

WALCKER Foundation project carried out in partnership with the Forschungsinstitut für anwendungsorientierte Wissensverarbeitung (Research Institute for Application-Oriented Knowledge Processing, FAW/n) in Ulm (www.faw-neu-ulm.de)

“Importance of medium-sized companies for a sustainable society”

For the last 20 years, the economic world has been changing fundamentally and at an ever-increasing pace. After grievous experiences with the largely unregulated global financial capitalist markets, discussions about models of social equilibrium and an efficient orientation towards the middle class of society, following the idea of a social market economy, for example are currently being revived. In this context, **the capability of medium-sized companies and the welfare of the mid-market play an important part.**

In the medium-sized business environment, the WALCKER Foundation and the FAW/n in Ulm launched a cooperative research project on 1 October 2011, which is initially set to run for the next three years. The project will focus on the following core areas:

1. Sustainability and safeguards
2. Growth and the mid-market
3. Innovation and medium-sized companies
4. The mid-market and balanced income structures as a basis for sustainable societies
5. Motivational employment relations as an anchor for good societies
6. Balance of income distribution as a question of redistribution
7. The role of the taxation system
8. Medium-sized companies as guarantors of sustainability

Key elements relating to the three topics below are crucial for the orientation of the research project:

- Importance and strengthening of medium-sized companies for a sustainable society
- Variety of developments holding back small and medium-sized companies
- Measures to strengthen medium-sized companies

Through this exciting project and the partnership with the FAW/n in Ulm, the WALCKER Foundation is establishing a connection with the FAW/n's meaningful partner base, which includes the institution's foundations and the following organisations: Club of Rome, Global Economic Network, Global Marshall Plan Initiative, Ökosoziales Forum Deutschland (Ecosocial Forum Germany), Ökosoziales Forum Europa (Ecosocial Forum Europe), Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development, Senat der Wirtschaft e.V. (Economic Senate), World Culture Forum.