

## With Confidence into the Future

by *Andreas Kleine-Kraneburg and Lukas Lingenthal*

**Despite all the complex challenges in the world today, there are plenty of reasons to face the future with confidence. This was the focus of our 2017 leitmotif.**

In 2017, Germany has once again demonstrated its economic, social, and cultural strength as a country in the heart of Europe. The employment levels continued to rise, the budget was balanced, investment in education and research was greater than ever before, and the social system remained one of the most efficient worldwide. Yet, this year was also characterized by complex crises, which deeply shook familiar structures both in Europe and the world.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, adhering to its leitmotif for 2017 "With Confidence into the Future", was therefore concerned to send a clear message on the need for greater confidence, as well as to promote the idea of a reliable, stable, bold, dynamic, curious, and innovative republic, all without ignoring the fears and worries of the population. The many activities conducted by the various departments of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung evidently demonstrate that we should have confidence in our democracy and democratic institutions, as well as the social, economic, and cultural capabilities of our country. We have endeavoured to encourage young people, in particular, to be aware of the creative possibilities open to them and to take advantage of these opportunities. This was especially evident during our *Zukunftskonferenz* (a conference addressing topics that may be relevant in the future), where Chancellor Angela Merkel, in addressing some 250 young men and women in our academy, spoke about her vision for the future, the potential for growth, and the global order.

In the area of political and civic education, the foundation organized some 170 events across Germany attended by an interested public numbering close to 14,000 and that covered various topics and questions on how to shape the future.

Among these events, special emphasis was given to a series of talks given throughout the country entitled "Germany. The next Chapter. With Confidence into the Future". In light of the general situation and the public mood in Germany, the 38 symposiums offered views on the future that focused on the challenges and perspectives, as well as the demands and opportunities that we are facing. In particular, they dealt with themes such as promoting innovation and creativity in business and society, democracy and political stability, political culture and social cohesion, the future of a united Europe, and questions of international stability and the role of Germany. These intensive lecture and discussion events featured participation by representatives of business, science, the media, and other fields, and always included either current or former members of government, federal parliamentarians, or state politicians.

In terms of the foundation's international activities, support given to politically engaged adolescents and young adults represents an important core feature of our work. A major strong point in this respect was our continuation in 2017 of the regional formats to promote young politicians, such as the Diplomados in Latin America, the Election Bridge Academy in Africa, and the KASYP seminars in Asia.

Once again, our strengths in international network activity and our support for young journalists were combined to organize seminars to promote quality journalism utilizing new formats. One such example was provided by young German and French journalists who binationally worked in tandem to report from Paris for the Internet platform *bonjournalist.eu* on the run-up to the French presidential elections.

This year's leitmotif of the Adenauer-Stiftung is also reflected in the work with young scholarship recipients from our scholarship programme. Against the backdrop of populist attacks on democracy, we have hosted numerous seminars dealing with the foundations and the future of a free and democratic state based on the rule of law, as well as to determine appropriate approaches to address populism.

Another important sphere of activity was the debate on the future of Europe. To further discussion, encounter seminars were organized, predominantly in the border regions of France, Poland, Estonia, and Italy. These also served as an exchange forum with students from the host countries.

With its journal *Zukunft 2017* (Future 2017), the foundation pooled together relevant topics on the future and the professional skills of our staff and external experts to create a publication that would promote debate and illustrate those themes that will shape the work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in the years to come. It formulates just those challenges which we will confront while facing the future with confidence.

# Freedom and Security – The Future of Europe

by Olaf Wientzek

**Differences between EU member states must be overcome so that the Union can guarantee long-term prosperity, freedom, and security.**

Following many years of crises, 2017 delivered fresh hope and some positive news for the European integration project. Decidedly pro-European forces succeeded in parliamentary and presidential elections in a number of EU countries. For its part, the EU could point to its own achievements: The Eurozone returned to the path of growth and member states agreed to steps towards closer cooperation, such as in the areas of security and defence policy. Overall, the EU has proven to be a capable crisis manager. Despite these positive developments, the dangers posed by populism, autocratic tendencies, and national egoism remain acute.

At the same time, there was a growing awareness that the EU had to do more than just engage in long-term crisis management, especially if it did not want to squander the trust of its citizens. Consequently, discussions began at the European level on strategies to improve the EU's capacity for action and ensure a sustainable future. This was accompanied by increased dialogue with citizens, whether as part of a process of reflection on the future of the EU initiated by the EU Commission or in other formats for discussion. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has supported this process through seminars at its civic education forums, by the publications of its Reflection Group on the Future of Europe, and its comments on reflection papers of the European Commission. In addition, Hans-Gert Pöttering, the former Chairman of the foundation, published a discussion paper with suggestions on strengthening the EU and how it should prepare for a sustainable future.

Due, in part, to growing global and regional instability, the EU is increasingly expected not only to ensure peace and prosperity, but also to provide security. Notwithstanding all the criticism on developments within the EU, its citizens continue to show strong support for more European cooperation in foreign and defence policy as well as in counterterrorism efforts. It also became clear in 2017 that with the transformation of the transatlantic partnership, the EU could not afford to be complacent. Instead, it must assume greater responsibility for its own security and that of its neighbours, as well as safeguarding Western norms and values in international foreign affairs, trade dealings, and environmental policies. Correspondingly, the Adenauer-Stiftung, through its events and publications, promotes a stronger engagement by the EU at the international level. Last year, we discussed in various formats both in Germany and at our offices abroad measures to strengthen the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU and contributed to this debate with our own discussion papers.

A better understanding of the priorities and problems of the various EU member states remains the precondition for an EU that is both internally and externally capable of action and of providing a sustainable future. Relations between member states were subjected to considerable stress as a result of government debt crises, the refugee crisis, and the participation of populist parties in a number of European governments. The foundation assumed an important mediation role, in particular, through its work in Brussels and in its other European offices outside of Germany. Through lecture and discussion events, dialogue programmes, and conferences with representatives from politics, business, science, civil society, and the media, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung contributed to an improved understanding of the various European political positions. In particular, it supported the development of transregional networks and thereby took a first step in overcoming the differences between North and South, and East and West. Through regular reports on EU countries and the introduction of a European-wide political party barometer, we also contributed to a better perception of the political situation in other EU member states.

The foundation has supported the processes of democratization and Europeanization in the Western Balkan region as well as in its eastern and southern neighbours through dialogue programmes, political consultation, and training sessions. It has also called upon Berlin and Brussels for a more intensive commitment by the EU in these regions. In the long term, the EU will only remain a region of peace, freedom, and security if it succeeds in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and security not only within the EU, but also in neighbouring countries.

# We Choose Freedom – The Adenauer Year

by Frauke Gottwald  
and Dr. Judith Michel

In 2017, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of its name giver. Its mission was to make Adenauer accessible to the public, both as a man and a politician. His unwavering commitment to freedom remains relevant today.

At the centre of events to mark the Adenauer Year was a ceremony at the German Historical Museum (DHM) in Berlin. In addition to the keynote lecture by former American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in a video message recorded in the USA, Chancellor Angela Merkel delivered an address in which she made clear that Adenauer's lifework should also be understood as a duty to be pursued in our current turbulent times. She stressed that we should not forget the great effort required and the difficult conditions under which our free and democratic system was achieved.

## Unity only in freedom

The ceremony also marked the opening of the exhibition "Unity Only in Freedom – Konrad Adenauer and the German Question". Conceived by our Department for Contemporary History, the exhibition aimed to increase the awareness of Adenauer as an individual and his achievements in German politics as well as to raise his visibility in Berlin. Within the framework of three major themes – Adenauer's policy of integration with the West, his dealings with the East, and his relationship to Berlin – Adenauer is portrayed as the advocate of what were at the time very controversial policies.



The show has resulted in a touring exhibition that has since been presented at numerous political education forums, schools, and other institutions. The touring exhibition can be borrowed.

## The videobook "Konrad Adenauer – Founding Father of the Federal Republic and Architect of Europe"

As part of the digital age, it is extremely important that media work concerning Adenauer be kept up to date. Accordingly, a new videobook illustrates his history from mayor of Cologne to the architect of Europe, from prisoner of the Nazi regime to the creator of the Federal Republic of Germany. Archival films show the politician as a part of his time, visual documents resurrect the atmosphere of renewal in the Adenauer era, detailed accompanying texts explain the historical context, and all of this is complemented by original sources offering a deeper understanding of his biography.

The videobook *Konrad Adenauer* (in German only) can be freely downloaded as an app for tablets (Android and iOS). It has already been downloaded 3000 times and, for a time, it was one of the "most popular new apps" in Germany. At the 2017 Frankfurt Book Fair,

our videobook was among the finalists for the German eBook Award. In explaining its choice, the jury stated that "the designers" had shown "a talent for media mix and instructional editing". In addition, the personality of Konrad Adenauer is "accessible and comprehensible for the historically interested layperson in this app realization".

## Various Activities to Mark the Anniversary

The foundation supported the publication of the recently discovered journals of Adenauer's son, Monsignore Paul Adenauer. The journals provide hitherto unknown insights into Konrad Adenauer's politics and his thoughts and feelings both in the final phase of his chancellorship and as party leader of the CDU.

In addition to many other events, a presentation entitled "Konrad Adenauer – Statesman and Democrat" in a *Doku-Live* format toured throughout Germany. This innovative format in the sphere of political education was developed specifically for school children. It combines film clips, images, and live commentary, allowing spectators to immerse themselves in Adenauer's time. An explanatory film complements the political education efforts for various target audiences.

The participants of a *Jugendpolitik-Tag* (Youth Politics Day) in Cologne focused on Adenauer both as a politician at the communal level and as German Chancellor. The *Kommunalkongress* (annual conference on municipal topics) at the Konrad Adenauer Cologne/Bonn Airport commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his assumption of office as mayor of Cologne.

## "Who is Konrad?" – Six Weeks of Adenauer Live

Another way in which the foundation marked the Adenauer anniversary was with the realisation of the "Who is Konrad?" campaign, through which his thoughts and political decisions were made relevant for those living in 2017. Adenauer was seen involved in current affairs, commented on political events, surprised the public with street art and on posters, twittered, and could be seen in an advertisement in the Berlin subway system. The core of all these communications consisted of actual quotations. In this way, it was possible to show how Adenauer's thoughts, proclamations, and commentaries are still pertinent today. Adenauer also appeared as guest author on all of the foundation's channels.

With its nomination for the *Politik-Award 2017* in the category "Social Campaign", the foundation was able to demonstrate that it could convey (historical) content in a contemporary, surprising, and provocative manner, relate this content to current events, and to generate interaction with its target groups. The positive response to the activities surrounding the Adenauer Year reflect the timeliness of its central message: Freedom was, is, and remains our most valuable possession. The legacy of Konrad Adenauer cannot be emphasized often enough. It was he who realized that the defence of freedom can only be successful within the stable and value-based framework of multilateral cooperation.

# Migration and Integration

by *Benedict Göbel*  
and *Dr. Christina Catherine Krause*

**Migration, refugee protection, and integration are global challenges. International cooperation has a key role to play.**

The year 2017 continued to see German society and politics intensely preoccupied with the issues of migration and integration. Commitment to assisting the new arrivals has nonetheless remained high in the wake of the migration and refugee crisis in Europe in 2015. Numerous integration initiatives were started in the wake of the refugee crisis of 2015, and these attest to the high level of social engagement in working towards sustainable integration. Germany welcomes persons in need of protection, EU citizens and skilled workers and students from all over the world.

Yet, concerns and questions have arisen in recent years. These revolve around the issues of asylum procedures, the right of residence, return policies, the protection of the EU's external borders, European solidarity, and the fight against the root-causes of forced migration. At the national level, in particular, apprehension exists with respect to the preconditions for a successful integration process. These questions and concerns need to be taken seriously.

To this end, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung set in motion some 300 projects and activities in 2017, both in Germany and abroad, to address topics related to migration and integration. These included studies, analyses, papers, discussions, workshops, behind-the-scenes consultations, and fact-finding missions, film and exhibition projects, and scholarships. In addition, the foundation offers information on these issues via its recently created "Migration and Integration" web portal, as well as through the wide-ranging educational services of the Adenauer Campus, which makes use of maps, films, a "time machine", quiz questions, surveys, and index cards. Both websites offer insights into background information, data, and facts. Individual stories were, in turn, researched by the Journalist Academy of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (JONA) and produced for print, radio, and film media.

## Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation

While integration policy at the federal level in the coming years will focus on the establishment of a nation-wide strategy adhering to the policy of "incentives and demands", there are only limited solutions to questions raised by migration that can be provided at the national level.

Migration is a fact and it affects almost every country in the world. As such, in 2016, the United Nations set as its goal the adoption in 2018 of two international compacts. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has bolstered these efforts with its own initiative. Its aim is to make use of local experts to identify the potential for cooperation at the regional level and to promote closer partnerships.

To assist decision-makers to respond to the effects of forced and voluntary migration, the foundation increasingly relied in 2017 on the use of expert workshops. These enabled representatives of government, parliament, academia and think tanks to be networked and brought together (on location in Italy and North Africa) to discuss current challenges and potential solutions. The analyses and exchanges primarily focused on concepts to regulate migration and to combat the causes of forced migration, as well as the implementation of these approaches.

## Strengthening Social Cohesion

In 2017, the issues of social cohesion and perceptions on the notion of one's homeland figured high on the agenda in Germany. In addition to relevant papers and studies, the 18 civic education forums and regional offices of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung sought innovative ways to engage in dialogue with citizens. Its question, "What kind of country do we want to be?", proved to be thought-provoking. An open debate held on a level playing field was thereby made possible. Our dialogue clearly illustrated that citizens want to shoulder more responsibility and, in a constructive manner, find solutions together for the challenges that lie ahead. In addition, our *Kultur-geschichten* event series gave authors and creative artists centre stage to represent the diversity found in Germany.

Our Municipal Academy with its publications *Integration at the Local Level* and *Best Practices on Refugee Assistance and Neighbourhood Management* (only available in German) provided information on ways and approaches to integration and offered expert workshops on such topics as integration into the labour market. In addition, the foundation sponsored the creation of a digital sport and game dictionary in close cooperation with the DJK youth sport association, for which it received an award in November 2017 by the world association of leisure sports (Trim and Fitness Association for International Sport for All, TASIFA).

## Reformation and Freedom of Religion

by Dr. Karlies Abmeier  
and Dr. Otmar Oehring

Religion is once again playing a greater role in society, as demonstrated by the interest generated by the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and the commitment shown for religious freedom worldwide.

Religion has long been regarded as a guarantee of social cohesion. In recent years, however, the sociological foundations for this conclusion have changed significantly. For example, in the early 1950s, over 90 per cent of the German population belonged to one of the two large Christian denominations. By 2016, this figure sunk to less than 60 per cent. And new to the statistics are Muslims following the various denominations of Islam. In addition, the number of those who claim no religious affiliation has grown considerably. They now make up the majority of the population in large cities and in eastern Germany. Secularisation, individualisation, and pluralisation have resulted in a new religious and ideological diversity. Yet, contrary to the assumption that religion would become meaningless in modern society, religion and religious policy in public debate have grown in importance.

One reason for this development is the ambivalent character of religion. On the one side, it is possible to observe those aspects of religion that promote communities and cultivate a sense of meaning, motivating people to contribute to the common good and to live according to the principles of charity and solidarity. On the other side, there is the violent expression of misguided religiosity, in which fundamentalist views are propagated in the name of a particular religion, thereby provoking fear of religion in general. Religious conflicts, even in cases where violence does not occur, can escalate in a society characterized by diversity and must therefore be resolved.

One only has to recall events surrounding the Reformation from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century to see how such conflicts were waged and resolved in the past. The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Martin Luther's 95 theses, regarded as the start of the Reformation in Germany, aroused a great deal of ecclesiastic as well as political interest.

In contrast to earlier centennial anniversaries, the churches have chosen to highlight ecumenicalism in the year 2017. Church leaders prayed for forgiveness at reconciliation services. There have been efforts made to find common paths towards the future. Another difference to earlier, predominantly nationally defined historical celebrations, is that those in 2017 focused attention on the worldwide spread of reformist thought. This setting of priorities was supported by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung with the publication (only in German) of *Reformation weltweit – Erinnerungen in vier Kontinenten* (Reformation Worldwide – Recollections in Four Continents) and *Politik in Zeichen der Reformation – Der lange Schatten von 1517* (Politics in Light of the Reformation – The Long Shadow of 1517). The first volume, aimed at a readership worldwide, shows just how differently the ideas of the Reformation were adopted, and how their spread was, not least of all, dependant on political conditions. The consequences are reflected in differing mentalities and can be observed even today in the political cultures of Europe – from the Lutheran influenced Scandinavian countries to the Catholic south. Outside of Europe, the originally diaspora churches have, in some instances, experienced rapid growth, but they have had to assert themselves against the political claims of the Pentecostal Churches with their often very conservative values.

The other volume concerns the political relevance and the remote effects of Reformation movements on various areas of politics. It points, in particular, to human rights and freedom of religion as a means of illustrating the varied and arduous path that has led to our current idea of freedom and tolerance towards other religious faiths. Even today, the right to openly practice one's religion without restriction is at risk in many regions of the world. Quite often, a violation of freedom of religion is also accompanied by restrictions of other basic rights, such as the freedom of assembly and women's rights. A lack of respect for these rights endangers social peace and international security.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, both in Germany and abroad, has worked to draw attention to this state of affairs. It has issued numerous publications regarding freedom of religion worldwide, as well as on the current situation and the prospects for Christians in Syria and for Christians and Yazidis in Iraq. The foundation conducts and provides support to events, including meetings of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB), that promote the unimpeded practice of religion in all parts of the world. We are obliged to protect this human right with our continuous efforts as it is of great significance in ensuring a free and peaceful society. Only when this right is observed can people contribute to the cohesion of society on the basis of their religious motivation.

## Democracy, Elections, and Young Political Talent

by Dr. Sandra Busch-Janser,  
Dr. Christoph von Hehl,  
and Dr. Kristin Wesemann

**In light of the numerous challenges facing democracy, providing support to young political talent, both at home and abroad, has become increasingly important.**

Keeping with the spirit of our 2017 leitmotif, "With Confidence into the Future", the foundation felt it appropriate to encourage young people, in particular, to become politically engaged, to discover new opportunities to take part in society, and to work towards the common good. In the promotion of these ideals, our scholarship programme placed special emphasis on identifying recipients who were already active in politics at university or in the community and have thereby assumed their first responsibilities in an honorary post. Our seminar series *Wege in die Politik* (Paths into Politics) is specifically addressed to this audience. Here, we present various ways to engage in politics and introduce our scholarship recipients to political actors for informal behind-the-scenes discussions.

In order to increase overall interest in democracy and political participation among young people and to counteract disaffection with politics, politicians and political campaigns must embrace and comprehend the emotional frame of reference of a constantly changing society. For this reason, we equip young up-and-coming politicians with the proper tools of political communication.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has set up a programme for especially ambitious young talent, focusing on the deliberate planning and strategy necessary in political campaigns. Upon completion of the programme, participants receive a Campaign Management Certificate. The foundation thereby hopes to enable politically interested and committed scholarship holders to conduct political campaigns. Following an introduction to the fundamentals of campaign planning, they work through a simulation, conducting a fictitious campaign on the basis of real data. The seminar culminates with testimonials and best-practice tips by experienced campaign workers.

Furthermore, a whole range of seminars exists, offering numerous opportunities to reach out to and involve young political talent. Our *Frauenkolleg* (Women's College) developed, for instance, a comprehensive mentoring programme in 2017 for women engaged in communal politics. The programme includes an intensive exchange within mentoring pairs, as well as various seminars, such as how to develop political goals. Among the mentors supporting the project are Brigitte Schäuble, Christine Neumann-Martin (Member of the Baden-Württemberg State Assembly), Gabriele Schmidt (former Member of the German Bundestag), as well as other women regional councillors and former members of state assemblies.

Our *KommunalAkademie* has served as a local democracy agency and has educated many local decision-makers and newcomers to communal politics throughout Germany. Its seminar on local politics is aimed at newly elected office holders and regional representatives and provides orientation, specialist expertise, and strategic skills in current local and regional political subject areas. In the hope of arousing early interest in political issues among young people and young adults, the *KommunalAkademie* has further developed its "Decisions in City Council" simulation game to include a format appropriate for young people.

It has become increasingly clear internationally, as well, that good and forward-looking policies require input from committed young talent in order to be prepared for the challenges of the future. An exemplary approach pursued by the foundation can be seen in its Latin American initiative #SomosLaKas. This networking platform currently offers around 300 young Latin Americans from Río Bravo to Tierra del Fuego the opportunity to consult each other on current topics, discuss the challenges facing their countries, and exchange information.

The starting point of the network is a week-long diploma course, in which experts, including former presidents, party chairpersons, and campaign organizers, address fundamental issues: What does good government leadership mean today? What are the latest trends in political communication and election campaigns? What characterizes political leadership in the era of humanism? In this way, a whole generation can connect through #SomosLaKas and can thereby offer each other mutual support and a sense of cohesion. This is particularly important on a continent that has experienced more than its share of political violence and where lone warriors can still be found.

Twice a year, particularly active members of the network meet at one of the #SomosLaKas campuses. They can team up with individuals who they had previously known only virtually, and together work on election campaigns or take over strategic planning for another member. They here encounter in a concentrated form all of the successes, tasks, experiences, values, and principles that characterize our political development programmes for young people.