



ALPINE PEACE CROSSING

Charity for Social Welfare and Refugee Support

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

The year 2016 was characterized by a very significant expansion of the APC-support programs for refugees and emergency aid. Simultaneously, we started numerous new initiatives:

- We conceptualized the program “ZUHAUSE (at home) – down payment fund for refugees”, which is being implemented jointly with leading NGOs and with Respekt.net as crowdfunding-partner. The goal is to enable up to 100 apartments for refugees;
- Our inclusion-project “Music Connects” in the context of Salzburg 20.16 was – with 30 events – the biggest proprietary program in our ten year history;
- The areas “education” and “integration” became our most important focus;
- Nepal earthquake: with APCs emergency aid a great school for 100 children was completely reconstructed;
- The areas “living assistance”, “housing support” and “family reunification” were further expanded;
- For the first, revenues of over € 200.000 could be registered, our aid figure could be increased to € 180.000 and, simultaneously, a financial reserve of € 25.000 could be created, as basis for a good start of our support programs also in the year 2017;
- The only downers are the stagnating number of our members and even a reduction in membership fees.

These were the **most important developments for APC** in 2016:

With donations of € 180.000 a *new record* was achieved and again 100% of this amount have been made available to the APC assistance programs. After the doubling in 2014/15 compared to the previous record year regarding donations and refugee aid, a further increase of € 40.000 (over 25%) was thus achieved.

The money was spent as follows:

- € 67.700 (38%) for education and integration programs, the latter also in the cultural area,
- € 43.400 (24 %) for the project „Music Connects“
- € 29.700 (16 %) for emergency relief (in Nepal, for the first time also in Haiti with € 700)
- € 28.300 (15 %) for living assistance, housing support and family reunification
- € 11.000 (6 %) for psychotherapy for heavily traumatized refugees and asylum seekers.

10th APC – Krimml Peace Dialogue and APC-Peace-Hike

On June 24 2016 the Krimml Peace Dialogue took place already for the 10th time. A special welcome was extended to Mrs. Esti Adler from Israel who was carried over the Krimml Alps in 1947 by her parents as a toddler, equally to the descendants Tova Zehavi, who managed then the exodus to Israel as a ten-year-old girl.

The main theme was the “daily work with refugees”. Very impressive during the panel discussion were the experiences of the experts Sonja Scherzer (Integrationshaus) and Edita Lintl (Hemayat) with a first-time interaction with the audience.

With 2010 participants at the APC-Peace-Hike a new magnificent record could be registered. The already 103-year-old Marko Feingold has fascinated the audience, as each year since 2007. The TV station “ORF Heute” reported.

Music Connects

This project - in its entirety conceived and organized by APC in the context of Salzburg 20.16 - was executed during the period January to November 2016, with 30 events and a concluding concert on November 24 in the main hall of the University of Salzburg. It was the basic idea of joint music-making of refugees/migrants with local music groups to reach as many people as possible through this integration and inclusion program. We may conclude: Our “Music Connects”-series (13 concerts and 17 drum workshops with schoolchildren) was a major artistic achievement with enthusiastic 3.000 participants in the region and city of Salzburg who have often joined into the dancing and singing. In addition, thousands of people were reached via TV and radio reports and also through the printed press and our own YouTube videos.

We are convinced that the basic idea of “Music Connects” regarding the promotion of integration and inclusion can be replicated in other countries. Alpine Peace Crossing has therefore submitted this project in the EU-wide “Best Practices” competition, which will be concluded in May 2017.

CF. the reports (in German) by [Hans Nerbl](#) and [Ernst Löschner](#), the [trailer](#) of the concluding concert of “Music Connects” and also the [video](#) about the whole project.

Further important events:

January 4: The STANDARD online edition published an analysis of the global refugee crisis by Ernst Löschner under the heading “Tax the weapon exports!”; he proposed a special 10% tax on weapons exports in Europe and worldwide and, in Austria, the creation of a new ministry which combines the interrelated areas of refugee support, integration, migration and development aid.

January 7: APC was honored by the Chamber of Auditors and Custodians with the award of the Austrian donation seal 06060, in recognition of our deserving work.

March 1st: In a Open letter to the governor of Tyrol, Günther Platter, Ernst Löschner has heavily criticized the plans to erect boarder fences on the Brenner Pass to Italy. This letter was published in the STANDARD online

edition under the heading “Six points against boarder fences at the Brenner”.

March 18th: Charity concert for APC in the “Gustav Klimt Villa”, organized by the APC-member and sponsor Wilhelm Rasinger. Due to its big success the concert and the guided tour through the memorial, the tour has been repeated the following day.

April 12th: Ernst Löschner und Michael Kerbler initiated an e-mail protest action via the platform “Against Inhumanity” to the members of the parliament.

May 4th: Plea of Ernst Löschner and Michael Kerbler to president Heinz Fischer against further restrictions of the asylum law.

May 16th: The Karl Kahane Foundation has supported very significantly two APC projects in the education area, in particular the “APC Study Fund at the University of Salzburg”.

May 18th: Panel discussion “migration” in the Café Korb in Vienna with Ernst Löschner, Barbara Coudenhove-Calergi and Rainer Danzinger.

June 18th: The charity concert “Artists for Refugees” at the Porgy & Bess Club in Vienna in the presence of state secretary Muna Duzdar has been a big success.

Juli 1st: Ordinary general assembly of APC in Saalfelden: It was decided to expand our statues to include also social causes in Austria in APCs areas of assistance. Since then the official name of APC is “Charity for Social Welfare and Refugee Support”.

August 19th – 21st: Hans Kosek (Teatro Caprile) and Hans Nerbl (APC) organized an interactive theatre performance and guided tour, based on the Jewish exodus 1947 over the Krimml Tauern. The performances were very well received also by the press.

September 7th: The Krimml Peace Dialogue and the APC Peace Hike were nominated by Respekt.net as “Venue of Respect 2016”.

October 25th – 29th: Further collaboration of APC with the New Opera Vienna: In the opera “Pallas Athene weint” by Hans Krenek several refugees of APC could be included into the cast.

November 15th: Appointment of Eugen Stark as general secretary of APC and Norbert Wallner as board member.

November 29th: Project Start for “ZUHAUSE (at home) – down payment fund for refugees” with a goal of a € 25.000 crowdfunding, organized by Respekt.net. Despite a lead-time of only two weeks, we succeeded to achieve – among 20 crowdfunding projects – the 3rd prize of the Christmas Award.

December 15th: Charity evening for APC at the Leopold Museum in Vienna: A special guided tour through “Foreign Gods – Fascination Africa and Polynesia” and a festival concert by Prof. Rudolf Leopold. A special highlight was the speech by the 90-year-old Dr. Elisabeth Leopold, with a stunning review of the refugee theme throughout the history of art.

December 20th: The emergency aid project to rebuild a totally destroyed elementary school in Nepal could be completed and a shelter for 100 children could be restored by aids of in total of € 36.000.

December 31st: The financial year 2016 concludes with an impressive picture. Only in December a further amount of € 39.000 was disbursed for our assistance programs. In total it was even € 180.000 of donations which we could make available to our programs in the course of the year. Our report therefore concludes with a vote of thanks to all donors who have again placed their trust into APC. As new institutional sponsors we could welcome Salzburg 20.16, the city of Salzburg, Bankhaus Spängler, Raiffeisenbank Salzburg, the charity People Together and the Verkehrsbüro Group. Our special for their generosity go again to the Karl Kahane and the Unicredid Foundations, the Voestalpine and a major private sponsor who wishes to remain anonymous.

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