

## Field Visit Organisations for Wednesday afternoon (22/04)

Offer Nr.	Name + Location	Self-introduction of the organisation
1	<p><b>EmpowerMensch</b></p> <p><i>Excursion to Erfurt</i></p>	<p>EmpowerMensch was established in 2021 as an independent, easily accessible antidiscrimination advice and specialist centre that provides qualified support services in Thuringia for those affected by discrimination.</p> <p>EmpowerMensch aims to advise people who have experienced discrimination and to support them in exercising their right to non-discrimination. In line with fundamental liberal and democratic values, we believe that every person must be guaranteed equal participation in society, without fear of unequal treatment or social exclusion.</p> <p>As a counselling centre, EmpowerMensch adopts an intersectional and horizontal approach that covers all categories of discrimination equally. Our understanding of discrimination is not limited to discrimination in the legal sense, but also encompasses discrimination as a personal experience and as an expression of power relations. Furthermore, education is another key focus of our work at the counselling centre. By organising workshops, seminars, information sessions and specialist events, EmpowerMensch establishes itself as a platform for social and academic exchange. At the same time, it is a priority for us to carefully document counselling cases and analyse the statistics anonymously, so that we can draw important insights from them that are relevant to both civil society and the political sphere.</p>
2	<p><b>European Institute for Youth Education and Exchange Weimar (EJBW)</b></p> <p><i>Excursion to Weimar</i></p>	<p>The European Institute for Youth Education and Exchange Weimar (EJBW) is dedicated to strengthening democracy through youth education and exchange. Its work is guided by the question: What enhances democracy, and what endangers it? The EJBW focuses on key topics such as European education and politics, historical and political education, civic engagement, international youth work, human rights, and anti-racism initiatives like Thuringia's School Without Racism program.</p> <p>The EJBW's pedagogical approach centers on non-formal education, fostering self-aware, open-minded, and socially responsible young individuals. It encourages critical thinking, democratic dialogue, and active participation in shaping a free, fair, and inclusive society. The institute values humanistic principles, respect for diversity, and empathy, promoting autonomous learning through experience, reflection, and intercultural exchange.</p> <p>Using Weimar's rich cultural and historical context, the EJBW connects contemporary socio-political issues with historical perspectives. It also contributes to professional discourse in youth education through programs, publications, and collaboration with national and international networks.</p>
3	<p><b>Demokratie_laden Kahla (Bildungswerk Blitz e.V.)</b></p>	<p>Since 2013, the project Demokratie_laden Kahla has been a central hub for democracy education, promoting civic engagement and social participation in Kahla and the Saale-Holzland district. The project supports interested citizens and civil society actors in actively shaping democracy, and is committed to human rights, diversity and social cohesion. In addition to providing an open meeting place with regular opening hours in the shop premises in Kahla, the team organises</p>

	<p><b>Excursion to Kahla</b></p> <p><b>KoKont Jena (Bildungswerk Blitz e.V.)</b></p> <p><i>Excursion to Jena-Winzerla</i></p>	<p>events, workshops and projects in the areas of remembrance, youth participation and anti-discrimination, and offers advice and networking opportunities in the region.</p> <p>KoKont provides support in the fight against group-focused hostility and carries out projects to strengthen democratic processes. In doing so, KoKont is an active part of civil society and serves as the contact office for the Jena Round Table for Democracy. The Jena Round Table for Democracy is a forum of social and municipal institutions united by the common goal of implementing the Jena „Stadtprogramm“. KoKont coordinates the substantive and structural implementation of the Jena „Stadtprogramm“.</p>
4	<p><b>Network for Democracy and Courage (NDC)</b></p> <p><i>Presentation at EAH Jena Room: 05.00.10</i></p> <p><b>Mobile Counseling in Thuringia (MOBIT)</b></p> <p><i>Presentation at EAH Jena Room: 05.00.10</i></p>	<p>Social work is grounded in the protection of human rights. When these rights are challenged in everyday life, preventive political education becomes a key approach to strengthen awareness and action. The Network for Democracy and Courage (NDC) in Thuringia is part of a nationwide network and one of the largest civic education projects in the region. Our work focuses on preventive educational programs, mainly with young people from grade 5 onwards, using a peer-based approach that encourages exchange at eye level.</p> <p>We design and facilitate interactive project days and trainings that address different forms of discrimination, including racism, classism, sexism, queer hostility, and exclusionary nationalist ideologies. Our goal is to sensitize participants to these issues, provide knowledge, and strengthen their ability to act in situations of discrimination. At the same time, we promote solidarity with those affected and encourage participants to speak up and take a stand in their daily lives.</p> <p>In addition to school-based work, we engage with trainees, voluntary service groups, university students, people with learning difficulties, and multipliers. During this session, you will gain insight into our methods, our peer-to-peer approach, and the role of preventive political education in supporting human rights and democratic values in social work contexts.</p> <p>Mobile Counseling in Thuringia: For Democracy – Against Right-Wing Extremism (MOBIT) provides guidance and support to anyone in Thuringia who wishes to take action against right-wing extremism, racism, conspiracy theories, and antisemitism, and to promote democratic values. Our counseling is tailored to the needs of local actors – whether private individuals, (local) politicians, government agencies, schools, (local) coalitions, initiatives, clubs, or associations – and the specific circumstances. In addition to imparting knowledge, the focus is on strengthening practical skills and fostering initiative.</p> <p>MOBIT sees itself as a professional, issue-specific, needs- and resource-oriented, dialog-based and transparent, non-party and undenominational, external and independent partner and service provider for democratic civil society. In addition to consulting, MOBIT also offers various educational programs on addressing right-wing extremism for different target groups. These programs can be tailored to the target group’s prior knowledge, needs, and time constraints.</p>
5	<p><b>Institute for Democracy and Civic Society (IDZ)</b></p>	<p>The Institute for Democracy and Civil Society (IDZ), based in Jena, Germany, is a social scientific research institute dedicated to the strengthening of democratic culture and civil society in the German state of Thuringia and beyond. Central task of the institute is the identification and scientific analysis of antidemocratic phenomena, structures, and efforts. Our main fields of</p>

<p><b>Presentation at EAH Jena</b> <b>Room: 05.01.32/33</b></p>	<p>research include discrimination, prejudice and group-based enmity, hate crime and hate speech, right-wing extremism and right-wing populism, protest, antisemitism, and the effects and dynamics of digitalization on these issues. The institute follows a public understanding of social scientific research, as the transfer of knowledge between academia, civil society, and politics constitutes a central pillar of our work. The involvement and participation of particularly civil society representatives plays an essential role in the whole research process, from the development of research questions via the conceptualization and realization of research projects to the publication and targeted provision of research findings and data. The institute was founded in 2016 under the sponsorship of the Amadeu Antonio Foundation. It is funded by the „State Program for Democracy, Tolerance and Open-Mindedness“ of the state Thuringia. At IDZ, a number of different research projects are located. Since June 2020, the IDZ is furthermore one of 11 locations of the Research Institute for Social Cohesion (RISC), funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).</p>
<p><b>Violence Prevention Network (VPN)</b></p> <p><b>Presentation at EAH Jena</b> <b>Room: 05.01.32/33</b></p>	<p>Violence Prevention Network is a group of experienced specialists who have been successfully engaged in the prevention of extremism, as well as in the de-radicalisation of criminals motivated by extremism. Since 2001, the Violence Prevention Network team has been working successfully to reduce ideologically- and religiously-motivated, serious crime and extreme acts of violence committed by youths. By way of its long-standing work with right-wing extremist youth and those in danger of joining Islamism, the Violence Prevention Network team has acquired expertise in the field of working with ideologically motivated criminal offenders that is recognised throughout Europe. In the method of Verantwortungspädagogik® (Education of Responsibility), Violence Prevention Network has identified a way to address people who have affiliated themselves with anti-democratic structures without humiliating them, thus facilitating their re-integration into the democratic community.</p> <p>The work of Violence Prevention Network is directed at many people. Students, teachers, social workers, and professionals benefit from our offerings as well as parents seeking advice. But our trainers also speak directly with offenders. To curtail hatred and violence, radicalisation and extremism, in the long run, it is absolutely indispensable to speak with the people who are themselves violent in the name of a religion or an ideology. If we want to tackle the phenomenon of extremist violence, the protagonists must not be ignored. We regularly hear calls to „lock them up“ as soon as a particular hate crime is uncovered. Then, too often, an authoritarian demonstration of power is mistaken for political responsibility. But a humanist approach takes responsibility. Every individual can change his or her behaviour if he or she learns the necessary skills: the ability to maintain relationships, empathy, a sense of responsibility and selfreflection. This approach contains within it the clear and unambiguous rejection of violence, and at the same time, the unconditional recognition of the human dignity of the perpetrators. Without making light of the perpetrators' actions or the suffering of their victims. This attitude is our responsibility.</p>

Range of services:

In order to reach a broad spectrum within the target group, prevention as well as intervention measures are used, and in particularly entrenched cases, deradicalisation measures and disengagement assistance are provided. Student workshops in schools on interfaith and intercultural responsibility Advice for parents, mosque congregations and other interested parties within the framework of preventive work Civic education for promoting tolerance and democratic capability Information, awareness-raising and educational events for early detection and strengthening the coping skills of persons who are in contact with vulnerable young people Advice for relatives when dealing with religious extremism Advice, support and special training for adolescents at risk of becoming radicalized prior to delinquency Disengagement assistance: advice and dialogue-promoting measures with radicalists, foreign fighters and returnees (e.g. from Syria)