

Digital future for everyone: The New *New* supports 12 projects from 9 European countries

Fellows have now been chosen for the new Europe-wide fellowship program dedicated to increasing inclusion and diversity in digital society. The selected projects will receive six months of consulting and financial support which will allow them to further develop their ideas and strengthen civil society perspectives within the process of digitalization. Jointly launched by Superrr Lab and Bertelsmann Stiftung, the initiative takes place in cooperation with Allianz Kulturstiftung and Goethe-Institut.

Berlin, 22 March 2021. How do we want to shape digital society? That is the question being addressed by the trailblazers behind the 12 projects selected as fellows for The New *New*, the recently launched Europe-wide fellowship program. Each of the fellows will receive a stipend of €1,000 per month for six months, along with professional training, to drive their innovative ideas forward. Their projects take highly diverse approaches to realizing visions of a digital society that does more to consider the attitudes and needs of groups which are underrepresented. The goal is to use digital change to promote opportunities for participating and for advancing the common good. The program's initiators are the nonprofit Superrr Lab and the Ethics of Algorithms project at the Bertelsmann Stiftung in cooperation with the Allianz Kulturstiftung and the Goethe-Institut. The newly selected fellows come from nine European countries: Germany, the UK, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and Switzerland.

The New *New* fellowship wants to open up the discussion on shaping digital change to new perspectives, a discussion that has been dominated until now by economic considerations. Superrr Lab, the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Advisory Board therefore focused on diversity criteria and an inclusive character when selecting the civil society projects. As a result, many of the chosen projects engage with social groups – such as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), refugees and LGBTQ+ – whose concerns usually receive little attention in the digital discourse.

Wide range of issues and media

The selected fellows thus address a wide variety of issues, technology and media – ranging from virtual assistants with synthetic voices, to a feminist online radio station that focuses on user participation, to a digital platform offering help to victims of domestic violence, to a card game that takes a critical look at the excesses of tech capitalism. From the end of November 2020, when the call for applications was announced, until the deadline for submissions at the beginning of January 2021, some 300 entries were received from more than 30 European countries. Given the large number of high-quality projects that applied, the organizers doubled the number of fellowships from the originally planned six.

Over the next six months, the fellows will take part in coaching sessions and workshops, detailing the progress they make in monthly video conferences with Superrr Lab, the Allianz Kulturstiftung and the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

Press Contact

Allianz Kulturstiftung
Pariser Platz 6
D-10117 Berlin
+ 49 3020915731-30
kulturstiftung@allianz.de

The Allianz Kulturstiftung is a not-for-profit cultural foundation for Europe. The aim of the Foundation is to strengthen cohesion in Europe using the tools of art and culture. The Foundation is committed to translocal art and culture projects in Europe and the Mediterranean region. Over the coming years, it will focus its strategic work on the following thematic areas. It will promote an open society while adopting a decentralised approach to Europe and driving forward digitalisation for the common good. www.allianz-kulturstiftung.de

Interim outcomes from the projects will be communicated on social media – under the hashtag #TheNewNew – and on other channels, such as [thenewnew.space](https://www.thenewnew.space). Thanks to support from the Allianz Kulturstiftung, a magazine will be published following the fellowships to profile the projects and the people involved. An analogue or digital event is also planned for the end of the fellowship program which will allow the projects to present their results.

The members of Advisory Board for The New New are:

- Carla Hustedt: Designated director “Digital Society” at Stiftung Mercator
- Fieke Jansen: PhD, Data Justice Lab, Cardiff University
- Joana Varon: Founder-Directress of Coding Rights and Tech and Human Rights Fellow at Carr Center from Harvard Kennedy School
- Joy Asongazoh Alemazung: Ambassador #HeForShe Germany
- Nushin Yazdani: dgtl fmnsn & Design Justice Network
- Olivia Vereha: Co-founder of Code for Romania
- Raúl Krauthausen: Activist for Inclusion and Accessibility, Founder of Sozialhelden e.V.
- Stephen Cave: Executive Director of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge

Contacts:

Alban Genty, Allianz Kulturstiftung

Tel.: +49 (0) 30 2091 5731 42, E-Mail: alban.genty@allianz.com

Elisa Lindinger, Superrr Lab

Tel.: +49 (0) 177 50 55 222, E-Mail: elisa@superrr.net

Markus Overdiek, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Tel.: +49 (0) 5241 81 81 854, E-Mail: markus.overdiek@bertelsmann-stiftung.de

Dr. Jeannette Neustadt, Goethe-Institut

Tel.: +49 (0) 89 15 92 18 12, E-Mail: jeannette.neustadt@goethe.de

About Allianz Kulturstiftung

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For more information about The New *New*, please click [here](#).