

# WeMove Europe gGmbH

## Annual Report 2016

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### Foundation

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

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

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

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

### Precise Activities

In 2016 WeMove Europe gGmbH successfully worked on two projects and prepared a further project to work towards, and achieve our vision.

#### YouMove- EU-Wide citizen initiated petitions

In coordination with the work of non-profit OpenPetition gGmbH, WeMove Europe gGmbH offers committed citizens, as well as organizations, the opportunity to create petitions and disseminate them (for more information see <http://you.wemove.eu>). With this work, WeMove Europe gGmbH pursues §2 Nr. 1 a and b of our social contract: the goal of promoting education and the goal of promoting democracy.

The aim of this is to promote stronger citizen engagement and participation in the formation of political opinion in Europe. YouMove is especially effective in that the Europe-wide petitions are in multiple languages. In this capacity, WeMove Europe gGmbH supervises the implementation of petition proposals, which are sent to it by individuals and partners from all over Europe.

Petitions in which the expected or measured interest of the citizens is particularly high are disseminated by WeMove Europe gGmbH to a wide range of interested parties. This is typically done by e-mail. WeMove Europe gGmbH commissions WeMove Europe SCE or other organisations that have a suitable number of email subscribers. These e-mails are written in a wide variety of European languages.

In total, the petitions started in 2016 were signed 362,281 times on YouMove; 81,640 signatures from Germany. Given that we have only just started this project, we consider this to be an important success.

### Support for European Citizen Initiatives (ECI)

The European Citizens' Initiative is a formal instrument laid down in the European Treaties that allows citizens to have a direct influence on EU legislation. As soon as one million citizens have spoken out in favour of a particular concern, the EU Commission will deal with this. It invites the initiators and, together with the European Parliament, devotes itself intensively to the discussion of the policy proposals put forward. For WeMove Europe gGmbH, the promotion of ECIs is an important means of serving the purpose of promoting the democratic state system mentioned in the social contract (Section 2 No.1 b of the Social Contract).

In 2016 WeMove Europe gGmbH supported two ECIs:

The People4Soil (<http://people4soil.eu>) initiative is committed to soil protection, pesticides and erosion. For this initiative, WeMove Europe gGmbH has taken over the technical processing of the online signatures. For this purpose, the free software OPENEI was used on a server of WeMove Europe gGmbH and further developed. WeMove Europe gGmbH also steered the certification process of the software by the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), so that the petition software was accepted as an official collection of signatures for the ECI.

In 2016, the ECI Stop Glyphosate encouraged a reform of the European authorisation procedure for pesticides by numerous environmental organisations and individuals. The aim is to meet the increased expectations of the European public for transparency and to be based exclusively on independent scientific expertise. The aim of WeMove Europe gGmbH was to bring the instrument of the ECI to the interested parties. To this end, WeMove Europe gGmbH organised a meeting in Brussels in October, attended by representatives of 7 organisations from 5 countries. The meeting discussed what options are available to give as many citizens as possible the opportunity to participate in the ECI.

For the collection of online signatures, WeMove Europe gGmbH has installed a version of the software "OPENEI" that it has developed, also submitting an application for certification to the BSI.

WeMove Europe gGmbH has also worked on improving signature forms in paper form and has been able to draw up improved signature lists in cooperation with the authorities in Germany, Spain and Austria.

### Citizen Assemblies

In 2016, WeMove Europe gGmbH looked into the concept of the Citizen Assembly for the first time. A Citizen Assembly is a democratic tool in which randomly selected ordinary citizens (as opposed to stakeholders or experts) come together to discuss a specific political issue in a structured way. In

2016, we first contacted the University of Liverpool and started to plan a project in which such Citizen Assemblies could be carried out in different countries of the EU, with WeMove Europe gGmbH conducting the Citizen Assemblies in Germany. These assemblies are planned for 2017 and 2018. This work aligns with our aims of promoting education and the promotion of democratic state as set out in Section 1 (1) (a) and (b) of the Social Treaty.

### Workshops

In September 2016, we held a workshop in Brussels in order to receive important impetus for the further orientation of the work of WeMove Europe gGmbH. Participants included employees and management of WeMove Europe gGmbH, experts from Brussels-based NGOs and various persons working for contractors of WeMove Europe gGmbH. The main outcome was the continued focus of WeMove Europe gGmbH on the European level, in particular with its focus on citizens-initiated petitions and European citizens' initiatives.

### Website

On [www.wemove-charity.eu](http://www.wemove-charity.eu), we regularly provide information about our activities.

### Financial Development

In its founding year, fundraising activities of WeMove Europe gGmbH were considered successful. In particular, large institutional and private donors raised more than €717,000. However, given that our capacities have not been fully built up, we have decided to increase our spending relatively slowly, so that the funds raised in 2016 will not be fully spent until 2017 and 2018.