

Personal information

Surname(s) / First name(s)

Address

E-mail(s)

Nationality(-ies)

Date of birth

Gender

Merkel, Christine M.

63, Marsiliusstr., 50937 Cologne, Germany ,

cmm-koeln@web.de

German

27 July 1955, Erlangen (Germany)

Female

Summary of Qualifications

Over Twenty years of proven capacity in international cultural and public policy and strategy development. Effective designer and convenor of strategic multi-stakeholder policy dialogues.

Work experience in Europe, the MENA region, South Asia, Africa, Latin America. Specialisation in cultural policy and governance, democracy building and the prevention of violent conflict. Excellent multilingual communication skills. Seasoned public speaker at international conferences (English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Italian fluent. Mother tongue German. Basic knowledge of Arabic).

Work experience

Dates

Occupation or position held

Main activities and responsibilities

October 2001 to present / June 2007 to present

Head of Division for Culture, Communication, Memory of the World / German Contact Point for the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Advising German Government and Parliament on UNESCO-matters.

Serving as a Government expert to intergovernmental conferences at UN and European level, .e.g. Germany's IGC membership of the 2005 Convention (2007-2011, 2015-2019).

Focus on culture, sustainable development and conflict prevention, public service media and internet governance, democracy building and civil society, intangible and documentary heritage.

Regular co-operation with high-level Board of Advisers and Senior Government Officials, e.g. strategic planning process on international cultural relations 2020 of the German Federal Foreign Office (horizon 2030). Speaker at international conferences (e.g. May 2017, Jeju/Korea, UGCL Culture Summit, e.g. July 2018, Public hearing of European Parliament on the Cultural Agenda).

2018/2019 "Fair Trade for Culture" initiative, re-assessing the cultural value chain.

2018/2019 Member of delegation to the Internet Governance Forum and Freedom Online Coalition.

2018 and 2015, Author of the Public Service Media Chapter in UNESCO's 2005 Convention Global Report, Re/Shaping Cultural Policies, and member of its Editorial Board.

2012-2018 CONNEXIONS-Program in the MENA Region "Strengthening the Public Value of Culture", supported by the German German Federal Foreign Office and the European Union.

2016, 2012, responsible for drafting Germany's Quadrennial Periodic Reports under the 2005-Convention, liaising with seven line ministries on the national level and 16 State Level authorities; convening the Civil Society Consultations on the QPR.

2012 Author of four chapters in the Explanatory Notes on the 2005-UNESCO Convention, eds. Sabine von Schorlemer/Peter-Tobias Stoll, Springer.

2011-2018 member of UNESCO's Technical Expert facility on Cultural Governance, including training sessions on the Convention in 2011 and 2015.

2009-2011/2014 Capacity building program for young experts and world Forum "Cultural Diversity 2030" ("U40") in cultural policy and diversity, with fifty fellows from all UNESCO-regions.

2009-2010, Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Culture.

2007, "Cultural Diversity-Europe's Wealth. Bringing the UNESCO-Convention to Life". International conference in the context of the German EU Council Presidency, involving 500 experts from 60

countries and all UNESCO regions, conference curator and project director.
1994-2002 Head of Division for Education and life-long learning, German Commission for UNESCO. Focus on "Building learning societies" (co-operation UNESCO/World Bank at Expo 2000); Ongoing research and program development, fund-raising activities, extensive public speaking, Radio and TV-interviews (CONFITEA V, Hamburg/Germany, UNESCO's World Education Reports).

Name and address of employer	German Commission for UNESCO, Bonn, Germany
Type of business or sector	International Affairs / UN / public sector – third sector, non-profit association
Work experience	
Dates	1991-1994
Occupation or position held	Vice-President (1991-1992), subsequently Executive Director (1993-1994)
Main activities and responsibilities	Designing an innovative international capacity building programme for future leaders and senior staff from 150 Non-Governmental Organisations from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and North America. Pioneering an EU-funded civil society program in the Arab Region. Overall management responsibility for 30 international staff and 2 million US \$ budget. Co-operation with research institutes and the international donor community. Successfully organised a General Assembly with 150 participants from 56 countries.
Name and address of employer	International Study Centre El Taller (Work-Place), Tunis, Tunisia
Type of business or sector	International Civil Society Organisation, non-profit-organisation
Work experience	
Dates	1989-1993
Occupation or position held	Head of International Relations Desk
Main activities and responsibilities	Research on current international peace & security affairs. Policy advice on European integration to the international organisation (25 sections on 4 continents). Liaising with Dutch Government and Parliament. Successfully led a four-year East-West-South International dialogue program on democracy building and transformation for civil society leaders and young leaders, in co-operation with the Dutch Ministry for Development Co-operation and the European Union, documented in seven books. Focus on Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South-Africa and Latin America.
Name and address of employer	Pax Christi Netherlands, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Type of business or sector	International Human Rights Organisation, non-profit organisation
Work experience	
Dates	1985-1988
Occupation or position held	Senior Policy Advisor
Main activities and responsibilities	Research on current international affairs related to the agenda of the Parliamentary Committee for External Relations, Human Rights and International Security. Research, Analysis and drafting of documents. Convening of international expert conferences. Convened the first Israeli-Palestinian dialogue conference at the European Parliament (1988).
Name and address of employer	European Parliament, Rainbow Group, Brussels/Strasbourg
Type of business or sector	European Community / European Parliament
Expert missions	
Dates	2016-2017 to Morocco and Tunisia
Occupation or position held	Invited UNESCO Technical expert on cultural governance and creative economy, solicited by the Moroccan and Tunisian Ministries of Culture.
Main activities and responsibilities	Facilitating the drafting of the countries' First (Morocco) resp .Second (Tunisia) Quadrennial Periodic Report under the 2005-Convention, through public consultations, workshops with Senior Officials, culture professionals and civil society stakeholders, reporting back. In co-operation with a Second International UNESCO Expert (MOR, Jordi Balta Portolés (ESP); TUN, Octavio Kulesz (ARG)).
Name and address of employer	UNESCO/SIDA Project, Paris/Stockholm, Sweden

Type of business or sector	International expert mission
Expert missions	
Dates	January 1997 / July-August 1994
Occupation or position held	Invited expert on civil society and community development.
Main activities and responsibilities	Democracy Assessment Mission to Romania (1997) / Exploring community development and education programme options in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan (1994).
Name and address of employer	International IDEA, Stockholm/Sweden (1997) / Plan International, Regional Office South Asia, Colombo / Sri Lanka (1994)
Type of business or sector	International expert mission
Education and training	
Dates	June 1994
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate International Civilian Peace Keeping Training
Principal subjects/Occupational skills covered	Dealing with ethno-political conflict, civilian peace keeping, reporting of Human Rights Violations. Co-operation between the military, police and civil officers in International Peace Keeping Forces. Structures and Logistics in UN and OSCE; Negotiation skills.
Name and type of organisation	European Peace University/Institute of Peace Training, Stadtschlaining, Austria
Dates	1985
Title of qualification awarded	Higher Diploma in Psychology with distinction
Principal subjects/ skills covered	University studies in psychology, history, political sciences and sociology. Area of specialisation: modern history and international relations, social psychology.
Name and type of organisation	Albert-Ludwig-University, Freiburg, Germany
Personal skills and competences	
Mother tongue(s)	German
Other languages	English, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch fluent. Arabic basic.
Social skills and competences	Senior Executive; Strong motivator and leader of interdisciplinary teams of Senior Experts. Flexible problem solver, endurance; Excellent intercultural and negotiating skills. High level contact network around the globe.
Organisational skills and competences	Strong analytical skills, pro-active management by objectives. Used to working in a fast paced political environment.
Technical skills and competences	Excellent writing skills. Co-authored/-edited a total of eight books (details upon request). Some forty publications on cultural governance and sustainable development (details upon request).
Civil Society activities	2005 to present, Vice-President of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation, Denmark
Leadership roles in public affairs	1999 to present, Member, European Women in Management Development, Brussels 2001-2011, President of Jury, Berghof Youth Award for Culture of Conflict, Germany 1998 to 2009, Board of Directors, Berghof Foundation for Conflict Transformation, Berlin 1989 through 1992, Founding Member of Executive Board, Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Prague 1987-1993, Founding Co-Chair, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Cologne/Berlin
Computer skills and competences	MS Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook, Outlook Express, advanced Internet Research
Artistic skills	Bel Canto singing, extensive public performing in Germany, Austria and Switzerland
Hobbies	Marathon running, gardening
Driving licence(s)	I am a holder of a European drivers licence. Category B vehicle.
Additional information	Full list of publications available upon request. A family background of entrepreneurs and scholars