



6th Higher Education Policy Dialogue

“Smart alliances between science and industry strengthen competitiveness and secure the talents of the future”

Monday, April 28, 2025

4:00 PM to 6:30 PM, followed by a networking reception

Small Festival Hall, House of Industry, Schwarzenbergplatz 4, 1030 Vienna

Research, technology, and innovation are crucial for Austria’s international competitiveness as a high-tech nation. Only through close collaboration between science and industry, the promotion of commercialization, and excellent STEM education can we secure our prosperity. Innovation ecosystems that include science, industry, start-ups, and investors are just as essential as fostering the next generation of researchers. At the 6th Higher Education Policy Dialogue, experts will discuss how strategic exchange can be strengthened and STEM talents can be nurtured—based on best practices from Europe and Austria.

Program:

3:30 PM Arrival of guests

4:00 PM **Welcome**

Eva-Maria **Holzleitner**, Federal Minister for Women, Science, and Research

Peter **Moser**, Rector of Montanuniversität Leoben & President of TU Austria

Christoph **Neumayer**, Secretary General of the Federation of Austrian Industries (IV)

Followed by: **Keynote: Transfer and cooperation as innovation accelerators for Europe**

Pascal **Hetze**, Program Director for STEM Promotion, Scientific Location Analysis, and Innovation Policy, Stifterverband Berlin

4:50 PM **Good Practice: Successful ecosystems strengthen competitiveness and foster talent**

- **Brainport Eindhoven – the role of TU Eindhoven as a 4th Generation University** (English)
Robert-Jan **Smits**, President emeritus of Eindhoven University of Technology
- **Siemens Research & Innovation Ecosystems – why global strength needs regional anchoring** -Mirjam **Storim**, Head of Siemens RIE Ecosystems

5:40 PM **Panel discussion** with: Pascal **Hetze**, Robert-Jan **Smits**, Mirjam **Storim**, Horst **Bischof** (Rector, TU Graz), Elisabeth **Engelbrechtsmüller-Strauß** (CEO, Fronius International GmbH), Barbara **Weitgruber** (Head of the Department for Scientific Research and International Affairs at the Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research)

Moderation: Brigitte **Ecker**, WPZ Research GmbH

6:15 PM **Closing remarks and networking**

Overall Moderation: Isabella **Meran-Waldstein**, Head of Research, Technology & Innovation at the Federation of Austrian Industries (IV) and Andrea **Höglinger**, Vice Rector for Research, TU Graz

The Federation of Austrian Industries and TU Austria look forward to your participation!

Please [register or cancel](#) by **April 14, 2025**.