



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

DFG Deutsche
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With funding from the:



Choosing Europe – How to Attract Global Minds to Europe and EU Member States?

Brussels, Tuesday, 2 December 2025 at 11.00-15.00

Venue: The Hotel Brussels, Bd de Waterloo 38, 1000 Bruxelles

Agenda

10.30 – 11.00 Arrival, Registration & Welcome Coffee

11.00 – 11.05 Words of Welcome

- **Dr Christian Rebhan**, Director European Research Policy, German Research Foundation (DFG)
- **Tanja Kreetz**, Deputy Director, Brussels Office of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

11.05 – 12.05 **Panel I – Choosing Europe: The “Global Minds Initiative Germany”**

The German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space initiated the Global Minds Initiative Germany in 2025 in order to offer international research talent career prospects in the German science system. It builds on programmes of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Research Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service which provide funding opportunities for international researchers and also support German universities in attracting young international talent to Germany to master's degree and doctoral programmes in key technologies. The panel will present the initiative as one attempt for making current and prospective researchers choose Europe for science.

Contributions:

- **Dr Björn Schulte**, Research Attaché, Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU in Brussels
- **Dr Johanna Kowol-Santen**, Deputy Head of Scientific Affairs, German Research Foundation (DFG)
- **Dr Johanna Seibert**, Deputy Head Strategic Planning, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH)
- **Jana Block**, Team Leader “Academic Horizons” and **Sarah Fißmer**, Senior Desk Officer “Academic Horizons”, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Q&A

12.05 – 13.00 Networking Lunch



13.00 – 14.00 **Panel II – Choosing Europe: How to Attract Global Minds to Europe and EU Member States?**

The “Global Minds Initiative Germany” is only one example for the attempt to attract international top researchers and talents to initiate or continue their research in Europe. The Commission has launched the “Choose Europe for Science” initiative, the French government has established the “Choose France for Science” platform, the Dutch Research Council has set up the Tulip Fund and UK Research and Innovation the Global Talent Fund. What do these initiatives have in common? How do they differ? The panel will provide an opportunity to exchange best practices for making researchers and young talent choose Europe for science.

Contributions:

- **Normunds Popens**, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC)
- **Antoine Mercier**, Science & Technology Attaché at the French Permanent Representation to the EU
- **Dr Tessa de Boer**, Programme and Policy Officer at Dutch Research Council (NWO) responsible for the Tulip Fund
- **Ben Weeks**, Head of Global Mobility Strategy, UK Research and Innovation

Q&A & Discussions

14.00 – 14.55 **Roundtable – Choosing Europe: Best Practices and Plans for Talent Attraction Initiatives across Europe**

This roundtable provides an opportunity for all participants to share key insights (e.g. from their organisations or countries), identify gaps, and explore synergies in attracting and retaining international researchers. It offers a space for open discussion on what is working well, and what is needed at national and European level to strengthen Europe’s attractiveness as a global hub for research and innovation.

Contributions:

- All participants (2-3 minutes)

14.55 – 15.00 Closing Remarks and End