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ZUKUNFTS-KONFERENZ

18. – 20. March 2026

AK Wien Bildungsgebäude
Theresianumgasse 16-18
1040 Vienna

AK

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, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP), project lead and coordinator of the EuroStack Initiative

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   **P**anel 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	**The EU strategy on AI: Ensuring autonomy and prosperity** (EN) Moderation: **Justin Nogarede,** FES **Titus Udrea,** AK Wien	**Practical Examples: Digital Transformation in the Workplace – Industry/Robotics/AI** Moderation: **Kerstin Repolusk,** PRO-GE **David Kostolani,** TU Wien	**Digital Governance** Moderation: **Tünde Fülöp,** AK Wien
	European AI Ecosystem – state of play and latest trends? **Leevi Saari,** AI Now	**„AI or Me: Who Decides?" Real-world Experiences of how Adaptive Systems Manage Work** **David Kostolani,** TU Wien	**Digital Sovereignty and Public Infrastructure: The Role of Public Administration** **Klemens Himpele,** Stadt Wien **Sustainable and Trustworthy Use of AI by AI Factory Austria** **Karl Kugler,** AI Factory Austria
	EU's Strategy on AI: Gigafactories **Julia Hess,** Interface EU	**ÖBB Rail Drones – Innovation through Co-Determination** **Martin Mägerlein,** ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG	**AI Act Readiness: Are Public Authorities and Companies Prepared for Implementation?** **RaniaWazir,** Leiwand.at
	AI (Giga)factories: Sanctuaries of Innovation or Cathedrals in the Desert **Nicoleta Kyosovska,** CEPS	**Agentic AI** and Possible Impact on Work **Roman Kern,** Know Center	**AI Act and Data Regulation: New Tasks, New Challenges for the Data Protection Authority** **Matthias Schmidl,** DSB
	EU's Strategy on AI: EuroHPC, AI Factory and Gigafactory **Ingo Hegny,** BMIMI	**Connected Learning Center – Smart Factory** **Erich Hengstberger, Werner Müller,** Eaton	**AI as a Challenge for Democracy and Fundamental Rights: Assessing and Minimizing Risks** **David Reichel,** Europ. Grundrechteagentur

12:00   Lunch

	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3
13:00 **WORKSHOP SESSION 2**	**Powering the Digital Future: Sovereignty, Supply, and Infrastructure** Moderation: **Joel Tölgyes,** AKWien	**Labor Market Impacts: Analyses & Trends of Digitalization** (EN) Moderation: **Sebastian Klocker,** ÖGB **Helene Baumgartner,** AKWien	**The Safe, Trustworthy and Human-Centered Use of AI** Moderation: **Martina Chlestil,** AKWien
	Electricity and Data – the Dual Infrastructure **Martin Baumann,** Austrian Energy Agency	**The Impact of AI on the Workplace: Considering the Exposure of Different Socioeconomic Groups and Automation versus Augmentation** **Anna Milanez,** OECD	**AI Ethics in Innovation Management: Effective Investments, Better Results** **Alexandra Prinz,** KPMG
	TBA	**Tasks, Requirements, Job Quality: How AI is Changing Work in Austrian Companies** **Karin Petzlberger,** KMU Forschung	**Good Practice: Co-Determination and Participation in Digitalization Projects** **Stefan Lücking,** Hans-Böckler-Stiftung
	TBA	**Automation and the Lack of Workers** **Florian Butollo,** Goethe UniversitätFrankfurt	**Negotiations on AI and Algorithmic Management: Examples and Strategies for Employee Representation** **Marta Kahancová,** CELSI **Transparency and Information Rights: The Basis for Co-Determination and Legal Protection** **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	**WORKSHOP SESSION 3**	**Industrial Policy & Competitiveness: What Strategies for a Digital Europe?** Moderation: **Michael Soder,** AK Wien	**Data as a New Factor of Production** Moderation: **Sebastian Klocker,** ÖGB	**New Challenges, New Rules?** (EN) Moderation: **Justin Nogarede,** FES
		Prioritization over Dispersion: Europe's Strategic Positioning in Geopolitically Challenging Times **Florian Süssenguth,** Acatech	**WORKSHOP** **Susanne Haslinger,** PRO-GE **Claus Breunhölder,** GPA	**Is My Boss Allowed to Spy on My Mind? Neurotechnology at Work** **Elisabeth Steindl,** Universität Wien
		Agile Innovation Policy as the Foundation of Sovereignty, Competitiveness, and Long-term Resilience **Henriette Spyra,** BMIMI		**Digitalization in the Workplace: Protective Promises and Enforcement Deficits under the AI Act and the GDPR** **JohannesWarter,** JKU
		Automation, Productivity, and Competitiveness **Titanilla Komenda-Haring,** Fraunhofer Austria		**Algorithmic Management: Do We need Better Regulation?** **Aída Ponce Del Castillo,** ETUI

17:00   CLOSING SESSION
with Physicist and Author Werner Gruber

17:30   END OF DAY 2

DAY 3   KEYNOTES AND PANEL DISCUSSION

09:00   OPENING REMARKS
Helene Schuberth, Federal Managing Director ÖGB
Reiner Hoffmann, Deputy Chairman of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

09:10   KEYNOTES 4 - 6
Technological innovations require educational innovations (DE)
Stefan Dietl, Head of Global Training at Festo
European Independence - What It Means for Our Everyday Lives
Evelyn Regner, Member of the European Parliament
Struggle for Sovereignty and Digital Means of Production
Markus Beckedahl, Founder, Activist, Journalist and Managing Director of the Center for Digital Rights and Democracy.)

10:40   Coffee Break

11:00   PANEL DISCUSSION
Power Dynamics **& Distribution of Digitalization-Related Production Gains**
Stefan Dietl, Evelyn Regner, Markus Beckedahl, tbd
Moderation: **Fridolin Wenny,** Head of Office for Digital Affairs, AK Wien

11:45   CLOSING KEYNOTE
Wolfgang Katzian, President of the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB)

12:00   Lunch

13:00   END OF CONFERENCE