



### 1. What does ParaNova stand for?

Composed of “paradigm” (template, pattern of thought, worldview) and “nova” (= new), “ParaNova” stands for the possibility of a new way of thinking. This “new way” includes **openness**, **tolerance**, and a focus on **consensus** as central components. Every person has an individual history with their own experiences and own emotions connected to it; every person has an individual perspective influencing his or her thinking. We are convinced that, although we assign ourselves to different social groups, it is a desirable goal to treat each other with **respect** and try to find common **solutions** for our problems.

### 2. What are our goals?

Speaking very broadly: **reducing prejudices** and encouraging more **self-responsibility**. We observe that many people are led by clichés or fall back on “hearsay-knowledge” during discussion, without ever getting into actual contact with those things they discuss. There is a tendency to take one’s own thinking as absolute and truthful, which in turn often prevents a truly open culture of discussion. Such thinking, however, gets put into perspective in encountering a **plurality of opinions** and ideas, once one really lets them take root. Also, we perceive it as a necessity, in a globalized world like ours, to point out to each other our efficacy and our **own responsibility**, for example in terms of unsustainable consumption, as society as a whole.

### 3. How do we achieve this?

This is exactly what we have to ask ourselves over and over again! ParaNova wants to function as a “Think Tank” and as a practice-oriented initiative alike. Our general approach: **making perspectives available** and **creating touchpoints**. We want to counter obstacles, often present in political or public and media discourse, with our own engagement. As a first project, ParaNova wants to call an **online platform** into being, from which we can discuss current societal issues via the **incorporation of our own perspective-bound thinking**. Secondly, in the spirit of our initiative, we are launching the pilot project of a workshop in the coming summer that engages with perspective-bound thinking in the context of the **Covid-19 pandemic**. Once possible again, ParaNova wants to extend its activities outside of the digital realm.

### 4. ParaNova and You?

We are looking for committed people who can identify themselves with the values of the initiative. We offer immense space for your own ideas and creativity and grow through your perspective! You can find further information on the initiative and the planned workshop at [civis.cborchers.com](https://civis.cborchers.com). If you have questions or further interest, you can write us an e-mail via [paran00va@gmail.com](mailto:paran00va@gmail.com).

“Sharing Perspectives  Integrating Standpoints”