

Centre for Social Investment

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Through research, teaching, policy analysis and advisory services, the Heidelberg Centre for Social Investment (CSI) seeks to add to the knowledge and understanding of private action for public benefit. In particular, the CSI is interested in the types, roles and contributions of social investment, philanthropy, civil society and social economy institutions in Europe and other parts of the world.

The Centre's mission is realised through four major objectives that guide its activities, and against which it will chart its progress and accomplishments over time. These objectives are to:

- improve the theoretical and practical understanding of social investment, philanthropy, civil society and social economy institutions;
- inform policy-making relating to social investment and relevant institutions at local, regional, national and international levels;
- build managerial and governance capacity in the field of social investment, and foster leadership and organisational effectiveness; and
- monitor major developments affecting social investment in relation to markets and government institutions generally, and with reference to philanthropy and civil society institutions in particular.

Since the CSI combines excellent interdisciplinary research in the field of social investment with a wide range of practical experience in strategy and management of foundations and non-profit organisations, the Centre runs an advisory services department. It has the mission to make available the CSI knowledge of social investment to a wide range of customers in the non-profit, for-profit and governmental sectors. Services include social investment strategy development, measurement of social returns on investment and executive education for non-profit leaders.

Headed by Professor Helmut Anheier and Dr Volker Then, the Centre works as a European academic centre of excellence for the study and teaching of social investment. It was founded in July 2006 as a central academic institution of Heidelberg University, and employs a team of 30 as of 2009.