

Wilfried Gilge has been an Associate Fellow of the Center for Order and Governance in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia at the German Council on Foreign (DGAP) since 2018 where he worked as a program officer with a focus on Ukraine (2016-2018). The foreign and domestic policy of Ukraine and Russia as well as connectivity, restoration of international (sea) law, geopolitical and security policy issues in the wider Black Sea region belong to the central areas of his work. Other research focuses range from the history of Ukrainian nation building in the 19th and 20th century, the *holodomor* in Soviet Ukraine 1932/33, the politics of history and cultures of remembrance in late Soviet Ukraine and today's Ukraine to the analysis of Russia's identity politics, its politics of malign influence in the "near abroad" as well as geopolitical concepts in post-Soviet Russia. As a research associate at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe/GWZO (2001-2010), he coordinated relevant research projects on memory cultures, history politics, and state symbols, especially in Ukraine in the 20th and 21st centuries, but also in Russia and other states in East Central Europe, and has contributed several publications on these topics.

Wilfried Gilge has been a *Senior Adviser for Ukraine and the wider Black Sea region at the Integrated Response Hub for Ukraine at the Stabilisation Platform* since July 2023 until recently. From January 2021 to the end of June 2023, he worked as Senior Adviser Ukraine and Wider Black Sea region at the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) in Berlin. The focus of his work includes advising (in particular, the German Federal Foreign Office) and developing analyzes and recommendations for German policy on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and Russia's current war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as analyzing the regional contexts and origins of Russia's aggression, especially the Black Sea region. Proposals to support the defense of Ukraine, its future security (also in the regional context of the Black Sea region) and the survivability of the state and society in war are also among his important areas of work, as are analyzes and recommendations for support of key areas in the Ukrainian reform process (e.g. judicial reform, fight against corruption, decentralisation and local self-government) as part of Ukraine's EU accession process. Finally, the conceptual design of reconstruction has been another focus of Wilfried Gilge's work. As Senior Adviser for Ukraine, he was a member of the Federal Foreign Office's URC2024 Task Force and intensively involved in the conceptual preparation of the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC) in Berlin in June 2024.

Moreover, Wilfried Gilge was member of the Strategy Group "Key States" within the project "Strategies for the European Neighbourhood" of the Bertelsmann Foundation (2018-2021) where he analysed Russian policies in the EU's neighbourhood, especially Russia's policy of dominance and influence in the wider Black Sea region and towards Ukraine from the early 2000s to the eve of Russia's full-scale invasion in Ukraine. He belongs also to a circle of foreign experts regularly taking part in the different formats of the international "Crimean Platform" and its expert events on the Black Sea organized by Ukraine and its Western partners. Finally, together with colleagues from ZIF he initiated the Expert Dialogue on Wider Black Sea region which he has been moderating since 2021. In addition to the history of Eastern Europe, Wilfried Gilge – as a research associate at the Institute for Slavic Studies at the University of Leipzig – has studied the Sudeten German nationalist movement in the Bohemian lands and in the First Czechoslovak Republic, as well as the currents of anti-democratic thought and the radical right in Germany, the Weimar Republic and Austria.

Wilfried Gilge has also been a member of the steering committee of the Ukrainian-German NGO platform "Kyiv Dialogue" [Kiewer Gespräche], the largest German-Ukrainian civil society network in Germany and Ukraine, since its founding in 2005. In addition, he has been

an expert at the civil society network since 2019 “CivilM+”, which, among other things, has dealt with the origins and consequences of the war in Donbas instigated by Russia and – particularly in close cooperation with Ukrainian partners – supports the stabilization of Ukrainian civil society during the Russian war of aggression. After 2014, Wilfried Gilge participated in civil society observation missions in frontline areas of the Kyiv-controlled Donbas and has been deployed several times as an OSCE short-term election observer in Ukraine since 2002.

Wilfried Gilge spent his semester abroad (1994) on the peninsula of Crimea as part of his university studies in Eastern Europe’s and Ukraine’s history and politics and regularly conducted research stays and excursions to Crimea until the annexation of the peninsula in 2014. He researched and lived several years in Ukraine. He is fluent in Ukrainian and Russian and has completed the Polonicum at the University of Mainz for the study of Polish language

Publications (selection)

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Stefan Meister/Wilfried Gilge: After Ostpolitik. A New Russia and Eastern Policy Based on Lessons from the Past. DGAP Analysis No. 3, April 2023, 23 pp.
[<https://dgap.org/en/research/publications/after-ostpolitik>]

Wilfried Gilge: Russia’s Influence in the greater Black and Caspian Sea. In: Bernhard Bartsch/Christian-P. Hanelt/Wilfried Gilge/Christian Koch/ Miriam Kosmehl et. al.: Antagonisms in the EU’s neighbourhood. Geopolitical Ambitions in the Black Sea and Caspian Region, pp. 11-26 (=Strategies for the EU-Neighbourhood, 3),
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Jilge, Wilfried: Wer kontrolliert das Asowsche Meer? [Who controls the Asow Sea?]
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