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IAW guidelines for good scientific policy advice

The IAW's objectives are to apply the available knowledge and the research methods from the economic and social sciences on matters of the private and public economy. The institute develops scientifically sound fundamentals for economic policy making, it addresses problems of empirical economic research and it uses the appropriate techniques. Based on these objectives, the IAW advises public and private sponsors and clients.

The following guidelines set out the main characteristics of our policy advice and define standards for its quality.

1. Scientific Quality

Our results and recommendations are compiled on the basis of scientific standards. The applied methods comply with the latest state of scientific knowledge.

2. Transparency

Our working procedures and conclusions are comprehensible and verifiable. Every work step and result is thoroughly documented. As a general rule, the research results are publically accessible.

3. Independence

Our research and consultation practices are unbiased and do not depend on any preconceived views. The selection of data and methods as well as the presentation and interpretation of results are independent of personal and political interests, preconceptions and influences coming from the sponsor or client or from other parties.

4. Effectiveness

Our policy advice aims at delivering results and contents of our scientific research in a comprehensible manner. This ensures that conclusions and recommendations are transferred unambiguously and the policymaker or client is able to take appropriate actions. In general this requires empirical results being based on the latest and most relevant available data material.

5. Active consultation

In our policy advice we actively contribute important considerations on our own initiative. We furthermore sharpen the awareness of our clients, economic policy makers and the public for important future economic and societal issues.

6. Reliability

Adherence to schedules and confidentiality are guiding principles in our practices. During and upon completion, information about the project's contents and results are only conveyed to third parties with the client's consent.

7. Quality Assurance

The continuous documentation, frequent internal communication about project processes and contents, as well as the reflection of our own work assure the correctness of our results and the quality of our consultation services.