

Concept paper

# FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRAL SCIENCE AND CULTURE

(draft)

*There is a huge amount of data proving that the present scientific understanding of consciousness and the human mind is inadequate and untenable. However, all this material is completely ignored by institutional science.*

**Stanislav Grof**

*We are moving towards a new culture of which science and ancient wisdom are but components and in which both reach a new synthesis.*

*Ideally, this should not just be a renaissance or a repetition of the past, but a new synthesis.*

**Ervin Laszlo**

*Both in: "Bewusstseinsrevolution", Riemann, 1999*

## 1. Background and motivation for the creation of the foundation

**1.1** In the public life of Germany world views and methods which are not part of mainstream science or of the main christian churches presently assume an ambivalent position. On the one hand, there is an increasing number of people who take up most diverse forms of spirituality and esoterism or make use of a multitude of newly-developed offers for counselling and life guidance. This coincides with an increasing interest in findings of theoretical research in borderline science and in practical applications of systems involving life energy.

On the other hand, the majority of exponents of the cultural and scientific establishment contest the relevance of such offers and findings for human cognition and society as well as their spiritual dimension. In politics, literature and the media, such views are often regarded as relapses into irrational, pre-scientific or fascist thinking, and as opposed to rational enlightenment.

Such widely diverse attitudes seem to necessitate a discriminating and impartial study of those alternative offers. Of particular interest might be those concepts that provide a view of man which are not diminished by a loss of rational capacity for knowledge and guidance, but enlarged by the addition of a potential for transpersonal perceptions.

In this context it is also to be examined whether post-war Germany is still nourishing taboos on the discussion of research and cognition approaches which go beyond a comparatively narrow definition of science and "Weltanschauung" (world view). The motivation for such self-limitation might lie in Germany's past which is burdened by the political religion of Nazism.

**1.2** In other countries, for quite some time, we have been observing signs of an ongoing and unprejudiced development. There is a representative study by *Paul Ray* that documents a

growing change of values amongst a significant section of the US-American population (indicating the same in all Western countries) over the last decades. The spectrum of values of these so-called "Cultural Creatives" is characterized by the fact that it includes unconventional attitudes to spiritual self-realization as well as social, cultural, ecological and political commitment.

This change of values is in accordance with discussions on levels of trans- and post-rational cognition and perception which, on account of certain defined criteria, can be differentiated from historical expressions of pre-rational religiosity and pre-scientific world views. Examples of such concepts are *Transpersonal Psychology* and the characterization of criteria of epochs of human consciousness by *Ken Wilber*, the integral evolutionary philosophies of *Sri Aurobindo Ghose* and of *Jean Gebser*, and lastly *Ervin Laszlo's* concept of holistic and system-oriented science.

To many observers it seems to be time for Germany to participate in this global discourse which is necessary to find integral and sustainable solutions for pressing ecological, cultural, ethical and economic problems.

## 2. Aims and objectives of the foundation

**2.1** The foundation is to serve the promotion, initiation, and communication of integral and transpersonal modes of cognition and action in culture, science and business. This operational and promotional direction is to be achieved through symposia, publications and conferences, as well as through financial support and implementation of experiments, research, initiatives and projects in the economic, cultural and scientific sectors.

**2.1.1** Example: Assisting in the creation of an *academic chair for consciousness research* in Germany. Its function would be, amongst others, to research upon phenomena and experiences of human consciousness (also in their spiritual, social, psychological and physical effects) which upto now have only been ill- or not defined by physical sciences or humanities, through empirically-based documentation and hypotheses.

**2.1.2** Example: Promotion of *research in modern life energy concepts*. Various approaches presently are based upon the concept of organising forces which create life beyond and prior to matter. Traditional ideas of a unified and living universe could be updated and verified by these concepts and research methods.

**2.2** Besides these examples, a multitude of primarily interdisciplinary research and action projects may be considered. In any case, public communication of the acquired knowledge should particularly be promoted.

## 3. Preparational activities

Setting up a "working group foundation project". This working group is to further develop the concept of the projected work and the development of foundation statutes and structure in cooperation with professional consultants (e.g. by the Institute for Consultancy of Foundations). Further, the working group is to define and to contact appropriate individual and organisational contributing founders.

## 4. Time schedule

Step 1

"Working group foundation project" commenced

Step 2

Development of legal and conceptual materials for foundation acquisition, research, contacts and formation of a pool of appropriate contributing founders.

Step 3

Application for founding the foundation

## 5. Preliminary budget estimate

### 5.1 Expenses "working group foundation project"

#### 5.1.1 Compensation for research activities (correspondence, travelling, meetings, presentations etc.)

total € 5.000,-

#### 5.1.2 Honorarium to consultants (non-self)

total € 2.500,-

#### 5.1.3 Creation of appropriate materials (folders, brochures, presentation charts etc)

total € 2.500,-

#### 5.1.4 Expenses "working group foundation project"

total € 10.000,-

Remarks: Preparational research and conceptual work of the "working group foundation project" can hardly be remunerated, but have, to a great extent, to be done as an honorary activity or on an advance basis. Remuneration refers basically to incidental expenses and expenses due to loss of income.

### 5.2 Application for registration / founding -minimum capital-

€ 50.000,-

Remarks: In case the minimum capital required is available but there are not enough funds for the projected activities, the foundation board will have to focus on the generation of additional funds and/or on attracting further contributing founders.

## 6. Project coordinator and scientific guidance

### 6.1 Responsible for this concept draft

WolfgangJ. Schmidt-Reinecke, M.A..

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### 6.2 Administration during research and preparational phase

Up to the point of actual founding, the *Deutsche Transpersonale Gesellschaft (DTG) e.V.*, a registered non-profit society, will be responsible for administration. Its statutes are in agreement with the aims and objectives of the foundation.

Work for the preparational phase may be supported and facilitated through donations to DTG from individuals and / or institutions.

Banking contact:

Deutsche Transpersonale Gesellschaft e.V.

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft (BLZ 100 205 00)

Kto.-Nr 3387402

Purpose code "Stiftung"