# *Oiconomy Pricing Lab*

## Procedures for Scholars contributing to the continuous development of the Oiconomy Pricing® methodology.

Utrecht / Driebergen, December 2023

This document describes in what way the Oiconomy Pricing Foundation supports initiatives and decides about proposed improvements.

*Core philosophy & feature*
The Oiconomy Pricing® methodology has originally been developed at Utrecht University in the Netherlands at their Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development by dr. Pim R. Croes and dr. Walter J.V. Vermeulen. The *core philosophy* has been to create a comprehensive assessment of the level of sustainability of products by identifying the 'hidden price' of the externalities caused by the production and use of the product in terms of the preventative costs: what would the product cost if all preventative measures would have been applied and thus zero negative impact would have been achieved. It also enables to identify a strict set of positive externalities attributable to the product. The *core feature* of the approach is that it creates a tool for companies, which they can apply themselves to assess the full costs of their products, based on their own and their suppliers' performance data on aspects related to People, Planet and Prosperity (PPP), covering all 17 UN SDGs.
The key methodological steps are publicly available and can be seen HERE.
Note that Oiconomy Pricing® is registered as trademark at the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property, reg. Nr. 1468337.

*Governance*
The Oiconomy Pricing® methodology is developed as a science-based approach and follows an Open Science policy. Scientists collaborate in the maintenance of the methodology, independent of private interests. The Oiconomy Pricing Foundation serves as the platform to govern the methodology. It is the owner of the trademark Oiconomy Pricing® and functions as the safe guarder of the principles of the approach.
Decisions on further development will be made by a commission of scientists, working according the original principles laid done in foundation's statutes.
The Board of the foundation and the Proposal Evaluation Commission exists of scholars of various universities.

*Open invitation for contributions*
So far, the Oiconomy Pricing® methodology has been developed for almost all sustainability aspects, covering the 17 UN SDGs. But it is not fully finished and is open for improvement. For this we invite the scientific community to contribute and make Oiconomy Pricing® a genuine Open Science effort. Various aspects are still missing, while various other aspects

may require better source data or partial adjustments. A detailed description of the open Research & Development Agenda can be seen [HERE](). Proposals for solutions to the challenges mentioned in the agenda are welcome. Scholars interested to contribute are asked to follow the next steps:

1. Contact the Oiconomy Pricing Foundation to **announce** your plan to contribute to a specific element of the Oiconomy Pricing® methodology (email: oiconomy@uu.nl and info@oiconomy.eu).
2. **Get familiar** with the specific principles and methodology of Oiconomy Pricing® and identify questions about the current version of the methodology, which need to be clarified to be able to make a valuable contribution.
3. We will set up a **meeting** to discuss these questions and the intended approach for the contribution.
4. **Agreements** will be made about the **time planning** and the **approach** taken and about assuring the adaptability of the developed proposals in the current version of the Oiconomy Pricing® methodology. Contributors are requested to demonstrate in advance to which part(s) of the existing Oiconomy Pricing® Tool the proposal will be connected.
5. During the process of developing a proposal an intermediate meeting and **first feedback** can be requested and organized, to ensure adaptability to the existing methodology.
6. The **final version of a proposed improvement** of the methodology can be submitted to the Board of the Oiconomy Pricing Foundation, (email: info@oiconomy.eu). The contributors will be enabled to elucidate their proposal.
7. Board of the Oiconomy Pricing Foundation, possibly with support of a Proposal Evaluation Commission, will **review the proposal** within six weeks and **formulate an official response** to the proposal.
8. The proposal and the Oiconomy Pricing Foundation response will be **published online**.
9. The Oiconomy Pricing Foundation functions as a not-for-profit organization. No obligatory fees are charged for this procedure. However, depending on the economic capacity of the contributing institution, a **donation** to the foundation is highly appreciated and needed to enable the functioning of the foundation.
10. Academic scholars who have successfully contributed to the improvement of the methodology of Oiconomy Pricing® will be honoured on the **Oiconomy Pricing's Wall of Honour** and may be **invited to join** the Oiconomy Pricing Foundation.