

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Ecornet Institutes Again Receive Great Results in International Think Tank Ranking**

Berlin, 22 January 2014 – Members of Ecornet, the network of leading non-university, not-for-profit environmental and sustainability research institutes in Germany, have maintained their very high rankings once more in this year's highly regarded "Global Go To Think Tank" survey.

Ecologic Institute earned its way into the Top 10 in the environment category, the only German institution to do so. The Top 50 for the environment category also includes the Wuppertal Institute (#41) and the Öko-Institute (#49). Ecornet also had successes in other categories, such as management, "Think Tanks to Watch", and in the impact of printed and digital media.

Thomas Korbun, Scientific Director of the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) and one of Ecornet's spokespeople, spoke to the ranking's results: "The ranking of international think tanks is a recognition of research-driven policy and societal suggestions provided by Ecornet's member institutes. Our advice is aimed to support the transformation of our society, meaning towards sustainable development. In this way, the rankings are based on the results of our independent environmental and sustainability research. That the relatively small Ecornet Institutes were able to rank highly on a global level, speaks of a particular excellence in the nexus between research and advice-giving."

The "Global Go To Think Tank" ranking is carried out by the University of Pennsylvania. It is based on a worldwide nomination and selection process, in which more than 1950 researchers, peer institutions, journalists, political decisionmakers, as well as public and private donors took part. The evaluated criteria include: the quality and reputation of an organization's research; academic performance; quality, number, and influence of publications, and; implementation of research results and policy advice. In total, 6826 Institutions, from 182 countries, were called upon to take part in the study.

The top three spots in the environment category went to the World Resources Institute (USA), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI, Sweden), and the Worldwatch Institute (USA). The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) were in the Top 20.

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**Ecological Research Network (Ecornet)**

The network of leading non-university, not-for-profit environmental and sustainability research institutes in Germany

Ecologic Institute • ifeu Heidelberg Institute for Energy and Environmental Research • Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) • ISOE Institute for Social-Ecological Research • Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment (IZT) • Öko-Institute – Institute for Applied Ecology • Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU) • Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

For further information on the rankings, please visit:  
[gotothinktank.com/rankings/](http://gotothinktank.com/rankings/)

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### **Editorial Information:**

#### **About the “Ecological Research Network” – Ecornet**

Eight pioneering institutes in sustainability research have joined together, forming the “Ecological Research Network” (Ecornet), a network of non-university, non-profit German research institutes focusing on environmental and sustainability research. Their common mission: to create a scientific foundation for the societal transformation to sustainability. The Ecornet institutes conduct applied research across the borders of scientific disciplines regarding ways to achieve a post-fossil and post-nuclear society.

Ecornet aims to open up the scientific disciplines to the social-ecological questions that will characterize the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Ecornet is represented by two spokespeople: Thomas Korbun (IÖW) and R. Andreas Kraemer (Ecologic Institute).

The Ecornet Institutes are:

- Ecologic Institute
- Ifeu – Heidelberg Institute for Energy and Environmental Research
- Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW)
- ISOE – Institute for Social-Ecological Research
- Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment (IZT)
- Öko-Institute – Institute for Applied Ecology
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