

**A PORTRAIT OF
STIFTUNG MERCATOR
HISTORY, STRATEGY
AND THE WAY WE WORK**



**STIFTUNG
MERCATOR**



STIFTUNG MERCATOR – THE STORY OF ITS DEVELOPMENT AND ITS MILESTONES

HISTORY

Stiftung Mercator is named after Duisburg cartographer Gerhard Mercator and was founded by Duisburg entrepreneurial family Karl Schmidt in 1996. We are a foundation that funds academic study and strives for a society characterized by solidarity and equal opportunities. Our themes are Europe, integration, climate change and cultural education.

1996

Founding

Stiftung Mercator GmbH is entered in the commercial register. It is based in Essen.

Initial areas of focus

Initial areas of funding focus are innovations in higher education, commitment to children and young people, tolerance for international exchange and regional activities.



Photo: Simon Bierwald | Stiftung Mercator

2004

Nationwide activities

Since 2000, the foundation has provided funding for remedial tuition of children and young people of migrant background in Essen. As a result of this initiative, the Essen model was also introduced in Duisburg, Bielefeld and Cologne, and extended nationwide in 2004.



Photo: David Auserhofer | Stiftung Mercator

Mercator pupil grants

Since 1999, the foundation has awarded grants to pupils wishing to spend a year abroad. The foundation's activities in this area began with grants for Asia in cooperation with the American Field Service. Nowadays the foundation cooperates with several exchange organizations and awards grants for stays in China, Turkey and Germany.

1999

2010

DIVERSITY IS THE
NORM AT SCHOOLS,
TODAY AND
IN THE FUTURE.

Michael Becker-Mrotzek,
director of the Mercator Institute
for Literacy and Language Education

International climate protection

Stiftung Mercator launches its cooperation with ClimateWorks, a global network of foundations that promotes climate protection.

European Capital of Culture 2010

Essen is European Capital of Culture 2010 and Stiftung Mercator is its biggest private sponsor.

Strategic realignment

The founding family requests that the foundation grow over the next few years. The “Mercator 2013” strategy is approved, setting out concrete objectives in the thematic areas of integration, climate change and cultural education. Between 2007 and 2011, grants awarded by the foundation increase from 10 to 60 million euros, while its workforce grows from 13 to 55 employees.

First partner organization

Together with other foundations, Stiftung Mercator establishes its first partner organization, the Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration.

2008

WHAT GUIDES OUR ACTIVITIES

Ideas get our society moving. We inspire ideas, developing them and providing them with practical support. We create space for novel ideas and new approaches that can change our society for the better. In a diverse society, this works best when there is a balance between debate and compromise, vision and practical readiness, individual freedom and the pursuit of the common good. We are committed to equal rights and equal opportunities in life, and to social cohesion, respect, tolerance, open-mindedness and the protection of nature and the environment.



Photo: Yuri Arcurs | DigitalVision | Getty Images



Photo: Ralph Sondermann | Stiftung Mercator

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Stiftung Mercator is a private and independent foundation which highlights alternative courses of action to achieve its goals, and which strives for a society characterized by solidarity and equal opportunities.

In our work, we concentrate on strengthening Europe; increasing the educational success of children and young people, especially those of migrant origin; improving the quality and impact of cultural education; driving forward climate change mitigation and promoting science and the humanities.

Berlin

Stiftung Mercator opens its Mercator Centre Berlin. Eleven organizations and partners of Stiftung Mercator move into the building at Hackescher Markt.

Volume of grants increases

The annual volume of grants awarded by the foundation is now just under 60 million euros.

2011

2014

Beijing

The foundation's office in Beijing is officially registered as its representative in China, and plays a major role in the foundation's activities in China.

Europe

Alongside integration, climate change and cultural education, Europe is named one of the four thematic clusters in the "Mercator 2020" strategy.

Istanbul

The foundation has been funding projects in and with Turkey for ten years. In October it opens its office in Istanbul. The aim is to consolidate civil society collaboration between both countries with a view to making Europe capable of action.

New offices

The foundation moves into new offices at Huysseallee 40 in Essen. The new building underlines the foundation's commitment to Essen and the region. Its design and structure reflect the way Stiftung Mercator thinks and works – an approach characterized by openness, networking and future orientation.

2016



Photo: Adrienne Beshahan | Moment | Getty Images

2017

Brussels

With the slogan “Connecting Europe”, Stiftung Mercator launches its cooperation with the European Policy Centre in Brussels.

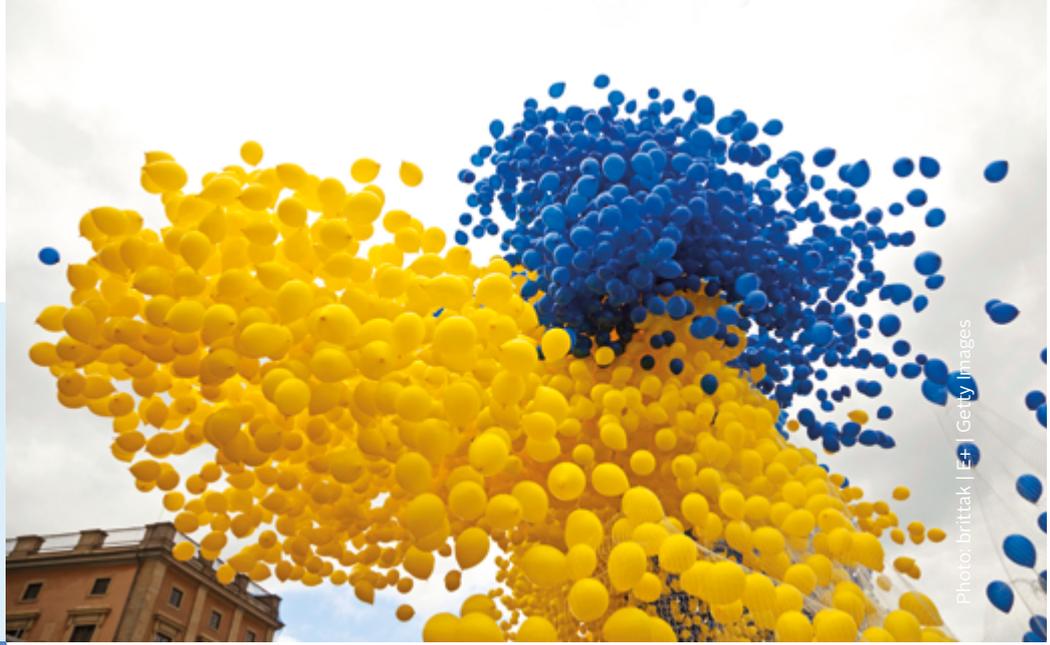


Photo: brittak | E+ | Getty Images



Photo: Friedhelm Krischer

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IS IN GERMANY'S OWN INTERESTS, AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL EUROPEAN PEOPLES. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR EUROPE – WITH OUR HEARTS, OUR MINDS, AND WITH THE NECESSARY RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER.

Helmut Schmidt

HOW WE WORK

As a foundation, we focus on combining academic expertise with practical project experience. We pursue our objectives by developing our own projects, supporting our partner organizations and project partners, and cooperating with institutions in Germany and abroad. Our activities do not pinpoint specific areas but aim rather to bring about systemic change.

The work of our foundation is based around three core divisions: Science and Humanities, Education, and International Affairs. The Commercial Affairs Division, Executive Board and Communication department perform cross-divisional functions. The foundation's Advisory Board decides whether to approve projects and funding requests which are presented to it by the Executive Board, and establishes the foundation's overall strategic orientation.



WE ARE COMMITTED TO A COHESIVE EUROPE THAT ACTS TOGETHER.



WE WANT TO ENABLE EQUAL PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHEN SOCIAL COHESION.



WE SUPPORT THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN GERMANY AND STRENGTHEN GLOBAL CLIMATE PROTECTION.



WE WANT TO INCREASE THE IMPORTANCE AND QUALITY OF CULTURAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR ALL CHILDREN.

OUR ORGANIZATION

As a foundation, we work with various partners in pursuing joint objectives and discovering new approaches. We team up with national and international networks and institutions with a view to achieving our goals. These include parliaments, ministries, local authorities, other foundations, universities, research institutes, NGOs, think tanks, partner organizations, schools and small-scale initiatives throughout Europe. We firmly believe in sharing thoughts and ideas with scientists, academics and experienced practitioners, which is why we launched the Mercator Fellowship Programme.

STIFTUNG MERCATOR: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

History

Founded in 1996 by Duisburg entrepreneurial family Karl Schmidt

Named after

Gerhard Mercator (1512–1594), cartographer and humanist

Annual grants awarded

around 60 million euros

Number of projects funded since establishment

1,284 projects (as per: 31.12.2016)

Staff

around 100

Offices

Essen, Berlin, Istanbul, Beijing

Areas of focus

Europe, integration, climate change and cultural education

Stiftung Mercator GmbH

Huyssenallee 40

45128 Essen, Germany

Phone +49 201 24522-0

Fax +49 201 24522-44

info@stiftung-mercator.de

www.stiftung-mercator.de

 facebook.com/StiftungMercator

 twitter.com/MercatorDE

 youtube.com/StiftungMercator

 flickr.com/stiftung_mercator