



OUR EXPERTISE: POLITICAL EDUCATION

> **Living democracy** stands and falls depending on the participation of its citizens. They elect parliaments, they establish parties and pressure groups and they discuss which political decisions are right: both at home within the families and at work, in the clubs and in the pubs. In political discussions they struggle for majority and consensus.

As a catholic association we contribute to **diversity in extra-curricular and adult political education**. The educational work of our member organisations is non-partisan and based on the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In order to guarantee a benchmark of their educational seminars and conferences AKSB members participate in active exchange of expertise and experience. Work results are published on the AKSB homepage www.aksb.de and in books on a regular basis. In addition, the associations on databank "Didactic Documentation" serves to secure work results.

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Vogel, the retired Premier firstly of Rheinland-Pfalz and then of Thuringia, was the Chairman of AKSB until 1972.



COMMITTEE • MANAGEMENT • EUROPE



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Association for Catholic-Social Educational Centres in the Federal Republic of Germany



WHO ARE WE?



Dr. Michael Reitemeyer (l.), *Chairmann*

Lothar Harles (r.), *General Manager*

> Our **Association for Catholic-Social Educational Centres (AKSB)** is a Catholic professional organisation for adult and youth political education, which is active nationwide. We represent about 60 Catholic academies, educational institutes, clubs and associations. Our member organisations offer educational courses in which information and backgrounds on important subjects are provided and questions regarding social cohabitation as well as social-ethical orientation are contemplated.

Every year we run over 700 political educational events that span several days that

- > reach ca. 20.000 people of all ages regardless of their political, ideological and cultural affiliation,
- > are also openly advertised events that include cooperation with schools, universities, businesses or associations,
- > are planned, implemented and assessed by qualified personnel.

The basis of our educational work is the "Beutelsbacher Consensus", concluded in 1976 between the sponsors of political education, which forbids any form of massive political manipulation, recognises and promotes the diversity of political opinions as well as motivating and encouraging political action. In 1998 the affiliated AKSB sponsors agreed on the programmatic mission statement at the "**Convention on Catholic-Socially Oriented Political Education for Youth and Adults in the AKSB**". In 2009 the AKSB deliberated on the convention again and decided on "**updated amendments to the convention**".

Our association was founded in 1952 to provide a contribution of Catholic educational establishments to strengthen democracy in Germany.

>>> **Short profile**

www.aksb.de



OUR FOUNDATION AND VALUES

> **The Christian understanding of humanity and Christian social ethics** are the basis of our educational work. We presented our self-conception in 1998 at the “**Convention on Catholic-Socially Oriented Political Youth and Adult Education in the AKSB**” and issued it again in 2010 with updated additions. According to our understanding the human being is the starting point and goal of all political activity. Politics and social order are measured by whether they serve human beings as creatures created and loved by God with absolute consideration of his natural worth.

According to Christian conviction, **human beings are meant to be free** and at the same time made **to live in a community**. Thus he or she has the right to develop his or her capabilities freely, but also with the obligation to cooperate for the wellbeing of the community. The relationship between a person and the community is oriented on the fundamental principles of **fairness, subsidiarity, solidarity and alignment with the common good**. We see them as orientation aids for creating a society with social responsibility that, with respect for the significance of the individual, simultaneously protects the weak and offers opportunities for the strong to actualise their capabilities.

We see women and men as equals and partners in state and society that rely on each other. Maintaining peace, conserving creation, the peaceful living together of cultures and religions and securing the future for future generations are essential principles of our educational work.

The archbishop of Munich and Freising, Dr. Reinhard Cardinal Marx, was Director of the AKSB member organisation **Kommende, the social institute of the Archdiocese Paderborn**.



OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

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- > Academy of the Diocese Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Stuttgart
 - > Academy Klausenhof, Hamminkeln-Dingden
 - > Academic Centre Rabanus Maurus, Haus am Dom, Frankfurt/Main
 - > Bonifatiushaus, House of Advanced Education of the Diocese Fulda, Fulda
 - > “Brücken in die Zukunft” Foundation, Mindelheim
 - > Caritas Academy Cologne-Hohenlind GmbH, Cologne
 - > Caritas Pirkheimer Haus gGmbH, Academy of the Archdiocese Bamberg, Nuremberg
 - > Catholic Academy Bavaria, Munich
 - > Catholic Academy in Berlin e.V., Berlin
 - > Catholic Academy Hamburg, Hamburg
 - > Catholic Academy of the diocese Dresden-Meißen, Dresden
 - > Catholic Academy Stapelfeld, Cloppenburg
 - > Catholic Country Adult Education Centre Schorlemer Alst LVHS, Warendorf
 - > Catholic educational institute in St. Martin, Germershausen
 - > Catholic Military Episcopate, Berlin
 - > Catholic-Social Academy Franz-Hitze Haus, Münster
 - > Catholic Social Educational Institute (KSB) Freiburg, Freiburg
 - > Catholic-Social Educational Institute Stuttgart, Stuttgart
 - > Catholic-Social Institute of the Archdiocese Cologne (KSI), Bad Honnef
 - > Catholic Worker Movement Germany (KAB), Cologne
 - > Christians for Europe Initiative e.V (ICE, Dresden)
 - > Christian Youth Workers e.V. (CAJ), Essen
 - > DIE HEGGE - Christian educational centre, Willebadessen-Niesen
 - > Employee Educational Institution Benediktushöhe Retzbach e.V., Zellingen
 - > Episcopal Academy of the Diocese Aachen, Aachen
 - > Federation of Catholic Youth Germany (BDKJ), Düsseldorf
 - > Franciscan Educational Centre e.V., Großkrotzenburg
 - > Haus am Maiberg, Academy for political and social education of the Diocese Mainz, Heppenheim
 - > Haus Ohrbeck, Catholic educational institute and boarding education centre, Georgsmarienhütte
 - > Haus Wasserburg, Pallottine Youth Education gGmbH, Vallendar
 - > Heinrich Pesch Haus, Educational centre Ludwigshafen e.V., Ludwigshafen
 - > Home Educational Institute of Caritas Bad Saarow, Bad Saarow
 - > Institute for Migration and Emigrant Questions, boarding adult education centre, St. Hedwigs-Haus, Oerlinghausen
 - > International Catholic Peace Movement pax Christi, German section, Berlin
 - > International Meeting Centre St. Marienthal, Ostritz
 - > IN VIA Center Berlin
 - > kifas gGmbH – KAB Institute for Advanced Education and Applied Social Ethics, Waldmünchen
 - > KKV Federal Association of Catholics in Economy and Administration e.V., Essen
 - > Kolpingwerk Germany – Federal Association, Cologne
 - > Kommende Dortmund, Social Institute of the Archdiocese Paderborn, Dortmund
 - > Liborianum, educational institute of the Archdiocese Paderborn, Paderborn
 - > Ludwig-Windhorst Haus e.V., Catholic-Social Academy of the Diocese Osnabrück, Lingen
 - > Nell-Breuning-Haus, educational and meeting centre of the KAB and CAJ, Herzogenrath
 - > Socio-political Academy. Kolping Educational Centre Paderborn gGmbH
 - > Social Seminar of the Diocese Osnabrück e.V., Georgsmarienhütte
 - > Social Seminar of the Archdiocese Paderborn, Dortmund
 - > St. Jakobushaus, Academy of the Diocese Hildesheim, Goslar
 - > Stefanus-Community, Heiligkreuztal
 - > The Wolfsburg Catholic Academy, Mülheim/Ruhr
 - > Thomas-Morus-Academy Bensberg, Bergisch Gladbach
 - > Work Centre for Youth Pastoral Care of the German Bishop’s Conference (afj), Düsseldorf
 - > Youth Academy Walberberg, Bornheim
 - > Youth and adult educational house Marcel Callo, Heilbad Heiligenstadt
 - > Youth educational institute Haus “Maria Frieden”, Wallenhorst-Rulle
 - > Youth educational institute Marstall Clemenswerth, Sögel
 - > Youth educational institute Waldmünchen of KAB and CAJ gGmbH, Waldmünchen
 - > Youth house Burg Feuerstein, Ebermannstadt
 - > Youth Office for International Cooperation e.V., Aachen

OUR GOALS



> With our political education we want to help people to judge political processes and sharpen their sense for responsible cooperation in political and social life.

With our educational events we pursue the following goals:

- > Provide information on political structures and problems as well as political questions in the fields of culture and science, economy and society,
- > Imparting skills for political participation and civil-social commitment,
- > Encouraging and motivating youth and adults to play a part in political processes,
- > Dealing with subjects of national, European and international significance.