



New CSI Research Cluster

Volunteering revisited



With its Research Cluster Volunteering, the CSI focuses on the conditions, frequency and quality of volunteering.

Civic engagement in Germany as well as in other Western democracies started changing some while ago. With both shifts in values and changing expectations towards political, social and cultural participation, the forms as well as the motivations of engagement of citizens for the public good are changing, too.

Since the early 70s, emerging self-help groups have been helping to erode the "traditional model" of well-meaning fellow-citizens helping the needy. Today, engaged citizens expect more opportunities to participate and have a voice in the institutions and organizations to which they donate their time. We have to start from the assumption that today's engagement – contrary to that of the traditional forms of volunteering based on altruism and obligation – is increasingly driven by those who have been affected by the social need themselves and driven by aspects of self-fulfillment. To a growing extent, volunteering is seen as an element in processes of one's search for identity and self-definition. In this context, the principle of reciprocity has succeeded that of altruism.

Social cohesion, the political culture as well as the strength of civil society undoubtedly all depend upon the active involvement of citizens in contributing to the public good rather than their passive consumption of services provided by others. Currently numerous observers of today's society assume that the unintended consequences of reform policies can be reduced

or smoothed out by civic engagement and the contributions of the non-profit sector. In this respect, those who influence the framework of the voluntary sector are challenged by the fact that the environment for engagement needs to be adapted to those altered interests and needs of the active volunteers.

Academia started debating volunteering issues more than 20 years ago. The political actors have regularly addressed the subject recently – for example in a permanent sub-committee of German Parliament. Nevertheless the available results of state-of-the art research are still rather limited in scope. Except for select sub-segments of the voluntary sector, the conditions of civic engagement, the effective capacity of the sector to contribute to the public good and the potential of the sector in more general terms have hardly been tested in empirical and analytical terms.

The CSI therefore is launching a research cluster on volunteering, which includes three core elements of work on volunteering.

Read more on page 3.

Table of Contents:

- **Master Programme launched:** Update on the first phase. **Page 2**
- **Prize awarded:** CSI Director Prof. Helmut K. Anheier receives the Johann Hinrich Wichern Prize. **Page 4**

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Citizens are investing their time in many hours of volunteer engagement and contribute in a substantial way to the public good. Over the next three years, a new area of our research will focus on this field through two different important research projects.

Due to generous support from Generali Deutschland Holding, we will organise a research programme entitled "Citizens as entrepreneurs for the future – civic engagement of and for the elderly" which will address four selected sub-sectors of volunteering. The programme includes the public invitation of applications for a series of nine Ph.D. fellowships over the next three years (with three each year).

The Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in Germany will fund a research project on "Qualification and Civic Engagement" in which we will elaborate an overview of the many different approaches to training volunteers in the country. The project will particularly focus on the most promising approaches of training volunteers.

The CSI is growing and therefore, we will move to new office space at Adenauerplatz 1 in the heart of Heidelberg. A very generous seven-year grant from the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation will make this possible.

We are grateful to the donor himself and highly appreciate his sustained interest in our work. On March 16, we will thank Manfred Lautenschläger for his support at the opening celebration of our new premises.

Helmut K. Anheier,
Volker Then





Personalia

We are pleased to welcome the new head of teaching at the CSI:

**Assistant Professor
Dr. Kathia Serrano-Velarde**

In November 2008, Dr. Kathia Serrano-Velarde took on the Assistant Professorship for the sociology of organization and culture at the CSI and the Institute of Sociology at the University of Heidelberg.



At the same time she started in the position of head of teaching at the CSI, taking the responsibility for the master and executive education programmes, i.e. the Master of Nonprofit Management and Governance as well as the European executive education programme for leaders in nonprofit organizations EPICS (European Programme in Civil Society).

Dr. Serrano-Velarde is a French organization sociologist. Her research focuses on the transformation processes in the European education sector. Kathia Serrano-Velarde wrote her award winning PhD (Dr. phil., Humboldt Universität zu Berlin 2007) on the emergence of a German market for quality assurance agencies.

From 2007 to 2008, she worked as post doctoral fellow at the Centre de Sociologie des Organisations in Paris. In her current research project, she analyses the interaction between management consultants and academics in German, French and British universities.

Dr. Serrano-Velarde completed various academic stays abroad, amongst others at the Bath University in England and the Charles University in Prague. Furthermore, she worked as a higher education expert for the German Rectors' Conference (2007) and the Council of Europe (2007).

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CSI master programme started

With its first in-person sessions at the University of Heidelberg, the CSI programme "Master in Nonprofit Management and Governance" had its start in autumn 2008.

On September 30th 2008, the CSI teaching team's long and intensive groundwork finally led to the first real teaching unit: participants of the first run met in Heidelberg to join each other for the first in-person session. The participants form an interested and motivated group of students, coming from a broad range of backgrounds from within the target group of CSI education services. Law and economics are represented in the group as well as sociology and political sciences. We welcome the first cohort of our master programme!

Immediately following a hearty welcome by the CSI directors, Prof. Helmut K. Anheier und Dr. Volker Then, the first courses of the programme began.

The lecture on 'Civil Society and its Organizations: Basic Theories for the Analysis of the Nonprofit Sector' was well suited to put the participants into the right mood for an exciting range of issues that they will touch on in the two years to come - and that will qualify them for leadership jobs in third sector organizations.

The excellent student/professor ratio in the master programme proved to be a big advantage for both the students and the lecturers. Within the first days already we had quite a few very lively and interesting discussions around the different topics that were presented by the participants of the programme. They succeeded in bringing in the experiences from their diverse backgrounds, thereby managing to give each others insights into their respective nonprofit records.

Three in-person sessions have taken place so far, all of them at the Heidelberg Technology Centre where the CSI has access to comfortable as well as professional seminar rooms. The heterogeneous group by now has grown into a productive team. They joined forces to

handle seminar tasks and missions jointly, and the CSI e-learning platform has matured to a fruitful communication centre. It is used not only for cooperation among the participants, but also for exchange with the CSI lecturers. Participants share their presentations and workshop preparation, and the lecturers upload relevant texts and extra course material to the platform. Given the spatial distance between the participants and the time between the in-person sessions at Heidelberg, the CSI e-learning platform obviously was of great

help for forming the team spirit that has grown in the group - and among the lecturers.

In their evaluation statements to date, the participants appreciate the combination of different teaching methods, including team work and simulation or management games - all intended to permit a direct testing of any topics of practical relevance.

Feedback of participants as well as the discussions with our lecturers leave us with the

**„CSI is for the Third Sector
what the Berliner Philharmoniker is
for culture.“**

Jörg Ultsch, Deutsche Bank



Participants of the CSI master programme

feeling that we are on the right way. The Master of Nonprofit Management and Governance seems to have started well and we are looking forward to our next workshops. This is the place to say thank you to all parties concerned with the programme. To both our participants and our lecturers, the whole CSI teaching team would like to express its gratitude!

Applications for the second year of the programme, starting in autumn 2009, will be accepted until July 1st, 2009.

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Continued from page 1.

1. As a core component of the "Generali Fund for the Future", which is part of the corporate social responsibility programme of the Generali Deutschland Holding, we started a three-year research project titled "**Citizens as entrepreneurs for the future – civic engagement of and for the elderly**" (CEF). It addresses the total scale and scope as well as the quality of volunteering by and for the elderly in Germany and the potential to increase and nurture it. The issue is being addressed on individual, organizational as well as institutional levels.
2. This research effort by CSI staff is complemented by a **graduate programme on civic engagement** involving scholarships for up to nine Ph.D. candidates. The research done by those Ph.D. students (by invitation at any German university) is coordinated as an integrated research cluster on engagement and aging. It is the second strand of the cooperation between CSI and the "Generali Fund for the Future", which funds the programme.
3. The research project "**Qualification and Civil Engagement**" (QCE) is being supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and will continue for two years. We will explore how to unleash undiscovered potential for volunteering. In particular, we will focus on qualification and training efforts for volunteers as part of the social recognition of their contributions and of the interest in creating incentives for involvement. Innovative approaches are of special interest, especially with regard to those groups in society so far characterized by a low degree of participation.

The "Citizens as entrepreneurs for the future" (CEF) project funded by Generali concentrates on the generation older than 50 which merit particular attention given the demographic changes in contemporary Germany. On the one hand, this group develops a growing demand for volunteer services because the current tight budget and political situation seem to preclude growing state intervention concerning the risks

of old age. On the other hand, this generation is increasingly capable of contributing to the supply side and presumably prepared to contribute to the public good by signing up to their share of "social investment".

However, it is largely unexplored to what extent society and public policy can really rely on these contributions and which conditions may be favourable to their emergence. This will be addressed by our research in the interest of leveraging the full potential of volunteering.

Research Project „Citizens as Entrepreneurs for the Future“ (CEF)

- Timeline: 2009 to 2011.
- Research agenda: Research on four selected sub-sectors of volunteering from a supply and demand perspective; Comprehensive evaluation and processing of results of the sub-projects.
- Goal: Development of practice and policy recommendations.
- Graduate Programme: Three scholarships per year for Ph.D. candidates at German universities
- www.csi.uni-heidelberg.de/buz



From the supply side angle, we look into the conditions for the engagement of those older than 50 and try to identify the indicators for growth. From a demand side angle, we look into the relevance which engagement for those elderly people has with regard to the state, market and family perspectives, seen both from a macro-economic and a political-institutional perspective.

Two team members of CSI research staff in this cluster will be joined by the Ph.D. candidates to form a strong research team. The Ph.D. researchers will be linked up with one another as well as the staff members from this and other CSI projects to assure a regular flow of communication. Three scholarships will be allocated each year for applicants presenting research proposals that fit the overall programme starting this spring. The CSI still invites application for the first generation of scholarships until March 31st, 2009. The earliest possible starting date for the scholarship payments will be April 1st, 2009.

The QCE project especially focuses on the very specific question of how volunteers can be qualified and trained in their efforts. The project starts from the hypothesis that training and qualification create a sustainable potential for engagement and volunteering. Due to nu-

merous providers, the field has however become (or rather remained) fairly in-transparent. The project therefore asks the basic questions: Which training opportunities are available, how are they structured? To which experiences has this led? Can we identify sustainable, transferable innovations in training and qualification approaches?

To create substantial results, the project will be organized in two stages: In a preparation phase, we will identify the state of existing research, followed by the systematic research phase of working through the data available at the Federal Ministry itself and surveying the umbrella associations of the social welfare sector in the country. This will lead to a systematic collection of promising approaches to training and activation. The results will be differentiated by sub-sectors of the voluntary sector, by target groups as well as by providers of the programmes. It will be a challenge to distill the successful and potentially transferable ones from the vast numbers of approaches offered on local community and welfare association levels. These good practice cases will be collected and documented in a reference manual. The case based research will lead to policy recommendations to improve the conditions for volunteering and to recommendations concerning the transfer candidates.

Research Project "Qualification and Civil Engagement" (QCE)

- Timeline: 2008 to 2010.
- Research agenda: Systematic collection of the state of research; Collection of promising approaches to training and qualification; Case studies.
- Goal: Specific recommendations for an environment favorable to volunteering; practice recommendations concerning the transferability of good practice approaches identified.

Our research cluster on volunteering intends to contribute to a better understanding of the structures and dynamics of civic engagement in Germany as well as the relevance of volunteering in our society. It aims at creating a basis for practical capacity building and policy recommendations in order to promote volunteering. This seems all the more appropriate the more volunteering is mentioned in the context of welfare state reform.



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Prize awarded...

Prof. Helmut K. Anheier has been awarded the Johann Hinrich Wichern prize for his outstanding contribution to international Third Sector research.

The Johann Hinrich Wichern prize is awarded by the Alfred Jäger Foundation for Diakonie in St. Gallen and other institutions from the field of Diakonie. In Germany, Diakonie is the welfare institution for the social work of the protestant churches. It is a non-profit association with 26,800 institutions and more than 420,000 employees. The prize honours people who by their work



Prof. Anheier at the ceremony

have rendered outstanding services to Diakonie.

In presenting the award, Diakonie president Klaus-Dieter Kottnik stressed the pioneering character of Prof. Anheier's contributions to international non-profit sector research. By his work he has paved the way for the scientific exploration of a field that, until then, had practically not been explored by the social sciences at all.

The awarding of the Wichern prize took place at the end of a German national conference on Diakonie and the 5th „Forum Diakoniewissenschaft“ on November 3rd to 4th in Bielefeld. Another highlight of this conference was the opening of the new Institute for Diakonie Research and Management (IDM) at the Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal/Bethel.

The future of the Third Sector in Iceland

Prof. Anheier meets with the president of Iceland

At a meeting on the role of the nonprofit sector in Iceland, CSI academic director Prof. Helmut K. Anheier met with Iceland's president Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson for consultation on how the Third Sector can help to cope with the effects of the financial crisis.

The nation of Iceland has been heavily struck by the international financial crisis, and the Icelandic Third Sector, as well, is struggling hard to face the new situation.



Prof. Anheier at the meeting in Iceland

Having a background in the nonprofit sector himself, Iceland's president Grímsson is very interested in considering the financial crisis' effects on the sector as well

as ways to cope with the current situation. He met with Prof. Anheier for a lively discussion of the issue.

In their meeting they considered questions of what can be done on a short, medium and long term scale in order to support the sector in this crisis. However, Prof. Anheier also put forward

the reverse perspective. He elaborated on how the Third Sector, given the dramatic consequences of the crisis, should think about working on future prevention measures - in Iceland as well as on an international level. Nonprofit organizations are called upon to work on ad-

vocacy for the political processes we need in order to prevent a similar financial crash in the future.

CSI in 2009: Growth and New Premises

Generous support allows moving to larger office space

In February 2009 the CSI moves to new offices at Adenauerplatz 1 in Heidelberg. In an opening ceremony on March 16th at 17h00 we will be glad to thank Dr. Manfred Lautenschläger for his generous support.

Since its establishment in June 2006 the Centre for Social Investment has been growing continuously. Due to lack of office space, we already rented additional offices near the current location at Schillerstraße 4-8. But with the start of several new projects in autumn 2008, we faced the problem again.



View of Adenauerplatz 1

Fortunately, at the end of last year a new solution was found. The CSI team will be moving to a larger office space at Adenauerplatz 1. Star-

ting March 2009 we will continue working on social investment issues next to the renowned German American Institute (DAI).

All this is rendered possible by the most generous support of the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation. The seven-year support for the new office space is to be seen in the context of a larger engagement by which it funds the CSI for its academic as well as public outreach approaches.

We very much thank Dr. Lautenschläger for his support of the CSI!

For the opening ceremony on March 16th at 17h00 the CSI will organize a panel discussion with leading representatives from the field of social investment. All guests are welcome!

Imprint

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