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ZukunftsGut: Commerzbank Foundation confers first award for institutional cultural mediation in Germany

Corporate Responsibility Newsletter

Dear Sir or Madam,

In the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, the Commerzbank Foundation will, for the first time, be bestowing Germany's most richly endowed award for institutional cultural mediation: ZukunftsGut promotes the continuous relevance of artistic and cultural heritage in our society. It encourages all private, public and non-profit cultural institutions based in Germany to take part in the competition, whose mediation work focuses on at least one of the key areas of fine arts, music, literature, performing arts or cultural history.

The prize money of 50,000 euros is earmarked for the strategic further development of the mediation work of the recipient institution. The application deadline is 31 March 2018. In the future, the prize will be conferred every second year. For more information on the online application process, please see www.commerzbank-stiftung.de.

"The pivotal prerequisite for participation on the part of an opera house, theatre, literature house or museum is that cultural mediation is understood and lived as the core mission in the respective institution," says Astrid Kießling-Taşkın, Board Member of the Commerzbank Foundation. "Everybody acts in concert when it's about giving broad public access to cultural heritage, making it tangible and understandable. Only if culture can be experienced personally can it move people," further explains Kießling-Taşkın.

The ZukunftsGut award will be conferred on its first winner on 12 September 2018 in Frankfurt. "The winner will be the institution, which - in the opinion of the nine-member expert jury - is most successful in combining a structurally anchored mediation work with a contemporary presentation of cultural heritage," states Kießling-Taşkın, outlining the selection criteria.

The functional lead of the jury is Birgit Mandel, professor for cultural mediation at the University of Hildesheim and member of the foundation committee of the Commerzbank Foundation. Project partners are the European Year of Cultural Heritage and the Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft. ► **ZukunftsGut (German only)**

"Commerzbank Globale Aktien - Katholische Werte" equity fund again awarded FNG Label

In the year 2018, the equity fund "Commerzbank Globale Aktien – Katholische Werte" was once again bestowed with the FNG Label for sustainable mutual funds.

The "Commerzbank Globale Aktien – Katholische Werte" fund invests in ethical and sustainable equities globally and, in doing so, is oriented towards the values of the Catholic Church. The target group of the strategy comprises investors who wish to participate in the performance of the global equity markets and would thereby like to exclude any investment in companies which are active in the areas of nuclear power, arms, genetic engineering, alcohol and tobacco as well as stem-cell research and animal testing. As a result of the exclusion, the portfolio's carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by around 50 percent compared to the MSCI World benchmark.

Forum für Nachhaltige Geldanlagen (FNG) developed the Label in a three-year-long process together with financial experts and civil society stakeholders. The aim is to ensure and further develop quality standards for sustainable investment products. It focuses on minimum requirements in accordance with internationally recognized standards, such as the UN Global Compact. The execution and auditing of funds is handled by the independent media and research centre Novethic. ► **More details**

North Africa / Middle East (MENA): Opportunities for women

Under the EconoWin label, Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) [German Society For International Cooperation] supports twenty pioneering companies in the implementation of different projects as regards employment, employee retention and career opportunities for women in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The regional exchange of expertise serves as connective link between all cooperation partners and creates a strong lobby for the economic integration of women. The Gender Diversity Circulator is a platform which connects companies located in the MENA region with companies based in Germany and throughout Europe, e.g. with Commerzbank or Thyssen Krupp.

In 2017, Commerzbank took advantage of the opportunity and invited the participants to a closing conference in Berlin. Jenny Friese, Divisional Head for Private Customers of the Market Region East in Berlin, delivered the opening keynote and welcomed the international guests.

In Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, companies are committed to ensuring increased and more stable employment for women. So far, the countries North Africa and Middle East exhibit the lowest participation of women in economic activity on a global scale – only about one fifth of their labour force is female. In the private sector women are given less consideration when it comes to filling a post than their male colleagues - despite their professional suitability. ► **More details (German only)**

Commerzbank provides support for green bond for Poland

In January 2018, Poland issued a new green bond with a volume of one billion euros and a maturity of eight and a half years. Commerzbank supported this issue in its role as joint book runner. This transaction makes Poland the sole country which has issued two green bonds. The green bond attracted huge interest – in total, more than 170 investors placed an order with a total volume of 3.2 bn euros. The issuance proceeds are used for financing projects in the fields of renewable energies, clean transport, sustainable agriculture, reforestation, national parks and renaturation. The second-party opinion for this issuance was prepared by Sustainalytics. ► **More details**

In 2017, too, Commerzbank employees fulfilled Christmas wishes

In 2017, too, Commerzbank employees fulfilled the Christmas wishes of children and young people in need. All in all, the first Sunday during the Advent season saw 200 wish lists pinned to a board in the Commerzbank lobby. Promptly before Christmas, the employees of the Bank had fulfilled all of the wishes so that, shortly before the festivities, members of the Central Works Council were able to deliver the festively wrapped packages to the children's and young people's homes in Frankfurt on behalf of their colleagues. At Commerzbank, the Christmas wish initiative has been part and parcel of the pre-Christmas season since the year 2007. ► **More details**

One year of 'Donate your Cents initiative at Commerzbank

Since December 2016, employees of Commerzbank in Germany have had the opportunity to donate the 'left-over cents' of their salary to social projects on a regular basis. Everything "beyond the decimal point" , i.e. the amounts between 1 and 99 cents can be donated. As such, a sum may be accumulated over the period of one year which, when taken together, amounts to a considerable sum for a good cause. At the end of 2017, the result of the initiative amounted to 18,000 euros. The decision of the proportional allocation of the total sum donated to three funding projects from the area "Sozial Deutschland" (Social Germany), "Sozial International" (Social internationally) and "Umwelt" (Environment) rests with the employees of Commerzbank and Commerz Real, and is made by means of an online voting system. The donation amount was distributed to the different projects at a ratio of 50:30:20.

The children's hospice in the city of Hamburg was selected as social project in Germany.
► **Sternenbrücke Hamburg**

In the international funding area, the programme for free school meals run by the World Hunger Aid in Burundi was supported. ► **World Hunger Aid in Burundi**

With respect to the third donation project, the focus was placed on an environmental topic: crane protection at the lake Schaalsee ► **Kranichschutz am Schaalsee**

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