



STUDY TRIP GUIDE:
**GERMANY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION:
CORNERSTONE OF THE EUROPEAN
STRATEGY OR SOURCE OF
FRAGMENTATION?**



International Economic Expertise – 211
2022/2023

Location: Frankfurt & Berlin

Dates: 17/04/2023 - 23/04/2023

Dauphine | PSL 
UNIVERSITÉ PARIS

Pedagogical calendar:

	Dimanche 16 avril	Lundi 17 avril	Mardi 18 avril	Mercredi 19 avril	Jeudi 20 avril	Vendredi 21 avril	Samedi 22 avril	Dimanche 23 avril
Matin		Visite de la BCE 9h00-11h30	Petit déjeuner Mazars 8h30-10h00	SER 9h30-11h30	Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung 10h30 - 13h00	Agora Energiewende 10h00-12h00		
Après-Midi	Départ pour Francfort 13h10	Goethe Universität 15h00 - 17h00	Départ pour Berlin 13h02	Global Public Policy Institute 13h30-15h30	Temps libre	Bundestag 18h00-20h00	Programme libre	Retour à Paris 14h11
Soir		After-work avec les alumni de Francfort				Dîner organisé par le master		

ECONOMIC SECTION & VISITS

GERMANY: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW

Some data

	2021		2019	2020	2021	2022p	2023p
Population (millions)	83,1	Real GDP (growth, %)	1,1	-3,7	2,6	1,5	-0,3
Real GDP (Billion USD)	3 550	CPI (end of year, %)	1,4	0,5	3,1	8,5	7,2
GDP per capita (USD)	51 203	Current account balance (% GDP)	7,7	6,8	7,5	4,2	5,3
Saving (% GDP)	31	Budget balance (% GDP)	1,5	-4,3	-3,7	-3,3	-2,5
HDI*	7	Public debt (% GDP)	58,9	68	69,6	71,1	68,3

* Human Development Index (United Nations): ranking for 191 countries

Source: World Bank, IMF

- **Economic overview**

With a real GDP of around 3 550 billion USD, Germany is the largest economy in Europe and the fourth largest in the world, behind the USA, China, and Japan. The country has a high per capita income of 51 203 USD (2021), making it the seventh largest in the European Union.

The German economy is characterized by an industry that accounts for a significant share of GDP of 27% and employs around 27% of the work force. Germany is Europe's most industrialized country, and its economy is well diversified: the automotive industry is the country's largest sector, but Germany also retains other specialized sectors, including mechanical engineering, electric and electronic equipment, and chemical products. Germany's service sector is a leading employer (72% of the workforce) and contributes to 63% of the country's GDP. The sector's growth in recent years has been primarily driven by a strong demand for business-related services and by the development of new technologies.

Germany's economy has experienced steady growth in recent years, with a few exceptions such as the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the recent impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, the German economy was on a period of steady growth, with GDP growth averaging around 1.5% annually. The country's export-oriented manufacturing sector and strong domestic consumption were the main drivers of this growth. However, in 2020, due to the pandemic, Germany's GDP contracted by around 4%. The country's economy was hit hard by restrictions on movement and activity, which led to a sharp decline in consumer spending and business activity. In 2021, the economy began to recover as the pandemic situation improved, with GDP growth of 2.6%. Although the recovery has been uneven with the services sector recovering slower than the manufacturing sector. In the short run, GDP growth is expected to be around 1.5% in 2022 and shrink by 0,3% in 2023.

The slowdown observed since 2022 is mainly due to the international environment of global economic slowdown and Ukraine-Russia war. Indeed, the German economy is likely to face some challenges in the short run, as high inflation and a decline in consumer sentiment are expected to weigh on private consumption. Despite this, investment is expected to pick up over time, driven by factors such as high corporate savings, the need to relocate supply chains and expand renewable energy, as well as increased public investment. However, high energy prices may have a negative impact on energy-intensive industries. On the other hand, exports are expected to continue to recover due to a large order backlog and the easing of supply chain bottlenecks. The inflation rate is expected to remain high, due to a range of factors including the pass-through of energy and producer prices to consumers and rising wage pressures. However, it is projected to gradually moderate over time. Additionally, wage growth is expected to increase, driven by factors such as the increase of minimum wage from 48% to 60% of the median wage in October 2022, labor shortages, and pressure from unions to preserve the purchasing power of workers.

- **Foreign trade**

Germany's economy heavily relies on trade, with exports and imports representing 81% of its GDP in 2020 (WB). It is the third importer and exporter in the world. The country is the world's biggest exporter of automobiles, with 19% of total exported cars worldwide. In 2021, the four main groups of exported goods accounted for almost half of the country's exports: vehicles and vehicle parts (15.5%), machinery (14.5%), chemical products (9.3%), and computer/electrical and optical equipment (9.1%). The main imported goods were computer/electrical and optical equipment (11.2%), vehicles and vehicle parts (10.8%), chemical products (7.8%), machinery (7.7%), electrical equipment (6.5%), and pharmaceuticals and similar products (6.3%).

Prior to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Germany was highly dependent on Russian gas, oil and coal, with around one-third of primary energy supply coming from Russia. A rapid diversification of energy suppliers, the EU coal embargo and the shutdown of Russian gas pipelines have strongly reduced Russian energy imports.

Germany's primary trade partner is the European Union which accounted for 67% of exports and 65% of imports. In 2022, accounting for around 10,3% of German exports, the U.S. remained Germany's most important export market, followed closely by France (7.5%) and Poland (6%). Imports are mainly coming from the Netherlands (8,6%), ahead of the US and the Poland (6,3% and 5,4%, respectively). Germany continues to be the "most open" economy of the G7 countries.

- **Public finance**

Germany is known for solid public finances, with a history of surplus budgets and low debt levels. The government has typically pursued a fiscally prudent approach, keeping spending and borrowing low to maintain surpluses and reduce debt, resulting in a relatively low debt-to-GDP ratio compared to other developed nations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Germany's public finances, however. To fight the pandemic and support the economy, the government introduced measures such as company subsidies, expanding the short-time work program, and boosting healthcare spending on vaccines and testing. This caused the budget deficit to rise to an estimated 4.3% in 2020 and 3.7% in 2021. As these measures are phased out, the deficit is expected to decline, projected to be 3.3% in 2022 and 2.5% in 2023 according to the IMF. Also, the debt-to-GDP ratio grew to 71.1% in 2022 but is forecast to decrease in the upcoming years. Inflation was estimated at 3.1% in 2021 but rose to around 8.5% in 2022 due to increased commodity and energy prices triggered by the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Germany's current account balance returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and is predicted to increase in the future due to growing demand from its major trading partners.

- **Political spectrum in Germany since the last elections**

In September 2021, the SPD, a social democratic party, won the legislative elections with 25.7% of the vote, just ahead of the CDU/CSU, a Christian democratic party, with 24.1%. The Greens came third (14.8%), followed by the liberal FDP (11.5%), the right-wing AfD (10.3%) and the left (4.9%). The SPD, the Greens and the FDP formed the first ever three-party coalition at federal level in December 2021 under the leadership of new Chancellor Olaf Scholz (SPD).

The war in Ukraine has induced change in some policy areas, often in direct contrast to the ideology of the coalition parties. The Greens party, which emerged from the peace movement of the 1980s, backed an investment package worth 100 billion euros for the army. In addition, Economy Minister Habeck (Greens) visited Middle Eastern countries (like Qatar) to order more gas for Germany.

On the other side, Liberal Finance Minister Lindner (FDP) announced more support programs for the population to cope with rising energy prices via the increase in public debt. Nevertheless, as all parties aim for a pragmatic political style, the coalition seems stable and should hold until the next elections in September 2025.

- **German hard power in times of crisis: what role can Germany play against the Russian threat?**

German military power is embodied by the Bundeswehr, the country's national army which is made up of around 180,000 soldiers. Since the end of the Cold War, the Bundeswehr has weakened greatly. While it had 500,000 soldiers at the time of reunification, today it has no more than 180,000. The budget allocated to the army should reach 27 billion euros for 2023. The Bundeswehr is under the control of the Ministry of Defense and the Bundestag can partly control the armed forces whose main mission is the internal control of the country.

Faced with the Russian threat, the Bundestag took a historic decision. While the country enacted a law to avoid debt and budget deficit, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced the creation of a €100 billion funds to meet the needs of the German army. This circumvention

to the budgetary rules can only be approved by obtaining the majority of Parliamentary votes, which the Chancellor got thanks to the support of the CDU/CSU alliance.

This envelope of €100 billion will make it possible to rearm and modernize the Bundeswehr in the following years, whilst providing solid support to Ukraine. In addition, this investment also aims to achieve the objective set by NATO: to devote 2% of its GDP per year to defense.

- **The German paradox: a country torn between renewable energies and coal**

According to calculations by the think tank Agora Energiewende, Germany emitted around 761 million tons of CO₂ equivalent (eqCO₂) in 2022, exceeding the target of 756 million set for climate protection by 5 million. Yet, energy consumption has decreased, and the share of renewable sources has reached unprecedented levels, amounting for 46% of gross electricity consumption in 2022. Fossil fuels, with the increasing use of oil for transport and heating and coal for electricity are the very problem. While wind power and solar hold the 1st and 3rd place respectively within the German energy mix, lignite (an ultra-polluting form of coal) is still positioned as the country's 2nd main source of energy. The German energy sector itself contributes to the emission of 255 million tons of CO₂, which is barely in line with the limit set to 257 million. In addition, carbon neutrality by 2045 seems hardly achievable when most new heating installations are still boilers running on fuel oil or gas.

- **Coal: a hazardous panacea to the country's dependence on Russian gas**

In its will to phase out nuclear power for energy production, Germany has made the controversial choice to significantly increase its use of coal-fired power plants. Concurrently, the country's dependency to Russian gas constitutes a security threat that catalyzed the government's intentions to resort to coal-fired power plants for energy production. In May 2022, energy Minister Robert Habeck unveiled an emergency decree to reactivate 15 coal-fired power plants, to reduce Germany's imports of Russian gas.

Sources:

- Economic intelligence unit <https://www.eiu.com/n/>
- Regional Economic Service official website <https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Pays/DE>
- OCDE <https://www.oecd.org/germany/>
- Coface <https://www.coface.fr/Etudes-economiques-et-risque-pays/Allemagne>
- Crédit Agricole <https://etudes-economiques.credit-agricole.com/>

Presentation of interventions

FRANKFURT

Visit 1: European Central Bank

Speakers:

- Antoine Kornprobst

Antoine Kornprobst is a research analyst the European Central Bank (ECB) Directorate General Economics (Forecasting and Policy Modelling Division). He previously worked at the OECD and has a degree in economics from the Université Paris Dauphine-PSL.



- Matteo Ciccarelli

Matteo Ciccarelli is Head of Forecasting and Policy Modelling at the European Central Bank. Before joining the ECB, he was assistant professor at the University of Alicante. He joined the ECB as an economist and then as a senior adviser. He was awarded the Isaac Kerstenetzky Prize in 2010 for his article: "Trusting the bankers. A new look at the credit channel of monetary policy". In 2014, he was awarded for his outstanding contribution as an author in the 2014 Emerald Literati Network Excellence Awards for his paper: 'Panel Vector Autoregressive Models: A Survey' published in Advances in Econometrics.

Presentation of the institution:

The European Central Bank (ECB) is the institution responsible for monetary policy in the euro area. It was founded in 1998 in Frankfurt, Germany, and is still headquartered there. The ECB is one of the main institutions of the European Union (EU) and is responsible for managing the euro, the single currency used by 20 European countries.

The ECB is governed by a Governing Council, which is made up of the governors of the national central banks of each euro area country, as well as six members of the ECB's Executive Board. The Governing Council is responsible for implementing the ECB's monetary policy and meets every month to discuss the measures to be taken.

The ECB's primary mandate is to maintain price stability in the euro area. This means keeping inflation below, but close to, 2% over the medium term. The ECB uses several tools to achieve this objective, including adjusting interest rates and providing liquidity to banks. It can also take other actions to support economic growth, such as buying government bonds. The ECB also plays an important role in banking supervision in the eurozone. It is responsible for supervising the largest banks in the eurozone, known as "systemic" banks. It also works closely with national supervisory authorities to supervise other banks in the euro area.

Presentation of the service:

The Directorate General Economics (DG Economics) of the European Central Bank (ECB) is responsible for the collection, analysis, and presentation of economic data to assist the ECB in making monetary policy decisions and monitoring economic developments in the euro area. The tasks of DG Economics include:

- Economic analysis: the DGE monitors economic developments in the eurozone and analyses economic indicators such as inflation, economic growth, employment, and external trade.
- Macroeconomic forecasts: it produces regular economic forecasts for the eurozone using sophisticated econometric models. These forecasts are useful for monetary policy decisions.
- Sectoral analysis: it analyses key economic sectors in the eurozone, such as industry, trade, and services, to understand the dynamics of these sectors and the risks to economic stability.
- Economic research: it conducts cutting-edge economic research on subjects such as business cycles, inflation, growth, employment, and monetary policy.
- Statistics: it collects, processes, and publishes economic data for the eurozone, such as inflation, economic growth, and unemployment rates. These data are essential for understanding the state of the eurozone economy.

Source: ECB website <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/html/index.fr.html>

Questions:

- How does the ECB anticipate economic changes and their potential risks?
- As part of its mandate, what measures is the ECB taking to combat climate change and promote the transition to a greener economy?
- How does the ECB manage relations with EU governments and institutions?
- What are the main challenges currently facing the ECB, and what measures does it plan to take in response?
- How is the ECB promoting financial inclusion and the stability of member countries' banking systems?
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, what model did you base your forecasts on? What difficulties did you encounter?
- We have covered several types of forecasting model in our courses. Could you explain to us the class of model you use at the ECB, as well as the assumptions and mechanisms on which they are based?
- Since the end of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, we have been going through a period of macroeconomic upheaval. In this context, do you have any new research themes or emerging questions?

Visit 2: Goethe Universität

Topic:

Visit to the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University and discussion on the theme of the study trip: "Germany, driving force or brake on the European project?".



Speaker : Dr. Lars Pilz

Lars Pilz is deputy dean for study affairs at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Goethe-University in Frankfurt. After having completed his M.A.-degree at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and the Vrije Universiteit van Amsterdam he

received his Ph.D.- degree in Economics at Goethe-University in Frankfurt. He is as well director for the bachelor-program in Finance and Accounting at the German Vietnamese-University (Ho Chi Minh-City) and lecturer for Economics and European Integration at Goethe-University. He was visiting professor at the Université Lyon II, Fudan-University in Shanghai and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico.

The institution:

The Johann Wolfgang Goethe University was founded in 1914 thanks to donations from the city's citizens (entrepreneurs, industrialists, and politicians) in a spirit of openness to the world and liberalism. Initially called the Royal University of Frankfurt am Main, it took its current name in 1932. From the outset, the rector, the deans of the five faculties and the founding families - members of the Board of Governors - were keen to provide a modern education: so, in addition to the traditional Faculties of Natural Sciences, Medicine and Law, Germany's first Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences was created. The financial resources available to the university attracted some of the biggest names in German scholarship at the time, who taught and conducted research there.

After the financial setbacks of the First World War and the stock market crash of the 1920s, the university became a public law institution, receiving funding from the city and the state. When Hitler came to power in 1933, Jewish professors and students were expelled from the university. This was followed by a troubled period during the Second World War, when the university was partially closed and some of its buildings destroyed. When it reopened in 1945, Walter Hallsten became Rector and later became the first President of the European Commission. The Goethe continues to build on the values of its founders, a place of debate and research that continues to attract and train many of the Nobel Prize winners of the 20th century.

New disciplines have been added, which are now taught on four campuses in Frankfurt: the Faculty of Law and Education on the Bockenheimer campus, the Natural Sciences on the Riedberg campus, the Medical Department on the Niederrad campus and the Faculty of Philosophy on the Westend campus. As Germany's third-largest university, ranked in the top 100 to 150 and in the top 5 to 7 in Germany in the 2019 Shanghai Academic Ranking, the Goethe stands out in the international university landscape. It currently has more than 48,000 students.

Frankfurt's university is also characterized by its commitment to research. In 2005, the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Study (FIAS) was inaugurated, followed in 2009 by the creation of a platform for doctoral students (GRADE). In 2012, the German Research Foundation renewed its support for the three centers of excellence "Normative Order Formation", "Cardiopulmonary System" and "Macromolecular Complexes". To mark the occasion, an additional €75 million was invested in cutting-edge university research. In 2015, the Rhine-Main University Alliance was formed with two other Rhine-Main universities (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and Darmstadt Technical University) to collaborate on research, teaching, continuing education, and the exchange of ideas.

In 2017, French President Emmanuel Macron was invited to discuss his vision of Europe with Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Gilles Kepel and students from the university.

Questions:

- In an economic and monetary area, trade imbalances should only be one-off, because one country's trade surpluses create another country's trade deficits. The German exception thus results in a non-cooperative balance. This German strategy is also partly responsible for the tensions between the United States and Europe, with the Trump administration imposing tariffs on several European products, affecting German exports. Do you think that the German trade model, based on excessive trade imbalances (surpluses), represents a threat to the EU?
- The pandemic and the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have led to a change in Germany's stance on a common debt capacity and the need for a European industrial policy (despite the recent tensions between the Franco-German couple). Does this contrast between Germany's attitude to the Covid crisis and the Greek crisis herald greater German solidarity with Europe in the long term?
- Because of its demands on the European taxonomy, can it be said that Germany is a brake on Europe's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050?

Source : Goethe University website <https://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/about-the-university>

Visit 3: Mazars



Topic: Mazars' activity in Germany, and the French-German cooperation between the German & French Desk.

Speakers: Meeting with the Mazars French Desk

The French Desk of Mazars is based in Frankfurt, co-directed by Pierre Zapp and Carsten Schlaewe. The main objective of the French Desk is to assist its clients, French or German, in defining the best tax structuring of their transactions or in choosing the best legal form for a foreign establishment. Their skills allow them to help their clients on issues related to cross-cultural integration posed by a merger, legal publication obligations or when and how to appoint an auditor who will meet their expectations. With a team based in France (German desk) and one in Germany, the two work together in an integrated manner as a "One Team" and thus constitute a privileged interface between France and Germany. The bilingual and often trilingual teams are composed of multidisciplinary experts who combine their knowledge of local and cultural specificities with their global approach and experience. They have a perfect knowledge of both legal systems and maintain solid relationships with companies, administrations, institutions and associations in France and Germany, and know how to adapt to the respective themes and issues of both countries.

Company Overview:

Mazars is an international and integrated group specializing in audit, tax and advisory services as well as accounting and legal services. Present in more than 95 countries and territories around the world, the firm employs 47,000 professionals to support clients of all sizes at every stage of their development. Founded in Europe, Mazars opened its first office

in 1945. Since then, the firm has gradually grown to become a global group. Mazars operates as a single, integrated and connected partnership with common interests, working practices, shared commitments and common standards of quality and ethics around the world. Auditing has been at the heart of their business for over 70 years. This expertise is complemented by a balanced portfolio of services that enable them to meet the evolving needs of their clients. Their experts rely on their strong knowledge of local and cultural specificities as well as their global vision.

Questions:

- When did this Franco-German collaboration (creation of the French Desk) start?
- How many French companies are based in Germany, and vice versa?
- What are your main types of clients (SMEs, large companies, etc.)?
- What impact/consequences has the establishment of a Mazars French Desk in Frankfurt had on Franco-German relations?
- How do you set up your company abroad (intra-EU)? What are the difficulties, the obstacles, the advantages?
- Does Mazars have other French desks around the world?
- Which profiles work in the French/German desks?

Sources:

- *Mazars' website*

<https://www.mazars.fr/Accueil/A-propos/Mazars-a-l-international/Mazars-en-bref>

- *French Desk of Mazars' website*

<https://www.mazars.de/Home/Services/Global-German-Services/French-Desk-Fr>

BERLIN

Visit 4: Regional Economic Service in Berlin

Speakers:

Antoine Leclercq: Transport and Sustainable Development Officer

Louca Derville: Industry, Digital and Start-ups Officer



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
EN ALLEMAGNE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

The French Embassy in Germany:

The mission of the French embassy in Germany is to represent the interests of France in Germany and to promote cultural, economic, and political cooperation between the two countries. It offers consular services to French citizens living in Germany and to German citizens wishing to travel to France. The embassy works closely with the German authorities and institutions to promote France's interests in Germany. It has several departments and services, including the political, economic, cultural, press and communication services. It also has a visa service which processes visa applications from German nationals wishing to travel to France.

In addition to its diplomatic and consular functions, the embassy plays an important role in promoting French culture in Germany. It regularly organizes cultural events such as concerts, art exhibitions and film screenings, and supports French artists and cultural organizations working in Germany.

Overall, the French Embassy in Berlin is an important institution that plays a crucial role in strengthening relations between France and Germany, and in promoting the values of French culture and diplomacy in Germany.

Focus on the Embassy's Regional Economic Service:

The Regional Economic Service (RES) of the French Embassy in Berlin is responsible for promoting economic and trade cooperation between France and Germany. It is attached to the Directorate General of the Treasury and the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty. Its geographical remit covers not only Germany, but also Switzerland and Austria.

The RES works closely with French companies wishing to set up in Germany or develop their activities there. It provides them with a range of services, such as market research, advice on regulations and taxes, and introductions to local partners and customers. The RES also works to attract German investment to France, promoting the country's strengths and economic potential to German investors.

In addition to its work with businesses, the RES also plays an important role in promoting economic and trade relations between France and Germany at regional and national level. It works with German government representatives and other stakeholders to identify areas of mutual interest and to develop initiatives and policies that can support economic growth and cooperation between the two countries.

The RES, headed by Claire THIRRIOT-KWANT, Minister-Counsellor for Economic Affairs, is made up of three sectoral divisions:

The Economy/Sustainable Development division:

The Economy/Sustainable division Unit works closely with French and German companies to develop economic and commercial projects that respect the principles of sustainable development. It encourages companies to adopt sustainable business practices, particularly in terms of managing natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the environment, and promoting corporate social responsibility.

The division also organizes events and meetings for French and German companies to encourage exchanges and partnerships in the field of sustainable development. It works with the German and French authorities to promote public policies that encourage sustainable development.

The Macroeconomics/Finance division:

The Macroeconomics/Finance division is responsible for monitoring the German economy and analyzing the country's economic and financial policies and their impact on French companies. The Division also provides information and analysis on economic and financial

developments in its geographical area of responsibility, as well as on the economic and financial policies of other European countries.

The Macroeconomics/Finance division works with French companies and the French authorities to identify economic and financial risks, as well as opportunities, for French companies in Germany and the region. It advises companies on regulations and market practices in Germany and helps them navigate the complexities of the German economic and financial system.

The Agricultural division:

The Agricultural division works closely with the German and French authorities, farming organizations, businesses, and research players to develop partnerships and joint projects in the agricultural sector. It also provides information and advice to French and German companies wishing to develop projects in this sector.

The agricultural division organizes events and meetings for players in the agricultural world, such as conferences, round tables, and seminars, to encourage exchanges and partnerships between France and Germany in the agricultural sector. It also helps to promote France as an investment destination in this sector.

Questions:

- How do you work with the German authorities to promote sustainable development and responsible economic practices in Germany?
- How do you assess the impact of sustainable development policies and initiatives, or digital innovations implemented in Germany?
- Can you give us some examples of sustainable development projects carried out in Germany?
- What are the most promising German industrial sectors for sustainable development?
- How are you helping German start-ups to set up and develop on the French market?
- How developed is Germany's digital industry? Do they have any strategy in place to develop this sector? Is France active in this sector? (Are there any French companies or projects underway?)

Sources:

- Regional Economic Service official website <https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Pays/DE>
- Embassy website <https://de.ambafrance.org>

Visit 5: Global Public Policy Institute

Topic: Overview of their work on economic aspects of stabilization policy (i.e., efforts to mitigate violent crises in locations such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo).



Speakers:

Jacob Hensing

Jakob Hensing is a researcher at the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) in Berlin, where he contributes to the institute's work on peace and security and the changing world order. His interests focus on the intersection of politics, security and economic issues, including the role of economic factors in violent crises and stabilization efforts, state-corporate relations in political orders, democratic and authoritarian and economic coercion in international politics.

After working at GPPi as a research associate in 2011, Jakob returned to the institute after a decade between management consulting and academia. His consulting experience includes more than five years working at McKinsey & Company and at Orphoz Public, the public sector arm of McKinsey in Germany. In addition to his client work, which focused on transformations of organizational and operating models in industries and on strategic and organizational aspects of digital government, Jakob won two major projects on the future of the European economy at McKinsey Global Institute (MGI). Prior to joining McKinsey, he completed a stint in the Civilian Crisis Prevention Unit of the German Federal Foreign Office and volunteered with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Damascus, Syria. He was also part of the founding team of “d|part”, a think tank on political participation.

Jakob obtained his doctorate at the University of Oxford, where his thesis focused on the politics of post-conflict economic reconstruction in Angola and Mozambique. He holds an MPhil in International Relations, also from Oxford, as well as an integrated Bachelor of Social Sciences from Jacobs University Bremen. Jakob's studies were supported by a scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation.

Anna Rachel Heckhausen

Anna Rachel Heckhausen is an intern at the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) in Berlin, where she contributes to the institute's work on peace and security. Anna is interested in the impact of political structures and democracy on security and stability, as well as psychological perspectives on the roots of conflict, mitigation, and reconciliation. Her research focuses on the impacts of polarization and populism on stability in Germany and the European Union.

Before joining GPPi, Anna worked as a junior project manager at Bertelsmann Stiftung, where she supported its project on democracy and participation in Europe. In this role, she researched innovative participation formats and digital democracy as well as organized events on challenges to democracy in countries such as France, the United States and Israel. Previously, she worked in public and private sector consulting with the Boston Consulting Group and Moysies & Partners. Beyond these positions, Anna co-founded Young Global Thinker, an international youth organization that organizes online conferences allowing participants to connect, exchange views and empower themselves to engage politically. .

Anna holds a Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a specialization in International Relations and Political Psychology from Maastricht University. During her undergraduate program, she spent a semester at Korea University in Seoul to explore non-Western perspectives on democracy and conflict in international contexts. Anna's studies were

supported by scholarships from the German University Scholarship Foundation and the Republic of Korea.

The institution:

The Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) is an independent, non-profit think tank based in Berlin since 2003. Its mission is to improve global governance through research, policy advice and debate.

The GPPi aspires to analyze global affairs through the lens of political relevance and academic excellence. Thus, the GPPi has established partnerships with leading universities and research institutes, while basing its research questions on the analytical and normative issues facing practitioners of global politics. This makes it possible to build bridges between academia and practice through effective communication.

Additionally, the GPPi offers policy advice to public sector clients, including the United Nations, European Commission, and national governments. The results generated by the various research works are compiled into actionable reports to inform opportunities for organizational change and learning. This work is based on a detailed understanding of the daily practice of diplomacy, development cooperation or humanitarian action.

With leading expertise, the GPPi nurtures public debate on key global policy issues, while continually feeding issues raised in global debates back into the research and advisory work of its members. In addition, GPPi works according to a dynamic of bringing people together to exchange ideas and develop common initiatives. Through debate and dialogue, the institution supports and brings together social and political entrepreneurs, to create strategic communities capable of establishing global leadership.

The GPPi has among its members non-resident fellows, who are scholars and professionals from different disciplines based in universities, international organizations, and foundations; some have even created their own organizations. These fellows work with the core team on individual projects and provide information, feedback, and contacts. Finally, the GPPi relies on the support and dedication of the circle of former GPPi. Many members are former colleagues who maintain close ties with the institute while pursuing their academic and professional careers.

Questions:

- How has the GPPi come to intervene on stabilization issues in the DRC?
- What was the context of the GPPi's intervention in the DRC, at what levels did it take place and what were the results?
- What lessons have you learned from this experience and how can the work carried out by the GPPi in the DRC be useful / applicable to other missions relating to stabilization or conflict mitigation in Africa or elsewhere in the world?

Sources:

- GPPi's website <https://gppi.net/about>

Visit 6: Deutsche Institute für Wirtschaftsforschung



Speakers:

Carsten Schröder, Head of the Division of Applied Panel Data Analyses | Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)

Charlotte Bartels, Research Associate of the German Socio-Economic Panel Study Research Infrastructure

The institution:

The German Institute for Economic Research, or Deutsche Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW), is an economic research institute based in Berlin. It was founded in 1925 and is one of the oldest economic research institutes in Europe. The DIW is an independent and non-partisan research center, conducting studies on a wide range of economic and social issues, including macroeconomics, economic policy, labor markets, environment, health, inequality, and poverty. DIW researchers work closely with universities and research institutes in Germany and around the world. The institute employs around 300 researchers and staff members who conduct research, publish academic papers, and provide policy advice to various stakeholders, such as policymakers, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, ... In addition to research, DIW Berlin also offers training programs, conferences, and seminars.

SOEP reports:

Besides, DIW also provides economic reports on a weekly or monthly basis. During our visit, they will present us with their SOEP papers. It is a series of working papers that report on the latest findings from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP), one of the largest and longest-running panel surveys in the world. The papers cover a wide range of economic and social topics, including labor market outcomes, household income and wealth, health, education, and social mobility.

During our visit, Patricia Axt will present us DIW and explain SOEP papers. She is part of the German socio-economic panel study research infrastructure (SOEP).

Most known publications:

"The Heterogeneous Effects of Pension Income on Consumption: Evidence from German Reunification" by Johannes Geyer and Viktor Steiner (2010). This paper examines the impact of pension income on consumption patterns following the reunification of Germany.

"Does Money Buy EU Citizenship? Evidence from a Legal Quasi-Experiment" by Felix Koenig, Alan Manning, and Jonas Jessen (2017) - This paper investigates the effects of a European Union policy that allowed wealthy investors to obtain citizenship in certain member states.

"The Intergenerational Transmission of Inequality: Maternal Disadvantage and Health at Birth" by Janet Currie and Hannes Schwandt (2013) - This study uses data from German birth records to examine the relationship between maternal health and child outcomes.

"The Economics of Artificial Intelligence: Implications for the Future of Work" by Georg Graetz and Guy Michaels (2018) - This paper explores the potential economic impacts of artificial intelligence on employment and productivity.

Questions:

- What kind of data and methods does DIW Berlin use in its research?
- How does DIW Berlin provide policy advice based on its research findings?
- What is the impact of DIW Berlin's research on economic policymaking in Germany and internationally?
- How does DIW Berlin collaborate with other research institutions and stakeholders?
- What are some of the current economic challenges and opportunities facing Germany and Europe, and how is DIW Berlin contributing to the policy debate on these issues?
- How does DIW Berlin ensure the quality and objectivity of its research and policy advice?
- What are some of the recent research findings and publications of DIW Berlin that have received widespread attention or recognition?
- What are the future plans and priorities of DIW Berlin in terms of its research and policy activities?

Sources:

Deutsche Institute für Wirtschaftsforschung <https://www.diw.de/deutsch>

Wiley Online Library <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>

Visit 7: Agora Energiewende

Topic: Presentation of the institution, followed by a discussion on Germany's position on the energy transition and the differences with France.



Speaker: Murielle Gagnebin, Senior Associate EU and French Energy Policy

Murielle works primarily on the French energy policy and German-French energy cooperation at Agora Energiewende, which she joined in 2018. Prior to joining Agora, she worked as a business development and public affairs manager (Europe and Asia) at a startup in Berlin in the field of electric mobility. She started her career as a global management trainee at GDF Suez (now Engie) in 2011 where she worked on numerous assignments in Berlin, Paris and Brussels including strategic projects on renewables and infrastructure or the group strategy on renewable energy. She speaks French, Japanese, English, and German fluently and Spanish proficiently.

Murielle holds a Master in Management from ESCP Business School and a Diploma in Economics and Finance from the University Paris Dauphine.

The institution:

Agora Energiewende is a think tank that develops evidence-based and politically viable strategies to advance the goal of climate neutrality in Germany, Europe, and the rest of the world. They inform policymakers, economists, researchers, and civil society while encouraging a productive exchange of ideas. Their policy proposals are practical and free of prior ideological commitments. They are a non-profit organization funded by foundations and public institutions and hence are beholden neither to business nor to politics.

Agora Energiewende develops robust policy proposals for decarbonizing the economy. In doing so, we rely on the targets set by the German government and the European Union and on research carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Since its founding in 2012, Agora Energiewende has become one of Europe's leading energy and climate policy think tanks. Over the years, they have developed many proposals and presented them to the public. They have also forged a growing network of partner organizations that perform similar functions in their own countries.

In addition to research, Agora Energiewende promotes dialogue and public relations in its capacity as a go-between for decision-makers, interest groups, researchers, and media. Their dedicated team, which is composed of over 150 members, provides answers to questions that are decisive for the clean-energy transition and a climate-neutral industry, be they economic, technological, or political.

Because no single institution can completely apprehend the complexity of the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, Agora Energiewende cultivates intensive discussions with the most important interest groups from politics, civil society, economics, and science. The key question guiding the discussions is which climate and energy policies can ensure a rapid transformation of the economy towards climate neutrality.

Questions:

- How have you approached the Ukrainian conflict in terms of energy dependence on gas?
- What solutions and what impact have they had on the German energy sector?
- What concrete steps can be taken to move away from coal in line with the objectives of carbon neutrality by 2030?
- How should this move away from coal be viewed in the light of the issue of long-term security of supply?

Source: Agora Energiewende website <https://www.agora-energiewende.de/en/>

Visit 8: Bundestag

The institution:

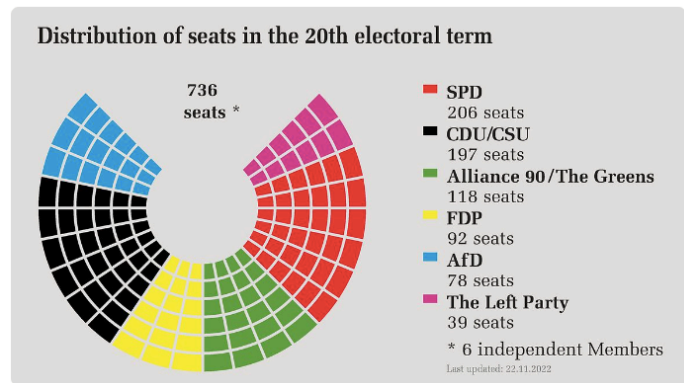
Located in the Reichstag Palace, a neoclassical building recognizable by its imposing dome, the Bundestag is Germany's parliamentary assembly.

Its main task is to pass laws and oversee the work of the government. The Bundestag also adopts the federal budget and elects the Federal Chancellor, now Olaf Scholz, on the recommendation of the Federal President.



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The Bundestag is elected by the people every four years and comprises 598 members. The 20th legislature of the Bundestag comprises 736 seats (598 MPs, 11 surplus mandates and 127 compensatory mandates). The seats are distributed among the various political parties as follows:



Source : <https://www.bundestag.de/fr>

Since 20 October 2021, Bärbel Bas, Member of Parliament and member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), has been President of the Bundestag.

Source: Bundestag official website - <https://www.bundestag.de/fr>