

INSTITUTE PROFILE

ITAS is the most long-standing scientific institution in Germany dealing with technology assessment and systems analysis. More than 100 scientists from various disciplines research the impacts and design options of scientific-technological developments and innovations. Current topics are, for example, digitization, robotics, sustainable energy supply, and urban systems. Especially ethical, ecological, economic, social, political, and institutional, but also cultural questions are investigated here. ITAS provides scientific policy advice and is thus involved in the societal dialog on science and technology to contribute to a responsible approach to new technologies and findings.

The institute is a member of several international networks. It publishes the open access journal "TATuP – Journal on Technology Assessment in Theory and Practice" and the book series "Gesellschaft – Technik – Umwelt" (Society – Technology – Environment), "Studien des Büros für Technikfolgen-Abschätzung beim Deutschen Bundestag" (Studies of the Office of Technology Assessment at the German Bundestag), and "Technikzukünfte, Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft" (Technology Futures, Science, and Society).

The ITAS research topics are organized in separate research areas with their own individual profiles.



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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

The work of this research area is structured along two major topics: "Resource Management" focuses on technological, ecological, economic, and societal approaches to a sustainable use of scarce resources – for example in the field of bioeconomy. The key topic "Urban Areas and Global Change" investigates, among others, strategies for a sustainable urban development in transdisciplinary urban transition labs.

www.itas.kit.edu/english/num

INNOVATION PROCESSES AND IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY

At the center of the work programme of this research area are innovation processes of key technologies, and in particular the conditions of their emergence and formation as well as the intended and unintended consequences of their widespread use. Current examples are digital information and communication technologies, new and emerging technosciences at the nexus of information and biotechnology as well as technologies for future mobility and transportation concepts.

www.itas.kit.edu/english/iut



KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY AND KNOWLEDGE POLICY

Knowledge, advice, and decision making are key elements of technology assessment. Their relevance and interaction are subject to societal change processes. This research area examines the reasons for and impacts of this change. Fields of investigations are, for example: changes in societal practices caused by digitization, the importance of new forms of knowledge for the governance of technological developments, and the possibilities of policy advice based on uncertain knowledge.

www.itas.kit.edu/english/wuw

ENERGY – RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES, SYSTEMS

This research area provides scientific support for the transformation of the energy system towards more sustainability. To this end, it carries out systems analysis and scientifically sound assessments of different energy technologies. In addition, socio-technical scenario analysis are used to investigate how societal actors can be better involved in the organization of the energy system.

<http://www.itas.kit.edu/english/erts>



PARLIAMENTARY POLICY ADVICE

ITAS is one of the leading European institutions that provide parliamentary policy advice.

Since its foundation in 1990, the Office of Technology Assessment at the German Bundestag (TAB) has been operated by ITAS. The aim of TAB is to inform the bodies and members of the German Bundestag on a sound scientific basis to support them in their opinion-forming and decision-making processes. To this end, TAB carries out projects on technology assessment, observes and analyzes important scientific and technological innovations and trends as well as the related societal developments. TAB's work is strictly oriented towards the information needs of the German Bundestag and its committees. To date, some 200 research reports have been published.

www.tab-beim-bundestag.de/en

As coordinator of the "European Technology Assessment Group" (ETAG), ITAS has been providing scientific advice for the European Parliament concerning the social, economic, and ecological relevance of new scientific and technological developments since October 2005.

www.itas.kit.edu/english/etag



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ITAS

Short Profile

INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND SYSTEMS ANALYSIS



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