

Dr. Georg Mildenberger



I studied philosophy and political science at the University of Tübingen. After completing my master's degree I worked for the Academy for Technology Assessment in Baden-Württemberg, where I acquired first hands-on experience in citizen participation and the design and management of research projects.

In a structured PhD program over three years at the Technical University of Darmstadt I completed my PhD thesis focusing on the subject of technological knowledge. This evoked my interest in ethics in science and technology and to a post at the International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences at the University of Tübingen, which I held for several years. Since

2007 I am working for the Centre for Social Investment (CSI) at the University of Heidelberg, starting off with developing its executive master's curriculum and moving on to work as a project manager and researcher. Since 2009, I am Head of Research at CSI. My responsibility lies in the strategic development of our research activities, the management of most of our research projects, the acquisition of new funding and the development of project proposals. I am currently heading two FP 7 projects on behalf of CSI as a project partner (TEPSIE, CRESSI) and act as the coordinator and team leader of the ITSSOIN project (supporting the scientific leader Helmut Anheier).

I have around 15 years of experience in inter- and transdisciplinary research and project management.

The Center For Civil Society Research at the University of Heidelberg, Germany

CSI is concerned with civil society from different perspectives. We do work at the macro level, collecting data on foundations and Third Sector organizations. In this context we have done work on the dimensions of the third sector in Germany (ZiViZ, TEPSIE) and are part of the EUFORI project.

Beyond the macro level, CSI's focus is on organizational research: issues of management, strategic development and impact measurement are topics the Centre has specialized in. We do research and work for foundations and third sector organizations through our consulting and teaching branches, which are closely intertwined with the research department. Our "Learning from Partners" project has examined the perceptions and experiences beneficiaries have towards their funders (here: foundations). The project is about to be reloaded and executed this autumn and attempts to become a perpetual initiative benefitting funders and grantees alike. We would be interested in expanding this project further and take it abroad.

At the micro level we do research on (large scale) donors and volunteers, two very different kinds of givers. Especially volunteer services are at the center of our recent investigations. With the currently ongoing examination of the German federal volunteer service as a starting point, we aim for a comparative analysis of volunteering services all over Europe.

ERNOP in the future

ERNOP is a great opportunity for broadening the scope of research of all its members. In all our research projects we become aware of a lack of data and common concepts to facilitate comparative work. Lots of efforts are being undertaken to improve the situation, but there is still a lot to be done. ERNOP could effectively use the experiences and results of EUFORI and in conjunction with the ICSEM project could contribute to the establishment of a European database of foundations and other third sector related work.