

Bildungswerk Sachsen der Deutschen Gesellschaft e.V.
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Description of Implementation at Bildungswerk Sachsen der Deutschen Gesellschaft e.V.

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„It's up to US
multiplying Theatre of the Oppressed method working for social change”

The European training course "It's up to us" trained between September 2021 and May 2022 about 30 creative and pedagogical people in the methods of the so-called "forum theater". This interactive form of theater is part of the "Theater of the Oppressed," which was developed by the Brazilian Augusto Boal about fifty years ago to give people tools to shape and change their social reality.

In forum theater, people bring conflicts from their personal everyday lives onto the stage in order to actively work on them together with the audience. The audience become "onlooker-players" and try out alternatives to what they see on stage. Thus between stage and audience, structures become more comprehensible and can be changed in unexpected ways.

After the first training course in September 2021, a member of Bildungswerk Sachsen der Deutschen Gesellschaft met with the group of trainees to implement methods of forum theater into so far three readings of her self-written children's books. The first reading took place on September 29th 2021 in Bad Dübener (AWO library), October 6th 2021 at City and School library Domnitzsch on March 16th in Döbeln, Elementary School Mochau.

Please find links to the readings here:

<https://www.boehm-und-boehm.de/termine/termine-2021/>. (Two local activities, one on September 29th 2021 and one on October 6th 2021 with the title: **Theater reading with live drawing for children between 7-10 years old**)

<https://www.boehm-und-boehm.de/termine/termine-2022/>. (One local activity on March 16th 2022, title: **Theater reading with live drawing for children between 7-10 years old**)

Three direct participants of the training course "It's up to us" found inspiration to start their own theater group. Since November 2021 as an ongoing project, about half a dozen people from the "Diakonie am Thonberg", a workplace for people with disabilities in Leipzig, have been trying different forms of theater, experiencing themselves in unfamiliar contexts, and enjoy the fun of playing together. The occupational therapist Kerstin Faulhaber has brought this theater workshop to life. Helena Kauschke, a student of theater studies, now runs the workshop together with Katharina Scherf, co-founder of the Forumtheater group Leipzig.

A first performance is planned for the fall of 2022; more information will follow in due time.

Please find a description of the weekly seminar "**Forumtheater at Diakonie am Thonberg**" here:

<https://www.dg-bildungswerksachsen.org/veranstaltungen-projekte/eu-europa/its-up-to-us/>.

Bildungswerk Sachsen
der Deutschen Gesellschaft e.V.

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Günter Nooke

Bevollmächtigter des Vorstandes:
Dr. Andreas H. Apelt

Additionally, the Bildungswerk Sachsen der Deutschen Gesellschaft e.V. also applied in cooperation with Katharina Scherf, for an Initiative Fond with the forum theater play "*Ode to Work?! - Theater project for the empowerment of precariously employed and unemployed people*" (original title: **Ode an die Arbeit?! - Theaterprojekt zum Empowerment prekär Beschäftigter und Erwerbsloser**). The play is planned to be staged place between August 2022 and December 2022. The day of the event will be published on our website.

After various feedback conversations, all trainees have signalized strong interests to keep working with the acquired methods of forum theater even after the training course series provided by the project initiators. Many networks and friendships could be built that seek future cooperations in the field of Theater of the Oppressed methods. The Bildungswerk Sachsen der Deutschen Gesellschaft e.V. is also looking for opportunities to tie in with future projects also dealing with Theatre of the Oppressed and would like to thank Erasmus +, Horyzonty and all further partners for this opportunity.