



FUTURE
TALENT
COUNCIL

Agenda
5 November, 2026



scheer school of
digital sciences
at saarland
university

Future Talent Forum Germany

Governing the Digital Future –
Talent Technology, and Institutional
Responsibility in a Changing World



Europe will not win the race to build the largest AI models. Its advantage lies elsewhere. Decades of industrial data, strong governance traditions, and universities rooted in their regions. None of it creates value without the people who can use it.

This forum brings industry, academia and policy together for one day of debate on that gap. Speakers come from T-Systems, SAP, Microsoft, the European Commission and Saarland University.

Morning 9:00–12:00

8:00-9:00 Registration & Coffee

9:00-9:10

Opening

Daniel Kjellsson

Director-General, **Future Talent Council**

9:10–9:20

Welcome

Prof. Dr. Ludger Santen

President, **Saarland University**

9:20-9:50

Fireside chat

Leading the Digital Power Shift:

Talent, technology, and institutional responsibility in a changing world

Prof. Dr. August-Wilhelm Scheer

Sole Shareholder and CEO

August-Wilhelm Scheer Holding GmbH,
Founder of the **Scheer Group** and **August-Wilhelm Scheer Institute**

Daniel Kjellsson

Director-General, **Future Talent Council**

10:00–10:10

Positioning Note

Digital Transformation for a post-industrial region in the heart of Europe

Anke Rehlinger

Prime Minister Saarland, **Saarland**

10:15–10:45

Keynote

Leading the AI Era - Europe's Advantage in Industrial Intelligence

Dr. Ferri Abolhassan

Board Member, **Deutsche Telekom**
and CEO, **T-Systems**

10:45- 11:30

Panel

From Data Treasure to Talent

Power: How to build an Industrial AI Architect?

Dr. Ferri Abolhassan

Board Member, **Deutsche Telekom**
and CEO, **T-Systems**

Prof. Dr. Helmut Krcmar

TUM Emeritus of Excellence & TUM Senior Faculty,
Technical University of Munich (TUM)

Meike Scheer

CHRO **Scheer Group**, CEO **Scheer Business Services GmbH**

Mareike Hoffmann

Commercial Partner Lead Germany & Austria,
Microsoft

Syed Ali Abbas

VP of People-Global Business Units, **HelloFresh SE**

Emir Cetinel

Senior Director, **Future Talent Council**

11:30-12:00 **MID-MORNING BREAK**

Early Afternoon 12:05–14:15

Breakout Discussions 12:05–13:00

Breakout Session - Location TBA

Digital Sovereignty Without Borders

Mareike Hoffmann

Commercial Partner Lead Germany & Austria
Microsoft

TBA

Breakout Session - Location TBA

From Research to Markets: Scaling Innovation

Dr. Michael Klimke

BAIOSPHERE AGENCY
Bavarian AI Agency

Prof. Dr. Henning Meyer

Director
iill Institute for Public Value

Breakout Session - Location TBA

Secure Data Ecosystems and Data Governance as Economic Infrastructure

Daniela Weber-Rey

Attorney-at-Law (NY) & Non-executive Board Member

Tobias Greff

Head of Digital Consulting Group
August-Wilhelm Scheer Institute

Breakout Session - Location TBA

The Third Mission in Action: Universities as “Regional Change Agents”

Dr. Christian Agethen

Head of the Minister's Office & Strategic Policy and Coordination
Ministry of Finance and Science of the Saarland

Prof. Dr. Thorsten Herfet

Chair Telecommunications Lab & Head Cooperation Platform Scheer School of Digital Sciences
Saarland University

13:00–14:00 **LUNCH**

Welcome Back 14:00–14:15

14:00–14:15

Welcome Back

Daniel Kjellsson

Director-General, **Future Talent Council**

Afternoon 14:15–17:00

14:15–14:45

Keynote

From Knowledge to Capability -
Building Future-Ready Talent
Ecosystems

Dr. Christian Schmeichel

SVP and Global Head of People & Culture
Services

SAP SE

14:45–15:30

Panel

Europe's Competitive Edge - Talent,
Values, and Digital Independence

Dr. Christian Schmeichel

SVP and Global Head of People & Culture Services
SAP SE

Dr. Thomas Jorgensen

Director Policy and Foresight, **European University
Association**

Francesca Maltauro

Head of Unit (Acting), **European Commission**

Jort Verhage

Founder & Executive Adviser, **De Hofnar**

Moderator: **Daniela Weber-Rey**, Attorney-at-Law
(NY) & Non-executive Board Member

15:30–16:00 **AFTERNOON BREAK**

Breakout Discussions II 16:05-17:00

Breakout Session - Location TBA

Talent Pipelines for a VUCA World

Nadine Schön

Member of the Board, **GovTech Germany**

Klaus **Niemöller**,
Strategic Workforce Management and
Transformation, **Lufthansa Group**

Breakout Session - Location TBA

Designing the Future Curriculum

Dr. Michael Klimke

BAIOSPHERE AGENCY, (**Bavarian AI Agency**)

Prof. Dr. Henning Meyer

Director, **iill Institute for Public Value**

Breakout Session - Location TBA

**Freedom, Responsibility, and
Impact in Research & Teaching**

Prof. Dr. Andreas **Keller**

Head of the Department of Clinical
Bioinformatics, **Helmholtz Institute for
Pharmaceutical Research**

Prof. Dr. Benedikt **Schnellbacher**

Chair of Digital Transformation and
Entrepreneurship (DTE), **Saarland University**

Breakout Session - Location TBA

From AI-Principles to AI-Practice

Juan **Umaña-Quirós**

Custom Software Engineering Specialist,
Accenture

TBA

Closing Programme 17:05–18:00

17:05-17:30

Keynote

Unlock the future

Sebastian **Kreibich**,
Managing Director
Scheer School

17:30-18:00

Keynote

**Wrap-up followed by
Reception**

Daniel **Kjellson**,
Director-General
Future Talent Council

Optional Programmes

Optional Welcome Reception

Wednesday, 4 November 2026 | 18:00

hosted by the Mayor of Saarbrücken

Historic Town Hall (Rathaus St. Johann)
Rathausplatz 1, 66111 Saarbrücken

Optional Site Visit

Friday, 6 November 2026 | 09:00 - 12:30

Industrial Transformation in Action: Europe's Green Steel Transition

Dillinger Hütte