The Association of Israelis of Central European Origin - Core Values:

- Mutual assistance and social solidarity
- Volunteering and contributing to community and society
- Zionism and building the country
- Immigrant absorption
- Excellence in all occupational and knowledge fields
- Education and culture
- Civilized society
- Intellectual pluralism
- Preserving and imparting the heritage to descendants and society at large
The Solidaritätswerk – Mutual Assistance Enterprise for Members of the Community

The Solidaritätswerk was established in 1941 to assist needy Olim from Central European countries and their families. Since then, it has operated under the motto Keiner soll hungern (No-one shall go hungry) and continues to provide aid for community members in need, including the elderly and the sick. The Solidaritätswerk assists also in establishing, expanding and renovating the AICEO parents’ homes, as well as promoting the Association’s social and cultural activities.

The AICEO – Main Activities

The AICEO runs branches in the three major cities. These branches are centers of social and cultural activity, such as classes, excursions and lectures for all ages, in which thousands of members and guests participate each year. The activities include volunteer projects such as a hotline to locate members in need of aid and contact with professional authorities and voluntary organizations.

Altenland – the AICEO Forest

In 2007, to mark the 75th anniversary of the AICEO, and in cooperation with the Jewish National Fund in Israel, the presidium decided to dedicate the Har Ahim forest, between Yodfat and Hararit in Western Galilee, to the Central European Olim and their descendants and to perpetuate the Fifth Aliyah. This “living forest” serves as the venue for many AICEO activities, such as hikes combining a visit to the German-Speaking Jewry Heritage Museum at Tefen, family get-togethers, visits by delegations and overseas communities, youth activities, sports and recreation. All donations toward the planting of trees or cultivation of the forest are acknowledged by a certificate of appreciation.

MB Yakinton Periodical

MB Yakinton has been published every few weeks since its establishment in 1932 with the start of the Jeckes Aliyah to Eretz Yisrael. This professionally edited magazine, which maintains constitutional freedom, includes articles on social and cultural topics, heritage and personal stories. Its uniqueness lies in the printed material’s links to the Jeckes’ descendants and heritage. The periodical is very popular among the Israeli public in general and the Central European Olim community in particular.

Higher Education and Research Scholarships

Each year, the Solidaritätswerk awards dozens of scholarships to encourage educational excellence.

Online Learning Program for the Young Generation

The online learning program “Yeke” (www.yeke.cet.il) was designed in collaboration with The Center for Educational Technology (CET). It is a platform for formal and informal education for students and the general public.

Involvement in Israeli Society

In recent years, the AICEO has directed its activities toward involvement in society in general, while preserving its apolitical stance, and makes its voice heard regarding meaningful value-based topics.

Activity Venues

The AICEO holds activities in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, and provides assistance to the needy throughout the country: in cities, peripheral towns, moshavim and kibbutzim. Activities encouraging Aliyah and the absorption of Olim are held all over Israel and in German-speaking communities overseas.

The Association of Israelis of Central European Origin (AICEO) was established in 1932 during the Fifth Aliyah. Since then, it has continued to work for the benefit of Olim from the German-speaking countries of Central Europe—Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland—and their descendants: The AICEO is a voluntary organization with a liberal and humanistic outlook and is led by the second and third generations of its founders. AICEO members have the right to vote for different organizational bodies such as the presidium, the finance committee, the program and heritage committee, etc.

The AICEO has operated continuously over eight decades, remaining loyal to its core values alongside ongoing renewal and tailoring its activities to the Israeli reality and the changing needs.

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Immigration and Absorption

The AICEO assists and advises new Olim from German-speaking countries, serving as an information center regarding immigrants’ rights, studies and employment, as well as a social and cultural meeting place for Olim.

Heritage

One of the main activities of the AICEO is perpetuating the heritage of Central European Jewry and instilling its values in the public discourse in Israel. Its widespread activities are designed to tell the story of the magnificent contribution made by the Central European Olim to the establishment of the State, in many different fields, and its influence on the character and development of Israel. This includes the successful partnership with the German-Speaking Jewry Heritage Museum at Tefen, initiating and realizing the documentation and preservation of the heritage, through conferences, seminars and symposia for AICEO members, the second and third generation and the public at large.

The AICEO was among the pioneers of modern institutionalized geriatric treatment in Israel. As early as the 1950s, the Association established an extensive network of parents’ homes under the auspices of Chevrat Meonot Horim (Jerusalem and Tel Aviv) and Chevrat Bates Horim (Haifa). Today, approximately 1,000 residents live in nine high-quality parents’ homes run as subsidiary companies of the AICEO.

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