



German Embassy
London



The Search for Solutions
Policy Learning in Britain and Germany

Institute for German Studies celebrating 10 years 1994 - 2004

Raising productivity levels in Britain and Germany

8th September 2004

Venue: 34 Belgrave Square, London

Welcome (09.00 – 09.05): Dr Simon Green (Institute for German Studies)

Introduction (09:05 – 09:30): The productivity gap in the UK and in Germany: Stylised facts

Introduced by Dr Heiko Fritz (Institute for German Studies, Birmingham)

- The national dimension: What accounts for Britain's productivity lag?
- The regional dimension: Germany's East and Britain's North compared

Session 1 (09:30 – 11:00): Closing the productivity gap: Aims, strategies and success of government policies

**Introduced by Prof Marcel Thum (Technical University of Dresden)
Chair: Dr. Simon Green (Institute for German Studies, Birmingham)**

- Is there really a need for the active stimulation of productivity by government policies?
- On which level of the state should aims and strategies of policies be defined (regional, national or EU-level)?
- How can the achievements of policies be measured reliably? Is it possible not only to measure primary effects but also to estimate secondary (spillover) effects?
- Which policies and tools have been proven successful in the past?

11.00 – 11.30: Coffee

Session 2 (11:30 – 13:00): Skills and innovation in the post-new economy

Introduced by Prof Paul Welfens (University of Wuppertal) and Dr Marc Cowling (The Work Foundation)

Chair: Dr. Rebecca Harding (The Work Foundation / London Business School)

- Should public policies for innovation focus on high-tech industries or should R&D in all industries be supported?
- What are appropriate policies for knowledge transfer from universities and other public research institutes to the business?
- What is needed to import high-qualified labour? How can knowledge and skills be kept in the region?

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch

Session 3 (14:00 – 16:00): Policies for entrepreneurship

Introduced by Dr. Rebecca Harding (The Work Foundation / London Business School) and Dr. Stefan Bergheim (Deutsche Bank Research)

Chair: Dr. Heiko Fritz (Institute for German Studies, Birmingham)

- What are the most important obstacles for starting business and how can they be overcome?
- What are the most dynamic areas for entrepreneurship?
- The problem of selection: How can officials identify promising ideas?

Concluding Remarks (16.00 – 16.10)

Rebecca Harding (The Work Foundation / London Business School)