

ISOE — At a Glance

Institute Profile

ISOE – Institute for Social-Ecological Research is a leading independent institute for sustainability research. It was founded in 1989 as a non-profit limited liability company. The institute currently has around 80 employees, including 40 researchers and 20 student assistants from the social sciences, natural sciences, planning, and engineering. ISOE is employee-run: its shareholders act as trustees, ensuring the institute's long-term sustainability.

Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Transfer

In our research, we develop scientific foundations and forward-looking concepts for social-ecological transformations – regionally, nationally, and internationally. Together with our partners in science and society, we create spaces for sustainability transformations in fields such as water, biodiversity, mobility, climate adaptation, and pollution risks. In addition to excellent research, teaching, consulting, and knowledge transfer are also key areas of ISOE's work.

Funding

As an independent research institution, ISOE is mainly financed by competitively awarded public project funds – including grants from various federal ministries, the Volkswagen Foundation, the German Research Foundation, and the European Union, as well as contracts from local authorities, associations, government agencies, and companies. ISOE receives institutional funding from the state of Hesse. With more than 80 employees and an annual turnover of more than 5 million euros (2024), ISOE is one of the non-university research institutions in Hesse with the highest share of third-party funding.



Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board advises the institute on issues of quality assurance, further development, and networking with other research institutions. It supports ISOE in sharpening its profile as a high-performance, transdisciplinary sustainability research institute. The board currently consists of six internationally renowned scientists from various disciplines and research institutions.

Ethics Committee

The ISOE Ethics Committee supports ISOE researchers in ensuring ethical standards in their empirical research. The committee works in accordance with the recommendations of the Council for Social and Economic Data. In addition to internal and external scientists, the committee also includes ISOE's data protection officer. As an advisory body, the members of the Ethics Committee are not bound by instructions in their work.

Research Data Policy

Research data management at ISOE ensures that research data is processed, secured, archived, and made available in the long term in accordance with recognized standards. In this way, ISOE aims to ensure good scientific practice and promote the transparency, reproducibility, and reuse of results.

Equality and Diversity

Equality, diversity, and equal opportunities are core values of the institute's culture and everyday life. Equal treatment of all genders and appreciation of the individual characteristics, needs, and backgrounds of all employees is a matter of course at ISOE. This is also reflected in the appointment of management positions at ISOE: the institute management and other management levels are filled equally by women and men. Equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender, is a fundamental principle at ISOE. This also applies to our student colleagues.

MORE INFORMATION

[Institute Strategy](#)
[Institute Charter](#)

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FIND OUT MORE AT

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