

## THE DEPARTMENTS OF KAS CIVIC EDUCATION

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## MISSION DEMOCRACY!

This report provides an overview of the most important activities of the Civic Education department in 2011. A great deal more information on the department's work and current programmes are available via the internet.

### ACADEMY FOR LOCAL POLITICS

The Academy for Local Politics changed its mission, by putting on a specialised programme and organising new focus events (e.g. "Europe at the Local Level"). The aim was to counter concerns at the municipal level over European policy. In cooperation with the Fachhochschule for Public Administration North-Rhine Westphalia, students learned more about European perspectives on municipal issues by attending a seminar on local administrative services. On 27 and 28 October, eighty experts gathered at the Schloss Eichholz Civic Education Centre for a seminar called "Treating People with Dignity" on the effects that demographic change is having on the provision of care at the local level.

### EUROPE

The new interactive *Zukunftswerkstatt* (Future Workshop) format introduced young people from 28 to 30 October to "European Policy in a Global Context". The highlight was interviews by Skype with KAS experts in China, Abu Dhabi and Cairo. At a conference in Cadenabbia from 7 to 10 April – a follow-up on the *Eichholzer Kreis* (Eichholz Circle) – attendees discussed the achievements of Christian democracy for European integration. At a debate tournament, "Speeches on the European Presidency", from 29 to 31 May, young people gave proof of their rhetorical skills and knowledge of the EU. The success of this format – and because the event was so dynamic – led to the decision to hold the competition in 2012 around the country. In June, a *Europe Forum* with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán took place.

### DEVELOPMENT POLICY

On 1 November 2011 the Civic Education Academy Dresden began a six-part event series entitled "A Global World – Global Responsibilities: Challenges of Development Policy". Through 2 December, participants discussed a number of issues and raised many questions, among them universal human rights, education and migration, the openness of the markets, who should one donate to and where biofuels come from. A number of development organisations were present at some of the events, among them the cooperative *F.A.I.R.E. Warenhandels eG* and the organisation *Afrika e.V.*

### INTERNET AND DEMOCRACY

The internet provides a wide variety of opportunities for information and communication for politicians, civil society, academics and businesses. This development brings with it a host of advantages but also the danger of criminal activity. That is why the Schloss Eichholz Civic Education Centre organised a forum on 8 and 9 September for police investigators on exploring electronic threats at the European and worldwide level.

A workshop in February laid the ground for the *third Democracy Congress of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Berlin*. Speakers at the "Digitale (Un)Kultur und Demokratie" – "Digital (Un)Culture



KAS Democracy Congress 2011: German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich (centre) with KAS chairman Hans-Gert Pöttering and Head of the KAS Civic Education Department, Melanie Piepenschneider.

and Democracy” event included Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich, KAS Chairman Hans-Gert Pöttering, New York University communications professor Jeff Jarvis, Peter Tauber and Donata Hopfen, who manages *BILD* newspaper’s digital division.

#### PREVENTION OF EXTREMISM

A central aspect of the civic education work of the KAS is confronting totalitarian ideologies as they represent the antithesis of an open society and Germany’s representative parliamentary democracy. A total of forty events on the prevention of right-wing extremism took place in schools, where Holocaust survivors spoke about their experiences under the Nazis and answered questions.

On 25 October, KAS Secretary General Michael Thielen opened a [conference on preventing left-wing extremism as the duty of civic education work](#). Experts discussed activities by left-wing extremists, the extent and effect of such extremism, as well as groups to target for prevention work and potential preventive measures. Events with *Spiegel-Online* reporter Jan Fleischhauer proved particularly popular around Germany, titled “Among Leftists: the Story of a Person Who Accidentally Turned Conservative”.

#### STILL TOPICAL: THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF LUDWIG ERHARD

Students from around North-Rhine Westphalia gathered for two-day workshops and longer seminars to discuss the guidelines of modern and values-based Christian democratic economic policies.

#### THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE

On 13 October, an [international conference on the future of Christian democratic mass parties](#) took place in Mönchengladbach. Speakers and participants from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Austria discussed ways of understanding secularisation, political disaffection, growing fragmentation in parliament and voter abstention, and how Christian parties can use high quality programmes to counter these trends. CDU/CSU parliamentary secretary Peter Altmaier and Monsignor Professor Peter Schallenberg, the director of the Katholisch-Sozialwissenschaftliche Zentralstelle (Catholic Socio-Academic Centre) in Mönchengladbach, each gave talks, while discussions among researchers and policy makers detailed the many situations in all four countries.

#### VALUES SEMINARS

It is not enough to speak of values in a purely theoretical manner – values must be taught. Which is why a group of committed young people met for a seminar on “Elites and Responsibility” to discuss everyday values and those portrayed by the media, as well as a fair debate culture. The gathering utilised a crossover method which combines theoretical and practical strategies.

#### POPE BENEDICT XVI. IN GERMANY

On religious issues, the KAS held the public debate [Wir sind Papst?](#) (We are Pope?) in cooperation with the Catholic Church and the Institute for Pastoral Homiletics (IPH), on 27 September in Leipzig. The occasion was the visit by Pope Benedict XVI. to Germany. The civic education centres in Erfurt and Freiburg – both stops of the papal visit – and Dresden also held events in connection with Pope Benedict’s trip.



*A discussion on the future of the Christian-Democratic parties with (from left to right): Karlheinz Kopf (Ombudsman of the Austrian People’s Party ÖVP), Günter Krings (MP), Melanie Piepenschneider (Head of the KAS Civic Education Department), Martin Kessler (Rheinische Post newspaper) and Ward Kennes (Member of the Flemish parliament).*

## DUTIES AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE BUNDESWEHR

The Schloss Eichholz Civic Education Centre held a total of thirty multi-day seminars with more than 600 participants for *Bundeswehr* (the German army) divisions stationed around Cologne and Bonn. By holding these events the foundation underscores its commitment to the institution of the *Bundeswehr*, and that it will support the military in fulfilling its mission. This is essential during times of uncertainty, and during a period when the *Bundeswehr* is being reorganised and cut, and is deployed abroad on several missions.

## POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

The evolution of Web 2.0 attracted more interest. Facebook and other social networks grew in importance for the press and public information departments. The KAS expanded its rhetoric courses since expectations on how to deal with the media have risen at the local level. Fundraising, campaign planning, crisis communication and not least leadership seminars and personal branding were also given high priority. Along with local politicians, the programmes also tried to attract the staff of politicians, their supporters and volunteers.

The Civic Education department, in cooperation with the department of European and International Cooperation, invited the Republican campaign strategist Kevin Shuvalov to Germany from 13 to 16 September. At the same time a group of international visitors came to Berlin to observe the state elections in the capital. Further international groups observed the votes in Rhineland-Palatinate and Baden-Württemberg in May. The department also gave backing to the **10<sup>th</sup> International Summer School** from 22 to 30 July in Berlin by putting out information on a campaign for "Tolerance and Integration – Challenges for Young Elites".

On 9 and 10 October 2011, some 220 participants met for the **9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Political Communication** in Berlin, where they exchanged views with twenty national and international experts. The main focus was "(Mass) Parties – Caught Between Plebiscites and Populism" and on the growing challenges for communication by parties and governments. Insights were also offered on the upcoming presidential election campaigns in France and the United States. The conference was preceded by an event by the KAS media programme Latin America, which was organised in cooperation with the department of Political Communication on 7 and 8 October.

Media training courses also proved popular – they were offered for the first time in 2011 by the Civic Education department. A total of fourteen training courses took place, including in Bremen, Berlin and Königswinter.

## SPECIAL AND NEW FORMATS

### "Wasserwerk-Gespräch" with Herta Müller

Nearly 1,400 guests responded to the KAS invitation on 17 October 2011 for one of the *Wasserwerk-Gespräch* (Waterworks Talks) in Bonn, to hear a reading by **Herta Müller**, Nobel Literature laureate and winner of the KAS Literary Award in 2004. Before the author read from her award-winning novel *Everything I Possess I Carry with Me*, the honorary chairman of the foundation, Professor Bernhard Vogel, stressed the political messages of her books. Müller's works were equally important for people living in dictatorships as well as for those who were able to enjoy the "privilege of freedom".



### Blended Learning and Webinars

The programmes of the Civic Education department continued to evolve in 2011, both in terms of methodology and its approach to teaching. There were two new webinars (web-based seminars) on fundraising and volunteer organisation, along with a blended learning seminar, which was held in conjunction with an in-class event on press and public relations work.

### Youth in Politics Days

The department organised eight *Jugendpolitiktage* (Youth in Politics Days) in 2011. The first was in Aachen in February, focusing on "Discovering Europe: The Aachen Cathedral – a European Heritage with a Future". In March a Youth in Politics event was held in Bremen where participants were asked to encourage voting in the Bremen state elections through posters, videos, blogs and a lot more. Further topics on offer for young people were "Israel and Palestine" (Hamburg) in May, "Securing Human Rights Worldwide – Red Carding the Dictators" in July (Hanover), in September "What Works? – Integration in Berlin" (Berlin), as well "The Economy Today: Globalisation, Finances, Thuringia" in November, at the second Thuringia Youth Politics Day.

You can find information on this special format at [www.kas.de/jugendpolitiktag](http://www.kas.de/jugendpolitiktag).

### Konrad Adenauer Summer Schools

A highlight are the annual Konrad Adenauer Summer Schools, which brought some 500 high-school students to Schloss Eichholz and Schloss Wendgräben in order to discuss American politics and society with US politicians and researchers. The head teachers had recommended the students.

### Civic Education on Two Wheels

The seminar for motorcycle riders "Politics on Two Wheels" continued from 4 to 11 June 2011; this time the topic was "Experience Europe". From the Schloss Wendgräben Civic Education Centre riders travelled on to Dresden, Prague, Cracow and Kryzowa to Berlin, and several interesting political discussions took place along the way.

### Baccalaureate Degree – What Next?

The Civic Education department has been organising conferences for young people for several years called "A Baccalaureate Degree – What Next?". In 2011, more than 1,000 high-school students took part in twelve events. The gatherings provide students who are about to graduate with help making decisions on their future career path.

## COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

### 135<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Konrad Adenauer

On 5 January, friends, relatives and admirers of Konrad Adenauer met at his grave in Rhöndorf. At the Petersberg, the president of the state parliament of North-Rhine Westphalia, Eckhard Uhlenberg, recalled the political roots and the efforts of the Christian Democrat and first federal chancellor.

### Fifty Years Since the Building of the Berlin Wall

The civic education centres organised several events in August on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the Berlin wall. The brochure *Was war die Mauer?* (What was the Wall about?) was used at the events (volume 7 of *Handreichungen zur Politischen Bildung*, or: Handouts on Civic Education).





In cooperation with the Civic Education Centre Dresden, the university archives in Saxony organised the travelling exhibition "Walled in. Universities in Saxony and 13 August 1961". The centre organised a series of events in conjunction with the exhibition.

Two travelling exhibitions, "DDR: Mythos und Wirklichkeit" (GDR: Myth and Reality), attracted a great deal of interest from schools around Germany, as did a [book for history teachers](#) that had been developed in connection with the exhibit, and in cooperation with the association of German history teachers (volume 6 of *Handreichungen zur Politischen Bildung*).

### Ten Years Since September 11

How has 9/11 changed the United States? That was the topic of a talk by Christoph von Marschall, US correspondent of the *Tagesspiegel*, in the University Club Bonn on [9 September](#). The civic education centres also organised several events in conjunction with the anniversary, among them with Elmar Theveßen, the deputy editor in chief of ZDF television and terrorism expert (in Mainz) and German federal prosecutor Professor Monika Harms and Hermann Gröhe (in Düsseldorf).

### Matthias Erzberger

On 26 August 2011, the commemorative event "[Matthias Erzberger – A Trailblazer for German Democracy](#)" took place in Bad Peterstal-Griesbach on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. At the gathering, finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble gave a speech.

### YEAR ONE AFTER CERTIFICATION

The commitment made in conjunction with the introduction of quality management within the Civic Education department – to review quality standards on a regular basis – was maintained in 2011. Over the summer, an internal audit reviewed seven aspects of the Civic Education Forum in North-Rhine Westphalia to see about practical application and whether there was a need for improvement or change.

### METHODOLOGY AND TEACHING

The Civic Education department introduced several new methods in 2011, which aim to improve the experiences and processes of self-reflection by participants. Examples include the World Café, the *Zukunftswerkstatt* (Future Workshop), a debate tournament and the integration of media such as Skype and the Vitero conference system.

The training of multipliers in civic education was strengthened. Their circle slowly expanded from conference leaders and civic education centres to include schools and other civic education institutions.

### WIDER COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The department debuted a [newsletter](#) in 2011 to improve the effectiveness of civic education and to make it more transparent.

From 1 to 4 September 2011 the Civic Education Network met in Cadenabbia. Leaders and decision-makers from civic education institutions took part in the workshops, which included representatives of political foundations, federal and state civic education centres, religious institutions as well as academics and politicians.

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