

## Recommendations:

Identify your sensitive know-how.

Set up binding security guidelines at your institute that will be communicated, enforced and updated.

Determine differentiated access rights.

When recruiting personnel, be careful with dubious unsolicited applications.

Scrutinise cases of conspicuous curiousness and unusual behaviour.

Raise your employees' awareness of the risks emanating from scientific espionage.

## Our offer

- We support you in raising awareness with lectures or within the framework of individual dialogues
- We provide assistance with questions and information regarding the protection of scientific know-how
- We conduct confidential investigations into suspected cases of espionage

**Please contact us!**



## Your points of contact

[www.verfassungsschutz.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.de)

[www.verfassungsschutz-bw.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz-bw.de)

[www.verfassungsschutz.bayern.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.bayern.de)

[www.verfassungsschutz-berlin.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz-berlin.de)

[www.verfassungsschutz-brandenburg.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz-brandenburg.de)

[www.verfassungsschutz.bremen.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.bremen.de)

[www.hamburg.de/verfassungsschutz](http://www.hamburg.de/verfassungsschutz)

[www.verfassungsschutz.hessen.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.hessen.de)

[www.verfassungsschutz-mv.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz-mv.de)

[www.verfassungsschutz.niedersachsen.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.niedersachsen.de)

[www.mik.nrw.de/verfassungsschutz](http://www.mik.nrw.de/verfassungsschutz)

[www.verfassungsschutz.rlp.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.rlp.de)

[www.saarland.de/verfassungsschutz.htm](http://www.saarland.de/verfassungsschutz.htm)

[www.verfassungsschutz.sachsen.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.sachsen.de)

[www.mi.sachsen-anhalt.de/verfassungsschutz](http://www.mi.sachsen-anhalt.de/verfassungsschutz)

[www.verfassungsschutz.schleswig-holstein.de](http://www.verfassungsschutz.schleswig-holstein.de)

[www.thueringen.de/de/verfassungsschutz](http://www.thueringen.de/de/verfassungsschutz)

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## Domestic intelligence service



**Federal Republic of Germany**



**Federal States**

**Scientific espionage**  
—  
**a danger for research  
and teaching**

## Scientific espionage

The innovations of German R&D institutes are a key pillar for the success of the German economy. At the same time, they are a coveted target of scientific and economic competitors, e.g. within the framework of global research co-operation.



But these innovations are not only the focus of competitors; they are also a target of foreign intelligence services.

For instance, staff members of universities or research institutes working in relevant areas are specifically recruited. The individuals concerned often are not aware of an intelligence service spying on them.

Another method is to infiltrate guest students and guest scientists into promising projects, in order to let them spy for their home countries. Sometimes, this is even a precondition for being allowed to study or to work abroad. The duty or honour to support one's own country leaves no space for any sense of wrongdoing.

Furthermore, the electronic processing of scientific results provides manifold opportunities for attack, such as e.g. hacking attacks against your internal networks, often with the help of emails to specifically selected recipients that include infected attached files.

## Project-related journeys abroad

Get comprehensive information on the legal situation and common practice in your host countries prior to your journey. Pay attention to import and export regulations possibly applying i.a. to data carriers and encryption software.

Only take necessary "expert knowledge" with you on a USB flash drive or a 'business laptop'. Do not thoughtlessly give your data carriers away during journeys abroad. A hotel room and a hotel safe are no secure places for your data. Avoid the exchange of sensitive information via the telephone, SMS or the Internet during your stay abroad. Sometimes, a segmentation and distribution of information to different communication channels/data carriers may provide a certain degree of protection.

In case of conspicuous contact attempts, a manipulation of devices, a loss of sensitive data, and other suspicious incidents, immediately contact the responsible persons of your institution. Evaluate journeys not only under subject-related aspects, but make your experiences available to your colleagues.



## Possible consequences of scientific espionage

- loss of your research results
- termination of the research assignment
- financial and/or economic loss
- cancellation of the scientific co-operation
- damage to your institute's image and reputation