

Hans-Heiner Kühne



Hans-Heiner Kühne is Professor of Criminal Law, European and International Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law and Criminology at the University of Trier, Germany.

After studying music at the Music Academy of Hannover and law in Berlin and Saarbrücken, he began his academic career in 1972 as an assistant professor for Penal Law and Criminology at Saarland University, where he got his doctorate and attained full professorship in 1978. In 1981, he became a judge at the District Court in Saarbrücken. Between 1987 and 1989, he was Dean of the law faculty of the former Trier (now Saarland) University. In 1991 he was appointed Vice-President of the same university, a post which he occupied until 1995. He was later standing visiting Professor at Westminster University in London (1999-2008). Since 2001 he has held a similar post at the Kültür University in Istanbul. He has honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Miskolc University (Hungary), Kültür University (Turkey) and Athens University (Greece).

His career outside academia has been equally remarkable. From 1975 to 1990, Professor Kühne participated in joint projects with the Japanese Ministry of Justice and the German Bundeskriminalamt, concentrating especially on organized crime and corruption. He currently lends his expertise to the Bundeskriminalamt in criminal and police law, as well as to several states and parliaments. At present he advises the state government of Rhenania-Palatinate in matters relating to criminal policy and European Commission affairs. He also chairs the Sino-German project "Deutsch-chinesischer Rechtsdialog- comparative moot court experiences" (German-Chinese dialogue on the rule of law) organized by the two respective Ministries of Justice. Further, he is part of the Taiwanese Bureau of Investigation of the Ministry of Justice, which fights corruption and money-laundering.

Besides his academic and professional life, Professor Kühne has participated in the examination and restructuring of legal systems. Between 1989 and 1998 he chaired various seminars for judges and administrative officials on behalf of the "International Foundation for Law and Economy" of former socialist states. From 1991 to 2001 he lent his expertise to the US Department of Justice (FBI) in their efforts to help former Soviet Republics develop new criminal law systems. Representing the European Commission, he participated in the drafting of a new prison law in Croatia in 1998. Finally, he was an expert at the World Bank, working on the development of a new criminal procedure law in Romania.