

**Quality drive for early education**

A quality drive has been launched to improve education in early childhood in Germany, directed at the approximately 380,000 professionals working in German preschool facilities. The kick-off event for the **Advancing Further Education of**

**Early Childhood Professionals (WIFF)** program, a joint initiative by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, took place in Berlin in March. The Deutsche Jugendinstitut e.V. will be responsible for designing the professional elements and implementing the program, set to run for the next five years.



**Co-Production Prizes for 2009**

Three German/Eastern European co-production teams have been awarded **2009 Co-Production Prizes** by the Robert Bosch Stiftung at the goEast Festival in Wiesbaden. Each worth up to €70,000, the prizes support teams in producing films.

**Robert Bosch Junior Professorship**

Asia Khamzina is Robert Bosch Junior Professor 2009. The 32-year-old from Uzbekistan will receive up to one million euros for a five-year research project on **sustainable use of renewable natural resources**. The hydraulics engineer was awarded the professorship on the basis of outstanding achievements and an ambitious project. Based at the Center for Development Research at Bonn University, she will investigate how reforestation in Central Asia can improve the global CO2 balance.



Looking to the future: Recipients of funding for international junior management trainee programs at the Bosch Haus Heidehof. Photo: Thiele

**Ten cities in pursuit of knowledge**

Germany's "research expedition"

**Darmstadt** | dra | "Where is science heading?" This was the question asked at the kick-off event for A Meeting with Science - a program of events funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung to mark the Year of Science 2009.

The Year of Science events are aimed primarily at young people and are designed to inspire interest in science, to convey some of the fascination of the subject, and to facilitate exchange between scientists and citizens. The programs are organized by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Science in Dialogue initiative; and the Stiftung is one of the organizations supporting the project. This year participants are being sent on a "research expedition" through Germany.

The Meeting with Science program kicked off in Darmstadt on April 29. Citizens and scientists will gather in each of the ten participating cities - Aachen, Bremen, Darmstadt, Dresden, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Jena, Karlsruhe, Mainz, and Nürnberg - to discuss questions such as "Is there enough energy to go round?" and "Is democracy fair?" In Darmstadt, experts from the

worlds of science and business debated the conditions for successful transfer of technology between universities and companies. Great progress has been made in this area over the past ten years according to Reiner Anderl, vice president of the TU Darmstadt. But universities need to play a more active part in improving cooperation with companies.

Germany's "research expedition" marks the 60-year anniversary of the Federal Republic. The initiative invites citizens to discover both the scientific achievements of the past and the importance of research to a successful future.

There will be numerous events held throughout the year, including two mobile exhibitions: the science train Expedition Zukunft and the ship of the future MS Wissenschaft. The Research Expedition City is aimed at young scientists. More than 2,000 school pupils in over 60 towns and cities will explore science in their home town as part of a business game. There is a great deal at stake here: the prize is the opportunity to partake in a real research expedition.

► www.forschungsexpedition.de



First stop Darmstadt: Experts discuss the transfer of technology between universities and business. Photo: Markus Schmidt

**Developing innovative solutions for social issues**

The Robert Bosch Stiftung last year invested €60 million to unlock potential in our society

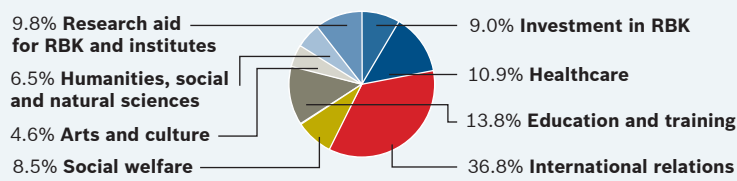
**Stuttgart** | szm | The projects funded by the Stiftung - in keeping with the values of Robert Bosch and the brief he established - develop specific solutions for important national and international issues. Typical examples include the integration of migrants, shaping of demographic change, education, health and age, and sustainable use of our natural resources.

The dividend payments that the Stiftung receives as a shareholder of Robert Bosch GmbH fund the foundation's investments. And just like the development departments in the company itself, the Stiftung pursues the goal of bringing viable high-quality solutions and ideas to the market. In the case of the Stiftung, however, the market is society. The Robert Bosch Stiftung has been honored a total of five times during 2008 and 2009 in a nationwide German ideas competition called "365 Landmarks in the Land of Ideas" - more than any other German organization.

**Facilitating contact**

At an international level, foundations can help to maintain constructive dialogue - even where there is ill will - to reach a differentiated understanding of conflict

**The Stiftung in numbers**



The chart shows the **total funding provided by the Stiftung in 2008**, broken down into the principal funding areas, the Robert Bosch Krankenhaus (RBK) and the institutes. Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH's holding in the capital stock of Robert Bosch GmbH remains unchanged at 92 percent (€1,200 million). This holding generated a dividend of **€64.3 million** for the Stiftung last year.

situations and to foster understanding for others by facilitating contact between young people in particular. A summit meeting for European citizens, an exchange program for young executives working in government administration across Europe, German-Russian talks between young entrepreneurs - these are just some of the programs that have been initiated over the past year with these goals in mind.

Support of cultural projects has an especially important part to play. For instance, the Stiftung has supported authors and literary translators for many years, and this support was extended to China

in 2008. In almost every case, the individual is at the center of these projects. One example is the Young Ideas for Europe scheme. Young people are encouraged to take an active role in shaping their own environment and to discuss issues relating to the future of Europe with other young people.

**Safeguarding the future**

Science and research help to safeguard the future prospects of our societies and to solve global issues. In 2008, the Robert Bosch Stiftung awarded the first Robert Bosch Junior Professorship for Research into the Sustainable Use of Renewable Natural Resources.

The first Junior Professorship went to zoologist Nina Farwig, who is researching the effects of rainforest fragmentation on biodiversity in Eastern Africa.

**Accelerating reforms**

In Germany, the Stiftung has strengthened its involvement over the past year in a number of programs relating to the transition from school to higher education and the world of work. The German School Prize, various educational programs and a research program all represent ways in which the Stiftung contributed to accelerating educational reform in Germany in 2008.

In the area of "Age and Demography," one of the focal points of last year was to highlight the fact that age can be associated with initiative and innovation. The Stiftung has also been concentrating on some of the more difficult aspects of aging - such as multimorbidity and dementia. These are just a few examples out of the 850 or so projects that have been funded over the past year.

► **A full report** on the Robert Bosch Stiftung's work in 2008 can be found at [www.bosch-stiftung.de](http://www.bosch-stiftung.de)

**No longer such a thing as "the old"**

Exhibition at the Grassi Museum in Leipzig explores the issue of aging around the world

**Leipzig** | str | How should young people behave toward older people? What stories do older people pass on to the next generation? And what do people do to stay young? The FaltenReich - Vom Alterwerden in der Welt ("Rich in Wrinkles - Aging Around the World") exhibition explores these questions in relation to the process of growing old - but not simply as a naval-gazing look at central European traditions and behaviors. Instead the curators at Leipzig's GRASSI Museum of Ethnography have created a trip around the



**Facets of humanity: Child and old man.** Photo: FaltenReich

world, bringing to life the cultural aspects of age and aging in different regions of our planet.

For example, visitors encounter a Chinese "longevity coffin," traditionally presented to a father on his 60th birthday by his son. They can listen to conversations with grandmothers from Germany or Durban in South Africa, and discover astonishing differences between central Europe and India when it comes to the search for eternal youth through Ayurveda, a traditional medicine system native to India. This diverse and colorful

view of aging is accompanied by an extensive program of events funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, including events for schools, theater, concerts, a film festival, a lecture series at the University of Leipzig, and numerous workshops.

The exhibition shows that clichés about aging are out of date. There is no longer such a thing as "the old" - anywhere in the world.

► **Opening times:** 10am to 6pm Tuesday to Sunday. The exhibition runs until October 4. More info at [www.faltenreich-ausstellung.de](http://www.faltenreich-ausstellung.de)

**Strengthening the voice of citizens in Europe**

**Berlin** | ch | Improve educational opportunities, regulate international financial markets and promote renewable energies - these are three of the ten recommendations made by German citizens for the European Union.

Around 150 men and women, students and pensioners, employed workers, self-employed workers, and jobseekers from across Germany traveled to Berlin to the European Citizens' Consultation at the invitation of the Robert Bosch Stiftung. In the Weltsaal of the German Foreign Office the randomly and representatively selected citizens developed their vision for the economic and social future of Europe. The citizens also voiced their concerns about lack of transparency, rising unemploy-

ment - and the lack of citizen participation in the EU.

Strengthening citizen participation is one of the principal aims of the European Citizens' Conventions. The project is funded jointly by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Belgian King Baudouin Foundation, and other European partners, and takes place simultaneously in all 27 EU countries. To give citizens a voice at the very highest level, all 27 recommendations are taken to a European Citizens' Summit in Brussels. The resulting European Citizens' Declaration is presented to the Presidents of the EU Commission and the European Parliament in person.

► [www.european-citizens-consultations.eu](http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu)