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

Dr. 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: **Dr. 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 Schnellbächer
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