



FUTURE
TALENT
COUNCIL



scheer school of
digital sciences
at saarland
university

Agenda
5 November, 2026
Saarland University,
Saarbrücken

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

8:00-9:00 Registration & Coffee

Location: Aula A3 3, Saarland University

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 & CEO

August-Wilhelm Scheer Holding GmbH;

Founder of the **Scheer Group** & **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;**
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**
& 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**

Moderator: **Emir Cetinel**

Senior Director, **Future Talent Council**

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

Early Afternoon

12:05-13:00 Breakout Discussions

Breakout Session 1

Location: Aula A3 3, Saarland University

Digital Sovereignty Without Borders

Mareike Hoffmann

Commercial Partner Lead Germany & Austria, **Microsoft**

Jelle Millenaar

Co-Founder & CEO, **Impierce Technologies**

Breakout Session 2

Location: Innovation Center A2 1, Room 3.05.1

From Research to Markets: Scaling Innovation

Dr. Michael Klimke

Managing Director, **BAIOSPHERE AGENCY**

Prof. Dr. Henning Meyer

Director, **lill Institute for Public Value**

Breakout Session 3

Location: Innovation Center A2 1, Room 00.1

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 4

Location: Innovation Center A2 1, Room 3.05.2

The Third Mission in Action: Universities as "Regional Change Agents"

Dr. Christian Agethen

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

Prof. Dr. Thorsten Herfet

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

13:00-14:00 LUNCH AND NETWORKING

14:00-14:15 Welcome Back

Location: Aula A3 3, Saarland University

14:00-14:15

Afternoon Welcome

Daniel Kjellsson

Director-General, **Future Talent Council**

Afternoon

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 & Foresight, **European University
Association**

Francesca Maltauro

Deputy Head of Unit, **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**

16:05-17:00 Breakout Discussions II

Breakout Session 5

Location: Aula A3 3, Saarland University

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 6

Location: Innovation Center A2 1, Room 00.1

Designing the Future Curriculum

Prof. Dr. Helmut Krcmar

TUM Emeritus of Excellence, **Technical
University of Munich (TUM)**

Emir Cetinel

Senior Director, **Future Talent Council**

Breakout Session 7

Location: Innovation Center A2 1, Room 3.05.2

**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 &
Entrepreneurship (DTE), **Saarland University**

Breakout Session 8

Location: Innovation Center A2 1, Room 3.05.1

From AI-Principles to AI-Practice

Juan Umaña-Quirós

Custom Software Engineering Specialist,
Accenture

Harini Annadanam

AI Product Lead, **Mentimeter**

Closing Programme

Location: Aula A3 3, Saarland University

17:05-17:30

Unlock the Future

Sebastian Kreibich

Managing Director, **Scheer School**

17:30-18:00

**Wrap-Up followed by
Reception**

Daniel Kjellsson

Director-General, **Future Talent
Council**

Optional Programmes

Welcome Reception

Wednesday, 4 November 2026 | 18:00

hosted by the Mayor of Saarbrücken

Historic Town Hall (Rathaus St. Johann)

Rathausplatz 1, 66111 Saarbrücken

Site Visit

Friday, 6 November 2026 | 9:00-12:00

Industrial Transformation in Action: Europe's Green Steel Transition
From coal-based blast furnaces to hydrogen-based direct reduction

Dillinger Steel Plant



**FUTURE
TALENT
COUNCIL**

hello@futuretalentcouncil.com



scheer school of
digital sciences
at saarland
university