



# Ethics as an enabler of public policy

Lecture by Robert Goodin with Commentary by Edda Müller

Invitation | 1 October 2012 | 6 - 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Hertie School of Governance | Friedrichstraße 180 | 10117 Berlin

## Ethics as an enabler of public policy

Ethics is most often regarded as a constraint, limiting what we can do. But ethics can also be an 'enabler', helping policy-makers secure compliance with the policies that they promulgate. Basing policies on ethical principles eases the epistemic burden on the public at large in knowing what the policies require of them. Framing policies in those ways makes the public at large more disposed to obey them, by priming them to think of their own ethically-based reasons for action. Basing policies on ethical principles also assists policymakers in securing the cooperation of other potential veto players in implementing the policy, by creating cooperative norms and a culture of trust among powerful actors who are prepared to bind themselves to those ethical principles in a reciprocal manner.

The event will be followed by a reception.



**Robert E. Goodin** is distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Australian National University and Professor of Government at the University of Essex. His work focuses on political theory and public policy. Goodin is founding editor of the *Journal of Political Philosophy* and of a series of books on *Theories of Institutional Design* for Cambridge University Press. He served as general editor of the *Oxford Handbooks of Political Science*. His coauthored book, *Discretionary Time*, won the International Social Science Council's 2009 Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research. Goodin currently works on issues of complicity and benefiting from injustice. His latest book *On Settling* will be published later this year.



**Commentary: Edda Müller** is the Chair of Transparency International Deutschland e.V. She served as the president of the German Consumers' Organisation, Deputy Director of the European Environment Agency and Minister for Nature and Environment of the State of Schleswig-Holstein, among others. She studied Modern History and Political Science in Germany and France and holds a doctorate in Public Administration. She serves as honorary professor for Political Science at the German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer; and has published widely on environmental, climate and consumer policy and the political balance of interests in modern democracies.

## Challenges and Opportunities in a Globalizing World – Public Policy and the Public Good

The foundations of politics are being questioned in nearly all policy fields on national and international levels. This series brings together leading academics from various disciplines, policy makers and other experts to explore current challenges and opportunities in public policy.

If you wish to attend please complete the attached registration form and return it to us via Fax: +49-30-259 219 444 or  
Email: [events@hertie-school.org](mailto:events@hertie-school.org)



## Registration

Hertie School of Governance  
Communications

Registration:

**Fax: +49-30-259 219 444**

Email: [events@hertie-school.org](mailto:events@hertie-school.org)

### Ethics as an enabler of public policy

Lecture by Robert Goodin with Commentary by Edda Müller

1 October 2012 | 6 p.m.

I will attend:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Position

\_\_\_\_\_

Institution

\_\_\_\_\_

Email

\_\_\_\_\_

Accompanied by

How to find us:



Hertie School of Governance  
Friedrichstraße 180 10117 Berlin

We kindly request that you register for this event.  
In case of further questions, please call +49-30-259 219 118.