

COUNTRY PROFILES

Germany

The research into literature on Germany's approach to international cultural policy suggests a very positive attitude towards cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world. In fact, the missions statements, internal papers and practical activities of the official German actors working abroad in the cultural and educational field reveal that Germany is a forerunner for a more consorted EU foreign cultural policy, provided that the principle of subsidiarity is safeguarded, and the further establishment of such a policy is financially feasible.

Certain historical factors still mark Germany's foreign policy of today. Above all, its present cultural and educational relations with the rest of the world (as an integral part of its foreign policy) have to be seen in the light of the aftermath of the Hitler dictatorship between 1933 and 1945 with all its consequences for European and world order. In addition, the centuries-old decentralised German political system, reinforced by the Allies after World War II, permitted the now sixteen independent German states (and equally independent cities) to pursue to some extent a foreign cultural policy of their own, loosely coordinated by the federal government. And, last but not least, unlike some other EU Member States, Germany never played a substantial role as a colonial power, which might have left an imprint on its present foreign policy – cultural relations included.

T h e F e d e r a l F o r e i g n O f f i c e

The Foreign Office is the main strategic actor, devising, coordinating and controlling Germany's international cultural policies. The official line is that the objectives of its cultural relations and educational policy (within its limited competencies) are:

- “To promote our interest in the cultural and educational sphere;
- To paint a realistic picture of life in contemporary Germany;
- To foster dialogue on values and the prevention of conflict;
- To promote European integration”.

The Federal Foreign office has established a number of priorities geared towards achieving these objectives:

- since 2002, they have run a special programme entitled “European-Islamic Intercultural Dialogue”, which is designed to promote exchanges and encounters between the West and the Islamic world;
- they spend a substantial part of Germany's cultural relations and education budget on activities in the twenty-five EU countries that are designed to promote a wider and deeper Union;
- they want to enhance Germany's profile in higher education by promoting exchange and international cooperation in the academic field;
- they are committed to helping German schools abroad hold their own in an increasingly competitive environment;
- they see ongoing efforts to stimulate interest abroad in the German language as a core component of its cultural relations and education policy.

To implement this policy the Foreign office relies, to a considerable extent, on other, mostly legally independent but financially dependent, organisations, since the lesson learned by history was and is: as little state interference as possible and “Cultural relations and education policy are

not just a matter of 'the good, the beautiful, the true'; but an integral part of German foreign policy aimed at conflict prevention and peacekeeping".

The biggest of these semi-public organisations is the Goethe-Institut, active in eighty countries. Though "cultural identity is and will be determined by regions and nations" it says in its unpublished strategy paper on Europe, "trans-national influences will gain importance. The often dividing function of culture must be replaced by an integrative one". It therefore does not only support European contents but also encourages cooperation with other foreign cultural institutes, embassies and with the civil sector within the European Union and beyond. It is not surprising that it signed cooperative contracts with the British Council and the Spanish Instituto Cervantes. Apart from the Goethe-Institut, there is the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), engaged in international university cooperation; the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (A.v.H) that focuses on the exchange of highly qualified academics; the Institute for Foreign Relations (Ifa), that among other functions operates as a specialist library and information centre on German and European foreign cultural and educational relations and; the Central Agency for German schools abroad, to name but a few of the major ones.

P o l i c y f o c u s

Cultural relations based on mutuality were and are considered as the so-called "third pillar" of foreign German policy, next to political and economical programmes and activities. In the early days of the Republic, other European countries were invited and even financially incited to establish cultural relations with Germany. The German strategic decision-makers were wise enough to refrain from merely presenting a 're-educated, whitewashed, beautiful Germany' and from solely 'exporting' German language and culture abroad. An open critical intercultural dialogue with a two-way road was established.

If there are any topics considered to be purely German, it is probably the promotion of the German language in the context of the promotion of a multilingual Europe, as clearly stated in the "concept 2000" paper of the Foreign office.

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Germany is an international player, though smaller than France and the UK. In an attempt to heal the wounds of World War II, to slowly regain the trust of the international community, to convincingly advocate for a safer and more just world order, the foreign policy of the Federal Republic of Germany focussed from its very beginning on the European integration process in addition to the transatlantic axis. In addition, the Ministry points out the fact that quite a number of new Goethe-Institutes and reading rooms were founded in these countries in the last fifteen years. Indeed, almost two-thirds of the Goethe-Institutes are today located in the EU, the neighbouring countries or the other Soviet succession states¹⁴.

Apart from this geo-political priority, Germany is strengthening its political, economic and therefore also its cultural ties with Asia, above all with China. It maintains in many ways its cultural cooperation with North America, and less so with Latin America. The Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa are less in the picture.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

Auswaertiges Amt, (2000) Auswaertige Kulturpolitik - Konzeption 2000,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.auswaertiges->

[amt.de/www/de/infoservice/download/pdf/kultur/konzept2000.pdf](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/de/infoservice/download/pdf/kultur/konzept2000.pdf)

This conceptual paper concentrates on the principles, objectives and planned strategies for a future German foreign cultural policy from a German, European and international point of view. " Our cultural activities abroad do not take place in a neutral sphere, but are linked to

values essential to us, such as promotion of democratic rules, implementation of human rights, sustainability of economic growth, access to and participation with scientific and technological progress, fight against poverty, protection of natural resources"....."They are not limited in presenting (our) cultures and the arts abroad but foster dialogue, exchange, cooperation between people and peoples.....thus building long term trust, reliability and networks vital for political and economical cooperation."....

Auswaertiges Amt, (2002) Auswaertige Kultur- und Bildungspolitik heute,
E-Doc Link: http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/de/infoservice/download/pdf/publikationen/kupol_heute.pdf

This 2002 report of the German Federal Government on its foreign cultural and educational policy, including the work of its various intermediaries in this field, examines and repeats the objectives, strategies, working methods and resources laid down in its " conceptual paper 2000"

Barbier Frinault et Associes and Ernst & Young France Consultancy, Study of the External Cooperation of the European Union and its Member States in culture and audiovisual sectors. Summary,
E-Doc Link: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2002/5770_barbier/58-02-summary_en.pdf

This study presents and analyses external cooperation in the culture and audiovisual sectors of a number of States (including Germany) and the European institutions with third countries. New Member States and candidate countries for European Union membership are excluded from the category of "third" countries. Reaffirms in its first part the objectives, strategies and working methods of the German Foreign office and its chosen intermediaries in this field, as explained by the other documents. It finally comes to the conclusion that "Germany is in favour of strengthening EU external cultural relations above all via EU delegations"...."but that it is at the same time strongly opposed to creating new structures to that end".

Bundesregierung, Auswaertiges Amt, (2003) Bericht der Bundesregierung zur Auswaertigen Kulturpolitik, 2002,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/de/infoservice/download/pdf/kultur/akp02.pdf>
German document. No abstract available.

Dittrich van Weringh, Kathinka, Ernst Schuermann (2004) Does Europe need a cultural foreign policy?,
E-Doc Link: www.kupoge.de Germany

In the context of the overall question the authors analysed five cultural projects of the Goethe-Institute in third countries on the basis of the questions: "What might be defined by 'European'? What could be the criteria defining an 'added European value' of an EU Foreign cultural policy complementing that of its member states?" The analysis has to be seen as an attempt to further stimulate discussions on these essential topics (Annex 2, pp.55-58 in English: pp.27-30 in German)

Foreign Office, (2005) Official website of the German Foreign Office,
E-Doc Link: www.auswaertiges-amt.de
This site provides further reading on the basic principles, objectives and main operators in German foreign policy.

Herbote, B, (1997) Handbook of German-International relations, Munich / ssaur, Institute für Auslandsbeziehungen, Vol. 1

A directory with 32.000+ entries of profiles of German and foreign representations abroad and in Germany, liaison offices and information centres for politics, foreign economics and banks, cultural exchange, media, development, humanitarian assistance, science, research and tourism.

Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, (2005) Deutsche Kultur International,
E-Doc Link: <http://deutsche-kultur-international.de/org/index.html?/section=org&lang=en>
This site, which is under construction, is coordinated by Ifa and financed by the German Foreign Office gives a short introduction to the tasks and fields of action of the governmental departments and intermediary public, semi-public and private actors active in foreign cultural work with links to their respective websites. Among the many cited organisations are, of

course, also the main players, such as the Goethe –Institut (in German only), The German Academic Exchange Service, The Alexander von Humboldtstiftung, and the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (in German only). In addition, various other search possibilities are offered.

Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, (2005) Aktuelle Literatur der auswärtigen Kulturpolitik, E-Doc Link: <http://www.ifa.de/b>

The library of IFA is constantly actualising the electronic and print literature on, above all, German foreign cultural policy, but also on that of other EU Member States and some non-EU members and of the EU. Many titles are annotated. In addition, it is compiling specialised bibliographies with regard to the topic, such as on the relationship between Islamic countries and the West. It summarises German symposia dealing with the issue and presents critical contributions on German and EU foreign cultural relations. Publications and information not produced in the main western languages are not picked up.

Maass, K.-J., (2005) Kultur und Aussenpolitik. Handbuch fuer Studium und Praxis, Baden-Baden, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, ISBN: 3-8329-1404-8, Germany

This handbook, intended as a work of reference for practitioners and students, presents for the first time a comprehensive overview of the complex German foreign cultural policy offering extensive bibliographies and other sources of information. The many national cultural actors are described with the Foreign Office being the principal one, but not a monopolist. Their policy aims, areas of work and interactions are described also in relation with international organisations such as the EU, the Council of Europe and Unesco and are briefly compared with the foreign cultural policies of the USA, the UK, Hungary, Russia and Japan.

Pas, Nikolaus von der, 'Strukturen: Klares Jein aus Brüssel' IN: Zeitschrift für Kulturaustausch, Institut für Auslandbeziehungen, Germany
No abstract available.

Peise, Robert, (2002) 'Ein Kulturinstitut für Europa' IN: Zeitschrift für Kulturaustausch, vol. 3, Institut für Auslandbeziehungen, Germany
No abstract available.

Soysal, Yasemin, (2002) 'Lernziel: Europa. Schulbücher auf dem Prüfstand' IN: Zeitschrift für Kulturaustausch, vol. 3, Institut für Auslandbeziehungen, Germany
No abstract available.

Weber, Raymond, (2002) 'Elemente für eine europäische Kulturaußenpolitik : Ziele, Prinzipien und Strukturen' IN: Zeitschrift für Kulturaustausch, vol. 3, Institut für Auslandbeziehungen, Germany
No abstract available.

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

Brodersen, H., 'Histoire de la Politique Culturelle Extérieure de l'Allemagne' p. 7-19 IN: Allemagne Aujourd'hui, Germany
No abstract available.

Boogaarts, I., (1998) 'Internationale festivals: vrijplaatsen van culturele import, overslag en export' IN: (1998) V I C B m a g a z i n e , VISB magazine, Germany
(June 10-12) International festivals - cultural imports and exports.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports – Germany,
E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1_national_reports1.pdf
Background to structures, competencies and institutes in the field of cultural cooperation.

Erb, Scott, (2003) German foreign policy: navigating a new era, Boulder, Colo, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Germany
Examines Germany's evolving foreign policy, from the emergence of West Germany after 1945 to a greater international role in the post-Cold War period.

Lück, Hartmut, Dieter Senghaas (2005) Vom hörbaren Frieden, Suhrkamp, ISBN: 3-518-12401-3, Germany

“Peace” is a theme also in music. It is documented in classical and contemporary compositions in very different ways, ranging from apologetic or critical views on war to works that attempt to expound musically the positivity of peace.

Ress Altmaier (Mitarb.), G., P., Kultur und Europaischer Binnenmarkt: welche rechtlichen Auswirkungen hat der EWG-Vertrag jetzt und nach der Verwirklichung des Europaischen Binnenmarktes auf die Kulturpolitik der bundesrepublik Deutschland, insbesondere im Bereich der Kulturforderung?, Stuttgart, Kohlhammer. (Schriftenreihe des Bundesministeriums des Innern; 22)., ISBN: 3-17-012072-7, Europe
No abstract available.

Sievers, Norbert, Bernd Wagner (2003) Chapter 2.4, International Cultural Cooperation, Germany : Compendium of Cultural Policies, E-Doc Link: www.culturalpolicies.net/Germany
Introduction to the main actors and principle institutions working in the field of international cultural cooperation in Germany.

Sporrer, S., (1998) ‘Neue Weltkarte für die Goethe-Institute’ IN: , Zeitschrift für Kulturaustausch, Europe 48 (1998) 1 (14-16). Interview mit dem Generalsekretär des Goethe-Instituts, Joachim Sarborius, über mögliche Alternativen und die Umstrukturierung des gesamten Institutsnetzes.