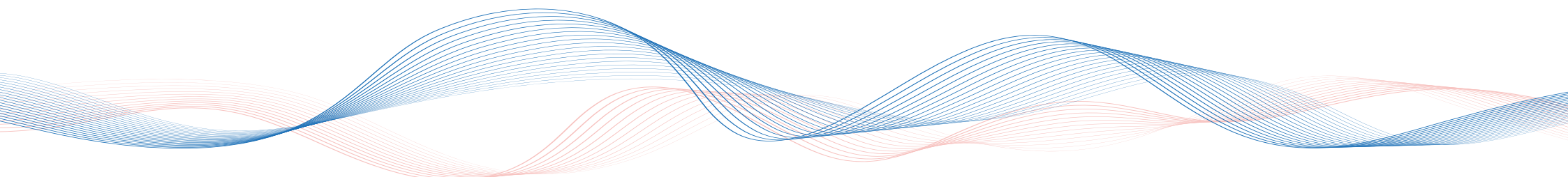




SCIENCE|BUSINESS[®]

Sustainable horizons: Does our future depend on science?

The public Science|Business Annual Network Conference
February 7, 2023, 09:00 – 17:30 CET



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NETWORK



Context

Behind the buzzwords that frame policy agendas for sustainability – net zero, pandemic preparedness, green deal, circular economy, etc – lies a wealth of opportunity for research and innovation (R&I) communities. Even before the COVID and Ukraine crises, governments, companies and others were pouring money into addressing the most “wicked problems” of our age, ranging from climate change and plastics to industrial decarbonisation and food production. In parallel, Horizon Europe – the EU’s flagship €95.5 billion R&I programme – will commit half of its budget to tackling global challenges through to 2030, in direct support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

There are plenty of indicators from the R&D world to suggest this level of commitment is justified. From atmospheric carbon removal, nuclear fusion and quantum computing to lab-created meat, hydrogen-fuelled vehicles and cell- and gene-based therapies, the narrative is one of breakthroughs, “game changers” and huge potential. Even though some of these technologies may take years to reach the mainstream, the drumbeats of positive expectation grow louder.

And yet. In the rush to champion the role of technology in delivering more sustainable futures, there is a sense that potential downsides are often overlooked. According to the International Energy Agency, the clean energy transition may require a six-fold increase in mining rare earth minerals and precious metals. Digital transformation continues to drive up emissions and carbon footprints in the ICT sector (without factoring in the energy needs of cryptocurrencies). Biofuel production continues to negatively affect food supply, forests and biodiversity. Meanwhile, the continued wrangling over COVID vaccine rights and distribution illustrates the tenuous nature of global health tech pledges.

So what does all of this imply for the worlds of research, industry and policy? On 7 February 2023, the Science|Business Network and international R&I leaders will convene for a unique set of debates: first, to explore the science and tech agendas to bring planetary sustainability goals within reach, and second, to address some of the fundamental tensions at the interface between the two, including:

- Which role for R&I in pursuit of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals?
- Will Horizon Europe make a tangible difference, and how will today’s crises influence the rest of its strategic agenda?
- Are the green and digital transitions truly compatible, and how to manage potential risks and unintended consequences of pursuing both in parallel?
- Where will boundary lines be drawn between international cooperation and national interests in sustainability-related domains, not least around technology sovereignty?
- Can foresight help R&I decision makers agree on what to prioritise, and how to align investment with longer term impacts and outcomes?



Agenda

08:15 Registration and coffee

09:00 Welcome and opening remarks

- **Maryline Fiaschi** – Chief Executive, Science|Business

09:05 Setting goals: What are the the climate and sustainability ambitions of the Swedish Presidency of the EU?

Opening remarks (live from Stockholm):

- **Romina Pourmokhtari** – Minister for Climate and the Environment, Government of Sweden

09:20 Crystal balls: Can we anticipate the science and technology we need for a sustainable planet?

- **Sari Arho Havrén** – Senior Advisor, Foresight, Business Finland
- **Peter Bauer** – Director, Destination Earth
- **Robert-Jan Smits** – President of the Executive Board, Eindhoven University of Technology

Moderated by **Maryline Fiaschi**

Supported by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

10:05 Coffee break

10:30 The science of sustainability: A new paradigm for research and innovation?

- **Ed Brinksma** – President of the Executive Board, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- **Maria Leptin** – President, European Research Council
- **Antoine Petit** – Chairman and Chief Executive, CNRS
- **Anders Söderholm** – President, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Moderated by **Carlos Härtel** - Chair of the Board of Directors, Science|Business

11:15 Transition break



11:30 Parallel sessions - Crisis management: delivering sustainable responses to unforeseen shocks

Session 1 – Climate Change

- **Christoph Beuttler** – Chief Climate Policy Officer, Climeworks
- **Joyeeta Gupta** – Piers Sellers Prize Winner & Full Professor of Climate and Development in the Global South, University of Amsterdam
- **Astrid Söderbergh Widding** – President, Stockholm University
- **Annika Thies** – European Projects Director, DESY & Management Board Member, the League of European Accelerator-based Photon Sources (LEAPS)

Moderated by **Carlos Härtel** – Chair of the Board, Science|Business

Session 2 – Health

- **Toomas Asser** – Rector, University of Tartu
- **Jean-Marc Bourez** – Chief Executive Officer, EIT Health
- **David Elvira** – Global Corporate Head, Public Policy, Sanofi
- **Ole Petter Ottersen** – President, Karolinska Institutet

Moderated by **Maryline Fiaschi** – Chief Executive, Science|Business

12:30 Networking lunch

13:30 A “wicked problem”: As trade tensions rise, how can we keep cooperating on green technology?

- **Maria da Graça Carvalho** – Member, European Parliament
- **Clara de la Torre** – Deputy Director-General, DG CLIMA, European Commission
- **Adel El Gammal** – Secretary General, European Energy Research Alliance
- **Riccardo Procacci** – Chief Executive Officer, Avio Aero & Vice President, GE Aerospace

Moderated by **Richard Hudson** – Editorial Director & Vice Chair of the Board, Science|Business

Supported by the Science|Business Technology Strategy Board



14:15 Ticking clock: What role for research and innovation in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

- **Lila Karbassi** – Chief of Programmes, United Nations Global Compact (opening remarks)
- **Márcia Balisciano** – Chief Sustainability Officer, and Global Head, Corporate Repositioning, RELX Group
- **Linda Doyle** – Provost, Trinity College Dublin
- **Takao Kuramochi** – Senior Deputy Director-General, Japan Science and Technology Agency

Moderated by **Simon Pickard** – Network Director, Science|Business

15:00 Coffee break

15:20 Parallel sessions – Improved outcomes: Strengthening innovation strategy and performance

Session 1 – Technology infrastructures

- **Sergio Bertolucci** – R&D&I Committee ATTRACT & former Scientific Director, CERN
- **Christian Ehler** – Member, European Parliament
- **Jennifer Herek** – Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Twente & Co-Chair, Task Force on Open Science, CESAER
- **Apostolia Karamali** – Head of Unit, R&I Actors and Research Careers, DG RTD, European Commission

Moderated by **Richard Hudson** – Editorial Director & Vice Chair of the Board, Science|Business

Supported by the ATTRACT Project

Session 2 – Big data for sustainability: Will new approaches and analytics change the game?

- **Nick Fowler** – Chief Academic Officer, Elsevier
- **Maarja Kruusmaa** – Vice Rector for Research, Tallinn University of Technology
- **Geleyn Meijer** – Rector, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
- **Per Öster** – Director, Advanced Computing Facility, CSC – IT Center for Science

Moderated by **David Pringle** – Senior Advisor, Science|Business



16:20 Transition break

16:30 Impact Horizon: Will Europe's flagship ultimately help to solve global challenges?

Opening keynote:

- **Margrethe Vestager** – Executive Vice-President, European Commission

Followed by a panel discussion featuring:

- **João Claro** – Chief Executive Officer, INESC TEC
- **Ilkka Niemelä** – President, Aalto University
- **Lene Oddershede** – Senior Vice President, Natural and Technical Sciences, Novo Nordisk Foundation

Moderated by **Simon Pickard** – Network Director, Science|Business

17:30 Close of conference and networking reception



Speakers



Sari Arho Havrén, Senior Advisor, Foresight, Business Finland

Dr Arho Havrén is a certified futurist, and she leads the Team Finland strategic and participatory foresight work in Europe since summer 2020. Her substance expertise lies within the future of geopolitics and its impacts on other foresight verticals, including technology and innovations. She has been co-developing Business Finland's global foresight model and processes and facilitates multiple foresight design workshops around Europe or elsewhere annually. Based on the future signals, trends and scenarios, she advises multiple organisations in Finland. She is also a popular speaker on future phenomena, and geopolitics and how it shapes our operational future landscapes. She holds a PhD in history and international relations.

Toomas Asser, Rector, University of Tartu

After studying medicine at Tartu University and completing his Ph.D. degree at the Moscow Institute of Neurosurgery, Mr Asser began his career at Tartu University in 1979. He was elected professor of neurosurgery in 1995 and has subsequently served as head of department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, as well as dean of the Faculty of Medicine – all the while continuing to work as a neurosurgeon at the Tartu University Hospital.

Asser is a member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and Estonian Research & Development Council, as well as numerous national and international neurosurgical societies. He is vice-chair of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities and president of the Universities Estonia.



Márcia Balisciano, Chief Sustainability Officer, RELX Group

Márcia Balisciano is the driving force in installing practices that ensure RELX's recognition as an environment, social and governance (ESG) leader: Ranked #1 in the media sector and #12 overall by Sustainalytics and holding an AAA ESG rating for a seventh consecutive year with MSCI.

She is chair of the UN Global Compact Network UK and a board member of the Foundation for the Global Compact; and a founding board member of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens. She is founding director of London Museum and educational facility Benjamin Franklin House.

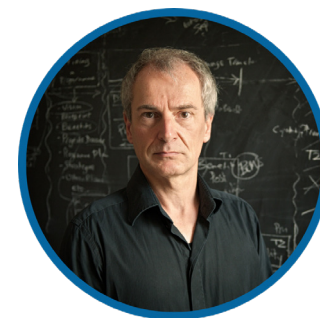
A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Member of the British Empire (MBE), she holds an MA from the University of Chicago and a PhD from the LSE.

Peter Bauer, Director, Destination Earth, ECMWF

Peter Bauer obtained his PhD in Meteorology from the University of Hamburg. Between 1989 and 2000, he worked at the German Aerospace Center in Cologne and held post-doc and guest scientist positions at NOAA and NASA in the US and IPSL in France.

After joining ECMWF in 2000, he first lead the satellite section and model division before becoming the research department's deputy director. Here, he also managed the Scalability Programme which ensures that the ECMWF forecasting system will operate efficiently on future high-performance computing architectures and that ECMWF can achieve its ambitious strategic goals.

His responsibilities require strong engagement with academia, national research centres and meteorological-hydrological services, the European Commission, international organisations and industry.



Speakers



Sergio Bertolucci, Professor, University of Bologna & Former Scientific Director, CERN

Sergio Bertolucci is adjunct professor at the Department of Physics and Astronomy “Augusto Righi” DIFA of the University of Bologna, and Co-spokesperson of the DUNE Experiment.

Bertolucci is a particle physicist, former Pisa scholar and former director of Research and Scientific Computing at CERN.

Before joining CERN, he worked at DESY, Fermilab and Frascati. He is the co-author of over 370 papers. During his career, he has played an instrumental role in the KLOE and CDF experiments, which led to the discovery of the top quark, and innovative instrumentation, development and leadership of the DAFNE accelerator.

He was also vice president and a member of the board of the Italian National Institute of Nuclear Physics.

Christoph Beuttler, Chief Climate Policy Officer, Climeworks

Next to his position at Climeworks, the world’s leading Direct Air Capture company, Mr Beuttler also serves as president of the Negative Emissions Platform in Brussels, and as a board member on several other industry associations in the field of carbon removal and utilization. Prior to this, he led carbon removal consulting projects for the Swiss Government as part of his tenure at a Swiss think tank. He was educated in Heidelberg and London.



Jean-Marc Bourez, Chief Executive Officer, EIT Health

Mr Bourez was appointed as managing director of EIT Health France in 2016. In this position, he has developed the Venture Centre of Excellence, a strategic partnership with the European Investment Fund a pan-European Platform of co-investment in Life sciences supported by the European Commission as an anchor investor.

Before holding his current roles, Mr Bourez had built extensive experience in a variety of functions in the pharmaceutical industry: operations in cardiovascular, field medic training in neurosciences, product management in osteoporosis, regional managing director in cardio-metabolism, customer relations management director. He is also the former head of eHealth & Open Innovation department at Sanofi.

He holds a medical sciences degree from Lille University School of Medicine and a graduate degree in international economics and marketing from a business school in Paris (ISG)



Ed Brinksma, President of the Executive Board, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Ed Brinksma was appointed to his current role on 1 September 2020, in which he is responsible for general governance issues, the university’s strategy and strategic policy, and international affairs. In addition, he creates and maintains contact with a variety of external parties including government departments and agencies, the business community and other knowledge institutions.

Mr. Brinksma was previously president of Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) where, as chair of the Presidium, he primarily worked on the development and implementation of TUHH’s growth strategy and strategic cooperations. Among other roles, from 2009 to 2016 he served as rector magnificus at the University of Twente (UT), where he was also instrumental in establishing the ATLAS University College. He studied mathematics at Groningen University and was awarded a doctorate in computer science by the University of Twente in 1988.



Speakers



João Claro, Chief Executive Officer, INESC TEC

Next to his function at Inesc TEC, Mr Claro is also a professor of industrial engineering and management at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP), director of the PhD programme in engineering and public policy at FEUP, and vice-president of the Academic Council and head of entrepreneurship and innovation at Porto Business School. His area of focus is technology management & policy.

He currently serves as a board member of EARTO and is the scientific director of the UT Austin Portugal Program.

In recent years, he has worked closely with Carnegie Mellon University, namely as the national director of the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program, and with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he has been a visiting scholar.

Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member, European Parliament

Maria da Graça Carvalho is a Portuguese member of the European Parliament. Previously, Carvalho was a member of the Scientific Advice Mechanism in the European Commission's directorate for research and innovation. She has also served as an adviser to Carlos Moedas, former EU commissioner for research, and as a principal adviser in the now-defunct Bureau of European Policy Advisers. She returned to this think tank post in 2014, after an initial five year stint as an MEP, a period during which she was the rapporteur of the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020.



Clara de la Torre, Deputy Director-General, DG CLIMA, European Commission

Clara de la Torre is deputy director general in the Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission.

Before her current appointment in 2019, Mrs. de la Torre focused her professional career on research and innovation policy holding various director positions in the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation: for transport from 2016 to 2019, for key enabling technologies between 2014 and 2016, and for research & Innovation between 2011 and 2013.

She was also the director in charge of inter-institutional and legal matters related to the Framework Programme at the European Commission from 2008 to 2010.

In the late 1990s, she dealt with National Research Policies and Intergovernmental Cooperation. She worked at the EU Joint Research Centre in Brussels and Seville, where she was an advisor to the director of the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies.

Linda Doyle, Provost, Trinity College Dublin

She took office on August 1, 2021, becoming the first woman to hold the position since the College's foundation in 1592. Prior to her appointment, she was professor of engineering and the arts at Trinity, where her research focused on wireless communications, spectrum management and creative arts practices. She has raised over €70 million in research funding and has published widely in her field.

Previously, Linda was Trinity's vice president for research, as well as the founding director of CONNECT, the world-leading telecommunications research centre headquartered in Trinity. As well as her contributions to research and the arts, she is an active advocate for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



Speakers



Christian Ehler, Member, European Parliament

Christian Ehler has been member of the European Parliament since 2004 and the co-coordinator of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. Since his election, Ehler has been actively engaged in EU research and innovation policy and contributed to the successful set-up of FP7 and provided substantial input its subsequent mid-term review. In 2011 he became the EPP's shadow rapporteur for the Commission's green paper on Horizon 2020. Subsequently, when the Commission published its proposal for Horizon 2020 in 2011, he was nominated as the Parliament's rapporteur for the rules of participation of Horizon 2020 as well as the EPP's shadow rapporteur for the Horizon 2020 Framework Regulation.

Adel El Gammal, Secretary-General, European Energy Research Alliance

Adel El Gammal is a recognized expert and thought leader in the fields of clean energy transition, low-carbon technologies, energy policy and geopolitics of energy.

He is currently the secretary general of the European Energy Research Alliance, an association of European public research centres and universities, leading its research activities on the definition of a conceptual methodological framework supporting the definition of clean transition scenarios, further positioning the alliance as an adviser to the EU on transitioning to a fair and climate neutral society. For the last 14 years, he has been active in the EU climate energy field, notably as director of the Becquerel Institute, executive director of LowCarbonFacts, and secretary general of SolarPower Europe.



David Elvira, Head, Global Corporate Public Policy, Sanofi

Mr Elvira-Martinez is an experienced health economist with a strong institutional background as a top healthcare policymaker with in-depth knowledge of market access and public affairs activities in the pharmaceutical sector.

He has extensive international consultancy experience in healthcare system policies and reimbursement systems, pharmaceutical business, and economic evaluation methods. His main responsibilities included carrying out top management duties in several public healthcare organisations and regional ministries in Spain as well as lobbying entities.

Moreover, he has advised on the regional (Catalonia), national (Spain), and international (WHO) levels concerning healthcare policy planning and financing.

He has 13 years of teaching experience as an adjunct faculty professor, including as a visiting researcher in Japan, and over 20 scientific publications to his name.

Nick Fowler, Chief Academic Officer, Elsevier

Nick Fowler is chief academic officer at Elsevier. In this role, he leads the company's research networks group which collaborates with the world's top universities and research policy makers globally, while co-developing Elsevier's strategy and policies on open access, open science and open metrics. He was instrumental in setting up collaborations with universities on data science, e.g., with the Harvard Data Science Initiative, UCL's Big Data Institute, Humboldt-Elsevier Advanced Data & Text Centre, and Amsterdam Data Science. Nick joined Elsevier in 2003, was director of strategy from 2005 to 2012 and managing director of research management from 2012 to 2019. Nick is currently chair of the STM Association, which he has served as a board member since 2015. He was also formerly president of the UK Publishers Association and a council member for six years.



Speakers



Joyeeta Gupta, Piers Sellers Prize Winner & Full Professor of Climate and Development in the Global South, University of Amsterdam

Joyeeta Gupta is professor of environment and development in the global south at the University of Amsterdam' Institute for Social Science Research, faculty professor on sustainability at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, and presently co-chair of the Earth Commission. She is also the former co-chair of UNEP's Global Environment Outlook-6, which won the Association of American Publishers PROSE award for Environmental Science.

Among other achievements, Joyeeta was lead author in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize and of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment which won the Zayed Second Prize. She has published several books and sits on the editorial board of seven journals. She has also served on the steering committees of several scientific programmes, was vice-president of the Commission on Development Cooperation and a member of the Advisory Council on International Affairs. She has just won an ERC Advanced Grant of €2.5 million for work on climate change and fossil fuels.

Jennifer L. Herek, Co-Chair, Task Force Openness of Science and Technology, CESAER & Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Twente

Before moving into her current role, Mrs. Herek has been a professor of physics at the University of Twente since 2006. Her research expertise lies in optics and laser spectroscopy and is embedded in the MESA+ Institute of Nanotechnology, whose infrastructure bridges academic and industrial partners in the Netherlands.

Since 2022, she also is the director and vice president of CESAER a consortium of 58 leading universities of science and technology across Europe, and co-chairs the CESAER task force Openness of Science and Technology.



Apostolia Karamali, Head of Unit, R&I Actors and Research Careers, DG RTD, European Commission

Apostolia Karamali is head of unit for research and innovation actors and research careers in the European Commission's directorate for research and innovation. The unit designs and implements policy for the higher education sector, research organisations, researchers, and research and technology infrastructures. The unit operates in the context of the new European Research Area (ERA) and in synergy with the European Education Area (EEA), employment, social and industrial policy. In particular, the unit supports the establishment of a European framework for research careers in the labour market, offers services to researchers and institutions, promotes the development of a sustainable European ecosystem of research and technology infrastructures, maintains an observatory and promotes knowledge creation, circulation and use.

Lila Karbassi, Chief, Programmes, United Nations Global Compact

Ms Karbassi has been at the UN since 2015. In managing numerous successful programmes and bringing attention to leading businesses, she supports the UN's agenda to deliver a resilient net-zero future and drive business ambition toward achieving the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In her role at SBTi, she acts as a liaison between the initiative and the UN Global Compact. Between 2017 and 2022, she served as the chief of programmes overseeing the initiative's work on human and labour rights, the environment, anti-corruption, reporting and finance.

In 2016, she was seconded to the Office of the UN Secretary-General supporting business engagement on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

She has an MBA from the Bocconi School of Management, Italy and holds master's and doctorate degrees in biology from the Universities of Grenoble and Paris, France.



Speakers



Maarja Kruusmaa, Vice Rector for Research, Tallinn University of Technology

Maarja Kruusmaa is professor of biorobotics and a vice-rector for research at Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Estonia.

Apart from her role at TalTech, Mrs. Kruusmaa is also a board member of the Estonian Academy of Science and a member of the Research and Development Council, which advises the government of Estonia.

Additionally, she is chief scientific advisor to the European Commission and the president-elect of NORDTEK, a network of technical universities of Nordic and Baltic countries.

Takao Kuramochi, Senior Deputy Director-General, Centre for Research and Development Strategy, Japan Science and Technology Agency

Mr Kuramochi was appointed to his current position in 2015. JST/CRDS analyses domestic and international trends in science, technology and innovation and provides proposals as a public think tank. Before joining CRDS, he had been engaged in science and technology policy and programmes as a Japanese Government official for more than 35 years, where amongst other roles he served as director general for science, technology and innovation (STI), ran the Council for STI, and was director general of the Research Promotion Bureau.

After obtaining his master's degree in science from the University of Tokyo, majoring in biophysics and biochemistry, he joined JST in 1979 where he has served in various positions throughout the years, including first secretary, science councillor at the Embassy of Japan in the US, and executive director of RIKEN.



Maria Leptin, President, European Research Council

In November 2021 Maria Leptin became president of the European Research Council, having previously served since 2010 as director of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). After earning her Ph.D. in Basel, Switzerland, she conducted post-doctoral research in Cambridge in the UK, and led a research group at the Max-Planck-Institute in Tübingen. She later became professor at the institute of genetics in Cologne, and spent research visits at the University of California - San Francisco, the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, and the Sanger Institute in the UK. Leptin is an elected member of EMBO, the Academia Europaea, and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. She is an honorary fellow of the UK's Academy of Medical Sciences, and holds an honorary doctorate from EPFL, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology based in Lausanne.

Geleyn Meijer, Rector, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Meijer began his career in consultancy at software companies such as Logica and CMG. From 2005 until 2009 he was senior lecturer-researcher at the Human Computer Studies Laboratory of the University of Amsterdam (UvA). In 2011 he became dean of the AUAS faculty of digital media and creative industries and was closely involved in the development of the Centre of Expertise Amsterdam Creative Industries Network, the Knowledge Mile, the Master Digital Design and the Digital Society School.

He studied physics at the UvA where he obtained a doctorate in robotics and information in 1991, researching how to teach robots to handle unexpected situations in production processes through artificial intelligence.



Speakers



Ilkka Niemelä, President, Aalto University

Ilkka Niemelä was appointed to his current role in 2017, having previously served for three years as provost of Aalto University. He is a professor of computer science, widely known for his work in knowledge representation and constraint programming and has held numerous international visiting positions. He has also served as president of Cluster, a consortium of 12 elite European universities in science and engineering, as chair of Nordic 5 Tech, a strategic alliance of the five leading technical universities, and on several committees on national higher education and research policy. Currently, he is leading a national effort to create a digital platform for flexible higher education in Finland.

Ilkka holds a doctorate from the Helsinki University of Technology, is a Fellow of the European Association for AI, and an invited member of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters and of Technology.

Lene Oddershede, Senior Vice President, Natural and Technical Sciences, Novo Nordisk Foundation

Beyond her senior vice president's role, Lene Oddershede is also a member of the Novo Nordisk Foundation's executive leadership team and an active professor. She has been a key figure at the Foundation in shaping its Life Science Ecosystem strategic focus area. She initially joined the Foundation in 2019 to lead activities in the natural and technical sciences area, with a special focus on interdisciplinary research.

Lene also holds responsibilities as a professor of physics at the Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen University, where she constructed the first optical tweezers manipulation facility in Scandinavia; the importance of this technology was recognised by the Nobel Prize in 2018. One of her key areas of expertise is to establish, perform and lead research at the vibrant interdisciplinary interface between physics, biology, and medicine.



Per Öster, Director, Advanced Computing Facility, CSC – IT Center for Science

As director of the Advanced Computing Facility, which operates and develops the Finnish national computing infrastructure and hosts the EuroHPC pre-exascale system LUMI, Mr. Öster also represents CSC in several international initiatives and organisations: EOSC Association; the European Collaborative Data Infrastructure; FENIX RI of federated data repositories and supercomputing systems; the board of ELIXIR, the European bio-informatics infrastructure; and Knowledge Exchange, a partnership to promote open scholarship and improve services for higher education and research in Europe.

He has more than 30 years of experience in computational science from both academia and industry and a doctorate in physics from the Department of Physics, University of Gothenburg/Chalmers University of Technology.

Ole Petter Ottersen, President, Karolinska Institutet

Ole Petter Ottersen has been president of Karolinska Institutet since August 2017, having previously served as president of the University of Oslo (2009-2017). He also currently serves as a board member of the African Population and Health Research Center in Nairobi and as panel leader for European Research Council synergy grants.

An acclaimed neuroscientist, physician and academic, Ottersen has held numerous leadership positions in his field, including head of the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions and Nordic University Association, chairman of the board for Norway's national programme for functional genomics, director of Norway's Centre of Excellence in molecular biology and neuroscience, and coordinator of the Nordic Centre of Excellence in molecular medicine. In recent years, he has been actively engaged in global health issues, and has also served on numerous boards and prize committees, including the Kavli Prize Committee in Neuroscience and the Thon Foundation Advisory Board.



Speakers



Antoine Petit, Chairman & Chief Executive, CNRS

Antoine Petit is chairman and chief executive of CNRS since 2018. In 2002, he was appointed as deputy director of the French ministry of research directorate, in charge of mathematics, information and communication science. In 2004, he joined CNRS as director of the Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies Department and then as Regional Director for South West of France. In 2006, he was recruited by INRIA where he served as: center of Paris research director, deputy CEO in 2010 and then president and CEO in 2014.

Romina Pourmokhtari, Minister for Climate and the Environment, Government of Sweden

Before Mrs Pourmokhtari became Minister of Climate and Environment in the Kristersson government in October 2022, she became first vice-president of the Liberal Youth Union (LUF) in 2018, which she subsequently chaired from 2019 until 2022 while also being an adjunct member of the Liberal Party Board. She has also been a member of the Riksdag for Stockholm Municipality since 2022. She is also strongly involved in political issues related to education, integration, feminism and countering honour-based oppression. Additionally, she was a member of the board of the RFSU, the Swedish Association for Sexual Education, between 2021 and 2022, Secretary to the Commissioner for the Stockholm region from 2016 to 2019, and the Swedish representative at the European Youth Forum between 2014 and 2016.



Riccardo Procacci, Chief Executive Officer, Avio Aero & Vice President, GE Aerospace

Since 2013 Riccardo has served as chief executive officer (CEO) and general manager of Avio Aero, a GE Aerospace business. He has also held the positions of CEO of GE Additive and GE Aviation Turboprop since 2020.

Riccardo began his career at General Electric in 1996 in the oil and gas division, filling a number of prominent managerial roles in Italy, Asia-Pacific and India. He is also a member of the General Council of Confindustria, board member of the Industrial Union in Turin and board member of the Italian Federation for Aerospace, Defense, and Security (AIAD). Riccardo holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering and a PhD. in turbomachinery from Sapienza University in Rome.

Robert-Jan Smits, President of the Executive Board, Eindhoven University of Technology

Robert-Jan Smits is president of the executive board of the Eindhoven University of Technology since May 2019. Smits is the former director-general of research and innovation at the European Commission. In this position he has been the architect over the past decade of the large-scale EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. He was responsible for the design, negotiations and the execution of the € 80 billion support programme for research and innovation. He has also given shape to the run-up to the future innovation programme, Horizon Europe. Until his start at the university, Robert-Jan Smits was the open access envoy of the European Commission and launched the concrete policy proposal intended to ensure that in 2020 all publicly financed academic publications are indeed publicly available.



Speakers



Astrid Söderbergh Widding, President, Stockholm University

Next to her position as president of Stockholm University, which she has held since 2013 and where she is also a professor of cinema studies, Mrs. Söderbergh Widding holds several other roles such as chair of the Bibsam Consortium and vice chair of the Magna Charta Observatory. She is a former chair of the Swedish Association of Higher Education Institutions (2019-2022).

She is also a member of the EUA Research Innovation Strategy Group and the board of Aarhus University, Denmark, and a fellow of the Academia Europaea, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

Anders Söderholm, President, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

As president of KTH, one of Mr Söderholm's main goals is to ensure that KTH continues to develop as a leading technical and international university for a sustainable future.

He is currently also a professor of business administration at Umeå University and has previously held several positions in academia, including director general of the Swedish Higher Education Authority, secretary general of the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions [SUHF], vice chancellor of Mid Sweden University, and dean of Umeå School of Business, Economics and Statistics.

Additionally, he has been a researcher and teacher in industrial economics at KTH, and a guest researcher at Stanford University and Åbo Akademi.



Annika Thies, European Projects Director, DESY & Management Board Member, the League of European Accelerator-based Photon Sources (LEAPS)

In her current role at DESY, a German national lab, a member of the Helmholtz Association and one of the world's leading accelerator centres, Mrs. Thies represents DESY in the coordination board of the League of European Accelerator based-Photon Sources - LEAPS.

Between 2005-2022 she worked as a lawyer for the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) and the Helmholtz Association's Brussels office, as well as for the European Commission in DG RTD, where she was involved in setting up the ERIC legal framework.

From 2014 to 2022 she was director of the Helmholtz Association's Brussels office, following European research policy and European research infrastructure strategy. She was also one of the coordinators of the DESCAs model consortium initiative from 2005 to 2022.

Margrethe Vestager, Commissioner for Competition; Executive Vice President, European Commission

Margrethe Vestager is executive vice president for the digital area and commissioner for competition. She previously served as Minister for Economic Affairs and the Interior (2011-2014) and Minister for Education (1998-2001) of Denmark, and as President of the ECOFIN Council (2012). She was political leader of the Danish Social Liberal Party (2007-2014), and has worked for the Danish Ministry of Finance (1993-1995).

