

DIW Berlin  
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**DIW** Berlin



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Dear Readers,

We are pleased to send you the DIW-Newsletter, which contains up-to-date information on activities at DIW Berlin, news about staff members, events, employment opportunities, press coverage and much more. Here is a selection of some of the topics featuring this current issue:

The Board of Trustees of DIW Berlin interprets the positive evaluation report conducted by the Leibniz Association about DIW Berlin's activities as a clear backing of the Institute's policy to practice excellent research as well as offering high-quality advice and services. The Board of Trustees endorsed this policy and congratulated the Institute for its achievements.

We would like to offer to our readers the opportunity to get to know DIW Berlin's new online publication. Therefore, you now have the possibility to download and read for free the pdf-version of DIW Berlin's Weekly Report about the situation of the global and the German economy in spring 2005. For the first time, you can also download the full-text version of DIW Berlin's Quarterly Journal of Economic Research at our online shop.

Our next Newsletter will be out at the end of September. We would like to wish our readers a pleasant summertime.

With kind regards,

Sabrina Ortmann ([sortmann@diw.de](mailto:sortmann@diw.de))

**Service Department Information and Organization**

This newsletter is available free of charge by e-mail. Subscriptions may be **cancelled** easily and at any time.



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## News from DIW Berlin

### Board of Trustees Endorses DIW Berlin's Policy

In its session last May, DIW Berlin's Board of Trustees discussed the positive evaluation of the Institute by a study of the Leibniz Association. This was a clear sign of support for the Institute's policy to practice excellent research as well as offering high-quality advice and services, the Board issued in a statement. It also endorsed DIW Berlin's agenda and congratulated the Institute for its achievements.

The Institute's stance outlined by Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann (President of DIW Berlin) after the evaluation study's presentation can be downloaded as a pdf file on the Internet (in German only):

[http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/2005/050523\\_diw\\_berlin\\_standpunktbestimmung.pdf](http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/2005/050523_diw_berlin_standpunktbestimmung.pdf)



### Annual General Meeting of the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin with an Innovative Event

At this year's General Meeting at the dbb-forum on Berlin's Friedrichstrasse which took place on May 11, 2005, the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin (VdF) experienced an innovative event: a keynote address on policy and economic issues, given by DIW Berlin's President Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, will from now on be an integral part of the coming annual meetings. He inaugurated the new series talking about the topic "Demographic Change Requires Reforms in Education and Life-long Learning". In addition, Klaus F. Zimmermann's address was published on the same day as a **Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin (No. 19/2005)**. At the beginning of the VdF General Meeting the overall situation of the Society and the Institute was on the agenda. Klaus F. Zimmermann informed the members about the activities of DIW Berlin in 2004. According to an evaluation study worked out by the Leibniz Association in October 2004, the development of the Institute has shown a positive picture.



Dr. Kurt Demmer, IBK Deutsche Industriebank AG, Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, DIW Berlin, Dr. Alexander von Tippelskirch, IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG, Dr. Thomas Hertz, Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Berlin

Further information:

<http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/vdf/veranstaltungen/mitgliederversammlung/>



### **Awards for the Best Publications**

Award of the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin (VdF)

On the occasion of its general meeting of May 11, 2005 the Society of Friends awarded prizes for the best Wochenbericht, the best economic paper as well as for the best publications based on longitudinal data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP).

The Prize Winners of 2005:

Award for the best Wochenbericht: Prof. Dr. Bernd Goerzig, Dr. Martin Gornig and Prof. Dr. Axel Werwatz, Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 44/2004 "Ostdeutschland: Strukturelle Niedriglohnregion?".

Award for the best economic paper: Dr. Manfred Horn "OPEC's optimal crude oil price", Energy Policy 32 (2004).

Further information :

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/vdf/vdf\\_preis/preistraeger.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/vdf/vdf_preis/preistraeger.html)

The prize for the best publications based on SOEP-data is threefold and honors the very best scientific publication, the best scientific publication by a junior researcher (not older than 35 years) and the best policy paper (including papers in popular media and papers written by journalists).

Further information about the SOEP Award:

<http://www.diw.de/english/sop/soepawards/soepprize/index.jsp>



### **DIW Berlin offers free copy of Weekly Report**

DIW Berlin is pleased to offer you a free copy of its latest Weekly Report on „The World Economy and the German Economy in the Spring of 2005“. We wish to provide you with the possibility to get to know an edition of this new online-publication free of charge. The Weekly Report contains selected articles in English

from the well introduced DIW Berlin publication Wochenbericht. As the German edition, the Weekly Report reports concisely and clearly on the findings of current economic research.



Order your free copy:

[http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/weeklyreport/wr\\_testen.jsp](http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/weeklyreport/wr_testen.jsp)



## Personnel



At the annual meeting of the Association of German Economic Research Institutes (ARGE) on April 14, 2005, **Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann**, President of DIW Berlin and Director of the Research Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, was elected director. Klaus F. Zimmermann succeeds Prof. Dr. Thomas Straubhaar, who was not available for this office anymore.

Further information:

<http://www.diw.de/programme/jsp/presse.jsp?pcode=391&language=en>



During its session last May, the Board of Trustees of DIW Berlin confirmed the appointment of **Prof. Dr. Alfred Steinherr** as Head of the Institute's Department of Macro Analysis and Forecasting. Alfred Steinherr has already headed this Department provisionally since January 1st.



In April, **Dr. Hans-Joachim Ziesing**, Senior Executive of the Department of Energy, Transportation, Environment has been awarded the medal "Verdienstkreuz am Bande", the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, by the German

Federal President (Bundespraesident) for his extraordinary merit as a scientist and advisor in energy policy.

Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050428\\_ziesing.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050428_ziesing.html)



On June 15, 2005, **Dr. Herbert Bruecker**, Research Associate at DIW Berlin, obtained his habilitation from Technische Universitaet Berlin's Faculty of Economics and Management. His postdoctoral thesis "European Migration: Causes and Consequences" deals with the determinants of migration in Europe and its effects on wages and the workforce.

Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050617\\_bruecker\\_habil.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050617_bruecker_habil.html)



Also on June 15, 2005, **Dr. Markus Pannenberg** obtained his habilitation from Technische Universitaet Berlin's Faculty of Economics and Management. Until March of this year, Markus Pannenberg was a collaborator at the SOEP, now he is a Research Professor at DIW Berlin. Markus Pannenberg's habilitation lecture titled "Negotiations in the twilight zone of law" analyzes compensation payments to dismissed personnel.

Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050617\\_bruecker\\_habil.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050617_bruecker_habil.html)



**Dr. Juergen Schupp** has accepted an invitation to take on a fellowship at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst. While holding this position, he will be completing his project „About Measuring and Analyzing Trust, Fairness and Reciprocity“. Juergen Schupp is a survey manager and Deputy Director of the Socio-Economic Panel's (SOEP) longitudinal study at DIW Berlin.



**Prof. Dr. Claudia Kemfert**, in co-operation with Oldenburg University, will be heading a research project of the Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg (HWK) titled

“Foundations, Rationales and Representation of Human Economic Behaviour in Ecological Economics”; participants will include Research Professor Truong Truong of DIW Berlin’s Department for Energy, Transportation and Environment, as well as three other international scientists. The HWK project starts at the beginning of August and lasts through the end of November; it will be completed by a closing workshop.



**Dr. Rolf Ketzler** has worked as a Personal Advisor in the Office of the President of DIW Berlin since April 2005. In his doctoral thesis concluded in February at the Freie Universitaet Berlin, Rolf Ketzler gave insight into the “Emission of Convertible Securities”. During his studies, he had been lecturing at the Business Academy in Poznan (Poland) and at the Touro-College Berlin.



Since April 1st, **Dr. Mechthild Schrooten**, Department of International Economics at DIW Berlin, holds a position as an Associate Professor at the Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo. During her one year stay, she is working at the Institute for Economic Research (IER). The IER at the Hitotsubashi University is well known for excellent research in economics. Mechthild Schrooten’s fields of interest are the European Integration and Globalization, EU Enlargement, Macroeconomic Aspects of International and European Financial Integration and Financial Development.

### **New Research Professors**



As of Mai 1, 2005, **Prof. Dr. Frieder R. Lang** of the Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and **Prof. Dr. Markus Pannenberg** of the Fachhochschule Bielefeld (university of applied sciences) have been appointed Research Professors at DIW Berlin for a duration of three years by Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, President of the Institute.

### **New Research Affiliate**



Also as of Mai 1, 2005, **Dr. John Haisken-DeNew** of the Rheinisch-Westfaelisches Institut fuer Wirtschaftsforschung in Essen, has been appointed Research Affiliate at DIW Berlin by Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, President of the Institute.

Further research co-operations of DIW Berlin:

<http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/kooperationen/index.html>



## Publications

### **Current Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 25/2005**

Is Eastern Germany Catching Up? Recent Developments of Public Investments in Eastern and Western Germany

Not least owing to DIW Berlin calculations on government capital investments, Eastern Germany's Federal States (Laender) were allocated around 80 bn Euros of government funds through the program "Solidarpakt II" in order for these to catch up with infrastructure deficits. Within the framework of these calculations, investment expenditures of the Laender and municipalities were estimated for the years 1998 to 2004. The current issue of DIW Berlin's Wochenbericht No. 25/2005 provides a comparison between these estimations and how public investments really evolved, stating that a considerably smaller amount of money had been invested than originally predicted. Investment expenditures have not gone up annually by 4 per cent (as was predicted) but shrunk by 3 per cent.



Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 25/2005 (in German only):

<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/wochenberichte/aktuell/>



### **Weekly Report Nr. 18/2005**

The Eastern Enlargement of the EU - An Initial Assessment: Growing Imports to the New Member States from the Euro Zone.

Timo Baas and Mechthild Schrooten.



Previously released Weekly Reports:

<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/weeklyreport/aktuell/>



## **Quarterly Journal of Economic Research 1/2005** “European Regional Policy”

DIW Berlin's current Quarterly Journal of Economic Research No. 1/2005 engages in the discussion about the new challenges of EU regional policy. Within this context, the issues of legitimization and the basic decision between growth or balancing out of regional disparities are raised – especially by the scientific community. But also a practical approach is taken by asking for an efficient continuation of funding concepts and instruments.

For the first time, the Quarterly Journal of Economic Research is available at DIW Berlin's online shop as a full-text version. The Journal can be purchased as a complete issue, or you may choose your favorite articles.



Quarterly Journal of Economic Research:

[www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/vierteljahrshefte/](http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/vierteljahrshefte/)



## **New Publication List „European Regional Policy”**

At our website you can find numerous publication lists, which provide you with a selection of articles of DIW Berlin's economists about current economic policy issues.

- Publication list „European Regional Policy“ (Publication years 2002-2005):  
[http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/service/themenlisten/medienliste\\_regionalpolitik.html](http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/service/themenlisten/medienliste_regionalpolitik.html)
- All available lists:  
<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/service/themenlisten/>



## **Germany's Banking Sector in a Time of Upheaval**

## DIW Berlin Presents a New Book about Perspectives of the Three-Pillar System

The German three-pillar system that has developed over the last few decades consisting of banks governed by public law, co-operative and private banks is now facing important changes: As of mid 2005, regulatory provisions concerning government liabilities for banks under public law are being abolished or modified. The book "Deutschlands Bankensektor" (Germany's Banking Sector), published by the Nomos-Verlag offers ideas of how a new start could be accompanied by politics.



Hella Engerer/Mechthild Schrooten  
Deutschlands Bankensektor: Perspektiven des Dreisäulensystems  
Baden-Baden 2005  
ISBN 3-8329-1259-2  
20 €

Further information (in German only):

[http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/buch\\_praesentation\\_20050404.html](http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/buch_praesentation_20050404.html)



### Data Documentation No. 1

The series Data Documentation presents data, metadata and databases which are compiled by DIW Berlin researchers in all areas of social and economic sciences. Together with the Event Documentation and Research Notes, this new series has replaced the former Research Notes of DIW Berlin since September 2004. Earlier editions remain available on the internet.

No. 1

Documentation of Sample Sizes and Panel Attrition in the German Socio Economic Panel (SOEP) 1984 - 2003. Martin Spieß and Martin Kroh.

Current issue:

<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/datadoc/jahrgang04/index.jsp>



### New Discussion Papers of DIW Berlin

The discussion papers are published sporadically. The papers contain results of economic research shortly before their publication. Opinions expressed in these papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect views of the Institute.

No. 498

Forecast Errors and the Macroeconomy - a Non-Linear Relationship?  
Fritsche, Ulrich; Doepke, Joerg

No. 497

Manufacturing Exports, Mining Exports and Growth: Cointegration and Causality Analysis for Chile (1960 - 2001).  
Siliverstovs, Boriss; Herzer, Dierk

No. 496  
Tariffs and Firm-Level Heterogeneous Fixed Export Costs.  
Jorgensen, Jan G.; Schroeder, Philipp J. H.

No. 495  
Why IT Matters: An Empirical Study of E-Business Usage, Innovation, and Firm Performance.  
Koellinger, Philipp

No. 494  
Forecasting the Turns of German Business Cycle: Dynamic Bi-Factor Model with Markov Switching.  
Kholodilin, Konstantin A.

No. 493  
Scale-Free Networks in International Trade.  
Baskaran, Thushyanthan; Brueck, Tilman

No. 492  
Measuring and Explaining the Increase of Travel Distance: A Multilevel Analysis Using Repeated Cross Sectional Travel Surveys.  
Lipps, Oliver; Kunert, Uwe

No. 491  
Surveying the Left-Right Dimension: The Choice of a Response Format.  
Kroh, Martin

No. 490  
Patterns of Consent: Evidence from a General Household Survey.  
Jenkins, Stephen P.; Cappellari, Lorenzo; Lynn, Peter; Jaeckle, Annette; Sala, Emanuela

No. 489  
Linking Household Survey and Administrative Record Data: What Should the Matching Variables Be?  
Jenkins, Stephen P.; Lynn, Peter; Jaeckle, Annette; Sala, Emanuela

No. 488  
Validation of Survey Data on Income and Employment: The ISMIE Experience.  
Jaeckle, Annette; Sala, Emanuela; Jenkins, Stephen P.; Lynn, Peter

Current Discussion Papers of DIW Berlin:

<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/diskussionspapiere/jahrgang05/index.jsp>



**Articles by DIW Berlin Staff Members in Refereed Journals**  
(March 16, 2005 to June 15, 2005)

Cost Structure Surveys for Germany.  
Michael Fritsch, Bernd Goerzig, Ottmar Hennchen, Andreas Stephan

In: Schmollers Jahrbuch 124 (2004), 4, p. 557-566

Transporting Russian Gas to Western Europe: A Simulation Analysis.

Christian von Hirschhausen; Berit Meinhart; Ferdinand Pavel

In: The Energy Journal 26 (2005), 2, p. 49-68

Characteristics and Impact of Faked Interviews in Surveys:

An Analysis of Genuine Fakes in the Raw Data of SOEP.

Joerg-Peter Schraepfer; Gert G. Wagner

In: Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv 89 (2005), 1, p. 7-20

On the Effect of Item Nonresponse on the Estimation of a Two-Panel-Waves Wage Equation.

Martin Spieß; Jan Goebel

In: Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv 89 (2005), 1, p. 63-74

Item Nonresponse on Income Questions in Panel Surveys: Incidence, Imputation and the Impact on Inequality and Mobility.

Joachim R. Frick; Markus M. Grabka

In: Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv 89 (2005), 1, p. 49-61

Private Savings and Transition: Dynamic Panel Data Evidence from Accession Countries.

Mechthild Schrooten; Sabine Stephan

In: Economics of Transition 13 (2005), 2, p. 287-309

What Is behind the Real Appreciation of the Accession Countries' Currencies? An Investigation of the PPI Based Real Exchange Rate.

Kirsten Lommatzsch; Silke Tober

In: Economic Systems 28 (2004), 4, p. 383-403

Student Aid, Repayment Obligations and Enrolment in Higher Education in Germany: Evidence from a "Natural Experiment".

Hans J. Baumgartner; Viktor Steiner

In: Schmollers Jahrbuch 125 (2005), 1, p. 29-38

Distributional Effects of the German Tax Reform 2000:

A Behavioral Microsimulation Analysis. Peter Haan; Viktor Steiner

In: Schmollers Jahrbuch 125 (2005), 1, p. 39-49

Transitions from Welfare to Employment: Does the Ratio between Labor Income and Social Assistance Matter?.

Hilmar Schneider; Arne Uhlendorff

In: Schmollers Jahrbuch 125 (2005), 1, p. 51-61

International Outsourcing and German Manufacturing Wages.

Ingo Geishecker

In: Schmollers Jahrbuch 125 (2005), 1, p. 87-95

A Comparison of the Relationship between Obesity and Earnings in the U.S. and Germany.

John Cawley; Markus M. Grabka; Dean R. Lillard

In: Schmollers Jahrbuch 125 (2005), 1, p. 119-129

Automatic Identification of Faked and Fraudulent Interviews in the German SOEP.

Christin Schaefer, Joerg-Peter Schraepler, Klaus-Robert Mueller, Gert G. Wagner  
In: Schmollers Jahrbuch 125 (2005), 1, p. 183-193

Nachhilfe als Strategie zur Verwirklichung von Bildungszielen:  
eine empirische Untersuchung der Daten des Sozio-oekonomischen Panels  
(SOEP).

Thorsten Schneider

In: Zeitschrift fuer Paedagogik 51 (2005), 3, p. 363-379

Methodological Advances in National Travel Surveys: Mobility in Germany 2002.

Uwe Kunert; Robert Follmer

In: Transport Reviews 25 (2005), 4, p. 415-431

More publications:

[http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/nl/publikationen\\_20030822.html](http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/nl/publikationen_20030822.html)



## Events of DIW Berlin

### Upcoming Events

The staff members of DIW Berlin present and discuss their research results in the frame of various events that are organized by the DIW Berlin or in co-operation with the Institute.

### **International Conference "Financial Integration in Europe and the Propagation of Shocks"**

Date: July 4 and 5, 2005

At the conference the project team will present the results of their most recent research. Invited speakers and discussants from the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the Bundesbank and leading European universities will broadly contribute to the scientific debate. In conclusion a representative of DG Research of the European Commission will make a presentation on the main features of the Seventh Framework Programme.

Location: DIW Berlin, Englerallee 40, Room E05

Contact: Dr. Tatiana Ribakoff, Phone: +49 30 897 89-342 , Email: [tribakoff@diw.de](mailto:tribakoff@diw.de)

### **2005 GSOEP-CNEF Conference**

Date : September 9 and 10, 2005

Workshop for Users of the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) and the Cross-National Equivalent Files (CNEF)

(Curriculum, Costs, Scholarships, Application)

Applications for the workshop should be postmarked no later than August 1, 2005.

Applications for scholarships should be postmarked no later than July 15th, 2005.

Location : Cornell University, Ithaca/NY, USA

Contact : Florence Allen, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, 116 MVR Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4401, USA, Telephone: 607-255-8012, Email: [GSOEP@cornell.edu](mailto:GSOEP@cornell.edu)

### **4th Conference on Applied Infrastructure Research**

Date: October 8, 2005

"Regulation and Organizational Models in Infrastructure Sectors - Vertical Dis-/Integration, Privatization, Concessions and PPP"

Location: Technische Universitaet Berlin (TU Berlin)

Contact: TU Berlin, Workgroup for Infrastructure Policy (WIP), Email: [conference@wip.tu-berlin.de](mailto:conference@wip.tu-berlin.de), Tel. +49 30 314 236 49

More events:

<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/veranstaltungen/index.html>



## Previous Events

### **Conference "Bank Relationships, Credit Extension, and the Macro Economy"**

Financial systems face mounting pressure to adapt to changed circumstances, these days. To analyze the driving forces behind this development, DIW Berlin staged the international experts conference "Bank Relationships, Credit Extension, and the Macro Economy" on June 3 and 4, 2005 in collaboration with the Journal of Financial Intermediation and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. „This conference has been an important milestone in DIW Berlin’s efforts to establish an international network in financial markets research. This was also expressed by the very positive feedback from conference participants,“ Dorothea Schaefer, DIW Berlin, said after the conference, which was held at the dbb-forum berlin.



PD Dr. Dorothea Schaefer local organizer of the conference, Prof. Dr. Georg Meran, Vice President of DIW Berlin, Prof. Dr. Axel Weber, President of the German Bundesbank

Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/20050615\\_bankingconference.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/20050615_bankingconference.html)



### **International Conference on Development and Trade in Preparation of the Millennium +5 Summit**

2005 is an important year of decision-making in global policies. In mid-September of this year, heads of State and Governments from all over the world will gather at the United Nation’s Millennium +5 Summit in New York. On the agenda: decisions that will be crucial for global peace and security, designed to fight poverty, foster development, human rights and global justice. Against this backdrop, DIW Berlin, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), hosted an international conference on “Development Cooperation, Aid, Trade and Security in an Unequal World: the Agenda of the Millennium +5 Summit”. The conference was held on June 9, 2005 in Berlin.



Tilman Brueck, Kevin Watkins, Bernd Muetzelburg

Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/20050623\\_konferenz\\_welt.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/20050623_konferenz_welt.html)



### **Industrial Conference with Focus on the Working Hours Debate**

On May 12 and 13, 2005, DIW Berlin's Industrial Conference was held for the first time in the "Manzini-Mitte" conference center located in the heart of Berlin.

Around 60 experts from businesses and associations participated in this event. DIW Berlin presented its economic forecasts (for the time ahead until 2006) with respect to the situation of the global and the German economy on the one hand, and looking into the development of the industrial sector as a whole and its various branches on the other hand. After that, business associations experts reported on the current state of affairs in their respective areas of trade and provided forecasts of how they think the production in their industries will fare until 2006. While estimates of the two sides did not differ substantially for 2005 (DIW Berlin reckons with a 1.9 per cent hike in production against business experts' 1.4 per cent predictions); business experts are somewhat more pessimistic when looking at 2006 (only a 1.4 per cent hike) than DIW Berlin (1.9 per cent).

Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050617\\_industrietagung.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050617_industrietagung.html)



### **Ph. D. Students from DIW Berlin at the European Young Economists Meeting**

At the X. "Spring Meeting of Young Economists", which took place from April 22 to 24, 2005 in Geneva, DIW Berlin was represented by two female Ph. D. students. Patricia Alvarez Plata (Research Department of International Economics) lectured about "Political Currency Crises". Franziska Holz, (also Research Department of International Economics) presented a scientific report from DIW Berlin's research program about the integration of European natural gas markets, this research program being a co-operation project of DIW Berlin's Departments International Economics and Energy, Transportation, Environment. Further highlights of the meeting were the discussion round about the WTO-Doha negotiations and the keynote lecture of Professor H el ene Rey (Princeton University) about the global impact of the US current account deficit. The Young Economists Meetings aim at promoting the scientific exchange of Ph. D. students and postdoctoral scientists. The next meeting will take place in spring 2006 in Seville.



### **New Co-operations**



DIW Berlin is the scientific co-operation partner of the “**Berliner Zukunftssalon**”. The “Berliner Zukunftssalon” acts as a forum for dialogue and networking between young business leaders; the forum is also dedicated to create possibilities for personal contacts on a high level and in a confidential atmosphere.

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## The German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)



The **SOEP** is a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households. It provides information on all household members, consisting of Germans living in the old and new German states, foreigners, and recent immigrants to Germany. The Panel was started in 1984. In 2003, there were more than 12.000 households, and nearly 24.000 persons sampled.

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## SOEP's 1,000th User Conducting Research in Canada

Since 1984, the German Socio Economic Panel Study, a longitudinal household panel survey based at DIW Berlin, has been making its data on the social situation in Germany available to a large and growing research community. This week, SOEP celebrated the registry of its 1,000th active user: Dr. Blair Wheaton of the University of Toronto, Canada. Dr. Wheaton uses SOEP data in the framework of his research project "Adolescents' future occupational plans: What are the intervening processes that matter?".

Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/2005\\_soep\\_nutzer.html](http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/2005_soep_nutzer.html)

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## A New Study Reveals: Living in a Partnership Make Couples Adopt Similar Attitudes: The Longer They Live Together the More Likely They Support the Same Political Party

A common interest in the same political party doesn't bring couples together, but the longer couples who previously had different opinions live together the more likely they come to support the same political party. Short marriages, however, have no significant impact. This is the outcome of a recent study whose authors are the political scientist Alan S. Zuckerman (also Research Professor at DIW Berlin), Jennifer Fitzgerald and Josip Dasovic. The study with the title "Do Couples Support the Same Political Parties?" explores data from DIW Berlin's Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP).

## **SOEP-Data up to 2004 available as from July**

As from the beginning of July, CD-ROM data comprising the years 1984-2004 will be available to the scientific public for analysis. Upon conclusion of a data utilization contract, the CD package can be ordered at a price of 30 € (plus forwarding expenses). For inquiries and order requests, please contact the SOEP team at the following e-mail address: [soepmail@diw.de](mailto:soepmail@diw.de). For your specific research needs in themes so diverse as for instance housing, income or education, you will soon find valuable data up to the year 2004 in the SOEP-Monitor by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.diw.de/english/sop/service/soepmonitor>



## **Call for Papers**

### **First Annual Workshop Households in Conflict Network (HiCN)**

January 15 and 16, 2006 in Berlin

Deadline for submission: September 30, 2005

Further information:

<http://www.hicn.org/papers/callforpapersJan06.pdf>

More call for papers:

<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/service/callforpapers/>



## **Career**

### **Job Opportunity**

The Department of International Economics at DIW Berlin is awarding a Junior Research Fellowship for a development economist interested in working on the project Conflict, Reconstruction and Development: The Household Perspective. Further information:

[http://www.diw.de/deutsch/karriere/stellenangebote/20050615\\_wlt\\_fellowship.html](http://www.diw.de/deutsch/karriere/stellenangebote/20050615_wlt_fellowship.html)



## **DIW Berlin – A Brief Introduction**

The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) is one of the leading research institutes in Germany. It is an independent, non-profit academic institute which is involved in basic research and policy advice. DIW Berlin was originally founded in 1925 as Institute for Business Cycle Research and was later renamed in German Institute for Economic Research.

Further information:

<http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/>



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