

PRESS RELEASE

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Top Ranking for the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) has been ranked among the world's best think tanks in the category 'International Economic Policy' in the recently released Global Go To Think Tank Ranking of the University of Pennsylvania. Being Austria's best ranked economic policy think tank, wiiw takes 12th place this year and has even improved its ranking by 2 positions against last year. The Global Go To Think Tank Ranking is based on the assessment of over 20,000 academics, journalists, donors and policy-makers. 6.500 think tanks world-wide were evaluated. The good ranking reflects the high international reputation of the Vienna Institute.

The 'Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program' of the University of Pennsylvania carries out **yearly evaluations of think tanks** worldwide. In this process, experts, academics, journalists, representatives of NGOs and think tank managers are invited to nominate think tanks that are characterised by strong **political and social influence** as well by significant **independence and scientific excellence**. Those think tanks receiving more than 10 nominations are included in the evaluation and are being ranked by an expert panel.

It is the **aim of the Global Go To Think Tank Rankings** to demonstrate the role of applied research for the work of governments and NGOs, to improve the quality of political decisions and to strengthen civil society institutions.

In the current ranking, **wiiw** takes **12th place** in the category '**International Economic Policy' Think Tanks**. The first three ranks are occupied by the Peterson Institute for International Economics (USA), the Brookings Institution (USA) and the Belgian Bruegel Institute. The shares of US and European think tanks are roughly in balance:

among the total of about 6,500 evaluated think tanks, 30 per cent are from the United States and 27 per cent from Europe.

'We are very pleased that we have been ranking among the top 20 in our research area for several years now. This shows that wiiw enjoys high international reputation. This is of course first of all the result of the commitment and the close international networking of our researchers', says Michael Landesmann, Scientific Director of wiiw.

wiiw is an independent **economic research institute** that has been working on economic developments in **Central, East and Southeast Europe** for more than 40 years. In the focus of research are also issues of **European integration**, the development of the **European Neighbourhood regions** and **global economic developments**. The thematic emphasis is on macroeconomic analysis, the labour market, international trade and foreign direct investment, and sectoral and regional analysis. The Institute provides analyses and data to the general public, enterprises and banks as well as to public institutions. It consults East and Southeast European governments and international organisations, coordinates international research projects and regularly carries out studies on behalf of the European Commission and other national and international clients.

The '**Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program**' of the University of Pennsylvania has been investigating the role of political decision-making processes for 25 years and has been publishing, for 8 years, its Think Tank Ranking, which represents the most comprehensive evaluation worldwide of policy-oriented research institutions.

Link: www.gotothinktank.com

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