



## Seminar

# Attracting and Retaining Talent for AI in Europe

**Wednesday, 24 January 2024**

09:00-13:15 CET

The seminar is presence-based, taking place at:  
**Comet, Pl. Stéphanie 20, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.**

### About the Seminar

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not only a powerful technological development and a societal game-changer, it also requires talented individuals to manage its complexities. The human side to AI therefore not only includes the debate on an ethical usage, but also on who will be the drivers of the change. Where will the talent to develop algorithms or programme applications come from? How can we attract them to Europe and provide favourable conditions to stay?

In the context of the European Year of Skills, this seminar will emphasise the aspect of attracting and retaining talent for AI in Europe. It will focus on training programmes at Master and PhD level, initiatives to attract talented Postdocs and shed light on the need for upskilling of the labour force.

In particular, the seminar aims at:

- Reflecting on the current policy objectives of attracting and retaining talent for AI in Europe;
- Presenting targeted programmes in the field of higher education in Germany and in selected EU countries (France, Sweden, Spain);
- Identifying steps to improve talent acquisition and retention in Europe for this key industry.

The seminar is structured in two sessions: the first one will introduce the policy objectives related to the attraction and retention of talent for AI in Germany, by presenting the DAAD Zuse Schools of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence and the Postdoctoral Networking Tour in AI. The second session will widen the perspective by introducing and reflecting on European policies focusing on attracting talent to the EU, followed by national case studies from France, Sweden, and Spain and a reflection on the way forward.

**Programme:**

Moderator: **Michael Hörig**, Director, DAAD Brussels Office

09:00 – 09:10	<b>Words of Welcome</b>
09:10 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 1: Attracting and retaining talent for AI in Germany</b></p> <p><b>Format:</b> Input presentations, followed by Q&amp;A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Konrad Zuse Schools of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence programme, by <b>Dr Christian Schäfer</b>, Head of Section Research and Studies, DAAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presentation of ELIZA, by <b>Professor Stefan Roth</b>, Director, Zuse School ELIZA, TU Darmstadt</li> <li>○ Testimonial by <b>Afham Aflal</b>, PhD candidate, ELIZA Zuse School, TU Darmstadt</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introduction to the Postdoctoral Networking Tour in AI by <b>Dr Christian Schäfer</b>, Head of Section Research and Studies, DAAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The perspective of employers: <b>Dr Michael Pfeiffer</b>, AI Research, Robert Bosch GmbH (online)</li> <li>○ Testimonials from participants: <b>Dr Florian Mai</b>, KU Leuven and <b>Dr Arabinda Ghosh</b>, Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (online)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:50	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:50 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 2: Attracting talent and reskilling/upskilling the workforce for AI in Europe</b></p> <p><b>Format:</b> Panel discussion with short inputs by representatives from different member states and the EU Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Anna Broeders</b>, Talent &amp; Community Manager, Linköping Science Park, Sweden</li> <li>○ <b>Maria Sigutina</b>, Liaison Officer, EuroTech Universities Alliance, Brussels</li> <li>○ <b>Prof Vicenç Gómez</b>, Department of Information and Communications Technologies, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (online)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introducing and reflecting on the European policy objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Viola Rimondini</b>, Policy Officer, DG HOME, European Commission</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:15	<b>Wrap-up</b>
12:15 – 13:15	<b>Lunch</b>

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