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The Warsaw Institute for Socio-Economic Research (WISER) was founded in 2003 and aims to be a centre of excellence for research in economics and governance in Poland.

WISER strives to:

- build local capacity in research in economics and governance
- promote a stimulating and sustainable environment capable of attracting talent from around the world
- develop an indigenous, independent and informed voice in the local public policy debate, decreasing dependence on foreign advice and contributing to the adoption of sound policies
- assist in building an attractive investment climate for Polish and international companies

Capacity-Building

Despite a proud tradition in economics, Poland suffers from an inadequate capacity in policy-oriented economic analysis and research. Most of the best senior economists have left academe for government or industry positions, and very few Polish economists trained abroad have returned to work in Polish academic institutions.

In order to build up the capacity for modern economics research and teaching in Poland, it is not sufficient to have a single center of excellence. It is important to involve as much of the resources in economics in Poland and around the world as possible. As human resources is the foundation on which to build such efforts, WISER works on putting together a WISER Research Network, bringing together economists in Poland and economists outside of Poland (especially Polish nationals) working on Poland or related issues, who have the training necessary to conduct cutting-edge, policy-oriented research.

Partners

WISER collaborates with a number of Polish and international organizations. The Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) is the lead partner together with Poland's Committee for European Integration. The Committee for European Integration undertakes to promote the policy impact of the research and analysis performed at WISER.

Vattenfall Poland has endowed a fellowship for one researcher at WISER. The fellowship, *the Vattenfall Assistant Professorship in Economics of the Energy Sector and Environmental Policy* was established in 2004 and runs for six years.

The SITE Family

WISER is part of the SITE family, which also includes two other sister centers: the Centre for Economic and Financial Research (CEFIR), in Moscow, and the Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies (BICEPS), in Riga. The centers bring innovative ideas into global thinking on economic and institutional development and work together on several projects; both research- and policy oriented. The institutes have developed based on SITE's mission to assist transition countries in developing their own centers of research and knowledge, reversing the brain drain, building local capacity in teaching and applying modern economics. Find out more about the institutes on the respective web sites.

