

Call for Participation

13. Kulturpolitischer Bundeskongresses

Wi(e)der die Wut. Kulturpolitische Netzwerke gegen Autoritarismus

(Against Anger: Cultural Policy Networks Against Authoritarianism)

June 11–12, 2026, in Berlin

#1 Invitation to implement a practice-oriented (forum) workshop

ranging from a World Café to a theatrical experiment on the topic of

A) » Neutrality as an attitude?« *or*

B) » Financing as a gateway?«

Join us by March 25, 2026—we look forward to your ideas!

BACKGROUND

13. Kulturpolitischer Bundeskongress

»Wi(e)der die Wut. Kulturpolitische Netzwerke gegen Autoritarismus« (Against Anger: Cultural Policy Networks Against Authoritarianism) – The 13. Kulturpolitische Bundeskongress asks what culture, education, and politics can do to restore confidence in times of social loss.

The aim is to create spaces for discourse and learning in order to derive practical courses of action – together with actors from the arts and culture, cultural policy and cultural administration, cultural and political education, science, and journalism with different experiences and diverse perspectives.

Interdisciplinary panel discussions, (international) keynotes, artistic interventions, and participatory formats offer inspiration, opportunities for dialogue, and networking possibilities.

The 13th Federal Cultural Policy Congress is organized by Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft and Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb. It is sponsored by the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media). The Deutsche Städtetag (German Association of Cities) is a congress partner.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Implementation of a practice-oriented forum workshop

We would like to invite you to help shape this Kulturpolitische Bundeskongress!

During the two days of the congress, we will address 13. Kulturpolitischer Bundeskongress »Wi(e)der die Wut. Kulturpolitische Netzwerke gegen Autoritarismus« (Against Anger. Cultural Policy Networks Against Authoritarianism) in various formats. To this end, we will focus in particular on three topics: »Neutrality as an attitude?«, »Financing as a gateway?« and »Networks as a salvation?«

A panel discussion will be held with all 400 participants on each of these topics, featuring current contributions from academia and practice. The panels »Neutrality as an attitude?« and »Financing as a gateway?« will each be followed by a practice-oriented forum session in which central questions of the topic will be taken up and further developed and thought through in a very practical manner. A forum session in turn comprises up to six parallel guided workshops in small groups of 5 to max. 50 people. We request your specific contributions to the implementation of the workshops.

The main objectives of the workshops are »learning from each other« (e.g., through both good and bad practice) and the development of practical courses of action. It should be noted that the workshop participants come from different fields of work and bring with them both different experiences and diverse perspectives.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Ideas – from World Café to theatrical experiments

We are looking for ideas for the preparation and implementation of a practice-oriented 75-minute workshop format. Submissions for the implementation of one of a total of six workshops should address one of the following panel topics (A or B) with the corresponding questions:

- A) Forensic session with workshops following Panel I on »Neutrality as an attitude?« on June 11, 2026, from approximately 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.:

What is the status of »neutrality as an attitude« in the field of cultural policy and practice? What does »attitude« mean in this context? What do employees in cultural administration and institutions, cultural education, and aesthetic practice need in order to maintain an »attitude«? What do artists need in order to be able to show attitude? What experiences can be shared in this regard? How can ideas for a practice-oriented approach to »neutrality as an attitude« be developed together in the workshop?

- B) Forum session with workshops following Panel II on »Financing as a gateway?« on June 12, 2026, tentatively scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.:

What effects does or would a narrowing of financial leeway have on society as a whole — especially in view of the fact that culture, as a »pre-political space,« is particularly affected by cultural struggles initiated by actors such as the New Right? What experience is there in this regard? What measures have been taken? How can cultural institutions be more strongly perceived and promoted as places of negotiation in order to counteract (perceived) polarization? Are there any experiences from Germany, Europe, or beyond that can be learned from?

A workshop can be, for example, a World Café, a Barcamp, a future workshop, a theatrical experiment, an immersive production, or similar. The implementation should be practice-oriented, take place within a time frame of around 75 minutes, and be designed for a group of 5 to a maximum of 50 people. The workshop can be held in the conference rooms or in a public space.

Further information on the content of Panels I and II and the respective Forum Blocks I and II can be found at www.kupobuko.de.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

People with ideas

We welcome ideas and perspectives from people involved in art and culture, cultural policy and administration, cultural and political education, from people in training/studying, from artist collectives, and from anyone interested in helping to shape the congress »Wi(e)der die Wut. Kulturpolitische Netzwerke gegen Autoritarismus« (Against Anger: Cultural Policy Networks Against Authoritarianism).

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Submission of a concept paper

Anyone who has ideas for implementing a forum workshop is cordially invited to submit a concept paper (max. 4,000 characters including spaces). The paper should address the following points, which will be used for the final selection:

- Assignment to forum session A or B
- Workshop content
 - What is planned?
 - How does it relate to forum topic A or B?
 - What is the goal of the workshop?
- Approach/format/methods
 - How many participants is the forum workshop aimed at?
 - How will the participants be involved and activated?
 - How will you ensure that actors with different experiences and diverse perspectives are reached – from the arts and culture, cultural policy and cultural administration, cultural and political education, as well as from academia and journalism?
- Requirements for implementation (e.g., room size or equipment), is barrier-free implementation possible, and
- Information about the people involved (e.g., individual/collective, experience) and any other participants in the workshop

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

Expense allowance and free participation in the congress

We provide an expense allowance of €500 in total for the implementation of a forum workshop. We also cover the travel and accommodation costs for a maximum of four

participants in a forum workshop (based on Bundesreisekostengesetz). Participation in the congress is, of course, free of charge for the participants.

PLEASE NOTE

Submission deadline and organizational information

We look forward to receiving your concept paper by email as a PDF document at callenberg@kupoge.de by March 25, 2026.

One idea will be selected from all those submitted and implemented at Kulturpolitischer Bundeskongress on the afternoon of June 12, 2026. The selection will be made by April 17, 2026, by a jury consisting of Critical Friends and organizers – Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft and Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb – as well as the congress partner, Deutsche Städtetag.

Questions regarding organization and content can be directed to Antonia Callenberg (callenberg@kupoge.de).