



Research Assessment

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Leibniz Strategy Forum

Research Assessment

- The Leibniz Strategy Forum on Research Assessment has the task of bringing together the various activities on the subject of scientific performance assessment in which Leibniz representatives within and outside the Leibniz Association are involved. It is also intended to serve as a platform for regular exchange with external experts and to **stimulate further development of the Leibniz evaluation and assessment procedures**.
- In 2024 and 2025, the members of the Leibniz Strategy Forum on Research Assessment will therefore **identify and prioritise fields of action** at the joint level and draw up **recommendations for implementation**. In doing so, the Leibniz procedures will be examined against the background of the signing of the agreement of the "Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment" (CoARA), which provides the basis for the initiated review and adaptation.

Source: <https://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/about-us/strategy-and-science-policy/strategy-forums>
The Strategy Forum also supports the Leibniz CoARA Action Plan, published here: <https://zenodo.org/records/13774320>

Transparency of Assessment

- Critical and fair assessment of research always provides an opportunity for further development and improvement, for researchers and organisations as well as for research projects.
- Against this background, **it is very important that there is complete transparency for the units being assessed with regard to those criteria that have not been sufficiently met.**
- This also includes comprehensible justifications on the part of the assessors. In addition, in order to make an informed decision based on these assessments, it is important to fully understand the reasons why assessors judge a criterion to be (not) sufficiently met.

Contextual Bias of Assessors

- The Strategy Forum discussed the topic of ‘contextual bias of assessors’ (cultural bias, unconscious bias) in great detail.
- Even though subjective factors can never be completely ruled out when humans evaluate research, this topic plays a very important role in the selection of suitable assessors that should not be underestimated.
- When selecting reviewers, the chairperson of the selection committee should be encouraged to **give due consideration to aspects of contextual bias in particular and to make best use of multiple perspectives or viewpoints** (heterogeneity of reviewers, appropriate diversity, balanced composition of the review panel).

Preparation of Assessors

- In general, the Strategy Forum suggests that the **preparation of the Review Board** members is an essential lever for further improving the quality of the evaluation.
- Importantly, the Review Board members need to be informed about the German research landscape, the specifics of the Research Association, the specifics of the institute (e.g. content orientation and the resulting permanent tasks).

For discussion: Technology Transfer and Open Science – Two Sides of the Same Coin?

CoARA: ...*“consider the diversity of contributions including diverse outputs beyond journal publications*”



For discussion: Technology Transfer and Open Science – Two Sides of the Same Coin? (i/iii)

Transfer in Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

Zusammen-
arbeit mit
der
Wirtschaft

Industrial Contract Research

- Non Disclosure Agreements
- Exclusivity of Results, often incl. IP

For discussion: Technology Transfer and Open Science – Two Sides of the Same Coin? (ii/iii)

Transfer in Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

Aus-
gründungen

Promoting Spin-Offs

- preferential treatment with regard to IP
- protecting crown jewel knowledge

For discussion: Technology Transfer and Open Science – Two Sides of the Same Coin? (iii/iii)

Transfer in Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

Geistiges
Eigentum

Patents can generate ROI for tax-funded research

- ...however, cooperation between research and industry can also be hindered if projects do not come to fruition due to superficial monetary interests from the research institution.
- Patents secure relevant properties, but information crucial to technical implementation can be deliberately withheld and NOT disclosed.

For discussion:

Sovereignty and Open Science – Compatible in Every Aspect?

*„Es wird eine wesentliche Aufgabe der nächsten Jahre sein,
unsere **Souveränität** durch Innovation zu **sichern**“*

Bundeskanzler Friedrich Merz: Acatech Festveranstaltung 14.10.25

*„Mit dieser Hightech-Agenda richten wir unsere Wirtschafts- und unsere Forschungspolitik umfassend neu aus. Wir richten sie aus auf **Wettbewerbsfähigkeit**, auf **Wertschöpfung** und eben auf **technologische Souveränität in unserem eigenen nationalen Interesse**.“*

Bundeskanzler Friedrich Merz:
Auftaktveranstaltung zur „Hightech Agenda Deutschland“ 29.10.2025

For discussion:

Sovereignty and Open Science – Compatible in Every Aspect?

- In engineering research fields, with a view to subsequent desired technology transfer, it may be problematic to make international publication and open access to research data prerequisites for funding, e.g. in DFG-funded basic research.
- This is all the more relevant given that, by definition, new knowledge generated in these research fields is also capable of dual use.
- These aspects should be taken into account both when implementing open science principles and when assessing and promoting research.

**Vielen Dank für Ihre
Aufmerksamkeit.**



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