

Awareness Concept

For events organized by

We want to strive for conscious reflection and safe spaces for all our events.

Why an awareness concept?

The Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik is an association of students, teachers, and researchers critically engaging with economics (see this [position paper](#)). Our commitment to a future-fit economics also involves addressing social conditions and relations beyond the critique of educational content. Therefore, our goal is to collectively reflect on existing structures of power and domination that shape our interactions, including within the Netzwerk. We live in a society that continually reproduces and maintains unequal relationships. This awareness concept aims to help us be sensitive to these inequalities and the resulting discrimination, especially in the context of network events.

What is awareness?

"Awareness" can be related to "mindfulness" and "consciousness," and it relates to discriminations such as sexism, racism, ableism, classism, antisemitism, and queer or trans*phobia. The awareness concept is intended to minimize discriminatory and violent conditions and behaviors. Insults, boundary violations, and discrimination have no place at events of the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik. We instead aim to create a pleasant atmosphere for all participants in our events, which should be places where we can engage in respectful, equal discussions and learn from each other. To us, "awareness" encompasses interacting with each other mindfully, implying that every participant reflects on their behavior in relation to privileges and prejudices, respects others' boundaries, and communicates their own boundaries. At a basic level, this means everyone considers potential knowledge hierarchies and shares their thoughts and arguments in a way that includes everyone.

What does the awareness team do?

At events organized by the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik, an awareness team made up of one or more contact persons – depending on the size of the event – is always present or reachable by phone. If you feel uncomfortable in a certain situation or with specific individuals, or if you witness or experience discriminatory or boundary-violating

behavior, you can find support from the awareness team. This means that we

- offer you a quiet and safe space away from the hustle and bustle,
- are approachable during or after boundary-violating situations and try to help you,
- work with you as an affected person to find ways to deal with the boundary-violating situations, or
- refer you to external help.

You have your own individual boundaries and decide for yourself when they are crossed. Personal boundaries are always okay! As the awareness team, we take your statements and experiences seriously and support you in your needs.

No one is free from discriminating against others, and no one is free from being discriminated against. Therefore, dialogue and clarification through appreciative joint communication are our top priorities. In cases of assaults or violations that cannot be excused by ignorance but occur with clear awareness and intention, leading to the impossibility of joint presence at the event, this can result in exclusion of the perpetrator, which will be decided collectively depending on the situation.

Together, all participants and organizers can create an atmosphere of mindfulness towards each other. Stand up for one another if you observe potentially discriminatory behavior at our events. If you have the impression that someone is overwhelmed by a situation, ask if everything is alright, speak up for each other, or reach out to the awareness team. Sometimes, just the feeling of not being alone can be enough for those affected to regain their ability to act.

What about mental health?

Events of the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik often have full schedules, deal with stressful and emotional topics, and include a large number of participants, which can be mentally exhausting and overwhelming. Therefore, the organizers should plan enough breaks and downtime. However, it is also important that you know and respect your own boundaries and needs. On the one hand, you can actively demand the breaks you need – other participants will surely appreciate it. On the other hand, it is also perfectly fine to skip a program item to regulate your stress level, move around, or get more sleep. Just try not to arrive late to workshops to avoid disruptions, and don't leave all the care work to others.

Feel free to confidentially approach the awareness team or the organizers directly if you notice structural deficits at our events that have burdened you, such that these can be addressed in the future. We aim to minimize structural causes of mental strain as

much as possible.

Mental health is an important component of this awareness concept because we want to underline the importance of mental well-being. Conversely, awareness work is also crucial for the mental health of participants. The awareness team, however, does not have therapeutic training and can only provide limited support for the mental well-being of all participants. Therefore, self-responsibility and group dynamics are of great significance. The responsibility for your mental well-being partly lies with you, your self-respect, and maintaining your own individual boundaries. Moreover, we believe that interacting mindfully and appreciatively with each other can also foster a culture of self-respect.

The following sentence from our communication concept serves as the guiding principle for “aware” behavior at our events, ensuring everyone can feel comfortable:

Treat yourself and others with respect and appreciation.

We wish you a wonderful event with kind people, great experiences, and enriching content exchanges.

The Awareness AG

Contact us at: awareness@plurale-oekonomik.de

[Here](#) you can find the communication concept of the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik. Although it was not written by the Awareness AG, its principles have been incorporated into this awareness concept.