

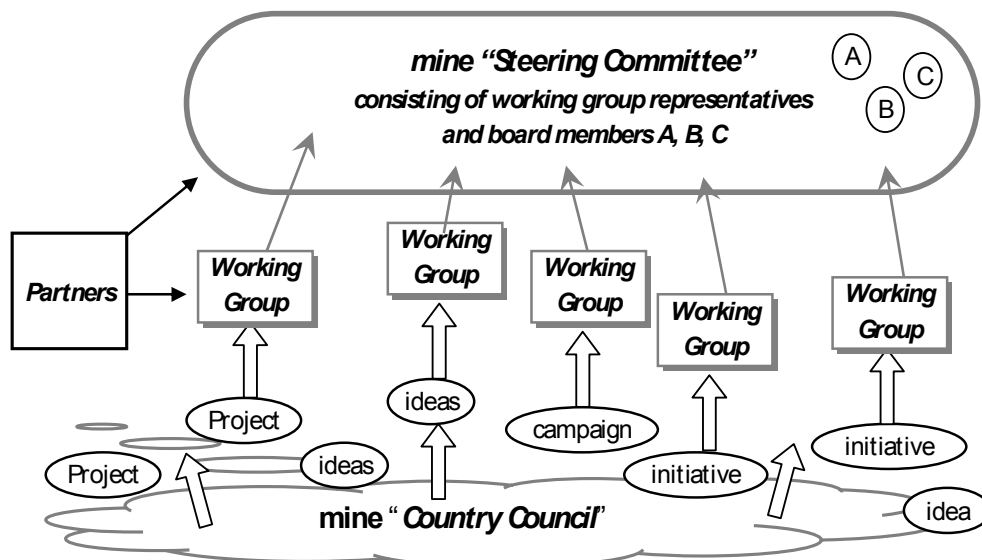
How to participate in mine

After a year -long reorganisation process and many discussions **mine** has given itself a refined formal structure. We have worked hard at putting our principles and values into a bottom up participative organizational structure. Joining **mine** is based on participation. You join by taking part in **mine** activities, meetings and campaigns. You do not have to become a member to join **mine** campaigns. To structure communication and coordination in **mine**, we have defined the following organizational bodies.

- At the base of the **mine** structure is the **mine "Country Council"**. It is composed by countries that have Mother Centers or Mother Center initiatives. This is a fluid and open group. To join you name two persons who will represent your country. These two people have the task to pass on information from the **mine** network to the Mother Centers and/or Mother Center initiatives in their country as well as to bring in ideas, initiatives and information from their Mother Centers into the **mine** network. Communication of the Country Council is mainly based on e mail contact (mine yahoo group) and as much as possible on face to face meetings (depending on finding funds).

Mine's existence depends on the involvement and the initiatives from this base. Participants of the country council take initiative and suggest which of their activities on local, regional or national level they would like to take to the international level.

- If they receive response from other Mother Centers and countries ("Yes we would like to join this initiative") together they form a "**Working Group**". Each Working Group appoints a "**Coordinator**" of their group, normally the initiator, whose job it is to manage the initiative/project and spread it into the **mine** network. The coordinator initiates and coordinates communication in the Working Group and links the activities on the ground to the **mine** structure. The Working Group takes their own decisions about their project. From each Working Group someone (probably the coordinator) is appointed to represent the Working Group in the "**Steering Committee**".



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- The **Steering Committee** thus consists of the most active people in **mine**. It does the overall coordination of all **mine** projects and the decision making on **mine** level. If there are no activities initiated from the network and no Working Groups function, the Steering Committee consists of a minimal of the 3 **mine** board members. Communication in the Steering Committee is based on e mail contact as well as monthly Skype calls.
- The **mine Board** consists of exactly 3 persons that are elected by **mine** members. They are also members of the Steering Committee and participate in the decision making as members of the Steering Committee. As board members they take on the legal responsibilities as specified in the statutes. As **mine** is registered as a legal entity in Germany, they assure that procedures in the **mine** network are done in accordance with the German law on "Vereinsrecht", the statutes and by-laws. As board members they divide the following legal responsibilities between them:
 - A) Mine finances in accordance to German law and (supervising) accounting.
 - B) Internal communication: Minimally: organizing of annual **mine** meetings and annual reports.
 - C) External communication: Minimally: answering mails .
- Both the Working Groups and the Steering Committee can adopt partners (individuals as well as other organizations) and experts as members to support their work.
- Working Groups can take on activities for **mine** on all kind of levels. They can focus on joint activities, projects and campaigns, or they can take on overall tasks like the **mine** website, PR for **mine**, fundraising for organizational core support of **mine**, making a **mine** DVD, creating a **mine** newsletter, doing outreach work to spread MC into other countries, creating a **mine** bank of knowledge/archives/, setting up of MOUs (memorandum of understanding) for equal partnerships etc.
- All Working Groups appoint one person for the Steering Committee.
- Coordinators of Working Groups provide information/reports/pictures for the mine yahoo group as well as the **mine** website
- The annual **mine Network Meeting** takes place in a different country every year. It will be usually connected to project and campaign meetings or workshops in order to make use of project funds. The annual **mine** meetings are open to everybody participating in **mine**, however **mine** does not have any core funding to support travel costs. Participation will therefore mainly depend on project participation as well as own fundraising. At the annual **mine** meetings participants report about activities of the Mother Centers and Mother Center networks from their country and the **mine** Working Groups report about their activities. **Mine** membership meetings are incorporated in the annual meetings. Time and location of the meeting is selected on the basis of making possible the maximum attendance of countries.
- **Mine Membership** is open to all countries that have Mother Centers. A Working Group is currently working out the basis to define **mine** membership to be incorporated in the by- laws. The concept points of what constitutes a Mother Center is also defined in the bylaws and put on the membership form. New members are approved by current membership.

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The mine principles applied

This structure is fluid and follows the energy of the movement. When a country is actively taking their work to the international level, they will be in many working groups and have many representatives in the **mine** Steering Committee. When they are not focusing so much on international work, they will be less represented in the **mine** organizational and decision making bodies.

The composition of the Working Groups and Steering Committee is constantly changing, new Working Groups (and therefore members in the Steering Committee) can be created at any given time, when Working Groups have completed their work or the campaign is not continued they also drop out again of the Steering Committee.

On the other hand the structure allows for continuity. Even if there is nothing going on in the movement, there will be a Steering Committee, consisting of at least the 3 members of the **mine** Board who can think about how to revive the **mine** network.

Current mine Board:

Andrea Laux (Germany),
Renate Stein (Argentina),
Rut Kolinska (Czech Republic)

Current mine Steering Committee Members:

Biser Alekov Svetlinov
Elena Bakosova
Gabika Dunajcikova
Waltraud Erharder-Hitthaler
Marieke van Geldermalsen
Monika Jaeckel
Rut Kolinska
Andrea Laux
Renate Stein

Current mine Working Groups:

- Mothers Walk a Mile (contact: elena@materskecentra.sk)
- How to raise our Children and Universities of Parenthood (contact: gabika.dunajcikova@zoznam.sk)
- Daddy rocks today (contact: lucie.svatosova@materska-centra.cz)
- Mother Centers in Roma communities (contact: biskol@mail.bg)
- GWIA Project (contact: m.geldermalsen@xs4all.nl)
- European Lobby (contact: rut.kolinska@materska-centra.cz)
- Communication and PR (contact: info@mine.cc)
- Membership and By laws (contact: bruneck@elki.org)
- Fundraising and Financing (contact: steinrenate@gmx.net)
- Reach out and Start up Support for new Mother Centers (contact: jaeckel@xs4all.nl and andrea@andrealaux.de)
- Website (contact: gabika.dunajcikova@zoznam.sk)

Next mine Networking Meeting: The next **mine** networking meeting, which will include elections of the **mine** board, is scheduled for 20th September in Barcelona.

Current mine Campaigns:

In cooperation with Mother Center country networks **mine** is currently conducting the following international projects and campaigns:

- Mothers Walk a Mile (information:
- How do we want to raise our children? (information:
- Daddy rocks today (information:
- The Grassroots Women's International Academy (GWIA) – A Peer Learning Strategy applied to the Mother Center Movement (information: