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MAECENATA FOUNDATION

MAECENATA INSTITUTE For Philanthropy and Civil Society



The **Maecenata Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society** was founded in 1997. Initially it was organised as a non-profit limited company. In 2010, it was integrated into the Maecenata Foundation. The Institute was affiliated with the Humboldt-University of Berlin from 2004 to 2013. Today it is a recognised independent research and policy centre. The institute's task is to promote knowledge about civil society (the so-called third sector), through academic research, teaching, and publications.

The Maecenata Institute operates from Berlin, Germany.

Key research areas include

- civil society and the state,
- civil society and civic engagement,
- civil society in other research contexts and in practice,
- civil society in international contexts,
- philanthropy and foundations.

The Institute values an **international outlook and international cooperation and networking**. It maintains close relationships with colleagues at home and abroad. Research activities are often carried out in cooperation with other institutions. The Institute actively supports and contributes to international research projects. It participates in joint projects and international cooperation and is heavily involved with specialist organisations and the like.

The Institute designs its own research proposals and applies for funding. It carries out research assignments, prepares studies, expert opinions and statements.

Research results developed in-house and elsewhere are discussed in public colloquia. Over 70 individual research projects have been carried out to date, resulting in over 350 publications. Examples of these include:

- The shrinking civic space in Europe
- Religious communities and civil society in Europe
- Civil society and refugees in German municipalities
- Interreligious dialogue and civil society
- Urban development, civic engagement and civil society
- Reforms for foundation and non-profit law
- Germany study of the project 'Civicus Civil Society Index'
- Germany study of the project 'Roles and Visions of Foundations in Europe'
- Germany and Austria as case studies in the project 'Philantropication through Privatisation'
- Donations in interdisciplinary perspectives'
- Private donations for culture in Germany

Full-time and voluntary academic staff, associated scientists and fellows, collegiates, academic and student assistants work on the projects.

Members of the Institute teach various courses related to the institute's focus at several universities in Germany. Beyond their responsibilities within academic institutions, they offer academic advice, give papers and supervise theses in Germany and internationally.

Since 2000 the Institute has included the **Research Collegium**, an interdisciplinary forum for learning and exchange for young academics from German-speaking countries. Members include, but are not limited to doctoral candidates in the fields of sociology, political science, European anthropology, history, business management, and geography.

The institute's publications include:

- the academic book series **Maecenata Schriften** published by De Gruyter, Berlin/Boston
<http://www.degruyter.com/view/serial/473309>
- the digital, fully quotable series **Opuscula** (*occasional papers* published by Maecenata) www.opuscula.maecenata.eu

The series are open to outsiders for their publications. Members of the Institute are also regularly published in books and journals at home and abroad.

The Institute is almost entirely funded by third-parties, e.g. donations and project-related grants from public and private grant making institutions, like the *Förderverein Zivilgesellschaftsforschung e.V.* (FVZF).

The Maecenata Institute belongs to the Maecenata Foundation, Munich, an independent think tank for civil society, civic engagement, philanthropy and foundations, which was established in 2010 and has incorporated all of Maecenata's activities since 2011. The Foundation also fulfils its statutory obligations through three other programmes:

- the programme Transnational Giving,
- the Tocqueville Forum,
- the MENA Study Centre.

The foundation also hosts the **Maecenata Library**, the largest specialist library for civil society, civic engagement, philanthropy and foundations in German-speaking countries. The library is open to the public.