

Call for Proposals – “Youth Remembers – SED-Injustice”

Foundations of “Youth Remembers”

Thirty-five years after the fall of the SED dictatorship and the unification of divided Germany, its legacy continues to impact Germany’s constantly changing society. Numerous debates about the GDR and its consequences point to a gap between academic research and people’s individual experiences. Furthermore, knowledge about the injustices perpetrated by the SED, the fate of its victims, and everyday life in the GDR is lacking among many young people.

To prevent the trivialization of authoritarian regimes, strengthen the understanding of democracy among adolescents and young adults through extracurricular historical-political education, and to further promote the societal recognition of the victims of the SED dictatorship, the funding line focussing on “SED Injustice” was launched in 2020 as part of the federal programme “Youth Remembers”. Until the end of 2023, 48 projects were supported under this initiative, and diverse educational formats for *and* with young people were created.

The call for the second round of funding builds on the previous success and high demand of the first round, while also expanding its focus to include transcultural, inclusive, and queer approaches to dealing with the SED dictatorship, the division, and the reunification of Germany. It also considers international perspectives on developments and experiences in formerly communist states, and additionally addresses the issue of (right-wing) extremism.

Funding aims

The federal programme "Youth Remembers" aims to strengthen the connection between historical institutions and youth organizations. It also seeks to create and further develop innovative educational formats aimed at young people, particularly those who have had limited or no access to educational opportunities or who have not yet engaged with them.

The thematic focus includes the intersection of everyday life and politics in the SED dictatorship, as well as the SED injustices and their ongoing effects on victims and German society in general. Within this framework, it is also possible to focus on the period after 1989/90 and/or to examine the history of the GDR in a cross-border comparison.

The funding may cover:

1. The establishment and implementation of long-term collaborations between historical institutions or/and with organizations involved in education, youth, and cultural work in the broader sense; or
2. The development of modern digital, multimedia, and audiovisual educational formats, including new social media for young people. This can also be carried out in the form of collaborative projects.

Eligible Projects and Applicants

Projects that involve diverse partnerships, develop new methods, or hold nationwide significance and applicability through their conceptual approaches are eligible for funding. Projects that target a broad audience and/or promote inclusion are especially encouraged.

Eligible Applicants and Funding Recipients

Eligible applicants and funding recipients are non-profit legal entities (e.g., memorials, museums, documentation centers, and scientific organizations, associations, and institutions of historical-political education) based in Germany, with a focus on the SED dictatorship.

It is also possible for several institutions working on SED-related issues to form a consortium, with one institution submitting the joint application. Partnerships between established institutions and smaller, volunteer-run organizations, as well as new collaborations with organizations that have not previously worked with such institutions and that target or are led by young people, are particularly welcome.

Type, Scope, and Amount of Funding

Funding is provided as project-specific support. An appropriate co-financing by states, municipalities, or third parties is expected; justified exceptions are possible. Funding per project typically ranges from 40,000 euros to 200,000 euros as a non-repayable grant, with a project duration of up to three years, and a maximum end date of June 30, 2028.

Application Process

Applications for funding under the "Youth Remembers" program, specifically the "SED Injustice" funding line, must be submitted by **December 16, 2024**, to:

Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur
Programm „Jugend erinnert“
Kronenstraße 5
10117 Berlin

For legal reasons, the postmarked date of receipt at the Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung is decisive for meeting the deadline. Applications (a 10-page project description plus appendices) must be submitted in their entirety as a single original (unbound, not stapled, punched, or in folders/covers). Additionally, an electronic copy of the application (file size max. 15MB) must be sent via email to jugenderinnert@bundesstiftung-aufarbeitung.de.

Further information on the "Youth Remembers" federal programme can be found on the "Jugend erinnert" website: www.jugend-erinnert.de. Please refer to the funding guidelines and FAQ page for details on the application process. The application form is available under "Downloads".