

Earth-Charter Activities Germany – What happened in 2016:

Earth-Charter Ambassador Training



In 2016 the fifth Earth-Charta Ambassador training took place on two weekends in spring. The 13 participants from all ages and all over Germany got to know the Earth-Charter, learned and tried out EC methods for educational work and had a lot of fun together as a group. The participants from this training are very engaged and keep up with EC activities.

Annual EIOW Spring Meeting – 40 year anniversary



In spring the annual “Ecumenical Initiative One World” (EIOW) meeting took place. It was a special event as it was the 40th anniversary of the organisation. Click [here](#) to read a text Douglas F. Williamson’ guest post.

International Earth-Charter Day



On the 29th of June the first international Earth-Charta Day was celebrated in Germany. It took place in different locations and settings. Some celebrated with their pupils at school or with their colleagues at work. Others invited to celebrate having a pick-nick, barbeque or party. Some watched the movie "Tomorrow" and talked about the content and the Earth-Charter afterwards. Here in Germany we linked our activities to the slogan "a culture of peace" (see EC point 16). [Here](#) you can see an overview over some activities.

In depth seminar on 'Earth-Charter in Schools'



The Earth-Charter in depth-seminar took place in September and dealt with the topic "Earth-Charter in Schools". The 15 participants got a deeper insight on how the EC is used at schools (methods and material). On Friday evening the group got to know each other, shared experiences and got an overview over the current EC work at schools. On Saturday morning Agnes Drude, teacher at the Earth-Charter School (Sekundarschule) in Warburg/Germany and Claudia Güthoff, head master of the school, introduced the three fields in which they work with the EC at their school (a. project days in which pupils choose a topic to work on, b. subject Earth-Charter: here 8th grade pupils can choose the subject Earth-Charter and deal with it and related topics for one school year, c. the EC is ideological orientation frame in the school curricula). Then Ulrike Berghahn, EC ambassador who is engaged in schools, complemented the morning session with her insight knowledge on "what works at schools and with pupils". The participants talked about that questions and found answers to it based on their experiences. In the afternoon they continued in small groups to share knowledge and experience. On Sunday the lessons learnt (what to be aware about when working with pupils) were collected and shared and a really useful list can be taken further from that weekend.

Regional Conference on Sustainable Development



town Marburg signed the Earth-Charter.

On 29-30 October a [regional conference on Sustainable Development](#) was organized by the local Earth-Charter group Marburg. Key speakers were Nico Peach (subsistence economy) and Annete Jensen (happiness economics). Many workshops took place. The

Earth-Charter Time ECHT on local engagement



This year the Earth-Charter Time (ECHT) was set under the topic of local engagement and how it can be alive without being stressed, burnt-out and in personal conflict with others in the end. The workshop took place in the town Rothenburg where an Earth-Charter group is active in local development interlinked with other groups. To bundle their force and activities different groups and people got together under one umbrella - the "energy transition alliance". At the workshop the alliance was introduced and

being used as an example to show how local engagement can work out. Together the participants got into dialogue and analysed how activists can reach their target, where attention should be paid to, how things differ with group size and how the level of energy and fun rises. On Saturday the group had a look at another example of local engagement, they visited a reactivated mill. On Saturday afternoon was time to network, share experience and ask questions. On Sunday the group visited the Franciscan Church to hear a talk from a priest who also is engaged in the town's network of activists. On the weekend linkages were tightened, new ones tied, knowledge shared and questions answered.

The Earth-Charter in Schools

In 2016 several activities took place in schools. The Earth-Charta was introduced to pupils in several schools. On project days some electives were linked to the Earth-Charta. And since autumn 2016 the first Earth-Charta school subject has gone into its first round. We are curious and happy to follow this process.

Workshops and Activities by Ambassadors:

- In 2016 many ambassadors were active with the Earth-Charter. Many talks and day-workshops were given on several topics linked with the Earth-Charter.
- This year two Earth-Charter Theatre Weekend-Workshops on the Great Transition took place. The 16 participants had the chance to learn more about theatre methods and improv skills linked to the topic Earth-Charter, Global Transformation and Change. Using theatre as a tool to communicate and reconnect to our feelings the participants touched not only political topics but also found out more about themselves.
- The weekend workshop “Taking the one world as chance – flight and Arrival in a cooperative world” started with a public talk by Matthias Lanzendörfer from Misereor to look at flight reasons and migration. On Saturday and Sunday the participants had the chance to get a deeper insight into the topic of flight, asylum and the situation in Germany and Europe.
- The Earth-Charter was represented on several congresses this year. For example on the “attac summer school”, a school congress, a “Welcome to Stay”-congress and a church day.
- More EC educational and political activities took place during the last year (see www.erdcharta.de)