

28. September 2026

Education and culture

Deeply rooted: educational leave strengthens democratic engagement

Five-day educational holiday "Deeply rooted - past, present and future" // The culture of remembrance in Bocholt and Aalten // Workshops on communication, diversity and social engagement

How can democracy be strengthened in everyday life? This is the question addressed by the five-day educational holiday course "Deeply Rooted - History, Present, Future" organised by the VHS Bocholt-Rhede-Isselburg. The programme will take place from 16 to 20 November 2026 and combines the culture of remembrance, cross-border learning and practical skills for respectful and democratic coexistence.

Democracy is evident not only in political institutions, but also in everyday life - at work, in clubs, in the neighbourhood and in one's personal circle. The educational leave programme takes up this idea and provides knowledge and practical tools for people who wish to actively promote respectful coexistence.

To begin with, the group explores Bocholt's culture of remembrance. During a tour of the Stolpersteine, the focus is on the life stories of people who were persecuted and deprived of their rights. On the second day, the group will cross the border to Dinxperlo and Aalten. A historical walking tour and a visit to the 'Untertauchmuseum' (Hiding Place Museum) will highlight the importance of moral courage, solidarity and overcoming barriers for a democratic society. Other key themes of the week include dealing with populist and xenophobic statements, cultural sensitivity and voluntary work. A tour of the exhibition "Germany. Israel. Insights." at the LernWerk rounds off the programme.

To conclude, participants will explore the basics of non-violent communication. The focus here is on clearly articulating one's own values and boundaries, addressing conflicts constructively, and maintaining dialogue even in emotionally charged situations.

This educational leave programme is aimed in particular at people who work with others in a professional capacity, members of works councils, association boards and those with an interest in politics. It is recognised as political further education. The VHS will provide the necessary documents for applicants to submit to their employer.

The event is supported by the VHS project "Shaping Diversity" and the "Promoting Democracy" action fund in the district of Borken, and takes place in cooperation with EUROPE DIRECT Bocholt and the Integration Office. Further information on the sessions from 16 to 20 November and details on how to register are available from the VHS Bocholt-Rhede-Isselburg or online at vhs.bocholt.de.



© Stadt Bocholt

How can democracy be strengthened in everyday life? This is the question addressed by the five-day educational holiday course "Deeply Rooted - Past, Present, Future" organised by the VHS Bocholt-Rhede-Isselburg.