



Press Information

Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut does high quality research - German Council of Science and Humanities presents report

Insel Riems, 15 July 2013. Today the German Council of Science and Humanities presents its evaluation report for the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI). The Council classifies the institute as a nationally and internationally highly respected consultancy and research institution. The institute's broad, very good to excellent research in almost all fields as well as its combination of infection research and aspects of farm animal husbandry make the FLI a unique institution in Germany. It is one of the few institutions worldwide covering a comparably broad range of work fields. „The results of the evaluation show that the institute has been developing in the right direction over the past years and that we are well prepared for the future.“, comments the President of the FLI, Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Thomas C. Mettenleiter.

According to the report the FLI fulfills its consultancy, research and service tasks excellently and disposes of very good premises to do so. Thus, the relationship with the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) is characterized by mutual confidence and the FLI is given a broad leeway by the Ministry. Furthermore, scientists of the FLI are assessed as very competent, highly motivated and committed. The institute's equipment and infrastructure are rated as extraordinarily good. Opportunities for improvement are seen in a more intensive internal cooperation and an increase in the proportion of female scientists in leadership positions. Collaboration with different universities could be strengthened by cooperation agreements. In view of the intended consolidation of the three Lower Saxonian Institutes (Institute of Farm Animal Genetics/Mariensee, Institute of Animal Nutrition/Braunschweig, Institute of Animal Welfare and Animal Husbandry/Celle) in Mecklenhorst/Mariensee the Council recommends to elaborate a concept to combine the competences of the three institutes involved in farm animal research in a sensible way. New work fields and methods should be acquired and research work should be

coordinated with the Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN) in Dummerstorf, which is active in a similar field.

The assessment of the FLI is part of the evaluation of the government-funded research institutions in the portfolio of the BMELV, which is done regularly at relatively long intervals. The FLI was last evaluated in 2004. The next institution which is on the Council's schedule for the current year is the Max Rubner-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Nutrition and Food.

The German Council of Science and Humanities provides advice to the German Federal Government and the State (Länder) Governments on the structure and development of higher education and research. Supporting public bodies of the Council are the German Federal Government and the State Governments of the sixteen Federal States. Council members are scientists from numerous work fields as well as representants of public life, the federal government and the individual state governments.

The evaluation report of the German Council of Science and Humanities can be downloaded from the internet at

<http://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/download/archiv/3183-13.pdf>