

# CORRECTIV

## Quarterly Report XXI



Reporting period: March - June 2019



CORRECTIV - Recherchen für die Gesellschaft gGmbH

## EDITORIAL

### EDITORIAL INVESTIGATIONS

#### **GRAND THEFT EUROPE 05**

How criminals steal € 50 billion in taxpayers' money each year from European citizens

#### **AFD FINANCING SCANDAL 08**

Our investigation into hidden party financing has had some serious consequences for the AfD

#### **CUMEX FILES 10**

Current developments in the largest tax robbery in Europe

#### **WHO OWNS BERLIN? 12**

Our investigation reveals who owns thousands of rental apartments in the German capital

#### **RIGHT TO INFORMATION 14**

We enforce our right to information in court as well

#### **COLONIA DIGNIDAD 16**

A visit to the only perpetrator currently in prison for this

#### **FACTCHECKING 18**

What's the deal with rumors that go viral on social networks?

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE NEWSROOM 20**

Our data analysis on climate change proves: The sealevels on the shores are rising rapidly.

### 5 YEARS CORRECTIV

#### **CORRECTIV CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY 21**

Our investigative journalism has been strengthening society for 5 years. The highlights

## PROJECTS

#### **CORRECTIV.FAKTENCHECK 31**

Our fact checkers track rumors on the internet and combat targeted disinformation

#### **CORRECTIV.LOKAL 32**

CORRECTIV has founded a nationwide network of local journalists

#### **CORRECTIV.RUHR 33**

Newsroom and Bookstore: We invite to workshops, discussions and readings

#### **CORRECTIV.BÜCHER 34**

32 reasons why Europe is a good idea

#### **REPORTERFABRIK 35**

An online journalism school open to everyone, in which professionals pass on their skills

#### **CAMPFIRE FESTIVAL 36**

The festival for visionaries, skeptics and doers who enjoy open dialogue

#### **#ÖZGÜRÜZ 37**

We operate the German-Turkish online magazine together with Can Dündar

#### **HOUSE OF NON-PROFIT JOURNALISM 38**

We support the Schöpflin Foundation in the construction of a center for non-profit journalism

### ABOUT CORRECTIV

#### **PROCEEDINGS DROPPED 40**

The investigation against editor-in-chief Oliver Schröm was terminated

#### **AWARDS 41**

#### **COMMUNITY 42**

#### **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS 43**

#### **TEAM 43**

#### **FINANCES 44**

#### **DONATIONS 46**

#### **MEMBERSHIPS 47**

# Editorial

Dear reader,

The last few months have been exciting and stressful at the same time: The investigation of the Hamburg prosecutor against our editor in chief Oliver Schröm has been dropped. We are very happy about that – and thank you for your great support.

In 2014, Schröm uncovered the million euro CumEx transactions of the Swiss bank Sarasin at the expense of the German tax fund. The now convicted private bank filed a complaint against him, whereupon the prosecutor in Zurich began investigating against him – due to industrial espionage.

In 2018, the Hamburg public prosecutor's office took over the investigations from Switzerland, as the Swiss efforts stagnated. After 423 days, the procedure is terminated in Germany, a quasi acquittal. Nevertheless, the time was stressful for our editor-in-chief, both privately and professionally.

More than 26,000 people showed solidarity with Oliver Schröm. Many complained directly to the prosecutor in Hamburg about the investigation. Others showed their support through donations. Through your help, we were able to endure something that was truly absurd.

Investigations against our editor-in-chief reveal how investigative journalists and editorial staff expose themselves to legal dangers and risks when dealing with the powerful and with criminals. Again and again, financially strong fraudsters abuse the criminal law to attack journalists. It is an incredible attempt to restrict the freedom of the press. An unbelievable practice in the middle of Europe.

At the same time, our investigation into CumEx deals showed what investigative journalism can achieve. Together with 18 European partners, we released the CumEx Files last autumn. Based on our research European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) launched an investigation into

the integrity of the financial market for the first time since its inception – and confirmed our disclosure. This issue remains on the agenda.

In the last quarter, we also published an in-depth investigation into Europe-wide fraudulent VAT carousels, which cost taxpayers in Europe € 50 billion each year. For the Grand Theft Europe investigation, we brought together 63 journalists from 30 countries in Europe for research. We demonstrate: Only through cooperation, economic fraud can be unveiled. European politicians and institutions must also succeed in this cooperation in order to be able to take decisive action against organized crime.

In 2019, the CORRECTIV team was awarded important prizes, such as the Grimme Online Award for our citizen investigation „Who owns Hamburg?“ and the Nannen Prize for the research series on sexual abuse of harvest workers.

CORRECTIV celebrates its fifth anniversary this July. A short summary of the events since 2014 can be found in this report. In the future, we want to support society through our work and initiate positive changes. Our supporters make our efforts possible with regular grants and donations. This commitment gives us support to withstand some tough resistance. It brings us joy to know that you tell others about CORRECTIV: Our democracy needs independent journalism and people and foundations who support it. Thank you very much!

For the anniversary, we are making this 21st quarterly report available to the public. This enables interested people a deeper insight. Share it with friends and acquaintances. The following reports will again be available exclusively to our supporters.

We hope you enjoy reading.  
Your team at CORRECTIV

# Investigations

# Grand Theft Europe

How criminals rob the citizens of Europe of 50 billion euros in taxpayer money each year. A Europe-wide search for clues by 63 journalists from 30 countries under the direction of CORRECTIV.







After big investigations, readers and supporters repeatedly confront us with a question: „And now? What happens after the malady has become public? And we, too, ask ourselves that regularly. What effect does our research has, beyond the noise in the forest of leaves. Which real impact? Where do laws change, where does investigative journalism measurably change the world? And: What can we do to reinforce a potential impact? There is only one answer: keep going.

German media has been reporting on VAT carousels for years, and specific stories on individual cases are reported on time and time again. And yet nothing has changed. Over the past 26 years, since the introduction of the EU VAT system, German and European politicians have largely ignored tax theft. Or at least accepted it in order to avoid having to change anything in the current VAT system. As a result, European taxpayers are being robbed of around € 50 billion a year – money that should finance hospitals, roads, and schools, yet instead pours into organized crime and terrorist networks.

And so we aspired to think bigger, to bring connections to light, to show international connections – and to make an impact. After a year of research in cooperation with ZDF

Frontal21, with editorial teams from each EU country as well as from Norway and Switzerland, we have completed the project „Grand Theft Europe“ – with a loud bang: On May 7th, 2019, 35 editors published their research on VAT tax carousels throughout Europe.

CORRECTIV coordinated the research and published the results on a specially developed landing page. This is the first time that there has been a pan-European overview of the largest ongoing tax robbery in the EU. We have exposed criminal networks, revealed the current markets of carousel scammers and searched for political solutions.

The media echo was huge, all across Europe. Politicians all throughout the EU became aware of the problem. No, the tax system will not be changed the day after tomorrow. But we have brought the topic back on the agenda, with an intensity that is unmistakable.

And we carry on. Change takes time. We, just like our European research partners, continue to work on the subject. Because the tax carousel continue to turn. That's our mission, that's what CORRECTIV understands to be its work. We continue to dig.





### Grand Theft Europe

How criminals steal € 50 billion in taxpayers' money each year from European citizens. A Europe-wide search for clues by 63 journalists from 30 countries under the direction of CORRECTIV.

[🔗 Landingpage](#)



### In carousel fraud, the federal government and countries are in the blind

Carousel scammers steal 50 billion euros from the treasuries of EU countries. Following the publication of the research on „Grand Theft Europe“, there were parliamentary questions in Bavaria and the Bundestag – with surprising answers.

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### Billions of losses

In Brussels, the EU's finance ministers are looking for ways to tackle the mega-fraud on sales tax carousels. There are advances in technical solutions. As soon as it comes to the substance, the responsible people push each other to the buck.

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### German companies are purchasing from carousel scammers

ThyssenKrupp and other well-known companies bought from a Krefeld-based company of notorious VAT fraudsters. Investigators have been watching the man behind it all since the 1990s – because of massive carousel fraud and connections to the Al Qaeda terrorist organization.

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



# AfD financing scandal

First a fine, then a raid: The CORRECTIV investigation into hidden party funding has had some serious consequences for the AfD.





In spring, the Bundestag administration imposed a fine of 400,000 euros on the AfD. Now, in June, the public prosecutor's office in Essen searched the party's branch office in Düsseldorf. Reason for penalty as well as the raid: the donation affairs of the AfD, in the revealing of which CORRECTIV played a significant role. It's a party donation scandal of a whole new dimension, something that has not happened in Germany before: Since 2015, a private association and a Swiss advertising agency have been funding multi-million dollar campaigns for the AfD in election campaigns on federal and state government levels.

The party denies any connection with the sponsors. As a result, the financiers can remain in the dark until this day. Should party and electoral supporters have entered into agreements, the AfD must declare the financial aid as a party donation and name the donors.

In 2017, CORRECTIV was the first medium to successfully demonstrate, by means of the example of today's AfD MEP Guido Reil from Essen, how agreements between the right-wing politicians and the Swiss Goal AG came to fruition. Together with the ZDF magazine Frontal21, we could

prove that similar arrangements with AfD party leader Jörg Meuthen existed.

Both investigations led to the fact that the Bundestag administration initiated proceedings against the AfD, imposed fines and ultimately in the raid of their state business office Düsseldorf.

Two newspapers close to the AfD also campaigned nationwide for the party prior to elections. Here the AfD also claims to have nothing to do with the publication, creation and distribution of the two papers. We doubt that – and were recently showed, together with Frontal21, that AfD members have distributed the newspaper. And that's where the story ends: We also exposed how AfD officials involved a related newspaper prior to the NRW state election in their own campaign strategy.

In order to better prove this pattern, we have now started an open research platform, which citizens can turn to when they want to learn about the distribution of the „Extrablatt“ and the „Deutschland-Kurier“. Thus people can help solve the alleged biggest party donation scandal in this country.

## Publications



### Monetary fine for the AfD

Research by CORRECTIV and Frontal21 has led to the first fines for the AfD due to illegal party debauchery. The two top candidates for the European elections, Jörg Meuthen and Guido Reil, are to pay five-figure penalties.

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### Swiss poster secret

A Swiss PR agency has financed election posters for the AfD state parliamentary candidate in NRW Guido Reil, yet wasn't mentioned as the donor. The AfD politician claims to have informed the party committees about the offer from Switzerland. This further hardens the suspicion of covert party financing.

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)

# CumEx Files

Following the publication the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) launched its own investigation. In an interim report the authorities confirmed our research: Europe's biggest tax theft continues to this day.



Sometimes it takes a few months for our investigations to have real impact. Or until the authorities confirm our findings. This was the case with our publication on the CumEx Files – the biggest tax theft in European history.

In October 2018, 18 media outlets in twelve countries under the direction of CORRECTIV uncovered how banks, brokers and consultants plundered at least 55.2 billion euros from EU tax treasuries. The headlines were followed by debates and parliamentary inquiries in the German Bundestag and the European Parliament. Politicians and citizens were shocked by the inaction of European governments and their finance ministers regarding this gigantic theft of taxpayers' money.

In November editor-in-chief Oliver Schröm was invited to the EU-Parliament. At the request of the EU Special Committee on Financial Crime, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3) and the EU Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), he reported to MEPs on how fraudsters stealing more than 55 billion euros from tax coffers in Germany and at least ten other European countries with tax-driven Cum-Ex and Cum-Cum transactions.

Cum-cum deals serve to get hold of a tax refund, to which the filing party is actually not entitled. With Cum-Ex, taxes which were only paid once are reimbursed twice and sometimes even more frequently.

„This tax robbery continues!“ Him and the reporters received a market offer by a stock trader during an undercover operation, which proved that these transactions continue to this

day. To conduct this investigations, they portrayed themselves as billionaires and spoke to the stock trader in the suite of a London luxury hotel with a hidden camera.

CORRECTIV's editor-in-chief concluded his statement with an appeal to the MEPs: „We journalists have done our job, now it's your turn, ladies and gentlemen“.

Three days later, MEPs adopted a resolution calling on the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the EU European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) to review stock deals. On the basis of the CumEx Files, ESMA then launched an investigation into the integrity of the financial market for the first time since its foundation. Nine months later, at the beginning of July 2019, ESMA presented an interim report that is likely to cause many finance ministers concern. ESMA comes to the same conclusion as CORRECTIV's research cooperation: the tax robbery continues to this day. Especially in France, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The good news is that since our publications, at least in Germany and Austria, this type of tax-driven equity business has declined significantly. For the governments in Europe and their finance ministers there are no excuses any more. They must stop the tax theft.

## Publications

---



### The Cumex Files

[🔗 Landingpage](#)



### European financial supervision: Indications of tax robbery to this day

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)

# Who owns Berlin?

From Berlin to the Caribbean to the UK: Our investigation reveals who owns thousands of rental apartments in the German capital.





In June, our investigation „Who owns Berlin?“ caused a stir throughout Germany; We released it in cooperation with the Tagesspiegel. Among other things, it revealed a British billionaire family that has not yet appeared on the Berlin real estate market. Hidden behind a mesh of offshore companies, it acquired thousands of apartments in Berlin, profits from the skyrocketing rents and pays hardly any taxes.

„Who owns the city?“ is a long-term research project of nationwide relevance: Meanwhile, we have expanded it to six cities. In Berlin, too, several thousand citizens took part in the investigation, making it possible to examine the city's booming housing market. They used the online platform developed by us to enter information on who owns their rented apartment. This data then formed the basis for further research.

As a result, we found out that said British billionaire family owns over 3,000 apartments in Berlin – disguised behind a corporate network that stretches from Cyprus to the British Virgin Islands. An analysis of the balance sheets showed that the owners in this country hardly pay any taxes. In

the heated debate over the expropriation initiative in Berlin, this case shows that some of the city's major owners are not known. Due to regulations, they can keep their ownership anonymous to a great extent.

This is where our research approach comes into play. It works due to the fact that thousands of citizens supply us with information – which enables targeted inquiries with the city and at companies. In the end, it is possible to recognize a pattern reaching beyond this individual case – and to unmask corporate veils.

The Tagesspiegel published a series on the most significant owners and, in one report, analyzed who ultimately profits from the returns. The result, as also with our project „Who owns Hamburg“: Wealthy individuals, but also many pension, insurance and real estate funds, which also contain funds from small-scale savers. Even people who groan under excessively high rents could indirectly benefit from the fund's returns.

## Publications

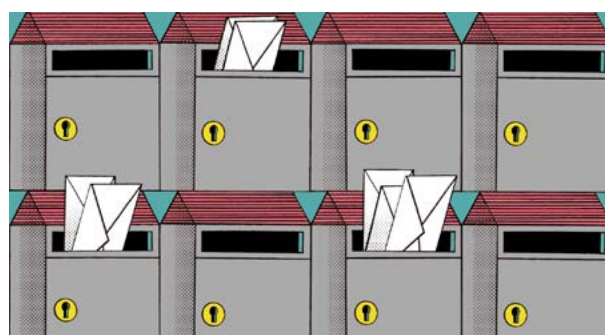
---



### The secret owners

„Who owns Berlin“ shows how we unveiled a corporate network that spans from Berlin apartments to the British Virgin Islands and uncovers the consequences of the lack of transparency in the housing market.

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### The covert empire

The billionaire Pears family veiled their shopping spree with a mesh of offshore companies. For a long time, it has been one of the secret owners of the city. Anonymity has advantages. For Berlin it is a problem.

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)

# Right to information

We're not merely asking politely, we also enforce our right to information in court. Because enlightenment, transparency and freedom of the press are essential to a democratic society.



**C**urrently, we have won a lawsuit before the Upper Court of Cologne: The judges annulled a restraining order that the industrial group Ferrostaal had obtained against CORRECTIV. The judgment: We very much have the right to report on internal discussions of the Ferrostaal Supervisory Board in connection with a corruption scandal – based on information provided by a whistleblower. Freedom of the press outweighs the protection of trade secrets according to the court's ruling.

At the Higher Administrative Court in Münster, we want to enforce that the Federal Audit Office also determines which audits it has conducted at four federal ministries. The re-

quest is from 2014. We expect a victory. And as a result, that the Federal Court of Auditors will take the case all the way to the Federal Constitutional Court.

The Administrative Court of Cologne dismissed a claim for information from CORRECTIV: No, the archdiocese of Cologne does not currently have to publish how it invests its assets of about three billion euros. However: The judges permitted an appeal to the Higher Administrative Court.

The costs of these procedures are enormous. We are always seeking support for our efforts in these disputes.

## Publications

---



### Court ruling: Facilities of the Archdiocese of Cologne remain secret for the time being

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### A victory for whistleblowers

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### We are taking the Federal Audit Office before the Higher Administrative Court

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### „Great moment of the parliament“: The Bundestag adopts secret business law

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



# Colonia Dignidad

In a German-Chilean torture sect, people under the eyes of the German embassy have been maltreated physically and mentally for decades, adolescents abused, Chilean opponents of the regime tortured and killed. This horror lasted until the turn of the millennium. And it's reverberating. CORRECTIV has gone on a search for clues – in the Chilean jungle and spent months browsing through the file archive of the Foreign Office.





The investigation „Beatings, torture and singing“ on the current structures of the German-Chilean torture sector Colonia Dignidad was one of the most widely acclaimed CORRECTIV publications in the spring of 2019. The CORRECTIV team spent weeks working in Chile, lived in the Villa Baviera, as the Colonia Dignidad is called today, and met one of the last living representatives of the senior staff in a Chilean prison in an undercover manner. At the same time, the research team has evaluated hundreds of files from the political archive of the Federal Foreign Office, reconstructing past events and destinies on the basis of memos, personal letters and cries for help in order to gain access to the remaining cult members in the present.

In the mid-fifties, the amateur preacher Paul Schäfer had a youth home built in Siegburg near Bonn, where was able to pursue his pedophile inclinations and surround himself with a flock of devout followers. As the allegations of abuse against Schäfer increased and investigations were initiated, he fled in 1961 with his followers and the orphans to Chile. In

the Chilean jungle, Schäfer built up the „Sociedad benefactora y educacional dendidad“, an almost autarkic German enclave with an agricultural business, trade and hospital. There, Schäfer practiced a religious regime of terror for decades and broke the inhabitants both physically and mentally. Isolation, torture with electric shocks, psychotropic drugs, forced labor and orgies of violent beatings were part of everyday life. Opponents to the regime were made docile and disappeared for the benefit of befriended dictator Augusto Pinochet. Until Schäfer defected from the colony in 1997, he remained virtually undisturbed by the authorities – even though his crimes were recorded and known. In 2005, Schäfer was arrested by Chilean officials. In 2010, he died in a Chilean prison.

A large part of the former cult members – perpetrators and victims – now live in Germany again. In this publication, CORRECTIV showed how Schäfer's spirit and structures still keep many survivors under his spell, even today. And still, the question of guilt and responsibility is insufficiently answered both legally and politically.

## Publications

---



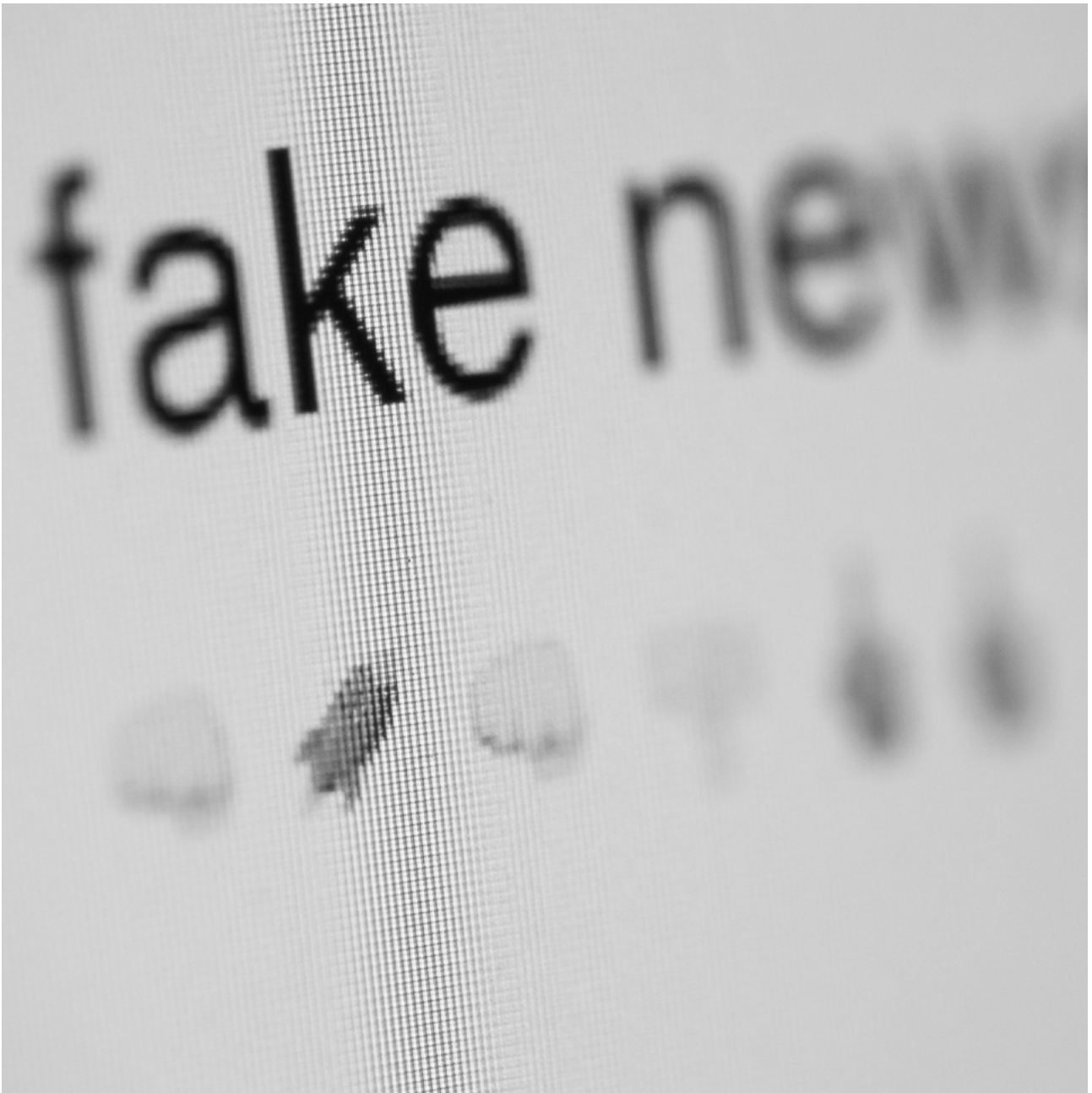
### Beatings, torture and singing

Outwardly pious, yet a nightmare on the inside: In the German enclave „Colonia Dignidad“ in Chile, the head of the sect Paul Schäfer abused boys on a daily basis and made opponents of the regime disappear. How could his horror empire last for decades? A visit to the only perpetrator currently in prison for this

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)

# Factchecking

What is the deal with rumors that go viral on social networks?  
And who are the authors of false reports? This is what our  
fact check team investigates.



**F**act checks are always investigations. Sometimes bigger, sometimes smaller. For example, we have researched whether a public allegation that the climate activist Greta Thunberg is really backed by a clever PR campaign and her father's business is true. We evaluated media reports, public notices and commercial register entries and spoke with the participants. And found out: The claim is fake. Furthermore, we also examine which actors disseminate disinformation. In a series of articles, we documented how US-based networks in Europe support media that spread fal-

se reports – financially and with disinformation: The Think Tank Middle East Forum is lending money to anti-Islamic blogs and individuals who have are due to appear in court because of anti-Islamic hate speech. One of the recipients in Germany is the Blog Journalistenwatch. Another form of support are invented or partially false reports, which are translated or used as a source by European media like Journalistenwatch. This can be done, for example, through the Gatestone Institute, which itself receives money from the Middle East Forum.

## Publications

---



### **Greta Thunberg: No evidence of systematic PR campaign by parents and an entrepreneur**

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### **The financier: How the „Middle East Forum“ finances the European right-wing followers**

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### **The disseminator: „Journalistenwatch“ spreads disinformation with money and stories from the US**

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



### **The storyteller: At the „Gatestone Institute“, false reports are generated that make their way as far as Germany**

[🔗 Read Article \(German\)](#)



# Climate Change Newsroom

The sea level is rising. Climate change has arrived on the coasts. The sea will wash away beaches, sink islands, flood plains – with dramatic consequences for hundreds of millions of people.

In recent months, we have set up mobile on-site newsrooms in Goslar and Cuxhaven. We investigated which species in the Harz will die out due to the climate crisis. We also researched the ever increasing fire risk in the forests and the rising sea level along the North Sea coast. While doing research on the ground, we notice that many people do not know how to react to the climate crisis. That's

why we have adapted a new approach in climate reduction: In the future, we will focus more on the perspective of constructive journalism in order to discuss concrete solutions. On that note, we have a lot planned in terms of climate change. In the coming months, we will be organizing more than 40 events on this topic in North Rhine-Westphalia alone, as well as a climate camp in Kiel at the end of September.

## Publications

---



### Land under: The sea threatens the livelihoods of three million people living on German coasts

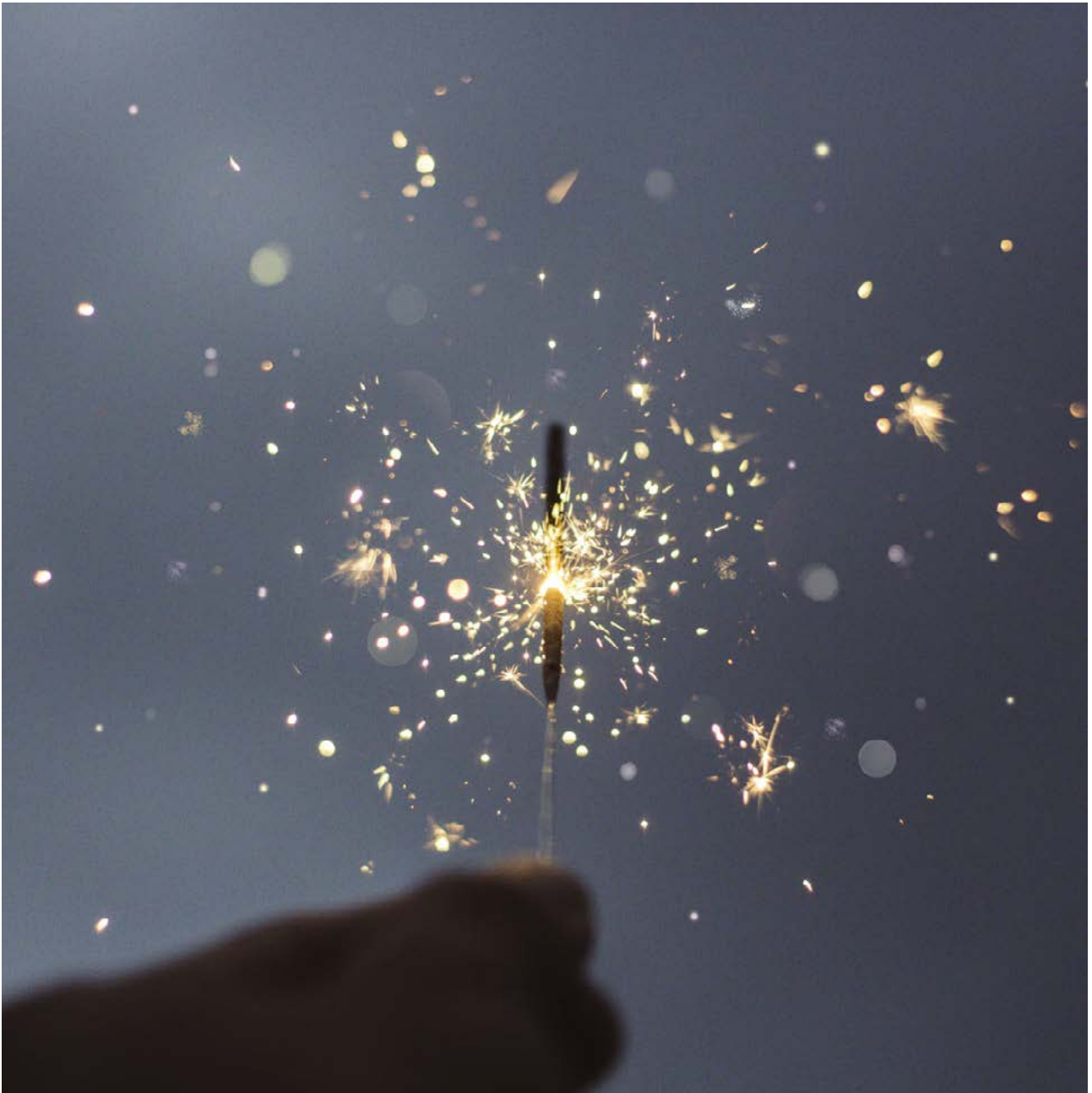
Our worldwide data analysis on climate change proves: The levels on the shores of this earth are rising rapidly. Even residential areas on German coasts could soon be under water.

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a\_img.jpg\) Read Article \(German\)](#)



# 5 years **CORRECTIV**

CORRECTIV was founded in July 2014. Our investigative journalism has been strengthening society since.  
The highlights.

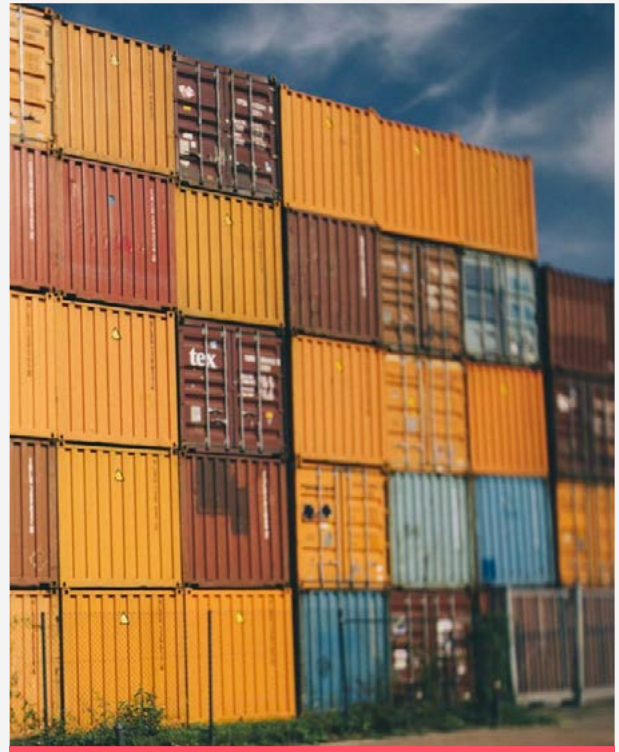




**September 2014**

## **Court Donations**

Judges and prosecutors decide at their own authority to which causes penalties are donated - our database creates transparency.



**April 2015 - end of 2016**

## **TTIP**

TTIP was negotiated as if it were a secret treaty. We brought light to the semi-darkness and published exclusive documents.



**January 2015**

## **Flight MH17**

Today it is official: A Russian rocket shot down flight MH17 from the sky over the Ukraine. We already revealed it in early 2015.



**February 2015**

## **Book: WHITE WOLVES**

We create a graphic novel from an investigation on extreme right-wing terrorists. The exhibition on the topic travels through more than 30 cities.





**August 2015**

## **Animal thieves**

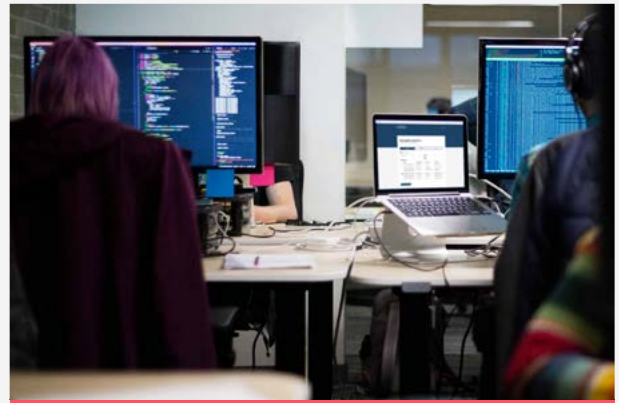
Our elaborate undercover research exposes the illegal trade in endangered native animals. Also in the form of a TV documentary.



**March 2016**

## **AfD party program**

A scoop: We were the first to publish the draft of the AfD manifesto. The „New right“ becomes a research focus.



**November 2015 - today**

## **CrowdNewsroom**

We are developing a platform that allows editors to collect information and do research in cooperation with readers.



**March 2016 - today**

## **Action against the Federal Audit Office**

The Federal Audit office audits authorities, but does not have to publish whom or why. We did not accept that - and filed a complaint.



**June 2016**

## **Care in Germany**

An undercover investigation in a nursing home. A database. And a book that shows how things work in a model home.



**July 2016**

## **Start: Euros for doctors**

Doctors earn thousands of euros through bogus studies. Who receives how much? Our database is the first to expose this info. Further research followed.



**January 2017**

## **#ÖZGÜRÜZ**

Founding of the Turkish exile editorial office for independent reporting in Turkey. #ÖZGÜRÜZ translates to „We are free!“



**May 2017**

## **CORRECTIV.Faktencheck**

Facts for democracy. Founding of the fact check editorial office for fighting disinformation.





**May 2017**

## **Alte Apotheke**

We're working on the medical scandal with adulterated cancer medication. Our mobile editorial office in Bottrop served as a contact point for the victims.



**July 2017**

## **Rising seas**

Climate change is raising sea levels worldwide. We visualize the data on an interactive map.



**July 2017**

## **Donation scandal AfD**

We reveal illegal party donations to top AfD politicians. The AfD must pay a 400,000 euro fine.



**September 2017**

## **Campfire Festival**

Our annual festival for our digital future and a better society brings visionaries, the active, the creative, the media and the citizens together.



**September 2017**

## **Lawsuit against Ministry of Economy**

Our lawsuit is successful: From now on, authorities have to bill information requests in a more understandable and fair way.



**January 2018**

## **Bookstore, Café & Events**

We opened a bookstore with cafe in Essen. The editorial staff moves in. A place with regular events to get in touch with people.



**April 2018**

## **Seasonal workers**

Two reporters reveal how women in Spain are sexually harassed and raped while harvesting vegetables and fruit destined for German supermarkets



**April 2018**

## **#metoo-Skandal WDR**

The WDR has a systematic problem with sexual harassment. In response to our revelations, the station commissioned an auditor to investigate all abuse of power.





**September 2018**

## **CORRECTIV.Lokal**

We investigate topics that are of national significance and at the same time are of particular relevance to local citizens. We set up a network for local news.



**October 2018**

## **The CumEx Files**

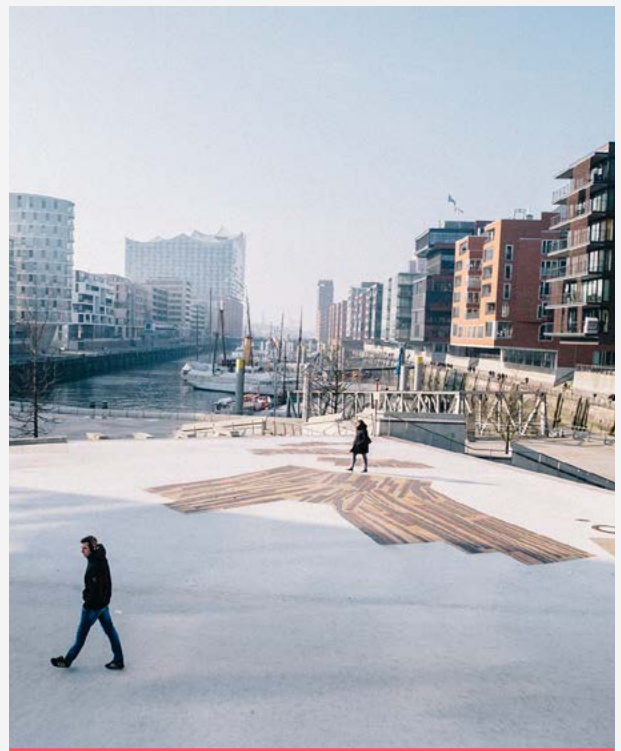
38 reporters from 19 editorial offices under our coordination reveal how bankers, lawyers and the super-rich loot Europe's taxpayers' pockets.



**October 2018**

## **Victory before Federal Constitutional Court**

We provide for „equality of arms“: In injunction proceedings, media must now be heard before a verdict can be pronounced against them.



**November 2018**

## **Who owns Hamburg?**

We ask citizens who owns their rented accommodation - and make the housing market more transparent. Start of the „Who owns“ series



**December 2018**

## **BlackSitesTurkey**

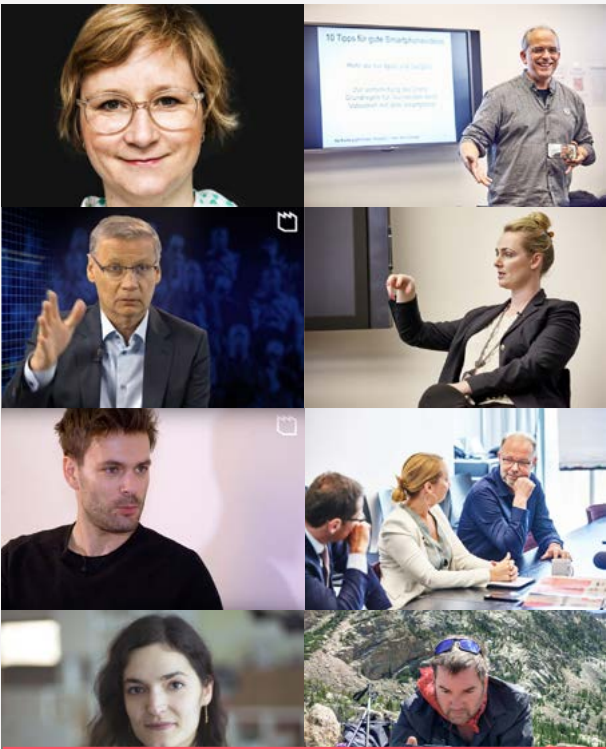
In an international investigation, we report on secret torture sites in Turkey and Erdoğan's kidnapping program.



**December 2018**

## **Investigations against editor-in-chief**

„Encouraging the betrayal of business secrets“: After the CumEx Files, Hamburg's public prosecutor investigates. We fight back. Discontinuation June 2019.



**January 2019**

## **Reporterfabrik**

With the journalism school open to everyone, we promote media literacy. Journalists teach their craft in online tutorials.

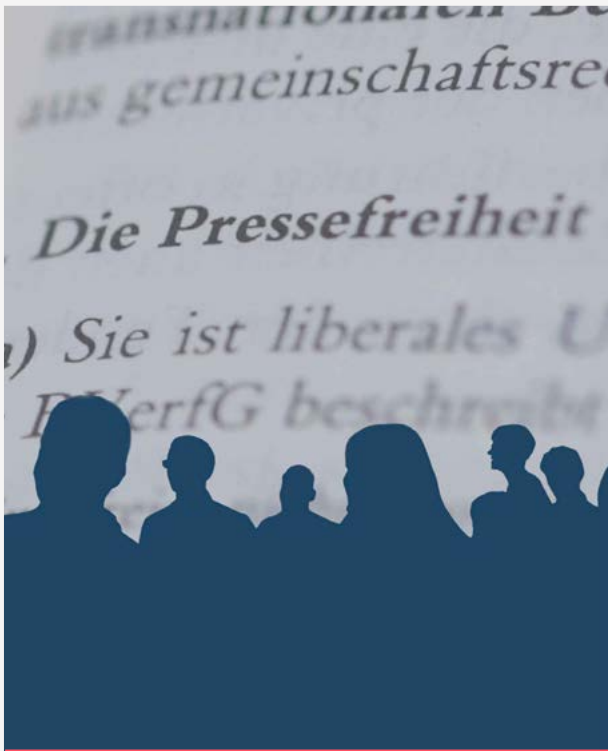


**May 2019**

## **Grand Theft Europe**

63 journalists from 30 countries under our coordination examine our annual sales tax theft of 50 billion euros in the EU.





**May 2019**

## **Victory for the freedom of the press**

Cologne Higher Regional Court reverses an injunction against us. Freedom of press is thus more important than protecting business secrets.



**May 2019**

## **Who owns Berlin?**

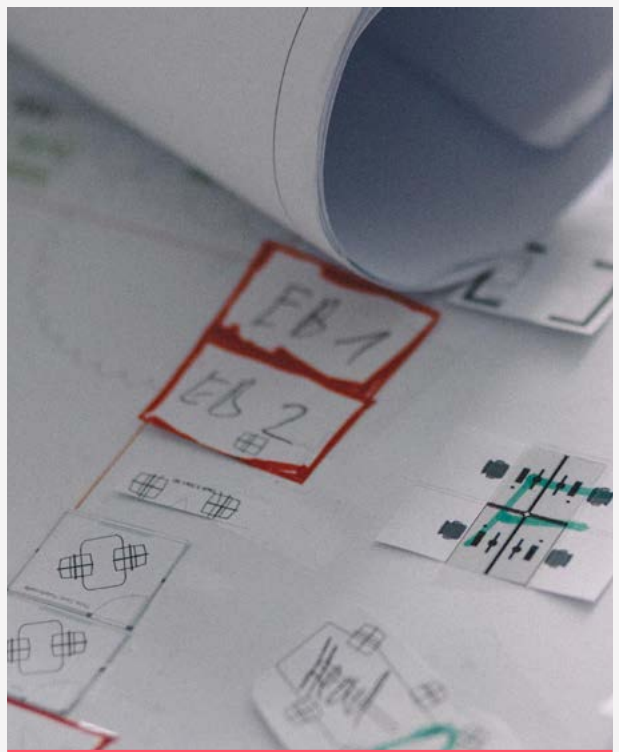
We make the Berlin housing market more transparent and reveal how billionaires are shifting real estate profits into tax havens.



**May 2019**

## **Climate change newsroom**

The climate crisis affects us all. We're developing a Climate change newsroom and want to work with readers to see what solutions may look like.



**Future**

## **Home of the non-profit journalism**

We are building a center for non-profit journalism in cooperation with the Schöpfung Foundation - a meeting place and our new home.

# Projects



# CORRECTIV.Faktencheck

False reports pose a threat to democracy.  
Our fact checkers track rumors on the internet  
and combat targeted disinformation.

There are more potential false reports than fact checkers. Therefore, CORRECTIV.Faktencheck started building a fact check community in the second quarter. We train interested people from all areas in a multitude of training sessions, and then integrate them into our editorial team – via our fact check tool “Checkjetzt”. First of all, a fact check certificate has to be obtained on the basis of our Reporterfabrik tutorial videos, upon which people attend a workshop in one of our offices in Berlin or Essen. After a sample fact check, they ultimately gain access to our tool.

So far, we have 30 active members in the community editorial office, whose fact checks are published on our website and at [correctiv.org/checknow](https://correctiv.org/checknow). The quality of the checks is ensured by our two-stage redigator system.

Some Checkjetzt members also supported us during the EU election. In our open Fact Check editorial section at the CORRECTIV bookstore in Essen, we examined in particular allegations related to the EU and the EU parliamentary election.

We informed about new developments in the fact-checking world at the Global Fact-Checking Conference, which was hosted by the international fact check network in June. Among other things, it dealt with automation in fact-finding. In this area, our team also received one of the three fact check awards, namely in the category „most absurd fact check“: In February, we checked that the New York Democrats were celebrating a new abortion law with a baby-shaped cake – the claim was wrong.

All our fact checks and research on disinformation can be found on [correctiv.org/factcheck](https://correctiv.org/factcheck) and at our special channels: On Twitter, our Facebook group, where users can also ask questions, and on our new Instagram channel.



# CORRECTIV.Lokal

CORRECTIV.Lokal initiates research into topics that are of national significance and at the same time are of particular relevance to local citizens.

CORRECTIV has founded a nationwide network of local journalists.

The *Landeszeitung Lüneburg* has started the project „Who owns Lüneburg?“ with great momentum. Our research on the housing market is also about bringing citizens and journalists together. The *Landeszeitung* has started a city-wide campaign that has set standards for how local newspapers interact with citizens.

Whether by means of imprints on sandwich bags, folding vouchers for a conversation with neighbors regarding the housing market, balloons, a citizen picnic with city politicians or T-shirts with imprints – the question

„Who owns Lüneburg?“ has been visible throughout the city since late March.

The Lüneburg editorial board has explained the project with many creative actions and has taken it to the streets. The journalists were present with a booth at weekly markets and organized citizen talks on the subject. Thus, the *Landeszeitung* managed to not only make the topic known by the newspaper in which it had printed eight pages at the start of the project, but to trigger a city-wide debate on the housing market.

With regards to the CORRECTIV.Lokal project „Who owns the city“, we are currently active in Lüneburg, Minden, Heidenheim, Düsseldorf and Berlin.

In addition to this cooperation, our CORRECTIV.Lokal network is steadily growing. We now have over 190 freelance journalists, bloggers and experts as members. Colleagues have networked with each other in five regional councils over the last three months.

The goal is to jointly publish data-driven and investigative research in close cooperation with local partners. In June, we carried out a data project on the shortage of skilled workers at the regional level, for which we have built nationwide and regionalized maps showing which industries are missing a large number of skilled workers. Our research was implemented by ten members for their own local stories. Through CORRECTIV.Lokal, we also passed on our call to participate in the AfD research on the distribution of freesheets throughout Germany to our network. As a result, regional media can incorporate readers by adopting clues to the distribution of the newspapers close to the AfD.





# CORRECTIV.Ruhr

The story of CORRECTIV starts out in the Ruhr area. We're seeking to be in touch with the locals. For CORRECTIV.Ruhr is both an editorial office and a bookstore. We invite to workshops, discussions and readings.

In dealing with the growing right-wing populism, no path leads past NRW and the Ruhr area. Thus, a local politician initiated the large-scale investigation into the AfD donations scandal: the now AfD-MEP Guido Reil. Particularly in Essen, it was possible to find important evidence on donation affairs through suburban research. Many discussions with informants and whistleblowers took place again and again at our editorial office in the Akazienallee.

The editorial office Essen with bookshop and café was also strengthened by events and celebrations. On the occasion of World Book Day at the end of April, the Ruhr newsroom, together with other bookshops and cultural associations in the region, founded the Literaturquartier Akazienallee and organized a street festival. At the first literary festival, the

interface between literature, art and journalism repeatedly proved productive in readings and a panel discussion. In addition to many journalistic colleagues, including the magazine „Spiegel“, actors and cabaret artists such as Fatih Çevikkollu and writer Anna Basener were present on stage.

Evening events further strengthened the Essen editorial office as a place of debate and encounter – for example with the Ruhr district author Frank Goosen or the former SPD politician Marco Bülow, as well as an interview series with the top candidates of all parties on the European elections. At the beginning of May, during the European elections, the CORRECTIV.Faktencheck editorial team worked from within our café and stood by anyone who was interested in journalistic work and its backgrounds.



# CORRECTIV.Books

Regularly we publish books, bookzines and graphic novels on our investigations or current topics.

The European elections were a major focus for CORRECTIV. Because: Across Europe, populists have previously gained ground. Their goal is to weaken, split and destroy the EU. Their recipe: more nationalism and less community. Climate change is primarily of no interest to them. More rights for workers, protection of the weak? No thanks. Too frivolously, the EU is spoken ill of. To bring more light in that, CORRECTIV, along with the Hamburg author Ariel Hauptmeier, has published a book that shows

the EU's true achievements. How it combats wage dumping and protects our children from scrap toys, how it penalizes large corporations in the billions and forces them to pay their fair taxes. The book was published in April under title: „On vacuum cleaners and human rights – 32 reasons why Europe is a damn good idea.“

The first edition of the book sold out after just six weeks.

*„If a book manages to persuade Europe-skeptics that Europe benefits all or even turn around Europe-opponents – then this is it.“ Furthermore: „A must-read, and a perfect gift!“*

Heribert Prantl, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

[shop.correctiv.org](http://shop.correctiv.org)

Education: B27



# Reporterfabrik

The Reporterfabrik is a journalism school open to everyone, in which professionals pass on their skills. It is aimed at colleagues, students and citizens. They learn how to examine sources, to write more clearly and to publish texts and videos. The objective: Debates free of hate speech and smear campaigns.

**T**he Reporterfabrik started its digital education program at the end of January 2019. Within a few weeks, we counted over 6,000 registrations. The team surrounding Cordt Schnibben is constantly expanding the workshop offer. The Reporterfabrik's objective is to convey media knowledge and journalistic craft to as many people as possible. The public should be qualified to lead better debates and to immunize against manipulation.

There are currently 38 courses online at Reporterfabrik. One particularly successful course is the introduction into basic writing rules by Wolf Schneider and the hands-on workshops on how to record and edit videos using a smartphone – with over 600 enrollments. Each month, the Reporterfabrik will expand its offer by about four courses. We cooperate with several publishing houses, which use the Reporterfabrik's offer to train their own employees. Currently, we're in talks with several broadcasters who also want to use the Reporterfabrik.

At the end of May, the Reporterfabrik was expanded to include the sister project „Bürgerakademie für Medienkompetenz“. In doing so, we attempt to address people who are not digitally influenced in cooperation with community colleges. The start was a success – now we will gradually expand this area with practice-oriented courses. Courses on how to properly apply for jobs, or how to write a love letter.

The school project Reporter4You is also publicly available with several courses to recognize fake news and is constantly being expanded. An initiative on the Press Freedom Day expanded the reach of the Reporterfabrik: We procured over 300 reporters to schools, who professed journalism there.





# Campfire Festival

Open-air festival for a better society. The festival for visionaries, skeptics and doers who enjoy open dialogue. For everyone who wants to work on a common future on the basis of a shared dialogue.

**T**he Campfire Festival will take place again this year in Düsseldorf in front of the Landtag NRW, from August 31st to September 1st. The large number of participants makes us very happy. We already count 23 tents to be used by all sorts of organizations. In addition to companies such as Sipgate or Metro, the IHK Düsseldorf is involved. The Consumer Protection Center is involved, as is the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. CORRECTIV's Campfire Festival, in its third year, is becoming a hotspot for all those who believe in a better future.

Over 250 schoolchildren visit the festival site in order to learn in order to learn how to handle media, how to organize a children's parliament and how to set up a youth editorial office.

On Saturday and Sunday, in addition to the workshops and discussions in the various tents, we will be holding an international program with participants from over a dozen countries. In the circus tent of our partner, the „Rheinische Post“, we will talk about the future of the region.

In a digital barcamp, we do future-oriented work and in NRW we organize a network for constructive journalism. In addition, we will perform theater plays and make music. The Campfire Festival is open to all persons who want to work together for a better society.





# #ÖZGÜRÜZ

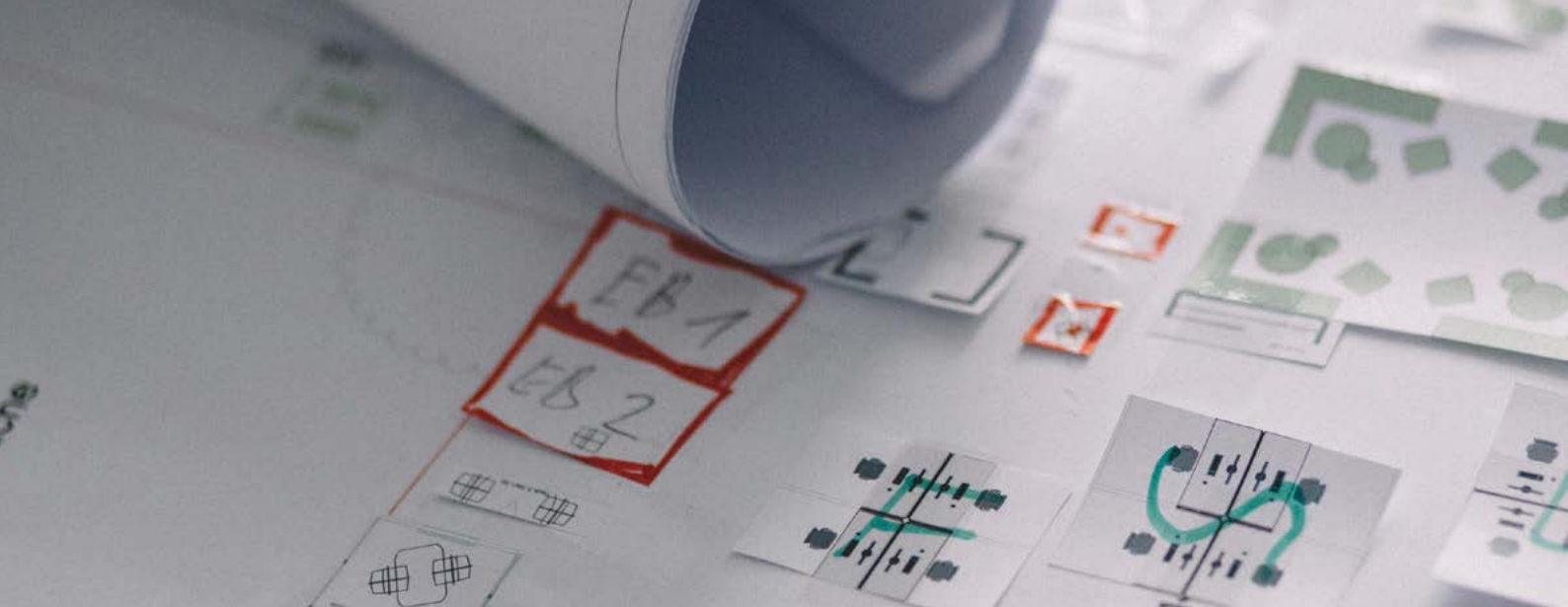
Together with Can Dündar, we run the online magazine #ÖZGÜRÜZ,  
a platform that offers uncensored reports on Turkey.  
#ÖZGÜRÜZ means: We are free.

**A**s so often with this project, we continue to experience constant ups and downs. A few weeks ago, Dilek Dündar, the wife of #ÖZGÜRÜZ editor-in-chief Can Dündar, managed to escape from Turkey with a handbag as the only piece of luggage. Clothes, furniture, books – everything was left behind in Istanbul.

Since it became known that – after three years of forcible separation – she now lives with her husband in Germany, the Turkish secret police has cleared their house in Istanbul and prevented friends and acquaintances from entering the apartment, to prevent them from picking up personal items and sending them to Germany. Dilek and Can Dündar are currently recovering from the hardships together. Their son Ege is with them.

And then there was also some progress. #ÖZGÜRÜZ's team launched a web radio that can not be banned by the Erdoğan government. Smartphone apps, the Spotify podcast and social media contributions reach hundreds of thousands of people in Turkey. #ÖZGÜRÜZ repeatedly succeeds in undermining technical blockades and providing for an, albeit weak, counter-Turkish presence in Turkey. Currently the program is being expanded.

Together with Can Dündar we are working on securing and strengthening #ÖZGÜRÜZ in the long term. We are sure that it will pay off. Not only for the opposition in Turkey, but also for the Turkish-speaking people in Germany.



# House of non-profit journalism

We have a dream: We want to create a place where people meet, share and learn from each other. The Schöpflin Foundation has launched this dream - and realizes the house of charitable journalism in cooperation with us.

**E**very good idea needs a place where it can thrive. This place is currently being built in Berlin-Neukölln: the house of charitable journalism of the Schöpflin foundation.

It will serve many purposes. A house where people from Germany, Europe and around the world will work together. By exchanging, sharing knowledge and learning technology. By developing the media of tomorrow, non-profit media beyond public service broadcasting and private publishing houses - the third pillar of the media in society.

From the start, CORRECTIV has been involved in the planning and conceptualization - and every month this work becomes more concrete. Together with other organizations

operating in the field of freedom of expression and information, we support the Schöpflin foundation in the realization of the construction. The CORRECTIV editorial team will move into the house of non-profit journalism, where there will be a café and co-working spaces. But how exactly should the video and audio studios be set up and what ought to be included in the Experience LAB? All these questions must be carefully thought out and answered. And we are happily engaged in this.

**About CORRECTIV**



# Proceedings dropped

The Hamburg prosecutor is no longer investigating  
CORRECTIV editor-in-chief Oliver Schröm.

**I**t is absurd, but true: For five years, the Swiss justice has investigated the accusation that our editor-in-chief Oliver Schröm is a spy. In 2014, he revealed how the Swiss Bank Sarasin and German investors engaged in CumEx equity transactions worth millions at the expense of taxpayers. The private bank filed a complaint against Oliver Schröm, the Zurich prosecutor's office started investigations on suspicion of „economic intelligence service“, the Swiss name for industrial espionage.

As their inquiry stagnated, the public prosecutor's office in Zurich recruited the help of their colleagues in Hamburg in March 2018. The charge was then: Incitement of betrayal of business and trade secrets. Schröm is said to have instigated a high-paying Compliance boss of the bank to provide him with internal documents that evidenced the financial institution's complications in dubious CumEx transactions.

In September 2018, the private bank Sarasin in Germany was sentenced to pay damages in the amount of 45 million euros. The penalty was incurred for their CumEx-deals that Oliver Schröm had made public years before.

In October 2018, CORRECTIV, along with 18 European media partners led by Oliver Schröm, unveiled how bankers, brokers and advisers looted more than 55 billion euros with tax-driven stock transactions such as Cum-Ex from public treasuries – the largest tax scandal in Europe.

During this time, Oliver Schröm became aware of the inquiries by the Hamburg prosecutor. In December 2018, CORRECTIV publicized the investigation against its editor-in-chief under the slogan „Journalism is not a crime“. Within days, over 26,000 people signed a „public letter“ to the then Justice Minister Katarina Barley and Finance Minister Olaf Scholz in solidarity with Oliver Schröm.

After 423 days, the Hamburg prosecutor has closed the proceedings. Explanatory statement: There is no sufficient suspicion that warrants further investigation or even indictment.

And the espionage accusations in Switzerland? The Zurich public prosecutor's office announced: The case against Oliver Schröm was „suspended“. However, the allegations won't be statute-barred until 2024. Until then, the intention is to check every six months, whether there are new findings that justify a readmission.





# Awards

Two of our investigations have won major journalistic awards – and our fact check team has won awards in the US. This bestows us with double the happiness: For one, it demonstrates our professionalism within the industry. Furthermore, we generate even more attention for our investigative work. It's worth mentioning: We feel that the praise of our colleagues is not just for us. It is also due to all those citizens who supported our research with hints and information.

Pascale Müller and Stefania Prandi won the *Nannen Award* in 2019 for the best investigative achievement. The prize was awarded to the research „Raped in Europe's Fields“, a cooperation between CORRECTIV and *Buzzfeed News*. The jury praised: The two authors clearly and accurately showed that vegetables that also make their way onto our plates are cultivated on fields and in greenhouses in which women are exposed to sexual violence. Three other CORRECTIV projects were shortlisted at the Nannen Prize: our research on the CumEx Files, on ailing nuclear power plants in Europe and the Hamburg real estate market.

A *Grimme Online Award* goes to CORRECTIV this year. In the category information, the project „Who owns Hamburg?“ won. The jury praised the „relevance of the topic“ and emphasized that the editors employ groundbreaking journalistic tools, from „interactive research“ to „specially designed newsrooms“.

The *Grimme Online Award* is considered the most significant German prize for online journalism. This was the second time CORRECTIV has won the award. In 2015, our web report „MH17 – the search for the truth“ on the shooting down of a passenger plane in eastern Ukraine. The CORRECTIV.Faktencheck team also receives a prize – the International Fact Check Award in the „Most Bizarre Fact-Check“ category, awarded by the renowned American Poynter Institute. Over 18,000 people voted in favor of the article „No, Democrats do not celebrate abortion laws with baby cakes“ by CORRECTIV reporter Caroline Schmäuser.

## Awards at a glance

- Dr. Georg Schreiber Media Prize (Category Honor Award)
- Nannen Prize (Best Investigation)
- Grimme Online Award
- International Fact Checking Award
- Theodor-Wille-Heinrich-Diederichsen-Journalism Award „Fair Trade“



# Community

**T**he community is the heart of CORRECTIV. Several thousands of people are part of it. They secure our independent journalism through their contributions and enriching as well as improving our work with their knowledge and feedback. Journalism, as we understand it, is only possible thanks to the CORRECTIV community.

6,000 people already support our work with regular or one-time donations. They follow our work, offer suggestions and criticize us in a productive and constructive way. And: They tell others about CORRECTIV. Thus it's thanks to them that the community continues growing day after day. This year, we again invite all supporters to an exchange at the Campfire Festival to be held at the end of August 2019.

In a personal online profile, supporters can share their experiences and expertise with us and help us bring information to light.

It's worth registering online in the Community section: Donors can easily manage their data and view quarterly reports such as this one. In addition, this quarter we have made some top investigations available to supporters as appealing PDF reader downloads. Interested parties can read CORRECTIV research on the go and share it with friends.

Since the beginning of June, we've been sending a daily newsletter. We ease subscribers into the evening after a hectic day – investigative, fact-based and creative. In the newsletter, we recommend content for reading, watching and hearing as well as current CORRECTIV publications. In addition, we provide further free newsletters on CORRECTIV topics, as well as our fact checking, and send out a weekly cross-media selection of the best investigations across the globe. For our English speaking audience, we also have an English newsletter.





# Strategic partnerships

## **Open Knowledge Foundation Germany**

We cooperate with the Open Knowledge Foundation Germany to operate the website [fragdenstaat.de](https://fragdenstaat.de) (en: [AsktheState.de](https://askthestate.de)). The website combines our demand for a transparent society with technical innovation.

## **International Fact-Checking Network/ Poynter Institut**

We cooperate with the International Fact-Checking Network of Poynter Institute in order to combat targeted disinformation. Through the network, we are in contact with more than 50 organizations worldwide.

## **Bureau Local**

With the Bureau Local, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism in London (TBIJ) has very successfully established the model of a collaborative journalism for Great Britain. For the concrete implementation of our project CORRECTIV.Lokal, we have entered into a partnership with the TBIJ. Founded in 2010, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism is one of the world's leading nonprofit news organizations.

## **Whistleblower Network**

The civil society organization is committed to strengthening the rights of whistleblowers in Germany and supports and advises (potential) whistleblowers. The vice chairman of the WBN is a member of the ethics council of CORRECTIV. One board member of CORRECTIV is a board member of the WBN.

# Team

Our CORRECTIV.Faktencheck team has been increased with Till Eckert (started on March 15th) and Alice Echtermann (started on May 1st). Marius Wolf has been working as a project manager at CORRECTIV since March 1st. Author Stefanie Unger was appointed to the Ethics Council.



# Finances

Income	March actual	April actual	May actual	June actual
Donations	47.656	45.878	53.644	47.419
Foundations	212.693	77.000	240.000	89.000
Companies	0	0	0	0
State sector	0	0	0	0
Subsidiary	0	0	0	0
Other income	17.765	36.897	42.248	66.375
<b>Total</b>	<b>278.115</b>	<b>159.776</b>	<b>335.892</b>	<b>202.795</b>

Expenses	March actual	April actual	May actual	June actual
Wages/salaries	95.339	102.212	96.611	90.108
Social expenses	18.733	27.317	18.989	18.009
Other personnel costs	0	0	0	0
Freelancing	43.908	19.897	28.151	20.189
Design	4.672	4.292	4.788	4.949
Translation	0	0	0	0
Marketing/production	86	19	647	0
Traveling expenses	9.654	3.015	10.537	3.454
Event cost	0	0	145	0
Occupancy costs	8.122	8.241	8.226	8.027
Office	2.337	2.575	716	940
Telephone costs	1.205	1.319	2.038	1.013
IT, Development	15.553	6.848	14.891	4.008
Representation	0	0	0	0
Law	1.037	425	31.633	23.317
Consulting / Proofing	2.510	0	6.173	0
Accounting	1.824	1.824	2.998	2.403
Insurance policies	1.630	-1.956	1.215	1.215
Write-offs	2.480	2.378	2.723	2.378
Miscellaneous	4.235	3.090	52.807	1.990
<b>Total</b>	<b>213.332</b>	<b>181.501</b>	<b>283.295</b>	<b>182.007</b>

## **Explanations relating to the finances**

With this edition, the publication of the finances, just as the entire quarterly report, changed to correspond to the calendar year. Going forward, reports will be published each quarter, at the end of the month following the quarter. Thus, this particular edition shows four months in the revenue and expenditure. The main planned annual donations from foundations are recorded under income in the first half of the year.

## **Subsidiary**

CORRECTIV – Verlag und Vertrieb for the company UG (limited liability) has achieved sales revenues of EUR 232,499.93 from January 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2019. Total expenses of 275,014.43 resulted in a loss of 42,514.50 euros for the half-year. The current deficit is essentially due to the costs already incurred in preparation for the Campfire Festival.

# Donations

Period: January 1st to June 30th, 2019

Sponsor	Total
Donations by citizens	259.704,00 €
Schöpflin Stiftung	250.350,00 €
Stiftung Mercator GmbH	125.000,00 €
Deutsche Telekom (Sponsoring Reporterfabrik)	107.000,00 €
Stichting Adessium	85.000,00 €
Rudolf Augstein Stiftung	70.000,00 €
Open Society Stiftung	58.693,73 €
Reporter ohne Grenzen eV	26.300,00 €
Gemeinnützige Hertie Stiftung	25.000,00 €
Hamburger Stiftung für Kultur und Wissenschaft	24.000,00 €
Brost-Stiftung	24.000,00 €
GLS Treuhand	10.500,00 €
Private donor*	5.000,00 €
Private donor*	2.000,00 €
Europäisches Zentrum f. Presse und Medien	1.500,00 €
Private donor*	2.000,00 €
Private donor*	1.000,00 €
Private donor*	1.000,00 €

The donations of private donors are anonymized in justified cases. In such cases, the names of the donors will only be presented to the Ethics Board. For the period indicated, 35.360 euros were received from private donors for the ÖZGÜRÜZ project.



# Memberships

We are disclosing the memberships of our team, as long as there are no compelling reasons against it, in order to be able to actively counter possible conflicts of interest at an early stage. Compelling reasons may only be confidential memberships in organizations that help other reporters in acute danger.



## **Alice Echtermann**

*Reporter*

Reporter ohne Grenzen, DJV, DRF Luftrettung  
Reit- und Fahrclub Niedervieland e.V.



## **Anne-Lise Bouyer**

*Head of Data & Technology*

No memberships



## **Annika Joeres**

*Reporter*

IG Medien Verdi, amnesty international, Presse Club Frankreich, Presse-Club Monaco, Syndicat national des journalistes (SNJ), deutsch-französisches Kulturzentrum Nizza, Anastacia in Nizza, Aujà in Levens, im Elternpflegschaftsverband



## **Antje von Scheidt**

*Publishing*

No memberships



## **Bastian Schlange**

*Reporter*

Verdi, Reporter ohne Grenzen



## **Benjamin Schubert**

*Communication designer*

Attac, Mieterschutzbund Berlin, ADAC



## **Can Dündar**

ÖZGÜRÜZ

Gorki Club



## **Cristina Helberg**

Reporter

Freischreiber, Netzwerk Reportageschule, Weltnotwerk e.V.  
der KAB, Textsalon, Alumni Netzwerk Uni Köln



## **David Schraven**

Publisher

netzwerk recherche, DJV, Wirtschaftspublizistische Vereinigung, Landespresse-  
konferenz NRW, Arthur F. Burns Alumni, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft,  
Politisches Forum Ruhr, IRE - Investigative Reporters & Editors, Journalism  
Fund International Advisory Board, Angelverein „Petri Heil“ Bottrop



## **Frederik Richter**

Deputy Editor-in-Chief

netzwerk recherche, Reporter ohne Grenzen, Deutscher Eisenbahn-Verein e.V



## **Friederike Hoppe**

Reporterfabrik

Reporter-Forum, Junge Journalisten, Netzwerk Chancen



## **Giulio Rubino**

Reporter

Vorstand Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IRPI), Lega Navale



## **Hanna Wollmeiner**

Events

No memberships



## **Hüdaverdi Güngör**

Reporter

Vereinigung Hamburger Deutsch-Türken e.V., ADAC



## **Ivo Mayr**

*Senior Picture Editor*

Verdi, Aachener Schwimmvereinigung 06 e.V.



## **Jana Jocks**

*Campfire Festival*

Tennisverein DSV 04, Tennisverein DJK-LC Düsseldorf e.V.,  
Förderverein der Grundschule Konkordiaschule Düsseldorf,  
Förderverein des Luisen-Gymnasiums Düsseldorf



## **Jonathan Sachse**

*Reporter*

netzwerk recherche, Fördermitglied Freischreiber, DJV,  
IRE - Investigative Reporters & Editors



## **Justus von Daniels**

*Reporter*

DJV, netzwerk recherche



## **Katharina Späth**

*Community Engagement*

borderline europe e. V., Junges Europa e. V., Bündnis90/DIE GRÜNEN



## **Luise Lange**

*Community Engagement*

No memberships



## **Luise Stich**

*Events*

No memberships



## **Mandy Wiegand**

*Campfire Festival*

Kleingärtnerverein Hoffnung e.V.





## **Marcus Bensmann**

*Reporter*

Weltreporter, DJV, netzwerk recherche, Reporter ohne Grenzen, Ehemaliger des Journalistennetzwerk Weltreporter.net



## **Marius Wolf**

*Project management*

EDFICO – Educatie pentru Fiecare Copil – Bildung für jedes Kind,  
Gegen Vergessen – Für Demokratie e.V., BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN



## **Marta Orosz**

*Reporter*

DJV, Verein der Ausländischen Presse, N-Ost Netzwerk für Osteuropa-  
Berichterstattung, Global Think Tank Collective Constellations



## **Melanie Paul**

*Organization*

No memberships



## **Michel Penke**

*Data Journalist*

Freischreiber – Berufsverband freier Journalistinnen und Journalisten,  
Förderkreismitglied der Deutsche Journalistenschule e.V.



## **Olaya Argüeso Pérez**

*Reporter*

Reporters Without Borders Spain



## **Oliver Schröm**

*Editor In Chief*

Netzwerk Recherche, Bürgerbewegung Finanzwende



## **Rainer Döllefeld**

*Authorized Officer*

Bogensportverein Sprockhövel



## **Simon Kretschmer**

*CEO*

Soho House, AusserGewöhnlich Berlin, Beirat von International Justice Mission,  
Kita-Förderverein, Arbeiter Samariter Bund



## **Simon Wörpel**

*Data Journalist*

netzwerk recherche, Alumni-Netzwerk der Kölner Journalistenschule für  
Politik und Wirtschaft e.V., Verein zur Förderung des Jungen Orchesters NRW e.V.,  
Stipendiat im VOCER Medialab (Verein für Journalismuskritik e.V.),  
Projektförderung im Rahmen des „Prototype Fund“ der Open Knowledge  
Foundation Deutschland / Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung



## **Tania Röttger**

*Reporter*

No memberships



## **Till Eckert**

*Reporter*

DJV Baden-Württemberg, Amnesty International, Freeletics



## **Valentin Zick**

*Community Engagement*

No memberships



## **Zübeyde Sari**

*Özgürüz*

No memberships

# Appendix

## On-going investigations

### Topic X19 R

Comprehensive investigation into the assessment procedure of the federal budget

### Topic C15

Investigation on the disclosure of the NSU's connection structures in Germany

### Topic C22

Investigation on the topic of financial structures of the Catholic Church in the area of NRW

### Topic O9

Investigation on the topic of „Mafia“

### Topic O11

Investigation on the topic of „The New Right“

### Topic O12

Investigation on the topic of the labor market in Germany

### Topic O15

Investigation on the topic of illegal party donations to the AfD

### Topic O16

Investigation on the topic of mobility in Germany

### Topic SN4

Investigation on the topic of Medicine – Euros for Doctors

### Topic SN5

Citizen's investigation into the German housing market in different cities as part of our „Who owns?“ series

### Topic SN7

Investigation on shortages of skilled workers in various German cities through our network CORRECTIV.Lokal

### Topic B9

Production of a guide on the subject of „rights of information“

### Topic B12

Production of a graphic report on the topic „Made in Germany“

### Topic B18

Production of a graphic report on the topic „Children of the IS“

### Topic B28

Production of a book on „Taxes“

### Topic B29

Production of our Bookzine #6

## Undercover investigations

### Topic X38

Comprehensive investigation into the topic „Pope“

### Topic X164

We are nearing completion an investigation on the topic of „Public Broadcasting“

### Topic X166

Investigation on the topic of „Cancer“

### Topic X167

Investigation into the topic „Manipulation In Sports“

### Topic X169

Investigation into the topic „International Arms Trade“



**Topic X171**

Investigation into „International Banking Crime“

**Topic X173**

Investigation on the topic of poison

**Topic X174**

Investigation on the topic of right-wing extremism

**Topic X176**

Investigation on the topic of „EU borders“

**Topic X177**

Investigation on the topic of „Corruption in German cities“

**Topic B26**

Production of a graphic biography

## Canceled investigations

**Topic X55**

Comprehensive investigation into the topic „occupational medicine“

## Completed investigations

**Topic X163**

With „Grand Theft Europe“, we've completed our Investigation on „VAT fraud“

**Topic X170**

With „beatings, torture and singing“, we've completed our Investigation on „religious fanaticism“

**Topic X 172**

With „When the lights go out“, we have completed our Investigation on „international corruption“.

**Topic X 175**

With „A Victory for Whistleblowers“, we have completed our Investigation on „Freedom of Press“

**Topic B27**

With „32 reasons why Europe is a damn good idea“, we were able to publish our book on Europe in time for the EU election

## Projects

**Project P1**

The project „Crowdnewsroom“ on the topic of „Citizens' Investigation“ is going as planned

**Project P3**

The Reporterfabrik continues as planned

**Project P4**

We have completed the project „Crowdfunding“

**Project P8**

The project for the distribution of right to information continues as planned

**Project P9**

The project „Virtual Security“ continues as planned

**Project P10**

The campfire festival will take place in Dusseldorf at the end of August

**Project P12**

CORRECTIV.Ruhr continues as planned

**Project P13**

The project „Özgürüz“ continues as planned

**Project P14**

The project on the topic of „FakeNews, lying press and what we can do about it“ could be completed

**Project P15**

CORRECTIV.Faktencheck continues as planned

**Project P17**

CORRECTIV.Lokal continues as planned

**Project P18**

The project „International Hub“ will soon enter the public phase

**Project P19**

The festival „Literaturviertel Akazienallee“ was successfully conducted

**Project P20**

The project „Klimaredaktion“ will soon enter the public phase



# Thank you

**We thank all our supporters!**

CORRECTIV is the first non-profit newsroom in the German-speaking area. Our team of reporters uncovers systematic abuse of power and explains complex issues.

Because a strong society needs investigative journalism. This strengthens democracy and freedom. The exchange with our readers allows us to function as an educational institution for a better future. And thus journalism returns to its roots: It becomes the fourth estate in society.

CORRECTIV predominantly finances itself through donations and foundations. This guarantees independence from advertising revenue, sales figures and audience ratings.