



POTSDAM
SCIENCE
PARK

APR 15-16
2026

2nd Potsdam International Forum

SCIENCE PARKS AND COMPETITIVENESS

Bridging Regional Growth and
European Innovation and Research Policy

VENUE:

Potsdam Science Park
Fraunhofer
Conference
Center

Am Mühlenberg 12
14476 Potsdam
Germany



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Gefördert
mit Mitteln des
Landes Brandenburg



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Science Parks are vital drivers of European competitiveness, linking research excellence, entrepreneurial vision, and industry to foster high growth ventures and cross-border partnerships. Following-up on the current European debates on competitiveness, the Potsdam International Forum aims to actively contribute to these ongoing discussions.

The conference offers a unique platform to connect science parks, regions, and innovation ecosystems with key EU stakeholders. The two-day conference is an interactive cross-sectoral gathering of policy makers, leading experts and practitioners from Science and Technology Parks, cluster managers, and innovation agency representatives from across Europe. The agenda sets focus on how Science Parks and their regions can become epicenters of scientific achievement and innovation—accelerating breakthroughs, nurturing growth, and maximizing the positive impact of Europe's innovation hubs.

Participants will explore how emerging European policies influence competitiveness and regional development, share insights on shaping future innovation ecosystems, and discuss their real-world implications for scientific progress, sustainable growth, collaboration and international success. Join in to explore how Science Parks and further innovation hubs can become key engines of progress within Europe's wider innovation ecosystem.

Registration is now open via our events page – follow this link:
<https://p-sp.link/potsdam-international-forum-2026>

The conference language is English.

Host: Potsdam Science Park – Standortmanagement Golm GmbH

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Potsdam!

Agnes von Matuschka

CEO, Standortmanagement Golm GmbH

We Are Funded

The Potsdam International Forum 2026 is funded by the State of Brandenburg.

Das Potsdam International Forum 2026 ist gefördert mit Mitteln des Landes Brandenburg.

The projects implemented by the Potsdam Science Park site management team at Standortmanagement Golm GmbH are co-funded by the European Union and the State of Brandenburg.

PROGRAM DAY 1

Wednesday April 15th, 2026

Moderator: Tina Knop

09:00 REGISTRATION

10:00 OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME ADDRESS

Tobias Dünow

State Secretary for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg

Prof. Oliver Günther, PhD.

President of the University of Potsdam

Agnes von Matuschka

CEO, Potsdam Science Park – Standortmanagement Golm GmbH
& President, IASP European Division

10:15 EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maria Cristina Russo

Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity and International Cooperation
at DG RTD Directorate-General for Research & Innovation, European Commission

10:30 THE RELEVANCE OF SCIENCE PARKS FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION IN EUROPE

KEYNOTES

The Innovation Gap in Europe and the Role of Science Parks in Enhancing Competitiveness

Mali M. Baum

European Innovation Council (EIC) former Board Member – European Commission
Tech Awards | CBF VC | Impact Investment | CEO of WLOUNGE, Founder of MAGDA GROUP

European Innovation Spaces – IASP Insights

Ebba Lund

CEO, International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation

11:00 POWERING EUROPE'S ECONOMY: COMPETITIVENESS AND THE SINGLE MARKET

KEYNOTES

Where Innovation Meets Scale: Unlocking the European Competitiveness Fund

Lucas Resende Carvalho

Expert on EU Economic Policy, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany

Beyond Market Access: Why Europe's Competitiveness Depends on Connected Innovation Ecosystems

Dr Rafael Popper

Director, Futures Diamond Ltd & Futures Capacity Academy, UK and
Director, CFI – Technology Partners, Poland

11:30 EUROPE'S INNOVATION CAPACITY — WHAT IT TAKES TO COMPETE GLOBALLY

KEYNOTES

The European Innovation Council and its Future in the Next Framework Program – Achievements, Strategy and "Hot Potatoes" ahead

Prof. Dr Carsten Dreher

University Professor and Member of the European Innovation Council (EIC)

How to Make Europe's Regions more Competitive - Recommendations by the ERRIN Network

Janne Leino

Director of Helsinki EU Office
Member of ERRIN's Management Board, Brussels, Belgium

Science Parks as Connectors of Global Talents

Dr Salvatore Majorana

Director, Kilometro Rosso S.p.A., Italy and IASP President

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Tina Knop

Anna Christmann

CEO, SAI Europe – Strategic Agency for Innovation in Europe, Germany

Prof. Dr Carsten Dreher

University Professor and Member of the European Innovation Council (EIC)

Janne Leino

Director of Helsinki EU Office
Member of ERRIN's Management Board, Brussels, Belgium

Dr Salvatore Majorana

Director, Kilometro Rosso S.p.A., Italy and IASP President

Prof. Matthias Notz

Global CEO, Start2 Group, RISE & SCALE

& Professorship Ecosystem of Scale at Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany

12:30 *LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING*

13:30 BREAKOUT SESSIONS — PART 1

Breakout Session A

European Competitiveness Fund — Tapping Into the ECF and Combining EU-Level Instruments with Regional Funding for Impact Innovation

Breakout Session B

New Horizon for Competitiveness — Perspectives for Science Park Managers

Breakout Session C

Co-Generating Excellence — Cities and Science Parks for Regional Innovation

15:00 *COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING*

15:45 BREAKOUT SESSIONS — PART 2

Breakout Session A

European Competitiveness Fund — Tapping Into the ECF and Combining EU-Level Instruments with Regional Funding for Impact Innovation

Breakout Session B

New Horizon for Competitiveness — Perspectives for Science Park Managers

Breakout Session C

Co-Generating Excellence — Cities and Science Parks for Regional Innovation

17:00 WHAT WE LEARNT — INSIGHTS FROM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Key focus points from themed Breakout Sessions.

17:30 SUM-UP DAY 1 & OUTLOOK

Agnes von Matuschka

CEO, Potsdam Science Park – Standortmanagement Golm GmbH

17:45 *TRANSFER TO THE EVENING VENUE FOR DINNER (MORE ON PAGE 10) BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT – FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS!*

SEE PAGES 6 TO 9

BREAKOUT SESSION A

European Competitiveness Fund – Tapping Into the ECF and Combining EU-Level Instruments with Regional Funding for Impact Innovation

Facilitator

Thorsten Kohlisch

Lead Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

13:30 PART 1: STATE OF PLAY – EU COMPETITIVENESS FUND – WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT IT?

SETTING THE SCENE

Why Talking About the European Competitiveness Fund?

Lars Wirbatz

Head of Unit for EU Economic and Financial Policy and the Coordination EU Funds
Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs of the State of Brandenburg

IGNITE TALKS

Unboxing the European Competitiveness Fund – Where Do We Stand?

Natacha Faullimmel

European Commission Representation Berlin

The Contributions of Regions to Europe's Competitiveness – Reflections by DG REGIO

Dr Wolfgang Münch

Senior Expert, DG REGIO Smart and Sustainable Growth, European Commission

PANEL DISCUSSION

Getting Prepared for 2028-2034 – Where Do Europe's Regions Stand?

Dr Elisabetta Maini

Head of the Unit Research, Innovation, European Network
Directorate General for Knowledge, Labour and Enterprises
Region Emilia-Romagna, Italy

Dr Adam Mikołajczyk

Director of the Department of Regional and Spatial Development
Marshal's Office of the Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland

Christine Chang

Senior Advisor EU Affairs
Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland

15:00 COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

15:45 PART 2: THE NEXT STEPS: HOW CAN EUROPE'S REGIONS USE THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PLANS TO CONTRIBUTE TO EUROPE'S COMPETITIVENESS

CO-CREATION

Co-creation of policy recommendations supporting the next steps of the regions' preparatory works for the 2028-2034 period

CONCLUSIONS

Final Reflections Round / Your Key Takeaways

CLOSURE

BREAKOUT SESSION B

New Horizon for Competitiveness – Perspectives for Science Park Managers

Facilitator

Cristina Andrés Urarte

Parque Tecnológico de Euskadi
Basque Country, Spain

IGNITE TALKS

Intellectual Property (IP) backed finance

Alessandro Corrado

IP & Finance Partnerships Action Manager,
EUIPO European Union Intellectual Property Office

Protect and Exploit Your Assets for More Competitiveness: Build Skills in Intellectual Property

Claire Duranton

Head of service IP Knowledge and Innovation Academy
EUIPO European Union Intellectual Property Office

Five Hubs, One Lesson: What Science Park Managers Can Learn from SKILLBRIDGE

Dr Rafael Popper

Director, Futures Diamond Ltd & Futures Capacity Academy, UK and
Director, CFI – Technology Partners, Poland

OPEN DISCUSSION & THEMED GROUP WORK & COFFEE BREAK AT 15:00

BREAKOUT SESSION C

Co-Generating Excellence – Cities and Science Parks for Regional Innovation

Facilitator

Roz Bird

CEO, Anglia Innovation Partnership LLP, Norwich Research Park
UK

IGNITE TALKS

The role of cities in driving growth in the EU's single market

Lucas Resende Carvalho (tbc.)

Expert on EU Economic Policy, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Collaboration in Action: How Potsdam Science Park Became Brandenburg's Leading Science and Innovation Hub

Karen Esser

Manager PR & Communications

Potsdam Science Park, Standortmanagement Golm GmbH, Germany

Innovation Happens Here: Glasgow's Story of Collaboration and Impact

Gemma Carpenter

Marketing and Partnerships Manager, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow City

Innovation District

UK

From Industrial District to Innovation District: Ostim Teknopark as a Regional Value Platform

Dr Derya Çağlar

CEO, Ostim Teknopark, Ankara

Turkey

Inger-Lise M. Nøstvik

Managing Direktor, Kunnskapsbyen Lillestrøm

Norway

OPEN DISCUSSION & THEMED GROUP WORK & COFFEE BREAK AT 15:00

April 15th 19:00

NETWORKING DINNER

Venue: Restaurant El Puerto, Potsdam City Centre

Please note that places at the networking dinner are limited.

Dinner participation requires prior registration to the conference and dinner.



PROGRAM DAY 2

Thursday April 16th, 2026

Moderator: Tina Knop

09:30 POLICY TO VALUE — EXCELLENCE TO REGIONAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP

KEYNOTE

Driving Innovation - How National Agencies and Regional Initiatives Can Create Value Together

Prof. Dr Andreas Zaby

Innovation Manager, SPRIN-D – German Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation

09:45 TACKLING KEY TECH — EUROPEAN MODEL REGIONS FOR STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES

KEYNOTES

Lusatia – Europe's first Net Zero Valley

Dr Maria Marquardt

Coordinator and Project Manager “Net Zero Valley Lausitz”,
City of Cottbus/Chóśebuz
Germany

A Regional Model for Strategic Technologies: Lessons from Linköping

Fredrik Larsson

COO, Linköping Science Park
Sweden

Designing Europe's Future: Strategic Technologies and the Rise of Model Regions

Dr Rafael Popper

Director, Futures Diamond Ltd & Futures Capacity Academy, UK and
Director, CFI – Technology Partners, Poland

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Tina Knop

Mateusz Kowalewski

Head of the Department for Urban Development Strategy
in the Office of the Mayor of Szczecin, Poland

Fredrik Larsson

COO, Linköping Science Park
Sweden

Dr Maria Marquardt

Coordinator and Project Manager “Net Zero Valley Lausitz”,
City of Cottbus/Chóśebuz, Germany

Inger-Lise M. Nøstvik

Managing Direktor, Kunnskapsbyen Lillestrøm
Norway

Dr Rafael Popper

Director, Futures Diamond Ltd & Futures Capacity Academy, UK and
Director, CFI – Technology Partners, Poland

10:45 COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

**11:15 FROM SINGLE SITES TO NETWORKED ECOSYSTEMS — HOW SCIENCE PARKS
ORCHESTRATE MULTI SITE INNOVATION AND EUROPEAN VALUE PIPELINES**

KEYNOTES

Strategic Success Factors For Multi Side Innovation

Roland Sillmann

CEO, WISTA Management GmbH
Germany

*One Brand, Multiple Sites: The Basque Country Technology Park as a
Networked Innovation Ecosystem*

Cristina Andrés Urarte

Head of Marketing and Innovation, Basque Country Technology Park
Spain

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Tina Knop

Dr Justyna Adamska

Deputy Director, Poznan Science and Technology Park
Poland

Christoph Krüger

Managing Director, JUNI – Just Unite to Innovate
Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany

Birgit Mayr

Director of Brand and Placemaking, NOI Techpark
Bolzano, Italy

Roland Sillmann

CEO, WISTA Management GmbH
Germany

Cristina Andrés Urarte

Head of Marketing and Innovation, Basque Country Technology Park
Spain

Dr Christina Quensel

President, BVIZ - German Association of Innovation, Technology
and Business Incubation Centres & Managing Director, Campus Berlin-Buch GmbH
Germany

12:15 SUM-UP

12:30 NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 END OF CONFERENCE

OPTIONAL PROGRAM

APRIL 16 | 13:45-15:30 CET

POTSDAM SCIENCE PARK SITE TOUR

Join us for an optional site tour at the Potsdam Science Park following the conference on April 16 at 13:45 CET! This visit offers an opportunity to experience our growing research and innovation environment in Germany's capital region—where scientific excellence and entrepreneurial thinking converge.

The Potsdam Science Park is located in Potsdam, widely regarded as the German city with the highest concentration of scientists. This exceptional research density creates ideal conditions for exchange between academia, venture capital, industry, and public institutions. As part of the highly research-intensive Berlin-Brandenburg Metropolitan Region, the park also benefits from close proximity to Berlin and the Berlin Brandenburg Airport. The result is a well-connected innovation ecosystem that accelerates collaboration and supports the translation of research into real-world applications.

The campus brings together internationally renowned institutions including the University of Potsdam, the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology, and the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute). Complementing them are applied research leaders such as the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Polymer Research IAP and the Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology, Branch Bioanalytics and Bioprocesses IZI-BB, alongside more than 50 companies and start-ups.

Today, over 12,500 researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and innovators collaborate here. Laboratories, incubators, and collaborative workspaces provide the infrastructure for deep-tech development, interdisciplinary research, and partnerships between science and industry. The ecosystem is actively supported by Standortmanagement Golm GmbH, which connects research institutions with entrepreneurs, investors, and innovation partners. Through targeted networking, technology transfer initiatives, and ecosystem development, the site management fosters collaboration at the intersection of science, business, and societal impact.

During the tour, participants will gain insights into how this growing innovation hub enables innovation transfer, supports start-ups, and strengthens cooperation across research and industry.



WELCOME ADDRESS



Tobias Dünow

Secretary for Science, Research and Cultural Affairs

Tobias Dünow, studied German Philology, Medieval and Modern History, Journalism and Communication at the University of Göttingen (1992–1999). He was advisor, then spokesperson and Head of Press and Public Relations at Lower Saxony's Ministry for Science and Culture in Hanover. In 2003 he became advisor for Education, Science and Culture representing Lower Saxony at the EU in Brussels. After speaker roles, including at the Federal Ministry of the Environment, he was Press Spokesperson for the SPD Executive Committee at Willy Brandt House in Berlin. He later became Deputy Director-General at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and led Strategic Communication at Willy Brandt House. He headed Lower Saxony's representation in Berlin. Since 20 Nov 2019 he has been State Secretary in Brandenburg, reappointed 11 Dec 2024.



Prof. Oliver Günther, PhD.

President of the University of Potsdam

Professor Oliver Günther has been President of the University of Potsdam since 2012. From 2020 to 2023 he has served as Vice President for Governance and Academic Affairs of the German Rectors' Conference. From 1993 to 2011 he was Professor of Information Systems at Humboldt University in Berlin, since 2005 also Dean of the Faculty of Economics. Professor Günther has also taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, ESMT Paris, the University of Cape Town, and at FAW Ulm. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science from UC Berkeley (1985/87) and a Diploma in Industrial Engineering from the University of Karlsruhe (1984). His research is focusing on IT strategy, IT efficiency, data protection, and information security. As a member of numerous associations, he promotes innovation in science, the transfer of knowledge to society, and public discourse. In addition, he regularly contributes to the further development of our higher education and scientific systems through articles, books and interviews.

HOST



Agnes von Matuschka

CEO, Standortmanagement Golm GmbH, Potsdam Science Park
President, IASP European Division

Agnes von Matuschka has been managing Standortmanagement Golm GmbH at Potsdam Science Park, the largest growing science park in Brandenburg, since 2018. She graduated from FU Berlin with a degree in biology and began her career at the European Commission in Brussels. At TU Berlin, she headed the start-up service and co-founded the Center for Entrepreneurship in 2010. Here she accompanied more than 100 technology-oriented start-ups and established an incubator program as well as new networks with investors and industry.

European Commission



Dr. Wolfgang Münch

Senior Expert, DG REGIO Smart and Sustainable Growth, European Commission

Wolfgang Münch works in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission, among other topics, on the support to innovation and industries with European Cohesion Funds. He gained experience in the implementation of European Funding in Poland, Italy and Malta as well as policy conception. Wolfgang started in the European Commission in the field of agricultural policy.

European Innovation Council



Prof. Dr. Carsten Dreher

University Professor and Member of the European Innovation Council (EIC),

Prof. Dr. Carsten Dreher teaches Innovation Management at FU Berlin since 2009. His research focuses on the analysis of technology dynamics and on public R&I policy. He studied Industrial Engineering at TU Karlsruhe (PhD 1996). He worked at the Fraunhofer Institute for System and Innovation Research (ISI) and was visiting scholar at MIT's Industrial Performance Center and at various international research centers. Since 2006 he was Joint Professor for Innovation Research and Innovation Management at the Universities of Flensburg and Southern Denmark., Carsten Dreher was appointed December 2025 for the third time to the Board of the „European Innovation Council“ (EIC), where he chairs the WG on Strategy and Future of the EIC in FP10.

SPEAKERS



Dr Justyna Adamska

Deputy Director, Poznań Science and Technology Park, Poland

Dr Justyna Adamska is Deputy Director of Poznań Science and Technology Park and an expert with over 20 years of experience bridging academia and business in the field of innovation. She specialises in innovation project management, sustainable development, and modern communication strategies.

Throughout her career, she has successfully led national and international projects advancing entrepreneurship and the development of innovation centres. A certified Innovation Coach and trainer in communication tools and innovation management, she brings both strategic vision and hands-on expertise to every engagement. She holds a PhD in Economics from the Poznań University of Economics and is the author and co-author of numerous publications on innovation and business support ecosystems.



Cristina Andrés Urarte

Head of Marketing and Innovation, Basque Country Technology Park, Spain

Cristina Andrés is a multilingual economist with 20+ years' leadership experience in innovation ecosystems, driving innovation and business growth at the Basque Country Technology Park, — the first in Spain —. She has contributed to 150+ R&D projects generating €150M+ for the Basque ecosystem. The first woman President of the Basque Society of Economists and Vice-President of the Spanish General Council of Economists. Business Administration degree, an MBA, and two additional masters. Basque-American Leadership Program Fellow (Harvard, MIT). Regular international speaker and author of 10+ specialist publications. She speaks six languages.



Mali M. Baum

CEO of WLOUNGE, Founder of MAGDA GROUP Tech Awards | CBF VC | Impact Investment | European Innovation Council (EIC) former Board Member

Mali M. Baum is an award-winning serial entrepreneur, impact investor, and eco-system builder shaping the future of female founders and diverse teams across Europe. Founder of WLOUNGE and MAGDA GROUP, she drives programs like DARE Leadership and the Female Angel Accelerator, supporting startups from pre-seed to exit, while actively investing in European technology and ESG-focused ventures. As a former European Innovation Council Board member, she today serves as EIC Ambassador, fostering innovation, investment, and gender diversity. With 25+ years of global entrepreneurial experience, she bridges public and private sectors to strengthen the EU tech ecosystem and elevate success stories. A key architect of the tech ecosystem in Germany, Europe, and beyond, she plays a pivotal role in bridging global networks, connecting startups, VCs, foundations, family offices, governments, and corporations.



Roz Bird

Chief Executive, Anglia Innovation Partnership, Norwich Research Park, UK

A Chartered Surveyor, and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Roz joined Norwich Research Park as Chief Executive Officer, for Anglia Innovation Partnership, the campus management company, in May 2022. Roz leads the team that has established the campus-wide enterprise pro-gramme, new engagement opportunities with multinationals and has worked with the AIP Board to agree real estate investment partnership and attract new and established companies from across the UK and overseas. Roz had a very successful career in urban regeneration and science park development across key UK innovation hubs and helped establish the Silverstone Technology Cluster and the Ox-Cam Arc as the UK's first 'supercluster'. In November 2023 Roz was elected to the UKSPA Board and in June 2024 Roz became Co-ordinator for Women in IASP.



Derya Çağlar

CEO, Ostim Technopark, Turkey

Dr. Derya Çağlar is the CEO of Ostim Teknopark, leading one of Türkiye's most established industrial innovation ecosystems. With over 25 years of experience spanning academia, regional development, and strategic leadership, she has held key roles at Ankara Development Agency and U.S.A. institutions including Purdue University and Fresno State University. Her expertise covers innovation ecosystems, investment facilitation, and sustainable regional development. She holds a PhD in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from Purdue University.



Gemma Carpenter

Marketing and Partnership Manager, University of Strathclyde / Glasgow City Innovation District, UK

Gemma Carpenter is Marketing and Partnership Manager at the University of Strathclyde. With over 15 years' experience in marketing having worked across the public and private sector.

As part of her role at the University one of the key projects she works on is Glasgow City Innovation District (GCID), Scotland's first Innovation District, supporting businesses collaborate and innovate. She also drives the national and international work for the District and is Vice-Chair of the UK Innovation District Group and leads on the relationship with the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation.



Lucas Resende Carvalho

Expert on EU Economic Policy, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany

Lucas Resende Carvalho is an expert on European economic policy in the “Europe’s Future” programme at the Bertelsmann Stiftung. His work focuses on EU industrial policy and strategic investments, with a particular focus on the European Competitiveness Fund and the Multiannual Financial Framework. His publications cover EU industrial, innovation and regional policy, the Single Market, and monetary policy. He holds Master’s degrees in the Political Economy of European Integration and in Economic Analysis and Policy.



Christine Chang

Senior EU Advisor, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland

Christine Chang is Senior EU Advisor at the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council. She has over a decade of experience in EU policy, specialising in innovation, entrepreneurship ecosystems, and EU funding. She has secured over €100 million in EU investments and led large-scale European projects supporting SMEs and startups across the EU. She directed the Helsinki-Uusimaa European Entrepreneurial Region 2022, advancing green, digital and deeptech entrepreneurship. Her work focuses on translating EU research, innovation and competitiveness policies into concrete regional economic impact.



Dr Anna Christmann

CEO, SAI Europe GmbH – Strategic Agency for Innovation, Germany

Dr. Anna Christmann is the founder of the innovation agency SAI Europe and brings extensive experience in shaping innovation ecosystems and government support frameworks. She previously served as the German Federal Government’s Coordinator for Aerospace and as Commissioner for Start-ups and Digital Economy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, where she helped design and implement major innovation initiatives. From 2017 to 2025, she was a Member of the German Bundestag with a focus on innovation and technology policy. She holds a PhD in political science and has an interdisciplinary background in politics, economics, and mathematics.



Alessandro Corrado

Action Manager, EUIPO – European Union Intellectual Property Office

Mr Alessandro Corrado has over a decade of experience in the EU policy arena, fostering political and technical dialogue with EU institutions, as well as national and regional stakeholders. Since 2019, he has been working at the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), where he has played a key role in establishing and developing a network of 25 European financial institutions and associations. This initiative focuses on raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of business advisors in the field of intellectual property. In the framework of the EUIPO Strategic Plan 2030, he has been appointed to lead a new initiative aimed at promoting intellectual property among financial actors, positioning it as a strategic economic and financial asset, while facilitating the establishment of new partnerships.



Claire Duranton

Head of Service IP Knowledge for Innovation,
EUIPO – European Union Intellectual Property Office

Ms Claire Duranton has over a decade of professional experience in intellectual property awareness and capacity building. She holds an MA in European Studies and Modern Languages from the University of Edinburgh and a university degree in Intellectual Property from the Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI) in Strasbourg. Following initial work at the European Commission in the field of education, she joined the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in 1998, where she served in the Digital Department and later as a trade mark examiner and trainer. She currently serves as Head of Service at the EUIPO Academy, leading IP knowledge and learning services for innovation ecosystems.



Karen Esser

Public Relations & Communications, Potsdam Science Park –
Standortmanagement Golm GmbH, Germany

Karen Esser is Public Relations and Communications Manager at Standortmanagement Golm GmbH, the site management organization of Potsdam Science Park. In this role, she advances the internationalization of Brandenburg's largest science park and has established high-impact international formats, including the Potsdam International Forum. Since 2020, she has actively contributed to the park's global positioning through engagement with the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP). With more than 17 years of professional experience across communications, media, and innovation funding, she brings substantial expertise in strategic stakeholder engagement, committee work, and the facilitation of innovation ecosystems. Karen holds a degree in Media Science.



Natacha Faullimmel

Single Market Officer, European Commission

I am currently posted in the European Commission's Representation in Berlin where I follow EU industrial and Single Market policies. I have spent over 10 years working in Brussels, with a focus on EU economic policy. I am an experienced professional in EU research and industrial policy, international cooperation and communications. My experiences in Bangalore, London, Brussels and Berlin included positions in the public and private sector as well as academia. I hold a Masters in Environmental Policy and Regulation from the London School of Economics.

© European Commission



Thorsten Kohlisch

Lead Manager of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

As a "true-blue" Berliner, Thorsten started his career in Berlin's public administration. With further milestones in Katowice, Gdańsk, Eupen and Lille, he dedicated his twenty five-year working life to regional development, European cooperation and EU funds management. Since 2018, he coordinates the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform, an innovative tool enabling peer learning between Europe's regions. Thorsten holds an academic degree in political science from Potsdam University. Whenever times allows, he supports the organisation of major international sports events and volunteers as a regatta commentator for Berlin's rowing association.

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Mateusz Kowalewski

Head of Strategy Department, Szczecin City Hall, Poland

Graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Szczecin. Head of the City Development Strategy Department in the Office of the Mayor of Szczecin. Combines professional practice with academic work, focusing on local government law, development policy, and strategic management

© image via Mateusz Kowalewski



Christoph Krüger

Managing Director, JUNI, Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany

I'm an entrepreneur and executive with over 25 years of experience building, scaling, and transforming technology-driven B2B businesses. My work focuses on organizational scaling, commercial growth and governance in complex multi-stakeholder environments. Throughout my career, I have led revenue expansion, internationalization, M&A processes and the transition from founder-led growth to structured operational performance. As Managing Director at JUNI, I am responsible for building scalable structures that connect capital, science and market execution - with a strong emphasis on governance, long-term value creation and operational excellence.

© image via Christoph Krüger



Fredrik Larsson

COO, Linköping Science Park, Sweden

Fredrik Larsson is Chief Operating Officer at Linköping Science Park, where he leads operations across projects, platforms, and clusters. With over 15 years of experience in marketing, triple helix innovation, and strategic leadership, he brings a broad perspective to innovation environments. As COO, he is responsible for communication, partnerships, and operational alignment, contributing to the development of collaborative and future-oriented innovation ecosystems.



Janne Leino

Director of Helsinki EU Office and Member of ERRIN's Management Board

Janne Leino is the Director of the Helsinki EU Office, representing Finland's most innovative region, cities, higher education institutes and research organizations in Brussels. Previously, he worked for German think tanks in Belgium and in China, focusing on the external relations of the European Union and NATO. He has also held different positions at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and at the European Parliament.



Ebba Lund

CEO, International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)

Ebba Lund is Chief Executive Officer of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP), a non-profit knowledgebased organisation where she supports a global membership of science & technology parks, innovation districts and other spaces of innovation in over 80 countries. With over 20 years' experience in the industry of innovation ecosystems Ebba is responsible for overseeing all facets of the organisation, driving the mission, operations, and engagement with the board of directors, as well as being key in handling international network relations and knowledge-based services for innovation spaces worldwide. She also has extensive experience in event management, having led the organisation of more than 23 world conferences. Ebba Lund holds an MA in Media Studies from the University of Aarhus, Denmark, and an Executive MBA from IE Business School, Madrid, Spain. Originally from Denmark, Ebba is based in Málaga, Spain, since 2002.



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Dr Salvatore Majorana

Director, Kilometro Rosso S.p.A. & President of IASP

Salvatore is Director of Kilometro Rosso, the innovation district of Bergamo whose mission is to foster collaboration between companies and research institutions, accompanying the processes of technology transfer and the development of new products. Engineer, MBA from INSEAD and innovation expert, he is President of the International Association of Science Parks and advisor to the CYSERO fund focused on robotics and cybersecurity. He participated in the design, fundraising and launch of the Eureka! investment fund, which invests in initiatives originating from scientific research in the materials sector to create start-ups in the field of environmental sustainability, mobility and energy.



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Dr Maria Marquardt

Coordinator and project manager, City of Cottbus/Chósebus, Germany

Coordinator and Project Manager, City of Cottbus/Chósebus, Germany
Maria Marquardt started her professional career as the head of the office of a christian-democratic member of the German federal parliament focusing on energy and environmental politics. She then worked for the chamber of commerce and industry in Cottbus (Germany) where she coordinated the committee work. Since 2018, she has been part of the Cottbus city administration, reporting to the deputy mayor and managing projects on economic strategy, skilled workforce development, and EV charging infrastructure. Within the Net Zero Valley initiative in Lusatia, she leads coordination across municipalities, chambers, and stakeholders, and coauthored key concepts. She holds degrees in Culture and Technology and Media Communication, and finished her PhD on energy sector communication in 2015.



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Mag. Birgit Mayr

Director of Brand & Placemaking, NOI Techpark, Italy

Birgit Mayr leads Brand Development, Placemaking, Communication & Public Engagement at NOI Techpark, shaping the identity of the 12 hectare innovation district in South Tyrol. With more than 20 years of international experience across client, agency and independent consulting roles, she has worked on strategic brand development for fashion and digital brands, including bwin. Rooted in a bi cultural background, she holds a degree in translation and conference interpreting from the University of Vienna.



Dr Adam Mikołajczyk

Director, Department of Regional and Spatial Planning,
Marshal Office of the Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland

A graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Gdańsk. Doctor of Laws. Director of the Department of Regional and Spatial Development, Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship. He has many years of academic and teaching experience at the Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Gdańsk, as well as professional experience within the structures of the Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Region – currently as Director of the Department of Regional and Spatial Development, and previously as Director of the Department of Economic Development. He deals with issues relating to socio-economic development planning and the management of EU structural funds. He is the author of a number of publications in this field.



Inger-Lise M. Nøstvik

Managing Director Kunnskapsbyen Lillestrøm, Norway

Inger-Lise M. Nøstvik has been the Managing Director of Kunnskapsbyen Lillestrøm since September 1, 2021. She holds degrees in chemical engineering and business administration and has extensive experience working with membership organizations, private sector and public institutions. She also has experience from board and trust positions in business, politics, and sports, and currently serves on the board of Aurskog Sparebank. Her ambition, together with engaged members and colleagues, is to create more future-oriented jobs in the Romerike region.



Prof. Matthias Notz

CEO, Global Start2 Group, Germany and Worldwide

As CEO of Start2 Group, a global innovation leader, he has significantly shaped the startup and innovation ecosystem for over 18 years, working with corporates, governments, public institutions, and startups worldwide. Through flagship programs such as the government-funded German Accelerator, he has supported more than 2,500 startups to scale globally across leading innovation hubs in the US, Asia, and Latin America. He also teaches at Deggendorf Institute of Technology in the field of “Ecosystem of Scale” and is actively involved in Munich’s Innovation Agenda 2030.



Dr Rafael Popper

Director, Futures Diamond Ltd & Futures Capacity Academy, UK and CFI – Technology Partners, Poland

Dr Rafael Popper is a foresight and sustainable innovation scholar–practitioner, ecosystem architect, and Director of Futures Diamond and the Centre for Foresight and Internationalisation (CFI). Author of the Foresight Diamond and SMART Foresight frameworks, he has led 70+ international R&I projects and delivered 400+ keynotes in 100+ countries. His work bridges foresight, innovation, skills and policy to help organisations anticipate change and design resilient futures. He is listed among the Global Gurus Top 30 Futurists (2026).



Dr Christine Quensel

CEO, Campus Berlin-Buch, Germany

Studied biotechnology at Humboldt University of Berlin and the Technical University of Berlin; doctoral dissertation at Schering AG, PhD at TU Berlin; Postdoc at Max Delbrück Center, head office management of the scientific director of the Max Delbrück Center; distance study of business administration; since 2015 CEO Campus Berlin-Buch GmbH, since 2021 President BVIZ - German Association of Innovation, Technology and Business Incubation Centres



Roland Sillmann

CEO, WISTA Management GmbH, Germany

Roland Sillmann has been CEO of the state-owned WISTA Management GmbH in Berlin, the operating company of the Adlershof Science and Technology Park, since 2015. Previously, he was Managing Director of Innovations-Zentrum Berlin Management GmbH (2013-2015), where he was responsible for the operation of WISTA's start-up centres. Sillmann has been passionate about technology and start-ups for even longer. He studied mechanical engineering and was both co-founder of the solar company Inventux Technologies AG (2007-2013) and Head of Technology at Schüco International KG (2002-2006).



Andreas Zaby

Innovation Manager, SPRIN-D – German Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation

Prof. Dr. Andreas Zaby works as an Innovation Manager at the Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation (SPRIN-D) in Leipzig. Previously, he served as President of the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin) for two terms. He began his career as a strategy consultant at Bain & Company in Munich and Zurich. He then co-founded a biopharmaceutical company with operations in Germany and the United States, where he served as a member of the executive board. After studying Business Administration in Bayreuth and San Diego, he completed his doctorate at Friedrich Schiller University Jena. He is a member of the Executive Board of the DAAD (honorary position).

CONTACT



PROGRAM & CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

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NOTICE

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

The data you enter in the online registration form will be used by Standortmanagement Golm GmbH at the Potsdam Science Park exclusively for sending information on the organization and handling of the selected event as well as for comparable information offers of the Standortmanagement Golm GmbH (location management of the Potsdam Science Park).

FILM AND PHOTO RECORDINGS

During the Conference, film and photo recordings will be made, which will be used to document the event and as part of the press and public relations work of Standortmanagement Golm GmbH for the Potsdam Science Park. You can object to this at any time by sending an email to info@potsdam-sciencepark.de. Your data will be treated confidentially. The data protection regulations of Standortmanagement Golm GmbH apply.

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY & LOCAL TRANSPORT IN POTSDAM

We recommend travelling to the Potsdam Science Park by public transport. The station **Bahnhof Golm (Potsdam)** is located directly on campus, placing the **Fraunhofer Conference Center** within comfortable walking distance. For convenient mobile route planning we recommend to use the **DB NAVIGATOR APP** and the **VBB app** to get around in Potsdam and Berlin.

FROM BER AIRPORT

From Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER), the regional train RB22 connects you to the Potsdam Science Park's station »Bahnhof Golm, Potsdam« in approx. 30 minutes time. If you take a taxi, you can reach the us in approx. 50 minutes.

BY BIKE

In Potsdam, the bicycle is the first choice for many routes. Potsdam has a well-developed network of cycle paths that will take you from the main station to the Potsdam Science Park in about 30 Minutes. If you arrive without your own bike, you can rent bikes at nextbike stations across town. Use the nextbike app and start cycling.

BY BUS

Bus connections ensure convenient access to the Potsdam Science Park from the Potsdam City Centre and across the region. Line 605 and 695 operate directly between Potsdam Central Station ("Potsdam Hbf") and the Potsdam Science Park (bus stop "Potsdam Science Park/West").

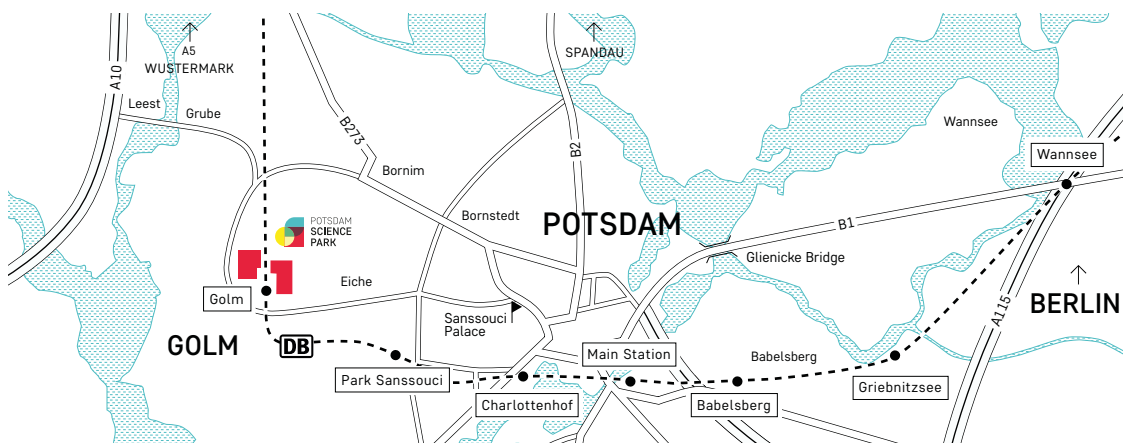
Detailed timetables and real-time connections are available via the Berlin-Brandenburg Transport Authority (<https://www.vbb.de/fahrinfo>) or use the **VBB Bus & Bahn: Tickets&Zeiten app** from VBB Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH.

BY CAR

From the A10 Motorway, take exit »Leest« towards Potsdam. If you are coming from Berlin or Potsdam, follow the blue signs to »Wissenschaftspark Golm«. Parking is easily accessible.

TRAIN CONNECTIONS

If you are travelling from Berlin Central Station, trains reach the Potsdam Science Park Station "Potsdam, Golm Bhf" in around 45 minutes. Detailed timetables and real-time connections within the capitol region are available via the Berlin-Brandenburg Transport Authority (VBB). For up-to-date schedules and route planning, please visit the website <https://www.vbb.de/fahrinfo> or use the **VBB Bus & Bahn: Tickets&Zeiten app** from VBB Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH for mobile route planning.



GOOD TO KNOW

Hotel Reservations

We have arranged hotel contingents. The designated Conference hotels in Potsdam are conveniently located very close to the Potsdam city centre and Potsdam main station with good transportation links to the Potsdam Science Park.

We would like to point out that the city of Potsdam charges an accommodation tax of 7.5% on the room price. The accommodation tax is not included in the room prices quoted and must be paid to the hotel on the day of departure.

MERCURE HOTEL POTSDAM CITY

To book your room please use the registration code or call on the number below, quoting **booking code 'Potsdam International Forum'**. The hotel has reserved a block of rooms for conference participants at a 10% / 12% discount.

Address:

Mercure Hotel Potsdam City

Lange Bruecke, 14467 Potsdam

Phone: +49 (0) 331 331 272 331

Email: reservation@novum-hospitality.com

[>>> Mercure reservations page](#)

THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES

To book your room please email the hotel directly during office hours via the email address below, quoting the **booking code 'Potsdam International Forum'**. The hotel has reserved a block of rooms for conference participants at a 10% discount on the standard rate until 10 April as long as rooms are available.

Address:

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Am Kanal 15, 14467 Potsdam, Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 331 76 994 000

Email: reservation@hiex-potsdam.de

[>>> Hotel website](#)