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DIW Berlin Open Science Guideline

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I. Preamble

DIW Berlin stands for scientific excellence, committed development of early career researchers, provision of large data infrastructures, such as the longitudinal data of the Socio-Economic Panel, and effective knowledge transfer. In all these areas, the institute, its employees, and its research benefit from and contribute to open and trusting exchange with science and society. "Open Science" refers to a scientific practice that aims to achieve precisely this openness in all phases of the research process.

In 2022, the Leibniz Association created a binding framework with its *Open Science Policy*[1]. Scientific findings, data, methods, and processes should be as freely accessible, comprehensible, and reusable as possible. As a Leibniz Institute, DIW Berlin is committed to these goals: Open Science is to be further expanded and promoted in the fields of activity relevant to DIW Berlin in order to increase the quality, relevance, and impact of research. Like the Leibniz Association, DIW Berlin sees this as a contribution to a democratic knowledge society, to the institute's capacity for innovation, and to its international visibility. For this reason, current and future fields of action and objectives are set out in this guideline.

II. Objectives and guiding principles

DIW Berlin pursues the goal of systematically integrating Open Science into its research processes. To this end, scientific data, methods, and results are made as openly accessible as possible while complying with legal and ethical standards. This strengthens the visibility, credibility, and innovative power of the institute.

The promotion of Open Science at DIW Berlin is based on the following principles:

- Openness: Research results, data, and methods are made as freely accessible as possible.
- Traceability: Reproducible research is promoted through transparent documentation.
- Participation: Where possible and relevant, social actors are involved in research processes.
- Responsibility: Data protection, copyright, and ethical standards are upheld.

In general, these principles should be increasingly reflected in all areas of the institute's work in the future. To this end, Open Science activities such as the sharing of data, code, and materials will also be discussed in performance reviews (*Mitarbeitendengespräche*) at DIW Berlin in the future.

[1] https://www.leibniz-association.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder_und_Downloads/Forschung/Open_Science/Open_Science_Policy.pdf

III. Fields of action and further DIW policies

1. Open Access and publications

DIW Berlin's *Open Access Policy*[2] aims to make scientific results as freely accessible as possible, thereby increasing the visibility, reusability, and social impact of research. As a member of the Leibniz Association, DIW Berlin is committed to implementing Open Access principles and particularly supports publication in open publication media or via repositories such as Arxiv and EconStor. To finance Open Access, the institute's researchers are encouraged to apply for third-party funding as part of project proposals. In addition, DIW Berlin also provides its research staff with general budget (*Grundhaushalt*) funds to pay for Open Access publication fees.

The policy emphasizes

- the importance of Open Access for excellent research and evidence-based policy advice,
- the responsibility of researchers in choosing appropriate publication channels,
- the recommendation to use free licenses (e.g., CC BY),
- and the long-term archiving and digitization of older publications.

Wherever possible, DIW Berlin's own publication series will be licensed under CC BY in the future. This applies to the flagship publication DIW *Wochenbericht*, as well as DIW Weekly Report, DIW *aktuell*, and Data Documentation, among others. The SOEP Survey Papers series is already published under the CC BY-SA license.

2. Research data management and infrastructure

A central goal of Open Science is to establish and maintain data infrastructures that comply with the FAIR principles ("Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable"). DIW Berlin's *Data Policy*[3] emphasizes the central role of research data as independent scientific output. The institute recognizes citable, publicly accessible research data as scientific publications. The aim is to increase the quality, transparency, and reusability of research.

The key points of the policy are:

- promoting the responsible handling of research data throughout its entire life cycle,
- supporting the FAIR principles,
- and the provision of suitable infrastructure and advice for research data management.

DIW Berlin's infrastructure services in the spirit of Open Science include:

- the Research Data Center of the Socio-Economic Panel (FDZ-SOEP), accredited by the German Data Forum (RatSWD); which makes the data from the SOEP main study (SOEP-CORE), the SOEP innovation sample (SOEP-IS), and the SOEP-Related Studies (SOEP-RS) available for scientific research with extensive data documentation; in addition, the FDZ-SOEP supports data users in training courses (SOEPcampus) and individually (SOEPhotline),

[2] https://www.diw.de/documents/dokumentenarchiv/17/diw_01.c.526355.de/2025_oa_policy_aktualisierung_final.648023.pdf

[3] https://www.diw.de/de/diw_01.c.610227.de/data_policy_des_diw_berlin.html

- the Research Data Center for Business and Organizational Data (FDZ-BO), accredited by the German Data Forum (RatSWD), with the "Studienportal" repository for the publication of research data,
- a technical and organizational infrastructure for secure data sharing,
- an archiving infrastructure for the sustainable storage of research data,
- a dedicated agent for registering research data with DataCite,
- consulting and support for research data management by qualified personnel,
- in-house research for the further development of research data management and the exploitation of new data sources.

3. Open methods and reproducibility

To promote scientific quality and integrity, research processes, models, and software are openly documented and published on appropriate platforms (e.g., publications with SOEP data via the SOEPLit database). DIW Berlin supports the versioning and traceability of analyses to ensure the reproducibility of results. For example, data is made available via repositories, discussion papers are published in versions, and codes are provided. To ensure that this is also the case for SOEP data with restricted access and that replications are possible, SOEP provides data users with a reanalysis archive[4]. These initiatives strengthen trust in research and enable effective further development by third parties.

One topic that will gain importance at DIW Berlin in the future are so-called "registered reports," which include a "pre-analysis plan" (PAP). Publishing research plans and study designs prior to data collection and analysis increases the significance of the research question and ensures methodological quality. The institute supports this research approach and aims to incorporate it into its research work wherever possible in the future.

4. Science communication and social participation

Knowledge transfer is already a central component of DIW Berlin's work. With formats such as the DIW *Wochenbericht*, DIW *aktuell*, social media posts, videos, and interviews, communicating research results to various social and political actors is a high priority. In addition, the communications department is constantly exploring the development of new formats. In line with the principles of Open Science, another goal is to communicate research results in a dialogue-oriented manner and to actively involve societal actors. At DIW Berlin, this includes cooperation with partners in the field, political actors, ministries, international organizations, and the public. These measures promote the social relevance of research and support the Leibniz Association's mission to make science a public good.

[4] https://www.diw.de/de/diw_01.c.604159.de/reanalyse-archiv_des_soep.html