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# ZUKUNFTS- KONFERENZ

18. – 20. March 2026

AK Wien Bildungsgebäude  
Theresianumgasse 16-18  
1040 Vienna

## PROGRAM

### DAY 1 CONFERENCE OPENING AND KEYNOTES

12:00 REGISTRATION

13:00 WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS (DE)

**Silvia Hruška Frank**, Director of the Vienna Chamber of Labor and the Austrian Chamber of Labor  
**Reinhold Binder**, Member of the National Council, Federal Chairman of the PRO-GE trade union

13:30 KEYNOTES 1-3

**European Digital Sovereignty (EN)**

**Francesca Bria**, Honorary Professor at University College London's (UCL) Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP), Initiator of the EuroStack Initiative, Board Member of the European Innovation Council (EIC)

14:15

**Digital Work and Society (EN)**

**Ana Dujic**, BMAS, Germany

15:00

Coffee Break

15:30

**Regulation and Innovation (EN)**

**Paul Nemitz**, retired Director EU Commission

16:15

**Panel Talk (EN)**

**Francesca Bria, Ana Dujic, Paul Nemitz**

Moderation: **Lisa Mayr-Sinnreich**, Communications Expert, Vienna Chamber of Labor

17:00

**CLOSING DAY 1**

**Knut Dethlefsen**, Director of FES Competence Center on the Future of Work

17:30

**END OF DAY 1**

## DAY 2 INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

08:00

### REGISTRATION

	TRACK 1 Europe's Digital Sovereignty	TRACK 2 Workplace Realities & Scope for Action	TRACK 3 Political & Regulatory Frameworks
WORKSHOP SESSION 1	<b>The EU strategy on AI: Ensuring autonomy and prosperity (EN)</b> Moderation: Justin Nogarede, FES Titus Udrea, AK Wien	<b>Practical Examples: Digital Transformation in the Workplace – Industry/Robotics/AI</b> Moderation: Kerstin Repolusk, PRO-GE David Kostolani, TU Wien	<b>Digital Governance</b> Moderation: Tünde Fülöp, AK Wien
	<b>European AI Ecosystem – state of play and latest trends?</b> Leevi Saari, AI Now	<b>„AI or Me: Who Decides?“ Real-world Experiences of how Adaptive Systems Manage Work</b> David Kostolani, TU Wien	<b>Digital Sovereignty and Public Infrastructure: The Role of Public Administration</b> Klemens Himpele, Stadt Wien <b>Sustainable and Trustworthy Use of AI by AI Factory Austria</b> Karl Kugler, AI Factory Austria
	<b>EU's Strategy on AI: Gigafactories</b> Julia Hess, Interface EU	<b>ÖBB Rail Drones – Innovation through Co-Determination</b> Martin Mägerlein, ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG	<b>AI Act Readiness: Are Public Authorities and Companies Prepared for Implementation?</b> RaniaWazir, Leiwand.at
	<b>AI (Giga)factories: Sanctuaries of Innovation or Cathedrals in the Desert</b> Nicoleta Kyosovska, CEPS	<b>Agentic AI and Possible Impact on Work</b> Roman Kern, Know Center	<b>AI Act and Data Regulation: New Tasks, New Challenges for the Data Protection Authority</b> Matthias Schmidl, DSB
	<b>European AI Infrastructures: Supercomputing and beyond</b> Ingo Hegny, BMIMI	<b>Connected Learning Center – Smart Factory</b> Erich Hengstberger, Werner Müller, Eaton	<b>AI as a Challenge for Democracy and Fundamental Rights: Assessing and Minimizing Risks</b> David Reichel, Europ. Grundrechteagentur
12:00	Lunch		
13:00	<b>Powering the Digital Future: Sovereignty, Supply, and Infrastructure</b> Moderation & Discussion: Joel Tölgyes, AKWien  Discussion: Titus Udrea, AK Wien	<b>Labor Market Impacts: Analyses &amp; Trends of Digitalization (EN)</b> Moderation: Sebastian Klocker, ÖGB Helene Baumgartner, AKWien	<b>The Safe, Trustworthy and Human-Centered Use of AI</b> Moderation: Martina Chlestil, AKWien
		<b>The Impact of AI on the Workplace: Considering the Exposure of Different Socioeconomic Groups and Automation versus Augmentation</b> Anna Milanez, OECD	<b>AI Ethics in Innovation Management: Effective Investments, Better Results</b> Alexandra Prinz, KPMG
	<b>Input: Electricity and Data – the Dual Infrastructure</b>  Martin Baumann, Austrian Energy Agency	<b>Tasks, Requirements, Job Quality: How AI is Changing Work in Austrian Companies</b> Karin Petzlberger, KMU Forschung	<b>Good Practice: Co-Determination and Participation in Digitalization Projects</b> Stefan Lücking, Hans-Böckler-Stiftung
		<b>Automation and the Lack of Workers</b> Florian Butollo, Goethe Universität Frankfurt	<b>Negotiations on AI and Algorithmic Management: Examples and Strategies for Employee Representation</b> Marta Kahancová, CELSI  <b>Transparency and Information Rights: The Basis for Co-Determination and Legal Protection</b> Madeleine Müller, Research Institut
14:45 Uhr	Coffee Break		

## DAY 2 INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

	TRACK 1 Europe's Digital Sovereignty	TRACK 2 Workplace Realities & Scope for Action	TRACK 3 Political & Regulatory Frameworks
15:15	<b>WORKSHOP SESSION 3</b> <b>Industrial Policy &amp; Competitiveness: What Strategies for a Digital Europe?</b> Moderation: Titus Udrea, AK Wien	<b>Data as a New Factor of Production</b> Moderation: Sebastian Klocker, ÖGB	<b>New Challenges, New Rules? (EN)</b> Moderation: Justin Nogarede, FES
	<b>Prioritization over Dispersion: Europe's Strategic Positioning in Geopolitically Challenging Times</b> Florian Süssenguth, Acatech	<b>Workshop on Using Employee Data for AI Training</b> Susanne Haslinger, PRO-GE Claus Breunhölder, GPA	<b>Is My Boss Allowed to Spy on My Mind? Neurotechnology at Work</b> Elisabeth Steindl, Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
	<b>Agile Innovation Policy as the Foundation of Sovereignty, Competitiveness, and Long-term Resilience</b> Henriette Spyra, BMIMI		<b>Digitalization in the Workplace: Protective Promises and Enforcement Deficits under the AI Act and the GDPR</b> JohannesWarter, JKU
	<b>Competitiveness Stems from People's Knowledge and Skills: An Industrial and Innovation Policy Perspective</b> Michael Soder, AK Wien		<b>Algorithmic Management: Do We need Better Regulation?</b> Aída Ponce Del Castillo, ETUI
17:00	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b> with Physicist and Author Werner Gruber		
17:30	<b>END OF DAY 2</b>		

## DAY 3 KEYNOTES AND PANEL DISCUSSION

09:00	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> Helene Schubert, Federal Managing Director ÖGB
09:10	Reiner Hoffmann, Deputy Chairman of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
	<b>KEYNOTES 4 - 6</b> <b>Technological innovations require educational innovations (DE)</b> Stefan Dietl, Head of Global Training at Festo <b>European Independence - What It Means for Our Everyday Lives</b> Evelyn Regner, Member of the European Parliament <b>Struggle for Sovereignty and Digital Means of Production</b> Markus Beckedahl, Founder, Activist, Journalist and Managing Director of the Center for Digital Rights and Democracy.)
10:40	
11:00	Coffee Break <b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> <b>Power Dynamics &amp; Distribution of Digitalization-Related Production Gains</b> Stefan Dietl, Evelyn Regner, Markus Beckedahl, Kerstin Repolusk Moderation: Fridolin Wenny, Head of Office for Digital Affairs, AK Wien
11:45	
12:00	<b>CLOSING KEYNOTE</b> Wolfgang Katzian, President of the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB)
13:00	Lunch <b>END OF CONFERENCE</b>

For on-site organization, Eda Morkoc is available as your contact person.  
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