

Call for Participants

Youth Exchange

Setting Sail – Navigating Change

A transformative learning experience at sea

13.06. - 19.06.2026 at the Baltic Sea

(Starting in Kappeln, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany)

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About the Youth Exchange

The climate crisis, environmental pollution and the exploitation of natural resources threaten the possibilities for a good life around the world. Globally and locally, the people most affected by environmental destruction and the climate crisis are often those who have contributed the least to it. Rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions and environmental degradation cause communities to leave their homes. The fact, that this is not globally recognised and politically addressed raises urgent questions about responsibility, protection and justice in the context of a changing climate and environmental damage through capitalistic modes of production.

Our project aims to create a special learning space at sea: a sailing boat as a moving place for fostering mutual understanding and teamwork, overcoming feelings of powerlessness and resignation, learning about ecological and social injustice as well as exploring positive, mobilising visions for a good life for everyone. We bring together young people from different countries to share experiences, learn from one another and think about possible solutions to global challenges. Instead of only focusing on problems, the exchange invites participants to become active and explore new ideas for change. It is an invitation – in a real and a personal sense – to move together, towards new ways of thinking and acting for a more just and sustainable future.

Hard facts - place, logistics, costs...

When? 13.-19.06.2026 (start: 13.06.26 around 4pm; end: 19.06.26, around 1pm)

Where? Baltic Sea in between the coastlines of Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) and Denmark

Team: Trainers of the educational collective „Bildung für utopischen Wandel“ (Education for utopian change – BuWa). You can visit our [website](#) for more information (unfortunately only in German).

Costs: Thanks to the Erasmus+ funding by SCI Germany, most costs including food, accommodation, travel expenses and the educational programme can be covered. It will, however, be necessary to charge a small participation fee. There is not a certain amount but a solidarity-based range, so that participants can contribute according to their financial means, between 50 € and 200 €. If making such a contribution is not possible for you, please indicate this in your application. We hope to find a way to make participation possible for everybody.

Accommodation: Accommodation will be in small bunks or hammocks on board the ship. Those are in shared rooms, which will be arranged to suit your needs as much as possible. However, this is balanced by the unique experience of traveling on a traditional sailing vessel. This is not a comfort-oriented vacation, but an experience for people who are willing to try something new, step outside their comfort zone, and engage with the journey on its own terms. Therefore, a certain openness to life on board and a willingness to adapt to the conditions are important, as well as trust in the process.

Meals & care work: Care work is an important part of socio-ecological change. Therefore, the group will be responsible for the preparation of meals and other care work tasks such as tidying up in small groups. The meals will be plant-based.

Access and barriers: We will spend the week on a boat and we want to be honest and realistic about that. Space and electricity on board are limited. Unfortunately, the ship is not very accessible, as there are several ladders and the bunks are quite narrow. There is also limited personal space. Furthermore, it is possible to experience seasickness.

With this information, we do not want to discourage you but rather provide a realistic picture of what to expect on site, so that you have the information you need to decide whether this journey is right for you. If you have any questions or other accessibility requirements, please let us know in the application form.

Language: The exchange will take place in English. We don't expect you to have perfect English (neither do we). However, it is helpful if you can speak enough English to take part in a conversation.

Contact: You can contact the team for questions via seminar-info@buwa-kollektiv.de.

Who is this Youth Exchange for?

The exchange is aimed at young people between 18 and 30 years old who are currently living in the EU and are interested in climate and environmental issues, global inequality, and the ocean as a shared space for humans and non-human beings. It is designed as a beginner-level training, so no extensive prior experience is needed but you should be interested in the topics.

In fact, we especially welcome people who have not yet been active in environmental or social justice movements but want to get informed or might even want to get involved. If you want to gain first experiences related to sustainability and climate justice, please apply.

Furthermore, we would especially like to encourage people who are affected by discrimination to apply. We strongly wish for a diverse group of participants and a learning space that brings together multiple perspectives and experiences.

Why sailing?

Oceans are shared spaces, but not equally used or experienced. Luxury cruise ships and private yachts represent leisure and wealth, while large cargo vessels drive global trade. At the same time, small-scale fishers depend directly on the sea, often under precarious conditions. These different uses also impact marine ecosystems in unequal ways, shaping and sometimes threatening vital habitats.

We aim to explore life on the water as a way to understand and critically reflect on inequalities shaped by imperial modes of living, particularly in relation to marine environments. Being at sea becomes a transformative learning space – one that invites us not only to observe but to be in motion, physically, mentally and emotionally.

Life on board is organised collectively. Care work is fairly shared through cleaning and kitchen duties. Additionally, helping with sailing will be a shared responsibility. Although a professional crew will guide us throughout the journey, all hands will be needed for manoeuvring the vessel. As a result, participants experience first-hand that a reliable crew and a common sense of responsibility are essential to set a large ship in motion and change its course.

Through this experience, we seek to engage inner transformation and structural change, recognising that addressing inequality requires shifts in our own perspectives and actions as well as global solidarity.

Content & methods

Below you will find a first overview of topics we would like to cover during the exchange.

- Ocean pollution and destruction of a natural habitat
- Social inequality on the water and the shores
- The ocean as a source of life and death
- Environmental justice and overexploitation of marine resources
- positive, mobilising visions for a globally just future

We will approach these topics through interactive, participatory, and empowering methods such as creative group work, simulation games, dream journeys, individual reflective sessions and more.

Your personal stories and our experiences on board will shape the program as well as perspectives from the Global South. The sea becomes a space where we don't only learn with our heads, but also with our bodies, emotions and through shared experiences, by using storytelling, group work and creative approaches. We explore ideas like shared responsibility and solidarity in a hands-on and accessible way and thereby move between reflection and action.

Getting there & away

Participants will travel independently by public transport or in carpools. We will support you in finding **eco-friendly travel options**. The nearest railway stations are Schleswig, Eckernförde or Flensburg. Kiel, Schleswig and Flensburg can also be reached by long-distance buses. We will probably be able to provide financial support for any necessary overnight accommodation during the travel, but confirm with us before you book.

As air travel contributes massively to the climate crisis, we will not reimburse flight travel costs.

Travelling costs are usually paid in advance by the participants and reimbursed after the exchange. If this is not possible for you, please contact us and a solution will be found together.

More detailed information on reimbursement of costs and climate-friendly travel will be provided as soon as your participation is confirmed.

Registration & application

In our experience, there may be a lot of people interested in an activity like this. Therefore, please complete the application form by **01.05.2026** at the latest if you would like to take part.

Please fill in the Application Form!

We will then get back to you by 11.05.2026 to let you know whether you have been given a place or if you are on the waiting list. If you urgently need earlier feedback for your planning, please get in touch with us. It is very important for us, the project and the group that we can reliably plan who will be taking part. We therefore ask you for a **direct and binding confirmation or cancellation** after receiving our confirmation.

About us

Bildung für utopischen Wandel (BuWa) is a collective for political education based in Leipzig, Germany. In our educational work, we often look at the intersections of fights for social justice and climate justice. For us, it's important to understand the roots of climate crisis and discrimination and to be able to imagine utopias and actions that could lead us there.

Service Civil International (SCI) is a non-profit, over 100 years old international organisation dedicated to promoting peace through volunteer work. We focus on nonviolent conflict resolution, social justice, sustainable development, and fostering global cooperation. The SCI brings together 42 national branches across five continents and we collaborate with partner organisations in over 50 additional countries.

The **Erasmus+ Youth Programme** is a European Union funding programme that enables young people to gain new experiences, develop interpersonal skills and get actively involved in social issues through international exchanges, training courses and projects.