

Umverteilen! Stiftung für eine, solidarische Welt

Established in 1986, the foundation Stiftung Umverteilen (redistribution) is a non-profit organization which sponsors / supports educational and PR work as well as development projects in the so-called Third World. As an independent organization, Stiftung Umverteilen is exempt from tax and thus accountable to the tax authorities regarding the expenditure of funds.

Our assets, amounting to 18 million Euro, were donated by an heir and are invested in German real estate, loans, stocks, and shares mainly to finance alternative work and housing projects. Of the tax-free net rent and interests about 650,000 Euro are presently spent per annum on approx. 240 projects. These projects promote international understanding, development aid, national education and training, youth work, science, research, and environmental protection.

In order to be able to keep our promotion budgets as high as possible, administrative expenses are minimized. Therefore the work in the foundation committees is honorary. To fulfil administrative tasks, we have only a small office with two full-time employees and one trainee. The approval of project applications is decided on by working groups which, within the framework of the statutes, elaborate their own criteria for funding and working principles, thereby setting guidelines regarding contents and geography. The working groups autonomously decide on the expenditure of their annual budget. At present about 50 honorary members are in six teams deciding on project applications. The project support concentrates on educational and PR work (team third world - here!), as well as on the promotion of projects in the Third World (working groups Asia, Africa, Latin America), with the main emphasis on women-specific activities in these areas (working group Women). Furthermore, in the field of youth work, we mainly support exchange and travel projects of German-Turkish school classes and youth groups to Turkey (team Er-Fahren).

The working groups of Stiftung Umverteilen

The working group third world - here!

The working group *third world - here!* consists of eight to eleven honorary members, who bring along their experience as former deve-

lopment aid volunteers, long-term solidarity workers, or as former full-time employees in "development" organizations. The working group meets regularly at 3-5 weeks intervals in order to support projects which

- ❑ point out the poverty, misery, and suppression in countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific Region;
- ❑ describe the involvement of Germany and other rich industrial countries in this situation;
- ❑ are a forum for ethnic minorities in the so-called Third World, for the victims of expulsion and exploitation of nature;
- ❑ make it easier for people from "poor" countries living in Germany to access information on their native countries, on life here in Germany and - if it is their wish - on returning to their native countries;
- ❑ fight xenophobic and racist tendencies here and abroad.

We mainly promote cultural events, seminars, development political PR and publications. The average grant is about 1,000 Euro.

The working group Women

The working group *women* is an international group from nearly all continents with experience in the Trikont (Africa, Asia, Latin America) solidarity area. The main emphasis of their work is put on the support of women who not only resist sexual, patriarchal, economic, or racist oppression but also want to develop, live, and pass on their own social, political, and cultural ideas. The working group seeks information exchange with the women of the supported projects in order to promote the networking among the countries. The average grant for women projects is about 5,000 Euro.

The working group Asia

The working group *Asia* supports projects of social movements, action initiatives and groups in East, South East and South Asia. To a lesser extent, the working group also supports Asia-related projects of migrants as well as of educational and PR work in Europe. The 10-member working group's aim is to contribute to the liberation from political, social, economical, racial and sexist suppression. The working group *Asia* preferably supports projects whose chances of being promoted by other institutions are bad because their scope is too small or the general approach is too unusual. The working

group *Asia* tries to react with flexibility to developments and radical changes in Europe and Asia. The working group comes together monthly and supports projects in the areas of education, culture, PR, health, ecology, economic self-help, south-south exchange, strengthening of the organizational abilities of groups as well as in the fields lobbying, advocacy and human rights. The projects should be integrated in a political context and include own contributions which do not have to be financial. Women's interests are given priority. The average grant amounts to about 5,500 Euro per project.

The working group Latin America

At present, the working group *Latin America* consists of six women and two men. All of them are from solidarity groups for Latin American countries. They meet quarterly and try to work through a mountain of project applications and to finally allocate, after long discussions, the available funds; The working group supports self-help and action projects of emancipatory nature such as small production, trade/handicrafts and agricultural cooperatives, above all projects of women, projects in health service, smaller training projects, religious action communities; furthermore human rights organizations and media projects. One of the principles is not to promote parties or organizations but exclusively self-help projects. One objective is to finance especially small projects which have no chance of obtaining larger financial backing due to their lack of popularity and professionalism, but also for political reasons. The average financial aid is about 4,000 Euro per project.

The working group Africa

Usually the working group meets once a month in order to decide on submitted project applications and discuss which topics are to be emphasized as well as criteria for the allocation of funds. Primary objective of the project work is the support of action groups, women's groups, self-help groups as well as movements of civil and human rights. Much attention is paid to the project work's effects on women. Projects that are mainly «economically oriented», such as income-creating measures, are only sponsored when groups use them to develop and realize exemplarily alternative forms of life and work. The aim is to avoid creating long-term dependencies (e.g. by financing permanent jobs) or compensating deficits in the urban and rural infrastructure (e.g. long-term

sponsoring of health services and water supply) with programs. Instead the intention is to give to the persons involved support and help in organizing themselves, so that they can demand e.g. rights and benefits which have been withheld from them. Action groups can also be promoted by supporting their institutional basis, e.g. cooperatives. Another support possibility is the mobilization of international solidarity via public relations work and campaigns.

A large number of the projects promoted by the working group *Africa* belong to the field of educational work. The aims are political information and extension of self-determination, and participation in political decisions. One geographical focus of support is South Africa, where the working group supports e.g. efforts to establish independent lobbies, basis broadcasting, and youth education. Concerning the allocation of projects, the working group has extended its criteria in the last years to include a greater degree of further regional sectors in its work, above all West Africa. The average project grant is 5,500 Euro per project.

The working group Er-Fahren International youth meeting/ encounters

The working group Er-Fahren (seven persons of German and Turkish origin) deals with the reality of a multicultural society in Germany and wants to improve the way young people with different cultural backgrounds live together. In our experience, journeys to the migrants' countries of origin offer a good opportunity to achieve this aim. The working group chose Turkey as its country of priority. The working group mainly promotes journeys of mixed youth groups or school classes (young persons from Germany, Turkey or other countries) to Turkey, and, if possible, meetings in Germany with groups from Turkey as well. The trips must be arranged in such a way that they facilitate an encounter with the country and its inhabitants, an insight into living and working conditions, and a critical analysis of one's own and the foreign culture. We do not provide money for holidays or classical educational trips. We expect the participants to make an adequate financial contribution and to make use of any other funding possible. At the moment, our funds for a 3-week journey are 325 Euro at the most per participant, if all criteria (which include course of the journey, preparation, evaluation) determined by us are met. We can

also help with planning the journeys. About 35 groups with 15-30 participants each are promoted each year.

Applications to the foundation Umverteilen

Applications can be made **constantly**, there are no cut-off periods. The application will be passed on to the working group in charge. One member of the working group effects the processing, contacts the applicants in case of further inquiries and suggests how to decide. Normally, the groups meet once a week. As all decision-makers work on a honorary basis, the processing time of a particular application can be longer than usual. Normally, the processing periods are approximately eight to ten weeks. Applications to the working group Er-Fahren for the coming year have to be submitted by the end of the current year, as the working group allocates the budget at the beginning of the year.

In principle, the foundation Umverteilen only **promotes** individual self-contained projects; neither permanent institutional grants nor individual grants (such as scholarships, individual emergencies) are possible. Promoted projects can be financed by the foundation either completely or proportionally. Uncovered financial demands are also possible. Costs that can be funded are equipment and labour costs (fees) referring to the project.

For further information, please refer to the following address:

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The **application form** must be submitted in writing and according to the subsequent pattern:

Applicant

- Name, address, signature
- Self-portrayal of the project institution (Kind of organization and group, previous activities etc.)

Project description

- Target, target groups, procedure, schedule

Funding

- Cost calculation (overall planned expenses)
- Financial plan (overall planned income) indicating own funds, incomes, subsidies applied for at other sponsoring institutions