

RESPEKT FÜR GRIECHENLAND E.V.

Information and solidarity work

- > Cooperation in Climate Protection**
- > Work with Refugees**
- > War Guilt and Obligations**



translated by Eva Reichel

ABOUT US

“Respekt für Griechenland” (RfG) was founded in March 2015, when the EU, under German leadership, imposed severe financial cuts on Greece “without respect”. We inform about the ongoing poor economic situation of the majority of the Greek population, contrary to a sugar-coated portrayal in the media. We stand with the refugees whose arrival and everyday lives the Greek government makes massively difficult and inhumane – albeit in step with other European nations. In concrete projects with partners from Greek civil society, to whom we pay our sincere respect, we work for the implementation of human rights and try to contribute to a Europe based on solidarity.

WE

- > engage for and with refugees on Lesbos, in Athens and in Epirus, partly since 2015
- > support and participate in climate protection projects
- > remind people of the war crimes committed by Germans during the Second World War and the exploitation of the country. In Germany we inform about massacres of the civilian population; in Greece we are active in some communities of victims.
- > try to link several fields of work, e.g. remembrance work with ecological projects for the future.

COOPERATION IN CLIMATE PROTECTION

For ten years we have been collaborating with Greek partners in this field. The project “Sustainable Energy Use – Berlin – Athens” was only recently completed (2024/25). It was funded by the EU Erasmus+ School Education programme. The aim was to develop activating methods that go beyond a pure scientific qualification. The National Agency Erasmus+ School Education recognized our innovative formats and noted that we “effectively combined the fields of climate education, participation and inclusion”. Our partners are the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU), the Berlin BNE Centre and Community Energy River (CER) in Athens.

In Athens, CER has developed climate protection workshops for refugee children alongside its school projects, and conducts them with the NGO “Network for Children’s Rights”. CER also offers schools and civil society modules on renewable energy and energy cooperatives.

Our climate protection activities were already established in 2017–2019 through the EUKI project “Climate Schools Be.At” with the City of Athens at more than 70 schools involving around 200 teachers. The project contributed to energy savings at schools through influencing behaviour of consumers; which also affected families. Technical analyses were additionally carried out for the administration. The results were incorporated into materials of the Greek Ministry of Education.

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WORK WITH REFUGEES IN GREECE

Refugees in Greece today often live under even worse conditions than ten years ago. They are frequently accommodated in remote camps, have limited rights in asylum procedures and are quite often exploited as cheap labour.

The volunteers in our project “Volunteers for Lesbos” have been cooperating since September 2025 with the local non-profit organisation “Welcome Office Lesbos”. In this way they are connected with local support structures. They are involved in monitoring human rights violations and providing asylum-law advice up to accessing psychosocial support and accompanying refugees to the authorities.

In Athens we cooperate with the Greek non-profit association “Network for Children’s Rights” (NCR). Together with NCR we fulfill all requirements for offering ERASMUS+ internships. Our volunteers and interns play and learn with children and young people, many of them unaccompanied minors. They and professional staff provide language courses, sports, dance and creative workshops, and advise young people in writing applications.

In Thessaloniki we support “Pervolarides”, a grassroots group working in the field of solidarity economy. Its main task is providing food to people in need, including refugees. In the refugee camp Filippiada we promote learning opportunities for children and young people, among other things by financing school materials.

In Germany we draw attention to the plight of refugees stranded in Greece and advocate a humane refugee policy.

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WAR GUILT AND OBLIGATIONS

The atrocities committed by Germans during the occupation in World War II are deeply rooted in Greece's collective memory. Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS committed massacres of civilians. Jewish communities were wiped out. The country was plundered. Infrastructure was destroyed. Very little of this is known in Germany.

Germany was not willing to help Greece rebuild its country.

Through public relations and educational work, we aim at bringing about a public awareness of justified Greek demands in German society and politics. We use the documentary film "The Balcony - memories of occupation" by Chrysanthos Konstantinidis, which is now available (Greek with German subtitles) together with educational materials on the website of the Federal Agency for Civic Education. We also participated in a Humboldt University exhibition about the deportation of Jewish citizens from Ioannina in March 1944.

In Greece we support some villages that suffered severely under the German occupation. We combine support for commemoration with projects for a sustainable village development. This approach signifies the work of the RfG project manager, Amar Bašić, in Kommeno.

We have advocated result-oriented negotiations on Germany's unpaid war-related obligations and do not consider the issue of reparations to be settled.

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Meetings:

Generally on the first Tuesday of each month at 18:00.

Location: see Website/ Dates/Events.

If you would like to stay regularly informed about our work, subscribe to monthly RfG newsletter via vorstand@respekt-fuer-griechenland.de.

Donation accounts:

GLS Bank

General DE42 4306 0967 1175 7746 01

Refugee Aid DE15 4306 0967 1175 7746 02

Environmental Protection DE85 4306 0967 1175 7746 03

War Guilt DE58 4306 0967 1175 7746 04

BIC for all accounts: GENODEM1GLS

Tax number: 27/676/52054

“Respekt für Griechenland e.V.” is registered as a non-profit association.

Receipts for donations will be sent automatically at the beginning of the following year, if an address is provided.

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