

RWE Foundation

Annual Report 2023



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“Acting responsibly, together – this principle has been part of our company’s DNA for 125 years. With the RWE Foundation and its initial capital of 125 million euros, we are once again underlining our commitment to society.”

Dr. Markus Krebber, CEO of RWE AG



Foreword



Dear Readers,

the RWE Foundation can look back on a moving and exciting 2023. Ever since the Foundation was created to mark the 125th birthday of RWE, we were off to a fantastic start. We were delighted to receive more than 100 applications for funding. This shows us that our commitment is important. But we can't accomplish our goals on our own. Together with funding partners, we want to ensure more equal opportunities and enhance social cohesion. With these goals in mind, last year the Advisory Board made its first funding decisions, providing 2,800,000 euros over a period of up to three years beginning in 2024.

The first projects to receive funding will reach children and young people who are not necessarily in a position to take part in society as a whole. One's educational success is still a function of family circumstances, so participation in social life, education and a healthy atmosphere in which to grow up are not equally accessible to all children and people. This is precisely where our funding projects come in.

We have seen a frightening return of antisemitism and xenophobia. One way to counteract this trend is through intercultural understanding. Here, too, we provide funding for projects that promote exposure to other cultures for children and young people from all walks of life. This is where they can experience and practice togetherness in a spirit of respect. Working as closely as possible with institutions such as the educational system is vital to ensuring that our projects can produce sustainable success on behalf of the target groups.

We are looking forward to funding organisations, networking with important players and supporting further innovative and trend-setting projects.

We wish you enjoyable reading.

Erich Thiedemann,
Managing Director RWE Foundation gGmbH

Gabriele Fennagels,
Managing Director RWE Foundation gGmbH



The Foundation



The Foundation

On the way to becoming one of the most sustainable energy companies in the world, we have learned that change begins with ourselves and can succeed only if we resolve to take decisive steps together.

With the RWE Foundation, we want to devote our energy to bringing about sustainable social change, to make a difference in society in the long term.



What is our goal?

Since the Foundation is designed for the long term, its statutes allow it to offer broad support to charitable projects. The Foundation can take an active role on its own or provide funding to other corporate entities in Germany and abroad for the fulfillment of charitable purposes.

How do we contribute?

Together, we can make a real difference. Particularly by helping young people improve their future prospects by ensuring more equal opportunities and promoting intercultural understanding among them.

We are aware that we will not solve this world's problems on our own. But we want to accept our responsibility as a global company and contribute in ways that will make a real difference. That is why we launched the RWE Foundation.



Funding priorities

The RWE Foundation focuses on justice in opportunities along with the international and intercultural understanding that fosters European projects.



We provide funding for projects that benefit socially disadvantaged children and young people with the goal of empowering them to take an active role in society, particularly with regard to educational offerings. To foster more effective social cohesion, we also provide funding to intercultural projects for children and young people who come from all social classes. The goal is for children and young people to experience different cultures and worldviews, enabling them to practice togetherness in a spirit of respect.



Our funding principles are essentially these:

- The aim is to focus on forward-looking, exemplary and sustainable projects.
- Only non-profit and charitable organisations or purposes within the meaning of the section “Tax-privileged purposes” of the German Tax Code (§§ 51 ff AO) are funded.
- Projects in Europe are to be funded.
- The funding period should be limited (max. three years).
- The project to be funded must be based on a long-term concept.
- If possible, the project should not be fully financed by the RWE Foundation alone, whereby own contributions can be made not only in cash.
- Our funding activity begins with funding of at least 20,000 euros. With our funding, we want to support new and established projects, e.g. in their strategic orientation.
- The funding projects should be scalable and sustainable for the target group. In addition, funding over 50,000 euros should be systemically embedded (involvement of public stakeholders).



Management and Advisory Board

Management:



Gabriele Tennagels



Erich Thiedemann

Advisory Board Chairman and members:



Uwe Tigges
(Chairman of the
Advisory Board)



Katja van Doren
(Deputy Chairwoman
of the Advisory Board)



Clare Dunn



Markus Krebber



Roger Miesen



Christopher Savage



Stephanie Schunck



Jens Wiggershaus



Highlights in 2023



Approvals and funding

- In April 2023, the RWE Foundation was endowed with an initial capital of 125,000,000 euros.
- The seed capital was invested in securities via a special fund in order to generate income for the projects.
- The attributable income for the 2023 financial year totalled to approximately 2,300,000 euros.
- In November 2023, the Advisory Board approved a total of seven multi-year projects with funding of around 2,800,000 euros.



Contract signed with the Förderverein Kinderschutzhhaus in Essen e. V.

For 20 years, the Kinderschutzbund (an organization for the protection of children) has dedicated itself to achieving justice in opportunities with its lernHÄUSERN educational centers.

No matter where they come from, their parents' income or professions and the languages they speak, disadvantaged children and young people have a right to a solid education and to take an active role in society. The RWE Foundation is supporting lernHAUS Essen Innenstadt with funding totalling 150,000 euros for a funding period of three years.

The lernHAUS creates a family-like atmosphere where, with its three areas of focus – learning, together with social and emotional support – it holistically fosters the development of children and young people.



The Förderverein Kinderschutzhhaus and the RWE Foundation signed the cooperation agreement on December 21, 2023. Funding begins in January 2024 and will extend through to the end of 2026.

The lernHAUS Essen-Innenstadt offers children and young people in Essen a space in which they can receive care and support.





Contract signed with TalentMetropole Ruhr

TalentMetropole Ruhr is an educational initiative that has been providing support to young people in Germany's Ruhr region for seven years.

The Europe-wide funding project provides young people with digital and social skills. The school pupils who benefit from the initiative strengthen their abilities to deal with digital phenomena such as hate speech, fake news and cyberbullying in a reflective manner and to advocate on behalf of democratic coexistence. They apply lessons learned through instruction, build upon their social skills and develop a responsible approach to the Internet and social media. The teachers who assist with the project receive qualifications in the use of the relevant digital tools.

Working with partner cities in France, Spain and the Czech Republic, for example, the project develops formats for digital exchange among pupils and teachers. In the third year of the project, all of the experiences and results will culminate in an educational festival held in the Ruhr region.



TalentMetropole Ruhr and the RWE Foundation signed the cooperation agreement on December 20, 2023. Funding begins in January 2024 and will extend through to the end of 2026.

#netzTalente is a trend-setting, pro-democracy project that fosters young people's participation in social life.

#netzTalente





Publisher's details

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