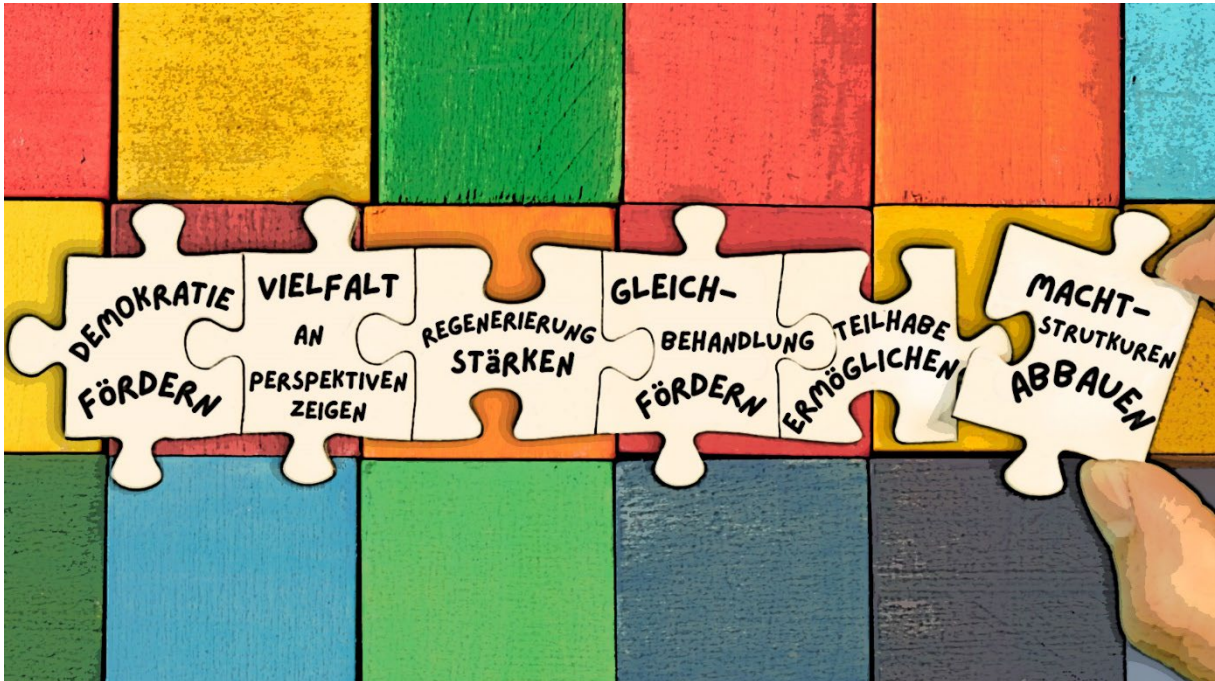


**Mission Statement of the WeltWeitWissen
Congress 2024**

The Mission Statement



The WeltWeitWissen Congress is an educational congress focused on Global Learning and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Following a Whole Congress Approach, modelled on the Whole Institution Approach to ESD, those involved in organising the congress have worked on the following pillars of the mission statement:

- Promoting Democracy
- Showing Diversity of Perspectives
- Strengthening Regeneration
- Promoting Equality
- Enabling Participation
- Dismantling Power Structures

The aim of the mission statement is to create a participatory, democratic, sustainable, inclusive, non-discriminatory, and political congress, while also providing guidance for action.

This mission statement serves as a guideline for the congress organisers and is also intended to be a template for future WeltWeitWissen congresses and other events. The mission statement will be published in two versions: a detailed version with specific recommendations for the organisers and a simplified version in plain language, summarising the key points for participants and speakers.

To ensure the congress adheres to our mission statement, all speakers and contributors will receive an introduction to the mission statement and our strategy for anti-discrimination and diversity orientation.

Promoting Democracy

What do we mean by this?

Democracy is a term used for forms of governance. In a democracy, this governance is based on the participation of all in political decision-making. Promoting democracy is understood as a process-oriented concept aimed at improving access to democracy, thereby enabling participation and co-determination for all. For us, this means that everyone involved in the congress must have knowledge of democratic processes, which should be translated into concrete actions that promote democracy. Moreover, structures must be designed to be democracy-friendly. This requires establishing participation as a fundamental principle and working method.

What does this mean for us?

We aim to foster a democratic learning culture: This is based on shared responsibility, a culture of error tolerance and feedback, and a generally appreciative attitude, as well as mindful interactions. Everyone involved in the congress should see themselves as learners and contribute to the critical examination of processes, content, and the mission statement itself.

How do we implement this?

Mission Statement

- Provide comprehensive information to multipliers (e.g., speakers) on all mentioned points through a preparatory event.
- This will be done via the congress website, through information provided in advance in invitations, calls for participation, as well as clear and visible posters during the congress.
- Present the guidelines during the congress.
- Involve congress participants in documenting the event.
- Engage participants through various low-threshold and accessible formats and supportive offers during the congress (e.g., open space and discussion formats).
- Provide opportunities for feedback through feedback boxes for anonymous messages or directly to the awareness team.

Feedback and Awareness

- Provide an opportunity for feedback to evaluate future WeltWeitWissen congresses.
- A trained awareness team equipped with decision-making competences will be available to intervene as needed in cases of discrimination.
- Posters and symbols at the congress will clearly mark a stance against anti-democratic behaviour and any form of discrimination.
- Critical friends will accompany the congress. Critical friends are several individuals who attend the congress and observe it from a particular perspective (e.g., assessing the success of diversity orientation), providing constructive and critical feedback at the end.

Showing Diversity of Perspectives

What do we mean by this?

We see diversity of perspectives as an enrichment for a pluralistic global society. It is therefore necessary to point out inequalities, question social 'normalities' and make perspectives that are underrepresented due to power relations more visible. In addition, diversity of perspectives itself must be made a topic and meta-reflected. In particular, it is necessary to present Eurocentric and imperial ways of thinking as such. Structures that prevent a diversity of perspectives must be named. It must become clear which perspectives are accepted and valued in Western societies - and which are not.

What does this mean for us?

The topic of diversity of perspectives should be reflected upon in detail: To this end, it is important for us to review our Eurocentric understanding of knowledge and education in advance as well as during the congress. Democracy needs in particular the representation of diverse experiences and lifeworlds and thus multi-perspectivity. To this end, the congress should reach as many people as possible from the most diverse backgrounds. The focus here should be on groups that have been underrepresented to date. In this way, familiar patterns of interpretation and ways of thinking can be questioned.

How do we implement this?

Self-reflection

- The training courses taking place in preparation for the congress are explicitly dedicated to the topics of inclusion and critique of power in "Globales Lernen" and "BNE".
- Specific spaces/locations will be offered during the congress for anonymous exchange (on interactive pinboards) or with other participants on diversity of perspectives (in open space formats, among others).

Representation

- Enable participation through different social and working forms and event formats.
- Events can be offered as live streams or recorded and uploaded afterwards.

- Representative selection of speakers / workshop leaders with different backgrounds and from different disciplines to present a wide range of perspectives.
- 'Reverse mentoring': less experienced or younger people can impart knowledge, perspectives and insights to an experienced or older person. They take over the management of events and workshops.

Exchange

- Small group activities, Q&A sessions and open discussions allow participants to actively participate and contribute their perspectives.
- Encourage interaction between participants through networking opportunities, informal meeting places and social activities.

Strengthening Regeneration

What do we mean by this?

Sustainability or sustainable development means satisfying the needs of the present without restricting the opportunities of future generations. It is important to consider the three dimensions of sustainability (economically efficient, socially just, ecologically viable) on an equal footing. It is therefore important to conserve resources as much as possible, to favour regional products and service providers, to keep travel and transport routes as short as possible, to recycle products and to reduce CO2 emissions.

What does this mean for us?

Travelling to and from the congress, between individual venues and moving around the city can have a high environmental impact. For this reason, care should be taken to ensure that journeys are kept as short as possible and that the use of public transport is favoured and made possible. The choice of food on offer can have a major impact on the climate. We try to promote the sustainable use of resources through good planning, regional, seasonal and fair-trade food.

How do we implement this?

Mobility

- Venues are selected so that they can be reached quickly by public transport, bicycle or on foot.
- An event ticket enables participants to use public transport during the congress.

Food and drink

- Vegetarian and vegan meals are available.
- Alternative catering options such as soup collectives, self-catering etc. are preferred.
- Only fair-trade coffee and tea will be purchased.
- Leftover food can be taken away by participants in containers or given away to food sharing groups.
- Participants can bring and use their own containers for coffee, tea and food.

Waste and recycling

- Disposable products should be avoided as far as possible.
- Print media and materials should be avoided. Instead, we mainly rely on digital content (provided it is inclusive).

Promoting Equality

What do we mean by this?

Unequal treatment and discrimination refer to the unfair or unjustified treatment of people. It is based on the division of people into groups based on certain characteristics (skin colour, sexual orientation, economic status, age, religion, etc.), to which certain characteristics are attributed, often justifying unequal treatment. Discrimination occurs both in individual actions in everyday life and structurally through disadvantage in important areas of life, such as education or employment. A person can be affected by various forms of discrimination. Taken together, they result in an intersectional form of discrimination (e.g. as a Black woman).

Anti-discrimination refers to the active and conscious endeavour to reduce and prevent discrimination.

What does this mean for us?

Equal treatment can best be achieved if a variety of perspectives, of people who are affected by discrimination in different ways, are considered and integrated into the planning and realisation of the congress. Discrimination must be made consciously visible and communicable in order to counteract it effectively.

How do we implement this?

Contents of the event

- Consider diversity not only in the content, but also in the planning of the congress. Different perspectives will be taken into account when selecting topics, speakers and organising activities.
- Speakers pay attention to diversity.
- The various event formats as well as the speeches and communication throughout the congress will be diversity-orientated and sensitive to discrimination. People who have experienced discrimination have been involved in the planning of the congress and have contributed their perspectives.
- Resources will be made available on the website, e.g. further literature on dealing with one's own privileges. Participants in the congress are encouraged to engage with this content.

Language

- Easy language (sign language, Braille, interpreting) will be used on the website, during registration, in the design of the conference rooms, during the workshops, speeches and in all communication.
- To ensure that gender identity is treated respectfully, it should be possible to state the self-identification in addition to the name on the identity card when registering. Furthermore, there should be a free space on the name badges to enter the pronouns. The pronoun should also be asked for during introductions.
- Materials, information texts and advertising materials should be written in plain language wherever possible. Interpreters, sign language interpreters and screens with text will break down barriers at major events.

Enabling Participation

What do we mean by this?

Participation means that all people can live self-determined and equal lives in all areas from the outset, regardless of their individual characteristics. Inclusion can be defined as a narrow term. In this case, inclusion refers to the participation of people with disabilities. Inclusion as a broad term means that all people should be able to participate, regardless of whether they have disabilities, language barriers, difficult (economic) living conditions or other impairments. Inclusion is a process for society as a whole. It is not the impairment that is the problem, but the existing structures. Many structures ensure that people are excluded, i.e. that they cannot participate and contribute independently and self-determinedly.

What does this mean for us?

In order to enable participation, people must be considered in their diversity. Inclusion must be seen as a matter of course and all people (regardless of whether they have a disability or not) must be encouraged to participate. In order to enable inclusion and give all participants the opportunity to take part in the congress in a self-determined way, barriers should be removed.

How do we implement this?

Participation

- People with disabilities are specifically approached and motivated to participate as early as the congress planning stage. Contact points and offices for participation are asked to act as multipliers.
- In announcements, promotional materials and other speeches, it is emphasised that inclusion and participation are important to us and that we explicitly welcome contributions from people who have experienced discrimination.
- When registering for the congress, it should be possible to indicate in advance what needs someone has.
- Info points should provide participants with useful information on quiet rooms and parent-child rooms, be a contact point for questions about accessibility at the congress and offer the opportunity to borrow technical aids. Audio equipment and magnifying glasses, among other things, will be made available.

Barriers

- At the congress, quiet rooms will offer participants the opportunity to rest and retreat when they are exhausted or overtired. In workshops, people should have the opportunity to use a quiet room at any time if necessary.
- To enable parents to participate in the congress, parent-child rooms should be freely accessible. In addition, parents should have the option of short-term free or low-cost childcare.
- All rooms, sanitary facilities and events are barrier-free. All participants will be able to move around the congress without barriers.
- The entrance fee will be staggered and set as low as possible to enable everyone to attend the congress.

Dismantling Power Structures

What do we mean by this?

Power permeates all aspects of social life, influences individual thought and action, and is fundamentally contained in political, economic, cognitive and sexual relationships. Power structures permeate our society, i.e. institutions or organisations, and regulate access to resources, influence and control over decisions. Power structures often enable certain groups to achieve their goals without the consent of others. They have grown historically and perpetuate past injustices. When dealing with global contexts, the injustice of European colonialism is of particular importance because it forms a basis for discrimination.

What does this mean for us?

If we want to counter injustice and discrimination, we must therefore take a critical look at the power structures in which we are embedded and make them visible, because they systematically disadvantage certain groups. This also applies to the WeltWeitWissen congress. Here, we want to critically scrutinise who makes which decisions, who has access to which spaces and what resources are available to them.

How do we implement this?

Awareness

- In the congress events, topics such as gender, origin, class, sexual orientation and other social categories should be taken into account so that participants can identify different forms of privilege for themselves.
- In the working groups and in the preparations for the congress, conscious attention will be paid to which people occupy certain positions, make decisions and receive resources on the basis of their privileges.
- In the run-up to the congress, there will be various opportunities to engage with and reflect on one's own privileges.

Global interdependencies

- Through methodological and didactic diversity (e.g. visual representations such as mind maps, topic clusters, world maps or infographics, or simulation games), participants should be able to

understand and comprehend connections between topics and events.

- Incorporate the historical perspective when visiting historically relevant places or institutions or when using objects or concepts.

Appreciation

- Mechanisms for continuous feedback and complaints will be implemented so that participants can also express their opinions during the congress. This enables organisers to better respond to the needs and concerns of participants.
- Recognise the contributions of participants, speakers and organisers during the congress. Include people who are less visible (cleaning staff, technical staff, etc.). This can be done through expressions of thanks, certificates or other (financial) forms of recognition.
- Speakers receive a fee if required.

Contributors

Mission statement working group

In preparation for the congress, a working group of eight people worked on the mission statement and its content. The working group spent four months developing the building blocks of the mission statement, putting them in writing and formulating guidelines for the congress.

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