

BACKGROUND NOTE ON ACTION PLANS

The SMO Action Plan is intended to provide a summary of:

1. The legal and regulatory environment for the profession;
2. The status of adoption of international standards and best practices in the jurisdiction; and
3. The actions undertaken by IFAC Members and Associates to support adoption and implementation of international standards and best practices and fulfill the membership requirements.

IFAC [Statements of Membership Obligations](#) (SMOs) require IFAC Members and Associates to support the adoption¹ and implementation² of international standards and other pronouncements issued by independent standard-setting boards (IAASB, IESBA, IPSASB), and the IES, as well as by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); and to establish a quality assurance (QA) review and investigation and disciplinary (I&D) systems. The SMOs are recognized as the international benchmarks for credible and high-quality PAOs that are focused on and have the necessary expertise to serve the public interest and meet the market demands of their respective jurisdictions.

IFAC Members and Associates conduct a self-assessment against the requirements of SMOs and identify areas where, if any, improvements are needed. Members and Associates should develop an Action Plan to (a) demonstrate how they fulfill the requirements of the SMOs and (b) where some requirements are not yet addressed, to present plans towards their fulfillment. Action Plans are designed to be ever-green documents that take into consideration IFAC recommendations. Depending on the PAO's level of fulfillment (see *IFAC's Summary Assessment* – page 2), an Action Plan may not be necessary for each SMO section and instead the '*Attestation of Ongoing SMO Compliance*' is used to confirm their ongoing commitments. However, PAOs may wish and are welcome to utilize the Action Plan as a tool to demonstrate how they are using 'best endeavors' and going beyond their mandate with innovative approaches to fulfilling the SMOs and strengthening the national profession.

The specific details of each organization's actions will vary even where two PAOs are involved in the same SMO area. Each PAO operates in its own unique regulatory and standard-setting framework and has different operating, technical, and resource capacities. Moreover, in deciding when and how a particular SMO requirement is to be addressed, PAOs might have differing timeframes and objectives to achieve. Notwithstanding these inevitable differences, seeking the advice and assistance of other PAOs who have already faced and dealt with similar challenges can save significant time and resources. IFAC staff will offer assistance as needed.

Use of Information

Please refer to the [Disclaimer](#) published on the IFAC website.

¹ *Adoption* is concerned with the decision that international standards are appropriate for use in specific national financial reporting environments and with the actions necessary to affect those decisions, including incorporation into national requirements or requiring the use of international standards through law. Adoption may include a process to review draft international standards, translation, public exposure of proposed standards, approval, incorporation into national requirements as necessary, and promulgation of final standards, and, where applicable, a convergence process to eliminate or minimize differences between international and national standards.

² *Implementation* may include a process to build awareness of the adopted standards, provide relevant education and training, develop, or disseminate implementation guidance and any other activities that promote proper understanding and use of the standards in practice.

The regular updates of the SMO Action Plans are required as part of the [IFAC Member Compliance Program](#). The SMO Action Plans are also essential to IFAC's [reporting on the global status of international standards](#). The SMO Action Plans are a key source of information that IFAC utilizes as part of its process and methodology for [assessing the status of adoption of international standards in each member jurisdiction](#) in collaboration with the international independent standard-setting boards. IFAC also assesses the adoption, implementation support, and other best practices (also known as SMO Fulfillment) for [each IFAC member organization](#) utilizing information contained in the SMO Action Plans along with a plethora of third-party sources. This information is summarized in Dashboard Reports (DBRs) which are updated by IFAC alongside each SMO Action Plan submission. Therefore, it is important that the SMO Action Plan contains the most up-to-date, relevant information and actions related to the SMOs.

ACTION PLAN












IFAC Member: Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW)
Approved by Governing Body: IDW Executive Board
Last Updated: October 2023

GENERAL: Action Plans by IFAC Members in Germany

The IDW represents the Wirtschaftsprüfer profession; membership in the IDW is voluntary. This Action Plan reflects the SMO activity areas where IDW has answered on behalf of the German professional organizations (SMOs 2, 3, 5 and 7). Please refer to the Action Plan prepared by Wirtschaftsprüferkammer (WPK) for information about other SMO activity areas (SMOs 1, 4 and 6).

IFAC's Summary Assessment: IFAC staff will complete this section at the conclusion of each SMO Action Plan review and update process. PAOs may take staff's recommendations into consideration as part of future strategic planning conversations at the PAO.

For more information on [IFAC Member Compliance Program](#) and the legends used to describe the status of adoption of international standards, best practices, and fulfillment of SMO requirements, please refer to the Status of Adoption [methodology](#) and SMO Fulfillment [methodology](#).

FOR IFAC COMPLETION	IDW Responsibility for Adoption of Standards	Adoption Status as of 2023	Level of SMO Fulfillment as of 2023
QA / SMO 1	No Direct	 Adopted	n/a
IES / SMO 2	Shared	 Adopted	 Sustain
ISA / SMO 3	Direct	 Adopted	 Sustain
IESBA / SMO 4	No Direct	 Partially Adopted	n/a
IPSAS / SMO 5	No Direct	 Not Adopted	 Sustain
I&D / SMO 6	No Direct	 Adopted	n/a
IFRS / SMO 7	No Direct	 Partially Adopted	 Sustain

Attestation of SMO Compliance

The *Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW)* has developed an Action Plan to demonstrate how it fulfills the requirements of the SMOs. The abovementioned *Governing Body* has reviewed the information contained within the SMO Action Plan and affirms that the *Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW)* continues to undertake these and other relevant actions to maintain ongoing compliance and fulfillment of the membership obligations where IFAC's assessments are at *Review & Improve* and/or *Sustain*.

On behalf of the *Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW)*, the *Governing Body* endorses the information contained within the SMO Action Plan as of the publication date and its publication on the IFAC website in the interests of transparency and to demonstrate our commitment to enhancing the quality and credibility of the accountancy profession worldwide.

GLOSSARY

CPD	Continuing Professional Development
HGB	German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch)
IAASB	International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
IAESB	International Accounting Education Standards Board
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
IES	International Education Standards
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
WPO	German Public Accountant Act (Wirtschaftsprüferordnung)
WPK	Wirtschaftsprüferkammer

Action Plan Subject: SMO 2 and International Education Standards for Professional Accountants and Other Guidance

Action Plan Objective: *Continue to use best endeavors to adopt and implement International Education Standards for Professional Accountants and other Guidance*

Background

1. Overview of education routes as a prerequisite to the Professional Examination

1.1 Educational routes

The WPO sets forth different routes for admission to the profession of Wirtschaftsprüfer: Traditionally, candidates need to have a university degree in addition to professional work experience of at least three years, which is extended to four years when the prescribed degree course is shorter than eight semesters. Candidates without a university degree may sit the professional examination after having worked for at least 10 years in auditing or at least five years as a Steuerberater (licensed tax advisor), although this route is no longer significant in practice. Candidates already approved to carry out statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts in a European Union Member State or a Treaty Nation in the European Economic Area or in Switzerland may sit an aptitude test.

1.2 The typical professional route – requirements for admission for university graduates

As a prerequisite for admission to sit the examinations for Wirtschaftsprüfer, candidates must have undertaken a specific type of further education (§ [Article] 8 WPO [Wirtschaftsprüferordnung - German Law Regulating the Profession of Wirtschaftsprüfer]), - typically a course of university studies in business administration, although the WPO does not stipulate specific subjects - and also have obtained sufficient practical experience for the exercise of the profession (§9 WPO).

The profession of Wirtschaftsprüfer requires a university education of at least first-degree level. In addition to auditing, the subjects covered during the professional examination include the core competencies of the profession: primarily tax advice and the representation of clients in tax proceedings, as well as services in the capacity of a technical expert and consultant in all areas of business management.

Practical experience:

Practical work experience provides young Wirtschaftsprüfer with the occupational skills that cannot, or cannot yet, be taught as part of a degree course. After gaining their degrees, university graduates must provide documentary evidence of their practical experience (work as auditors) of at least three years. When the prescribed degree course is shorter than eight semesters, this is extended to four years. The work experience must be

gained with a person, firm or auditing institution specified in § [Article] 9(1) WPO (e.g. legally recognized audit firms in Germany and other EU Member States), and certain activities outside auditing can be credited for up to one year. These include, e.g., working for the WPK, IDW, Deutsches Rechnungslegungs-Standards Committee [Accounting Standards Committee of Germany – DRSC], the audit office for accounting or in a Prüfungsverband [Cooperative Audit Association] pursuant to § [Article] 26(2) 2 Kreditwesengesetz [German Banking Law - KWG], but also work as a Steuerberater [licensed tax advisor] or internal auditor in a major company. Work experience acquired abroad will also be credited if it was obtained working for a person authorized or appointed as a statutory auditor in the foreign country and if the preconditions for the authority or appointment are significantly equivalent to the relevant provisions of the WPO. Within this period of work experience, each candidate must, for not less than two years, undertake audit work for a person, firm or institution authorized to carry out statutory audits (Wirtschaftsprüfer, Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften, vereidigte Buchprüfer, Buchprüfungsgesellschaften; audit institutions that employ Wirtschaftsprüfer; audit institutions in a European Union Member State or a Treaty Nation in the European Economic Area), and during this period must be involved predominantly (for not less than 53 weeks) in statutory audits and in drawing up long-form audit reports.

1.3 Other qualification routes

The typical education route is via university degree. However, the WPO does permit exceptions by which evidence of defined practical work, supplemented by other professional qualifications, where applicable, can compensate for the absence of a university degree.

1.4 The alternative educational route – Master's degree pursuant to § [Article] 8a WPO

No university studies in Germany are available that would lead directly to the profession of Wirtschaftsprüfer. The Wirtschaftsprüfungsexamens-Reformgesetz [German Law Reforming the Examination of Wirtschaftsprüfer Candidates] has paved the way for a degree course to train Wirtschaftsprüfer and give them partial credit towards the final examination. This degree course is subject to special accreditation.

A master's degree course that has been accredited pursuant to § [Article] 8a WPO provides training directed towards working as a Wirtschaftsprüfer. The entrance requirements are a relevant first degree – ideally a bachelor's degree in business administration, at least six months' work experience in auditing as well as passing an entrance examination. The two-year master's degree is characterized by being highly directed towards practical application. The course content is aimed towards preparing students to work as auditors and the professional examination. Candidates are entitled to sit the Wirtschaftsprüfer professional examination upon successful completion of this master's degree programme. Candidates may sit the examinations directly following the completion of their master's degree. The results of the examinations for applied business administration/economics and commercial law taken as part of this degree program are fully accredited towards the Wirtschaftsprüfer professional examination, thereby exempting candidates from the corresponding examinations. In this situation, the Wirtschaftsprüfer professional examination is limited to two subject areas, for each of which two written examinations and an oral examination are obligatory. The Wirtschaftsprüfungsexamens-Anrechnungsverordnung (WPAnrV) [Professional Examination Accreditation Regulations] regulates procedural details. The reference framework and the curricula pursuant to the WPAnrV set forth the required content and learning outcomes of the master's program. An official appointment as a Wirtschaftsprüfer cannot take

place immediately when such candidates have passed the professional examination, because there is a requirement for at least three years' work experience. However, the entire period of work experience gained subsequent to the awarded bachelor's degree is accredited as practical experience.

2. Professional Examinations

2.1 Typical examination route

The professional examination, held twice-yearly, comprises written and oral examinations. Written examinations, which are uniform throughout Germany, are held in February and August each year. The WiPrPrüfV [Wirtschaftsprüferprüfungsverordnung - Professional Examination Regulations] regulates the details of the examination procedures.

2.2. Professional Examination requirements

The content of the Wirtschaftsprüfer professional examination are stipulated in § [Article] 4 WiPrPrüfV.

2.3 Professional Examination requirements:

§§ [Articles] 4 and 7 WiPrPrüfV (subjects and number of written examinations):

- Auditing of businesses, business valuation and professional requirements
- Applied business administration, economics
- Commercial law
- Tax law

Each subject represents a separate module and includes a written and an oral examination. The modules can be taken separately. Each module can be repeated twice. The candidate has up to 6 years to pass all modules. The Auditing module can only be taken after the practical experience has been fulfilled. It is still open whether the topic of sustainability will be assessed as part of the audit module or as a further independent module.

The joint WPK/IDW working party dealing with the reform of the Wirtschaftsprüfer Professional Examination has produced a document establishing the detailed content of the syllabus for each subject covered in the Professional Examination. The syllabus generally exceeded what was required in the old IESs and the self-assessment of this syllabus is part of the Compliance Process of the Professional Accountancy Education Europe (PAEE), previously known as the Common Content Project , which was last carried out in 2021.

2.4. Abridged Professional Examination

As explained above, the Wirtschaftsprüfungsexamens-Reformgesetz [Professional Examination Accreditation Regulations – WPAnrV] created the means by which certain examination results gained during a university degree course can be accredited towards the final exam. However, the examinations at university must be equivalent to the requirements in the final professional examination. When these are equivalent, the exams at university then exempt candidates from the written and oral examinations on the respective subject. Accreditation is provided only for two subjects: applied business administration/economics and commercial law.

The WPO provides for alternatives in this respect:

- The successful completion of a master's degree program accredited under § [Article] 8a WPO exempts candidates from two subjects: applied business administration/economics and commercial law in the professional examination, which means that the professional examination is limited to two subjects for each of which candidates then sit two written examinations and an oral examination.
- Under § [Article] 13b WPO, examination results achieved during a university degree course (e.g., a diploma, bachelor's, master's degree course or in a course concluded by a state examination) can be accredited provided the Examination Unit has determined their equivalency in terms of content, form and scope. §§7 et seq. WPAnrV sets forth preconditions in respect of form and content for establishing equivalency and also regulates the procedure. Prior to the start of each semester universities may apply, in advance, to the Examination Unit for confirmation that the respective written and oral examinations they plan to have accredited are equivalent to those of the professional examination. The degree course relevant to such accreditation must have been successfully completed no longer than eight years prior to the date of admission to the Professional Examination.
- An abridgement pursuant to § [Article] 13 WPO (for German tax advisors) may be claimed together with an abridgement pursuant to § 8a WPO or §13b WPO (recognized equivalent examinations). An abridgement in accordance with §13 WPO seems, however, not relevant for those candidates choosing the training route in accordance with §8a WPO.

2.5 Examination Unit for the Professional Examination at the WPK

Applications for admission to the professional examination must be submitted to that WPK's state office at which the examination candidate wishes to sit the written and oral examinations. The office chosen cannot be changed during the examination process. Written examinations, which are uniform throughout Germany, are held in February and August each year.

2.6 Preparing for examinations

The IDW Akademie offers various courses and training seminars etc. to guide students through their practical work experience.

As explained below, the IDW Akademie, apart from other organizations, offers training courses for candidates that have begun their employment with

a member of the profession. These training courses are taken during the period of work experience and concentrate on the key areas that Wirtschaftsprüfer deal with day-to-day: auditing, taxation, business administration and law. These courses aim to review, deepen and extend the basic knowledge candidates have acquired during their university education as well as imparting important practical knowledge. There are plans to integrate the audit of sustainability information into this course. In addition, IDW already offers a separate CPD 2-module course leading to a recognition as Sustainability Auditor ^{IDW}. Successful completion of the first module is intended equip support staff who have not yet completed their professional education with the requisite knowledge of sustainability-related reporting and assurance developments.

3 Aptitude test for statutory auditors from EU/EEA Member States or Switzerland (§§ [Articles] 131g ff. WPO

Candidates already approved to carry out statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts in a European Union Member State or a Treaty Nation in the European Economic Area or in Switzerland may sit an aptitude test. Upon application and payment of a fee, the Examination Unit provides binding information on compliance with the admission requirements. The aptitude test is an independent examination, but is abridged in comparison with the standard professional examination, because applicants already have a comparable professional qualification. Those German statutory requirements that are important for exercising the profession constitute the subjects examined. These include tax law, commercial law and the regulations governing the Wirtschaftsprüfer profession. The aptitude test consists of a written examination comprising two papers and an oral examination, all of which are held in German. The procedure corresponds largely to that of the professional examination. The examination is held once each year. Details are regulated in §§ [Articles] 25 to 35 of the Wirtschaftsprüferprüfungsverordnung [Professional Examination Regulations - WiPrPrüfV].

Examination tutoring on a voluntary basis for the final examination (WP-Exam), in which most examination candidates participate, usually requires an additional 1 or 2 years of part-time study during the period of practical work experience. Courses are provided by private organizations. It is not the responsibility of the IDW or the WPK to suggest how such professional programs should be organized or to ensure their relevance and quality.

Special events organized by the IDW:

Examination candidates can attend specific events organized by the IDW, such as lectures and talks organized by the IDW's state groups, dealing with current questions pertaining to the day-to-day work of the Wirtschaftsprüfer.

All written assessment questions in the professional examination are set by a special commission (Aufgabenkommission) with 9 members from different sectors. Seven of them are non-practitioners and are from the following sectors: State Ministries, examination unit of WPK, universities, lawyers, tax administration, and industry). Two members are practitioners (WPK members). All markers are members of the Examination Commission (Prüfungskommission) and come from the above-mentioned sectors (with one exception: there is no representative on the examination unit of WPK

on the Examination Commission). Members of both commissions are appointed by the WPK Council. This appointment needs the consent of the Federal Ministry of Economics.

The requirements for continuing professional development are established through different laws or bylaws: Wirtschaftsprüferordnung - WPO Public Accountant Act - and WPK Bylaws. These bylaws set forth a legal duty of continuing education for all members of the WPK of no less than 40 hours/year - 20 hours must be structured learning. In addition, under the IDW's Articles of Incorporation, each member is required to ensure that their CPD meets their professional practice needs: The IDW requires 40 hours of (structured) CPD a year.

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					
<i>Ongoing information to IDW members in respect of new developments in IAESB pronouncements</i>					
1.	Ongoing	Include a commentary on each new pronouncement issued by IAESB in the monthly members journal and the fortnightly technical magazine, so as to: a) inform members of new developments b) solicit members' input for comment letters	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff
2.	Ongoing	Include a summary of each comment letter submitted by IDW relating to pronouncements issued by IAESB in the monthly members' journal and the fortnightly technical magazine. Full text of the letters is made available on IDW website.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff
3.	Ongoing	Report new pronouncements in news flash on our website.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff
<i>Participation in IAESB Standard Setting Activities</i>					
4.	Ongoing	Comment letters submitted by IDW relating to IAESB exposure drafts.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff and IDW Committee Members

<i>Incorporate the essential elements of IES</i>					
5.	Ongoing	<p>Entrance requirements for the qualification and the professional examination are regulated by law.</p> <p>The syllabus generally exceeded what was required in the old IESs and the self-assessment of these syllabus is part of the Compliance Process of the the Professional Accountancy Education Europe (PAEE), previously known as the Common Content Project , which was last carried out in 2021.</p>	Ongoing	-	The German legislator is responsible for passing the relevant law and regulation. The IDW uses its best endeavors to persuade the regulator to pass laws and regulations in accordance with the IES.
<i>Assist with the implementation of IES</i>					
6.	Ongoing	Approval of curricula (the curricula are made publicly available) for the Wirtschaftsprüfer examination.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff
7.	Ongoing	Approval of the "Referenzrahmen"(frame of reference that provides details about the examination subjects of certain university degrees, which may be accredited towards the professional examination).	Ongoing	Ministry of Economics and Technology	IDW Technical Staff
<i>Review of IDW's Compliance Information</i>					
8.	Ongoing	This Action Plan will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary by the staff responsible for the relevant area of activity.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff

Action Plan Subject: SMO 3 and International Auditing and Assurance Standards

Action Plan Objective: Continue to use best endeavors to adopt and implement ISAs and other IAASB Pronouncements

Background

The IDW promulgates auditing and assurance standards for application in Germany. The German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, HGB) regulates, inter alia, purpose and scope of an audit, and audit opinion and report. Only small companies that meet certain criteria are exempted from undergoing an audit. Although the German parliament transposed the EU audit reform package, comprising the [Directive 2014/56/EU](#) on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts and Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public interest entities (PIEs), into its national legislation, the Directive stipulates that auditors and audit firms in member states must apply ISA and other related standards issued through the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) as adopted by the EU Commission. As of the date of this action plan, the EU Commission has not yet adopted ISAs.

Application and Transposition of International Standards:

ISAs

As explained above, once ISAs have formally been adopted for application within the European Union, those ISAs will be applicable for statutory audits of financial statements covered by EU legislation. However, in 2018 the IDW decided to change its previous practice of transposing ISAs within German IDW Auditing Standards. The German language translations of ISAs are supplemented by add-ons necessary to reflect requirements under German (and EU law) and are applicable as "ISA-DE" except for those cases where the use of IDW Auditing Standards (IDW AuS) is necessary because German legal requirements differ from ISA to the extent that translation with add-ons would have been more complex. (this applies to ISAs 570, 260, and 265 and the ISA 700 series other than ISAs 710 and 720)). The ISA-DE together with the remaining IDW AuS, which also include specific auditing or assurance standards without an ISA equivalent, constitute German GAAS (deutsche Grundsätze ordnungsmäßiger Abschlussprüfungen). ISA-DE applies to audits of financial statements of PIE entities for financial statement year ends beginning on or after 15.12.2021 and to other audits one year later, but could also be applied voluntarily earlier. As at August 2023 ISA-DE 315 (Revised 2019) is applicable ISA 220 (Revised) is applicable for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2023. ISA 600 (Revised) is expected to be applicable as of one year later than ISA 600 (revised) i.e., it will be applicable for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2024.

ISQMs:

IAASB pronouncements on quality management (ISQM 1 and ISQM 2) are transposed into national standards and amended as necessary to address differences due to conflicts with legal or regulatory requirements and in most cases these address additional matters of national professional practice. These national standards are created based upon a line-by-line analysis of the ISQMs. Differences result from legal and regulatory requirements and

professional practice. The IDW QM Standards require firms to establish a design of their Quality Management systems aligned to the requirements of the new standards by December 15th, 2023 certain specific requirements shall be actioned within one year from that date. There has been no discussion as to a potential adoption of ISQMs at EU level.

Translation of International Standards:

The ISAs and ISQM 1 and 2 have been translated into German and will be published by the IDW's own publishing house. The translation of international Standards remains ongoing, as the IAASB issues new and revised standards..

In October 2016, the IDW made available a German language translation of the IFAC SMPC Guide to Quality Control for Small- and Medium-Sized Practices, Third Edition.

Adoption of International Standards:

The IDW continues to support the adoption of ISAs by the European Commission for application in the European Union. As stated above, International Standards have not yet been formally adopted by the European Commission, and, in 2018 the IDW made a decision to adopt the translation of the ISAs as ISA-DE as described above.

Auditing Standards for Smaller and Medium-Sized Less Complex Entities

The IDW has developed a specific suite of IDW Auditing Standards to be applied for qualifying entities within Germany's smaller and medium-sized entity audit market: "IDW Auditing Standards for Less Complex Entities (IDW AuS LCE). These standards are closely aligned to relevant parts of the ISAs and take a modular approach whereby a specific module may be conditional on the circumstances of the individual audit. This suite of standards was developed in response to demand for a pragmatic solution for SME/ LCE audits. The IDW also agreed on a one-year deferral of ISA [DE] application for non-PIEs, so the IDW AuS LCE provide SMPs and others with a viable LCE alternative to moving to ISA [DE]. The IDW plans to apply for permission to translate the IAASB's LCE Auditing Standard once a final version has been issued.

Recent Changes to Auditor Reporting:

Recent revisions to the ISAs as well as legislative developments at national and EU level have resulted in significant changes to auditor reporting in Germany. In addition to past changes to the auditor's report such as the introduction of KAM for PIEs, the introduction of EU requirements for assurance concerning the electronic tagging of financial statement information represents a new development of particular relevance for auditors of PIEs.

Further IAASB Pronouncements:					
<p>ISRE 2400 (version pre-2012) was transposed into an equivalent German standard in 2002. Other than this, the IDW is currently in the process of addressing its Membership Obligations regarding the IAASB's Pronouncements beyond auditing standards. Translations of ISRS 4400 and ISAE 3400 have been completed, and ISAE 3000 is in the process of translation. Further translations are planned in respect of ISRE 2400, 2410 and ISRS 4410.</p> <p>In recently issued IDW standards, a format similar to the clarity format has been used, and this format will be applied in future IDW AuS and IDW AsS (IDW Assurance Standards).</p>					
#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Ongoing information and implementation support to IDW members in respect of new developments in IAASB pronouncements</i>					
1.	Ongoing	Include in the monthly members journal and also the fortnightly technical magazine a commentary on each new exposure draft issued by the IAASB, so as to: a) inform members of new developments and/ or proposed changes, and b) solicit members' input for comment letters to the IAASB.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff
2.	Ongoing	Include in the monthly members journal and fortnightly technical magazine a summary of each comment letter submitted by the IDW relating to exposure drafts issued by the IAASB, so as to inform members as to the main issues raised. Full text of letters available on IDW Website.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff
3.	Ongoing	Report new pronouncements in news flash on our members website issued in final form to inform members.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical staff
<i>Participation in IAASB's Standard Setting Activities</i>					
4.	Ongoing	Agenda papers are reviewed and significant issues identified and included in German in the agenda papers presented for discussion at the IDW main technical Board meeting. [Hauptfachausschuss (HFA) Auditing and Accounting Board].	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff together with Departmental Head

5.	Ongoing	The German IAASB member is also an observer of the HFA, whose meetings are attended by others with an interest in auditing standard setting (e.g. representatives of the German Chamber of Public Auditors and the German Auditor Oversight Body [NOTE: the German oversight regime was overhauled in 2016 and the former AOC replaced by a new body under the remit of the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA)]). This enables a discussion of significant issues, so informing the IAASB member as to the views of the German profession and others on specific issues.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Auditing and Accounting Board
6.	Ongoing	The IDW also provides the German IAASB member with the services of a Technical Advisor who also participates in meetings of the HFA, the IAASB and observes the IAASB CAG and who may also be involved in specific IAASB Task Forces and Working Groups.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Director Assurance Standards, International Affairs
<i>Translation of the International Standards</i>					
7.	Ongoing	<p>The IDW has an agreement with IFAC to allow the IDW to translate various IAASB pronouncements (formerly as preparation for EU adoption, currently prepared as a basis for ISA-DE and publication of a synoptic translation of the original ISA text) (this also familiarizes the Working Party with final versions – knowledge gained is also applied in updating further IDW Auditing Standards).</p> <p>The German translations of the ISAs are used directly as part of the ISA-DE Standards. The IDW own publishing house also publishes a synoptic translation of ISAs, as updated at regular intervals, and which it intends will also include the QM Standards in a future edition.</p> <p>As noted above, the IDW is also currently in the process of translating several selected other assurance and related services pronouncements.</p>	ISAs and ISQC 1 translations completed July 2011, update issued 2015 and further translations ongoing	Principal Translator and IDW Working Party ISA Transposition with acknowledgement of IDW Auditing and Accounting Board (HFA)	IDW Working Party ISA Transposition and IDW Technical Staff
<i>Updating German Auditing Standards to reflect developments in and/ or proposed changes to IAASB pronouncements</i>					

8.	Ongoing	For ISAs (Revised) and new ISAs, update individual ISA-DE or IDW Auditing Standards as necessary on an ongoing basis. All ISA-DE standards and IDW Auditing Standards are exposed for public comment ahead of their finalization.	Beginning 2010	IDW Auditing and Accounting Board	IDW Working Party ISA Transposition and IDW Technical Staff
<i>Member education and training</i>					
9.	Ongoing	Annual technical congress for IDW members includes a workshop "IAASB Update", or similar title, to inform participants about and foster discussion of the more significant aspects.	Ongoing	IDW Academy and IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff together with individual lecturers
10.	Ongoing	Updated IDW Auditing Standards and ISA-DE are included in all relevant training courses offered by the IDW Academy to ensure members and trainees have up-to-date information.	Ongoing	IDW Academy	IDW Technical Staff together with individual lecturers
11.	Ongoing	New products and significant developments affecting the profession (including ISA related issues) are being promoted by various means, including regional roadshows dealing with current issues (IDW Fachdiskussion). This format also allows the IDW interaction with its members to gain feedback as to their views on selected issues. The decision on moving to ISA-DE was one key example of how the IDW is informed and how it informs its members.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Executive Board together with IDW Technical Staff
12.	Ongoing	The IDW provides an annual update ahead of each "audit season", which covers pertinent changes in auditing, financial reporting, professional standards, and sustainability related developments. Many German entities report as at the end of the calendar year, so the main developments are explained in the main version of this publication (Neuerungen für die Prüfungssaison") issued annually in the autumn with an update issued in January.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff in cooperation with Grant Thornton
<i>Handbooks and Manuals and Software Solutions (including tools)</i>					
13.	Ongoing	Update annually IDW Practice Manual for Audit and Quality Control, including a software tool (see below for further details), checklists and other tools (designed for use by SMPs) to reflect the move to	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff

		ISA-DE as well as any changes in IAASB pronouncements e., ISA 315 (Revised 2019), ISA 540 (Revised) and ISQM 1 and 2 that have affected the German GAAS, and other changes (e.g., German law, etc.).			
14.	Ongoing	Developed a new Module aligned to the IDW LCE Standards referred to above as an integral part of the IDW Practice Manual, checklists and other tools (designed for use in the audit of an SME's financial statements)			IDW Technical Staff
15.	Ongoing	Update members' handbook [Comprehensive technical resource of relevant information for all areas of work performed by IDW Members covering accounting, auditing, tax and law] at regular intervals to reflect changes arising from the revision of IAASB pronouncements (e.g., changes in audit methodology and firms' quality control, etc.). The most recent new edition was published in 2021, and includes a separate volume entitled "Assurance" (incl. audit). The next revision of this volume is planned within a year.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff together with selected Member Experts
16.		The IDW has developed the IDW Audit Navigator, which is a software application developed by the IDW, linked to the above-mentioned version of the IDW Practice Handbook. It mainly provides a basis for software development.	used as a basis for software development.	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff
<i>Technical Support for our Membership</i>					
17.	Ongoing	We offer members a hotline service whereby they may make oral inquiries on technical matters, including auditing. In addition, members may request written replies from our technical department on technical issues.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff together with Department Head
18.	Ongoing	FAQs (in German) concerning the application of various selected ISAs. Most recent FAQ address the change to ISA-DE, and specific aspects of ISA-DE 540 (Revised) and ISA 315-DE (Revised 2019). The FAQs include practical examples to guide auditors in application of the relevant standards.	Ongoing	IDW Auditing and Accounting Board	IDW Technical Staff together with IDW Working Party on Implementation of ISAs

19.	Completed	WPK has implemented the principle of proportionality regarding the process of the audit in general into WPK's Professional Charter. In addition, WPK has published extensive user notes concerning the proportionality of the ISAs application.	July 2012	WPK Board of Directors and WPK Advisory Board	WPK Committees + WPK staff
<i>Review of IDW's Compliance Information</i>					
20.	Ongoing	This Action Plan will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary by the staff responsible for the relevant area of activity.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff

Action Plan Subject: SMO 5 and International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Action Plan Objective: Activities to promote IPSASB Pronouncements

Background

Public Sector Accounting in Germany depends on the respective laws and regulations at national level for central government entities, at state level for the respective states and at local level for municipalities, regions and other local entities. These laws do not usually simply use the requirements from private-sector accounting, but stipulate their own financial reporting frameworks in detail. Therefore, in the public sector an accrual accounting framework in one federal state differs from those in each of the other states. Legislation stipulates whether cash or accrual accounting is used and outlines basic accounting principles, which may be complemented by regulations from the responsible authorities. Standard setters are therefore:

- at national level: national parliament (“Bundestag”) and the German Ministry of Finance,
- at state level: the state parliament and the respective Ministry of Finance of the respective state,
- at local level: the state parliament and the respective Ministry of the Interior of the respective state.

Since 2010 the German “Budgetary Principles Law” (‘Haushaltsgrundsätze-gesetz’, for the English translation see <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Gesetze/Laws/1969-08-19-budgetary-principles-act.html>) allows central government at national level and at state level to implement accrual accounting, without having to bear the burden of operating a cash-based accounting system at the same time. Nevertheless, at national level, the German Central Government continues to apply cash-based, single-entry accounting. At state level, a few states have adopted accrual accounting (Hamburg since 2006, Hesse since 2009, Bremen since 2010); one federal state is currently in the process of implementation (NRW).

At local or municipal level, all states have their own accrual accounting frameworks. However, as yet, only ten states require accrual accounting for local governments. In three states, the municipalities have an option to either adopt accrual accounting or continue cash accounting. These various frameworks are loosely based on private company accounting requirements as set forth in the German Commercial Code (German Legal Accounting Requirements), rather than on IFRSs or IPSASs.

For clarification: The above-mentioned frameworks do not apply to entities established in the legal form of limited liability companies or corporations pursuant to corporate law (GmbH, AG), even if central government is a founder or shareholder (for example municipal energy suppliers or hospitals). Accrual accounting according to the German Commercial Code applies in such cases.

IDW Public Sector Activities

Although public sector accounting standards are not within our scope of responsibilities, the IDW promotes the adoption of accrual accounting in general and IPSASB pronouncements in particular through various activities. The IDW's "best endeavours" include formal and informal activities such as comment letters and meetings with authorities (ministries, court of auditors).

Representatives of ministries and courts of auditors are invited – as permanent guests – to all meetings of the IDW Public Sector Committee (ÖFA) which deals with both accrual accounting and auditing in the public sector (see list of members on IDW Website: https://caruso.idw.de/gremium_detail.jsp?g_nr=100102520000).

The German Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) issued a special report on EPSAS in November 2017, criticizing the intended harmonization of public sector accounting in the European Union. This report was addressed to the German Parliament, the Federal Government and the general public. The IDW felt that this report did not present the pros and cons of accrual accounting in a balanced manner and thus took the initiative to comment on the special report in detail. This provoked an exchange of letters, accompanied by press releases and magazine articles, followed by a press interview between the SAI and IDW. This correspondence helped to reignite the discussion within Germany. (For the correspondence see IDW Website: <https://www.idw.de/idw/im-fokus/oeffentliche-rechnungslegung>, including an English translation of the first letter and further links)

The IDW is following the initiatives, ongoing at EU level, which are aimed at improving public sector financial reporting throughout the EU; possibly promulgating EPSASs (European Public Sector Accounting Standards) based on IPSASs but tailored for application in the EU. The IDW has participated in the public debate by responding to public consultations issued by Eurostat concerning the suitability of IPSASs for application in the EU and in respect of EPSAS governance mechanisms. The IDW has publicly stated that it views the adoption of IPSASs in the EU as a long term goal. A member of the IDW Public Sector Committee regularly attends the meetings of the Eurostat Expert Group EPSAS.

The IDW organized a number of events specifically on EPSAS by inviting a wide range of stakeholders and offering a platform for discussion:

- In March 2012 the IDW hosted a Symposium on international vs. national developments in public sector accounting, and took the IPSASB Meeting as an occasion to perform outreach activities. The speakers included the IPSASB Chair, the German IPSASB Member, a representative from Eurostat and from a Federal State using accruals accounting.
- In February 2015 there were over 100 attendees at a further IDW hosted Symposium: "Harmonisation of public sector accounting in Europe – and its impact on Germany". Keynote speakers included a representative from Eurostat, a member of the German Parliament (Bundestag),

the German IPSASB Member, and a representative from an accounting firm presenting the 2014 Study on the costs of implementing EPSASs and suitability of individual IPSASs commissioned by Eurostat. Their speeches were followed by a podium discussion involving representatives from a wide range of interested parties. Participants included representatives from all levels of the German government, the profession, the IPSASB, FEE (subsequently renamed Accountancy Europe) and the press.

Following both symposiums, special editions of the IDW technical periodical “Die Wirtschaftsprüfung” were published. The series of articles in the June 2012 edition were co-authored by the IPSASB Chair, the German IPSASB Member, a senior representative of one Federal State that has adopted accruals accounting, and a representative from Eurostat. The March 2015 edition included articles from the keynote speakers, among others a representative from Eurostat, a member of the German Parliament and the German IPSASB Member. A summary of the discussion was also included.

A further IDW Symposium on EPSAS was held in Berlin in February 2019 which was quite a success. We had 140 attendees from a wide range of stakeholders and very lively debates. Speakers and participants in the podium discussion included representatives from, e.g., the European Parliament, German Parliament, Federal Ministry of Finance, European Court of Auditors, Hamburg Court of Auditors, Austrian Court of Auditors as well as social security systems, municipalities and academia. The former German IPSASB member (until December 2018) participated in the Symposium as well as the IPSASB CAG Chair who is also a member of the IDW Public Sector Committee and Chair of the Public Sector Group of Accountancy Europe. (See IDW Website <https://www.idw.de/idw/themen-branchen/oeffentlicher-sektor/> where the programme and presentations can be downloaded.) For those who could not attend the event summaries of the main conclusions were published in different journals.

In 2019 the IDW met with Members of Parliament to discuss the advantages of governmental accrual accounting. Also in 2019 the IDW published a comprehensive Position Paper on Public Sector Financial Reporting: “Accrual Accounting in Germany and Harmonization in Europe through EPSAS” in German and an overview in English (see on IDW Website: <https://www.idw.de/idw/themen-branchen/oeffentlicher-sektor/>). The Position Paper was widely distributed.

The IDW designed and published in October 2019 a public-sector specific volume of the so-called Auditor’s Handbook which potential users are not only auditors, but also preparers, ministries and other stakeholders. The authors were mostly practitioners that are also members of IDW Public Sector Committee. The volume comprises national accounting of all public sector entities (including governments and enterprises), developments on EPSAS and a chapter on IPSAS which summarizes the main principles and provides a helpful introduction for those users who are not quite familiar with the standards yet. (See <https://shop.idw-verlag.de/OEffentliche-Hand-besondere-Branche-und-Non-Profits/11709>)

The IDW supported the representative of the German Supreme Audit Institution in his application for membership in the IPSASB. For a regular exchange of ideas concerning international accounting standards for the public sector the IDW invited Dr. Maik Esser-Müllenbach (SAI) who is IPSASB Member since January 2022 and his technical advisor to become members of the national IDW Working Group on EPSAS/IPSAS (see list of members on the IDW Website: https://caruso.idw.de/gremium_detail.jsp?g_nr=100108520009). This Working Group develops comment letters to IPSAS EDs and meets with authority representatives.

For example, in July 2021 there was a meeting of the IDW Working Group on EPSAS/IPSAS with representatives of the Ministry of Finance of the German State of Hesse to discuss their findings and experience with accrual accounting and IPSAS. The Hessian Ministry of Finance had just prepared, on a test basis, and published financial statements in accordance with IPSAS – in addition to their regular financial statements which are in accordance with national standards on government accrual accounting (Standards staatlicher Doppik).

The IDW regularly includes articles on public sector accrual accounting in its technical periodical “Die Wirtschaftsprüfung”. E.g. (as best practice examples) we have encouraged the Minister of Finance of the State of Hesse (Michael Boddenberg) to report on the major findings of the test IPSAS financial statements and we published an interview with the State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Patrick Opdenhövel) about the implementation of accrual accounting in NRW.

In 2021 the IDW published a Factsheet “IPSAS as a reference framework for EPSAS?” both in German and an English translation (see on IDW Website: <https://www.idw.de/idw/themen-branchen/oeffentlicher-sektor/>) which was accompanied by other publications in public-sector specific journals.

After the Federal Election in Germany in September 2021 the IDW commented on the coalition agreement in a press release (November 2021, see <https://www.idw.de/idw/medien/presseinformationen/idw-unterstuetzt-die-ziele-des-koalitionsvertrages-fuer-schnellere-digitalisierung-und-mehr-nachhaltigkeit-in-deutschland.html>), including the government's intent to get a better overview of public assets. The IDW reminded that accrual accounting would serve that purpose and further generational equity.

The IDW sponsored the CIGAR Workshop/IPSAS-Board Research Forum in September 2022 which took place in Germany (Cottbus/Berlin).

In July 2023, on the occasion of the presentation of the Federal Budget 2024 in the Federal Cabinet, the IDW Committee Trendwatch issued a Position Paper on generational equity, sustainability, modernization of public infrastructure and sustainable public finances.

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Ongoing information to IDW members in respect of new developments in IPSASB pronouncements</i>					
1.	Ongoing	<p>Information in IDW members' journal, technical magazine or Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reference to new IPSASB pronouncements summary of / link to each comment letter submitted by the IDW relating to exposure drafts issued by the IPSASB. Full text of letters available on IDW Website, e.g. <p>5/2023 Concessionary Leases (https://www.idw.de/idw/idw-aktuell/idw-zur-bilanzierung-von-leasingverhaeltnissen-im-oeffentlichen-sektor-nach-ipsas.html)</p> <p>9/2022 Advancing PS Sustainability Reporting (https://www.idw.de/idw/idw-aktuell/idw-zur-ipsasb-konsultation-ipsasb-als-standardsetter-im-bereich-nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung-fuer-den-oeffentlichen-sektor.html)</p> <p>8/2022 Retirement Benefit Plans (https://www.idw.de/idw/idw-aktuell/idw-zu-ipsas-ed-82-bilanzierung-von-altersversorgungsplaenen.html)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> articles about international developments 	Ongoing	IDW Public Sector Committee	IDW Technical Staff and IDW Committee members
<i>Participation in IPSASB Standard Setting Activities</i>					
2.	Ongoing	The IDW Working Group on EPSAS/IPSAS discusses new developments and IPSAS EDs. Chair of the IDW Working Group is a former German IPSASB member			

		and former IPSASB CAG Chair and Chair of the Public Sector Group of Accountancy Europe and also a member of the IDW Public Sector Committee, This IDW Working Group includes two representatives of the German Supreme Audit Institution (SAI): the current German IPSASB member and his TA.			
3.	Ongoing	Comment letters submitted by the IDW relating to certain IPSASB exposure drafts and other publications. As part of the IDW's finalization process, initial drafts of all IDW comment letters which are prepared by the IDW Working Group on EPSAS/IPSAS are made available to the IDW Public Sector Committee to both further their consideration and illicit additional comments.	Ongoing	IDW Public Sector Committee	IDW Technical Staff and IDW Committee members
<i>Continuing education of members</i>					
4.	Ongoing	Annual congress for IDW members, which offers all kinds of topics relevant to practitioners, always includes one or more workshops for developments in the Public Sector (including national accrual accounting and IPSASB activities) to inform participants about and foster discussion of significant aspects.	Ongoing	IDW Academy and IDW Executive Board/ IDW Public Sector Committee	IDW Technical Staff together with individual lecturers
<i>Technical Support for our Membership</i>					
5.	Ongoing	We offer members a hotline whereby they may make oral inquiries on technical matters, including public sector accounting and auditing. In addition, members may request written replies from our technical department on technical issues.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff
<i>Promoting IPSASB pronouncements with those responsible for public sector accounting standard-setting</i>					

6.	Ongoing	Although IDW is not standard-setter for public sector accounting standards, IDW promotes IPSASB pronouncements by reference to them in meetings with different institutions, e.g. ministries and courts of audit.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board / IDW Public Sector Committee	IDW Executive Directors, Technical Staff and selected Member Experts
7.	Ongoing (long-standing tradition since 1994)	There is an exchange between the IDW Public Sector Committee and a subcommittee ³ of the ministers of the Interior of the German federal states (which are standard-setter for public sector accounting on the municipal level in Germany). The latter subcommittee has been sending representatives as guests to the meetings of the IDW Public Sector Committee since 1994 who report back to their peers in their annual meetings. This report back covers current international developments on EPSAS and IPSAS, which feature on the IDW Public Sector Committee's agenda on a regular basis.	Ongoing	IDW Public Sector Committee	IDW Technical Staff
8.	Ongoing (since 2009)	There is also a permanent exchange between the IDW Public Sector Committee and the courts of auditors. The courts of auditors of the 16 German states have their own nationwide Working Parties which have been sending representatives (always two) as guests to the meetings of the IDW Public Sector Committee since 2009 who report back to their peers in their bi-annual meetings.	Ongoing	IDW Public Sector Committee	IDW Technical Staff
9.	September 2018	Outreach activity: IDW presentation on IPSAS at a State Court of Audit, covering the IPSASB, its future strategy and work plan, the IPSAS, comparison with IFRS, comparison with German public sector accrual accounting standards, the EPSAS initiative, factors relevant to the future of public sector accounting in Germany	September 2018	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff

³ Unterausschuss „Kommunale Wirtschaft und Finanzen“ des AK III der Innenministerkonferenz (UAKWuF)

<i>Review of IDW's Compliance Information</i>					
10.	Ongoing	This Action Plan will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary by the staff responsible for the relevant area of activity.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical Staff

Action Plan Subject: SMO 7 and International Financial Reporting Standards

Action Plan Objective: Continue to use best endeavors to support adoption and implementation of IFRS

Background

Listed companies in Germany are required to use International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) in their consolidated accounts as required by the European Commission (EC) Regulation No. 1606/2002 as well as companies in the process of being listed on such a market. Germany permits IFRSs in the annual and consolidated accounts of all types of companies for information purposes only, and these entities are required to prepare (non-consolidated) annual financial statements in accordance with national accounting law for purposes of profit distribution, taxation, and financial services supervision. German accounting requirements, which are primarily contained in the German Commercial Code (HGB), differ from IFRSs. However, the German Accounting Law Modernization Act (which came into force in 2009) reduces the regulatory burden on companies, and in general achieves closer alignment to IFRSs.

Considering the afore-mentioned modernization of German accounting law, the IDW does not support the application of IFRSs for SMEs in Germany at the present time as the costs of the adoption of these would exceed the benefits for SMEs because of the relationship between company law and tax law and German accounting.

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Ongoing information to IDW members in respect of new developments in IFRS</i>					
1.	Ongoing	Include in the fortnightly technical magazine a commentary on each exposure draft, draft interpretation or discussion paper issued by the IASB or the IFRS Interpretations Committee, so as to: a) inform members of new developments and/ or proposed changes, and b) solicit members' input for comment letters to the IASB or the IFRS Interpretations Committee.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff
2.	Ongoing	Include in the fortnightly technical magazine a summary of each comment letter submitted by the IDW relating to significant exposure drafts, draft interpretations or discussion papers issued by the IASB or the IFRS Interpretations Committee, so as to inform members as to the main issues raised. Full text of letters available on IDW Website.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff

		Please see as an example the IDW Comments on the IASB Exposure Draft – Amendments to the Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments IDW-IASB-2023-02-Amendments-IFRS-9-7-Schreiben-230718.pdf.			
3.	Ongoing	Include in the fortnightly technical magazine a commentary on (or a summary of significant) final IFRSs (or amendments, respectively) to inform members of new developments that must be considered.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff
4.	Ongoing	Include in the fortnightly technical magazine technical articles on particular aspects of IFRS or IFRS-related matters, mainly concerning recent or new IFRS or interpretations.	Ongoing	Individual authors	Individual authors
5.	Ongoing	Report certain IFRS news on our Website.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical staff
<i>Preparation of German application guidance on IFRS</i>					
6.	Ongoing	Develop and issue IDW Pronouncements on IFRS (IDW Accounting Principles and Accounting Practice Statements) to inform members of the views of the auditing profession / the IDW committees on particular IFRS matters. Include these pronouncements in the monthly members' journal. Include a summary in the fortnightly technical magazine.	Ongoing	IDW Auditing and Accounting Board	IDW Committees IDW Technical staff
7.	Ongoing	Develop and issue other IDW publications on IFRS (e.g., IDW Knowledge Paper, Technical guidance, Questions and Answers) to inform members about the views of the national auditing profession (resp. IDW committees) on current topics or discussions on the application of IFRS. These are published on the IDW website. Please see as examples: "Accounting for 'green' financing" and "Questions and answers on the consideration of ESG-related aspects in IFRS financial statements". 20210707IDW_KnowledgePaper_BilanzierungGrünerFinanzen.indd IDW-ESG-IFRS (1).pdf	Ongoing	IDW Auditing and Accounting Board	IDW Committees IDW Technical staff

<i>IFRS-Knowledge Base</i>					
8.	Ongoing	Provide access to a comprehensive IFRS data base, including IFRS (endorsed by the European Commission; presented in English and German), IDW pronouncements on IFRS, literature, articles etc.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Technical staff
9.	Ongoing	Include in the auditor's handbook issued by the IDW, a chapter explaining the legal basis for applying IFRS in Germany as well as providing an overview of the conceptual framework and the most important regulations of IFRS.	Ongoing	N/A	Individual authors and IDW Technical staff
10.	Ongoing	Inclusion of a separate chapter on international accounting in the IDW's annually published product "Neuerungen für die Abschlussprüfungssaison" ("News for the Audit Season"), which informs members briefly and concisely about all new IFRS or amendments to IFRS, all new agenda decisions of the IFRS Interpretations Committee as well as pronouncements of the GASC and IDW to be observed in the next audit season.	Ongoing	Individual authors and IDW Technical staff	Individual authors and IDW Technical staff
<i>IFRS-Handbook: Synoptic translation</i>					
11.	Ongoing	Issue and update the full consolidated text of all IFRS as adopted in the EU. Synoptic presentation in English and German to facilitate the application of IFRS for German constituents.	Ongoing	N/A	IDW Technical staff
<i>Member education and training</i>					
12.	Ongoing	<p>Technical conferences for IDW members on IFRS topics to inform participants and foster discussion.</p> <p>IDW Academy offers a range of seminars and courses covering current IFRS topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual technical conference open to all members, including update or discussion sessions on selected IFRS-related matters • Technical IFRS Update course open to all members (at least annually) 	Ongoing	IDW Academy	Individual lecturers

		At a regional level and federal state level, the IDW also offers free-of-charge update sessions on selected IFRS issues.			
<i>Technical Support</i>					
13.	Ongoing	Telephone service whereby members may make oral inquiries on technical matters. In addition, members may request written IFRS replies on technical issues.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff
<i>Lobbying in respect of IFRS</i>					
14.	Ongoing	Participation in various organizations and groups (e.g., Accountancy Europe) and through contact with the German Government and the Accounting Standards Committee of Germany.	Ongoing	IDW Executive Board	IDW Executive Directors, Technical Staff and selected Member Experts
<i>Review of IDW's Compliance Information</i>					
15.	Ongoing	This Action Plan will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary by the staff responsible for the relevant area of activity.	Ongoing	IDW Technical Department	IDW Technical Staff