

## Call for Proposals for the Center for Advanced Practitioners 2018/19 I

Do you like to solve societal problems and issues? Do you have pioneering ideas that could contribute to solutions?

Would you like to bring about social change and engage other stakeholders to increase your project's impact?

Do you enjoy thinking and acting in a proactive entrepreneurial way, and do you like to work in a community of innovators?

We are looking for fellows in 2018/19 I who are pushing forward meaningful social changes in Germany and Europe with specific and innovative projects. We are awarding one-year fellowships that begin on 1 April 2018, and we invite you to apply for one at the Center for Advanced Practitioners in Berlin.

### Who are we?

The world in which we live is being shaped by social innovations that are happening everywhere where people are engaged socially and politically; they activate a diverse array of potentials and have future-oriented impacts in and for our society. We believe that creative, freethinking practitioners can make change happen in Germany and Europe with their projects.

The Center for Advanced Practitioners is a Think and Do Tank with transparent methods and processes. We identify real social problems and needs, develop pioneering projects, and work together with fellows to help shape the Center's work. We focus on practical implementation and active discussion, not just theory, and this allows us to take a step off of the beaten path.

### What fields are we involved in?

The non-profit Hertie Foundation is focusing its commitment to the future of our society in the field of "strengthening democracy." The Center for Advanced Practitioners is therefore following suit and renewing its dedication to this subject. Strengthening democracy and ensuring the societal cohesion of Europe are two ideas at the foundation of the Hertie Foundation's charter. Democracy is the basis for peace, freedom and security, and is a cornerstone of our society. We believe that democracy is the most appropriate way for a people to govern itself. Democracy expresses the hope, the conviction, that political order issues from the power of, and governance by, the people. The idea of democracy has a history that stretches back over 2,500 years. Democracy has never remained static, however, and has changed constantly over these 25 centuries, becoming unrecognizable in some cases and disappearing in others. We are looking back at a relative young form of political coexistence that has often come under pressure.

There are currently four fields of solutions for democracy:

- Mental challenges
- Institutional challenges
- Political challenges

- Technological challenges

All of these fields are interconnected, and there do not seem to be any easy answers to these challenges. We are interested, however, in points of reference and projects that can lead to a stronger democracy, greater political participation, and an increase in societal participation. These questions pertain above all to the Center's three major thematic fields:

*The future of democracy, particularly as related to the media*

*The future of education, especially in the context of disadvantaged social milieus*

*The future of societal cohesion, especially in the context of migration and integration*

### **Who and which projects can apply?**

We support applicants and projects that address questions such as the following:

In what ways can political participation be organized or designed so that politics can drive societal changes and strengthen democracy?

What must a modern and innovative educational system be like so that democratic values can be developed and strengthened, and societal cohesion can be promoted?

How can integration and migration serve as engines of democratic and political participation?

The program is open to individuals who have completed vocational education or a university degree (e.g., Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, State Examinations, Diplomas, Magister degrees, doctoral degrees, or similar) and to associations. We give selected applicants the opportunity to develop their own ideas – in the three thematic fields above, in very different degrees of maturity and a wide range of formats – and to implement them as practical, innovative projects. Center fellows will be agents of social change at the national, regional, local and international levels and will have a voice in relevant debates. They and their projects will help to shape German and European society and will drive social change forward. Ideally, the projects will result in exemplary groundbreaking "products" that create enormous sociopolitical change.

### **What does the Center offer?**

- One year of financial support in the form of a fellowship
- Financing for a project budget as well as developing a final project budget in the first two months of the fellowship
- Participation in regular workshops, continuing education and selected courses in the certified program in "Executive Education" at the Hertie School of Governance
- Access to the extensive, robust networks and expertise of the Center and the Hertie Foundation
- Active exchange with the fellows and employees of the Center; synergies within and across Center cohorts and the Foundation
- Consultation on content, methodology and other issues with the employees of the Center and the Hertie Foundation
- High-profile placement of projects and fellows by means of event series
- An interactive and exciting work environment and offices in the heart of Berlin.

### **How do our fellows contribute to the Center?**

The Center is a center of exchange, a place where fellows should actively contribute to bringing individual projects forward and to help shape the Center for Advanced Practitioners. Our fellows are therefore people who:

- Commit for one year of full-time work on their Center project
- Are willing to travel and participate regularly on the meetings of our fellows and at kickoff and mid-term workshops at our Berlin offices
- Present their project in a final workshop, including the submission of a final report
- Prepare entries for the Center blog, as well as two longer, high-level textual contributions to their subject field
- Enjoy working in a team-oriented, supportive way in the Center and with other projects
- Are involved in the Center's activities and help to shape its further development externally by means of special events
- Demonstrate readiness to work with us on public relations efforts at the Foundation
- Participate regularly in internal and external Foundation events, such as forums on specific topics and information sessions.

### **What is the application process?**

Application documents must be submitted electronically by October 31, 2017, in German or English, via the [online form](#) and as a single PDF document.

If you are applying as a registered association, please attach your organization's exemption certificate.

Since German is the language of business at the Center, and meetings and many workshops will be held in German, we advise that you have C1 level German skills. Good English skills in reading comprehension and speaking are also advantageous for participation in English-language workshops and events, as well as for the comprehension of English-language publications.

Our evaluation of your application will concentrate primarily on the project's societal relevance as well as its potential to create change. A jury will also evaluate the motivation of applicants, the potential for innovation, and the project's feasibility. We encourage applicants to incorporate existing Foundation initiatives and networks into their projects, and to develop strategies for further pioneering and institutional partnerships in Berlin and Frankfurt, as well as other locations.

You can find more information about the application process, as well as ongoing projects and contact persons at the Center, [online](#).

## Contact

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