

Vidnova - new scholarship program for Activists from the Ukraine

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The EVZ Foundation is funding emergency aid and support for civil society in Ukraine

Berlin (ots) – Vidnova is the name of a new admission program for Ukrainian activists who have fled. The project initially includes scholarships lasting for a number of months for Ukrainian civil society players. Through Vidnova, they receive up to EUR 1,500 per month, as well as additional funds for implementation of their own projects. NGOs throughout Europe are becoming host organizations for scholarship holders, enabling them to continue their commitment to Ukraine whilst in exile. Training, legal advice and network meetings complete the range.

Activists and host organizations can apply now. Vidnova was conceived by the commit gmbH by MitOst e.V. and the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ). An alliance of the EVZ Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Gerda Henkel Stiftung and other organizations supports the program.

Annette Schavan, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the EVZ Foundation: "Civil society in Europe is currently opening temporary shelters for Ukrainian activists – Vidnova symbolizes hope for rapid reconstruction and a peaceful future for Ukraine. The EVZ Foundation stands by the sovereign and democratic state of Ukraine and its civil society – already since 2003, now and in the future. We condemn the Russian war of aggression, which brings untold suffering to the people of Ukraine and disregards all the lessons from history. Even if faith in international understanding seems difficult at the moment, especially when one considers the responsibility for the worst deeds in German history, we must not stop working for democracy, human rights and peaceful coexistence of sovereign states."

Annegret Wulff, managing director of commit: "Vidnova enables activists from Ukraine to continue to be effective in their work. They themselves know best which support tools are appropriate now, and the program aims to reflect this assumption with a very flexible approach. A strong Ukrainian civil society is needed now – and especially in the future."

EUR 1,174 million in emergency aid for Ukraine from the EVZ Foundation

Since the start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the EVZ Foundation has approved EUR 1,174 million for 42 projects as emergency aid. The funds are used to support local partners with food, medicine, sanitary products, (protective) clothing and much more. The recipients are elderly survivors of National Socialist persecution, up to 40,000 of whom were estimated to be living in Ukraine at the outbreak of the war. The 26 projects for the Roma community involve emergency aid for members of the minority. These are often confronted with antigypsyism when they make their escape. Furthermore, the EVZ Foundation is involved in the aid network for survivors of National Socialist persecution in Ukraine by funding the network's coordination office.

Memorial sites, museums, associations and initiatives have come together in the network. Over 300 Ukrainian people have so far been helped in their escape, with housing and other assistance.

About the EVZ Foundation

The mission of the EVZ Foundation is to keep alive the memory of the injustices of National Socialist persecution, to accept the implied responsibility in the here and now, and to actively shape the future. The central motive for the establishment of the Foundation in 2000 was payment of humanitarian compensation benefits to former forced laborers under the National Socialist regime - a milestone in the German process of coming to terms with the past. Through its fields of activity "Education" and "Action", the Foundation now supports projects and activities that assist survivors of National Socialist persecution, promote international understanding and strengthen human rights.

About commit gGmbH by MitOst e.V.

commit gGmbH is a social enterprise created by the organization MitOst e.V. MitOst e.V. is a Berlin-based non-profit association and a network fostering cultural exchange, active citizenship, social cohesion, and sustainable urban and rural development – beyond cultural, sectoral, or linguistic borders.

Further information

- Vidnova Fellowship: <https://vidnova.org>
- Aid to Ukraine www.stiftung-evz.de/ukraine
- Statement from the Board of Directors of the EVZ Foundation <https://www.stiftung-evz.de/wer-wir-sind/neuigkeiten-aus-der-stiftung/neuigkeit/statement-ukraine>
- Aid network for survivors of National Socialist persecution in Ukraine <https://hilfsnetzwerk-nsverfolgte.de/>

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