



**Hanns Seidel Foundation**

In the Service of Democracy,  
Peace and Development

## THE IDENTITY OF HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION

Democracy can only survive with a democratic minded population. This lesson learned from the failure of the first German Republic, the Weimar Republic, led the Federal Republic of Germany to establish political foundations. As an important part of political culture, these foundations would henceforth serve as a lasting and profound anchor for democratic awareness in our country. Former German President Roman Herzog accurately characterised them as “schools of democratic thought and action, testbeds for civil courage and common sense that bestow upon us the ethical principles without which our political system cannot function.” Today, six political foundations operate in Germany spanning the political spectrum, each closely aligned with one party, having gained their legitimacy through nearly complete state funding from the German parliament. Its conscious and intentional coexistence is practised pluralism founded

upon on a basic consensus on liberal democratic principles. “Democracy,” Herzog also said, “means that action is as important as instruction.”

The Hanns Seidel Foundation has belonged to this family of foundations since 1967. It was named after the former Bavarian prime minister and CSU chairman. It is politically aligned with the Christian Social Union and engages in political education with the aim of promoting the democratic and civic education of the German people on Christian foundations. Its educational programmes extend beyond party boundaries and are open to all interested citizens. Its commitment to democracy, peace and development abroad also rests on these foundations. In addition, the practical actions the foundation engages in focus on standards of human dignity and tolerance, freedom and responsibility, solidarity and



Foundation Headquarters, Munich



Conference Centre Munich

sustainability, equality of opportunity and intergenerational justice as well as subsidiarity as a principle of responsibility and structure.

A broad range of tasks has developed over the past five decades from its original mission and purpose. This includes dialogue between the spheres of politics, science, business and society as well as engaging in future-related issues, developing strategies to face national

and international challenges, teaching and practising political skills, knowledge and abilities, supporting gifted and socio-politically committed students at home and abroad, and promoting international understanding and global development cooperation. This pamphlet aims to provide a concise overview of the wide-ranging activities of the Hanns Seidel Foundation. We hope you enjoy reading it and look forward to hearing from many interested readers!



**Prof. Ursula Männle**  
Minister of State (ret.), Chairwoman

**Dr Peter Witterauf**  
Chief Executive Officer

## OVERVIEW: MISSION AND FIELDS OF ACTIVITY



Political analysis



Political education



Scholarship programmes



International cooperation

The conceptual and operational work of the Hanns Seidel Foundation is concentrated primarily in four departments. Whilst the **Academy for Politics and Current Affairs** focuses on current trends and scholarly research, the **Institute for Political Education** offers seminars on a number of different topics. The **Institute for Scholarship Programmes** fosters up-and-coming researchers with programmes that benefit talented academics who are socially committed. The **Institute for International Cooperation** operates and evaluates development cooperation projects. The main focus here is good governance, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The Central Services division provides these four departments with support as a service provider. The Banz Monastery Educational Centre and the Conference Centre at the foundation's headquarters in Munich represent places to meet and engage in dialogue. The overarching guidelines governing the foundation's work include the relationship between citizens and the state and the tension between

globalisation and regionalisation. Here too, the focus is on the new role of Germany and Europe in light of international conflicts and migration, the impact of the increasing individualisation of society and questions of responsibility for future generations.

## POLICY ADVICE – DEVELOPING STRATEGIES AT THE ACADEMY

The **Academy for Politics and Current Affairs** addresses (socio-)political issues and analyses trends. It considers itself a think tank and brainstorming forum for politics and society.

Its work aims to act on current and relevant challenges/ issues in order to develop problem-solving strategies in the most important areas of political, social and economic life and offer practical policy solutions. **Policy advice** and **policy analysis** are done in dialogue: policy-makers discuss current issues with leaders from academia, the business world, society, culture and the media.

The outcomes of this process are **prepared for the media** and made available to decision makers.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation Academy differs from other political research institutions, including by the fact that issues are addressed by experts from different fields. An **interdisciplinary approach** is a prerequisite for being able to adequately unravel the complexity of national societies and the international political and economic system.

Maximilianeum in Munich  
Bavarian Landtag



Reichstag building in Berlin  
German Bundestag



## POLITICAL EDUCATION – SEMINAR PROGRAMMES FOR EVERYONE

What literature describes as civics is a focus of seminars and conferences held by the **Institute for Political Education**. Activities centre on citizens who want to improve their political skills. Since the Institute was founded, several hundred thousand interested citizens have participated in seminars, conferences and workshops to gain specific, topical knowledge.

Political education also aims to provide people with qualifications for **political engagement**. It seeks to strengthen democratic awareness and provide tools for volunteering. The benefits for individuals include gaining socio-political skills and a **better understanding** of democratic voting processes; in short, the **ability to engage** in civil society and take political **action**.

The range of topics is extremely diverse, ranging, for example, from migration and the resulting refugee issue to questions of successfully managing the energy transition to issues specific to families and women. Business and media ethics, democratic competence, digital revolution, international security policy, values, religion and society – to name just a few – are the topic of educational events.

These events are held at our Educational Centre at the Banz Monastery, the Conference Centre Munich or in various parts of Bavaria.

Educational Centre at the Banz Monastery

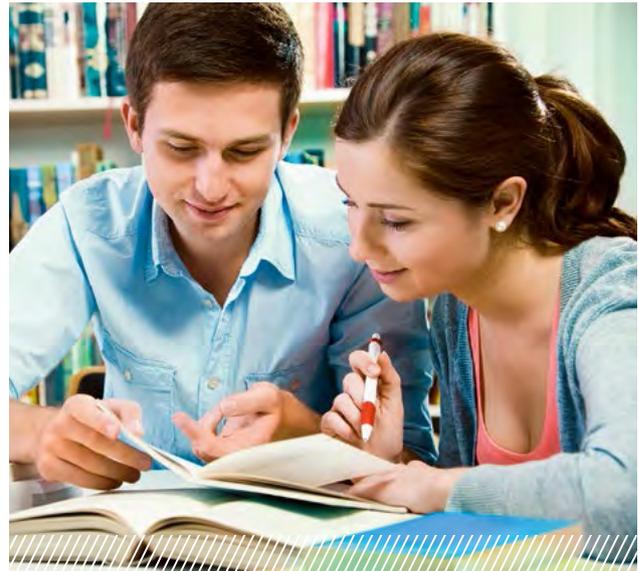


## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES – TALENTED INDIVIDUALS RECEIVE SUPPORT

Scholarship programmes enrich studies – and not just financially. More than 1,000 fellows receive a scholarship from the **Institute for Scholarship Programmes**. These scholarships consist of both **conceptual** and **financial support**. The aim is to contribute to the education of personally and academically qualified young academics and to reward outstanding scholarly achievements in doctoral programmes. Conceptual support here means participating in courses aimed at enabling fellows to critically and constructively contribute to the development of the democratic rule of law. Their political, professional, social and personal skills are primed, which should provide broader foundations for their future leadership capabilities. Those receiving a scholarship are chosen by a selection committee based on the **combination of personality, performance and social engagement**.

In addition to course-related support programmes, fellows often take on societal and social leadership responsibilities. They are aware of their roots and remain in contact with the foundation. The scholarship alumni club has around 2,000 members.

That this is the right path is evidenced by the fact that former fellows have risen to lead companies, associations and organisations, with many involved in policy-making.



## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND POLITICAL CONTACTS WORLDWIDE

Global challenges today can only be tackled through global cooperation. One player in this process is the **Institute for International Cooperation**, with projects in over 60 countries worldwide. The aim of this international engagement, which is based on Christian social ideals, is to promote humane living conditions and to contribute to sustainable development by strengthening peace, democracy and social market economies. Together with local partners, projects are implemented that focus on strengthening civil society and its organisations, public participation and promoting the rule of law, advising decision makers in politics, business and administration, promoting women, overcoming social and ethnic divisions and strengthening environmental awareness.

These programmes are complemented by the Hanns Seidel Foundation maintaining contacts with the world's major centres of political power. The foreign offices in **Washington** (the US and Canada), **Moscow** (Russian Federation), **Brussels** (Benelux, the EU and NATO) and **Athens** (Greece) have close ties to the politically influential organisations and institutions in the respective country. They organise local bilateral symposia, prepare analyses and lead dialogue programmes.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation is a respected global partner on issues of democracy, the rule of law and contacts with Germany.





South African Ombudsman Thulisile Madonsela at the Women's Breakfast in Windhoek



Promoting environmental sustainability and environmental awareness



Panel discussion on poverty reduction in Africa



Dialogue of religions and cultures as well as measures for more sustainable economic and social policy



Ursula Männle with the Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation



Visit to the Urumqi vocational school



Youth Parliament in Bolivia



Members of the Burkinabe Constitutional Council at a seminar



Meeting for police officers in Southeast Asia

## CONTACTS IN CITIES



Munich: Foundation headquarters and Conference Centre



Washington: Transatlantic contacts in the US and Canada

**The foundation headquarters** of the Hanns Seidel Foundation and its **Conference Centre** are located in Munich. In addition, it has its Educational Centre at the Banz Monastery in Upper Franconia and a representative office in Berlin Mitte. Abroad, the foundation has approximately 60 offices in charge of local projects, including in Beijing, New Delhi, Jakarta, Johannesburg and Buenos Aires. Its offices are also open for dialogue programmes in major political capitals like Washington, Brussels, Moscow and Athens.



Brussels: European affairs and development policy dialogue



Berlin: Public relations with the political sphere, associations and organisations



Moscow: Contacts and dialogue programmes in the Russian Federation

## ARCHIVE FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL POLITICS



Political foundations maintain party-affiliated archives that are open to everyone. The **Archives for Christian Social Policy (ACSP)** is tasked with collecting, developing and making accessible resources for the development of the Christian Social Union as well as for conducting its own research. The aim is to achieve the most comprehensive documentation of the conception and development of the CSU and the activities of its functionaries and parliamentary groups. The ACSP documents and researches predecessor organisations, primary political and social movements and their historical roots. At the heart of this lies documentation on leading party figures, state, district and local levels

and parliamentary group collections. In addition, personal documents of notable CSU politicians are held. The ACSP therefore serves as the historical “memory” of the Christian Social Union.

Party archives are considered service facilities that provide information on various media (photos, video and text), be it for scholarly work, policy work or citizens’ requests. Collections are available in analogue and digital formats. They constitute relevant sources of party history.

One challenge the archives face in our modern media age is making digital transmission secure and usable. Along with electronic databases from file and document management systems, databases of websites and politicians’ social networks accounts are also secured. Retro-digitisation of analogue documents and objects is used for conservation purposes and allows for comprehensive and location-independent access to the archives.



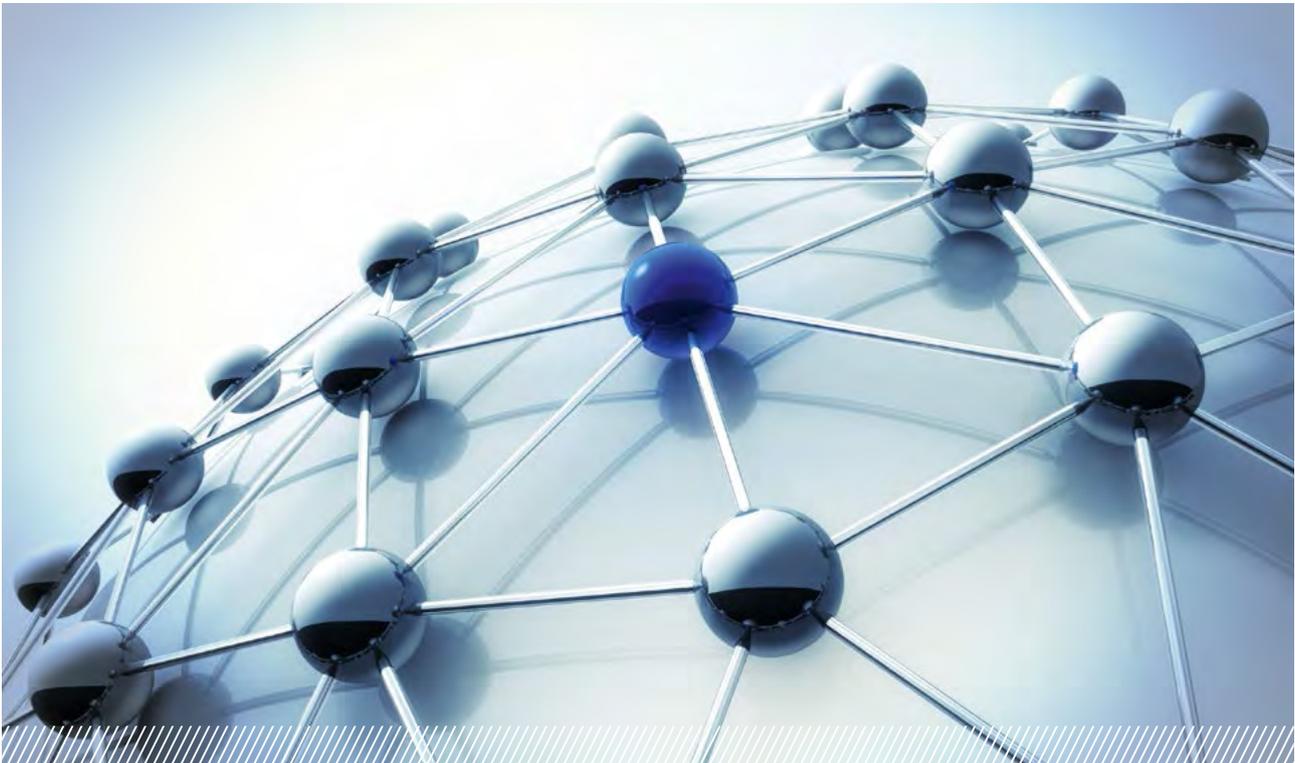
## ▶ THE EPONYMOUS HANNS SEIDEL



**Hanns Seidel** (1901–1961) was born in the Bavarian town of Aschaffenburg and earned his law degree in 1929. He became a member of the Bayerische Volkspartei (BVP) in 1932 and the next year ran in the city council elections in his home town. After the Nazis took power, Seidel was taken into “protective custody” because he had been protecting a large number of Jews. Hanns Seidel served in the military from 1940–1945. Once the war was over, the American military government appointed politically respectable Seidel District Administrator of Aschaffenburg. In 1946, he successfully ran for election as a CSU candidate for the Constituent Assembly and the Bavarian Land-

tag (state parliament). In September 1947, Prime Minister Hans Ehard appointed the expert Hanns Seidel Bavarian State Minister of Economics. The CSU parliamentary group elected him their spokesperson in 1954, making him the opposition leader to the Coalition of Four (SPD, Bayernpartei, FDP, GB/BHE). In 1955, as the new party chairman, along with his Secretary General, Friedrich Zimmerman, he began a fundamental modernisation and reorganisation of the CSU. When the Coalition of Four collapsed in 1957, the CSU once again formed a government and the Landtag appointed Hanns Seidel Minister President of the State of Bavaria by a majority. The population rewarded Seidel’s expertise and gave the CSU its best outcome since 1946 in the 1958 regional elections with nearly 50% of the vote. It was with great regret that Seidel was forced to resign as Minister President in 1960 and CSU party chair the following year due to a back injury he suffered in an accident. Hanns Seidel died as a result of his injuries on 5 August 1961. A few months later, planning began for a foundation affiliated with the party and was named after Hanns Seidel.

## ▶ THE FOUNDATION AS A NETWORK

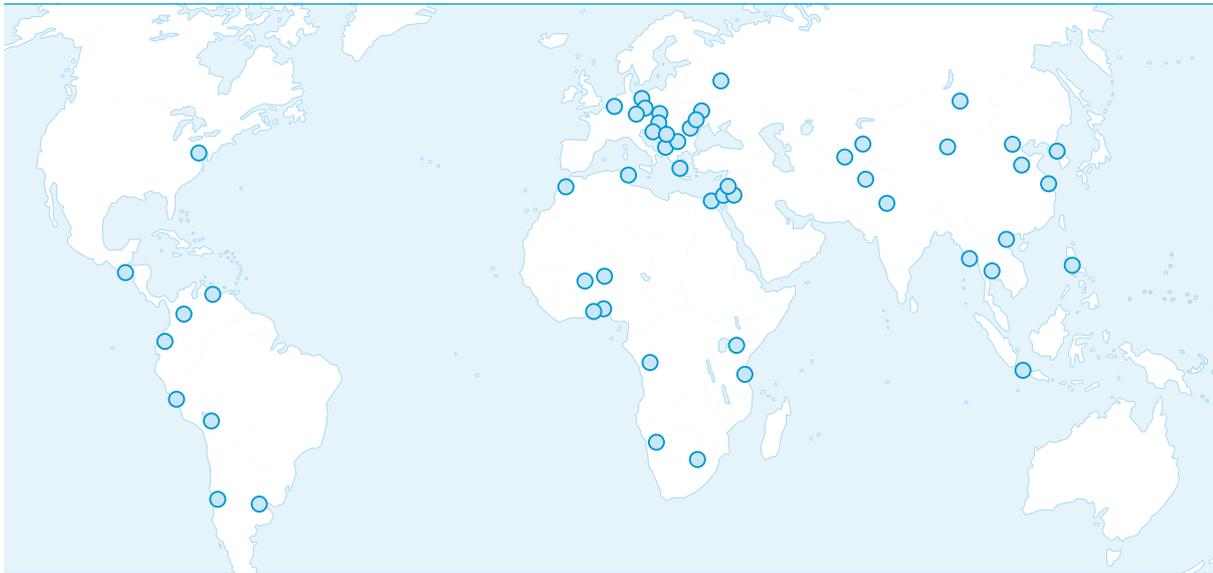


Because of its engagement as a socio-political educational institution and player in development cooperation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation has access to a **global network**. Contacts in Germany and abroad have been fostered over the course of decades. As a party-affiliated organisation, good relations with associations, churches, various cultural institutions and especially the educational sector and the world of academia have resulted. The network is complemented by countless contacts with people whose ideals align with those of Christian socialism, and this of course includes our current and former fellows. The focus here is on multipliers who want to engage in conversation with

the Hanns Seidel Foundation. As a platform for socio-political discourse on various topics, the Hanns Seidel Foundation promotes the exchange of opinions.

Our recognised expertise in development cooperation has given us ties to governments, parliaments and heads of state in more than 60 countries. Our local project partners are closely involved with civil society in their respective countries.

Today, the **Hanns Seidel Foundation** is involved in educational projects in Germany as well as over 60 countries around the world. The CSU-affiliated foundation's motto is: **In the Service of Democracy, Peace and Development.**



○ Representatives of the Hanns Seidel Foundation

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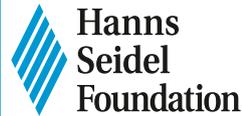
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The foundation's newsletter (sent three times per year) and the annual report sent via a distribution service. If you are interested please send an email to [info@hss.de](mailto:info@hss.de) or a letter to the Department of Press and Public Relations (see above for postal address).



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A detailed presentation of the work of the Hanns Seidel Foundation is available on the Internet. You can register, order publications and read conference or country reports at [www.hss.de](http://www.hss.de). In addition to its website, the Hanns Seidel Foundation also uses several social media channels:

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