

## “My work can make a difference”

Intervention study on ventilation in schools aims to improve learning ability

**Neukirchen-Vluyn** – It's hands on at the moment here for Tobias Burgholz. The research assistant from the team led by Professor Dirk Müller, Managing Director of Heinz Trox Wissenschafts gGmbH, is working on a project investigating the potential for improving learning and concentration skills in school buildings. *“The project will run over a period of five years,” he explains, “whereby the goal is to use our measurement data to derive information on how to improve learning conditions through optimised air, acoustic and light conditions. Ultimately, the results will also serve as a basis for reducing the design effort for refurbishments. In this way, my work can make a difference.”*

The intervention study funded by the Heinz Trox Foundation follows on from a field study in which scientists carried out measurements and surveys on air quality, thermal comfort, acoustics and lighting in 48 rooms at 23 schools in Neukirchen-Vluyn and Aachen. The focus was on both refurbished and non-refurbished buildings as well as on classrooms equipped with mechanical ventilation systems. *“Some of the results were worrying”, says Burgholz. “The CO<sub>2</sub> content reached hygienically unacceptable*

*levels in some rooms.”* These are conditions that not only affect health, but also performance.

*“That shouldn't be the situation in schools”, says the young scientist, whose work is primarily motivated by his goal to sustainably improve conditions for students and teachers.*

*“As part of the intervention study we installed innovative ventilation equipment, modular ceilings for better acoustics and optimised lighting in two rooms in the Antonius-Grundschule primary school, in one room in the Gesamtschule Niederberg comprehensive school and in a music room in the Julius-Stursberg-Gymnasium secondary ▶*



*Tobias Burgholz inspects the installation of the ventilation system in the Niederberg Gesamtschule comprehensive school*

### Responsibility in difficult times



Dear Readers,

*Responsibility is the supporting network of prosperous coexistence. The more people act responsibly, for themselves as well as for others, and the better they are at doing this, the more likely it is that damage will be prevented and opportunities taken for human wellbeing. This is particularly evident in difficult times, such as in the current pandemic.*

*With the establishment of the Heinz Trox Foundation, Heinz Trox demonstrated his sense of responsibility in a special way. In setting up the foundation, he created an instrument for making a sustainable contribution to the common good.*

*Even before the Covid pandemic hit, we in the foundation council and in the board of directors had decided to focus on the problem of unhealthy air in schools with respect to our endeavours to promote science. When the pandemic started, we strove to counteract the negative consequences of the pandemic at and around TROX locations using foundation funds, particularly in the areas of education and social affairs. More on this in this info letter.*

*Day in and day out, employees of the TROX Group work and act responsibly; in doing so, they are also enabling the foundation's support activities and for this they have our utmost appreciation and gratitude.*

Yours sincerely,  
Hans Fleisch

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▶ school. A number of students are already reaping the benefits of these measures. However, our long-term investigations will help to positively influence deficiencies in the area of school ventilation across the board.”

## Dedicated to wellbeing

The Heinz Trox Foundation is continuing the work of its founder in the sponsorship of charitable projects and social institutions at German TROX locations – an endeavour that was pursued for more than two decades by Heinz Trox. Here are some examples.

### Belting it out!

New music room for young bands

**GOCH** – Year on year, the ASTRA youth centre is becoming an increasingly attractive meeting place for children and young people, as it is a place where they can independently discover their creative potential and strengthen their social skills. The donations from the Heinz Trox Foundation play a major role in this development. For instance, a new music room has now been added. Equipped with the centre's own instruments, it aims to give young

people the opportunity to learn an instrument and create music. The room will also be made available to young musicians and bands as a rehearsal room.

*“It can get quite loud here! Not only did the Heinz Trox Foundation provide us with welcome funds for the music room, it has also supplied us with sound-absorbing material”,* says Peter Mantel, a social education worker in Goch. *“We are currently restricted due to the coronavirus, but we can now*



Photo: ASTRA

*Where it can get quite loud: the new music room in the ASTRA youth centre*

*offer young people something to look forward to for their free time after the pandemic. The new music room couldn't have come at a better time.”*

### “Enabling people to reconnect!”



Photo: City of Neukirchen-Vluyn

*A happy event in coronavirus times: handover of a rickshaw purchased with funds from the Heinz Trox Foundation to project initiators and city representatives*

**Neukirchen-Vluyn** – With the aid of currently four e-rickshaws, including a wheelchair one, the city of

E-rickshaw trips are helping to bring older people and those with reduced mobility out of isolation

Neukirchen-Vluyn would like to give older and mobility-impaired citizens the ability to travel that little bit further. Launched in the summer of 2020, the “Cycling without age” initiative is part of the overall “App in die Mitte” project, which aims to increase the social participation of older people and citizens with health problems in public life.

“Cycling without age” is based at the local Tuwas-Genossenschaft social services organisation. The training

of the volunteer rickshaw drivers, whose number has now reached 30, is carried out personally by Wilhelm Ehrmann, initiator and coordinator of the project. The volunteers are supported by 20 other drivers, who are all employees of care facilities. The response has been great.

*“A trip in a rickshaw is so much more than going simply for a ride. It always puts a smile on the passengers' faces”,* says Ehrmann, who has organised more than 70 trips to date.

## Strengthening civic engagement

### The Heinz Trox Foundation – important for an entire region

**Isselburg** – Idyllic landscapes, tranquil districts. Nestled in the countryside, the border town of Isselburg offers numerous advantages. Day trippers with a preference for moated castles and historic windmills get their money's worth here. And the 10,000 residents can also enjoy the benefits of living here: the unemployment rate is low and local companies, including a TROX factory with roughly 800 employees from the region, offer numerous jobs and apprenticeships. However, the town is not without its own challenges: *“The upcoming closure of our secondary school in 2022 will heavily impact the development of our town as a location to further your education”,* says Michael Carbanje, the mayor of Isselburg. It is a development with stark consequences. *“Without a school, Isselburg would not only have to cope with the departure of families, but it would also attract fewer people moving here”,* says the mayor. *“Ultimately, everything is interconnected. No school, no families, dwindling purchasing power, no lively club and social life. What was needed was a solution with an impact on the entire infrastructural situation. For this reason, we are very proud of the tremendous civic engagement that enabled us to get the School for Isselburg e.V. project up and running.”* It is precisely this type of civic engagement that the Heinz Trox Foundation strives to strengthen. In the case of this project, the foundation not only committed itself for the long term, but also provided the funds to get the project off the



Photos: Schule für Isselburg e.V.; Kita West; F. Nowalewitz

*As diverse as life itself: the projects in Isselburg that are funded by the Heinz Trox Foundation include support for schools, childcare and retirement homes*

ground. Professor Andreas Pasckert, the chairman of School for Isselburg, comments: *“We are delighted that, thanks to this generous support, the school board has now been officially installed and we have come a step closer to achieving our goal of opening the new school, which will be called Freie Gesamtschule Weitblick.”*

This commitment is set to continue, but has also been evident for quite some time elsewhere. *“We can say with confidence that the Heinz Trox Foundation is hugely important for the entire region”,* says mayor Michael Carbanje. *“After all, the foundation supports projects across the entire spectrum of society in Isselburg.”* These include an outdoor area with playground for a childcare centre, which is located in a great position in the centre of a new residential

district, and the provision of a car for a nursing home. Ellen Lamers, head of care services at St. Elisabeth House, is delighted: *“The car is a great relief. Without it, we would have had problems in our efforts to avoid contact due to the coronavirus, as we would have had to use taxis.”* And Christina Figge, head of the childcare centre, is also very pleased: *“The outside area for our facility is a great asset for the little ones. Especially now, it is particularly important to be able to offer the children as much variety as possible.”*

This type of funding is not supplied by the foundation with a watering can, explains Paul Schwarz, CEO of the Heinz Trox Foundation. *“Rather it is granted where existing civic engagement can be further expanded and supported and where the benefit will be enjoyed on a long-term basis.”*

# Stay cool! With “COOL and SAFE”...

At SMOG, children learn in a playful way to deal safely with violent situations

**Bad Hersfeld/Neuenstein** – With its web-based training programme “COOL and SAFE (CaS)”, the association “Schule machen ohne Gewalt” (SMOG for short and meaning ‘School without violence’) is breaking new ground in violence prevention. Its web seminar is aimed at children aged 7-12. Using short films, picture stories, and search and matching games, the CaS app teaches children to recognise potentially dangerous situations and how to deal with them in the correct way. It also teaches them where to find help if needed. CaS is interactive and teaches the children through the medium of play. They are asked to independently evaluate multiple situations and

to look for options for action and solutions. Heide Aust, Managing Director of SMOG: *“Children learn very quickly how to interact socially with one another, but they can forget just as quickly. The cancellation of face-to-face classes in schools has intensified the need to provide support to children in terms of social mechanisms and group processes. The number of students currently accessing our programme from schools is correspondingly high. We are delighted to be able, not least with the help of the Heinz Trox Foundation, to make an important contribution in these socially difficult times.”* With financial aid from the Heinz Trox Foundation, an English version



Photo: SMOG e.V.

*Learning with CaS: the pandemic has intensified the need to provide support to children.*

is currently being created in addition to the German and French language versions.

## 2020 donation overview

Charitable donations (2020 recipients)	
<b>Neukirchen-Vluyn</b>	Impuls women's advice center
AWO Senior Centre Willy Könen - communal kitchen	Goch municipal administration (holiday offers)
Chancenwerk	Goch municipal administration (ASTRA youth centre)
Kita St. Antonius nursery friends' association	<b>Bad Hersfeld</b>
Stadtbücherei (BNE), friends' association (public library's education for sustainable development initiative)	Bad Hersfelder Festspiele (theatre festival)
Neukirchener Erziehungsverein "Deniz" (charitable association)	DLRG
Neukirchen-Vluyn's "App in die Mitte" project	Dr.-Wagner-Stiftung
SV Neukirchen	Jugendhandball-Förderverein (youth handball friends' association)
<b>Anholt</b>	Neuenstein ski club
AWO Münsterland "Kita Heinz Trox-Straße"	TAFEL
Bocholt Caritas association	<b>Academic donations (2020 recipients)</b>
DRK Isselburg	Vocational schools, Kleve
DRK, Borken, "GrenzenLos" (German Red Cross project)	Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin, Prof. Finke
GSV Viktoria 09 Suderwick e.V.	Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation (scholarships)
Tafel Bocholt	Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Albers
<b>Goch</b>	Leipzig University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Hartmann
Arche e.V.	Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Kauffeld
	Munich University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Renner
	HTx Wissenschafts gGmbH
	Kath. Grundschule Anholt "Frühstart" (breakfast club at Anholt Catholic primary school)
	Konrad Duden School, Friends' Association, HEF
	Musikschule Neukirchen-Vluyn (music school)
	Neukirchener Erziehungsverein "Education" (charitable association)
	Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Wolfenbüttel, Prof. Schnieder
	University funding programme prizes (3 recipients)
	Schule für Isselburg
	SMOG e.V.
	TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences (Cologne), Prof. Henne
	Mittelhessen University of Applied Sciences, Gießen, Prof. Winkler
	Westphalian University of Applied Sciences Gelsenkirchen, Prof. Fieberg

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