

**THE DEPARTMENTS OF KAS
POLITICS AND CONSULTING**

**POLITICAL EXPERTISE THROUGH
POLITICAL LINKS**

DOMESTIC POLICY TEAM

SOCIAL POLICY TEAM

ECONOMIC POLICY TEAM

EMPIRICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH TEAM

CONSULTANCY AND MARKETING TEAM

POLITICAL EXPERTISE THROUGH POLITICAL LINKS

The links in this PDF will take you to further and primarily German-language information from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

In 2011, the focus of the KAS Politics and Consulting department (PuB) included the future of the mass political parties, equal opportunities in education, the stabilisation of the eurozone, studies on political and religious extremism, as well as questions on integration policy.

DOMESTIC POLICY TEAM

Party Research

As part of the project "The Future of Mass Political Parties," a range of experts attended a three-day conference in Cadenabbia to discuss selected aspects of this topic. The main focus was on analysing the current situation and the challenges to the mass political parties in Germany and in certain other European countries. A further focus was on the parties' need for reform as well as their ability to affect this. The conference's conclusions are to be published in 2012.

The department also carried out numerous measures aimed at further examination of the current situation and prospects of the mass parties in Germany. The most important: a wide-ranging conceptual study, "What is a Mass Political Party Today – and Tomorrow?" which was discussed extensively both in the KAS itself and with representatives of politics and academia; participation in the discussion group "The Future of the Mass Political Parties in Germany's Eastern States" and in the international conference on "The Future of the Major Christian-Democratic Parties: Experiences from Germany and its Neighbours", which took place in October in the city of Mönchengladbach; as well as the decisive role in designing the KAS blog "ZukunftVolkspartei" (Future [of the] Mass Party) www.zukunftvolkspartei.de which was launched in August 2011.

Another focus was on the discussion of right-wing populism in Europe. In July the KAS published *Nach ihrer Etablierung – Rechtspopulistische Parteien in Europa* (Right-Wing Populist Parties in Europe after their Electoral Breakthrough) by Florian Hartleb. It was presented by Peter Altmaier, the parliamentary secretary of the CDU/CSU group in the Bundestag. In addition, the Politics and Consulting department carried out a study of the reaction strategies of the member parties of the European People's Party to right-wing populist parties.

Legal Policy

The legal policy work of the KAS reflected the trend of increasingly interlinked national and European law. The *sixth Berlin Legal Policy Conference* held in the year of the 60th anniversary of the German Constitutional Court dedicated itself to the court's cross-border challenges. Topics included the balancing act between individual freedom and global security in the context of international terrorist threats and galloping technological progress, the relationship between Germany's Constitutional Court and the Court of Justice of the European Union in the context of the financial crisis and growing migration flows, and finally the increasingly important role of the European Court of Human Rights in the European courts system.

German labour law is also becoming increasingly influenced by European law and European legal decisions. European aspects therefore also played a prominent role at the *Third Legal Policy Discussions on Social and Labour Law*.



The president of the Bundestag, Professor Norbert Lammert, had both praise and criticism for the German Constitutional Court at the Berlin Legal Policy conference in November 2011.

Civic Participation

For several months, the conflict over the "Stuttgart 21" railway project and the associated referendum were the cause of heated debate across Germany. Even before this, the call for a general expansion of direct democracy was becoming increasingly vociferous. Surveys have clearly revealed that the support for direct democracy tends to be based on an abstract desire for more public involvement rather than awareness of the complexity of direct democracy procedures and their impact. A number of publications illustrating the different forms of direct democracy were released. A panel of experts examined the limits, as well. Among the topics discussed were the special demands placed by German federalism on plebiscite-related elements, systemic aspects, the financial hurdles, and the various impacts of referendums and legislation by the people.

Germany's Eastern States

Important activities in this area included the publication *Was ist Gerechtigkeit. Befunde im vereinten Deutschland* (What is Justice? Findings in the United Germany) as well as the Eastern States Discussion Group, which convened in 2011 for the sixth time. Under the leadership of the honorary chairman of the KAS, Professor Bernhard Vogel, political and academic experts met in Cadenabbia, Italy to analyse current trends in the development of the eastern states. The main topics were the framework conditions for research in the eastern states, current developments in the energy sector and the ever-increasing shortage of skilled professionals in the East German economy.

SOCIAL POLICY TEAM

Education

In the area of education and culture, the 11th Potsdam Discussion was a particularly outstanding event which was chaired by the president of the Bundestag, Professor Norbert Lammert, and addressed the theme of culture and religion.

Two publications were also presented: *Kontinuität und Wandel. Bildungsbegriff und Bildungssystem in den Grundsatzserklärungen der CDU zwischen 1945 und 2011* (Continuity and Change. Education and the Education System in the Manifestos of the CDU Between 1945 and 2011) as well as a twin volume comprising *Das Schulleistungsgefälle in Deutschland. Fakten, Diagnosen, Hintergründe* (The School Performance Gap in Germany. Facts, Diagnoses, Background Information) by Josef Kraus and *Expertise zur Frage der Vier- oder Sechsjährigkeit der Grundschule* (Expert Information on the Question of Four-Year or Six-Year Primary Schools) by Rainer Lehmann.

In view of the impending skilled labour shortage, there is a growing focus on poorly qualified young people who are difficult to place in jobs or training. Better integration and improved support for socially disadvantaged young people could help counter this looming trend. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has therefore released two publications, *Aufstieg durch (Aus)Bildung* (Getting Ahead Through Education and Training) and *Der erfolgreiche Weg zum Berufsabschluss* (The Successful Route to Vocational Qualifications) in which it addresses the difficult paths of trainees and recommends reforms.

The study *Muslimische Kinder und Jugendliche in Deutschland* (Muslim Children and Youth in Germany) by Aladin El-Mafaalani and Ahmed Toprak shows how difficult educational paths can be. The authors provide an insight into the way of life of traditional conservative Turkish and Arab families in Germany.

Integration

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung wants to play a role in helping promote the **integration of people with immigrant backgrounds**. In this context, the *Netzwerk Integration* (Integration Network) comprising those responsible for integration policy at the national, state and local level started its



work in 2011. Furthermore, the KAS set up the working group *Junge Integrationspolitiker* (Young Integrated Politicians) creating a platform for politically involved, young people with immigrant backgrounds.

These young people are also the focus of the project on Islamism and the "Islamic Youth Scene in Germany". Problematic trends in particular require a nuanced analysis. This is why the Politics and Consulting department undertook a **qualitative study** and discussed prevention strategies at a one-day **conference of experts**, which was opened by Germany's minister for families, Kristina Schröder. In addition, a **practical information booklet** was compiled for teachers and youth workers.

Religion and Values

In view of the changing religious landscape, the debate on religion in the public domain is the subject of widespread interest. During a one-day conference in Cadenabbia, prominent experts discussed a range of topics including sociological analysis, the significance of religion in secular pluralist societies, the position of theology in the political discourse, the presence of Muslim, Jewish and Christian religions in Germany, and the activities of the religious communities in the area of the social state. Religion in the public realm was also a focus at the foundation's regular meeting during **the church conference** in June in Dresden.

The Eastern churches represented in Germany came together at a meeting at the invitation of the KAS. These churches maintain their own religious and cultural traditions. The aim of the meeting was to initiate and deepen communication.

Health

The major health policy project was the study *Chancengerechtigkeit im Gesundheitssystem* (Equality of Opportunity in the Health System) by Carsten Wippermann et al. Which examined health values and lifestyles with respect to different social groups. The conference series *Sozialethik konkret* (Specifics on Social Ethics) also covered this sensitive issue.

A further highlight was provided by the Cadenabbia Discussions on Medicine, Ethics and the Law which were held for the 10th time in 2011 on the topic "The Health System in Transition." A collection of articles on the trend towards **individualised healthcare** was also published as part of this project. In the area of bioethics, there were activities relating to **pre-implantation diagnostics** and assisted dying.

Innovation

The conference "**How Innovative is Germany?**" took place at the intersection between science and business in cooperation with the German National Academy of Science and Engineering, with prominent participants including Germany's minister of research, Annette Schavan. It represented the start of a new focal area for the KAS, "Progress and Humanity."

ECONOMIC POLICY TEAM

The Social Market Economy and Sustainable Growth – Guiding Principles in the Era of the Euro Crisis and the New Energy Policy

In 2011, the eurozone's problems increased sharply. The uncertainty of the markets did not stop at Greece but affected further founding members of the Economic and Monetary Union of the EU in Ireland and Portugal.



The KAS chairman, Hans-Gert Pöttering, welcomed HE Bishop Anba Damian (Coptic Orthodox Church), HE Bishop Mar Odisho Oraham (Assyrian Church of the East), HE Bishop Julius Hanna Aydin (Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch) to a dialogue on the situation of the Oriental Churches in Germany in July 2011 in Berlin (from left to right).



The conference results were presented in real time as it was still going on.

The political and institutional measures for stabilising and strengthening the euro were highlighted as being oriented to the fundamental concept of the Social Market Economy, where economic freedom is consistently based on a legal order founded on the assumption of liability and responsibility. Publications such as *Warum brauchen wir den Euro?* (Why Do We Need the Euro?) and a new edition of *Fragen und Antworten zur Eurokrise* (Frequently Asked Questions about the Euro Crisis) tackled popular misconceptions and seemingly simple solutions. These efforts are based on the conviction that confidence in the financial markets will recover by a return to sustainable public finances – and that this will allow a lasting recovery in the eurozone. It is evident that the dangers of a monetary union without an economic union are now becoming obvious and that its new institutional framework must respond to this. A more intensive coordination of economic policy, a credible sanctions regime for lax budgets and the closer monitoring of disparities in competitiveness will strengthen the eurozone in the medium term.

In addition to the challenges of bringing stability to the eurozone, the KAS work was characterised by questions about sustainable future growth in the light of radical changes Germany's energy policy turnaround is causing to the future of the country as a location for business and industry. "Will What Worked Yesterday Work for the Future," asked the Politics and Consulting department of the KAS at a conference in Berlin, and brought together the opinions of politicians and academics both young and old on this challenge that is fundamental to prosperity.

A further milestone was the *minimum wage debate* which flared up towards the end of 2011. Under the title *Zwischen Teufelszeug und Heilsbringer* (Between the Work of the Devil and a Cure-All) the Economic Policy team discussed both realistic and exaggerated expectations of a statutory minimum wage which will not destroy jobs in all cases but is also far from being able to guarantee an adequate wage for everyone. The paperback *Die Zukunft des Sozialstaates* (The Future of the Welfare State) was also published in this context. With contributions from experts such as Germany's finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, and the former president of the constitutional court, Hans-Jürgen Papier, it directly pursues the question as to which chances, dangers, and limits will determine the future of the welfare state in the light demographic shifts and the re-orientation of education and family policy.



EMPIRICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH TEAM

The Empirical Social Research Team was established in 2011 and has completed a series of research projects. These included an analysis of radical left-wing and Islamist attitudes among young people. The aim was to discover if there are affinities for Islamist or radical left-wing patterns of argumentation. The study *Jugendliche und Islamismus* (Youth and Islamism) was published in November and a *publication on left-wing extremism* appeared in January 2012.

Two representative surveys on the topics of non-voters and political participation among Germans with and without immigrant backgrounds as well as among foreigners are currently under preparation. An analysis of the results will be published in 2012. Another qualitative study addresses the future of the mass political parties.

Surveys on innovation and on the civil society were performed in cooperation with other departments. The Politics and Consulting department also commissioned a survey on the occasion of the papal visit which met with a huge response in the media.

The marathon election year of 2011 saw the analysis of seven German state elections. The team published volumes of tables and analyses for each of the following:

City-state parliamentary election in Hamburg, state parliamentary election in Saxony-Anhalt, state parliamentary election in Baden-Württemberg, state parliamentary election in Rhineland-Palatinate, city-state parliamentary election in Bremen, state parliamentary election in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, city-state parliamentary election in Berlin.

Furthermore, an analysis of how the political programme of the Left Party and its predecessor the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) has developed was published with the title *Von Gysi geeint, von Lafontaine geschweißt: Die programmatische Entwicklung der Partei Die Linke/PDS von 1990 bis 2011*. The debate about communism being held in the Left Party was also analysed.

A conference was held in Cadenabbia for political consultants which focused on the internet as a tool of political communication.

CONSULTANCY AND MARKETING TEAM

Alongside its core tasks of offering services such as the evaluation of the the foundation's projects, budget auditing or marketing and project management support for the Politics and Consulting department, the Consulting and Marketing Team has other important tasks in its remit. These include major events such as the *opening of the series of events on public speaking* with the president of the German Bundestag, Professor Norbert Lammert, television presenter Günther Jauch and magazine editor Hans-Ulrich Jörges, as well as *the traditional political Ash Wednesday* gathering with guest speaker, Prelate Bernhard Felmberg, the German protestant church's representative for Germany and the EU.

Furthermore, the team assumed responsibility on behalf of the KAS as a whole for the areas of Evaluation and Digital Culture as well as leadership of the inter-departmental working groups on these topics. In 2011, the Evaluation Group produced a guidebook for events which provides tools to all the departments for the monitoring of their impact. The Digital Culture Group organised an *event with Vint Cerf*, one of the inventors of the TCP/IP protocol, about the future of the internet, as well as the conference *Online partizipieren, online arbeiten* (Participating Online, Working Online). It also had lead responsibility for the publication *Netzpolitik aus internationaler Perspektive* (Internet Policy from an International Perspective) which is intended to raise the profile of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in this policy field.



Vinton Cerf, one of the fathers of the internet, provided fascinating insights on the creation and potential of the worldwide web.

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Christian Echle (p. 2, 4, 6), Henning Lüders (p. 5 above)