



Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Friederike Welter

- Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Friederike Welter has been a member of the Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation since August 2022.
- Dr. Welter is the full-time president of the Institut für Mittelstandsforschung (IfM) in Bonn. At the same time, she holds the professorship for Management of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship at the University of Siegen.
- Dr. Welter studied economics at the universities of Wuppertal and Bochum and completed her doctorate in Bochum where she was awarded a scholarship from the Graduate Promotion Programme of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. In 2002, she habilitated at the University of Lüneburg.
- From 1993 to 2006, she worked at the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (RWI), most recently as deputy head of the competence area “Start-ups and Business Development, Crafts, New Technologies”. From October 2004 to September 2008, she taught at the University of Siegen as a professor of General Business Administration, especially Management of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. From October 2008 to January 2013, she worked at Jönköping International Business School in Sweden as Professor of Entrepreneurship and Associate Dean for Research. In June 2023, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow for her research on entrepreneurial SMEs and everyday entrepreneurship.
- Dr. Welter is engaged in SME and entrepreneurship research. In doing so, she has worked on innovation performance in SMEs and, more specifically, on women’s innovation activity. Further areas of research include the contextual embedding of entrepreneurial activity and the social contribution of SMEs. She studies the diverse challenges for SMEs resulting from the transformation to a social-ecological market economy.
- Dr. Welter is, among other things, a member of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection’s SME advisory board and chair of the ‘EXIST’ expert advisory board. She is a member of the advisory board of the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority and was chair of the expert panel ‘Validation of the technological and societal innovation potential of scientific research VIP/VIP+’ of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research from 2009 to 2022.
- In addition to activities as senior editor of the journal Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice and reviewer for various international scientific journals, she is co-editor of the book series Elgar Impact of Entrepreneurship Research Series. For her entrepreneurship and SME research, she has been appointed as a member of the Ludwig Erhard Foundation in 2023, and being inducted into the Academia Europaea in 2021.