

Cooperation with China:

Developing Competences and Structures in European Higher Education



28 – 29 September 2026



Germany, Würzburg, Beatrice-Edgell-Weg, 21

DAY 1 28 September 2026**9:30 – 10:00****Arrival****10:00 – 10:15****Opening Address****10:15 – 11:45****PANEL 1: European Messaging Towards China: Interpretations and Impact**

Moderator: Prof. Björn Alpermann (University of Würzburg)

Ágota Révész

Technical University Berlin

Amelie Richter

China.Table Media

Kristien Stessens

KU Leuven

*11:45 – 12:45 Lunch Break***12:45 – 14:15****PANEL 2: Managing Collaboration with China: Institutional Approaches**

Moderator: Sabine Weber (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Sigrun Abels

Technical University Berlin

René Seyfarth

RWTH Aachen

Doris Fischer

University of Würzburg

Martina von Imhoff

Technical University of Munich

*14:15 – 14:45 Coffee Break***14:45 – 16:15****PANEL 3: Risk Management in Academic Cooperation with China**

Moderator: Hannes Gohli (University of Würzburg)

Katja Drinhausen

MERICS – Mercator Institute for China Studies

Song Tingyu

Technical University Berlin

Christina Philips

DAAD, Centre for International Academic Cooperation (KIWi)

Stefan Messingschlager Helmut Schmidt University / University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg

*16:15 – 16:30 Coffee Break***16:30 – 18:00****PANEL 4: Willkommenskultur: Making International Students Feel Welcome**

Moderator: Anastasia Kostromina (University of Würzburg)

Karla Pfeifer

University of Würzburg

Aylin Chaban

Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt

Gang Li

FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Elina Krause

RWTH Aachen

19:00 Dinner (Self-paid)

With funding from the:



Cooperation with China:

Developing Competences and Structures in European Higher Education



28 – 29 September 2026



Germany, Würzburg, Beatrice-Edgell-Weg, 21

DAY 2

29 September 2026

On the second day of the conference, participants will engage in a workshop that examines the evolving landscape of research security platforms shaping European cooperation with People's Republic of China. Bringing together experts from academia and government, the session will explore the opportunities and challenges that national and supra-national contact points offer for research collaborations with China. Participants will gain practical insights into emerging European regulatory frameworks, institutional compliance measures, and best practices for safeguarding sensitive research while maintaining international academic collaboration. The workshop is designed for policymakers, university administrators and researchers navigating the intersection of innovation, scientific openness, and national security in Europe.

8:45 – 9:00

Arrival

9:00 – 10:30

PANEL DISCUSSION: How Can Politics, Academia and Society Benefit From a National Platform for Research Security?

Moderator: Doris Fischer (University of Würzburg)

- Nicolas Zippelius MdB (German Bundestag, CDU/CSU)

Impulse: "Developing China Expertise in an Era of Geopolitical Uncertainty"

- Rainer Fink (Professor of Physical Chemistry, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

further panellists to be announced

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30

WORKSHOP: Designing a Central China Competence Centre

*12:30 – 13:30 Lunch**14:30 Guided Excursion through Würzburg's Old Town*

With funding from the:

