

English translation of the contribution to AIACE EU 136

Successful Annual Meeting 2026 of AIACE-Germany in Leipzig



From 30 August to 3 September 2026, the annual meeting and general assembly of AIACE Germany took place in Leipzig. Almost 120 participants, including German EU retirees living in Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and Spain, attended an extensive and interesting programme. During the General Assembly, President Viola Groebner and Vice-President Hiltrud Besgen gave an overview of the activities and plans of the association which are entirely performed on a voluntary basis. With almost 1,000 members, the limits of what our volunteers can handle are often exceeded. The board plans to install a working group with the aim of developing solutions for an improved organisation of the association in due course. Following the general meeting in the morning of 1 September, where Wolfgang Petzold and Christa Forman were elected as members of the Executive Board, Didier Hespel from AIACE International opened the afternoon session. He provided information on cross-sectional subjects, such as this year's annual congress and expected changes for next year, the use of Newsroom and Pensioners' Portal, changes of the statutes and the state of play of the negotiations with the European Commission about the revision of the General Implementing Provisions for the reimbursement of medical expenses. Jurgen van Deyck, Head of Unit at the PMO for Pensions, spoke about the latest developments regarding the pension system and discussed specific questions of EU pensioners in Germany, while his colleague Erik Posselt answered many individual questions from pensioners about the JSIS. Before the annual meeting, the Executive Board had invited the volunteers supporting members on insurance and pension issues and the heads of the seven German regional groups to a training and information seminar including a comprehensive exchange of experiences.

As part of the accompanying programme, the participants were able to learn more about Leipzig and the surrounding area of the city. Due to its quality of life, Leipzig currently has the highest increase in population among major German cities. The programme included city tours and boat trips as well as visits to the German National Library and the Federal Administrative Court. A full day was devoted to 'Neuseenland', an area that, since the 1990s, has been transformed as a former lignite mining area into a water sports and recreational landscape, which should once cover 70 km² of lakes and watercourses. Lunch and dinner in the well-known 'Auerbachs Keller' and the 'Salles de Pologne' in Leipzig's old town rounded off the programme.



Finally, AIACE-Germany donated EUR 3,500 to the Leipzig project 'Junior Team Europa'. The project makes 'Europe' a topic in schools all over the region of Saxony, whereby knowledge is often imparted in a playful way. The 'Junior Team', which is

supervised by the socio-cultural centre 'VILLA Leipzig e.V.' and 'Europa-Haus-Leipzig e.V.', currently consists of 24 young adults who, together with the schools,

organise and conduct two to four school hours. Two of the team members impressively described what their work in the schools means to them. Viola Groebner said on the occasion of the donation handover: "What we particularly like is the fact that the concept and content is developed by young people for young people and implemented in a playful way. This can make European topics more tangible than brochures or lectures."

AIACE-Germany's annual meeting and general assembly will take place in Karlsruhe in 2027.



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