



International Committee on Fundraising Organizations
The association of national charity monitoring agencies

DZI
Deutsches Zentralinstitut
für soziale Fragen

ICFO Annual General Meeting
Open Conference
Friday, 16th June 2017
10:00 to 16:30

CHANGING SPACES FOR CHARITIES
The Impact on Monitoring Agencies

Welcome
by Gerhard Timm, DZI Board

**Dear Martina Ziegerer as President of ICFO,
Dear Ladies and Sirs,**

**It is a great pleasure and honour for me to say “HERZLICH
WILLKOMMEN!” to all of you. A Heartly Welcome to you here to
Berlin and here to this ICFO and DZI Conference on the important
issue of “Changing Spaces for Charities”.**

**As Member of the Board of DZI, I indeed also forward to you warm
greetings from my fellow board colleagues and especially from
Ingrid Stahmer, the chairperson of our Board. She regrets not to be
able to join this conference because she had accepted to moderate
a workshop at the University of Münster which also takes place
today.**

When reading the list of participants of this conference I was impressed by the diversity of institutions and the high number of countries represented here. This indicates the importance that charities – and non-profit-organizations in general – have gained in most parts of the world. One of the consequences of this increasing importance of the non-profit-sector is that in more and more countries independent monitoring organizations – like DZI here in Germany – are going to be established, in order to raise public confidence in charities and to foster the quality and the effectiveness of their important activities.

Another consequence of the more and more important role of charitable and other non-profit-organizations in our societies is, that these organizations are increasingly facing suspicion, regulation or even hostile actions.

The impressive list of speakers and panelists to this conference of ICFO and DZI makes me confident that at the end of this meeting we will better understand where and which kind of changes have to be handled by charities, and also which kind of lessons-learned the independent monitoring agencies like DZI should draw from today's conference.

I wish all of you open and enriching discussions today, and that altogether we succeed in finding new ways and perspectives to stimulate and to communicate the charity and non-profit sector as an increasingly trustful and effective part of our societies.