

# Report on European Democracy Lab's Activities during the 2017 Financial Year

## 1. General Information

The **European Democracy Lab e.V.** Association was founded in Berlin to promote education, science and research, the arts, and international understanding.

The Association was registered within the **Register of Associations ('Vereinsregister')** of **Berlin Charlottenburg Country Court** on 21 March 2017 under reference number **VR 35669 B**.

European Democracy Lab e.V. is registered with the Berlin Tax Office for Corporations I (Finanzamt Berlin für Körperschaften I) under the tax identification reference 27/664/50544. As per notification of 20 April 2017, the Tax Office recognised the Association's activities as **not-for-profit**.

European Democracy Lab e.V. is headquartered at the Palais am Festungsgraben, Am Festungsgraben 1, 10117 Berlin, Germany.

## 2. Membership

At the beginning of 2017, the European Democracy Lab e.V. counted 8 full members.

During the course of the year membership developed as follows:

<b>new members</b>	<b>cancellation of membership</b>
5	1

At the end of the year European Democracy Lab e.V. thus had **12 full members**.

Unfortunately, **no sustaining members** joined in 2017.



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## 3. Internal Matters

In 2017, two general meetings were held (on 4 May 2017 and 19 June 2017).

Ulrike Guérot and Linn Wüstenberg resigned from the Board at the general meeting on 4 May 2017. In their stead, Bastian Kenn was elected as First Chair and member of the Board within the meaning of § 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB) (holding sole power of representation) and Julien Deroin as Deputy Chair.

## 5. Activities in 2017

### Development of the Association

In 2017, the Association still focused on the **establishing of structures and the public presence of the Association**.

Registering the Association, having its not-for-profit character recognised, changes on the Board as well as strategic considerations vis-à-vis the positioning of the Association consumed a great amount of time and energy.

In this context, it transpired that a **review of and amendments to the Statutes** were required to provide a solid foundation for the future development of the Association. To this end, a specialist lawyer was commissioned with the preparation of draft Statutes to redefine the composition and duties of the Board, create an Advisory Council as an additional body of the Association and eliminate practical errors in the current Statutes.

Simultaneously, the **design and further development of the website** was a key priority to increase the Association's public visibility and donations. In particular, this encompassed the development and implementation of a website concept, including corporate design, creation of contents on aspects of European politics as well as the integration of external web services for fundraising. These efforts did result in positive developments vis-à-vis website traffic (+100% by the end of the year) and donations during the reporting period.



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## Public Events

In addition to these background activities, the European Democracy Lab e.V. has advocated the Association's objectives and – in particular – the promotion of international understanding and the arts.

In 2017 European Democracy Lab e.V. members were involved as participants in discussions or co-organisers at the following, in part **public events**:

- two-day **"Re-thinking Europe. Europa neu denken. Europa na nowo."** seminar, **4 to 5 October 2017 in Warsaw** (in collaboration with the Global.Lab and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation);
- **Berlin Roundtable on Europe on 12 November 2017 in Berlin** on "How to mobilise Germany for the reconstitution of Europe?" (in collaboration with the Berlin Chapter of La République En Marche!);
- **Presentation and debate on 7 December 2017 in Berlin** on "Why Europe must become a Republic" within the **"European Conversations"** programme of the French cultural centre Relais Culture Europe;
- **Panel Discussion on 12 December 2017 in Berlin** with members of the German Chapter of the newly founded European political movement VoxEurope (now: Volt).

In addition to the dissemination and discussion of an alternative vision of European integration in line with the guiding principles of the European Republic these events served the purpose of networking with other organisations in Germany and beyond.

## 6. Projects Planned for 2018

Finally, we would like to refer to a few important projects European Democracy Lab e.V. initiated in 2017 but which will only bear fruit in 2018 (and, partially, beyond that).

- Since early 2018, European Democracy Lab e.V. has been contributing to the five-year **"Regional Parliaments and the Future of European Democracy" (REGIOPARL) research project** on the role of regional parliaments within the EU. Funded by Forum Morgen, a foundation based in Lower Austria, and led by Danube University Krems, this project will be



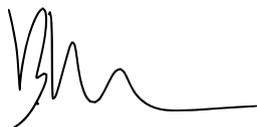
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implemented at the European School of Governance (eusg) in Berlin and with their operational support.

- European Democracy Lab e.V. is planning and coordinating a **pan-European political performance art project on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Proclamation of the Weimar Republic** from 9 to 11 November 2018. This project, supported by theatres and artists from across Europe, will culminate in the proclamation of the European Republic from balconies of historical significance at which a manifesto composed specifically for this purpose will be read out. To include the general public more intimately, this project will be complemented by a range of cultural events and discussions.

- In January 2018, European Democracy Lab e.V., jointly with Open Knowledge Foundation Germany, participated in the Mercator Foundation's "Advocate Europe" ideas contest competition. Fortunately, our concept of a **European Tax Equality Tribunal** was shortlisted and will be further explored at an "Idea Challenge Camp" in Kiev from 25 to 29 April 2018. If the project were to convince the jury in the end, it would be supported by the Mercator Foundation to the tune of €50,000.

Berlin, 13 June 2018



Bastian Kenn  
Chair



Julien Deroin  
Deputy Chair

