

**RESPEKT
FÜR
GRIECHENLAND e.V.**

Information and solidarity work

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ABOUT US:

„Respekt für Griechenland (RfG)“ - „Respect for Greece“ was formed in early March 2015 when the European Union, under German leadership, imposed harsh financial cuts on Greece „without respect“.

After an initial focus on informative gatherings, practical activities were increasingly added. These range from short-term emergency aid to long-term projects, together with Greek partners.

About 40 people are active among us. Many of us bring experience from politics and/or social movements. We see our work as a contribution to a solidarity-based Europe.

WE:

- ▶ Are participating in refugee work on Lesbos, in Athens, in Thessaloniki and in Epirus for years already.
- ▶ With the campaign „German War Guilt and Obligations towards Greece“ we demand compensation for the human rights crimes and material damage caused by Germany in WW II.
- ▶ Promote and participate in school projects on climate protection issues, mainly on energy efficiency in school buildings.
- ▶ Support self-organized projects such as „Pervolarides“ in Thessaloniki.
- ▶ Have initiated and implemented fundraising projects in situations of greatest need: in refugee camps or after the fire on Northern Evia in August 2021.
- ▶ Try to link several working fields in the regions, e.g. Memory work on the II. WW with future-oriented ecological projects.

COOPERATION IN CLIMATE PROTECTION

The origin of our activities for climate protection in the context of Education for Sustainable Development was the cooperation project „Climate Schools Be.At“ with the Athens Municipality at more than 70 schools and with about 200 teachers.

The project was funded by the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Ministry of the Environment from 2017 to 2020. This and a complementary Building Check project contribute to energy saving in schools with an impact on families by raising awareness, changing user behaviour and providing technical analyses and measured values for the municipality.

„Respect for Greece“ in cooperation with the „Education Centre for Sustainable Development“ (BNE Centre) and the „Independent Institute for Environmental Issues“ (UfU) were partners in Berlin. The successful concept from Athens was adopted by the city of Thessaloniki, there with the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

Our Greek partners are working with the concept in other schools. Pupils play an active role as energy detectives. In addition, there are communities in which we are also involved with our other projects. Planned school partnerships with youth and professional exchanges were temporarily halted by the Corona pandemic. We have reactivated our work with a professional exchange in October 2021 on Euboea.

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REFUGEE WORK IN GREECE

Since autumn 2015, we have a rotating team of six to ten volunteers on **Lesvos**. In the „Volunteers for Lesvos“ project, the activities range from providing first aid to arrivals on the beach, everyday care, legal advice, medical care and language mediation up to helping with food for refugees.

We have been present in **Athens** since 2016 and cooperate with the NGO „Network for Children’s Rights“. Our focus is on playing and learning with young children as well as language courses, sports and creative workshops for unaccompanied minors. New additions are urban gardening projects in cooperation with the local community and refugees in open spaces in the city centre.

Since 2020, we have been sending volunteers to **Thessaloniki** to work in the team of the NGOs „Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki“ (Alkyone) and „United Societies of Balkans“ to care for homeless refugees.

In **Philippiada**, we facilitated online supported learning for refugees in the refugee camp during the lockdown and afterwards. We also provided school materials for about 180 minors.

In **Germany**, we raise awareness about the terrible situation of refugees stranded in Greece and advocate for a more humane refugee policy.

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WAR GUILT AND OBLIGATIONS

The war crimes committed by Germans during the occupation in the Second World War are deeply rooted in Greece's collective memory. The Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS committed massacres against the civilian population. The Jewish communities were wiped out. The country was looted. The infrastructure was destroyed. Little of this is known in our country.

Germany's willingness to help Greece rebuild its country and compensate victims has been shamefully low in the past. With the campaign „German War Guilt and Obligations towards Greece“, we are bringing the debate about Greece's justified claims into the local society and politics. We do public and educational work with the documentary „The Balcony - Wehrmacht Crimes in Greece“ by Chrysanthos Konstantinidis. The movie gives an exemplary report about a massacre of the civilian population in Lyngiades, a village in Epirus.

In Greece, we support some villages and regions that suffered particularly under the German occupation - in their commemoration of the victims, in the medical-social care, in a future-oriented development of the communities.

We do not consider the reparations issue to be settled and are committed to results-oriented negotiations on the unpaid war debt from Germany to Greece!

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Meetings: Usually every first Tuesday of the month at
5pm. For location, see home page, under Dates/ Events

Donation accounts: GLS Bank (IBAN no.)

General DE42 4306 0967 1175 7746 01

Refugee Aid DE15 4306 0967 1175 7746 02

Env. Protection DE85 4306 0967 1175 7746 03

War Debt DE58 4306 0967 1175 7746 04

For all accounts BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Tax number: 27/676/52054

„Respekt für Griechenland e.V.“ is registered as a
non-profit organisation.

Donation certificates will be sent without request at the
beginning of the following year if the address is provided.

Berlin, November 2021