



PANKOW EMPOWERS

Learning space
towards self-employment

C*SPACE



Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union



WHAT?



Pankow Empowers is a professional continuing education program designed for New Berliners with a migration background, based in Berlin. You are pursuing or wish to pursue self-employment in the creative sector, social entrepreneurship, education, civil society, or environmental protection.

It goes beyond a series of training sessions; it's a collaborative learning and empowerment space for bold and curious individuals who have started or wish to start their self-employment journey — whether on their own or as part of a team — and want to draw inspiration and support from a peer group of (around) 10 participants.

Pankow Empowers was first implemented as a pilot prototype project supported by the program “LSI - Lokal Sozial Innovativ” and in cooperation with the Pankow Business Development Corporation and “BBWA - Betriebliche Bündnisse für Wirtschaft & Arbeit”. It was funded by the European Union and Land Berlin as part of the European Social Fund.

The prototype was successfully realized in 2024. The C*SPACE team and their program partners can now offer the learning program to any interested group or organization on demand.

Project by:

C*SPACE

Das Vorhaben wird gefördert aus Mitteln der Europäischen Union und des Landes Berlin im Rahmen des Europäischen Sozialfonds.



WHO?



For about **12 participants** with **migration experience**, living or working in Pankow/Berlin, from the fields of design, activism, illustration, feminist projects, citymaking, coaching, cultural work, and architecture.



HOW?

Four Half-Day Skills Workshops

On Tuesdays, between 9:00-14:00

15.10 - Vision & Positioning

05.11 - Marketing & Communicaton

19.11 - Financial Management

10.12 - Legal Aspects

(topics to adapt based
on the group's needs)

Individual Coaching Sessions x 2

Access to coworking space for the program duration

C*SPACE, Langhansstraße 86,
13086 Berlin

Bi-weekly Peer Learning Meetings

Guided and self-organised



HOW?

Applying a mix of methodologies according to the pool of expertise of the program partners. — from coaching, facilitating, design and business backgrounds.

Including:

- **Needs Assessment:**

Stakeholder & participant dialogue interviews
(following Otto Scharmer's Theory U)

- **Participative Design:**

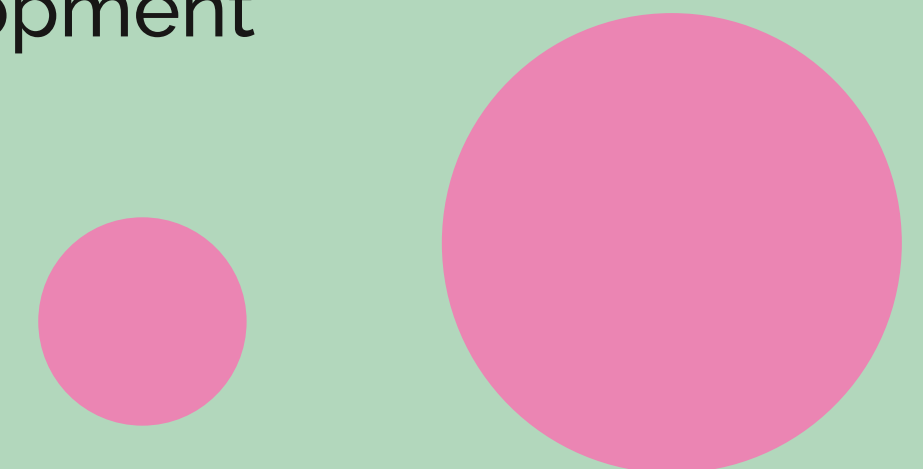
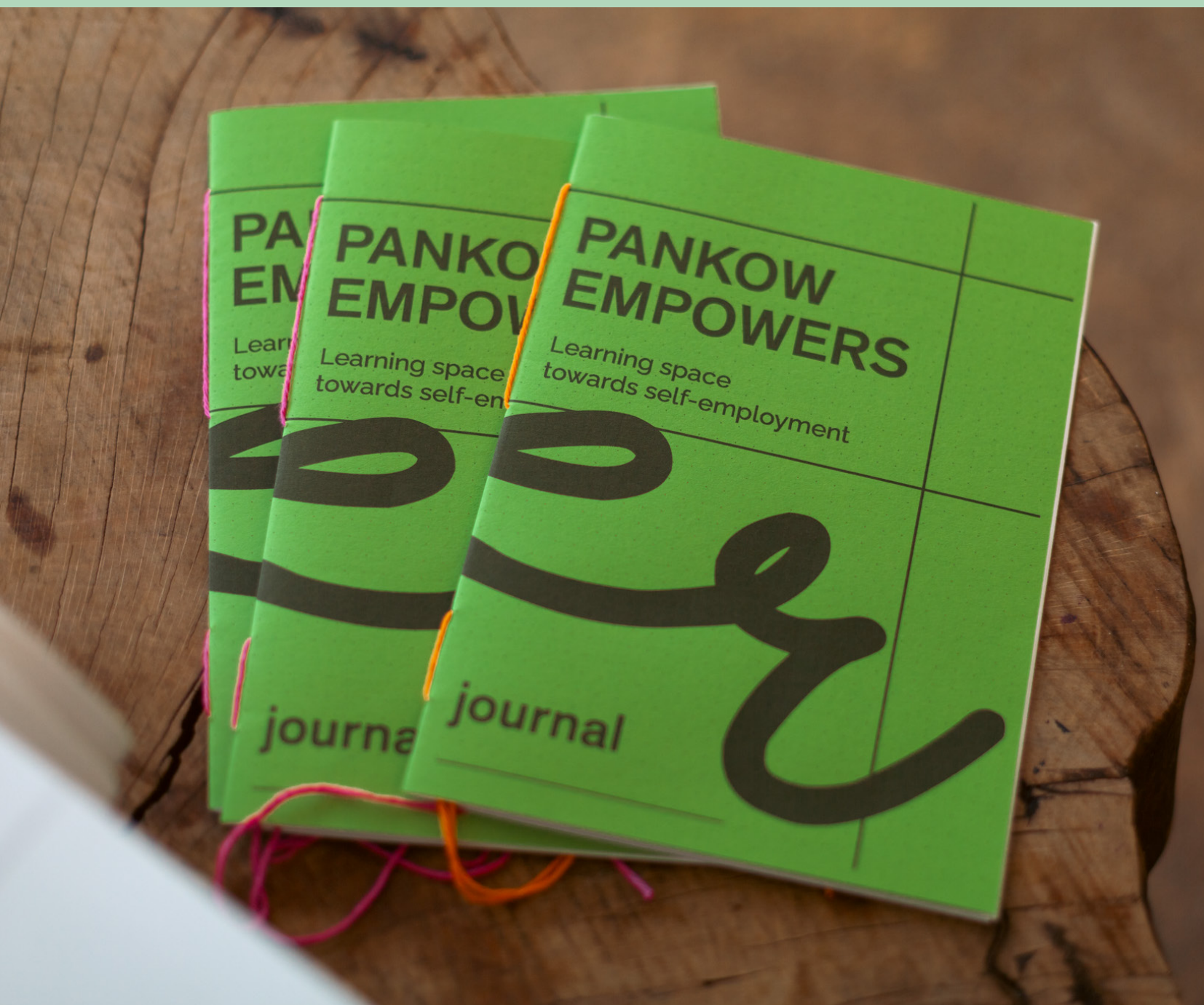
Workshops designed based on Design Thinking principles

- **Peer Learning:**

Collegial consultations, including templates and self-coaching questionnaires

- **Learning Journey Diaries:**

Structured reflection tools to track skill development and self-assessment



TAKEAWAYS?

"Most inspiring are the people, that both workshop speakers and participants see each other at the eye level and open to share their own experience."

"The program instilled a sense of community and support! Connecting with other freelancers and sharing our experiences was incredibly valuable in a safe space. The workshops helped me realise the importance of setting boundaries, valuing my time and expertise."

"I don't need to choose. I can be everything I am at the same time and create something true to me."

"Consistency is key!"

"I need to continuously search for the right long-term goal for myself, in order to build the business that fulfills."

"New perspective on making and starting new projects. Potential to work on things together. Sicking support from people/community is important."

TEAM



Katja Hellkötter

Co-founder of C*SPACE and program curator, Katja has been active for **20 years** as an **intermediary actor in transcultural cooperation** at the intersection of economy, society, and culture. She is a **process facilitator** trained with the Presencing Institute @MIT and certified by the GFI – Generative Facilitation Institute Berlin.



Monika Jiang

Monika is a **German-born Chinese writer, facilitator, and community builder** who has always balanced the line between feeling estranged and at home. At the House of Beautiful Business, she helped **build a global community of 50,000 members** dedicated to a life-centered economy. Now Monika collaborates with individuals and organizations on **community engagement, content strategy, and marketing communications**.



Magdalena Patalong

Magdalena is a **certified communications trainer and facilitator** with extensive experience working with **civil society across Eastern Europe**. She transitioned to full-time self-employment in the summer of 2024, and now specializes in supporting team development in impact-driven organizations through **strategic planning, effective communication and role clarification**.



Alexandra Rupp

Alex is trained in **Systemic Transformation Design and Project Management**, and is receiving training as an **Integrative Business Coach**. She brings a wealth of expertise on organizational culture, project and change management, strategy and process development, communication, and partnership strategies. She has got extensive insights into the **culture and processes of corporations, social enterprises, family businesses (SMEs), NGOs, and self-employment**.



Annika Backe

During her academic career as a classical archaeologist, **Dr Annika Backe** discovered her true passion: communicating complex content to a broader audience. She is an independent marketing expert and branding buddy with her company Born to Brand. As head of the Gründerinnenzentrale (Female Founders' Center), she leads a team that supports women in Berlin on their path to self-employment.



Anastasia Zagorni

Anastasia is a program manager and coach who has been supporting founders from art and design since 2016. In her role as a coach, she helps individuals and teams evaluate their business ideas concerning innovation and co-develop strategies on how to find first customers. Anastasia is interested in organisational models as a vehicle to design new collaborative models and systems.



Katya Romanova

Katya is the **coordinator of Pankow Empowers program**. She is a designer, C*SPACE program & communications manager, and co-founder of re:imagine your city network. She coordinates and creates projects with focus on **community building, urban projects and participative creative methods** including storytelling, photography, and food design. Katya holds a degree in Teaching Languages and a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Communications at HTW Berlin. She brings her expertise and experience as an educational programs manager.

C* SPACE

C*SPACE is a purpose-driven creative space for co-working, projects and events in Berlin Weißensee.

C* stands for **curiosity, courage, community and collaboration**. We initiate cultural and learning programs, co-creating and connecting ideas and encounters across borders.

C*SPACE is a hub for social innovation, where **global and local neighbors come together across cultural and sectoral boundaries** to develop critical awareness and solutions for new forms of regenerative work and learning, as well as celebrate cultural diversity and exchange.