

WeMove Europe gGmbH

Annual Report 2017

Table of Contents

- Foundation 1
- Precise Activities..... 1
 - YouMove- EU-Wide citizen initiated petitions 2
 - Support for European Citizen Initiatives (ECI) 2
 - Citizen Assemblies 3
 - Study on the Fusion of Bayer and Monsanto 3
 - Eurozone Video 4
 - Website 4
- Financial Development..... 4

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 2017, WeMove Europe gGmbH was able to build on the first successes of 2016 and have technically improved the youMove platform. The first technical improvements already make it easier for interested parties to start petitions themselves.

We have also significantly stepped up our second priority, the support of European citizens' initiatives, after initial successes in our first year.

A third priority has also been added: Citizen Assemblies. During these assemblies citizens meet, learn about the European institutions and their forms of participation, and at the same time discuss proposals for improvement in several countries, which they then submit to the EU.

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.

WeMove Europe gGmbH has developed a catalogue of criteria on the basis of which the petitions are selected or rejected. Vesna Stefanec was the direct support for many campaigns.

In total, the petitions launched in 2017 were signed 158,536 times on YouMove, 21,807 of them from Germany. Given that we only really started this project in 2017, we consider the significant crossing of the 100,000 signature threshold to be an important milestone.

As early as mid-2017, this milestone led us to fundamentally revise the technology that underlies YouMove. The setting of petitions is to be largely automated, which saves work and costs. At the same time, it should be made more user-friendly for citizens. Preliminary work will be carried out in 2017. The programming work is to be commissioned for 2018.

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).

The work on "Stop Glyphosate" that began in 2016, was also a predominant part of our activities in 2017. The Alliance for this ECI brought together a large number of environmental organisations and individuals, including a call for a reform of the European authorisation procedure for pesticides. In the future, only scientific studies, which are publicly available and can be independently reviewed, will be used in the authorisation procedure. In connection with the ECI, WeMove Europe gGmbH has comprehensively discussed the pesticide glyphosate, its health consequences and its environmental impact. At the same time, we managed to publicise the instrument of the European Citizens' Initiative.

In cooperation with other organisations in Europe, WeMove Europe gGmbH has placed a special emphasis on the countries of Spain, France, Italy and Germany. Other organisations have focused on other countries. It was also the responsibility of the WeMove Europe gGmbH to coordinate the cooperation of the organisations involved and to ensure that all aspects of the topic raised were accessible to citizens as far as it was possible. Thus, information was compiled not only on the individual pesticide, but also on how agriculture can be carried out with the least use of pesticides as possible, without sacrificing yields and security of supply.

For the collection of online signatures, WeMove Europe gGmbH has installed a version of the software "OPENECI" which it has further developed, as well as submitted the necessary application for certification to the Federal Office for Security in Information Technology (BSI).

In cooperation with the authorities in Germany, Spain and Austria, we have made the signature forms in paper form clearer for citizens. A highlight for us was that these new signature forms were used directly at a Europe-wide day of action. In 6,000 places in different countries, citizens have informed others about the issue and collected signatures.

The extent of the interest in the subject can also be measured by the number of signatures collected: more than one million signatures were collected in about six months.

In 2017, we agreed to work together with the Migration Policy Group on the European Citizens' Initiative "We Are a Welcoming Europe". The exact meaning of our contribution to this will be determined in 2018.

In 2017, we completed the work on the citizens' initiative "People4soil", with which we informed citizens about soil protection and called for a law for the comprehensive protection of all soils. The ECI was closed on 21 September 2017 and was able to collect 71,877 valid signatures.

[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.

The aim is to educate citizens in different countries about this democratic instrument, and then to organise citizens' meetings in different countries (Germany, Italy, Romania and Hungary) simultaneously.

The application, submitted in 2017, was approved in late 2017, and as a result, only initial planning steps could be taken in December 2017. The project will be carried out in 2018.

[Study on the Fusion of Bayer and Monsanto](#)

When it became known that Bayer and Monsanto would merge, concerned citizens contacted us. They asked for more detailed information on the possible consequences of such a merger.

Since such information cannot be compiled by WeMove Europe gGmbH, we have commissioned the University College of London to produce such a study for us. We then made the results available to the public via our website and facebook. Our partner organisations have also disseminated the results. The full study is available in English. Summaries have been published in German, French, Spanish and Italian.

Eurozone Video

After Emmanuel Macron made his proposals for reforming the EU and the eurozone, it raised a lot of questions about what the eurozone is and how it can be reformed.

WeMove Europe gGmbH produced an explanatory video that lasted 4 minutes. The video is posted on YouTube and has been viewed by more than 36,000 people in five different languages.

Website

On www.wemove-charity.eu, we regularly provide information about our activities.

Financial Development

in 2017, we raised 677,000 euros, building on the fundraising success of the previous year.

In line with these financial opportunities and the sharp increase in activities, costs have also increased significantly. For the European Citizens' Initiative, we have needed to employ up to five people at the same time, albeit mostly part-time.

We have added EUR 74,700 to the free reserve. For the relaunch of YouMove, we have created a project-linked reserve of 130,000.