

Statement by the Deutsche Post Foundation on the merging of IZA and briq

Since its establishment in 1997, the Deutsche Post Foundation (DPS) has been supporting the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA). In a restructuring of IZA in 2015, parts of the DPS-funded research activities were transferred to the newly created Institute on Behavior & Inequality (briq). Since then, both institutes have successfully evolved and established themselves as important contributors to the advancement of scientific research and policy advice.

Meanwhile, the Foundation's funding capacity has undergone significant change. The annual contributions from the DHL Group (formerly Deutsche Post AG) ended after 25 years, resulting in a permanent reduction in the annual budgets available for the DPS research institutes. Faced also with rising costs, the DPS thoroughly examined various options and concluded that consolidating its institutes and concentrating their presence in the Bonn location are necessary to ensure long-term sustainability. Specifically, this implies that briq will be reintegrated into IZA, and the Berlin office of IZA will be closed in the medium term.

In the light of these developments, the current CEO of IZA, Simon Jäger, has decided to depart from his leadership role at IZA by the end of 2023. We regret this decision and would like to express our gratitude to Simon Jäger for his outstanding contributions to the further development of IZA (see also the [IZA statement of November 10, 2023](#)).

Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce that Armin Falk, currently the CEO of briq, will take over the leadership of IZA as of January 1, 2024. Martin T. Clemens will remain on the IZA Board as the CFO. Armin Falk is one of Europe's leading economists and has previously held various coordinating roles at IZA, including Research Director and Program Director for Behavioral and Personnel Economics.

The necessary consolidation will create strategic and organizational challenges. However, we are confident that it also presents an opportunity to bring together the strengths of both institutes. On the IZA side, this includes its excellent global research network, which will continue to be coordinated by IZA Research Director Ingo Isphording. In addition to an established international Visitors Program, briq also has a close connection to the University of Bonn. Both Armin Falk and the current briq Research Director, Florian Zimmermann, are members of the economics faculty and the ECONtribute Cluster of Excellence, as well as other university programs and research initiatives. Further deepening this cooperation to enhance the scientific synergies is also explicitly supported by the University of Bonn.

The President of the Deutsche Post Foundation