

On immigration from Turkey

Studies in European countries have shown that the second and third generations of some Turkish families are achieving less at school than their parents. **Mayors** from Germany, France, and Belgium met in Berlin in December to discuss ways for local

authorities to respond. The meeting, which focused on schools and economics, was part of a series of discussions promoting an international exchange between local authorities and supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the King Baudouin Foundation and the Ludwigsburg Deutsch-Französisches Institut.



Following in Voltaire's footsteps

The **Prix de l'Académie de Berlin** 2009 has been won by historian and publicist Johannes Willms, whose works focus on France and French history. The Académie follows in Voltaire's footsteps by promoting intellectual exchanges and dialogue between Germany and France.

The rights of future generations

Prof. Udo Di Fabio considered the rights that would protect future generations, and not just from a lawyer's perspective. The judge from the German Constitutional Court was speaking in Stuttgart at the foundation's invitation. Di Fabio said growth was a good guarantee of stability, but that economic decision-makers too often focused on short-term benefits. The financial crisis has shown that the state and economy need a **source of spiritual strength** that he sees in western cultural traditions.

Stiftung supports soccer in efforts to communicate democratic values

Soccer clubs are setting up learning centers in their stadiums to offer educational programs to fans

Bremen/Dortmund | kv | Every German soccer fan will be familiar with the rivalry between Borussia Dortmund and Schalke 04. "Ten years ago this was merely a sports rivalry," says Thilo Danielsmeyer. "But these days, some fans attack each other on sight."

Danielsmeyer has run the Dortmund Fan Project for 20 years and has witnessed a growing tendency towards violence among younger fans, whose violence threshold appears considerably lower than a few years ago. Local rivalries are coming to the fore, with grievances taking on an increasingly racist and extreme right-wing tone.

One example is the "Subway Song," an abusive chant that hooligans from Dortmund and Gelsenkirchen use to taunt each other. Dortmund fans sing of building a subway train from Gelsenkirchen to Auschwitz; the Schalke 04 fans' train departs from Dortmund but has the same destination.

Addressing discrimination

A group of young people is sitting in the learning center right next to the players' locker room, in the belly of the Dortmund Westfalenstadion stadium. One Dortmund fan leaps angrily to his feet, arguing that the "Subway Song" has nothing to do with right-wing views or racism, and that it is simply directed at Schalke 04. Does he see Auschwitz merely as another expletive that does not really mean anything?

The Dortmund learning center for soccer fans was set up in 2004 in response to a call for programs addressing the causes of discrimination and violence among soccer fans. The Robert Bosch Stiftung fully supports the program and enabled 78 school classes to visit the learning center during the past year alone. The young participants are shown round the stadium and the club's museum and offices. In the learning center itself, they watch a short film about the former German national player Julius Hirsch, who was forced to

board the train to Auschwitz in 1943 - and never came back. The Dortmund fan who jumped up earlier looks shocked and upset. The apparently harmless "Subway Song" has now become poignant and real.

New learning centers

The stadium in Bochum gained its own learning center in 2009, and Berlin and Bremen are set to follow suit this year. "We can't choose our fans; they come of their own accord," says the president of Werder Bremen, Klaus-Dieter Fischer. "However, we need to maintain and nurture our relationship with them. Any fans who offend our values must instead be encouraged to embrace these ideals." School visits are also planned to the East Curve Hall of the Bremen stadium, and an additional focus is placed on young people from immigrant families who love soccer but rarely venture to the stadium.

The idea of learning in a soccer stadium originated in England. In 2003, Danielsmeyer and some colleagues from the Dortmund youth welfare office visited the study support centers of some top English clubs, where educational programs for fans were set up in unused rooms of stadiums. Back in Dortmund, Danielsmeyer looked for partners to help him implement the idea. The club, which was in dire financial straits at the time, allowed him to use the room next to the players' locker room. "We'll pay for it ourselves," Danielsmeyer assured the club managers. He first made contact with the foundation at a cultural event in the stadium.

"Stadiums are popular attractions for young people," says Danielsmeyer. "And soccer is still a major part of youth culture - despite all the trendy new sports." He believes that the learning center has put Dortmund at the forefront of fan-related projects in Germany. This year the foundation will implement the idea in other stadiums in which learning centers are being established.



Fans flock to soccer stadiums to support their teams, celebrate, cheer... and learn. Photo: Björn Hänssler

Interview: Soccer and the values of democratic society



Klaus-Dieter Fischer, president of Werder Bremen. Photo: werder.de

► What does soccer have to do with social responsibility?

Soccer's prominent position within society means that the clubs and players in the German soccer league can be both positive and negative role models. We must therefore do all we can to stamp out discrimination, prevent violence and encourage fair play, and we have to accept social responsibility. In particular, we should provide long-term support for problem areas within society and for organizations that are working with the younger generation.

► Does soccer have a message that you would also like to communicate?

Soccer teaches many of the values that are important in a democratic society: Tolerance, mutual cooperation and support, fair play, accepting defeat, and not attaching too great a significance to winning.

► You have had a leading role in the club since 1970. How have the fans' demands and behavior towards the club changed since then?

The "fan culture" is completely different from how it used to be. The days when executive directors stood alongside dock workers on the terraces of a soccer stadium are long gone - partly due to the level of comfort in the stadiums that has made tickets for the game unaffordable to some sectors of society. That is why it is important to use

the expensive seats in VIP boxes to subsidize the seats for young and less wealthy fans in particular, so that we can keep prices down for them. This development has also led to many people viewing the game and everything that goes with it as an event; fans who are "only" interested in the soccer expect us to uphold club traditions and remain close to the fans, especially the club's management and players.

► What do you expect the new learning center at Bremen to achieve?

Above all, I expect the communication of values to make people realize that violence and discrimination have no place in a democratic society. As regards soccer, this means that, while competitiveness is part of sport, hostility and hatred are unacceptable in both thought and deed.

Journalists honored



Prize-winner Buchmeier (left) with Kurt Liedtke, Robert Bosch Stiftung. Photo: Susanne Kern

Stuttgart | jh | "If you can keep following the path for which you are being honored today, this will be the most important thing you can achieve as a journalist," said speaker Johannes Grotzky: "Specifically, to contribute to the democratic way in which our society functions." The director of radio programming at Bayerischer Rundfunk was speaking in Stuttgart at the ceremony for the Journalist Prize for Civic Involvement 2009. The foundation awards this prize annually to honor outstanding contributions by people who take responsibility for themselves and others.

The print category was won by Frank Buchmeier of the *Stuttgarter Zeitung* for his article "One morning at the sundial hut." Other awards were presented to Liane Gruß, Martin Schneider, and Momo Falthaus of Radio Fritz for their series "They'll do it. Portraits of volunteers," and to Lutz Ackermann, Anita Blasberg, and Marian Blasberg for their documentary film broadcast by ZDF, "The rejected - the story of a deportation."

The Marion-Dönhoff Award was won by Denise Bergfeld for her article in *Rhein-Zeitung*, "Marthe's long road back to life."

► www.journalistenpreis.info

The voice of European youth

Berlin | kv | The Swedish ambassador in Berlin, Ruth Jacoby, was impressed by the students, commenting: "A paper like this could have more influence than generally anticipated." Students from Erfurt had presented her with their "New Energy for Europe" action plan, put together by more than 400 young people from all over the EU. Jacoby accepted the action plan on behalf of the Swedish government, which currently holds the EU Presidency.

The action plan is part of the Robert Bosch Stiftung's "Young Ideas for Europe" initiative and contains the young people's demands relating to energy policies, such as the establishment of a European research institute for alternative energy sources. The youngsters also presented the action plan to the vice president of the EU Commission, Margot Wallström, in December and took part in a conference in Malmö and the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. "It was really exciting to meet the experts and learn from them. It has made me even more interested in politics and the various issues," commented one participant from Hungary.

Germany and Russia in Europe

Journalists from both countries take stock: Alignment based on common interests and values

Moscow | bz | The Robert Bosch Stiftung invited both Russian and German journalists to Moscow in mid-January for discussions aimed at defining the position of Europe. How is Europe portrayed in the media, what expectations are linked with its institutions, and what has changed for Russia and Germany since the fall of the Iron Curtain? Germany was represented by chief editors and experienced journalists from the worlds of print media and television, while the Russian delegation consisted of representatives of leading media.

The journalists delivered a harsh initial assessment at the beginning of the meeting, with the



Hans-Ulrich Jörges (Stern) and Peter Limbourg (N24). Photo: Asprien

westerners casting doubt on commitment to a common European canon of values and its potential for integration.

Some of the Russian participants believed that interest in

Europe is giving way to an unsentimental pragmatism. They considered alignment based on common interests to be the way forward, particularly with regard to economic relations. With a market

share of 52 percent, the EU is Russia's principal trade partner.

Major crossroads

According to Russian expert Ivan Krastev, head of the Center of Liberal Strategies in Sofia, relations between the EU and Russia are at a major crossroads, and both parties need to reconsider their strategies in view of the global economic crisis and the shift of economic and political power to Asia. He warned that the EU and Russia will only have a future in the global world if they join forces, and that it would be unwise for either party to ignore this prediction.

This gloomy analysis met with resistance from the journalists.

While Arkady Dubnov of the *Vremya Novosti* newspaper) did not doubt the possibility of adopting common values with Germany and Europe, but was more skeptical with regard to Asia. Johannes Voswinkel of *Die Zeit* believed that even business partnerships that are built upon common interests cannot thrive unless they also have some shared ideals. Finally, according to Alexander Görlach of *The European*, Europe's attitudes towards life and extensive personal freedom make it attractive in spite of everything.

The dialogue among journalists is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Deutschen Digital Instituts.