



HERTIE HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Report 2024–2025

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DEAR FRIENDS OF THE HERTIE SCHOOL,

When was the last time you were talking with a colleague, friend or even a stranger on issues you fundamentally disagree with? It might be a painful exercise, but “Talking across the aisle”, as one of our recent studies argues, has the potential to save democracy by counteracting the growing polarisation in our societies.

Impactful research is needed more than ever as shifts in government across the globe – and most visibly in the United States – have shaken the foundations of liberal democracy and cast shadows over academic freedom. These developments remind us why scholarly inquiry matters: to provide clarity amid uncertainty, to ground debates in evidence, and to prepare leaders to guide governance towards the common good.

During the 2024–2025 Academic Year, our community reaffirmed this mission through significant contributions to public discourse, research and education. Our faculty offered timely analyses of elections in Germany and the United States, underscoring the relevance of academic insight in shaping democratic debates. We hosted the Initiative for an Effective State, whose recommendations to modernise Germany were reflected in the coalition agreement of the new government – demonstrating how rigorous scholarship can directly inform policy.

Our campus continued to serve as a vibrant forum for exchange. We welcomed distinguished guests, including CDU Chairman and current German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta, Icelandic President Halla Tómasdóttir, and European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde. Their visits enriched our understanding of global governance challenges. In parallel, our Executive Education programme convened the Innovationsforum, which brought together policymakers, scholars and civil society to explore how state action can be made future-proof, effective and democratic.

This year also marked a historic milestone: the awarding of our first honorary doctorates. Scholars Renate Mayntz and Fritz Scharpf were recognised for their pioneering contributions to governance studies, while former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger received our first honorary doctorate for a public figure, in recognition of his commitment to climate protection and bipartisan dialogue. His keynote, delivered alongside then-Vice Chancellor of Germany Robert Habeck, was a highlight of the year.

In parallel, our research agenda also expanded with major initiatives. The Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS, a consortium

of Berlin universities including the Hertie School, secured renewed funding to investigate democratic resilience. Our Jacques Delors Centre launched the project “Reconfiguring Europe”, with support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Swiss National Science Foundation, to study the evolution of competence and control in the European Union. Two incoming professorships were made possible through the generous support of new partners: Violeta Moreno-Lax in international law with the help of the Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft, and Mauro Gilli on military strategy and technology, thanks to the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit. These strong partnerships help us affirm our role as a hub for cutting-edge research on pressing global issues.

Teaching remains the heart of our mission. This year, we celebrated excellence in the classroom by awarding the 2024–2025 Teaching Awards to Professor Johanna Mair, Guest Lecturers Léa Steinacker and Steve Zipperstein, and Teaching Assistants Carolina Díaz Suárez and Jan Panhuysen – congratulations to all!

Our students are our ambassadors and continue to shine. Highlights this year included an all-female student team winning an award, this year for “Best Visualisation”, at the *DataFest Germany* 2025 hackathon for the second year in a row, and our Jessup Moot Court team earning recognition as the top EU team in the international competition. We are equally proud of their respectful but difficult dialogue on the Middle East, organised with the support of ZEIT “My Campus Talks”.

Institutionally, the Hertie School ranked highly in both the QS and Shanghai Rankings and was recognised among Germany’s top universities for gender equality by the Center of Excellence Women and Science – a testament to our commitment to excellence and inclusivity.

New formats help us display our work to ever wider audiences. *Reel World Research*, a social-media format, puts research and our Professors in the spotlight, and our *Fresh off the Class* videos allow faculty and guest lecturers to reflect on their courses.

We also welcomed new leadership: Frank Mattern and Helge Braun assumed the roles of Chair of the Supervisory Board and Chair of the Board of Trustees, respectively, bringing fresh energy and vision to our mission.

Amidst all the changes, we also celebrated cherished traditions which remain central to our identity.



President Prof. Dr Cornelia Woll (middle) and the leadership team: Prof. Dr Andrea Römmele, Dean of Executive Education and Vice President, Prof. Dr Thurid Hustedt, Dean of Graduate Programmes, Dr Axel Baisch, Managing Director, and Professor Mark Hallerberg, PhD, Dean of Research and Faculty

We welcomed our third Henrik Enderlein Fellow, John Morijn, and awarded the fourth Henrik Enderlein Prize to Professor Alice Vadrot for her work on environmental diplomacy. The Data Science Lab hosted its second *Data4Good Festival*, and the Policy Lab *Festival of Ideas* returned, celebrating classroom creativity and collaboration. Our Alumni Achievement Award entered its second decade, honouring Claudia Müller for her work in closing the gender gap in financial literacy.

It was, in every sense, a busy and inspiring year – made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and the dedication of our students, faculty and staff. As we look ahead, we invite you to stay connected by visiting our website, engaging with us on social media, subscribing to our newsletters, and exploring ways to support our university and students. We would be delighted to welcome you in person on our campus in the heart of Berlin.

The Hertie School Leadership



1,2,3, SAY HERTIEEE!



HERTIE SCHOOL IN NUMBERS

Students and alumni*



938

students from
over 70 countries



636

participants in our Executive
Education programmes



3,365

alumni from
120 countries

Faculty and research*



36

faculty members



74

PhD Researchers



52

articles in peer-reviewed
journals**



6

Centres of
Competence

Budget**



30.8

million euros
overall budget



11

million euros from
the Hertie Foundation



6.5

million euros
in third-party funding

Outreach: media and events**



6,497

overall appearances in national
and international media



170

public and research events

Master's programmes accredited by

GERMAN
Accreditation Council



*as of August 2025
**in the 2024–2025 Academic Year

HERTIE SCHOOL IN THE MEDIA

2024/2025

1) Lion Hirth, FAZ | **2)** Sylvia Steininger, ZDF | **3)** Mark Hallerberg, ZDF | **4)** Anke Hassel, ARD | **5)** Christine Lagarde at the Hertie School, FAZ | **6)** Andrea Römmele, Markus Lanz, Berliner Kurier and Tagesspiegel | **7)** Andrea Römmele, ZDF heute | **8)** Christian Traxler, Tagesspiegel | **9 and 10)** Cornelia Woll, FAZ | **11 and 12)** Arnold Schwarzenegger receives honorary doctorate at the Hertie School, Berliner Kurier and Tagesspiegel | **13)** Press conference about Klaus Hurrelmann's youth study at the Hertie School | **14)** Klaus Hurrelmann, Der Spiegel

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HERTIE HIGHLIGHTS



17 Sept.

Arnold Schwarzenegger awarded for commitment to sustainability

Schwarzenegger receives an honorary doctorate for public figures for his commitment to climate protection. Robert Habeck, German Federal Vice Chancellor, delivers the laudatory speech.

28 Sept.

John Morijn becomes third Henrik Enderlein Fellow

The legal scholar and policymaker joins the Hertie School to lead discussions on democracy and the rule of law in the EU.

Sept. '24



Oct. '24

Nov. '24

Jan. '25

4 Sept.

Opening of the 2024–2025 Academic Year

The Hertie School welcomes 340 new students and confers its first-ever honorary doctorates to scholars Renate Mayntz and Fritz Scharpf.



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25 Oct.

Iceland's President argues for more female leadership

In a chat with students at the Hertie School, Halla Tómasdóttir shares her thoughts on diversity, sustainability and responsible leadership.



1 Jan.

New leadership at the Hertie School

Frank Mattern becomes the Chair of the Supervisory Board, and Prof. Dr Helge Braun the Chair of the Board of Trustees.



6 Nov.

Hertie School hosts Friedrich Merz and Enrico Letta

Current German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta join Hertie School students to discuss the future of Europe.

12 Nov.

Initiative for an Effective State launched

Hertie School joins forces with German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to improve institutional performance in Germany.



20–22 Jan.

Data Science Lab hosts second Data4Good Festival

The lab welcomes students from across Europe to a three-day data-driven policy hackathon.

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HERTIE HIGHLIGHTS

13 March

Hertie School top-ranked in QS Ranking and Shanghai Rankings

The Hertie School secures leading positions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject and the Shanghai Rankings.



March '25

April '25

May '25

June '25

July '25

2 April

All-female team wins at *DataFest Germany* – again!

Our students win "Best Visualisation" at the hackathon in Munich.



5 April

Hertie students among top teams at Jessup Moot Court

The Hertie School's moot court team finishes as the second-best EU team at the international legal competition for students.



12 May

Hertie School Policy Lab hosts *Festival of Ideas 2025*

The festival marks the culmination of a semester of practice-based project courses with scholars and practitioners.



22 May

Excellent news for SCRIPTS

The PhD programme on democracy, co-hosted at the Hertie School, receives its second round of funding as part of the German "Excellence Competition" to support outstanding research.

26 May

Christine Lagarde argues for more EU leadership

The European Central Bank President delivers a compelling vision for Europe's economic and financial leadership amid growing global fragmentation.



Hertie School hosts Innovationsforum

Policymakers, scholars and civil society explore how state action can be made future-proof, effective and democratic in tough times.

Hertie Summit and Alumni Reunion

The event gathers over 450 attendees from across the world in Berlin. Claudia Müller, Master of Public Policy graduate, is awarded the 2025 Alumni Achievement Award for her commitment to closing the gender gap in financial literacy.



2 June

Alice Vadrot wins 2025 Henrik Enderlein Prize

The prize honours the Professor of International Relations and the Environment for her work on environmental diplomacy and marine biodiversity governance.



1 July

Graduation of the Class of 2025

Over 200 graduates receive their diplomas at the iconic Berliner Philharmonie.

INSIDE THE HERTIE SCHOOL

Behind the scenes with the Central Office

Behind the hustle and bustle of university life, there's a dedicated team making sure that the lights are on, rooms aren't double-booked, and the rubbish lands in

the proper bins. That team is the **Central Office**. We caught up with Central Office Manager **Carsten Rabe** to take a closer look at their work.



What do you do at the Central Office?

The Central Office serves as a hub for various processes, ensuring that different parts of the university work together effectively. For example, we provide a range of services for events: we make sure that rooms are tidy, equipment is ready, and participants have everything they need. We also support student onboarding. Each year, we hand out keys to around 450 new students. Every key has to be programmed correctly and linked to the student's personal information. These kinds of tasks show how closely we work with different units to keep everything running smoothly.

Currently, one of your main tasks is preparing for the move to the new campus next year. What does that entail?

We are currently working on nearly 50 different issues related to the new building. These range from setting up each seminar room, study area and office space to planning the key system. We are also securing service contracts for essentials such as cleaning, electricity and heating. Alongside this, we're designing hallways and social spaces, including a new locker system for students. Another critical task is the development of a signage

concept, which will ensure that everyone can easily find their way around the building.

What challenges do you face in your daily work?

One of the main challenges we face is communication, especially given the number of event organisers we work with. Our role at the Central Office is to coordinate all events fairly and efficiently, finding suitable solutions for everyone involved. While it's not always easy, we enjoy the challenge of keeping everything running smoothly.

What's special about working at the Hertie School?

What makes working at Hertie so special is the international and diverse environment. It's not just about cultural backgrounds – there's also a great mix of ages and experiences, which brings together a diverse range of perspectives. And of course, the students bring a dynamic energy that keeps the hallways feeling young and full of life. Despite this diversity, a sense of community really stands out – everyone here works together in a very friendly and collaborative way.

From the classroom to the Bundestag – a glimpse at our courses

A key part of our mission at the Hertie School is bridging theory and practice. Reflecting this goal, our courses are taught by renowned figures in academia and policymaking, who guide our students through

practice-oriented study and equip them with the analytical and practical skills crucial to navigating careers in the policy world. This year, we spotlight three of these courses.

The Rise of China

In **The Rise of China**, students develop their own informed opinions on strategies to address China's rise by building an understanding of China on their own. This is not an easy task. Although evidence for China's economic development is striking, understanding its politics is less straightforward. Through ten thought-provoking questions, they learn to critically assess domestic and international challenges associated with China's rise and what these mean for engagement or containment strategies. The course sharpens analytical skills for evaluating scarce and biased data – essential for policymaking and diplomacy.

Professor Daniela Stockmann, Director of the Hertie School's Centre for Digital Governance, brings cutting-edge research on social media and authoritarian governance, as well as advisory experience with European governments. Her expertise ensures students gain both theoretical depth and practical insight into China's domestic politics and its global impact.

Getting Things Done in Politics

Getting Things Done in Politics is a hands-on seminar that teaches how political ideas become reality. Students discuss campaign strategy, coalition-building and legislative processes, while observing and discussing real-time policymaking in Germany. The class also meets political actors in the Chancellery and in the Bundestag. Exercises equip participants to design campaigns, policy proposals and research projects.

Armand Zorn, Member of the German Bundestag, shares firsthand experience in electoral politics.

Professor Sven Sieffken, expert on parliamentary systems, adds comparative and theoretical expertise. Together, they bridge academic knowledge and political practice, preparing students for careers in government, advocacy and political consultancy.

Professor Sieffken says: "Discussing current politics with practitioners based on an academic understanding – this provides a unique perspective. We have taught this class at Hertie and at Georgetown. It has always been full of insights – and a lot of fun!"



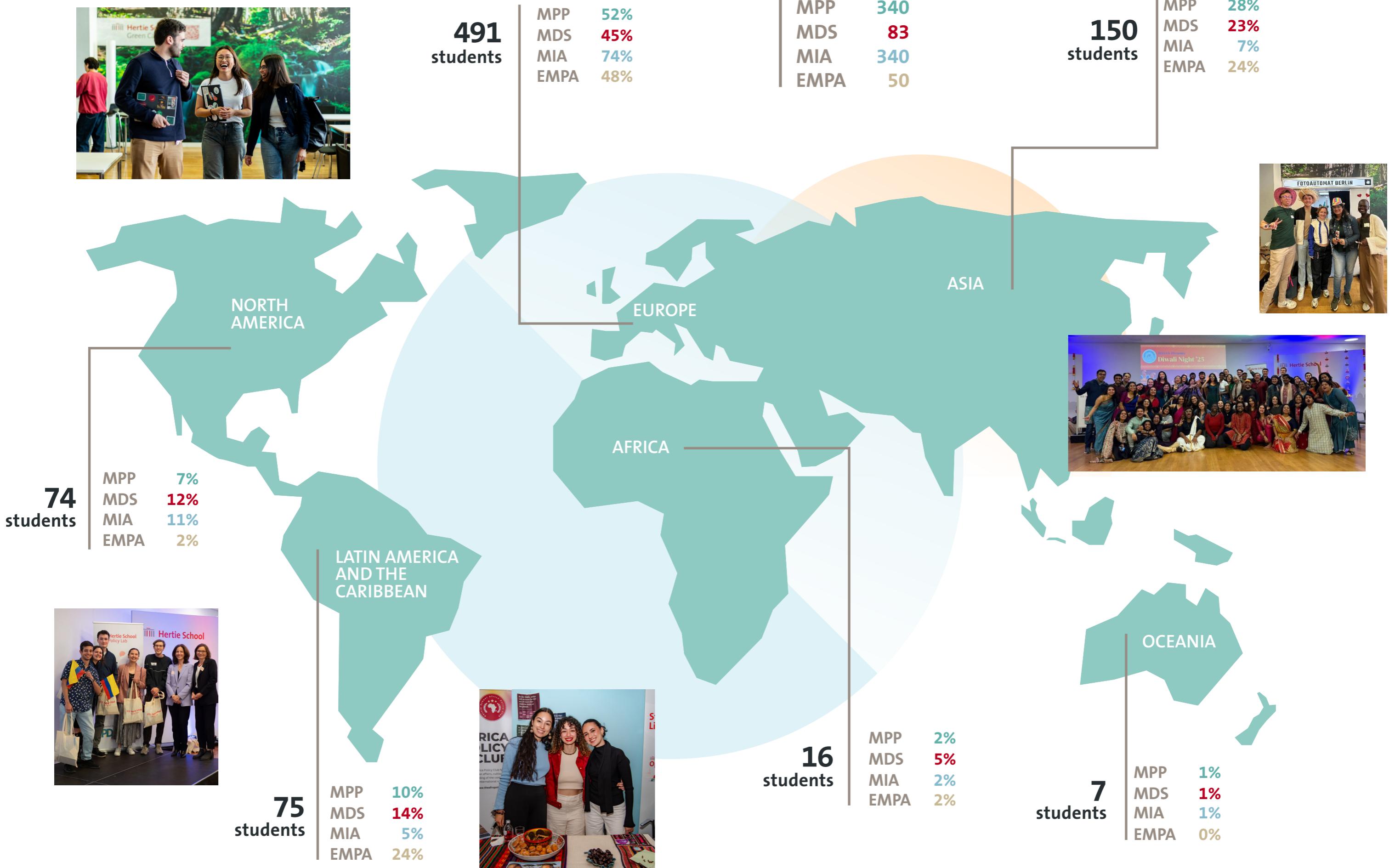
Armand Zorn and Sven Sieffken take class to the Bundestag in Berlin

Exercising Leadership: Making Hard Decisions

Leadership is more than authority – it's about navigating complexity and mobilising people. In **Exercising Leadership: Making Hard Decisions**, students learn to diagnose challenges, lead adaptively, and make tough calls under pressure. Using historical case studies and simulations, they develop strategic thinking and ethical decision-making skills vital for public service and organisational leadership.

Dr Kostas Bakoyannis, a former Mayor of Athens and seasoned public leader in Greece, brings a wealth of practical experience from local governance to international institutions. His insights into democratic processes and crisis management make this course a unique opportunity to learn leadership from someone who has lived it.

OUR STUDENTS



OUR ALLIANCES AND EXCHANGE PARTNERS

Dual degree programmes

Our dual degree programmes allow students to spend one year at the Hertie School and another year at one of

our partner institutions around the world. Students earn a degree from both institutions.



Our main exchange partners

Through our networks, the Hertie School offers exchange opportunities with 50 partner institutions worldwide.



Partners

The Hertie School is extremely grateful to the foundations, companies and other organisations that provide financial support for the university and its students. In addition to the Hertie Foundation, our founder and core funder, our partners finance full professorships, broader initiatives and scholarship programmes for Hertie School students. Our project partners cooperate with us on smaller-scale projects, research initiatives and outreach activities. A selection of partners is listed below.

- Adobe, Inc.
- Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung
- Arnold Ventures LLC
- Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit
- Brian Kahin Foundation
- Dieter Schwarz Stiftung gGmbH
- European Climate Foundation
- International Policy and Leadership Institute
- KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft
- McKinsey & Company, Inc.
- Open Society Foundations
- PD – Berater der öffentlichen Hand GmbH
- Santander Deutschland
- Sopra Steria SE
- SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit
- Stanton Foundation
- Stiftung Mercator
- República.org
- Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH
- VolkswagenStiftung
- Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft

International alliances

CIVICA

CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences brings together ten leading European higher education institutions in the social sciences with the aim of building an inter-university campus that provides joint and long-lasting opportunities in teaching, research and innovative learning. CIVICA was selected by the European Commission as one of the pilot European Universities in 2019 and confirmed as a successful alliance in 2022 for its full rollout under the Erasmus+ programme.

CIVICA members are: Bocconi University, Central European University, the European University Institute, the Hertie School, IE University, the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Sciences Po, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, the Stockholm School of Economics, and the London School of Economics and Political Science. Read more on civica.eu.

APSIA

The Hertie School is the only German member of APSIA among 38 top International Affairs programmes from the US, Europe and Asia. These include Yale University, Georgetown University, Harvard University and the University of St. Gallen.



GPPN is a network of eight top public policy schools from around the world, including SIPA at Columbia University, the Institute of Public Affairs at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. Its mission is to address the most pressing public policy challenges of the 21st century.



The Hertie School joined the OECD Network of Schools of Government in 2022. It provides direct access to OECD governance expertise and enables exchange of schools' experiences and good practices in ensuring that public sector employees have the skills and competencies to address current and future priorities.

2024–2025 HERTIE SCHOOL TEACHING AWARDS

Each year, the Hertie School honours one faculty member, one adjunct faculty member, one guest lecturer and two teaching assistants for their excellent teaching at the end of the academic year. In the 2024–2025 Academic Year, our teaching awards went to:

- **Faculty Award:** Johanna Mair
- **Adjunct Faculty and Guest Lecturer Award:** Léa Steinacker and Steve Zipperstein
- **Teaching Assistant Award:** Carolina Díaz Suárez and Jan Panhuyzen



Johanna Mair
Faculty

Léa Steinacker
Guest lecturer

Steve Zipperstein
Guest lecturer

Carolina Díaz Suárez
Teaching assistant

Jan Panhuyzen
Teaching assistant

Johanna Mair Faculty Award

Johanna Mair is Professor of Organisation, Strategy and Leadership at the Hertie School. She also serves as Distinguished Fellow at the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society. Her work focusses on how novel organisational forms and institutional arrangements generate economic and social impact.

Professor Mair taught the EMPA courses “Social Innovation for Public Purpose” and “Power & Influence: Leadership in Action” in the 2024 fall semester.

Léa Steinacker and Steve Zipperstein Adjunct Faculty and Guest Lecturer Award

Dr Léa Steinacker is a social scientist, entrepreneur, bestselling author and Guest Lecturer at the Hertie School. Her work examines how emerging technologies like artificial intelligence intersect with people, organisational practices and the environment. Dr Steinacker taught the EMPA course “Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Implications and Societal Impact” in the 2025 spring semester.

The awards are given based on the highest median teaching scores from student evaluations across the academic year and the university's four master's programmes: Master of Public Policy (MPP), Master of International Affairs (MIA), Master of Data Science for Public Policy (MDS), and Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA).

“These awards reflect not only talent but also deep dedication to our students and academic community.”
Hertie School President Cornelia Woll

Steve Zipperstein is Guest Lecturer at the Hertie School. He is also Assistant Adjunct Professor with the Luskin School of Public Affairs, among other roles. His work focusses on the Middle East, advanced technology and cybersecurity. Zipperstein taught the MIA course “International Diplomacy” in the 2025 summer semester.

Carolina Díaz Suárez and Jan Panhuyzen Teaching Assistant Award

Hertie School alumna Carolina Díaz Suárez (MPP 2023) is a policy adviser. She was the teaching assistant for the courses “Economics I” and “Statistics I” in the 2024 fall semester, and for “Statistics II” in the 2025 spring semester.

Jan Panhuyzen is a PhD Researcher at the Hertie School. He was the teaching assistant for the course “Statistics II” in the 2025 spring semester.



[See our course catalogue
for courses taught
by these and other
inspiring instructors](#)

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

In the **Master of Public Policy (MPP)**, students gain knowledge and experience in promoting effective policies across sectors. Core courses in economics, the policy process, statistics, public management, and law provide a robust interdisciplinary foundation for understanding modern policymaking.

MPP students choose between two areas of concentration: **policy analysis** and **governance and leadership**. In the **policy analysis** strand, students gain a comprehensive foundation in quantitative analysis methods that are essential for assessing the impact of public policies, and learn to apply cutting-edge quantitative methods to interdisciplinary policy challenges.

In the **governance and leadership** strand, students study foundational aspects of management, leadership and strategy in modern organisations, with a focus on organisational behaviour, policymaking and implementation. Students in this concentration learn how to lead organisations, promote change and drive innovation.

Meet graduate Krisstina Rao

Where do you work and what is your position?

I work as a Senior Investment Principal at Co-Develop, a fund that supports governments and civil society in building safe and inclusive digital public infrastructure. I also work as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) at University College London. These roles together enable me to explore and pursue promising theories for collective impact in the emerging field of digital development.

Why did you choose to study the Master of Public Policy at the Hertie School?

I loved that Hertie was a growing school with a lot of ambition. The programme, which grounded learning in both research and practical application, helped me both solidify and expand my experience working in public policy and social innovation.

What were your favourite courses?

My favourite course was an elective on Financing International Organisations, with Ronny Patz, who was an Adjunct at Hertie at the time. It taught students a highly

The MPP is a highly flexible degree – in their second year, MPP students choose six electives from over 70 available courses. Overall, the MPP has a strong practical focus, equipping students with analytical, managerial and leadership skills to make a difference in a wide range of policy fields. MPP students can also earn extracurricular certificates in Digital Governance, Sustainability, Social Policy, European Governance, and Economic Policy.



[Learn more about
our Master
of Public Policy](#)



relevant skill for working in policy, namely, how to track finances within the UN system. The world of multilateral financing has undergone several shocks since then, and understanding their aftermath has come more naturally to me thanks to this class. I also loved the class on Governance of AI with Joanna Bryson. It was incredible to learn from her both in and outside of her class.

What did you like most about the programme?

The length and pace of the programme were very useful for me, as someone who wanted to go back to school after a brief career in grassroots work and public policy. Fundamental courses provided us, the students, with a common foundation for our careers, including an understanding of the policy process and knowledge of how to measure the effectiveness of policies. The electives allowed us to test these fundamental skills in various sectors and policy areas.

MASTER OF DATA SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Today's complex issues demand a new generation of policymakers and problem-solvers who can use data to make more effective policy decisions, combining the perspectives of government, civil society and the private sector.

The **Master of Data Science for Public Policy (MDS)** brings together passionate students from both technical and social science backgrounds to sharpen their analytical skills and gain a thorough understanding of the policy world. During this two-year master's programme, students learn to collect and analyse data – including numbers, text and images – to tackle some of the most complex governance challenges of our time.

The programme combines cutting-edge methodological training in data science and state-of-the-art training in public policy, economics, law and governance, and management. MDS students examine how data can be used

Meet graduate Johannes Halkenhäußer



Where do you work and what is your position?

After finishing the MDS, I joined Accenture as a Data Science Analyst, working with public sector clients to deliver AI solutions for digitalisation. My role includes explaining technical concepts to non-technical stakeholders, managing fast-paced AI developments, and implementing complex AI applications.

Why did you choose to study the Master of Data Science at the Hertie School?

During my undergraduate studies in data science and economics, I developed a keen interest in leveraging data to explore questions in the social sciences. This motivated me to pursue this area further at the master's level.

After reading a paper co-authored by a member of the

to drive policies and promote the public good in preparation for a career at the interface between public policy and data science.

MDS students can earn extracurricular certificates in Digital Governance, Sustainability, European Governance, Social Policy, and Economic Policy.



[Learn more about our Master of Data Science for Public Policy](#)

MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The **Master of International Affairs (MIA)** prepares students for careers that call for an acute understanding of how countries, organisations and societies interact across borders to tackle complex policy challenges. MIA students attend courses in global politics, economics, international law, and statistics, alongside practical classes in international negotiation that mimic real-world conditions.

MIA students choose between one of three areas of concentration: **international security, European governance, and human rights and global governance**. Each strand has three specialised courses, which students take in the second semester of their first year. In their second year, students take three elective courses in their area of concentration and further develop their expertise in their

respective field. MIA students also take three free (portfolio) electives in their second year, which enable them to customise their educational experience according to their professional interests and goals.

Additionally, MIA students can earn extracurricular certificates in Digital Governance, Sustainability, Social Policy, and Economic Policy.



[Learn more about our Master of International Affairs](#)



Meet graduate Michelle Balon

Where do you work and what is your position?

I work at the International Organization for Migration – IOM, UN Migration, where I serve as a Senior Private Sector Engagement Associate in the Berlin office. In this role, I build strategic partnerships with German companies and foundations, creating ways for them to engage as key stakeholders in shaping humane and forward-looking migration solutions. My daily work ranges from outreach and relationship management to developing initiatives that connect the private sector with IOM's mission of promoting safe, orderly and dignified migration worldwide.

Why did you choose to study the Master of International Affairs at the Hertie School?

I chose the Master of International Affairs at the Hertie School because I wanted a programme that combined a strong global and European perspective with practical opportunities to enter the German job market. Hertie offered exactly that: the coursework, Professors and diverse student body created an international environment that challenged me academically while helping me – originally from the United States – lay the foundations for building a career in Germany. Just as importantly, the programme gave me the chance to gain hands-on experience. I took full advantage of the Professional Year, spending a year at the German aid agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which proved invaluable in developing skills and networks that helped me transition into my current post.

What was your favourite course?

I found every course at Hertie valuable, but the course that most inspired me was International Conflict Management, taught by the late Wolfgang Sporrer. What made this course so impactful was its grounding in both theory and practice, which I think is one of Hertie's greatest strengths. Professor Sporrer conveyed not only the frameworks for conflict resolution but also the tangible human costs of war, drawing on his extensive work with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Ukraine. These real-world perspectives profoundly shaped my motivation to work in the humanitarian sector, particularly on migration, where the connection between policy decisions and human lives is immediate.

PHD PROGRAMMES

Offering doctoral education places the Hertie School on the map of research universities in Berlin and worldwide, with more than 100 PhD Researchers having successfully defended their dissertations at the Hertie School since the start of its PhD programmes in 2012. Besides its Doctoral Programme in Governance, the school runs three joint doctoral programmes with leading universities and research centres in Berlin within the social sciences. These include the graduate school DYNAMICS, funded by the Deutsche

Publication highlights

PhDs published over 20 peer-reviewed journal articles during the last academic year.



Braugh, Jessica, Hammerschmid, Gerhard, **Stockreiter, Simona** (2025). The prevalence of public values in public private partnerships for government digitalisation: A systematic review of the literature. *Government Information Quarterly*, 42(3).

Brehm, Johannes, Pestel, Nico, Schaffner, Sandra, Schmitz, Laura (2025). From Low Emission Zone to academic track: Environmental policy effects on educational achievement in elementary school. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 132.

Daub, Sara (2025). Protection from afar? Diaspora support for rebel groups and civilian victimization. *Journal of Peace Research*, 62(6).

Hansum, Romy (2024). The role of electoral interests in the national distribution of EU Covid-19 funds. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*.

Forschungsgemeinschaft; the Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies of the Excellence Cluster SCRIPPS; and the Berlin School of Economics (BSoE). The Hertie School also collaborates closely with its European partners on doctoral education through CIVICA, the European University of Social Sciences, funded by Erasmus+.

Learn more about our PhD programmes



Koch, Elias, Erfort, Cornelius, Stoetzer, Lukas F., Gschwend, Thomas, Munzert, Simon, Rajski, Hannah (2025). The Zweitstimme forecast for the German federal election 2025: Coalition majorities and vacant districts. *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

Kreyenfeld, Michaela, **Naujoks, Tabea** (2024). Arbeitsteilung in Partnerschaften und soziale Ungleichheit. In: Böhnke, P., Konietzka, D. (eds) *Handbuch Sozialstrukturanalyse*. Springer VS, Wiesbaden.

aus dem Moore, Nils, Brehm, Johannes, Gruhl, Henri (2025). Driving innovation? Carbon tax effects in the Swedish transport sector. *Journal of Public Economics*, 248.

Stiewe, Clemens, Xu, Alice Lixuan, Eicke, Anselm, Hirth, Lion (2025). Cross-border cannibalization: Spillover effects of wind and solar energy on interconnected European electricity markets. *Energy Economics*, 143.

PhD graduates in the Academic Year 2024–2025

Doctoral Programme in Governance



Joseph Finnerty is an Assistant Professor at Leiden University. Dissertation: *Article 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights: A conservative contribution to responding to authoritarian practices through international human rights law*



Anne-Clémence LeNoan, Dissertation: *Changing the way social inequality in education is treated in France and Germany: Schule macht stark (2019) and Les contrats locaux d'accompagnement (2020) as contrasting examples of layering*



Matthias Goedeking is a Consultant at PD. Dissertation: *Weak ties, strong threats? Building and undermining inter-ethnic coalitions in civil wars*



Cynthia Michel is a Research Professor at the College of Mexico. Dissertation: *Social policy expansion in Latin America amidst limited capacities*



Romy Hansum is now a Fellow at the Jacques Delors Centre, Hertie School. Dissertation: *Implementation of cohesion policy funds in the EU member states – who gets what, when and how?*



Anna Simstich is a Research Fellow at the Helmut Schmidt University. Dissertation: *Lead ministerial departments in executive policy formulation*



Daniel Jochum is a Personal Adviser at the Berlin State Parliament. Dissertation: *Politicisation, abilities, careers, affiliations – Explaining the recruitment of the institutionally hybrid German Federal Commissioner by means of the principal-agent theory*



Silvana Tiedemann is now a Managing Director at Neon Neue Energieökonomik. Dissertation: *Essays in empirical energy economics*



Katherine Wilkins is a Global Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at Transparency International. Dissertation: *The new 'NORMAl'? How innovative actors are reshaping the global approach to controlling corruption*

Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS)



Felix Garten is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Hertie School. Dissertation: *Hierarchical networks in finance and trade: How do digital platforms shape foreign markets?*



Emily Frank is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Social Science Center Berlin and Einstein Center Population Diversity. Dissertation: *Encounters with social policy administration in a migration society*



Nora Marie Kürzdörfer is a Senior Researcher at the Munich Security Conference. Dissertation: *The end of the golden weather? Addressing the geoeconomic shift in global trade governance*



Vincent Ramos is a Senior Research Assistant at the University of Southampton. Dissertation: *Essays on the causes and demographic consequences of employment uncertainty*

EXECUTIVE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The **Executive Master of Public Administration** (**Executive MPA** or **EMPA**) is designed for leaders and mid-career professionals aiming to advance their knowledge to better address the challenges of modern governance. The programme provides participants with a solid foundation in principles of governance, public policy and management, enabling them to lead teams and organisations, shape decision-making and manage change effectively.

Executive MPA students select core curriculum modules in Governance and Public Policy and Management and Leadership. They also deepen their knowledge by

Interview with graduate Matthias Peitz

Where do you work and what is your role?

I am Head of International Affairs at PD, the German public sector in-house consultancy. It's completely state-owned and advises its public shareholders at all levels on solutions for effective public sector administration and sustainable public infrastructure. My responsibility is to build our international relations with a special focus on the European Union and European in-house organisations. My specific role is to develop mechanisms and projects to make innovations and good practices in and beyond Germany available to our public shareholders.

Why did you choose to do the Executive MPA at the Hertie School?

Hertie offered me the perfect mix of hands-on and practice-oriented insights and scientific evidence on public sector innovation, a topic that continued to occupy my thoughts after many years working for the European Commission. I chose Hertie because I was curious about how to apply innovation to public organisations and to explore differences in terms of approaches and organisational theory, especially when it comes to governance. What I enjoyed most was learning about many different organisations in Germany and abroad. What made Hertie special to me was the diversity of students and practitioners, and the space to work jointly on solutions to our respective challenges from a variety of perspectives.

completing electives in topics including sustainability, digitalisation and AI, and global governance and security.

Through tailored workshops, students also get a firsthand look at either EU policymaking in Brussels or German federal government policymaking in Berlin. Students learn not only from renowned international faculty members and practitioners, but also from their peers. More than just a series of seminars and assignments, the Executive MPA is a forum for active and engaged exchange among participants who join from all over the world, and from various industries and sectors.



How are you applying what you learned in the programme today?

The programme allowed me to use the collective expertise of my fellow EMPA students to reflect on the in-house consulting model and approaches for organisational change. I still apply the knowledge on organisational theory and use cases I gained during my Hertie Executive MPA today to my work on building capacities and innovation and dynamic capabilities for the public sector. I look forward to continuing to help the exchange and knowledge transfer between Hertie students and alumni and their international cases with German use cases and organisational innovations.



[Learn more about our Executive Master of Public Administration](#)



The Hertie School Executive Education team at the 2025 Innovationsforum

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

In our constantly evolving world, lifelong learning is key. Executive Education at the Hertie School offers a variety of short courses for professionals in mid-career, a flexible executive degree programme, and customised seminars for institutional clients. Our programmes are practice-oriented and focus on the fields of public management, governance, leadership, communication, decision-making, and digital transformation.

Our professional development programmes offer custom-made online and on-site seminars for clients across all sectors: public administration, international organisations, non-profits, the media, the corporate sector, think tanks, and academia. Programmes blend policy insights and innovation in governance and administration with capacity building through leadership and management skills.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

1 Innovationsforum

Under the motto “What Works – Sustainable solutions for government and society”, the Innovationsforum invited forward-thinkers from German politics, academia, business and civil society to showcase and highlight existing solutions to the most pressing public policy challenges of our day. The conference featured prominent speakers such as Barbie Haller (Vice President, Bundesnetzagentur), Philipp Amthor (Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Digital and State Modernisation) and Bartosz Wieliński (Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *Gazeta Wyborcza*). In working groups, participants explored innovative solutions in digital transformation, demographics and migration, infrastructure and mobility, and climate, discussing how to scale these solutions for a more resilient state. The Innovationsforum was developed and implemented in collaboration with the Hertie Foundation, the Intersectoral School of Governance Baden-Württemberg, and Germany’s Federal Agency for Civic Education. It received funding from the Berthold Leibinger Foundation.



2 Executive Training Programme on Public Sector Leadership for the Development Academy of the Philippines



[See what we're up to on LinkedIn](#)



3 Strengthening Moldova’s Civil Service Capacity Towards EU Accession

In November 2024, Hertie School Executive Education, in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office and the State Chancellery of Moldova, hosted a six-day executive seminar titled “Strengthening Moldova’s Civil Service Capacity Towards EU Accession” in Berlin. Supported by the Soros Foundation Moldova and the United Nations Population Fund, the programme welcomed 23 senior civil servants to develop skills for effective governance, EU fund management and performance-based public service. Led by Dr Rolf Alter and other international experts, the seminar combined lectures, workshops and practitioner exchanges, with a strong focus on key performance indicators and policy communication. Interactive train-the-trainer sessions ensured participants could share their knowledge at home, supporting sustainable capacity building. The programme reaffirmed the Hertie School’s commitment to strengthening Moldova’s public administration as it progresses on its path to EU accession.



4 Electricity markets

The 2024–2025 Academic Year saw the launch of a new executive course series on electricity markets, led by Lion Hirth, Professor of Energy Policy from the Centre for Sustainability. The course sat at the intersection of energy, economics and finance, focussing on public policy and regulation: how should power markets be designed with security of supply and social welfare in mind? The course will be offered again in the 2025–2026 Academic Year, and two new courses in the area of Power Systems and Markets have been added to the executive course catalogue.



5 Beruf:Politik

The Beruf:Politik project continued during the 2024–2025 Academic Year with its eighth and ninth iterations, each welcoming 20 young people aspiring to a political career. Aimed at serving as a springboard for aspiring politicians under the age of 30, the project offers workshops led by experts and practitioners on the diverse challenges of political work. The initiative, born out of a collaboration between Hertie School Executive Education and the Hertie Foundation, boasts an alumni network of over 100. The Beruf:Politik project continues into the 2025–2026 Academic Year with further workshops scheduled.



[Find out more about Executive Education at the Hertie School](#)

OUR GLOBAL ALUMNI NETWORK

Quick facts



Alumni volunteers

- 250+ alumni volunteers
- 15+ roles, including Chapter Leads, Alumni Council members, mentors and recruitment ambassadors



Global alumni network

- 22 chapters, networks and groups
- One new **local group in Boston** and the **Africa Alumni Network**
- Run by 38 local volunteers



Alumni events

- Nearly 70 global alumni events
- Held in 20+ cities
- 900+ alumni and students



Alumni Interest Area Groups

- Seven Interest Area Groups
- Supported by nine alumni volunteers

Hertie School launches the Africa Alumni Network

This year, we launched the **Hertie School Africa Alumni Network**, the university's first network on the African continent. **Osita Abana**, 2020 Master of International Affairs graduate from Nigeria and Director of Global Brand Communications and Responsible Marketing Governance at The Coca-Cola Company, is the Network Lead.



"The Africa Alumni Network offers a unique opportunity for Hertie alumni of African descent to strengthen their connections – with each other, with the Hertie School community, and with the African continent. Many African alumni are committed to driving positive change in Africa and to supporting the Hertie School in advancing its mission. I see the network as a catalyst for collaboration among African alumni in pursuit of these shared goals."

Osita Abana, Africa Alumni Network Lead

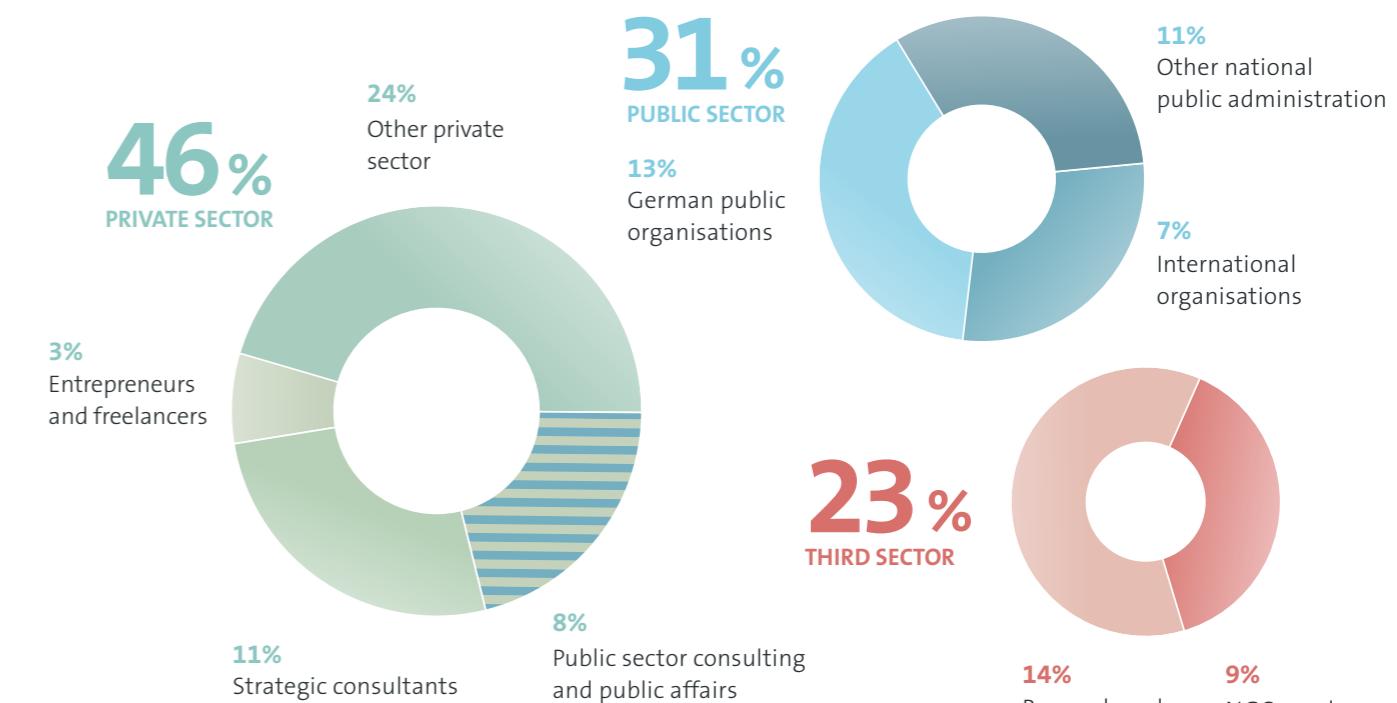
[Read more about our alumni community](#)



Intersectoral: Careers in all fields

After over two decades of equipping our students with strategies for exploring new frontiers in governance, our

graduates are working at the cutting edge of policymaking in government, business and international organisations.



Statistics from 90% of alumni, as of 1 August 2025

RESEARCH AT THE HERTIE SCHOOL

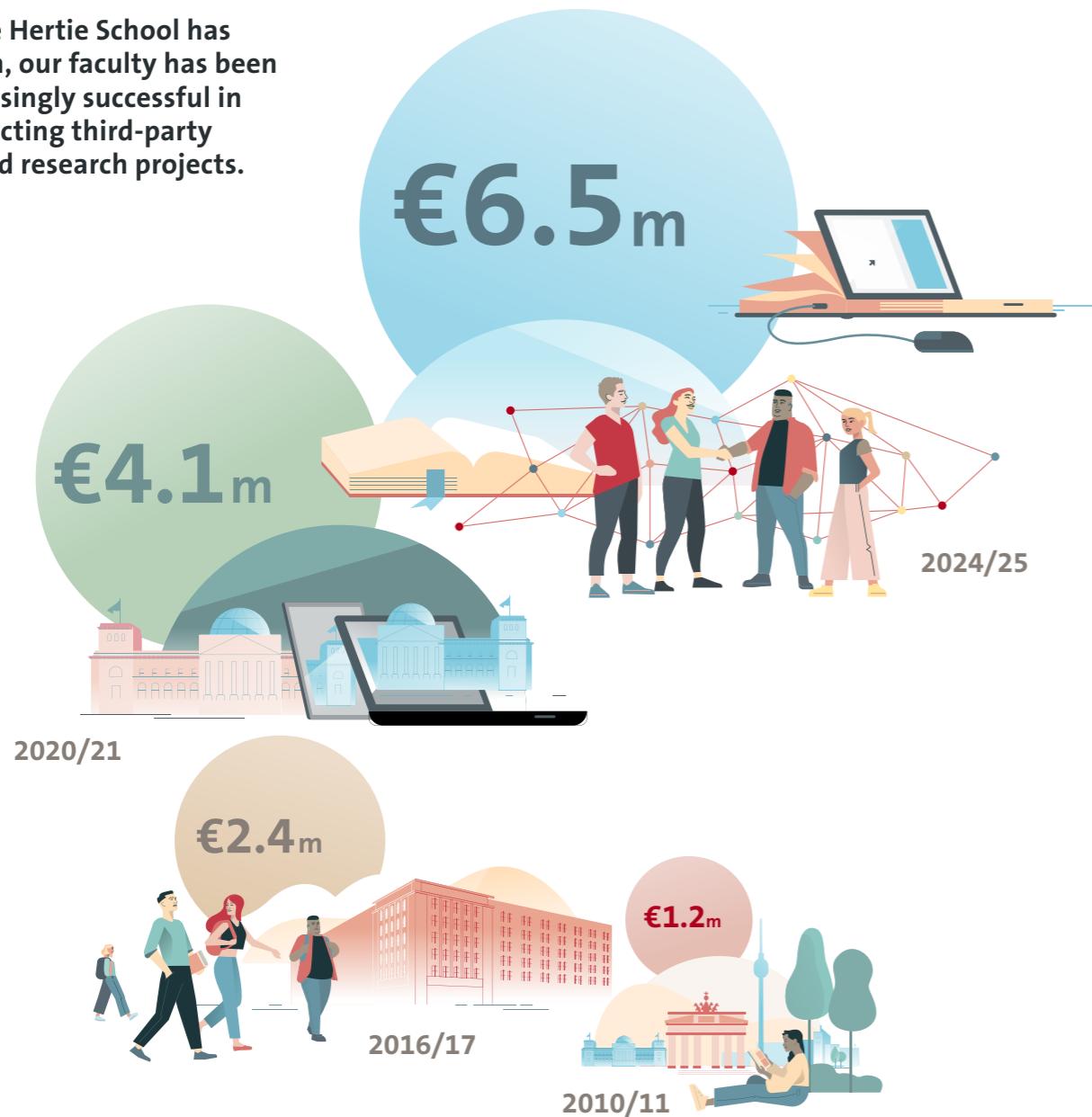
The Hertie School's interdisciplinary research examines real-world public policy issues. Our core focus – governance – requires interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international perspectives.

The university's faculty members, adjuncts, visiting faculty, researchers and doctoral students work on diverse problems, like tackling corruption, regulating the sharing economy, public sector reform, security issues, and the future of the euro. Many projects are designed to engage directly with the public and private sectors, as well as with civil society organisations. Our faculty publish in

leading international journals, contribute to academic and policy conferences, and are regularly called upon by government and media bodies for their expertise. Hertie School researchers also collaborate closely on research projects across Europe, both independently and within the EU's CIVICA initiative.

THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

As the Hertie School has grown, our faculty has been increasingly successful in conducting third-party funded research projects.



HERTIE SCHOOL CONFERS ITS FIRST HONORARY DOCTORATES

At the Hertie School, we are dedicated to academic excellence and linking research with practice. Last year, we awarded our first-ever honorary doctorates to pay tribute to individuals who made significant contributions to both areas. The first two awards went to distinguished

scholars **Renate Mayntz** and **Fritz Scharpf**. The third honorary doctorate, presented in the "Public Figure" category, was awarded to former Governor of California **Arnold Schwarzenegger** for his dedication to climate protection and civic engagement.

Invaluable contributions to the Hertie School

Renate Mayntz and Fritz Scharpf were honoured for their academic contributions to the understanding of governance. Mayntz, a pioneer in sociology and organisation studies, has made invaluable contributions to our comprehension of complex systems and social change. Scharpf, a distinguished legal scholar and political scientist, is celebrated for his analysis of institutional dynamics in federal systems and the European Union. The actor-centred institutionalism they have jointly developed provides insights into the dynamics required to drive policy change and shape political, economic and social developments. Their work has had a profound influence on the Hertie School's research and teaching, in particular our interdisciplinary curriculum, which combines empirical and theoretical knowledge of public affairs.



Mayntz and Scharpf (in absentia) received their doctorates on 4 September 2024 at the opening ceremony of the 2024–2025 Academic Year. Professor Kai Wegrich delivered the laudation for the two scholars.

[Watch the full recording](#)



Commitment to climate protection and civic engagement

A dedicated supporter of climate protection, Arnold Schwarzenegger was awarded an honorary doctorate for his achievements in governance, especially in climate protection and civic engagement. While serving as Governor of California, Schwarzenegger played a key role in the signing of the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2006, which committed California to significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2010, he founded the R20 organisation, which supports regional governments worldwide in implementing sustainable projects and initiatives. In 2012, he co-founded the Arnold Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy with the University of Southern California (USC) to encourage political solutions to global climate challenges.

Schwarzenegger received his doctorate on 17 September 2025 in a ceremony attended by over 300 guests, including German and international journalists. The ceremony



featured a laudation by Robert Habeck, then German Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, and a speech and fireside chat with the former Governor and Hertie School President Cornelia Woll.

[Watch the full recording](#)



PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE

In addition to teaching, research is the backbone of any university, allowing an institution to gain international recognition, spark public debate, and ultimately attract the next generation of bright minds. We talked with four Hertie School Professors to find out about their research.



Mujaheed Shaikh
Professor of Health Governance

Can maternity leave affect smoking behaviour?

Professor Shaikh, you recently investigated whether maternity leave and smoking are connected. What exactly did you study?

Our study examined data from over 8,500 mothers across 14 European countries between 1960 and 2010. We analysed how maternity and parental leave policies influenced long-term smoking behaviour. The findings reveal that more extended absences from work due to childbirth are associated with increased smoking later in life.

How does extended maternity leave affect smoking?

Each additional month of leave raises the likelihood of smoking by 1.2 percentage points, extends smoking duration by seven months, and increases daily cigarette consumption and overall pack per year. Interestingly, shorter leave periods seem protective, while very long leaves – especially beyond 20 months – correlate with higher smoking rates. Financial strain and lack of partner support during leave appear to be key mediating factors.

What do your findings mean for policymakers?

They highlight the need for a balanced approach to parental leave. While time off is vital, excessive durations without adequate financial and emotional support may lead to unintended health consequences. Policymakers should consider moderate-length leave, combined with robust financial support and shared parental responsibilities, to promote maternal well-being and reduce long-term health risks.



Michaela Kreyenfeld
Professor of Sociology

Does women's economic independence prevent domestic abuse?

Professor Kreyenfeld, you recently researched how women's economic independence from their partners may protect them from domestic abuse. What exactly did you study?

Our study examined the risk of physical intimate partner violence (IPV) during the separation process. Using longitudinal data from the German Family Panel, we examined nearly 800 cases of separated women. We found that economic independence – particularly employment and education – significantly reduces the likelihood of experiencing IPV during this vulnerable transition.

What is the link between economic independence and domestic abuse?

Women who are unemployed and have lower levels of education face dramatically higher risks of violence. For example, mothers with children under 18 who are both unemployed and less educated had a 32% predicted probability of experiencing IPV during separation. Economic independence, therefore, isn't just empowering – it's protective.

What do your findings mean for policymakers?

The implications are clear: promoting women's integration into the labour market is essential. Policies that support maternal employment – such as affordable childcare and flexible work arrangements – can help reduce IPV. Recent reforms in Germany have aimed to support working mothers, but austerity measures and childcare shortages threaten to erode progress. Our findings urge policymakers to prioritise economic empowerment as a public health strategy.



Egon Tripodi
Assistant Professor of Economics

Can a five-minute chat save democracy?

Professor Tripodi, you published a study asking whether cross-partisan conversations can bring people with opposing political views together. What exactly did you study?

Our study, "Talking Across the Aisle", explored whether factual discussions can reduce political polarisation. We paired nearly 1,000 Americans from across the political spectrum for short video conversations focussed on political facts. The results showed that such exchanges foster greater understanding and reduce animosity – even on divisive topics like immigration.

How did talking across the aisle build bridges between those with opposing views?

People often avoid engaging with those who hold opposing views, fearing conflict. However, our findings show that when conversations are centred on facts rather than opinions, participants are more willing to engage. They also tend to underestimate how constructive these interactions can be – until they experience them. Importantly, we found that knowledge is distributed across political lines, challenging people's assumption that their side is always better informed.

What do your findings mean for policymakers?

The study suggests that promoting fact-based dialogue could be a powerful tool for reducing political hostility. Policymakers and educators should encourage environments where diverse perspectives are shared through informed discussion. This approach could help counter ideological echo chambers and foster more inclusive, respectful public discourse.

[Find out more about our research](#)



Lynn Kaack
Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Public Policy

Can machine learning support urban climate change mitigation?

Professor Kaack, you recently published a study exploring how machine learning might be used for urban climate action. What did you study?

Led by PhD Researcher Josefine Hintz, our study systematically mapped how machine learning (ML) is being used to support urban climate change mitigation. We analysed 2,300 peer-reviewed articles published between 1994 and 2024, identifying trends and gaps in the research. One goal was to determine whether current ML efforts align with the most impactful strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in cities.

What did you find in the scientific literature on ML for climate change mitigation in cities?

We identified quite some work on topics with relatively low effects on emissions, such as traffic management and consumer behaviour. Meanwhile, high-impact approaches to climate change mitigation in cities, such as redesigning street networks or switching building fuels, are underexplored. This suggests that research may, in part, be driven by data availability or commercial interests rather than climate relevance. We also noted that generative AI approaches do not seem to play a large role in addressing climate change.

What do your findings mean for policymakers and researchers?

Urban planners and policymakers can use our paper as a resource to identify potential ML solutions for implementation, but how to bring research into practice is not yet well understood. Future research should prioritise high-impact areas, measure real-world emissions reductions, and address rapidly urbanising regions outside East Asia, North America and Europe.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Hertie School expertise has appeared in numerous prestigious publications, handbooks, manuals, monographs, and original articles in highly influential peer-reviewed journals.

Bunde, T. (2025). Zeitenwende as a foreign policy identity crisis: Germany and the travails of adaptation after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 27(4). Advance online publication.

Dawson, M., Bobić, A. (2025). Unpacking legal accountability: The case of the European Central Bank. *Politics and Governance*, 13.

Ditlmann, R. K., Turkoglu, O. (2025). Authorities impact intergroup contact intentions. *Political Psychology*. Advance online publication.

Edmondson, D., **Flachland, C.**, aus dem Moore, N., Koch, N., Koller, F., Gruhl, H., Brehm, J. (2024). Anticipatory climate policy mix pathways: A framework for ex-ante construction and assessment applied to the road transport sector. *Climate Policy*. Advance online publication.

Gilardi, F., Kasirzadeh, A., Bernstein, A., Staab, S., **Gohdes, A. R.** (2024). We need to understand the effect of narratives about generative AI. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 8, 2251–2252.

Breaug, J., **Hammerschmid, G.**, Stockreiter, S. (2025). The prevalence of public values in public private partnerships for government digitalisation: A systematic review of the literature. *Government Information Quarterly*, 42(3), Article 102048.

Di Carlo, D., **Hassel, A.**, Höpner, M. (2024). Growth coalitions within a corporatist setting: How manufacturing interests dominated the German response to the energy crisis. *Politics & Society*, 53(2). Advance online publication.

Stiewe, C., Xu, A. L., Eicke, A., Hirth, L. (2025). Cross-border cannibalization: Spillover effects of wind and solar energy on interconnected European electricity markets. *Energy Economics*, 143, Article 108251.

Salomonsen, H. H., Flinders, M., Hustedt, T. (2025). A comparative analysis of senior civil servants' involvement in media management. *Policy & Politics*, 53(1), 109–128.

Kaiser, S. K., Klein, N., Kaack, L. H. (2025). From counting stations to city-wide estimates: Data-driven bicycle volume extrapolation. *Environmental Data Science*, 4, Article e13.

Kayser, M. A., Peress, M. (2025). Do voters respond to the economy or to news reporting on the economy? A mediation analysis. *The Journal of Politics*. Advance online publication.

Bogusz, H., Matysiak, A., Kreyenfeld, M. (2024). Structural labour market change, cognitive work, and entry to parenthood in Germany. *Population Studies*. Advance online publication.

Hankinson, M., Magazinnik, A., Weissman, A. (2024). When do local interest groups participate in the housing entitlement process? *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, 5(1), 47–69.

Mair, J., Rathert, N. (2024). The political side of social enterprises: A phenomenon-based study of sociocultural and policy advocacy. *Journal of Management Studies*. Advance online publication.

Munzert, S., Traunmüller, R., Barberá, P., Guess, A., Yang, J., Ognyanova, K. (2025). Citizen preferences for online hate speech regulation. *PNAS Nexus*, 4(2).

Mastrorocco, N., Ornaghi, A. (2025). Who watches the watchmen? Local news and police behavior in the United States. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 17(2), 285–318.

Römmel, A. (2024). *Demokratie neu denken: Szenarien unserer Welt von morgen*. Campus Verlag GmbH.

Müller, T., Shaikh, M., Kauer, L. (2025). Retirement and health plan choice. *Social Science & Medicine*, 370.

Stockmann, D., Luo, T. (2025). Online political discussion under authoritarianism: What do citizens make of censored political discussion? *Regulation & Governance*. Advance online publication.

Roth, C., Schwardmann, P., Tripodi, E. (2024). Misperceived effectiveness and the demand for psychotherapy. *Journal of Public Economics*, 240, Article 105254.

Sorg, A., Wucherpfennig, J. (2024). Do foreign military deployments provide assurance? Unpacking the micro-mechanisms of burden sharing in alliances. *International Studies Quarterly*, 68(3).

CENTRES OF COMPETENCE

The Hertie School has substantially expanded its expertise in key policy fields by creating six Centres of Competence. Our centres focus on key governance

challenges in European affairs, international security, fundamental rights, sustainability, digital governance, and data science.



CENTRE FOR DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

The **Centre for Digital Governance** is a gateway to governance of digital transformation, based in Berlin. We aim to promote digitalisation where appropriate to improve public well-being. To this end, the centre enables and supports synergies between rigorous academic research, world-leading education and socially relevant policy insights on the challenges and opportunities of the digital era.

We promote discourse linking academic researchers with regulators, policymakers, civil servants and civil society advocates. Our goal is to establish positive feedback loops

that promote evidence-based policy (design, evaluation and implementation) and build academic scholarship inspired by applied questions.

Our activities focus on three areas: how civil servants deal with digital transformation and how governments can adapt new technologies to improve policymaking; how to regulate those who provide digital services, with a particular focus on platform governance and social media; and how trends in digitalisation affect society and how to produce positive outcomes for human development, concentrating on artificial intelligence.

Shaping administrative reform and democratic governance



One of our key achievements this year was contributing to the Initiative for an Effective State, a cross-party effort under the patronage of German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Coordinated by the centre, with Professor Gerhard Hammerschmid serving as Academic Director and supported by four major foundations, the initiative culminated in a final report published in July 2025. Drawing on input from diverse social groups, researchers and students, as well as public sector administrators, the report aims to guide future governments in improving administrative performance and democratic governance. The final recommendations were incorporated into the coalition agreement of the new federal government, underscoring their relevance to future reform efforts.

The centre also strengthened transatlantic dialogue on digital governance through the *Digital Governance for Democratic Renewal* initiative. This joint project with Columbia World Projects, supported by the Knight Foundation, addresses the democratic challenges posed by large digital platforms. Gathering over 80 experts from the US and Europe, the initiative explores how emerging regulations – particularly the EU's Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act – can inspire transatlantic approaches to platform accountability, content moderation and public interest research.

Finally, the centre continued to advance research on the Digital Markets Act (DMA). In partnership with leading institutions and the non-profit ARTICLE 19, the DMA Enforcement project unites scholars, regulators and technologists to explore early implementation challenges. In 2025, the project launched a call for abstracts focussing on critical gaps in interoperability, enforcement procedures and global regulatory comparisons. This initiative has reinforced the centre's role as a key platform for interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research on the future of digital platform regulation in Europe.

[Learn more about the Centre for Digital Governance](#)



CENTRE FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Founded in 2020, the **Centre for Fundamental Rights** is a beacon and hub for socially engaged and impactful research, teaching and outreach on key contemporary and emerging challenges to human rights. Research excellence informs our entire vision and has earned the centre its reputation as a globally renowned institution. Our research and teaching currently focus

on cross-cutting challenges to human rights: AI and new technologies, armed conflicts and security, asylum and migration, authoritarian practices, the climate crisis, and (in)equality. Beyond research and teaching, the centre organises study visits, thematic walking tours, and a wide range of public-facing events on human rights policy and practice.



Advancing scholarship and public dialogue

The 2024–2025 Academic Year was marked by a series of high-level and engaging research and public events convened and hosted by the centre.

The centre's research colloquium set a record for attendance in the fall semester, with a themed series on "Fundamental Rights and (Anti-)Discrimination" convened by the centre's postdoctoral researchers Dr Betül Durmuş and Dr Silvia Steininger. Speakers included Professor Shreya Atrey (University of Oxford) on structural racism, Professor Itamar Mann and Dr Lihi Yona (University of Haifa) on the definition of antisemitism, and Professor Johanna Mair (Hertie School) on inequality within organisations.

The *Annual Research Workshop*, held in June 2025, was co-convened by the centre's second-year PhD candidate, Anastasia Zhuravel, and her supervisor, Professor Başak Çali (Fellow and founding Centre Director), and focussed on the protection of human rights in the context of armed conflict. The workshop explored the complex interplay between human rights law, international humanitarian law, and the law governing the use of force. This was one of three research workshops hosted or co-hosted by the centre during the academic year, alongside a workshop on "Critical Approaches to the European Human Rights Law" hosted by the FRAMES research project (Dr Esra Demir-Gürsel) and a workshop on "Transdisciplinary Conversations on Migrant Solidarity" as part of the Solidarity and Migration research project (Professor Violeta Moreno-Lax).

In June, the centre hosted its flagship *Annual Research Methods Workshop*. The largest to date, it welcomed 24 participants from 22 academic institutions. Geared towards doctoral and early-career legal scholars, it offered cutting-edge training on interdisciplinary methods for

human rights research by renowned experts, with support from CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences.

Public events highlighted the global challenges faced by human rights defenders. In April 2025, the centre hosted UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Professor Mary Lawlor; German Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance, Luise Amtsberg; ECCHR Border Justice Director, Hanaa Hakiki; and climate activist, Carla Hinrichs, for a keynote discussion on the challenges and necessity of defending human rights today. The discussions addressed emerging threats to defenders, the role of civil society, and strategies for fostering resilience and accountability in a complex global context. In May 2025, the centre welcomed former Human Rights Watch Executive Director, Kenneth Roth, to a panel co-hosted with the Bard College Human Rights Initiative. The conversation examined the state of human rights worldwide, and the ongoing necessity of coordinated international pressure to uphold human rights.

[Find out more about the Centre for Fundamental Rights](#)



CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

The **Centre for International Security** is a vital hub for examining and debating the intricate security challenges of the 21st century impacting Germany, Europe and beyond. By positioning itself within the triangle of research, teaching and outreach, the centre aims to become a critical hub in Germany and Europe for rigorous scientific research on topics of importance

Amplifying Europe's voice in nuclear security



Throughout the 2024–2025 Academic Year, the centre strengthened its position as a leading hub for nuclear security research, teaching and outreach in Europe. With sustained support from the Stanton Foundation, the centre fostered a strong community of political leaders, military officials and scholars advancing European perspectives on nuclear security, while preparing the next generation of experts in the field.

The centre's commitment to advancing the European discourse on nuclear security was exemplified by the sixth edition of our flagship *Nuclear Security Workshop* in July 2025. Scholars from leading institutions across Europe and North America – including MIT, LSE, CEU and the University of Oslo – tackled issues ranging from NATO's nuclear strategy and US security guarantees to arms control and public opinion. The programme featured a dinner discussion on "Nuclear Threats and the Role of Allies", with keynote insights from Vipin Narang (Professor of Nuclear Security and Political Science, MIT; former United States Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and then-Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy). Policymakers and officials from the

to international security. It strives to reach a global audience interested in German and European security issues, connect scholars with policymakers and civil society groups, inspire new minds in the field of security, and prepare the next generation of creative and innovative decision-makers.

German government joined participants in debating Russia's nuclear signalling, Iran's nuclear programme and Europe's contributions to NATO's deterrence posture.

To prepare students for careers in international security, the centre hosts regular career spotlight sessions with distinguished experts and alumni that provide insights into professional pathways and important skills. Two sessions focussed on nuclear security. Rafael Loss (European Council on Foreign Relations) shared his experience in Euro-Atlantic security, nuclear strategy and arms control, highlighting the realities of policy work, different career paths and key skills for transitioning from student to practitioner. Alexander Bollfrass (International Institute for Strategic Studies) led a spotlight session on working in nuclear non-proliferation, arms control and risk reduction at a leading think tank, offering students practical guidance on navigating careers, gaining expertise and work-life balance.

The *Munich Security Conference* (MSC) remained a key partner of our nuclear security outreach activities. On the opening day of MSC 2025, the centre co-hosted a high-level breakfast with the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins University, titled "Deterrence Decoded: Mapping Nuclear Modernization in a World of Multiple Challengers". Moderated by Centre Director Marina Henke, the discussion examined whether NATO and US modernisation efforts can keep pace with a multipolar nuclear order, while highlighting Europe's role in shaping deterrence strategies.

[Learn more about the Centre for International Security](#)



JACQUES DELORS CENTRE

At the **Jacques Delors Centre (JDC)**, we are dedicated to fostering research, debate and policy innovation on Europe's future. The centre provides independent analysis and practical solutions to the EU's pressing challenges – from economic governance and democratic

resilience to climate policy and foreign affairs. Combining empirical research with close collaboration among global scholars, the JDC shapes European discourse through high-profile events, publications and partnerships.

Discussing and shaping Europe's future

The 2024–2025 Academic Year was marked by a series of important highlights for the Jacques Delors Centre, bringing leading voices together to debate Europe's future. Against the backdrop of Donald Trump's re-election as US President and the collapse of Olaf Scholz's coalition government, on 6 November 2024, the Jacques Delors Centre and the Hertie School hosted a high-level discussion on Europe's competitiveness and the future of the Single Market. Moderated by Hertie School President Cornelia Woll and attended by around 250 participants, the event featured Friedrich Merz, CDU Federal Chairman and now Chancellor of Germany, and Enrico Letta, former Italian Prime Minister and current President of the Jacques Delors Institute in Paris. The debate on the Single Market and the EU's economy highlighted the need for imaginative approaches to ensure Europe's future stays relevant to its citizens.



On 19 May 2025, the centre had the honour of hosting European Commission Executive Vice President Teresa Ribera for a keynote and discussion on reconciling climate neutrality with industrial competitiveness. The keynote was part of a two-day conference in Berlin organised and moderated by Deputy Director Nils Redeker, which brought together policymakers, researchers, students and civil society actors to explore the prospects of the EU's Clean Industrial Deal. In her address, Ribera emphasised the green transition as a historic opportunity to drive Europe's

economic growth, highlighting the importance of EU-level coordination and the integrating of social justice into industrial policy. The event showcased how innovation, competitiveness and fairness can position Europe as a global leader in the clean industrial transition.



Lastly, on 26 May 2025, the JDC hosted Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), in a widely anticipated and extensively covered event as part of our *Pariser Platz Dialogue* series. Moderated by Co-Director Johannes Lindner, the ECB President highlighted the need for Europe to strengthen its economic sovereignty while maintaining open, reliable international relations amid the declining dominance of the US dollar. She identified geopolitical credibility, economic competitiveness, and robust legal and institutional frameworks as key pillars, urging Europe to act with urgency and strategic intent to reinforce its position as a major player in the global economic order.

[Find out more about the Jacques Delors Centre](#)



CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The **Centre for Sustainability** is a hub for teaching, research and policy engagement, dedicated to informing effective public policies for environmental sustainability with a focus on the global transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Its research covers climate

and energy policy, AI and climate technology, and environmental economics and policy evaluation, offering corresponding courses and extracurricular activities that prepare students to lead in the global sustainability transition.

Informing public debate and fostering international climate cooperation

Centre researchers continued to publish in leading academic outlets this year. For example, PhD candidate Johannes Brehm analyses whether carbon taxes stimulate low-carbon innovation in the transport sector in the *Journal of Public Economics* (2025). The centre's Ariadne project team's novel policy framework for strengthening climate policy implementation processes appeared in *Climate Policy* (2025), providing practical tools for more effective governance at the national and international levels. And in *Environmental Data Science* (2025), PhD candidate Silke Kaiser and Assistant Professor Lynn Kaack apply machine learning to predict citywide cycling volumes from limited traffic data, showcasing how advanced analytics can inform urban transport policy.



Centre faculty and researchers were sought-after voices in national and international media, with their commentary helping to frame the terms of high-level policy debates on climate and energy. Lynn Kaack was named among Berlin's "100 Top Thinkers" by *Tagesspiegel*, while

Senior Research Fellow Marian Feist provided expert commentary for *Table.Media* on how Germany's elections could influence other countries' climate policies. Professor of Energy Policy Lion Hirth published multiple high-profile op-eds on electricity market reform and grid stability in outlets including *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and *The Pioneer*. His analyses addressed both the policy implications of Germany's February elections and the recent European energy crisis in Portugal and Spain, reinforcing the centre's role in influencing national and European debates.

In October 2024, the centre hosted "Preparing COP29 – Lessons Learned and the Way Forward for Sino-German Climate Cooperation". The high-level dialogue on climate finance and bilateral collaboration between Germany and China featured Jennifer Morgan, then-State Secretary at the German Federal Foreign Office; Xu Huaqing, Chief Scientist at China's National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC); Zhang Yousheng, Deputy Director General at the Energy Research Institute; Christian Flachsland, Professor of Climate Policy and Centre for Sustainability Director; and Susanne Dröge, Head of the Department for Climate Protection and Energy at the German Environment Agency, who moderated the discussion. In December 2024, Professor Flachsland participated in the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Scoping Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which set the framework for the IPCC's Seventh Assessment Report – a critical resource for assessing climate science, impacts and strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

[Learn more about the Centre for Sustainability](#)



DATA SCIENCE LAB

The Hertie School **Data Science Lab** is a leading hub for research and training, tackling today's societal challenges with data-driven methods and artificial intelligence (AI). The lab brings together expertise in data science, social sciences and public policy. Key areas of focus include machine learning for climate policy, experimental interventions to study the effects of the internet on

society, and policy outcomes of local politics. As we grow, we continue to expand our research through collaborations in Germany and across Europe. We are also increasingly committed to promoting the meaningful use and better understanding of data science and AI in the context of public policy.

From hackathons to policy, the lab advances data for good

The past academic year was marked by significant milestones for the Hertie School Data Science Lab, reflecting progress in student engagement, high-profile events and impactful research.

In January 2025, the lab hosted its second *Data4Good Festival*, a three-day hackathon that brought together 70 students from 20 European universities. The event provided a unique platform for young innovators to tackle real-world societal challenges using data science and artificial intelligence. Key outcomes included 13 interdisciplinary teams developing new projects, award-winning solutions in the fields of municipal development and Holocaust documentation, as well as opportunities for cross-European collaboration and networking. The festival also featured workshops on artificial intelligence and applied data science, underscoring the lab's mission to equip the next generation with the skills to harness data for the common good.

The lab also advanced pioneering research on digital governance. A study published in *PNAS Nexus* by Professor of Data Science and Public Policy and Data Science Lab Director Simon Munzert examined public attitudes towards regulating online hate speech. Conducted across Germany and the United States with more than 2,500 participants, the study found public support for moderating severe hate speech, but greater reluctance to imposing penalties such as fines or imprisonment. At the same time, the study revealed the potential for partisan bias in content moderation: people tended to be more forgiving of hate speech from members of their own ideological group while judging opposing



groups more harshly. This finding highlights the challenges of designing fair and culturally sensitive systems for content moderation.

Throughout the year, the lab continued to serve as a hub for interdisciplinary exchange. Research group meetings, *Brown Bag* seminars and external conferences provided forums for collaboration, while students took part in hackathons and other initiatives. These activities reinforced the lab's role in connecting data science with the social sciences and public policy to generate research that is both rigorous and relevant. From energising student engagement to shaping international debates on digital governance, 2024–2025 underscored the lab's growing impact at the interface of data science, artificial intelligence and public policy.

[Find out more about the Data Science Lab](#)



FACULTY



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past President



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(until 30 September 2024)



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(2024-2025 Academic Year and as of spring 2026)



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of Communication in Politics and Civil Society
(on leave as of 1 December 2025)



Prof. Dr Julian Wucherpfennig
Professor of International Affairs
and Security; Director, Centre
for International Security
(fall semester 2025)

PHILANTHROPY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Through philanthropy, the Hertie School came to life in Berlin with the aim of promoting good governance and democracy at home and abroad. Thanks to additional gifts and partnerships, we were able to expand our faculty, conduct groundbreaking research and enable students to pursue their studies. With a focus on academic rigour in research and teaching while fostering public debate, the Hertie School has become one of Europe's top public policy schools. In this tradition, we continue to strive for excellence with the help and investment of our partners, funders and friends.



A new campus for the Hertie School

In 2026, the Hertie School will move into its new campus at the Robert Koch Forum, right in the political heart of Berlin. This historic building will offer students a state-of-the-art campus that will be an open and inclusive space for teaching, research and debate. The move will herald a new chapter in the Hertie School's development, further enhancing its profile as a leading university for public policy. Please help shape the new campus with us.

Invest in research and teaching

The Hertie School and its community work at the interface of research, policy and society and help to set the agenda for political debate. They create intersectoral links between policy- and lawmakers, decision-makers, experts and the next generation of leaders, our students.

The Hertie School currently hosts several funded professorships and major research projects, made possible by a variety of private sector organisations. Most recently, notable new projects have received funding from the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit, the Dieter Schwarz Stiftung, the Stanton Foundation and the Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft. Please support new academic expertise and help create novel insights.



Cornelia Woll,
President of the Hertie School

Support our students

Our students benefit from an education that combines academic excellence with practical skills and the opportunity to work with our extensive network of partner organisations. With our interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international approach, they develop the competencies they need to tackle today's complex societal issues. The Hertie School, supported by several funders and partners, offers scholarships, making excellent education accessible to talented students from all backgrounds and to advanced practitioners.

Among others, the Dieter Schwarz Stiftung, SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit and Santander Deutschland are funding scholarships. Please help us nurture the next generation of leaders.

**Support
the Hertie School
and help us
shape tomorrow.**

For more information, contact
development@hertie-school.org



As a private university, we rely on charitable donations and a strong network of partners and friends who share our vision and support our students, teaching, research and new campus.



Carsten Vogel,
Development Director

KEY NUMBERS AND FINANCIAL FIGURES

Students	2024/2025 as of 1 Sept. 2024	2025/2026 as of 1 Sept. 2025
Total number of enrolled students	836	938
MPP students from:		
Germany	308 26.62%	340 33.24%
Europe	18.18%	18.53%
Other	55.20%	48.23%
Male	44.81%	41.47%
Female	54.22%	57.65%
Diverse	0.97%	0.88%
MIA students from:		
Germany	290 49.07%	340 53.24%
Europe	23.20%	21.47%
Other	27.73%	25.29%
Male	45.17%	45.58%
Female	53.79%	53.24%
Diverse	1.03%	1.18%
MDS students from:		
Germany	76 34.21%	83 28.92%
Europe	11.84%	15.66%
Other	53.95%	55.42%
Male	50.00%	50.60%
Female	47.92%	48.20%
Diverse	2.08%	1.20%
Executive MPA students from:		
Germany	48 33.33%	50 28.00%
Europe	20.83%	20.00%
Other	45.84%	52.00%
Male	50.00%	38.00%
Female	47.92%	60.00%
Diverse	2.08%	2.00%
Exchange inbound	47	51
PhD Researchers:		
BGTS	67 4	74 2
Doctoral Programme in Governance	48	56
DYNAMICS	12	13
Berlin School of Economics	3	3
Graduates		
MPP	156	120
MIA	108	102
MDS	27	30
PhD defences	16	13
Executive MPA	24	17
Total	331	282
Alumni career paths		
Total number of alumni	as of Aug. 2024 3,026	as of Aug. 2025 3,365
Public sector	31%	31%
Private sector	43%	46%
Third sector	26%	23%

Number of employees	2024/2025 as of 1 Aug. 2024	2025/2026 as of 1 Aug. 2025
Professors	36	36
of whom		
full-time employed	30	32
part-time employed	6	4
Male	18	18
Female	18	18
Employees	260	282
(including research staff, excluding student assistants)		
		2024/2025
Revenues		
Master of Public Policy	9,907	9,907
Master of International Affairs	3,175	3,175
Executive Master of Public Administration	3,217	3,217
Master of Data Science for Public Policy	387	387
Executive Education	707	707
Contract research	993	993
Other revenues	552	552
		876
Income from grants		
Shareholder Hertie Foundation	11,035	11,035
Grants Executive Education	1,287	1,287
Other grant authorities	6,899	6,899
Costs		
Costs of teaching, research and school services	21,477	21,477
Costs of administration	8,673	8,673
Other income (-), expenses (+)	1,022	1,022
Self-financing ratio (%)	64%	64%
Profit/loss	0	0



COMMITTEES*

Academic Year 2024/2025

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*as of December 2025

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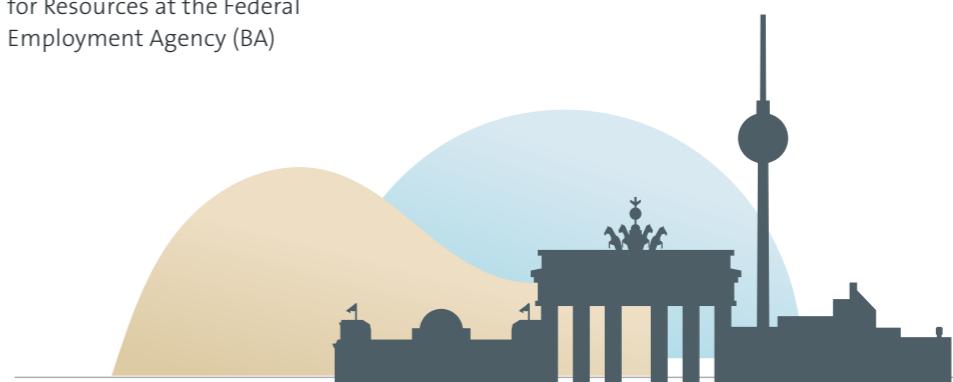
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*as of December 2025

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on German Federal Administration and Civil Society

As a professional school and a leading private university for public policy in Germany, the Hertie School counts academic excellence and a strong practice-driven approach among its key objectives. The Advisory Council on German Federal Administration and Civil Society ensures that the university's ongoing curricular developments combine

academic excellence and a practical orientation that stays in touch with the demands of the German and international job markets. The council therefore facilitates ongoing exchange between the university and relevant sectors, while promoting contacts between students, alumni and potential employers.

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2025–2028

The Alumni Council serves as an advisory body to the management of the Hertie School. Its members are alumni from across all our programmes and cohorts who are appointed

to three-year terms. The Alumni Council meets three times a year for strategy counselling sessions in which current issues are discussed with the management team.

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Project Lead at D64 – Centre for Digital Progress

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Dr Torben Frank, EMPA 2018
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Project Lead AI & Data at Bertelsmann Stiftung

Master of International Affairs (MIA) representatives

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Director, Global Brand Communications and Responsible Marketing Governance at The Coca-Cola Company

Parker Nash, MIA 2021
Government Relations Specialist at the German Marshall Fund of the United States

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Policy Consultant (CEE Energy Transition) at Clean Air Task Force

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Understand today. Shape tomorrow.

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ABOUT THE HERTIE SCHOOL

At the Hertie School, we prepare exceptional students from all over the world for leadership positions in government, business and civil society. We offer master's programmes, executive education and doctoral programmes that are distinguished by interdisciplinary and practice-oriented teaching. Our faculty members and researchers produce outstanding work in a wide range of policy fields. We were founded in 2004 by the Hertie Foundation, which is still our principal source of funding. The Hertie School is recognised by the State of Berlin and accredited by the German Science and Humanities Council.