



> Our programme

In multiple languages and regions, the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg provides training to young adults, working in **close cooperation with partners from initiatives, NGOs and public administrations**. Their experience with the project management issues specifically associated with volunteer work, their internationality and their familiarity with the target groups distinguish our programme at the international level, in Russia, Ukraine and the South Caucasus.

Learning to develop and implement projects: International training sessions bring together people from different countries. At the regional level, training concentrates on the initiation of civic engagement in a region or city.

Networks provide inspiration and expand opportunities. For that reason, the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg and its partners link up volunteers acting for change and qualified experts in civil-society education.

Qualifications in training design, didactic processes and in project mentoring allow the **transfer of skills and experiences**.

> Professional guidance

The men and women who lead our seminars create the individual training offerings that make up our programme. Their internationality, experience and familiarity with the target groups allow them to work with a broad thematic and methodological spectrum.

Mentors assist the project teams. Drawing on their own experience in volunteer projects they provide individual support to the fellows.

The programme coordinators in Berlin organize training for the fellows, develop cooperative projects and oversee public outreach work.

The continuity and quality of seminar leadership and mentoring at the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg is ensured through **qualification programmes held in German, Russian, Ukrainian and English**.

Former fellows remain active even after their projects are complete: as alumni they work through Association MitOst and other regional networks to promote a vibrant exchange among people active in the civil societies of many countries.

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> Theodor Heuss

Through the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the association MitOst commemorate both an exceptional person and the vision that he filled with life: **a vision of understanding and reconciliation between nations that helped overcome cultural and political barriers in post-war Europe.** As a writer, politician and the first federal president of the Federal Republic of Germany, founded after World War II, Theodor Heuss strongly advocated a **new political culture that could overcome the legacy of National Socialism.** For him, democracy was first and foremost a way of life, an attitude: **“The external freedom of the many grows from the internal freedom of the individual.”**

There is also a special connection between Theodor Heuss and the history of the Robert Bosch Stiftung: In the 1930s, **Robert Bosch** commissioned Heuss to author his biography (Robert Bosch, His Life and Achievements). In doing so, he was supporting a liberal opponent of National Socialism who had been dismissed from his posts in public office in 1934.



Theodor
Heuss
Kolleg



Fancy getting involved?

> Individuals shaping change!

Civil society needs engaged minds, because it is the active involvement of the individual that fuels a vibrant society. For that reason, the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg supports young women and men who wish to engage as active citizens and bring about change in their societies.

Participants develop and design volunteer projects.

Through those projects, they change their environment, while honing their project management skills. Training and mentoring runs parallel to the projects in the fellows' home communities. Meetings and additional forms of contact with other engaged people open new perspectives. Support from the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg spans the entire duration of project work.

The Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg offers training in multiple languages and regions, often in cooperation with regional partners.

It reaches out to interested individuals from German-speaking countries, from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and from the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Robert Bosch Stiftung's mission of promoting international understanding is pursued in a tangible way at the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg.



> Projects as a forum for action: from personal motivation to action on the ground

The Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg supports the civic engagement of young people through voluntary, self-designed projects of clearly defined duration. All training offerings take the motivation of the individual participants as their starting point and emphasize individual responsibility in project work.

Burning issues met head on: Participants decide for themselves what issues they want to address. Some examples follow: gender roles, ecology, minorities, drugs, the culture of memory, extremism, citizens and society, new approaches to instruction at universities and schools.

Juxtaposing different ways of an implementing idea: Multi-day seminars run alongside creative workshops or street events. One team organizes a management game, others stage theatrical performances. Many projects support the integration and training of disadvantaged groups; others are aimed at contributing to changing the environment of their universities.

Projects bring people together and expand horizons: Crossing national and local barriers, meeting people from different backgrounds, people who are not indifferent to the changes in their societies.



> Finding ideas

Step 1: Development


The starting point is a topic. Diverse selections of people meet in groups to discuss socio-political topics from various perspectives, sharing their experiences. Participants find inspiration for their own activities and develop initial ideas.

> Designing concepts

Step 2: Fine-Tuning

In the second stage, ideas are turned into concrete concepts. Teams are formed, supporters are acquired. Training in project management accompanies this phase.

A diverse palette of projects: Inter-cultural theatre workshops run alongside seminars on socio-political topics. Didactic training for prospective teachers and student clubs share the agenda with environmental street events or exhibits.



> Tailored training

Step 3: Qualification

The acute phase of project work is the best time for training tailored to the real needs of the teams. Alumni who themselves have successfully taken action for change in their societies serve as mentors as project work continues.

> Opening perspectives

Step 4: Reflecting back

Project work opens up opportunities for personal and professional development: Interregional and international contacts help the fellows to see beyond their own immediate circles; new skills are honed. The closing phase involves the assessment of project experiences, with the central focus on **prospects** that have emerged from those experiences.

