



NEWSLETTER 2 | 2025

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Greetings from Marburg on the Lahn River



Welcome to our supporters and friends from abroad. Please, find here our latest bilingual Newsletter 2/2025. We are happy to welcome many new interested people to our mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the list, please let us know. We still use this “slow following” model, hoping that people will read the newsletters, which are only published twice a year, with “fresh” curiosity. In a few exceptional cases, we shared information about our media via the social media channels of association members. Thank you, Pia Parolin and Kim Holzmann!



1. Pre-Face

Even though it hasn't been long since the last newsletter, many positive things have happened. First of all, we would like to thank our dedicated members and the many people who have been open-minded towards us, worked with us, and, last but not least, our donors, some of whom have been very generous. Please remember that your donations are tax-deductible.

Brief overview of notable events and new projects:

We have continued to grow in 2025! Our small association has grown from nine members at the time to 18 members now, which corresponds to a growth rate of 100% 😊 and is rather unusual for associations at present. Further candidates are planning to join in 2026. Thank you and welcome!

We produced new booklets and continued to publish a large number of them! With an unprecedented **650 booklets** published (all in German, but some also in English/Spanish), we broke a record in 2025. Thanks so much to the donors who supported the costly printing of the high-quality softcover books. These self-written and self-published “booklets to go” are, of course, mainly distributed in Germany, but are also present now in some European countries (e.g., from Greece to Finland) as well as in South America (Brazil, Ecuador, Peru) and the USA, though only in few copies. We are very happy! The feedback has been very, very good overall.

Anyone who is interested in our association is very welcome to contact or join us.

If you are interested in becoming a member, we will be happy to provide you with further information: info@imun-ev.de

Or simply download our membership application form from the imprint on our homepage: www.imun-ev.de.

Our motivation to promote the joint health of humans and nature remains unbroken; in fact, it has grown even stronger.

And Julia Hill's words continue to guide us:

**“We are the ancestors of the future;
what would you like your heritage to be?**



2. Donation Campaigns und Projects

Here we only present the donations and projects that have taken place since the last newsletter (September 21, 2025).

The 2025 Christmas donation campaign at Dr. Thomas Heintze's clinic was, as always, a success. As with previous humanitarian campaigns on Christmas and Easter, it was dedicated to supporting children who do not have access to regular, nutritious food or to cultural and educational opportunities. With the donations collected and donations made to our account, we transferred another €500 to Tafel Marburg e.V. (Kindertafel Stadtallendorf) and €500 to Kulturloge Marburg e.V. This year's Christmas cards were greatly enriched by newly designed watercolors by our board member Claudia Geiser. Thank you, Claudia! We (our member Monika Jaschinski together with Birgit Ziegenhagen and Thomas Heintze) were/are distributing book bags at Christmas and around New Year. With our own children's books plus our own health booklets for kindergartens and health booklets for senior centers (the latter is new), we always bring surprise, joy and interest. Thank you, Monika!

We have also delivered a small selection of our children's books to the Weltladen Gladenbach (Marburg-Biedenkopf district). We are delighted about the interest and the order, and look forward to further educational cooperation.

Fundraising campaign and nature conservation project: “Renaturation of burned forest areas in Thrace, Greece”

One of the highlights of 2025! Thomas Heintze and Birgit Ziegenhagen attended a medical congress in Kyllini (Peloponnese, Greece) at the end of September and beginning of October 2025. We were kindly given the opportunity to represent IMuN e.V. with a book table and to hold a fundraising campaign. Many thanks to the hosts and organizers (Dr. Claus-Peter Haller und FoMed)!



To our great delight, about 165 booklets were handed out and a total of €3,300.00 was raised. We are extremely happy and proud of this result and would like to thank the donors most sincerely for their very generous contributions. We sought to use the donations in a targeted and efficient manner, and it was clear from the outset that they should go to the host country and be used for reforestation. After a very helpful contact with Dr. Andreas Drouzas (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and colleague of Birgit Ziegenhagen), we were able to donate the money to the non-profit organization Society for the Protection of Biodiversity in Thrace (SPBT - <https://spbt.gr/>). This society, managed by Theodora Skartsi, has long been extremely committed to the renaturation of valuable forest ecosystems after devastating forest fires. The work of SPBT is particularly notable for the fact that seeds from native stocks of diverse deciduous and coniferous tree species are collected, germinated, and grown before finally being planted on the burned areas. The result is



the creation of biodiverse, locally adapted stands, with the society focusing not only on trees but also on the establishment of other key elements of the ecosystem. We are keeping our fingers crossed and will stay in touch.

Here you can see photos kindly provided by Theodora Skartsi and SPBT. Thank you very much!



Projects with the Ocean Museum Germany (DMM) and the Association of Supporters of the Ocean Museum Germany (FDM), both in Stralsund - ongoing

Following discussions with the board of the directors of DMM (Prof. Burkard Baschek, former director Dr. Harald Benke) and the chairs of FDM (Matthias Wolters, Anica Rothbart-Nickel) in March 2025, we were finally able to transfer €3,500 in donations in December 2025, which will go towards renaturation projects for valuable marine ecosystems such as seagrass beds (Baltic Sea) and coral reefs. Many important species depend on the protection of these systems. It is very important for us to use the money in a very targeted and specific way so that the relatively small sum achieves the best possible benefit. We are extremely pleased about the cooperation and will continue to report on it.

Project: “Biological diversity in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest” – ongoing

In addition to a small sum to support the valuable work of the local NGO (we reported on this several times), our children's book “How Monita became a jungle superhero” was sent to Peru in Spanish. It humorously and informatively addresses the research on “Reforestation of jungle areas by small primates,” which Birgit Ziegenhagen and Prof. Eckhard Heymann, German Primate Center, have been cooperatively conducting for many years. Eckhard reported that the booklets were very well received at the village school next to the rainforest station and by tourists (the NGO supports sustainable tourism). Thanks again to Dr. Bárbara Diez Rodriguez for the perfect translation!



Cover of the Spanish version of the children's book and fruit cluster of the jungle tree *Parkia panurensis*, whose seeds are spread by monkeys. Photo: Eckhard Heymann.



Regional project: “Climate forests” – ongoing

No new information at present. We will visit the area in the new year.

3. Media

Our media library is constantly growing. We are highly productive. Following the two new booklets of the series PocketKnowledge published in fall 2025, “How I get my brain fit and keep it fit” and “Orchard fruit – On the trace of the apple,” another very nice children’s booklet of the series PocketAdventure, or rather two, was launched on December 16, 2025: “Luna searches for the cave” and “Exit – The bats and the 7 gates”. Although we list the English titles of the three booklets here, they are all in German. Perhaps one or two of them can be translated into English in 2026.



10 x 10 cm, softcover with 22 and 20 pages.

This fascinating double volume takes children into the world of caves and bats. With her second children's book, our association member Dr. Kim Lea Holzmann delights many children who want to learn more about this world that usually exists beyond the reach of daylight. For the first time, she has lovingly and artistically illustrated the book herself. Birgit Ziegenhagen has teamed up with Kim to write an additional exit puzzle booklet, also about bats. It is mystical, stimulating, and very educational for children and adult readers. The puzzles can be solved with the help of the knowledge QR code in Kim's book. Proofreading: Jürgen Sachs (member of IMuN e.V. and Hessian State Theater Marburg).

Look forward to a new book (PocketKnowledge) in the first half of 2026! It will be about peat bogs, their importance as CO₂ reservoirs as well as about threats and conservation or restoration issues, respectively.

Translated from German into English with the help of DeepL.com (free version 2025), slight modifications by Birgit Ziegenhagen.