



Doris Knoblauch

Political Scientist (Diplom-Politologin)

Co-Coordinator Plastics

Coordinator Urban & Spatial Governance

Senior Fellow

Team

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[Research & Policy Analysis](#)

Topics

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Doris Knoblauch joined Ecologic Institute in January 2006 and works as a Senior Fellow and Coordinator for Urban & Spatial Governance, as well as Co-Coordinator for the topic "Plastics". Thematically, she focuses on plastics in the environment, green urban environments, local climate protection as well as evaluations and assessments. Her other interests include environmental policy in so-called developing countries, as well as environmental policy within development cooperation. Doris Knoblauch works in German and English and has good knowledge of Spanish and French.

Doris Knoblauch focuses on the following research questions: (1) what role does plastic play in the environment, (2) which sources contribute to plastic in the environment, (3) which sinks have an impact on plastic in the environment and how and (4) which solutions could help to reduce plastic in the environment. Furthermore, since 2008 Doris Knoblauch has contributed to Eurostat Monitoring – first for the European Sustainable Development Strategy and now for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She is part of the following projects:

[Plastic Pirates – German coast](#): In this project, school classes and youth groups search for plastic waste on the coasts and the river system of the Elbe – including its tributaries such as the Havel, Mulde or Saale. In doing so, they are making an important contribution to research. The collected research data is uploaded to a central web platform and then analyzed by scientists from the [Kiel Science Factory](#) and Ecologic Institute.

[International Cooperation to Restore and Connect Urban Environments in Latin America and Europe \(INTERLACE\)](#): As part of the 4-year EU project, Doris Knoblauch accompanies the city of Chemnitz in the development and implementation of policies to promote nature-based solutions in the city. She was also working on other projects focusing on nature-

based solutions, such as [CLEVER Cities](#).

[Capacity Development for Long-term Climate Neutrality Strategies in Towns and Cities \(Ready4NetZero\)](#): Ready4NetZero aims to support small- and medium-sized cities in Poland, Romania, Hungary and Croatia in the development and implementation of local strategies to reach climate neutrality. To do so, the project creates knowledge resources (written guidance) and provides training and capacity building activities (webinars, workshops, a study visit, an international conference) to equip municipal staff with capacities, knowledge, and networks to develop and implement local long-term climate strategies.

[Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) and the Europe 2020 Strategy](#): Doris Knoblauch is part of the team at Ecologic Institute monitoring the SDGs under the coordination of the Institute for Managing Sustainability. Thematically, she is responsible for SDG 17, "Partnerships for the goals".

Doris Knoblauch is an active member of the [Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty](#), an international network of diverse, independent scientific and technical experts seeking to contribute with summaries and interpretations of scientific knowledge to decision makers and the public involved in the negotiations towards a global agreement to end plastic pollution.

Since 2012, Doris Knoblauch has also worked intensively with cities and municipalities. Thereby, she has not only built up a network of different cities and municipalities as well as relevant actors, but also gathered a deep understanding of the functioning and needs of communities. In her work, she appreciates when science can be of practical use for communities and results are directly implemented to solving on-the-ground problems.

Furthermore, Doris Knoblauch is an experienced and passionate moderator. Within the last twelve years she has facilitated a variety of different events, including small working groups via larger international project meetings as well as stakeholder events to conferences.

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Between 2000 and 2005, Doris Knoblauch studied political science at the Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) and Heidelberg University (Germany), focusing on comparative policy analysis, regional policy analysis and political theory.

In 2009, Doris Knoblauch supported the [International Institute for Sustainable Development \(IISD\)](#) in Winnipeg (Canada). Furthermore, during the 2010 and 2011 summer terms, Doris Knoblauch taught a course entitled [Policy consultancy in intermediate organizations](#) at the Hochschule Bremen together with [Christiane Gerstetter](#). During the summer of 2012, she taught this course together with [Gesa Homann](#), during the winter term 2015/16 together with [Evelyn Lukat](#), during the winter term 2017/18 together with [Dr. Ulf Stein](#) and during the winter term 2020/21 together with [Linda Mederake](#). Doris Knoblauch is member of the [INKOTA network e.V.](#)

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Selected projects by Doris Knoblauch

Recent projects in the field of "plastics"

Plastic Pirates - German coast

Duration

Jun 2023 - May 2026

Funding

[Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#) (BMBF), Germany
[Projektträger Jülich, Forschungszentrum Jülich](#) (PtJ), Germany

Scientific Coordination of Research Projects on "Plastics in the Environment - Sources • Sinks • Solutions" (PlastikNet)

Duration

Sep 2017 - Jun 2023

Funding

[Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#) (BMBF), Germany

Plastic Pirates - Go Europe!

Duration

Apr 2020 - May 2023

Funding

[Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#) (BMBF), Germany

Recent projects related to cities

International Cooperation to Restore and Connect Urban Environments in Latin America and Europe (INTERLACE)

Duration

Sep 2020 - Feb 2025

Funding

European Commission, [Directorate-General Research & Innovation](#) (DG Research & Innovation), International

Capacity Development for Long-term Climate Neutrality Strategies in Towns and Cities (Ready4NetZero)

Duration

Nov 2022 - Apr 2025

Funding

[Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action](#) (BMWK), Germany

Selected publications by Doris Knoblauch

Selected publications in the field of plastics regulation

Knoblauch, D.; Mederake, L.; Stein, U. Developing Countries in the Lead—What Drives the Diffusion of Plastic Bag Policies? Sustainability 2018, 10, 1994.

Knoblauch, D.; Mederake, L. (2021): Government policies combatting plastic pollution, Current Opinion in Toxicology, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cotox.2021.10.003>.

Knoblauch, Doris; Schritt, Hannes (2020): Umweltproblem Plastikverpackung. Aufkommen in Deutschland und Auswirkungen auf die Umwelt. In: Kröger, Melanie; Pape, Jens; Wittwer, Alexandra (Hrsg.) (2020): Einfach weglassen? Ein wissenschaftliches Lesebuch zur Reduktion von Plastikverpackungen im Lebensmittelhandel. ISBN: 978-3-96238-243-8. Oekom Verlag, München.

Mederake, Linda; Knoblauch, Doris (2022): Global rules in a new global treaty: Asia's opportunity to end single-use plastic pollution. Published in July 2022 by WWF Philippines.

Simon, Nils et al. (2018): No More Plastics in the Ocean. Gaps in Global Plastic Governance and Options for a Legally Binding Agreement to Eliminate Marine Plastic Pollution. Draft report for WWF to support discussions at the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics. Berlin: adelphi.

Hinzmann, Mandy; Knoblauch, Doris; Mederake, Linda; Schritt, Hannes; Stein, Ulf (eds.) (2022): Key messages of the research focus "Plastics in the Environment".

Local climate policies

Knoblauch, D., Naumann, S., Mederake, L., Araujo Sosa, A. C. 2020: CLEVER Cities Policy Brief. Ecologic Institute, Berlin.

Mederake, Linda; Iwaszuk, Ewa; Knoblauch, Doris (2019): The evolving role of cities as non-state actors in the international climate regime. In: Abdullah, Hannah (Ed.) Cities in World Politics. Local responses to global challenges. Monografías CIDOB 75. Barcelona: CIDOB.

Iwaszuk, Ewa; Mederake, Linda; Knoblauch, Doris (2019): The Transformative Potential of Local Climate Change Strategies. In: Zevi, Tobia (Ed.) The Century of Global Cities. How Urbanisation is Changing the World and Shaping our Future. Milan: Italian Institute for International Political Studies.

Knoblauch et al. (2019). Multi-level policy framework for sustainable urban development and nature-based solutions -- Status quo, gaps and opportunities. Deliverable 1.2, CLEVER Cities, H2020 grant no. 776604.

Davis, M.; Abhold, K.; Mederake, L.; Knoblauch, D. (2018): Nature-based solutions in European and national policy frameworks. Deliverable 1.5, NATURVATION. Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement No 730243, European Commission, 50 pp.

Duwe et al. (2017) "Paris compatible" governance: long-term policy frameworks to drive transformational change. Ecologic Institute. Berlin.

Selected events by Doris Knoblauch

Conference: [Tackling Microplastics in the Environment](#)

Date

9 March 2023

Location

Brussels, Belgium

Conference: [Theme Day: Plastic in the Environment](#)

Date

6 May 2022

Location

Berlin, Germany

Summer School:[Plastics in the Environment - PhD-WinterSchool](#)

Date

10 - 14 February 2020

Location

Döllnsee-Schorfheide, Germany

Selected presentations by Doris Knoblauch

Lecture:[Plastics & The Environment - Responsibilities and Implications Between North and South](#)

Date

29 March 2023

Location

Speech:[Tackling Plastic Pollution - Introduction to Global Plastic Pollution and the Discussions at the International Level](#)

Date

2 December 2019

Location

Berlin, Germany

Lecture:[The Governance of Plastics](#)

Date

30 November 2018

Location

Ecologic Institute, Berlin, Germany

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