

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

Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

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

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:



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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)IMPULSE
Developing China Expertise in an Era of Geopolitical Uncertainty
Nicolas Zippelius MdBPANELISTS
Nicolas Zippelius MdB (German Bundestag, CDU/CSU)
Rainer Fink (Professor of Physical Chemistry, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)
Yannick Bauer (Deputy Managing Director and Head of Policy, German U15)*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:

Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space