Centre for International Security Policy (CISP)

“CISP offers an intellectual environment for current and future decision-makers to debate security issues of global concern.”

Wolfgang Ischinger, Director
Centre for International Security Policy

The complex security challenges of the 21st century demand the broad engagement of researchers, educators, policymakers and the general public. The Centre for International Security Policy (CISP) at the Hertie School of Governance aims to advance our understanding of these issues, particularly in Germany and Europe.

CISP fills a gap

Teaching

CISP educates a new generation of German, European and global experts in international security policy.

CISP staff teaches courses on modern crisis diplomacy, international security, crisis and conflict management, peace operations, and related topics in the Master of International Affairs (MIA) and the Executive Master in Public Administration (EMPA). These programmes prepare outstanding students and young professionals for positions requiring a profound understanding of today’s global policy challenges in government, diplomacy and international organisations, as well as in the private and civil society sectors. Academic excellence and a strong practice-driven approach are the guiding principles.

Research

CISP provides much-needed expertise on the most pressing security issues of today and tomorrow.

The research conducted at CISP is based on a comprehensive understanding of security. While dealing explicitly with issues involving the threat or the use of military force, CISP also addresses a variety of other challenges, including cyber security, the protection of national infrastructure, the impact of climate change, ethnic conflicts, health and energy security. Germany and its role in the various international institutions dealing with security, most notably NATO and the European Union, but also the UN and the OSCE, are a key focal point for the centre. CISP researchers regularly publish their findings in academic journals and contribute to policy-oriented publications such as the Munich Security Report.

Outreach

CISP is a hub for academics, policymakers and other stakeholders to advance the increasingly important debate on security policy among experts and the wider public.

Besides teaching and research, CISP actively engages in both off-the-record and public formats, bringing together experts from academia, civil society, business and politics. It cooperates closely with the Munich Security Conference (MSC), the major global forum for discussing security policy. As an academic partner of the Munich Security Conference, CISP contributes to its events and publications with academic input and policy-relevant expertise. CISP draws on its location in Germany’s capital to contribute to the public debate of contemporary and future security challenges.
Director

CISP is directed by Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Professor of Security Policy and Diplomatic Practice at the Hertie School and Chairman of the Munich Security Conference.

Partners

Friede Springer Foundation

Friede Springer Foundation supports CISP by establishing an Assistant Professorship for International Affairs and Security.

MSC

Munich Security Conference

Practice partners

Management Academy of the Federal Defence Forces of Germany

German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi)

Wolfgang Ischinger
Professor for Security Policy and Diplomatic Practice, Hertie School, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference

“Despite the importance of international security policy, there remains a surprising dearth of opportunities for teaching, researching and learning about it at German universities. CISP offers precisely such an intellectual environment for current and future decision makers to debate these issues of global concern. By introducing a new focus on security policy, it satisfies the many calls for more academic interest and practice-oriented curricula in security affairs.”

Katrin Suder
State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Defense, Member of the Board of Trustees, Hertie School

“Security challenges are increasingly inter-twined with economic, social, and technological forces shaping our societies. At the Ministry of Defence, we work to disentangle and address these security and defense issues. This requires deep expertise in international security and a broad intellectual exchange between political decision makers, academics, and civil society. The CISP serves these objectives as it exposes young talent in international security to senior officials, and engages them all in debate.”

Norbert Röttgen
Member of German Parliament, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Board Member and Senior Fellow, Hertie School

“In a rare development, foreign and security policy topped the political agenda in Germany in 2016, as German foreign policy faced multiple crises on different fronts. The intense debate over these issues led to the recognition that we must actively engage in international crises.”

Friede Springer
Chairwoman of the Board, Friede Springer Foundation

“We find the broad and interlinking concept of security, which underlies the activities at the Hertie School very convincing. Topics like security and development, transatlantic relations and cyber security are highly relevant and urgently require partnership in the areas of research and teaching.”
About the Hertie School of Governance

The Hertie School of Governance is a private university based in Berlin, Germany, accredited by the state and by the German Science Council. Interdisciplinary and practice-oriented teaching, first-class research and an extensive international network distinguish the Hertie School and position it as an ambassador of good governance, characterised by public debate and engagement. The Hertie School was founded at the end of 2003 as a project of the Hertie Foundation, which remains its major partner.

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