



Go Ahead! members' meeting 2016

On April 24, 2016, Go Ahead! members met in Heidelberg for one day in order to work on substantial issues. Following the team workshops, the 8th Go Ahead! members' meeting took place.

The members' meeting is an opportunity for the Go Ahead! members to take a look at the past year, to reflect on successes and challenges alike and to elect the coming year's board.

In 2015, we were especially pleased with the cooperation with our partners in sub-Saharan Africa, most notably our cooperation with the Transitions Foundation which has proved successful since it was started one year ago. Concerning Heartbeat, another partner organization, Go Ahead! has always been encouraging the association to seek independence from foreign funding by raising government funds. That is why we warmly appreciate the structural changes that render public sponsorship possible. In the long term, it is an opportunity for Heartbeat to become less dependent on financial funding by Go Ahead!

The excellent work of Go Ahead! university groups in 2015/16 was pointed out as well. The local groups were an enormous help to the association by organizing events and raising substantial funds. Their work also enhanced the general public's interest in Go Ahead! as well as name recognition. Also, the association was able to attract a lot of new coworkers and members in the past year. By the end of 2015, Go Ahead! had 701 members.

There were many highlights in 2015: For example, as a part of fundraising, Go Ahead! was lucky to get a spot in the "24 Good Deeds 2015" Advent calendar, thus raising € 7,529.25 for our project partner Transitions Foundation. In marketing, we finished reworking our corporate identity, so Go Ahead! got a new look in 2016. On this occasion, the new homepage went online as well. The school workshop team finalized the concept for senior classes early in 2016. This workshop can now be offered in German schools in addition to middle school workshops, furnishing information on sub-Saharan Africa. The concept for senior classes focuses on the issues of "postcolonialism" and "eurocentrism" as well as on different (critical) perspectives on young people volunteering in countries of the Global South.

Next on the agenda was the association's financial development between the last members' meeting (in May 2015) and the annual closure in December 2015:



The cash balance on December 31, 2015, was € 126,959.05. In 2015, total revenue in donations increased by approx. 24% compared to 2014 (donations in 2014: € 117,283; major reasons: winning a tender by the development foundation of Baden-Wuerttemberg, SEZ, worth € 16,500; completion of two BRICKS projects in 2015 as compared to one project in 2014).

After the presentation of the financial statement, first chairperson Johanna Reimers acted as deputy and presented the cash auditors' report.

Next on the agenda was the election of the board for the next 12 months.

The association gives thanks to board members Daniela Herrmann, Johanna Reimers and Patrick Paul Pilorz for their commitment in the past board year. For time reasons, they have to give up their honorary work as board members. Joris Kruse, Lisa Evers, Regina Bösl and Sebastian Wittag were elected onto the board for the first time. The new board is now headed by Anne-Marie Parth and Joris Kruse. Rico Bergemann and Gina Burgard remain part of the team.

Last year's cash auditors were re-elected. Also, it was decided to keep up the minimum membership fee of one euro per month. Another resolution was an amendment of the statutes in order to enhance the association's legal protection.

Finally, the association's goals for 2016 were presented:

One Go Ahead! goal in 2016 is to found two new university groups. Planning of the 2016 campaign will be continued; the campaign will go by the name of "Blickwechsel 2016" ("Change of Perspectives 2016"). Its core theme will be a reverse study tour with Go Ahead! partners from sub-Saharan Africa. Also, there are plans for numerous new projects and events such as poetry slams.