



Kreisau-Initiative

Kreisau-Initiative e.V.
c/o Allianz AG
An den Treptowers 3
12435 Berlin
Tel. +49 (30) 53 83 63 63
Fax +49 (30) 53 02 79 23
www.kreisau.de

Thomas Handrich
Programme Manager
Sustainability and
Intergenerational Dialogue

handrich@kreisau.de

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ACTORS OF TRANSITION

**A four-step qualification course for active citizenship
in the field of sustainability and post-growth**

April – September 2016

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS
until 31st of January (who need a visa) and
15th of February for all the others**

Project Summary

- Dates and locations: 03.04.-10.04.2016, Trebnitz (DE)
07.05.-13.05.2016, Krzyżowa (PL)
05.09.-10.09.2016, Chişinău (MD)
- Target group: 3 activists/multipliers from each country aged 18-100
- Participating countries: Armenia, Denmark, Germany, Moldova, Greece,
Poland, Serbia, Spain
- Rule: It is obligatory to take part in all three meetings!

What is Actors of Transition?

Actors of Transition – Spreading Sustainability in Europe is a four-step qualification course for change-makers in the field of sustainability and post-growth. The goals of the project are:

- (1) To empower young people and their community to become active in their civil societies and to foster sustainable development;
- (2) To support them in identifying unsustainable challenges in their social environments and coming up with ideas how to meet them;
- (3) To provide a basic understanding of the limitations of economic growth and to familiarize them with the concepts of sustainability and post-growth;

The Kreisau-Initiative is a non-governmental organization. It was founded in 1989 in order to support the set-up and maintenance of an international youth meeting centre in Krzyżowa, Poland.

Board: Ole Jantschek (Chair), Annemarie Cordes, Katrin Hattenhauer, Heimgard Mehlhorn, Stanisława Piotrowska, Dr Klaus Pumberger

Executive Director: Nina Lüders

The association is registered at the register of associations of the district court Charlottenburg, Berlin (Reg. No. VR 10244 Nz).

Account details
GLS Bank | IBAN: DE19 4306 0967 1163 9512 00 | BIC: GENODEM1GLS

We would be pleased to receive donations on our account
GLS Bank | IBAN: DE13 4306 0967 1163 9512 11 | BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Donations for the Kreisau-Initiative are tax deductible.



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- (4) To promote responsible leadership, democratic values and consciousness of diversity including global and intergenerational fairness;
- (5) To contribute to the participants' personal development with respect to self-confidence, self-reflection and action competence.

How is the qualification course structured?

The qualification course will be structured in four parts with three meetings and one individual learning and working period.

1st Step: Ideas for Change

The first step is an *eight-day kick-off meeting* during which we will focus on the participants' knowledge, ideas and motivations according to their specific problems and challenges in all involved countries. We will introduce basic economic concepts and examine arguments for and against a growing economy including its ecological, social and global implications. Drawing on this, we will discuss alternatives to the dominant growth mentality and explore opportunities for individual action: What visions are there for a post-growth society? What can we, as individuals, do in the face of an apparent lack of alternatives? How can we jointly develop opportunities for action and put them into practice? In doing so, we will make sure that the participants' everyday lives, experiences and motivations are addressed. At the end of this meeting, every participants will have developed an idea for social change.

2nd Step: Project Development

In the second step, participants develop their initial idea into a concrete project concept during a *seven-day practice meeting*. They form teams, mobilize supporters, make financial plans and finalize schedules. In workshops, they strengthen their project management skills and receive first-hand support from experienced trainers and professionals. At the end of this meeting, every participant has developed a thorough project plan.

3rd Step: Independent Learning and Project Work

After the practice meeting, the project teams implement their projects independently. In doing so, they are assisted by *peer mentors* in an individual mix of coaching and counselling. The peer mentors can be successful actors from related fields or alumni fellows from previous editions of the qualification course. This way networking of like-minded activists is fostered. We are probably ready to support this work (including mentoring the process) also financially with a small amount. More details about it at our meeting in Trebnitz.

4th Step: Reflection and Perspectives

The fourth and final step of the course is a *six-day reflection meeting*. More often than not, project work is judged by its results or outcomes. Problems encountered along the way go unmentioned or are redefined as "challenges". However, for participants they can be decisive elements in their individual qualification process. During the final meeting, we highlight success in individual learning and help conducting evaluations after the project work has been done. And we will discuss, if we want to go on together in the future and if yes, then how.

Where and when?

The entire qualification course extends over a period of seven months and involves three different venues:

- 03 April – 10 April 2016, 1st Meeting (8 days), Trebnitz, Germany
- 07 May – 13 May 2016, 2nd Meeting (7 days), Krzyżowa, Poland
- June – August 2016, Project implementation in the participating countries



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- 05 September – 10 September 2016, 3rd Meeting (6 days), Chişinau, Moldova

The third meeting will be hosted by EcoVisio from Moldova.

With whom we would like to work together during our sessions?

Enthusiastic activists and multipliers that are willing to take an active role in their societies and promote social change. The selection criteria are:

- ✓ Age 18+
- ✓ Residency in Armenia, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Moldavia, Spain, Greece or Serbia (the nationality is not relevant)
- ✓ Interest/with experiences in active citizenship, post-growth and/or sustainability
- ✓ Motivation to implement an own project and attend the entire training course
- ✓ Good English skills
- ✓ Desirable: an existing social and/or professional network
- ✓ Number of participants per country: three
- ✓ Willingness to take part in all four activities.

Kreisau-Initiative seeks to reach with its projects participants that otherwise have little or no access to non-formal education and encourages everyone to participate irrespective of ability, ethnicity, gender, social background etc.

How about travel and visa costs?

Visa costs can be fully reimbursed. Travel costs will be reimbursed according to the following (maximum) rates:

From	Moldova	Armenia	Germany	Greece	Spain	Denmark	Poland	Serbia
To Trebnitz	275	360	0	275	275	180	180	275
To Krzyżowa	275	360	180	275	275	275	0	275
To Chişinau	0	275	275	275	360	275	275	275

Travel costs will be reimbursed only after the training and up to the maximum amount listed above. If a person spends less than the maximum amount, then they will receive only as much as they spent. If a person spends more than the maximum amount, they will need to cover themselves anything that goes beyond.



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Participants are basically responsible for organizing their travel themselves, however I can of course assist you and the participants.

How to reach the meeting places in April and May

Trebnitz, the place of our first meeting is situated 55 km east of Berlin. From Berlin airports Schönefeld or Tegel please travel by bus/or/and S-Bahn to the **S-Bahn and railway-station Berlin-Lichtenberg**. From there you do have each two hours a train to Trebnitz (direction Küstrin/Kostrzyn). Departure times from Lichtenberg are: 09:37, 11:37, 13:37, 15.37, 17:37. We do expect you until dinner at 6:30 p.m. Our seminar takes places at the castle of Trebnitz (<http://www.schloss-trebnitz.de/en>). It is just 800 m away from the station.

Krzyżowa, that's the place where we meet in May, is situated 350 km southeast of Berlin in Poland. Here we do offer you a **shuttle bus from Berlin** that takes the whole group straight to Krzyżowa. In this case, the participants should be in Berlin around 1 p.m. on 7th of May 2016. Returning flights should start not before 4 p.m. on 10th of May from Berlin.

In any case, please double-check with me before booking any tickets!

What is participation fee?

The participation fee involves all activities and includes full-board accommodation, program, and excursions in all three meetings. Please don't hesitate, to contact me, if somebody wants strongly to take part, but the fee is too much in this individual case. It should not discourage anyone from participating.

Moldova	Armenia	Germany	Greece	Spain	Denmark	Poland	Serbia
90.-EUR	90.- EUR	300.-EUR	150.-EUR	150.-EUR	300.- EUR	150.- EUR	90.- EUR

The participation fee should be paid at once at the beginning of the first session in Trebnitz/Germany.

Facilitation team

The first meeting in Germany will be facilitated by Sebastian Wehrsig, Arpineh Galfayan and Thomas Handrich.



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Deadlines, additional information and online-application

The seminar language will be English. It is essential that participants are able to understand, speak and write in English.

Please select **three person** from your country **until 31st of January (for those who need a visa) and until 15th February for all the others**. If you feel you need more time for recruitment, let me know and we can adjust the deadline. However, the sooner we have the participants the better it is.

One essential part of the qualification will be a practical project, each of the participants is developing with a group of active people. We are probably ready to support this work (including mentoring the process) also financially with a small amount. More details about it latest at our meeting in Trebnitz.

Please use the online-form for application:

<http://goo.gl/forms/w8OA4hCZib>

Partner organizations of Actors of Transition:



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The project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.