

Funding Principles

Important note: Bewegungsstiftung only provides funding upon application. The principles of our funding described here apply to all Bewegungsstiftung's grants programmes. **The provisions of the respective grants programmes also apply and can be found in the respective funding guidelines.**

Application deadlines are given there and in Bewegungsstiftung's publications. Many of the applications we receive do not comply with the guidelines and are therefore rejected in the preliminary examination. **We therefore ask all potential candidates to carefully read these funding principles and the respective programme guidelines.**

Whoever receives funding from Bewegungsstiftung is referred to here as a grantee. The terms „foundation“ and „We“ are used in the same way as „Bewegungsstiftung“.

Our Funding Goals

The people who come together in Bewegungsstiftung have the goal of helping to achieve fundamental political, social and ecological changes and are committed to justice, democracy, human rights, peace, ecology and equality. They are guided by the vision that a peaceful, just and ecological future is possible.

Bewegungsstiftung supports progressive social movements as powerful engines of social change. It does this:

- with money, advice and networking
- at eye level with the grantees
- with staying power, error-friendliness and flexibility
- often where others stop funding.

Social movements work with different means and strategies on many social challenges. Due to its limited possibilities, Bewegungsstiftung concentrates on supporting social movements where public action and other forms of political interference can bring about change or halt negative developments.

Who can apply?

Depending on the specific grants programme, initiatives, organisations and individuals that are part of social movements can apply. We define social movements as networks of individuals, civil society groups and organisations. The network character of social movements means that not social movements as a whole, but only campaigns, initiatives or organisations and individuals (movement workers) within movements can be supported.

For tax reasons, in most programmes only initiatives and organisations recognised as charitable can receive grants. Associations with no legal capacity (initiative groups and others) can apply for grants together with a registered association that has charitable status. In this case, the registered association is the beneficiary of the financial contribution vis-à-vis the foundation. Further details can be found in the funding guidelines of the individual programmes.

Note: Some people from the Bewegungsstiftung environment have joined forces as individuals and set up the **Fonds Zivilcourage (Civil Disobedience Fund)**, which is managed by a trustee. It supports projects that cannot be combined with the narrow criteria of charitable status, as they are based on the principle of civil disobedience. The fund awards campaign grants. The decision on such projects is based on the same criteria as in the case of projects that have charitable status. The contact address for preliminary enquiries and applications is fonds-zivilcourage@posteo.de.

If you would like to send your application in encrypted form, you can request the **Open PGP key** of the **Fonds Zivilcourage** in advance by e-mail.

Who cannot apply?

We do not fund applications from the following applicant groups:

- Foundations,
- Government-related institutions,
- Parties,
- Profit-oriented organisations.

What does Bewegungsstiftung support? (Selection criteria)

Principles

Bewegungsstiftung sees it as its duty to use its funding with the greatest possible effect. Support is preferably given to campaigns, initiatives and organisations or to persons who receive little or no support from other foundations or public institutions due to their objectives or working methods. This is the case, for example, if the issues addressed are new and/or socially highly controversial. Bewegungsstiftung supports the work of existing groups as well as the development of new movement organisations. Above all, we support medium- and long-term strategies for political and social change.

Character of activities

The objectives applied for funding should be pursued with means that correspond to these objectives. The following criteria describe the character of the activities that we require from our grantees and their activities:

- **Nonviolence:** The planned activities must not violate the right to life, physical integrity or dignity of people.
- **Transparency:** The campaign / initiative / organisation is transparent about its goals and activities to the public and takes responsibility for them.
- **Equal rights:** The participation in planned actions must be possible for all people regardless of origin, sexual preference, gender, ethnicity and religion. In exceptional cases (e.g. where discrimination exists), campaigns, initiatives and organisations in which only a specific group participates can also be supported.
- **Ecological:** The projects or persons supported must treat natural resources with care.
- **Fair:** The projects or persons supported must respect the integrity and rights of political opponents and behave fairly at all times – even in disputes.
- **Participative:** The actions and / or processes carried out should encourage people to act on their own („empowerment“) and offer opportunities for participation. People directly affected should always be involved and any form of paternalism or even deprivation of liberty should be avoided.
- **Public welfare oriented:** The objectives should not only benefit a small and closed group, but the whole of society or the entire group affected by a problem or discrimination (e.g. political commitment to the reform of transport policy as opposed to political commitment against the construction of an expressway on one's own doorstep).

Requirements for the grantees

- **Democratic:** Within the grantees, decisions are to be made democratically.
- **Self-critical:** Mistakes offer an opportunity to learn from them. For this reason, activists should have the willingness and take the time to critically reflect on their own actions, possible conflicts in the group and their work.
- **Strategic:** The planned activities and / or processes must be suitable for achieving the goals or getting closer to them against the background of **the political situation and / or the project planning status**.
- **Competent:** The activists must be competent in content and also be familiar with areas such as fundraising and press work. At least they should have the willingness to acquire missing competences competencies??.

What is not supported by Bewegungsstiftung?

We do not support the following projects:

- Financing of direct services (e.g. social work, medical aid)
- Financing of previously obligatory government tasks that can no longer be adequately fulfilled due to budget cuts.
- Projects in the field of international development cooperation.

Cooperation between grantees and Bewegungsstiftung

Bewegungsstiftung sees itself not only as a donor, but also as a partner of social movements. For this reason, Bewegungsstiftung offers its grantees specialist seminars, advice and support as well as participation in committees of the foundation. It is important to us to be in contact with our grantees, to learn from their political work and to promote contacts among grantees. We would therefore like to see active people participate in Bewegungsstiftung's programmes and committees and report on the success or failure of their work (orally and in writing). We are of the opinion that reflection on one's own work can minimise later failures and want to encourage this through the obligation to report. An honest discussion of the mistakes and failures is more important to us than an embellished jubilation report.

How does Bewegungsstiftung decide on funding?

Application deadlines

Deadlines for applications are specified in the guidelines of the individual grants programmes or are published by Bewegungsstiftung. Only applications received by the deadlines specified therein will be considered in the next cycle. As a rule, the decision-making procedure consists of several stages. This is a heavy burden for the people involved, most of whom work on a voluntary basis. We therefore only accept applications that are not too long and that are easy to read. The formal rules can be found in the specific funding guidelines.

Selection procedure

We have a selection system in place for all funding programmes in which various people and groups of the Foundation are involved. The selection procedure for each programme is briefly described in the respective funding guidelines.

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