



Elisabeth Epping

Exploring the Institutionalisation of Science Diplomacy

A Comparison of German and Swiss Science and Innovation Centres



Nomos



Institut für
Auslandsbeziehungen

Kultur und Außenpolitik

Edited by
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa)

Volume 2

Elisabeth Epping

Exploring the Institutionalisation of Science Diplomacy

A Comparison of German and Swiss Science
and Innovation Centres



Nomos



**Institut für
Auslandsbeziehungen**

Coverpicture: „Ausstellung Weltreise im ZKM“. Eine Besucherin des Zentrums für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM) in Karlsruhe (Baden-Württemberg) betrachtet am 23.10.2013 das Werk *Uqbar I* von der Künstlerin Corinne Wasmuth aus dem Jahr 2011. Photographie von Uli Deck.
© dpa.

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

ISBN 978-3-7560-0436-2 (Print)
978-3-7489-3798-2 (ePDF)

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-3-7560-0436-2 (Print)
978-3-7489-3798-2 (ePDF)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Epping, Elisabeth

Exploring the Institutionalisation of Science Diplomacy

A Comparison of German and Swiss Science and Innovation Centres

Elisabeth Epping

360 pp.

Includes bibliographic references.

ISBN 978-3-7560-0436-2 (Print)
978-3-7489-3798-2 (ePDF)

1st Edition 2023

© The Authors

Published by

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
Waldseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden
www.nomos.de

Production of the printed version:

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
Waldseestraße 3–5 | 76530 Baden-Baden

ISBN 978-3-7560-0436-2 (Print)
ISBN 978-3-7489-3798-2 (ePDF)

DOI <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748937982>



Online Version
Nomos eLibrary



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution – ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

To my parents, and to Jochen, Johann Anton and Hugo

Acknowledgements

The last five years have been an exciting and challenging journey for me. Now that this journey has come to an end, I would like to express my gratitude to the University of Luxembourg for funding this research project and to thank the many people who have accompanied and supported me along the way. First and foremost, I am extremely grateful to my supervisor, Prof. Dr Robert Harmsen. Early on in my research, he advised me that “*A PhD is a marathon, not a sprint*” and this has certainly proved to be true! Although this five-year marathon has sometimes felt like a steeplechase, I was always able to count on his continued guidance, support and encouragement. His advice, patience (despite two longer breaks during my research) and pragmatism have been indispensable. Additionally, I could not have undertaken this journey without the support of my *CET*, who generously provided their knowledge and expertise, and helped me to look at my research from new angles. I would particularly like to thank Prof. Dr Justin Powell for providing inspiration and advice on publication opportunities, and Dr Jennifer Dusdal for always having an open door. I also wish to extend special thanks to Prof. Dr David Howarth for his academic guidance and for the valuable points he raised in our discussions. Furthermore, I am indebted to my interview partners for taking the time to share their experiences with me and for their openness. It was a true pleasure meeting them, and this dissertation would have been far less insightful without them. Special thanks also go to Prof. Dr Lukas Graf and this team for hosting me at Hertie School and providing me with an excellent research stay and feedback opportunities, which were valuable to this dissertation. I am also grateful for the many peer-to-peer discussions and feedback sessions with the *Berlin Science Diplomacy Bubble*. I would also like to thank my dear colleagues at the University of Luxembourg, in particular Igor, Alexander, Martin, Anna-Lena and Sarah, who provided valuable feedback and were also great company. Finally, words cannot express how grateful I am for the encouragement and support of my friends and family. This dissertation project has been a great lesson in family support, and I could not have done it without you! I dedicate this thesis to my parents, and to Jochen, Johann Anton and Hugo. Now, let’s go out and enjoy the summer!

Steinfurt, May 2022

Elisabeth Epping

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| List of Figures | 17 |
| List of Tables | 19 |
| Abstract | 21 |
| Abbreviations | 23 |
| 1. Introduction | 25 |
| 1.1. Research Focus | 27 |
| 1.2. Research Design | 29 |
| 1.3. Research Structure | 32 |
| 2. Science Diplomacy Is en Vogue | 35 |
| 2.1. Science Diplomacy and the Obama Administration | 35 |
| 2.2. Definitions | 37 |
| 2.2.1. Conceptualisation by the Royal Society and AAAS | 37 |
| 2.2.2. Contemporary Understanding of Science Diplomacy | 40 |
| 2.2.3. The Long History of Science Diplomacy | 43 |
| 2.3. Science Diplomacy Actors | 44 |
| 2.4. Rationales for Countries to Engage in Science Diplomacy | 46 |
| 2.5. The Science Diplomacy Toolbox | 47 |
| 2.6. Challenges to Science Diplomacy Research | 49 |
| 2.7. Conclusion | 52 |
| 3. Science and Innovation Centres: Definitions and Concepts | 55 |
| 3.1. A New Instrument—Challenges in Researching SICs | 55 |
| 3.2. Defining SICs | 58 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| 3.3. Conceptualising and Comparing SICs | 60 |
| 3.3.1. Operating Countries (Sending Countries) | 60 |
| 3.3.2. Target Countries (Receiving Countries) | 62 |
| 3.3.3. Links to Diplomacy | 64 |
| 3.3.4. Core Activities and Key Stakeholders | 65 |
| 3.3.5. Governance Arrangements | 70 |
| 3.3.5.1. Organisational Set-Up | 70 |
| 3.3.5.2. Funding | 71 |
| 3.3.6. Demarcations to Similar Institutions | 72 |
| 3.4. Typologising SICs | 73 |
| 3.4.1. Service-Oriented SICs | 75 |
| 3.4.2. Representational SICs | 76 |
| 3.4.3. Policy-Led SICs | 78 |
| 3.4.4. Synthesis of the Typology | 79 |
| 3.5. Conclusion | 81 |
| 4. Towards a Conceptual Framework | 83 |
| 4.1. Policy Instruments: A Functional Understanding | 84 |
| 4.1.1. Definition | 84 |
| 4.1.2. Taxonomies | 85 |
| 4.1.3. Instruments and Policy Design | 88 |
| 4.2. A Renewed Focus on Policy Instruments | 90 |
| 4.2.1. Instruments as Institutions | 91 |
| 4.2.2. Instrumentation and Institutionalisation | 94 |
| 4.2.3. A Heuristic Framework | 96 |
| 4.2.3.1. Step 1: Analysing the Careers of SICs | 96 |
| 4.2.3.2. Step 2: Use of SICs by Actors | 97 |
| 4.3. Conceptualising Actor Rationales | 98 |
| 4.3.1. Creating and Sustaining SICs | 99 |
| 4.3.2. Rationales for Joining SICs | 100 |
| 4.4. Conclusion and Discussion | 104 |
| 5. Methodology | 107 |
| 5.1. Research Questions | 107 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 5.2. Research Design | 108 |
| 5.2.1. Typology Building | 109 |
| 5.2.2. Comparative Research | 110 |
| 5.2.3. Case Study Research | 111 |
| 5.2.4. Selection Criteria | 112 |
| 5.2.4.1. Similarities Between Germany and Switzerland | 113 |
| 5.2.4.2. Differences Between Germany and Switzerland | 114 |
| 5.3. Data Sources | 116 |
| 5.3.1. Interviews and Personal Communications | 118 |
| 5.3.2. Interview Sampling Method | 119 |
| 5.3.2.1. Exploratory Phase (Phase I) | 119 |
| 5.3.2.2. Consolidation Phase (Phase II) | 120 |
| 5.3.3. Interview Processing | 122 |
| 5.3.4. Documents | 122 |
| 5.4. Data Analysis (Multi-Method) | 123 |
| 5.4.1. Content Analysis | 124 |
| 5.4.2. Open Coding: Gioia Methodology | 125 |
| 5.5. Conclusion and Reflection | 127 |
| Case Study (I): Representational Model—The DWIH, Germany | 129 |
| 6. Description of the Current DWIH Network | 131 |
| 6.1. Principal Actors | 132 |
| 6.2. Hybrid and Nested Governance Structure | 134 |
| 6.2.1. Central Governance | 135 |
| 6.2.2. On-Site Governance | 136 |
| 6.3. Funding | 138 |
| 6.4. Political Embeddedness | 139 |
| 7. (Gradual) Institutionalisation of the DWIH | 141 |
| 7.1. Genesis of the DWIH | 141 |
| 7.1.1. Launch of the Initiative Außenwissenschaftspolitik | 141 |
| 7.1.2. Policy Entrepreneurs | 142 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| 7.1.3. Early Deliberations | 144 |
| 7.2. Struggles Over the Institutional Set-Up | 148 |
| 7.2.1. Ministerial Struggles Over Competence and Design | 148 |
| 7.2.2. Agreeing on a Model (Format, Themes and Goals) | 152 |
| 7.2.3. The Network | 154 |
| 7.2.4. Debates on the Governance Structure | 155 |
| 7.3. Critical Junctures in the Instrument's Development | 158 |
| 7.3.1. Closing the Cairo Office | 159 |
| 7.3.2. The DWIH Revisited: Reorganisation in Response to an Audit | 160 |
| 7.3.3. Expanding the Network | 162 |
| 7.4. Findings and Discussion | 164 |
| 8. Analysis of Actor Rationales for Participation (DWIH) | 167 |
| 8.1. Political Objectives | 167 |
| 8.1.1. Branding and Visibility | 168 |
| 8.1.2. Cooperation and Competition: Internationalisation | 170 |
| 8.1.3. Economic Considerations and Innovation | 170 |
| 8.1.4. Consolidating Science Diplomacy | 171 |
| 8.1.5. Discussion | 172 |
| 8.2. Key Stakeholder Rationales | 173 |
| 8.3. Strategic Considerations: Maximising Impact | 175 |
| 8.3.1. Increasing International Visibility | 176 |
| 8.3.2. Access to Resources | 177 |
| 8.3.3. Opportunities for Strategic (Re-)Positioning | 179 |
| 8.3.4. Thematic Fit and Synergies | 181 |
| 8.3.5. Precautionary Reasons | 183 |
| 8.4. Sense of Collectivity | 186 |
| 8.4.1. Support for the General Idea | 187 |
| 8.4.2. Maximising the Impact of the Wider (Science) Landscape | 190 |
| 8.4.3. Responsibility | 192 |
| 8.5. Systemic Aspects | 192 |
| 8.6. Limits to Participation | 194 |
| 8.6.1. Concerns about Visibility | 195 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 8.6.2. Cost-Benefit Considerations | 196 |
| 8.6.3. Different Priorities | 198 |
| 8.7. Findings and Discussion | 199 |
| 8.7.1. Interim Analysis of Case Study (I): Instrumentation Effects | 201 |
| 8.7.1.1. Aggregation Effects | 202 |
| 8.7.1.2. Representation Effects | 203 |
| 8.7.1.3. Appropriation Effects | 204 |
| Case Study (II): Service-Oriented Model—Swissnex, Switzerland | 207 |
| 9. Description of the Current Swissnex Network | 209 |
| 9.1. Principal Actors | 210 |
| 9.2. Governance Architecture | 212 |
| 9.3. Funding | 213 |
| 9.4. Contextualisation | 215 |
| 9.4.1. Bottom-Up Principle for Policy-making | 215 |
| 9.4.2. Demarcations to Similar Institutions | 216 |
| 10. (Gradual) Institutionalisation of Swissnex | 219 |
| 10.1. Genesis of Swissnex | 219 |
| 10.1.1. Societal Developments | 220 |
| 10.1.1.1. Globalisation and Internationalisation | 220 |
| 10.1.1.2. Brain Drain | 221 |
| 10.1.2. Political Momentum | 221 |
| 10.1.3. Policy Entrepreneurs | 222 |
| 10.1.3.1. Boston | 223 |
| 10.1.3.2. San Francisco | 225 |
| 10.1.4. Private Funding | 226 |
| 10.1.5. Anticipation of the Model | 227 |
| 10.1.5.1. Struggles With the FDFA | 228 |
| 10.1.5.2. Reception Among Other Actors | 229 |
| 10.2. Critical Junctures in the Instrument's Development | 230 |
| 10.2.1. Launch Phase (2000–2005): The Policy Entrepreneurs Era | 232 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| 10.2.2. Politically Initiated Expansion (2007–2014) | 233 |
| 10.2.2.1. The Swissnex Committee | 234 |
| 10.2.3. Consolidating the Network: Closure, Evaluation and New Formats | 235 |
| 10.2.3.1. Closing the Singapore Location | 235 |
| 10.2.3.2. Evaluation | 237 |
| 10.2.3.3. Outlook and New Formats | 238 |
| 10.2.4. Expansion and Reinvention | 239 |
| 10.3. Findings and Discussion | 241 |
| 11. Analysis of Actor Rationales for Participation (Swissnex) | 245 |
| 11.1. Political Objectives | 245 |
| 11.1.1. International Branding and Positioning | 246 |
| 11.1.2. Knowledge Transfer and Innovation | 246 |
| 11.1.3. Internationalisation Efforts | 247 |
| 11.1.4. Foreign Policy Goals | 247 |
| 11.1.5. Conclusions | 248 |
| 11.2. Key Stakeholder Rationales | 250 |
| 11.3. Strategic Considerations: Maximising Impact | 251 |
| 11.3.1. Access to Resources | 252 |
| 11.3.2. Thematic Fit and Synergies | 255 |
| 11.3.3. Precautionary Reasons | 257 |
| 11.4. Sense of Collectivity | 257 |
| 11.5. Systemic Aspects to Participation | 259 |
| 11.6. Limits to Participation | 259 |
| 11.6.1. Strategic Considerations | 260 |
| 11.6.2. Cost-Benefit Considerations | 261 |
| 11.6.3. Different Priorities | 263 |
| 11.7. Findings and Discussion | 264 |
| 11.7.1. Interim Analysis of Case Study (II): Instrumentation Effects | 268 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 12. Comparative Analysis and Discussion | 271 |
| 12.1. Institutionalisation Patterns | 272 |
| 12.1.1. Genesis: Patterns of Difference | 273 |
| 12.1.1.1. Temporality and Different (Initial) Objectives | 274 |
| 12.1.1.2. Timing: (Delayed) Policy Transfer | 274 |
| 12.1.1.3. Design Processes: Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down Logic | 275 |
| 12.1.1.4. Institutional Environment (Domestic and International) | 276 |
| 12.1.1.5. Ministerial Struggles | 278 |
| 12.1.1.6. Incremental vs. Simultaneous Opening of SICs | 278 |
| 12.1.1.7. Sub-Conclusion | 279 |
| 12.1.2. Evolution of the Instrument and Critical Junctures: Patterns of Alignment | 280 |
| 12.1.2.1. Increased Political Steering | 280 |
| 12.1.2.2. Audit Exercises | 281 |
| 12.1.2.3. Renewed Political Focus | 282 |
| 12.1.2.4. Stakeholder Support | 283 |
| 12.1.2.5. Sub-Conclusion: Comparing the Institutionalisation | 283 |
| 12.2. Actor Structures and Key Stakeholder Rationales | 286 |
| 12.2.1. Patterns of Difference: Actor Structures and Involvement | 287 |
| 12.2.2. Political Rationales | 288 |
| 12.2.3. Patterns of Sense-Making: Rationales for Participation | 288 |
| 12.2.4. Strategic Considerations | 290 |
| 12.2.5. Sense of Collectivity | 292 |
| 12.2.6. Systemic Aspects of Participation | 294 |
| 12.2.7. Limits to Participation | 295 |
| 12.2.8. Sub-Conclusion: Comparing Rationales for Participation | 296 |
| 12.3. Conclusion | 299 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| 13. Conclusion and Reflection | 301 |
| 13.1. Key Findings | 302 |
| 13.1.1. Characterisation of SICs (Sub-Question 1) | 303 |
| 13.1.2. Longitudinal Analysis of Two SICs (Sub-Question 2) | 304 |
| 13.1.3. Actor-Centred Perspective: Stakeholder Rationales (Sub-Question 3) | 305 |
| 13.2. Contributions to Scholarship | 306 |
| 13.3. Reflections on Science Diplomacy (Sub-Question 4) | 309 |
| 13.3.1. A New Focus on Science Diplomacy Instruments | 310 |
| 13.3.2. Science Diplomacy is National | 311 |
| 13.3.3. Science Diplomacy Actors | 313 |
| 13.3.4. Science Diplomacy Is Used by (Key) Stakeholders as a Platform to Convey Their Goals | 315 |
| 13.3.5. Science Diplomacy Creates a Sense of Collectivity (in Research Ecosystems) | 315 |
| 13.4. Reflections and Limitations | 316 |
| 13.5. Avenues for Further Research | 319 |
| 13.6. Conclusion | 322 |
| Appendix | 325 |
| 1. Data Sources: Case Study (I)—The DWIH, Germany | 325 |
| 1.1. Overview: Interviews and Personal Communication | 325 |
| 1.2. Overview: Documents (used in Section 8.1) | 327 |
| 2. Data Sources: Case Study (II)—Swissnex, Switzerland | 329 |
| 2.1. Overview: Interviews and Personal Communication | 329 |
| 2.2. Overview: Documents (used in Section 11.1) | 330 |
| References | 331 |

List of Figures

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----|
| Figure 1 | Service-Oriented SIC | 76 |
| Figure 2 | Representational SIC | 78 |
| Figure 3 | Policy-Led SIC | 79 |
| Figure 4 | Research Steps | 109 |
| Figure 5 | Analytical Framework | 124 |
| Figure 6 | Milestones in the Development of the DWIH | 163 |
| Figure 7 | Rationales for Actor Participation (DWIH) | 174 |
| Figure 8 | Actor Rationales: Maximising and Reinforcing Impact | 175 |
| Figure 9 | Actor Rationales: Sense of Collectivity | 187 |
| Figure 10 | Actor Rationales: Systemic Aspects | 193 |
| Figure 11 | Actor Rationales: Limits to Participation | 195 |
| Figure 12 | Milestones in the Development of Swissnex | 241 |
| Figure 13 | Rationales for Actor Participation (Swissnex) | 251 |
| Figure 14 | Actor Rationales: Maximising Impact | 252 |
| Figure 15 | Actor Rationales: Sense of Collectivity | 257 |
| Figure 16 | Actor Rationales: Systemic Aspects | 259 |
| Figure 17 | Actor Rationales: Limits to Participation | 260 |

List of Tables

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| Table 1 | Overview: Science and Innovation Centres (SICs) | 61 |
| Table 2 | Target Countries SICs | 63 |
| Table 3 | Dimensions for Comparison I: Tasks and Thematic Focus | 68 |
| Table 4 | SICs' Core Missions | 69 |
| Table 5 | Dimensions for Comparison II: Organisational Set-Up and Funding | 72 |
| Table 6 | Typology of Science and Innovation Centres | 74 |
| Table 7 | Rationales for Joining Meta-Organisations | 101 |
| Table 8 | Overview: Data Sources | 117 |
| Table 9 | Overview: Interview Sample | 121 |
| Table 10 | Organisational Structure: DWIH Network | 136 |
| Table 11 | DWIH Network: Initial Composition and Leadership Arrangements (until 2016) | 157 |
| Table 12 | Key Findings for the DWIH's Institutionalisation | 164 |
| Table 13 | Main Themes and Objectives Tied to the DWIH | 169 |
| Table 14 | Increasing International Visibility | 176 |
| Table 15 | Access to Resources | 178 |
| Table 16 | Opportunity for Strategic (Re-) Positioning | 179 |
| Table 17 | Thematic Fit and Synergies | 181 |
| Table 18 | Precautionary Reasons | 184 |
| Table 19 | Support for the General Idea | 188 |
| Table 20 | Maximising the Impact of the Wider (Science) Landscape | 191 |
| Table 21 | Responsibility | 192 |
| Table 22 | Systemic Aspects | 194 |

List of Tables

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| Table 23 | Concerns about Visibility | 196 |
| Table 24 | Cost-Benefit Considerations | 197 |
| Table 25 | Different Priorities | 198 |
| Table 26 | Overview: Rationales for Participation | 201 |
| Table 27 | Instrumentation Effects: DWIH, Germany | 202 |
| Table 28 | Organisational Structure: Swissnex | 213 |
| Table 29 | Evolution of the Swissnex Network | 231 |
| Table 30 | Key Findings for Swissnex's Institutionalisation | 242 |
| Table 31 | Core Themes and Objectives tied to Swissnex | 249 |
| Table 32 | Actor Rationales: Access to Resources | 253 |
| Table 33 | Thematic Fit and Synergies | 255 |
| Table 34 | Precautionary Reasons | 257 |
| Table 35 | Sense of Collectivity | 258 |
| Table 36 | Systemic Aspects | 259 |
| Table 37 | Strategic Considerations | 261 |
| Table 38 | Cost-Benefit Considerations | 262 |
| Table 39 | Different Priorities | 263 |
| Table 40 | Overview: Rationales for Participation | 265 |
| Table 41 | Instrumentation Effects: Swissnex, Switzerland | 269 |
| Table 42 | Comparison: Institutionalisation of DWIH and Swissnex | 273 |
| Table 43 | Comparing the Instrumentation | 286 |
| Table 44 | Comparison: Rationales for Participation | 290 |
| Table 45 | Alignment of Findings to Meta-Organisation Considerations | 298 |

Abstract

This thesis explains and investigates the development and the institutionalisation of *Science and Innovation Centres* (SICs) as being distinct instruments of science diplomacy. SICs are a unique and underexplored instrument in the science diplomacy toolbox, and they are increasingly being adopted by highly innovative countries. This study responds to a growing interest in the field. Science diplomacy is commonly understood as a distinct governmental approach that mobilises science for wider foreign policy goals, such as improving international relations. However, science diplomacy discourse is characterised by a weak empirical basis and driven by normative perspectives. This study responds to these shortcomings and aims to lift the smokescreen of science diplomacy by providing an insight into its governance, while also establishing a distinctly actor-centred perspective. In order to achieve this, two distinct SICs, Germany's *Deutsche Wissenschafts- und Innovationshäuser* (DWIH) and Switzerland's *Swissnex*, are closely analysed in an original comparative and longitudinal study. While SICs are just one instrument in the governmental toolbox for promoting international collaboration and competition, they are distinct due to their holistic set-up and their role as a nucleus for the wider research and innovation system they represent. Moreover, SICs appear to have the potential to create a significant impact, despite their limited financial resources.

This thesis adopts a historical development perspective to outline how these two SICs were designed as well as their gradual development and institutionalisation. The thesis further probes why actors participate in SICs by unpacking their differing rationales, developing a distinctly actor-centred perspective on science diplomacy. This study has been designed in an inductive and exploratory way to account for the novelty of the topic; the research findings are based on an analysis of 41 interviews and a substantial collection of documents. The study finds evidence that SICs developed as a response to wider societal trends, although these trends differed for the two case studies. Moreover, the development of SICs has been characterised by aspects such as timing, contingency and critical junctures. SICs are inextricably connected to their national contexts and mirror distinct system characteristics, such as governance arrangements or degree of actor involvement. These aspects were also seen as explaining

Abstract

the exact shape that SICs take. Furthermore, this study finds evidence of an appropriation of SICs by key actors, in line with their organisational interests. In the case of the DWIH, this impacted and even limited its (potential) design and ways of operating. However, the analysis of SICs' appropriation also revealed a distinct sense of collectivity, which developed among actors in the national research and innovation ecosystem due to this joint instrument. The research findings reaffirm that science diplomacy is clearly driven by national interests, while further highlighting that the notion of science diplomacy and its governance (actors, rationales and instruments) can only be fully understood by analysing the national context.

Abbreviations

| | |
|------|--|
| AA | Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office) |
| AAAS | American Association for the Advancement of Science |
| AiF | Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen (The German Federation of Industrial Research Associations) |
| AvH | Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) |
| AHK | Außenhandelskammer (Chamber of Industry and Commerce) |
| AKBP | Auswärtige Kultur- und Bildungspolitik (Cultural Relations and Education Policy) |
| AWP | Außenwissenschaftspolitik (Research and Academic Relations Policy) |
| BDI | Bundesverband der deutschen Industrie e.V. (The Federation of German Industries) |
| BFI | Bildung, Forschung und Innovation (Education, Research and Innovation) |
| BMBF | Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Federal Ministry for Education and Research) |
| BMWi | Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy) |
| BRH | Bundesrechnungshof (Federal Audit Office) |
| CDU | Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschland (Christian Democratic Party) |
| CERN | European Organization for Nuclear Research |
| CNRS | National Centre for Scientific Research |
| DAAD | Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service) |
| DFG | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) |
| DIHK | Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag e. V. (Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce) |
| DWIH | Deutsche Wissenschafts- und Innovationshäuser /Deutsches Wissenschafts- und Innovationshaus (German Centres for Research and Innovation) |
| EFK | Eidgenössische Finanzkontrolle (Swiss Federal Audit Office) |

Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|--|
| ETH | Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (Federal Institutes of Technology) |
| FDEA | Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Eidgenössisches Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten) |
| FhG | Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (Fraunhofer Association) |
| FIGF | Forschungs- und Innovationsförderungsgesetz (Swiss Research and Innovation Law) |
| HGF | Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft deutscher Forschungszentren (Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres) |
| HRK | Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (German Rectors' Conference) |
| ICDK | Innovation Centre Denmark |
| MPG | Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (Max Planck Society) |
| SERI | State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (Staatssekretariat für Bildung, Forschung und Innovation) |
| SESAME | Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East |
| SIC | Science and Innovation Centre |
| SIN | Science and Innovation Network |
| SNF | Schweizer Nationalfonds (Swiss National Science Foundation) |
| SPD | Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Social Democratic Party) |
| TNB | Transnationale Bildung (Transnational Education) |
| RPA | Rechnungsprüfungsausschuss (Budget Committee) |
| RPM | Resource Pooling Model |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| USA | United States of America |
| WR | Wissenschaftsrat (German Council of Science and Humanities) |