to individuals or institutions from all over the world "that symbolise hope and help to overcome walls dividing classes, races, peoples, nations, cultures, religions, ideologies, parties and human beings from one another".

In 2011 the Berlin Peace Clock Award was presented to Mr Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.



Berlin Peace Clock Award 2011 presented to Wilfried Lemke (centre).  
Left: Klaus Hüfner, Honorary President of the Berlin UNESCO Club;  
Right: Jens Lorenz, Sponsor of the Berlin Peace Clock Award

In 2014 the Berlin Peace Clock Award was presented to Ms Ulrike Poppe, Commissioner of the German Federal State of Brandenburg for the Study of the Repercussions of the Communist Dictatorship, and to the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial. This location served as an internment camp and prison during the post-war Soviet occupation of Germany, and later by the authorities of the former German Democratic Republic.



Berlin Peace Clock Award 2014  
From left: Gudrun Kammasch, President of the UNESCO Club of Berlin;  
Hubertus Knabe, Director of the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial;  
Ulrike Poppe, Commissioner for the Study of the Repercussions  
of the Communist Dictatorship;  
Jens Lorenz, Sponsor of the Berlin Peace Clock Award

1 in German: "Berliner Komitee für UNESCO-Arbeit"

2 <http://www.berliner-friedensuhr.de/resources/The+History+of+the+Berlin+Peace+Clock.pdf>  
For easy access to links in this report, a digital version can be downloaded from <http://www.intervoc.de/WFUCA.pdf>

### Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall



Balloon Patron

At the initiative of the Ernst Reuter UNESCO Associated School, the UNESCO Club of Berlin took part in the commemoration ceremony in November 2014 that marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Some 8.000 illuminated white balloons were released along the 15 kilometre line of the former wall. Attached to each balloon was an individual message, written by the respective "Balloon Patron"<sup>3</sup>.

### Sustainable Rural and Urban Development

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the city of Berlin was no longer politically and geographically separated from the surrounding rural areas that were previously controlled by the German Democratic Republic. This resulted in a range of challenges.

Berlin's rapid growth and expansion into the surrounding sparsely populated German Federal State of Brandenburg led to city dwellers discovering the potential of these rural areas as new opportunities and places for leisure time pursuits and holidays.

In turn, farmers in the rural areas of Brandenburg seized the opportunity to deliver their products – often organically grown – to consumers in the city of Berlin. Opportunities such as hospitality, camping, sports, study tours, and cultural events are provided for city dwellers to benefit from Berlin's rural environment.

In the German Federal State of Brandenburg, the UNESCO-Club of Joachimsthal<sup>4</sup> is based at the very centre of the [Biosphere Reserve of Schorfheide-Chorin](#). Education for sustainable development, environmental issues and organic farming have been core activities of that club for many years.

In June 2012, the UNESCO Club of Joachimsthal responded to this challenge. Members of the UNESCO Clubs of Berlin and of Joachimsthal were introduced to the forest of [Grumsin](#).

Since then, the two UNESCO Clubs have moved the scope of their joint activities considerably beyond biosphere reserves.

In 2013, the two UNESCO Clubs launched a series of joint expert meetings named "Berlin-Brandenburgischer Salon". These meetings focus on relations between the rural area of Brandenburg and the city of Berlin.

These expert meetings address themes and issues of concern not only to UNESCO but are equally relevant to existing concerns of the region.

Production, transport and consumption of food, use of agricultural resources, soil fertility, biological diversity, and the potential of rural areas for the recreation of city dwellers were among the themes.

In July 2013, the first one of this series of joint expert meetings was held in the biosphere reserve of Schorfheide-Chorin. It focused on sustainable production and consumption of food: "*Think Globally – Eat Locally*".



First Berlin-Brandenburg joint expert meeting in summer 2013

In February 2014, the second expert meeting addressed the "*Relationship between Nature and Culture*": Is there such a thing as "*Immaterial Natural Heritage*"?

In August 2014, the third expert meeting highlighted "*Education for Sustainable Development*". On board the "Solar Explorer" – a solar driven boat that serves as a kind of extra-mural classroom – participants were familiarised with typical features and problems of the local biosphere reserve.



UNESCO Clubs at extra-mural classroom on board the "Solar Explorer"

In 2011, the [Ancient Beech Forests of Germany](#) were added to the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian Mountains, which in turn had been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2007.

Following the above-mentioned presentations on board the "Solar Explorer", participants were exposed to the Ancient Beech Forest.



Learning about Natural Heritage: the Ancient Beech Forest

<sup>3</sup> <https://falloffthewall25.com/>; <https://vimeo.com/111397344>

<sup>4</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joachimsthal,\\_Brandenburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joachimsthal,_Brandenburg)

In March 2015, the fourth expert meeting of the two UNESCO Clubs examined the relevance of the Post-2015 Agenda for the region. Once the United Nations have adopted the Post-2015 Agenda: What will be the political implications at the local and regional level?

The expert meeting examined this question for the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Goal 2 (food, nutrition, agriculture),
- Goal 4 (education)
- Goal 11 (cities and human settlements),
- Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production),
- Goal 15 (ecosystems, biodiversity).

Presentations and discussions held at the Humboldt University in Berlin clearly indicated that civil society can and should play an active role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level.



UNESCO Clubs of Berlin and Joachimsthal discussing the relevance of Post-2015 Agenda for the region at the Humboldt University in Berlin

The two UNESCO Clubs will seek to create awareness among regional policy makers for the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda. The proceedings and the results of the expert meetings are available in both digital and print format.

### International Seminars for Secondary School Students

Every year since 1970, the UNESCO Club of Berlin has been hosting an International Seminar for Secondary School Students. These seminars have so far been attended by students from UNESCO Associated Schools in Germany and from about a dozen other countries in Europe and the Middle East. Human rights, sustainable development and globalisation are some of the issues at the centre of these seminars.

In 2011, the 40<sup>th</sup> International Seminar addressed “Global Action – Global Networks – Future of Youth – Energy, but how?” Participants had the opportunity to meet with a number of non-governmental organisations, among them Human Rights Watch, the Society for Threatened People, the Friends of the Earth Germany, and Amnesty International.

The 41<sup>st</sup> International Seminar in 2012 addressed “40 Years UNESCO World Heritage – Our World, Our Heritage”.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> International Seminar in 2013 was devoted to “60 Years of UNESCO's Associated Schools Project – Education is a Human Right”.

The theme of the 43<sup>rd</sup> International Seminar in 2014 was “Commemorating Wars – Constructing the Defences of Peace”. Also, it provided an opportunity to recall the fall of the Berlin Wall 25 years ago.



Working session at the 43<sup>rd</sup> International Seminar for Secondary School Students

The forthcoming 44<sup>th</sup> seminar in late 2015 will focus on the Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations.

### International Partnerships and Exchange

The UNESCO Club of Kulmbach-Plassenburg has emerged from a partnership between two UNESCO Associated Schools: the Vocational School Centre in Kulmbach (Germany) and the Tophane Teknik ve Endüstri Meslek Lisesi in Bursa (Turkey). An additional partnership had evolved in 2009 between Kindergartens in Bursa and Kulmbach. Several hundred pupils and students have been involved in exchange programmes between the cities of Kulmbach and Bursa.

Bursa and the nearby village of Cumalikizik, whose history dates back to the Ottoman Empire, was inscribed on the World Heritage list of UNESCO in 2014. The Club of Kulmbach-Plassenburg is currently engaged in restoring an old historical wood-constructed house in Cumalikizik.

Since 2012, the UNESCO Club of Kulmbach-Plassenburg extends support to the “One World Secondary School Kilimanjaro”<sup>5</sup> in Tanzania. This private school in Tanzania operates along the principles of UNESCO.



UNESCO Club Kulmbach-Plassenburg handing over a donation to the One World Secondary School Kilimanjaro

5 <http://www.oneworldschool-tanzania.org>

The UNESCO Club of Berlin has extended patronage to a private initiative of Berliners in support of primary schools and a vocational training initiative in the grass fields of Cameroon.<sup>6</sup>

For many years, the UNESCO Club of Frankenthal has maintained a partnership with Sanghé Douka, a village in Senegal. Daily life for women and children was improved e.g. by mechanising the grinding of corn. Animal husbandry and breeding were promoted, and engagement of women in trade. The construction of primary and secondary school buildings in the village was supported financially.

All the above partnership arrangements include charity events and fund-raising activities for partners abroad.

These are just examples. Other UNESCO Clubs in Germany engage in similar international partnerships.

### Dissemination of Information

Disseminating information about UNESCO's ideals and activities in education, science, culture and communication is a key concern of all UNESCO Clubs in Germany. To that end, UNESCO Clubs organise local events, presentations, discussions, exhibitions, study tours, and meetings with international partners.

Six out of the eight UNESCO Clubs in Germany present their activities on dedicated websites:

- [Aachen](#)
- [Berlin](#)
- [Frankenthal](#)
- [Joachimsthal](#)
- [Kettwig](#)
- [Kulmbach-Plassenburg](#)

Last but not least, UNESCO Clubs produce, print and disseminate flyers, newsletters and brochures.

During the annual United Nations Day (24 October), the city of Bonn provides public space for UN agencies to present their activities. In October 2014, UNESCO Clubs in Germany engaged actively in presenting their objectives and UNESCO-related activities to the public.

## 2. The Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany

The Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany (the "Forum") meets twice per year. These meetings are focused around a thematic issue from the scope of UNESCO's mandate and activities. The "Forum" was established in 1990.

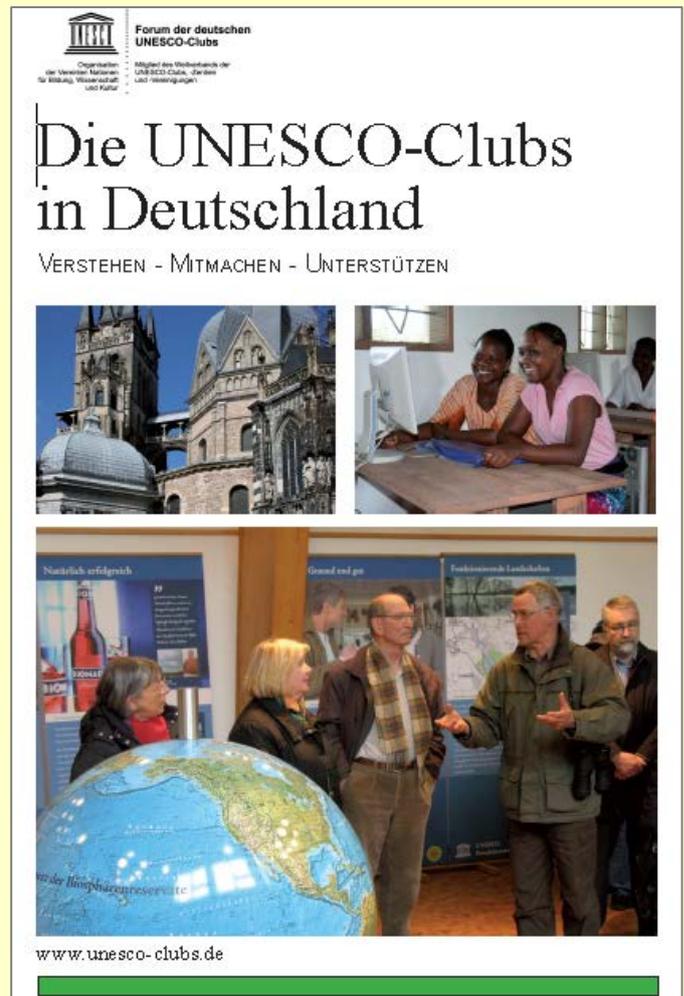
The spring 2015 meeting of the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany was held in Potsdam, close to one of the major World Heritage sites in Germany: the palaces and parks of Potsdam and Berlin. The focus of the meeting was on transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Post-2015 Agenda of the United Nations. The meeting also marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Forum".



Members of the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany visiting the World Heritage Site of Potsdam-Sanssouci

A special brochure was published by the UNESCO Club of Berlin in 2012, following its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It highlights the club's activities during the first years following the Second World War, during the period marked by the division of Germany and of the Berlin Wall, and after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

In 2013, the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany published, with financial support from the German Commission for UNESCO, a 52-page brochure on UNESCO Clubs in Germany:



Brochure on UNESCO Clubs in Germany

6 <http://www.intervoc.de/Bansoa> (in German)

Up-to-date information on the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany, on individual UNESCO Clubs and on their activities is available on its website:



Home Page of the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany  
<http://www.unesco-clubs.de>

### 3. Links with Associated Schools

As already mentioned in sections “International Seminars for Secondary School Students” and “International Partnerships and Exchange”, UNESCO Clubs in Germany maintain close relations with UNESCO Associated Schools, or have even emerged from them. For example, hundreds of children, starting from Kindergarten age, profit from events staged by the UNESCO Club of Joachimsthal to learn about renewable energies, about biosphere reserves, and about environmental issues.

The One World Secondary School Kilimanjaro in Tanzania was founded in 2011 by the former coordinator of the UNESCO Associated Schools for Germany.

The UNESCO Club of Berlin maintains especially close relationships with UNESCO Associated Schools in Germany. The club provides the platform for the “International Seminars for Secondary School Students” (see page 4). A leading member of the UNESCO Club of Berlin is currently serving as National Coordinator of the Associated Schools network in Germany.

### 4. Links with the German Commission for UNESCO

The Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany (the “Forum”) maintains close contacts with the German Commission for UNESCO. Every other meeting of the “Forum” is held on their premises in Bonn. The German Commission for UNESCO also facilitates logistical and financial arrangements for membership of the “Forum” in the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).

The Coordinator of the Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany is also serving as Members of the German Commission of UNESCO. Furthermore, a number of members of the UNESCO Club of Berlin are members of the German Commission for UNESCO as well.

### 5. Links with UNESCO

In June 2011, the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a ceremony with UNESCO Director-General Ms Irina Bokova to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German Commission for UNESCO. Members of the UNESCO Club of Berlin were invited to join.

### 6. Links with WFUCA

The Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany is a Member of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).

## Contact

### Federation of UNESCO Clubs in Germany

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