Hamburg Science Summit 2024

Europe's Path Towards Tech Sovereignty

Körber Stiftung

Hamburg | Ministry of Science, Research, Equalities and Districts

About the Hamburg Science Summit

The Hamburg Science Summit brings together leading experts and decision-makers from science, politics, business and think-tanks to discuss the future of science and innovation in Europe. Organised by Körber-Stiftung and the Ministry of Science, Research, Equalities and Districts in Hamburg, the annual event focuses on a different aspect of Europe's science and innovation landscape each year.

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By Thomas Paulsen

Thomas Paulsen
Member of the Executive Board Körber-Stiftung

Science and innovation shape our lives and will do so even more in the future. They are essential for tackling challenges such as the energy transition or public health, and they are the bedrock of our prosperity. Unfortunately, recent years have seen a steady decline in Europe's share of technological innovation compared to the US and China. Europe still has many high-quality companies, start-ups and regional R&D hubs, but is far from being at the forefront in crucial areas such as artificial intelligence.

We need to become more competitive to keep pace with developments in key areas of technology. Europe also needs to address its dependencies and increase its technological sovereignty. This does not mean abandoning global cooperation. On the contrary, the ability to shape our own technological future complements and strengthens our partnerships. The backbone of this vision is a thriving science and innovation landscape in Europe.

Over the past 40 years, the Körber-Stiftung has contributed to the European scientific landscape with the Körber European Science Prize. Today, we are proud to launch the Hamburg Science Summit together with our partner, the Ministry of Science in Hamburg. The annual conference will serve as a platform for dialogue between leading scientists, policymakers, business leaders and think tanks. Each year, they will discuss a different aspect of how to strengthen Europe as a hub for science and innovation. We are enthusiastic to welcome such a distinguished audience to Hamburg!

Welcoming note

By Katharina Fegebank

Katharina Fegebank
Second Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

What tomorrow looks like depends on the decisions we are making today. Facing the global challenges ahead of us, we find ourselves standing at a crossroads: Today more than ever, we need to make informed decisions to create future technologies and sustainable practices. This requires us to cooperate across borders, disciplines and cultures. And it encourages us to be competitive on the global stage and to attract the world's brightest minds of science and technology. In Europe, we have a rich tradition of research and innovation. To unleash these potentials, we need strong networks and diverse opportunities for exchange.

This is what the Hamburg Science Summit is about: When science, business, politics and civil society come together, innovation becomes the engine of sustainable growth. This year's conference is dedicated to Europe's future path towards technological sovereignty. In Hamburg we offer a fast-growing infrastructure to navigate this future. University research, transfer of knowledge and innovative companies come together to strengthen the spirit of cooperation, dialogue and curiosity. It's the diversity of perspectives that shape Hamburg, nationally and within Europe.

I am happy to support the Körber-Stiftung in this endeavour and am impressed with the inspiring and fruitful program that the Körber-Stiftung has created. Both the Summit and the subsequent Körber Prize highlight the strength of Europe's research and innovation landscape and offer the spaces that we need to come together in face of the challenges of our time. I want to wish a warm welcome to all guests and visitors in Hamburg and thank all those who are making this Summit possible.

Europe’s technological sovereignty: Where do we stand?

Henning Kroll

Europe’s challenges in times of geopolitical shift

Over the past decades, global collaboration has been the basis for major technological advances in Europe and beyond. In today’s rapidly changing world, however, Europe’s technological sovereignty can no longer be taken for granted.

On the one hand, the rise of China has fundamentally shifted the balance of power in the global innovation system. In the mid-2000s, Europe accounted for almost 40 % of all patent applications in then relevant technology areas, such as advanced manufacturing. In today’s key enabling technologies, such as artificial intelligence, in contrast, Europe’s contribution amounts to a mere 15 %. Even if these differences appear less striking in other areas, they are indicative of the substantive relative loss of importance that Europe has been facing in recent years.

On the other hand, geopolitical developments have created a situation in which Europe no longer finds itself in a rule-based innovation competition among co-operative partners. Instead, it must navigate a world of latent antagonisms and, at times, open conflict. To an economic area in which around one sixth of all patent applications result from global collaboration, this presents a substantive challenge. Due to China’s increasingly unequivocal geopolitical positioning and the risk of US policies becoming even more inward oriented, many established economic relations can no longer be considered reliable.

The causes of Europe’s declining techno-economic autonomy

Over the past decades, the paradigm of embedding domestic contributions in international value chains created great benefit for many. However, it also shifted balances and allowed one-sided dependencies to emerge. Many European companies relocated parts of the value chain to overseas locations, including research, development, piloting, and high value-added production activities. Hardly any domain of established value chains has remained unaffected. Both businesses and policy-makers assumed that, in a global community of good-willing partners, (re-)location decisions could be taken based on purely economic considerations.

As one consequence, intensive and often one-sided material import dependencies have developed, most prominently on China. At the same time, Europe remains deeply embedded in international corporate networks dominated by non-European firms, e.g. by US corporations in the digital and the healthcare domain.

Meanwhile, dynamically growing nations in East Asia have strategically leveraged the outsourcing of manufacturing capacities from Europe to build their own, by now technologically leading competence clusters around them. Moreover, these and other countries have independently built competitive capacities in novel technology fields, such as artificial intelligence, through many years of investment in education, research and development.

The current challenges to Europe’s technological sovereignty should therefore not be misread as a short-term consequence of sudden geopolitical shifts. They have deeper roots. In essence, they are the consequence of a longer-term, market-driven process, accompanied by a political paradigm of non-intervention in economic processes.

What is technological sovereignty?

Despite the shock caused by China's political repositioning and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, technological sovereignty is not a defensive concept. It has to be understood as nations' independent capacity to shape relevant developments in science, technology and innovation — and to valorise them economically. Thus, technological sovereignty is primarily the privilege of those holding higher ground with regard to capacity and competences.

Being technologically sovereign means to be capable of meeting the needs of one's constituency in self-determined ways, without undue reliance on others. These needs can be manifold, ranging from national security to local value creation or social needs, e.g. in the healthcare domain. In this light, the ability to develop novel and relevant solutions is a more important policy objective than control and freedom from detrimental external influence. Preferably, such strengths can be developed together with other nations. At the same time, however, they also provide the indispensable basis for more autonomous development, should that be necessary.

Despite difficult circumstances, global collaboration remains not only economically advantageous, but an important source of knowledge and ideas for domestic innovation. It also provides access to much needed human capital and locally unavailable skills. Only in a few select areas, such as encryption or telecommunication, national security considerations now seem more relevant than these direct benefits. In all others, a balanced approach is required — as every collaboration that one renounces to mitigate geopolitical risks will automatically also deprive one of ideas, inspiration and commercial opportunities.

The aim of a more sovereignty-oriented innovation policy is not only to hedge the risk of supply chain disruptions, as it might look from a pure trade policy perspective. Instead, it focusses on investments into domestic capacities and on orchestrating the domestic system more effectively. Primarily, a sovereignty-oriented policy should seek to guarantee a certain degree of functional integration along the domestic innovation chain, while also ensuring that critical creation and manufacturing steps remain part of the domestic innovation system.

While complete autonomy is unrealistic, a stronger and more systemic domestic anchoring of innovation processes is the core objective of such a policy. In addition, an appropriate degree of domestic decision-making autonomy is needed regarding the steering and strategic capacity building in domestic companies. Technological sovereignty cannot be achieved by working with foreign subsidiaries alone.

The way forward: focussing on capacity and competence

Importantly, technological sovereignty does not necessarily depend on relocating production capacities back to domestic locations, nor does it automatically imply economic autonomy. Many production activities could only be shifted back to high-wage environments at considerable and permanent cost. Instead, a prudent ambition for the coming years would be to reposition Europe's innovation system so that it once more sets globally relevant impulses and standards on its own terms.

In addition to direct innovation policies, including subsidies, this would require a more enabling regulation, greater efforts in technology transfer, rebuilding competitive public infrastructures, and structural reforms in education — in short, increased attention to all those areas where Europe has insufficiently kept up with its global competitors in recent years. Even if the geopolitical situation does not deteriorate further, such investments would empower domestic actors to drive change and rejuvenate the innovation system.

That said, neither the risk of a breakdown of European-Chinese relations comparable to that with Russia, nor the risk of significant transatlantic rifts are now purely hypothetical. Neither of them is imminent, but they have become realistic scenarios. Since technological sovereignty can only be achieved gradually over time, key investments would have to begin now. Without them, all short-term efforts to retain autonomy in the event of crisis would remain fruitless. In addition to investments in education, these include attracting foreign experts to the domestic innovation system, building more demonstrators and pilot lines, investing in automated production technologies to enable reshoring under high-wage conditions, and opening additional production sites that could serve as a nucleus for future industrial clusters.

A European challenge requires European solutions

These goals can hardly be achieved within the limits of a single nation. In most of today's relevant key enabling technologies, even larger European nations contribute little more than 2.5 % to the global patent activity, and even Germany rarely exceeds 7–8 %. After the end of Europe's former strength in many dynamic fields, collaboration has become even more imperative for European nations.

While reforms in basic and higher education may be best pursued at the national level, European coordination will be indispensable in innovation policy. Despite all challenges, new European platform initiatives such as GAIA-X send the heartening signal that even visions of a "new Airbus" should not be written off in Europe. Furthermore, tested models of public-private partnerships for innovation at both the European and the national level can be built on, learned from and extended. Finally, Europe's spin-off ecosystem, which is better than its reputation, would gain further momentum if supplied with targeted funding.

Despite an increasingly difficult global environment and a noticeable relative decline in importance, Europe still displays a high level of competence and is home to numerous globally relevant centres of excellence in science and business. Promoting these more actively will be the central policy challenge of the coming years — and the prerequisite for maintaining technological sovereignty. In some cases, this will also require tough decisions against supporting other activities in order to provide sufficient resources for those that are considered absolutely essential.

Key takeaways:
- As Europe's innovative capacity declines, its technological sovereignty is increasingly at risk.
- Rising geopolitical tensions are not the root cause of recent challenges to technological sovereignty.
- Technological sovereignty is the capability of meeting one's needs in self-determined ways.
- Technological sovereignty involves risk hedging — but more importantly, domestic capacity building.
- Besides investment, a commitment to education, infrastructure and enabling regulation is needed.
- No European nation can face these challenges alone. A closer and more strategic collaboration is needed.

Henning Kroll
Coordinator of Business Unit Innovation Trends and Science Studies, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI), Germany

“The EU’s Single Market is more than just a technical project”

Dr Letta, you recently wrote a major report to the European Council on the European Union’s Single Market. What makes the Single Market so important for the EU’s competitiveness?

The Single Market is more than just a technical project; it is a fundamental political initiative that drives growth, prosperity, and solidarity across Europe. It enables the EU to achieve strategic objectives such as the green and digital transitions, EU enlargement, and enhanced defense capabilities. By fostering an integrated market, it allows the EU to mobilise private and public resources more effectively, creating a robust financing framework for its ambitious goals. Moreover, the Single Market supports job creation, innovation, and the scalability of EU businesses, enhancing their ability to compete globally and negotiate favorable trade agreements.

In your report, you argue that research and innovation should be introduced as a “fifth freedom” within the Single Market. What would such a fifth freedom look like?

The Single Market, traditionally defined by the four freedoms — movement of people, goods, services, and capital — relies on 20th-century principles that no longer fully capture the complexities of a market transformed by digitalisation, innovation, and the pressures of climate change. The lines between goods and services have blurred, merging in ways that challenge the old distinctions and overlook the nuances of the digital and circular economies. Therefore, adding a fifth freedom to the previous ones is an indispensable extension of the established framework. This fifth freedom should encompass several fields, among which research, innovation, data, competences, knowledge and education. It would place these drivers at the heart of the Single Market, creating an ecosystem where the spread of knowledge boosts economic growth, societal progress, and cultural development. Focus on this action should be central in the next legislative term, with the aim of positioning the EU at the edge of technological transformations.

Europe has its strengths in basic research, but struggles to translate scientific excellence into marketable innovations. Could the changes in the Single Market help to bridge this research-to-practice gap?

Enhancing the Single Market can indeed bridge the gap between Europe’s scientific strengths and its ability to create marketable innovations. Simplifying the regulatory framework and introducing a European Code of Business Law would unify the market and reduce administrative burdens, making it easier for businesses to operate and innovate. Additionally, creating a more competitive industrial strategy and supporting the scalability of EU companies would facilitate the transition from research to practical, marketable innovations. These measures would ultimately boost the EU’s competitiveness on the global stage, ensuring that Europe remains at the forefront of technological and economic progress. With these improvements, the Single Market can become a powerful engine of innovation and growth, securing a prosperous future for the entire European Union.

Enrico Letta
Former Prime Minister of Italy,
President of the Jacques Delors Institute

The European Council commissioned Enrico Letta to compile a High-Level Report on the future of the EU’s Single Market. The findings will be incorporated into the European Commission’s next strategic agenda.

“Biotech needs a stronger risk-taking culture”

Dr Mendila, mRNA was the technology of the moment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, there is talk of mRNA vaccinations against cancer. How far away are we from that?

mRNA enabled the rapid development of effective vaccines during the global COVID crisis, highlighting its immense potential in infectious diseases and beyond. Research in cancer vaccines has been ongoing for over two decades, but success has been mixed, and these therapeutic vaccines have yet to demonstrate clinical benefit in confirmatory clinical trials. Recently, encouraging data for mRNA-based cancer vaccines has started to emerge. These vaccines have been tested in various clinical settings in patients with early and advanced cancer and demonstrated immune responses associated with clinical benefits.

The concept for applying mRNA in cancer is very similar to infectious disease vaccines: The mRNA cancer vaccine encodes proteins specific to cancer cells, teaching immune cells to recognise and destroy them. Early data, though often from small patient groups, raises our hope that we can overcome the challenges of cancer vaccines with mRNA technology in the near to midterm future. This potential breakthrough could revolutionise how we approach cancer treatment, offering a new avenue for targeted and effective therapies.

There is a lot of excellent biotech research in Germany and Europe. However, the risk capital often comes from the US. Is that a problem for us in Europe?

Access to excellent biotech research and outstanding academic science in Europe is a strong catalyst for our industry. However, access to capital is governed by different factors. The ability to tap into the capital market is easiest via a stock market listing, and for biotech companies, a US Nasdaq listing, with its historically strong technology focus, means the company is placed alongside relevant industry peers. Statistics show that US investors mainly invest domestically, but European investors also predominantly invest in the US. Culturally, the willingness to take risks and engage in opportunistic buying and selling is generally higher in the US than in Europe. This is particularly relevant for biotech, a dynamic field where investors must balance the risks of partially validated technologies with the blue-sky potential of transformative breakthroughs. A stronger risk-taking culture is an important factor why the US continues to lead biotech activities in the capital market.

The business of biotechnology has lean periods and is subject to fluctuations. The German government has a 13 per cent stake in CureVac. Is the state the more reliable investor?

The business of biotechnology companies indeed experiences lean periods and fluctuations due to the high-risk, high-reward nature of the industry. During the COVID crisis, the German government made a significant investment into CureVac, supporting the need for safe and effective vaccines and demonstrating a commitment to public health and rapid innovation. This was a unique situation driven by an unprecedented global emergency. But the government is normally not a long-term biotech investor — biotech companies rely mostly on institutional investors who are accustomed to the inherent risks of the industry. The government’s support was crucial during the pandemic to allow rapid progress in vaccine development, and we greatly appreciate this support and investment.

Myriam Mendila
Chief Scientific Officer, CureVac N.V.

CureVac is a global biopharmaceutical company developing a new class of transformative medicines based on messenger ribonucleic acid (“mRNA”).

“Germany needs a new orientation in R&I”

Professor Cantner, last year the German Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation, which you chair, called for a *Zeitenwende* in research & innovation policy. What exactly do you mean by that?

We urge the German Federal Government to change the nature of its R&I policy in line with the transformation towards sustainability and in relation to future key technologies. Radical technological innovations characterise transformations such as the shift to non-fossil engines in the automotive industry. And they provoke profound economic and social change. The traditional approach to R&I policy does not do justice to this nature of transformation: it neither explicitly aims to promote radical innovation, nor does it take the resulting structural change into account. The new style of R&I policy that we are calling for, the New Mission Orientation, is set up differently: radical technological changes are a clear goal, accompanied by social innovations; strategies and measures are developed and implemented across ministries; policy instruments are regularly evaluated; market forces for problem solving are emphasised; and social compensation for those disadvantaged by change is considered from the outset.

For decades, the German model was to refine existing technologies rather than develop new ones. Has “German incrementalism” had its day?

“German incrementalism” refers to the ability of German industry to refine technologies, products, processes and services through incremental steps, leading to perfection and sophistication. In recent decades, the German economy has relied very successfully on these outstanding skills. But they are less relevant today. Rather than incremental improvements, we need radical changes towards a greener economy and towards future key technologies. However, German companies are finding it difficult to implement such changes. In digitalization, for example, the German economy is falling behind in international rankings and is now below the EU average. Likewise, German automobile companies, only slowly switching to non-fossil vehicles, lose international competitiveness. A strong push for technological reorientation across the entire spectrum of German industry is required. If successful, “German incrementalism” will have its day again and will help to improve the international competitiveness of German companies — no longer in traditional technologies, but in future key technologies as well as in technologies addressing climate change.

Europe has long relied on Germany’s economic strength. Now the growth engine is faltering. Does Germany need to improve for Europe to prosper again?

There are several reasons why Germany, the growth engine, has stalled. In addition to inflation, interest rate policy, protectionism and excessive bureaucracy, it is above all a growing technological gap in future technologies. German innovation activities do not keep pace with developments at the world technology frontier. There are warning signals Germany must take very seriously: Not only is Germany technologically falling behind on a world scale — Korea, Japan, China and the US are ahead — it is also falling behind within the EU, especially when it comes to digital technologies. The latter tendency indicates that other European economies have redirected their innovation and production activities earlier and are already showing economic success. The previously strongest EU economy has so far failed to do so. Hence, Germany must first do its homework by redirecting innovation activities from traditional, established areas to the key technologies of the future. With every step that Germany climbs up the EU rankings, its power to drive Europe forward will return.

Uwe Cantner
Chair, German Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation (EFI)

The EFI commission advises the German Federal Government and presents an annual report on research, innovation and technological performance in Germany.

“R&I are at the core of Europe’s prosperity”

Ms Russo, the European Commission’s new political guidelines put a strong emphasis on science and research. How does this influence your agenda for the coming years?

Research and innovation are at the core of the EU’s prosperity. At the Directorate-General, we focus on critical and strategic areas such as AI, biotechnologies, advanced materials, or clean tech. Through R&I, Europe should develop and apply cutting-edge technologies in priority areas that make its role globally indispensable in value chains and in key industries. This requires strategic choices based on evidence, foresight on the development of specific technologies and an understanding of the EU’s position at the global level. At the same time, R&I needs an overarching framework to be successful. An attractive environment for industrial research is also necessary to boost private investments. As highlighted by Enrico Letta in his report to the European Council, fostering a more innovation-friendly regulatory environment, shaping international standards and increasing the mobility of talent and skills should be priorities. This can be achieved by introducing a “fifth freedom” in Europe, dedicated to the free movement of research, innovation, knowledge and education.

Collaboration between academia and business could be the key to translating Europe’s scientific strengths into marketable innovations. How can we build effective cooperation between these sectors in Europe?

A systemic change to better connect science, industry, policy and society is required to improve the valorisation of research results across the Union. A new legal framework for enhancing intellectual asset management could be established to accelerate market uptake and the industrial and commercial scale-up of innovation. Specific obligations to exploit knowledge valorisation in Europe beyond the current “best effort” should be envisaged. We will also explore the need for an intermediary to centralise and manage scattered patent rights. Standards play a pivotal strategic role, serving as the silent foundation of our Single Market, ensuring a high level of safety, functionality and interoperability for EU materials and products. To support our strategic choices in industrial R&I and the valorisation of research and innovation results, it is essential to have appropriate standards. Standards guarantee adherence to policy and legal objectives and can facilitate access to global markets.

Artificial intelligence could be another key driver of innovation. But AI could also change science itself. What are your expectations for the future impact of AI on research processes?

To increase Europe’s competitiveness, we need to accelerate the responsible integration of AI into science. This is existential for the future of Europe’s leadership in research and innovation, as well as a strategic edge in the global AI race. AI in science will help our researchers to speed up innovation and the subsequent market deployment of new technologies. We are talking about technologies that impact our health, our climate and our competitiveness in the world. Together with stakeholders, we have already developed guidelines for the responsible use of AI in science. In April 2024, our Scientific Advice Mechanism issued an opinion on the uptake of AI in research and innovation. We will keep making efforts to ensure that scientists in the EU have access to the proper tools to enable them fully to tap into the potential of AI in science. This has also been highlighted by President von der Leyen in the political guidelines for the next Commission, which call for the setup of a European AI Research Council.

Maria Cristina Russo
Director Prosperity, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation is responsible for the EU’s policy on research, science and innovation.

Programme

Thursday, 19 September 2024

10:30 am KörberForum	**Welcome coffee**
11:00 am KörberForum	**Welcome addresses** Thomas Paulsen, Katharina Fegebank
11:10 am KörberForum	Keynote **Much more than a market: A new Single Market for a larger world** Enrico Letta
11:40 am KörberForum	Plenary Table • Moderated by Terry Martin **A technologically sovereign Europe: Challenges, opportunities, and the way forward** Uwe Cantner, Tino Krause, Maria-Cristina Russo
12:30 pm	**Lunch**
1:30 pm KörberForum	Plenary Table • Moderated by Manuela Lenzen **The global race for AI: How can Europe keep up and find its own way?** Susanne Beckers, Alena Buyx, Morten Irgens
1:30 pm Fleet Room	Roundtable • Hosted by Max Planck Society **Green Chemistry — Towards a closed anthropogenic carbon cycle** Patrick Cramer, Walter Leitner, Constanze Neumann, Javier Pérez-Ramírez, Silvia Vignolini
2:30 pm KörberForum	Plenary Table • Moderated by Jennifer Porto **Is the future still green? Europe's strengths and weaknesses in sustainable energy supply** Clare Grey, Simon Müller, Nicolas Steinbacher
2:30 pm Fleet Room	Roundtable • Hosted by European Patent Office **The global race for patents: Where do we stand in Europe?** Ilja Rudyk, Joachim Fiedler, Ia Modin, Andreas Schuster
2:30 pm Körber Room	Roundtable • Hosted by Young Academy of Europe **Embarking on a PhD and an academic career in Europe — What are the prospects?** Katalin Solymosi, Farah Islam, Eystein Jansen, Karl Kilbo Edlund, Nadine Ritter
3:30 pm	**Coffee**
4:00 pm KörberForum	Plenary Table • Moderated by Vivienne Parry **The future of health: Medical breakthroughs made in Europe** Iordanis Arzimanoglou, Maria Blasco, Myriam Mendila
4:00 pm Fleet Room	Plenary Table • Hosted by Leopoldina **Science and politics: The state of evidence-based policy in Europe** Gerald Haug, Jette Bredahl Jacobsen, David Mair, Paweł Rowiński
4:00 pm Körber Start-Hub School students only	Young Science Meet-Up • Hosted by Young Science Hamburg **What's it like to be a scientist?** Weihan Li, Cordelia Schmid, Erin Schuman
5:00 pm KörberForum	Plenary Table • Moderated by Helen Czerski **Breakthrough and beyond: Cutting-edge research in Europe** Cordelia Schmid, Peter Seeberger, Nicola Spaldin
6:00 pm	**Dinner**
8:00 pm Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Recital Hall In German, English translation available	Public cultural event • Discussion and concert **Europe in transition — Tradition meets the future** Nora Bossong, Rainer Moritz Music performance: Johannes Motschmann Trio

Friday, 20 September 2024

11:00 am Hamburg City Hall Great Hall	Award ceremony **Körber European Science Prize 2024** Previous registration and valid ID required
12:30 pm Hamburg City Hall Reception	Reception **Körber European Science Prize 2024** Previous registration and valid ID required

Europe's Path Towards Tech Sovereignty

Plenary Table • Moderated by Terry Martin 11:40 am KörberForum

A technologically sovereign Europe: Challenges, opportunities and the way forward

Uwe Cantner Chair, German Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation
Tino Krause Regional Director Central Europa, Meta Platforms
Maria-Cristina Russo European Commission, DG for Research & Innovation

Developments in recent years have raised doubts about Europe's competitiveness and technological sovereignty. In key areas such as artificial intelligence, digital services or semiconductors, Europe is lagging behind its American and Asian partners. Even in markets with a traditionally strong European share, such as the automotive industry, European players are struggling to meet the demand for innovation in battery technology or digitalisation. At the same time, the changing geopolitical environment has sparked concerns about supply chain risks and Europe's dependencies on international markets. This raises the question of how Europe — including, but not limited to, EU member states — should strengthen its technological sovereignty.

Plenary Table • Moderated by Manuela Lenzen 1:30 pm KörberForum

The global race for AI: How can Europe keep up and find its own way?

Alena Buyx Former Chair, German Ethics Council
Susanne Beckers AI Strategist, SAP SE
Morten Irgens Vice Chair, Confederation of Laboratories of AI Research in Europe

Artificial Intelligence is a critical benchmark for Europe's competitiveness and technological sovereignty. However, Europe faces challenges in delivering its own AI solutions, with Large Language Models being the most prominent example. European AI players have attracted significantly less funding than their American counterparts, and struggle with regulatory hurdles and limited data availability. As a result, Europe may not only fall behind in the global AI competition, but also fail to incorporate its norms and values into future AI systems. At the same time, Europe has strengths in basic AI research and a small but promising ecosystem of AI initiatives and start-ups. How can these strengths be further developed to create AI solutions that are both competitive and in line with Europe's strategic interests and ethical standards?

Roundtable • Host: Max Planck Society 1:30 pm Fleet Room

Green Chemistry — Towards a closed anthropogenic carbon cycle

Patrick Cramer President, Max Planck Society
Walter Leitner Director, Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion
Constanze Neumann Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung
Javier Pérez-Ramírez ETH Zurich
Silvia Vignolini Director, Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces Potsdam

Europe is already replacing oil and gas with green technologies in the energy sector, with Germany as a prime example. However, Europe's manufacturing sector is still very carbon intensive. For the manufacturing supply to become net-zero or even carbon negative, chemical products must be produced using non-fossil carbon sources. Carbon dioxide, biomass, and recycled materials are three complementary pillars to transform the current linear chemical industry into a resilient circular economy. The roundtable, organised by the Max Planck Society, will explore how "Green Chemistry", including cutting-edge catalysis science, is already contributing to Europe's prosperity today and what progress can be expected in the near future.

Plenary Table • Moderated by Jennifer Porto 2:30 pm KörberForum

Is the future still green? Europe's strengths and weaknesses in sustainable energy supply

Clare Grey University of Cambridge
Simon Müller Director Germany, Agora Energiewende
Nicolas Steinbacher Program Lead Germany, Northvolt

Decarbonising the energy system is a key part of the transition to sustainability. In addition to scaling up green energy supply and infrastructure, affordable and efficient energy storage is essential to achieve Europe's net-zero goals. However, Europe is struggling to keep up in battery technology and related areas of green innovation such as electric mobility, with delayed investment, lack of innovation, and insufficient manufacturing capacity being part of the problem. At the same time, the transformation of the energy system has created competitive disadvantages in energy prices, especially for German industry, and has created dependencies and supply chain risks for raw materials such as lithium or rare earths. If Europe wants to lead the green transition, how should it respond to these issues?

Roundtable • Host: European Patent Office 2:30 pm Fleet Room

The global race for patents: Where do we stand in Europe?

Ilja Rudyk Chief Economist Unit, European Patent Office
Joachim Fiedler CEO and Founder, FIDLOCK
Ia Modin Partner, GOZZO Advokater
Andreas Schuster CTO and Founder, Orcan Energy

Patents play a crucial role in converting scientific research into commercially viable products, and are greatly important as key assets for startups and investors. However, despite a strong foundation in scientific research, Europe is witnessing a gradual decline in its share of patent filings, particularly in the newest technological sectors. What strategic measures can be taken to enhance Europe's performance in the global innovation arena? The roundtable, organised by the new Observatory on Patents and Technology of the European Patent Office, will foster a deeper understanding of effective IP management and discuss solutions to empower European innovators in the competitive global market for patents and technological advances.

Roundtable • Host: Young Academy of Europe 2:30 pm Körber Room

Embarking on a PhD and an academic career in Europe — What are the prospects?

Katalin Solymosi Chair, Young Academy of Europe
Karl Kilbo Edlund Board Member, European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers
Farah Islam Board Member, Marie Curie Alumni Association
Eystein Jansen Vice-President, European Research Council
Nadine Ritter University of Copenhagen

How attractive are doctoral training and research careers in Europe for the X, Y and Z generations? What initiatives can we take to attract and retain the best talents in Europe? How can we improve doctoral training and career prospects to overcome issues such as precarity, the unidirectional brain-drain within Europe, the relatively low salaries, and the constant publish or perish competition leading to poor mental health in academia? Organised by the Young Academy of Europe and involving representatives of all career stages — from doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to young principal investigators and senior high-profile researchers — the roundtable will discuss the situation of the future generations of the European academic landscape under the current conditions.

Plenary Table • Moderated by Vivienne Parry 4:00 pm KörberForum

The future of health: Medical breakthroughs made in Europe

Iordanis Arzimanoglou Former Program Manager Health and Biotechnology, European Innovation Council
Maria Blasco Director, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre
Myriam Mendila Chief Scientific Officer, CureVac N.V.

Medical research is at a turning point. The COVID-19 crisis has shown that Europe is capable of efficient R&I processes, with the mRNA technology being the most prominent example. Part of the success story has been increased cross-sector collaboration between academics, medical companies, regulators, and financial incentives provided by government and private actors. At the same time, the crisis revealed barriers to innovation, such as poor availability and quality of health data, or problems in scientific and administrative infrastructures. This raises questions about the future of medical research in Europe: What breakthroughs can be expected from European medical researchers in the coming years? Is the COVID case a viable template for other R&I processes in Europe? And how can medical innovation contribute to Europe's technological sovereignty without undermining global justice, particularly with regard to public health in the Global South?

Roundtable • Host: Leopoldina 4:00 pm Fleet Room

Science and politics: The state of evidence-based policy in Europe

Gerald Haug President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
Jette Bredahl Jacobsen Vice-Chair, European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change
David Mair Head of Unit, EU Joint Research Centre
Paweł Rowiński President, All European Academies

With Europe facing significant challenges and yet nurturing the ambition to increase its competitiveness and sovereignty, the integration of scientific evidence into decision-making is critical. As problems become more complex and information more abundant, it is often hard to distinguish facts from disinformation, or evidence from mere opinion. This makes it demanding for scientific advisors to transfer insights from science into political and societal contexts. The roundtable, organised by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, will explore obstacles and best practices for producing, delivering, and taking up science-based advice. It will also delve into strategies for overcoming barriers to evidence-based policy and discuss how Europe can lead in grounding policies in robust scientific expertise.

Plenary Table • Moderated by Helen Czerski 5:00 pm KörberForum

Breakthrough and beyond: Cutting-edge research in Europe

Cordelia Schmid Research Director, French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation
Peter Seeberger Director, Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces Potsdam
Nicola Spaldin ETH Zurich

Despite concerns about Europe's ability to innovate, European universities and research institutions continue to be recognised for their scientific excellence. But while Europe continues to attract bright minds and produce cutting-edge research and scientific breakthroughs, it is failing to translate its scientific potential into marketable innovations. In addition to financial and regulatory challenges, there are limited incentives for academics to collaborate with industry and vice versa. At the same time, there are promising examples of scientists adding significant value to Europe's innovation space by contributing to R&D networks, co-developing products with companies or even launching their own start-ups. How can we maintain and enhance Europe's scientific excellence while strengthening our capacity to innovate?

Our speakers

Iordanis Arzimanoglou
Iordanis Arzimanoglou has a 30+ year career. From 2020 to 2024, he was the Programme Manager for Health and Biotechnology at the European Innovation Council (EIC). He was CEO of the Thessaloniki Innovation Zone and Aarhus Biotech Cluster, and Adjunct Associate Professor at Aarhus University. Previously, he was Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medicine and Chief of Cancer Genetics Research at Lennox Hill Hospital. He holds a PhD from the University of Athens and a certificate in international business management from Boston University.

Susanne Beckers
With a background in applied mathematics, research, and project experience in data science, Susanne Beckers consults and shapes SAP's AI Strategy as AI Strategy Expert with focus on government relations. Previously to this role, she has led a data science team in SAP's IT in Walldorf, Germany, and acted as AI Product Owner of SAP's Machine Learning Innovation team in Singapore. Beckers holds a PhD in applied mathematics and has obtained degrees from universities in Bremen, Hamburg, and Tokyo.

Maria Blasco
Maria A. Blasco is Director of the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO). For more than 20 years, Blasco's work has focused on demonstrating the importance of telomeres and telomerase in cancer and age-related diseases. She has published more than 250 papers in international journals and has an h-index of 81. She has received several awards, including the Körber European Science Prize, the Swiss Bridge Award, and the EMBO Gold Medal. Blasco holds a PhD from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and two PhD honoris causa from the Universidad Carlos III of Madrid and the Universidad de Alicante. She is a member of the Royal Board of Trustees of the Museo del Prado.

Alena Buyx
Alena Buyx is Professor of Ethics in Medicine and Health Technologies and Director of the Institute of History and Ethics in Medicine at TU Munich. She is a medical doctor with degrees in philosophy and sociology. Her research spans the field of biomedical and public health ethics. Active in political and regulatory aspects of biomedical ethics, she was a member (2016-2024) and chair (2020-2024) of the German Ethics Council. Buyx is a member of the Federal Government's Expert Council on Health and Resilience since April 2024.

Uwe Cantner
Uwe Cantner is Chair of the Expert Commission for Research and Innovation (EFI) of the German Federal Government and Professor of Economics at Friedrich Schiller University Jena. His research focuses on innovation economics, evolutionary economics, industrial economics, and research and innovation policy. He has expertise in cluster, network, and transfer research, productivity theory, industrial dynamics, and transformative change. He has been a member of the EFI since 2015 and Chair since 2019.

Patrick Cramer
Patrick Cramer has been President of the Max Planck Society since 2023. From 2014 to 2023, he was Director of the Department of Molecular Biology at the Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences. His research on gene transcription in eukaryotic cells earned him the Shaw Prize (2023), Gregori Aminoff Prize (2022), and Louis Jeantet Prize for Medicine (2021). Cramer is a member of the German National Academy Leopoldina, the American National Academy of Sciences, and The Royal Society.

Karl Kilbo Edlund
Karl Kilbo Edlund is a board member of the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers. He is currently in the last year of his PhD at the University of Gothenburg, focusing on cardiovascular and kidney health effects of air pollution. When not doing research, he works as a physician at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

Katharina Fegebank
Katharina Fegebank is Second Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Senator for Science, Research, Equality and Districts. She has been a member of the Hamburg Parliament from 2011 to 2015. From 2008 until 2015 she held the position of regional chair of the Alliance '90/The Greens in Hamburg.

Joachim Fiedler
Joachim Fiedler studied at the University of the Arts in Berlin and worked as a professional cellist in several orchestras and ensembles. His earliest inventions, such as a magnetic bow clamp, aimed to solve problems unique to musicians. In 2007, he established Fidlock GmbH to further develop magnetic-mechanical fasteners and expand the product line up. Today, his fasteners are used in a range of products from bags, helmets, bottles to shoe closures and chest strap clips for child bike seats.

Clare Grey
Clare P. Grey, DBE, FRS, is a Royal Society Research Professor and the Geoffrey Moorhouse-Gibson Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge University. She earned her BA and D.Phil. from Oxford University and was a Faculty member at Stony Brook University (SBU) before moving to Cambridge in 2009. She is the co-founder of Nyobolt, a battery fast charging company. Her research focuses on energy storage, conversion and carbon capture. Awards include the Hughes Medal (2020) and Körber European Science Prize (2021).

Gerald Haug
The paleoclimatologist, marine geologist and paleoceanographer Gerald Haug is President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Director of the Department Climate Geochemistry, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, and Ordinary Professor for Climate Geochemistry, ETH Zurich. He studies the development of the Earth climate over thousands to millions of years by analysing sediment cores from the sea floor and lakes. This allows quantitative reconstructions of past climate conditions.

Morten Irgens
Morten Irgens is the Vice Dean of Innovation at Copenhagen Business School and cofounder of the AI associations CLAIRE, Adra and Nora and the AI company Actenum Corp. He is a member of the Expert Advisory group on Ethical AI to the Nordic Council, and the Standing Committee on Innovation Policy at Danish Universities. He has held senior management positions in industry and academia, including three times as Vice-Rector and twice as Faculty Dean. He has a MSc and PhD in Artificial Intelligence.

Farah Islam
Farah Islam completed a BA in Psychology from McGill University (2016) and an MSc in Public Health from Université de Montréal (2018). In 2019, she received a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship and pursued a PhD in Biomedical Sciences at KU Leuven. In June 2023, she joined the Institute of Nursing Science at the University of Basel as a postdoctoral researcher for the INTERSCALE Project. She is a former chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Benelux Chapter.

Eystein Jansen
Eystein Jansen holds a PhD in Earth Science from the University of Bergen, where he has been Professor of palaeoclimatology since 1993. He is Vice-President of the European Research Council (ERC) and was founding Director of the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research. He is Academic Director for the Academia Europaea Bergen Hub and a board member. Jansen is part of Academia Europaea, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, and the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences, and has held key IPCC roles.

Tino Krause
Tino Krause is the Regional Director Central Europe at Meta, overseeing business development in 34 countries, including Benelux and Central and Eastern Europe. He also serves as Meta's Country Director for Germany, Austria, and Switzerland since 2019. With over 15 years of experience, he is a leading expert of these countries marketing industry. Previously, Krause was CEO at MediaCom and held senior roles at Wavemaker and other major companies like Telefónica and Audi.

Walter Leitner
Walter Leitner is Director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion and holds the Chair of Chemical Technology at RWTH Aachen University. His research focuses on an organometallic approach to catalysis at the interface of energy and chemistry, guided by Green Chemistry principles. His collaboration with Dr Christoph Gürtler (Covestro) was recognized among the top three innovations by the Presidential German Future Award (2019) and the European Inventor Award (2021).

Enrico Letta
Enrico Letta is President of the Jacques Delors Institute in Paris, France. He was Dean of the School of International Affairs at Sciences Po Paris (PSIA) and Italian Prime Minister from April 2013 to February 2014. He was the General Secretary of the Italian Democratic Party (PD) from 2021 to 2023. He served as Minister for EU Affairs (1998-1999), as Minister for Industry, Commerce and Crafts (January-April 2000), as Minister for Industry, Commerce and Crafts and Foreign Trade (2000-2001) and as Undersecretary of State to the Italian Prime Minister from 2006 to 2008.

Weihan Li
Weihan Li is the head of the research group "Artificial Intelligence for Batteries" at the Center for Ageing, Reliability, and Lifetime Prediction of Electrochemical and Power Electronic Systems (CARL) at RWTH Aachen University. He earned his PhD with honors in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology from RWTH Aachen in 2021. Li is the recipient of various awards, including the BattFutur Starting Grant of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Study Award of Körber-Stiftung.

Myriam Mendila
Myriam Mendila joined CureVac in 2022 from Novartis, Switzerland, where she served as Chief Medical Officer in the Oncology Business Unit with responsibility for the worldwide Medical Affairs function. In the past, she has held leadership positions within Global Medical Affairs, U.S. Medical Affairs, Global Product Development and Global Product Strategy at Roche / Genentech. Prior to that, she led Global Medical Affairs at Roche HQ in Basel. Myriam holds an MD degree from the Medical School Hannover.

Ia Modin
Commercial IP and business law expert Ia Modin has significant experience in complex agreements commercialising existing and future intellectual assets. She is an experienced negotiator and certified mediator, known for her ability to facilitate long term, and trusted, collaborations. Ia Modin represents well-known clients and emerging companies in a broad range of industries, she is also a professional board member. Ia Modin is the president of LES Scandinavia.

Simon Müller
Simon Müller is Director Germany at Agora Energiewende, leading energy and climate policy, including electricity, heat, and infrastructure. As an expert in energy transition, he has advised over 20 countries and published studies on renewable energy. Previously, he worked at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris, leading renewable energy integration, and headed the energy systems department at ENERTRAG. Müller has a physics degree and studied in Oldenburg, Bremen, and Berlin.

Constanze Neumann
Constanze Neumann studied chemistry at Oxford, followed by postdoctoral work at MIT. She is currently a Lise-Meitner Group Leader at the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung. Much of her research is inspired by the need to efficiently access fuels and building block chemicals from renewable materials. This is achieved by developing catalysts that promote chemical transformations to enable more efficient synthetic routes to important commodity products.

Javier Pérez-Ramírez
Javier Pérez-Ramírez, Full Professor of Catalysis Engineering at ETH Zurich since 2010, researches catalytic materials for sustainable chemical and energy production. He chairs the Editorial Board of Green Chemistry and directs NCCR Catalysis, a Swiss Centre of Competence in Research devoted to the development of carbon-neutral chemicals through catalytic processes.

Thomas Paulsen
Thomas Paulsen is CFO and a member of the Executive Board of the Körber-Stiftung. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Hamburg. Before joining the Körber-Stiftung, he was Guest Professor of Political Sciences at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, in 1999. He has also worked as an analyst at HypoVereinsbank in Munich, Germany, and as a Senior Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Berlin, Germany.

Nadine Ritter
Nadine Ritter has a background in studying cellular excitability and ion channel pharmacology in the context of neurological diseases. She earned her PhD from the University of Münster, focusing on glutamate receptor modulation. Currently a Marie Curie postdoctoral researcher at the University of Copenhagen, she characterizes sodium leak channel variants and their impact on neuronal excitability using human induced pluripotent stem cells.

Paweł Rowiński
Paweł Rowiński is the President of All European Academies (ALLEA), the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, and the Director of the Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences. He is also the Chair of the European Division of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR). He is a Professor of Earth sciences. His research interests include environmental hydrodynamics and hydrology.

Ilja Rudyk
Ilja Rudyk is a core member of the Chief Economist Unit of the European Patent Office (EPO). Over the last decade he has co-authored several studies on the role of patents and technology for the European economy. He has a PhD in economics from the University of Munich and provides expert insight into issues relating to innovation and technology commercialisation.

Maria Cristina Russo
Maria Cristina Russo is Director of the Prosperity Directorate in the Directorate-General Research and Innovation of the European Commission, overseeing industrial research, innovation, valorisation policies, and Industry 5.0 and AI. Previously, she was Director for Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I, handling the EU's international research strategy. Since joining the European Commission in 1992, she has held various roles, including in the Cabinet and Secretariat-General. She holds degrees in Political Science and European Studies.

Cordelia Schmid
Cordelia Schmid is a Research Director at the French National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology (Inria), and works part-time at Google. Her research focuses on computer vision, machine learning, and robotics. Her work in computer vision has enabled significant progress in visual understanding of the world, particularly by learning from weak annotations such as text. She has received numerous awards, including the Körber European Science Prize (2023) and the European Inventor Award (2024).

Erin Schuman
Erin Schuman has a 30+ year international career in neuroscience. After 16 years at Caltech, she founded the Department of Synaptic Plasticity at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2009. Her research focuses on cell biological mechanisms of information processing and storage at brain synapses. Schuman holds a PhD in Neuroscience from Princeton, a BA from the University of Southern California, and conducted postdoctoral studies at Stanford. In 2024, she was awarded the Körber European Science Prize.

Andreas Schuster
Andreas Schuster is Co-Founder and CTO of Orcan Energy. The objective of Orcan is to harvest the vast amounts of waste heat from industry, transport and power generation using the Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) technology to transform heat into electricity. Schuster is working since nearly 20 years in this field of technology, the last 14 years for Orcan, where he is also responsible for patents and industrial property rights. He studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Munich.

Peter H. Seeberger
Peter H. Seeberger, a chemist, was a tenured Professor at MIT and ETH Zurich before becoming Director at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam in 2009. Since 2021, he has been a Vice President of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and, since 2023, the Founding Director of the Center for the Transformation of Chemistry (CTC). His research, covering engineering to immunology, is documented in over 680 articles, 60 patent families and has earned over 40 awards, including the Körber European Science Prize (2007). He co-founded several companies.

Katalin Solymosi
Katalin Solymosi is a plant biologist working as habilitated Assistant Professor at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary. Her research is focused on the effect of environmental stresses on plastid structure, function and differentiation especially in the context of climate change and sustainable agriculture. Katalin is also active in science policy: she was founding member and co-chair of the Hungarian Young Academy and is currently the Chair of the Young Academy of Europe.

Nicola Spaldin
Nicola Spaldin is Professor of Materials Theory at ETH Zurich. She developed the class of materials known as multiferroics, which are simultaneously ferromagnetic and ferroelectric, for which she received the 2015 Körber European Science Prize among many other awards. She is a passionate science educator, and holds the ETH Golden Owl for teaching excellence. When not trying to make a room-temperature superconductor, she can be found playing her clarinet, or skiing or climbing in the Alps.

Nicolas Steinbacher
Nicolas Steinbacher has been working for Northvolt since July 2020. The industrial engineer was one of the first employees at Northvolt Germany and has been driving Northvolt's market establishment in Germany ever since. In his role as Program Lead, he is responsible for setting up the Northvolt Drei battery cell factory near Heide. Previously, Nicolas Steinbacher held various positions, most recently as Senior Consultant at the strategy and management consultancy Porsche Consulting.

Silvia Vignolini
Silvia Vignolini is Director of the Sustainable and bio-inspired Materials Department at the Max Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces and Professor at University of Cambridge. Her research intersects chemistry, soft-matter physics, optics, and biology, focusing on how biopolymers are assembled into complex architectures within living organisms and how they can be exploited to fabricate a sustainable functional material.

Jette Bredahl Jacobsen
Jette Bredahl Jacobsen is an environmental and resource economist with more than 100 peer-reviewed papers within environmental valuation, optimization and regulation. Topics focus on climate, biodiversity, forestry and land-use. She is Vice-Chair of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change. She has served eight years in the Danish Council on Climate Change, also as Vice-Chair. She is currently member of a commission on water regulation in Denmark. In her daily work, she is a Professor at the University of Copenhagen, where she heads the Section for Environment and Natural Resources.

David Mair
David Mair joined the European Commission in 1995 and the Joint Research Centre — the Commission's science and knowledge service — in 2011. As Head of the Unit "Science for Democracy and Evidence-Informed Policymaking" he is currently responsible for the Joint Research Centre's work on democracy, science for policy, collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Moderators

Helen Czerski
Helen Czerski is a physicist, oceanographer, broadcaster and writer. Following her physics degrees and PhD at the University of Cambridge, she has spent many months on research ships around the world studying how gases cross the ocean surface. Now based at University College London, she also co-hosts Rare Earth, BBC Radio 4's climate and environment show, and writes books and columns about science for a broad audience.

Manuela Lenzen
Manuela Lenzen holds a doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Bielefeld. She is a freelance science journalist, covering mainly cognitive science and artificial intelligence. Her latest book “Der elektronische Spiegel. Menschliches Denken und künstliche Intelligenz” was published in 2024.

Terry Martin
Terry Martin is a senior TV news anchor at Deutsche Welle and Director of the Science-Policy Interface Agency (SPIA). He authored the European Commission's guidebook “Communicating Research for Evidence-based Policymaking” and was the final conference rapporteur for the EC's public consultation on the creation of the European Research Area. Through SPIA, Terry has partnered in several EU-funded projects and is currently involved in Horizon projects GAPs and Link4Skills.

Vivienne Parry
Vivienne Parry is a British writer, broadcaster and facilitator. She writes on science and medicine, makes films and podcasts and facilitates high level events including for the G7. She has a part time role as head of public engagement at Genomics England and was a board member of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the body responsible for the UK's £8 billion R&D budget. Previously she presented BBCTV's iconic science show ‘Tomorrow's World’ and was a columnist for the Times and Guardian.

Jennifer Porto
Jennifer Porto, born and raised in Iowa, USA, moved to Leipzig in 2005 as a Fulbright scholar. Her research focused on smaller libraries and archives. After studying at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, she joined the Oper Leipzig ensemble. She later transitioned to higher education, moderating events focussing on energy transition and hosting the “Green Sofa Dialogues” series during the pandemic. Porto is a member of the administration at NYU Berlin.

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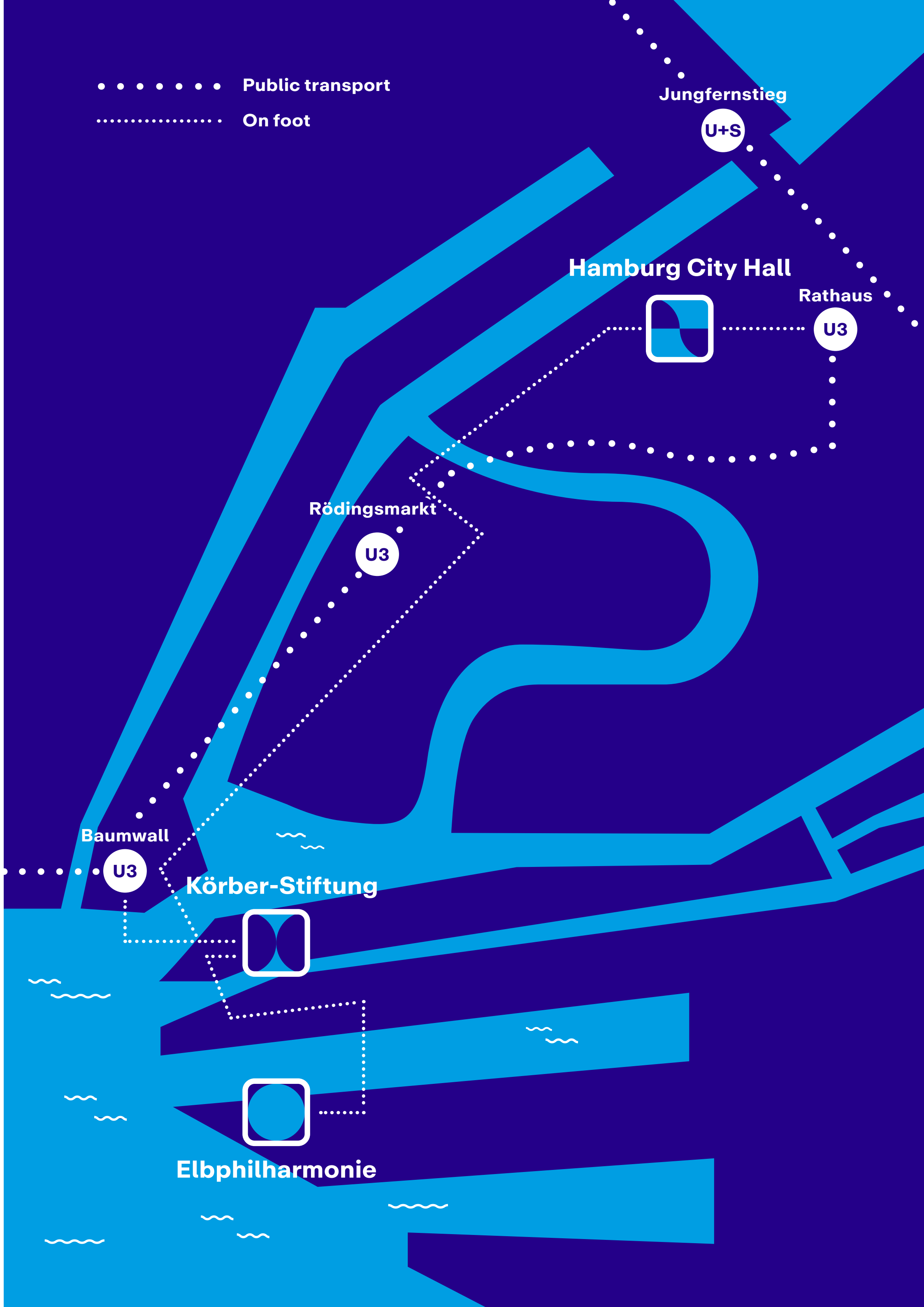

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