

Think Tanks, Transparency and Accountability

Key organizations and information sources

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compiled by Transparify

www.transparify.org

Accountability Principles for Research Organisations

APRO is run by One World Trust and is dedicated to enhancing the accountability of think tanks and research institutes. Their website contains multiple tools and other resources.

<http://bit.ly/LZ1yag>

Center for Media and Democracy

A non-profit organisation that investigates the influence of corporations and “front groups” on public policy, including public relations campaigns and lobbying.

It runs two platforms that cover think tanks extensively:

- **PR Watch** (<http://bit.ly/1iPKnX3>)
- **Sourcewatch** (<http://bit.ly/MzSHNI>)

Center for Political Accountability

A non-profit organization aiming to bring transparency and accountability to corporate political spending.

<http://bit.ly/1gdUGBu>

- Publishes annual **CPA-Zicklin index** (<http://bit.ly/1aBynQT>)

Edmond J. Edmond Safra Center for Ethics – Blog

Blog by center affiliated with Harvard University that occasionally covers think tanks in the context of “institutional corruption”.

<http://bit.ly/1IMIoS6>

Find the Data: Think Tanks

Aggregates information about think tanks, including financial information.

<http://bit.ly/1aHguQJ>

Find Policy

Aggregates search across think tanks, facilitating search for policy positions, donors and shared board members. Covers think tanks from around the world.

(Disclosure: Find Policy is run by some of Transparify's people.)

<http://bit.ly/1fUBoBd>

The High Horse

Blog about think tank ethics and governance run by Marie Newhouse. Aims to “generate practical new ideas as well as a set of best practices for think tanks”.

<http://bit.ly/1eA632e>

Lobby Watch

Organization that “helps track deceptive PR”. Provides background information on selected think tanks.

<http://bit.ly/1dN1H7I>

L’Observatori dels Think Tanks

Italian language blog on think tanks written by Francesc Ponsa, a scholar based in Barcelona.

<http://bit.ly/1gYxqYL>

Muckety

A website that maps connections between people and organisations, visualizing influence using interactive maps. Frequently covers US think tanks.

<http://bit.ly/1fkjiaA>

National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy

Organization advocating for greater foundation transparency and accountability.

<http://bit.ly/1b16J5x>

Observatoire Français des Think Tanks

OFTT acts as an information nexus for Francophone think tanks, publishing news, interviews and opinion pieces. It sometimes also features Spanish language content.

<http://bit.ly/1mISTMu>

On Think Tanks

A blog dedicated to think tanks, including funding related issues.

<http://bit.ly/1bLL280>

(Disclosure: Transparify’s Hans Gutbrod is a regular contributor, and Transparify itself is affiliated with On Think Tanks Labs, a collection of innovative ventures in policy research.)

Open Secrets

Website run by the Center for Responsive Politics that tracks money in US politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Strong focus on lobbying.

<http://bit.ly/1iUpuYt>

Philanthropy Roundtable

Organization dedicated to protecting and improving philanthropy in the US.

<http://bit.ly/1cBHeTi>

- Its **ACR project** advocates for protecting the privacy and tax deductibility of contributions to think tanks
(<http://bit.ly/1nxA7R7>)

Politics & Ideas

Initiative to encourage the consolidation of a community of practitioners focused on policy research in developing countries.

<http://bit.ly/1bWTfbB>

Powerbase

A collectively written online encyclopedia of people, issues, and groups shaping the public agenda that was initiated by Spinwatch. Contains background info on many think tanks.

<http://bit.ly/1joASMi>

Public Accountability Initiative

A non-profit organization “investigating power and corruption at the heights of business and government”.

<http://bit.ly/1bu2jEJ>

Publish What You Fund

A non-profit organisation promoting aid transparency.

<http://bit.ly/1eaC3iN>

Sunlight Foundation

A non-profit organisation that advocates for more transparency. Focuses on lobbying and campaign finance.

<http://bit.ly/M826er>

Think Tank Fund

An Open Society Foundations Program that gives grants to think tanks in Europe and the South Caucasus.

<http://osf.to/1mJuAGC>

(Disclosure: TTF funds the current project cycle of Transparify.)

Think Tank Initiative

Initiative aimed at “strengthening the capacity of independent policy research organizations in the developing world.”

<http://bit.ly/1fUXAOp>

(Disclosure: Transparify's Hans Gutbrod is a former employee.)

Think Tank Watch

A blog covering think tank “news, gossip, personnel, reports, studies, and pretty much anything else related to think tanks.”

<http://bit.ly/1aGePhz>

Think Tanked

A blog reporting on US think tanks. Hosted by the Washington Post until early 2013, now defunct, but old posts are still available.

<http://wapo.st/1e9B90w>

Think Tanks and Civil Society Program

University of Pennsylvania program that studies think tanks and conducts an annual rating of think tanks around the world.

<http://bit.ly/KL9rPX>

Think Tanks and Foreign Policy Program

A Foreign Policy Research Institute program that aims to connect regional and international organisations.

<http://bit.ly/1eiU3Wz>

Think Twice Think Tank Review Project

A National Education Policy Center project that reviews selected publications from think tanks focusing on education policy.

<http://bit.ly/1fA6FqJ>

Transparency International

An international anti-corruption organization that promotes transparency and accountability.

<http://bit.ly/1idOcCK>

(Disclosure: Transparify's Till Bruckner is a former employee and consultant.)

Transparify

Initiative rating the financial transparency of think tanks worldwide. Website includes a blog and annotated bibliographies on think tanks.

<http://www.transparify.org/>

Who Funds You?

A UK initiative to promote think tank funding transparency that has rated several UK think tanks on their disclosure of donors. Note that their rating methodology differs from that used by Transparify.

<http://bit.ly/1hcUVM6>

If you are aware of any relevant organizations or information sources that are not listed here, please contact us and we will update this list.

www.transparify.org

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