



IZA Press Release – December 15, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. CET

## Strategic Restructuring of the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)

Established in 1998 by the Deutsche Post Foundation, the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) is one of the most highly regarded research institutes in labor economics worldwide. “IZA’s success must be attributed to Professor Zimmermann, who has developed IZA into an institute of exceptional scope and global reputation over the past 17 years,” said Dr. Klaus Zumwinkel, President of Deutsche Post Foundation and IZA. From the very beginning, Professor Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann has coordinated what has now become the world’s largest research network in economics with 1,500 renowned scholars from over 50 countries. Under his direction, the IZA Discussion Paper series has evolved into the world’s leading working paper series in labor economics.

### Strategic restructuring of IZA

To continue the IZA success story, several organizational and personnel changes are being undertaken. As part of the restructuring, the Deutsche Post Foundation will establish an additional non-profit institution: The **Behavior and Inequality Research Institute** will be dedicated to behavioral economics and inequality research with a particular focus on labor market issues. At the same time, the restructured Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) will concentrate on the future of labor, especially with regard to the design of national and international labor market policies. Independent policy advice and contributions to the public debate will continue to play a strong role.

### Institutes under new leadership of two top economists

Two highly renowned economists have been appointed to lead these non-profit institutions. Professor Dr. Armin Falk (47) will become Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Behavior and Inequality Research Institute. He is currently professor of economics at the University of Bonn and Director of the university’s Center for Economics and Neuroscience. The winner of numerous national and international research awards is widely regarded as one of the most productive economists of his generation. Having served as Director of Research at IZA from 2003 until 2007, Armin Falk is well acquainted with the institute’s structure and culture. Dr. Zumwinkel: “The objective of Professor Falk and the newly founded institute is to conduct and advance excellent scientific research in close cooperation with the University of Bonn and top international scholars.”

The restructured IZA will be led by Professor Dr. Hilmar Schneider (58) as CEO. He has also been at IZA in the past, directing the institute’s labor policy activities for twelve years. Among others, he served as an advisor to Chancellor Angela Merkel within her “dialogue on the future” initiative (2011-2012). Since 2013, Hilmar Schneider has been Director of the long-standing Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research

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(LISER), whose strategic reorientation towards policy-relevant socio-economic research he has successfully managed. “The goal of Professor Schneider and the reorganized IZA is to support national and international decision-makers in developing future-oriented, economics-based and socially responsible labor market policies,” said Dr. Zumwinkel.

Martin T. Clemens (54), IZA Director of Administration since 2006, has been appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of both institutes.

### **Future collaboration with Professor Zimmermann**

As of March 2016, Professor Zimmermann will take the opportunity to intensify his own research activities as a visiting professor at universities abroad. He will therefore leave his position as Director of IZA, effective March 1, 2016. This will enable him to engage in important research on future-oriented issues without the constraints of administrative responsibilities. At present, discussions between the President of IZA and Professor Zimmermann about possible forms of future collaboration from the position of a visiting professor at a renowned university, possibly in the United States, are still ongoing.

### **More information:**

About IZA: [www.iza.org/de/webcontent/about/index](http://www.iza.org/de/webcontent/about/index)

Short bio of Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann: [www.iza.org/home/zimmermann](http://www.iza.org/home/zimmermann)

Short bio of Prof. Dr. Armin Falk: [www.iza.org/home/falk](http://www.iza.org/home/falk)

Short bio of Prof. Dr. Hilmar Schneider: [www.iza.org/home/schneider](http://www.iza.org/home/schneider)

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