



Arbeit an Europa e.V., gemeinnützig
Vorstand: Dr. Simon Strauß, Robert Eberhardt,
Jan Starmans
www.arbeitaneuropa.com
arbeitaneuropa@gmail.com

Project Presentation „European Archive of Voices“

The “European Archive of Voices” is a project of the group “Arbeit an Europa,” a group of young Europeans who have come together to help shape the future of Europe through dialogue and exchange. The primary goal of the project is to establish a comprehensive archive of voices about European ideas. In over 30 European countries, young individuals interviewed men and women who were born during the first half of the 20th century. The recordings of these interviews will constitute the “European Archive of Voices” and provide the foundation of a “narrative space” in which the lives of these “European eyewitnesses” will be reflected against the background of the history of Europe’s post-war unification. The archive is not restricted to the member states of the European Union in an attempt to capture a more complete picture of Europe’s cultural and historical journey.

The “European eyewitnesses” experienced the post-war unification process and in some cases have concrete memories of war, repression and emigration. The selected individuals have lived lives that reflect European history and have, through their intellectual output, influenced the public discourse on Europe. The interviewees are predominantly public individuals, such as journalists, political activists, artists, scientists, diplomats and members of the clergy. Ensuring a large degree of diversity amongst the voices is a declared priority of the initiative.

Every “European eyewitnesses” is interviewed by a young individual from his or her country in their mother tongue. All interviews are based on a catalogue of questions, created in cooperation with the sociologist Heinz Bude and the interviewers during a workshop in Hamburg in January 2019. The team of interviewers encompasses 50 men and women between the ages of 20 and 40.

This intergenerational dialogue is designed to strengthen our historical consciousness, **to explore the layers of European experiences** and bring forth the European notion in the lives of the older generations and pass it on to the young.

The “European Archive of Voices” will be made available online during the second half of this year. The interviews are recorded, transcribed, and translated into English. All the material will be accessible to the public.

The project is sponsored by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, Open Society Foundations and others. An advisory board, which includes Prof. Dr. Aleida Assmann, Prof. Dr. Heinz Bude, Prof. Dr. Peter Raue, Dr. h.c. Michael Krüger, Juliane von Herz, Dr. h.c. André Schmitz-Schwarzkopf and Prof. Dr. Angelo Bolaffi, is supporting the effort intellectually and helping to guarantee a high standard of quality.

The archive will be presented in a number of European cities as a “travelling exhibition” throughout the fall of 2020. In this way, we hope to foster European exchange and dialogue, using our “European Archive of Voices” to stimulate conversations between young and old Europeans across our continent. The Goethe Institute will manage these series of events, which will be one of the six cultural projects officially supported by the German Foreign Office as part of the German presidency of the European Council in the latter half of 2020.