

Community of Practices

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1. The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

IEEP is an independent research organization concerned with policies affecting the environment in Europe and beyond. Their aim is to disseminate knowledge about Europe and the environment and to analyses and present policy options.

Link: <http://www.ieep.eu/>

2. Foreign Policy Association (FPA)

The Foreign Policy Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world. It organizes various activities, as well as publications annually. For example: FPA's Great Decisions is the largest national civic-discussion program on global affairs. Also, The Great Decisions briefing book serves as the focal text for discussion groups by providing background information, expert analysis, and suggested discussion questions for each foreign policy issue. In addition, FPA's Global Career Boot Camps and Global Job Board provide invaluable tools for international professionals. FPA's Global Career Boot Camps include specialized seminars, networking opportunities and inside tips on landing a global job.

Link: <http://www.fpa.org/>

3. The Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)

The Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management is a non-profit organization which aiming to improve public policy and management by fostering research, analysis and education activities. APPAM promotes its mission through the annual Fall Research Conference, with the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPAM), the association's journal, several award programs and various activities including international and national conferences and workshops.

APPAM promotes its mission through activities that include:

- A multidisciplinary annual research conference that attracts the highest quality, research on a wide variety of important current and emerging policy and management issues, and is structured to encourage substantive interaction among participants.
- A peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journal that publishes the highest quality research on public policy and management.
- A dedication in all activities to respecting and enhancing racial, ethnic, gender, disciplinary, and other forms of diversity among participants in all of the Association's activities.

- The involvement of policymakers, practitioners and scholars in the Association's governance and the Fall Conference.
- Initiatives that include and foster participation in the Association among students interested in public policy and management.

Link: <https://netforum.avectra.com>

4. Brookings Institution

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. their mission is to conduct high-quality, independent research and, based on that research, to provide innovative, practical recommendations.

Three goals:

- 1) Strengthen American democracy;
- 2) Foster the economic and social welfare, security and opportunity of all Americans and
- 3) Secure a more open, safe, prosperous and cooperative international system.

Link: <http://www.brookings.edu/>

5. Cato Institute

The Cato Institute is a public policy research organization dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace. Its scholars and analysts conduct independent, nonpartisan research on a wide range of policy issues. Research topics in CATO include health care, education, environment and energy, foreign policy, and international human rights.

Link: <http://www.cato.org/>

6. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI)

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a non-profit, non-partisan think tank. EPI's research interest includes the needs of low- and middle-income workers. EPI conducts research and analysis on the economic status of working America. EPI proposes public policies that protect and improve the economic conditions of low- and middle-income workers and assesses policies with respect to how they affect those workers.

Link: <http://www.epi.org>

7. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is one of the nation's premier policy organizations working at the federal and state levels on fiscal policy and public programs that affect low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The Center conducts research and analysis to help shape public debates over proposed budget and tax policies and to help ensure that policymakers consider the needs of low-income families and individuals in these debates.

Focus areas:

- 1) Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program
- 2) Food stamps
- 3) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- 4) Supplemental Security Income
- 5) WIC and child nutrition
- 6) Low-income housing programs
- 7) Low-income tax credits

Link: <http://www.cbpp.org>

8. RAND Corporation

Very famous, the RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis. RAND focuses mainly on the issues that matter most such as health, education, national security, international affairs, law and business, the environment. Much of RAND's research is carried out on behalf of public and private grantors and clients. At times, grantors or clients may ask RAND to deliver research without suggesting a specific course of action. At other times, RAND may provide a range of solutions with an analysis of advantages and disadvantages. On certain occasions, RAND may formulate or even support clear-cut policy recommendations.

Link: <http://www.rand.org>

9. Urban Institute

The Urban Institute gathers data, conducts research, evaluates programs, offers technical assistance overseas, and educates Americans on social and economic issues aiming to foster sound public policy and effective government. The Urban Institute research activities include education policy, health policy, Income & Benefits Policy, International Development and Governance, social justice, Nonprofits & Philanthropy organizations, etc.

Link: <http://www.urban.org>

10. Tax Foundation

The mission of the Tax Foundation is to educate taxpayers about sound tax policy and the size of the tax burden borne by Americans at all levels of government. Tax Foundation believes that the dissemination of basic information about government finance is the foundation of sound policy in a free society. (Tax Foundation is a nonpartisan educational organization)

The basic ideas of Tax Foundation:

- 1) **Simplicity:** Administrative costs are a loss to society, and complicated taxation undermines voluntary compliance by creating incentives to shelter and disguise income.
- 2) **Transparency:** Tax legislation should be based on sound legislative procedures and careful analysis. A good tax system requires informed taxpayers who understand how tax assessment, collection, and compliance works. There should be open hearings and revenue estimates should be fully

explained and replicable.

- 3) **Neutrality:** The fewer economic decisions that are made for tax reasons, the better. The primary purpose of taxes is to raise needed revenue, not to micromanage the economy. The tax system should not favor certain industries, activities, or products.
- 4) **Stability:** When tax laws are in constant flux, long-range financial planning is difficult. Lawmakers should avoid enacting temporary tax laws, including tax holidays and amnesties.
- 5) **No Retroactivity:** As a corollary to the principle of stability, taxpayers should rely with confidence on the law as it exists when contracts are signed and transactions made.
- 6) **Broad Bases and Low Rates:** As a corollary to the principle of neutrality, lawmakers should avoid enacting targeted deductions, credits and exclusions. If such tax preferences are few, substantial revenue can be raised with low tax rates. Broad-based taxes can also produce relatively stable tax revenues from year to year.

Link: <http://www.taxfoundation.org>