



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

Annual conference

2023

SHAPING REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Programme

13th-14th September 2023

Rostock, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania



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Introduction

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action annual conference, Shaping Regional Transformation 2023, will take place on Wednesday 13.09.2023 and Thursday 14.09.2023 in Rostock. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is the partner for this new series of events in 2023.

German regions are facing significant changes over the next few years, given the current challenges. They need to make further progress in the transition towards climate neutrality and address demographic ageing, as well as strengthening the potential for local economic development and social cohesion.

The conference will focus on enabling a comprehensive exchange of views on topics and projects relevant to shaping regional transformation. On the first day, the

conference will open with high-level representatives from politics, government, academia, business, associations and unions.

On the second day of the conference, participants will visit successful case studies of regional transformation in the Rostock area.



Programme

As of: 08.09.2023

Conference day, 13.09.2023
StadtHalle Rostock

from 9:00

Welcome

Susanne Schöne, Event host

from 9:05

Speech › Structural change and transformation in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Reinhard Meyer, Minister of Economics, Infrastructure, Tourism and Labour, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Speech › The future of regional economic and structural policy in Germany

Michael Kellner, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Welcoming Remarks

Eva-Maria Kröger, Mayor of the City of Rostock

Speech › The great transformation: requirements from a local government perspective.

Opening words by the Federal Association of Local Authority Associations

Council Leader, Reinhard Sager, President of the Association of District Councils

Speech › Swift and synchronised: How can we make a success of the transformation?

Prof. Dr. Michael Hüther, Director and Member of the Presidium of the German Economic Institute

Speech › Shaping the transformation: #Fair change - socially - environmentally - democratically!

Jörg Hofmann, First Chairman, IG Metall

10:30

Pause

10:45

Speech

Peter Berkowitz, Director for Policy in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy in the European Commission

whole day 10:00–15:30
and from 16:50

Presentation (optional)
“Future Region: Projects”
StadtHalle, Rostock

Speech

Niklas Nienass, Member of the European Parliament; Member of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI)

Speech

Heather Boushey, Member of the Council of Economic Advisers and Chief Economist for the “Invest in America Cabinet” at The White House

Speech » The U.S. Economic Development Agenda: People, Places, and Possibilities

The Honorable Alejandra Y. Castillo, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

11:45–12:45

Lunch break, Networking

12:45–13:45

Workshops – Block A (2 events in parallel)

- Shaping the transition: Local and inclusive (IW/Böckler Foundation)
- Simpler funding design: What matters? (Accenture/mgm)

13:50–14:50

Workshops – Block B (3 events in parallel)

- Equivalent living standards in Germany: Status quo and future prospects (BMWK/Prognos)
- Digital transformation in the regions: What role for partners in the regional ecosystem? (Fraunhofer IESE)
- High-value manufacturing jobs in transformation regions: Lessons learned from the REVIERWENDE project, example of the Rhineland mining area (DGB)

12:45–14:45

Workshop – Block C (2 events in parallel)

- Just transition: International best practice (World Bank Group/OECD)
- Innovation policy with a regional impact: Regional success factors and the effects of the cross-sectoral innovation scheme of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK inter alia)

14:45–15:15

Break

15:15–16:15

Podium discussion › The “how to’s” of regional transformation – approaches to strengthening local quality of life and living spaces

Carsten Schneider, State Minister at the Federal Chancellery and Federal Government Commissioner for East Germany

Alexandra Gauß, Mayor, Municipality of Windeck

Dr. Stefan Franzke, CEO, Berlin Partner

Nico Gramenz, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Co-Founder HEROFOUNDERS GmbH

Stephanie Kuntze, Deputy Mayor of the city of Herzberg (Elster)

16:20–16:50

Speech and Q&A

Dr. Robert Habeck, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

17:45–18:45

Guided tour (optional)

A guided tour of Rostock city centre: This guided tour of the Hanseatic and university city of Rostock will take you through over 800 years of city history. During the tour you will get to see important buildings, streets and squares, and hear interesting anecdotes about the city.

or

Hanseatic tradition and Brick Gothic: Medieval Rostock was one of the most important Hanseatic towns. The characteristic architecture was Brick Gothic and the use of brick remains a feature of the city to this day. You will see examples of medieval and contemporary architecture and learn more about the significance of Rostock’s Hanseatic heritage.

Meeting point (both tours): Hotel Radisson Blu

From 19:00

Evening meal

Hotel Radisson Blu

Open animated discussion

Led by **Sven Giegold**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action with **Prof. Dr. Jens Südekum**, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

Networking among participants, with food and live music (DJ Karsten Meyer, Rostock)

Programme

Excursion day, 14.09.2023

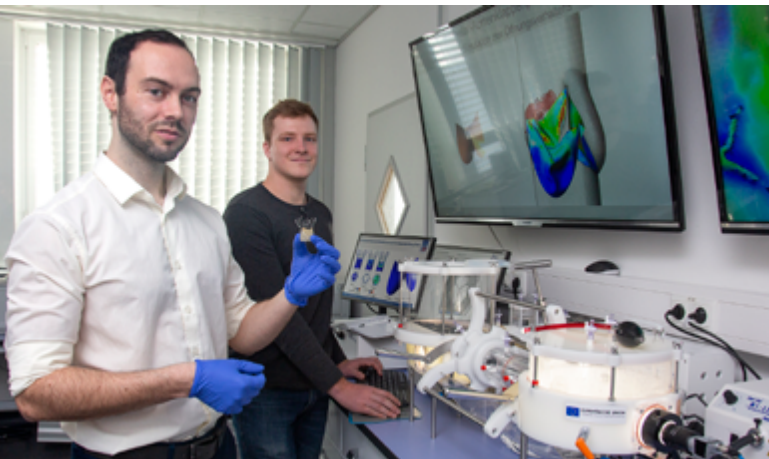
(Limited capacity for participants; separate confirmation of reservation required)

from 9 departure by bus from Hotel Radisson Blu, Lange St. 40, 18055 Rostock

09:30–11:00

Technology centre Rostock

Visit: Institute for Implant Technology and Biomaterials (IIB e.V.), A centre for excellence in medical technology, aiming to shape structural change through innovation and technology transfer “from medical technology to the clinic”



IIB e.V. is an institute with charitable status, affiliated to Rostock University and University Hospital. As the Mecklenburg-West Pomerania regional centre of excellence for medical technology, IIB e.V. is an effective partner for regional and cross-regional businesses in the medical technology sector, in addition to other high-tech areas. IIB e.V. supports medical technology innovation from the concept stage, through development, prototyping and authorisation, to application in patients. The focus is on developing smart, and above all safe medical devices, enabling the minimally invasive treatment of common ailments.

Visit: Cortronik GmbH

This medium-sized enterprise specialises in the development and production of vascular implants as medical devices (stents). Research focuses, inter alia, on the development of pericardial tissue.

CORTRONIK GmbH was founded in 1998 in Warnemünde and has cooperated very closely with Rostock University since then. With its breadth of activities – from research and development, to implant testing, to stent manufacture – CORTRONIK acts as the centre of excellence in metals for the BIOTRONIK Group, which is a major player in the cardiology and vascular implant sector.



11:00–11:30 Transfer

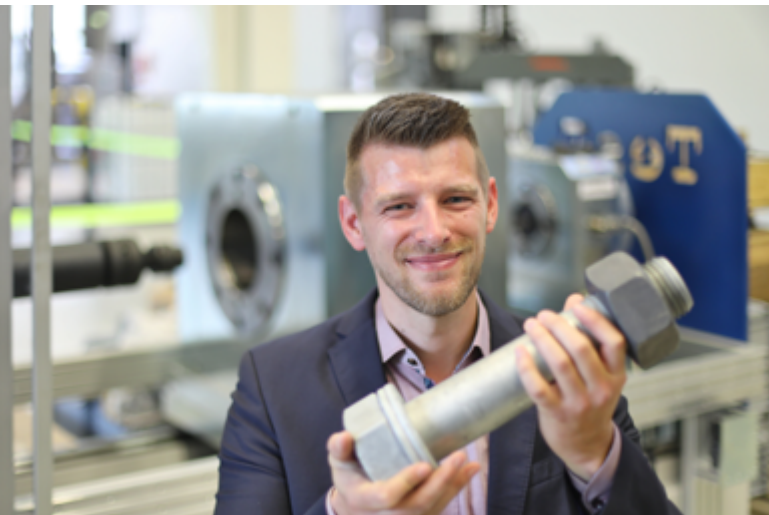
11:30–13:00

**Visit to a research and development institute contributing to climate protection:
The Fraunhofer Institute for Large Structures in Production Engineering (IGP)**

As parts of its research and development projects, the Fraunhofer IGP works with partners from industry to develop concepts for product and process innovation, for example, marine engine technology for the sustainable use of PtX fuels. Presentation by the Institute Director, Professor Wilko Flügge.

The research focus of the Fraunhofer Institute for Large Structures in Production Engineering (IGP) in Rostock is on projects related to the production and manufacturing of large structures.

Using applied research, we work with our partners in research and development projects to develop and implement concepts for product and process innovation in many future-oriented sectors. Examples include shipbuilding and steel construction, energy and environmental technology, rail and commercial vehicle construction, as well as mechanical and plant engineering. Within the framework of a cooperation agreement, the Fraunhofer IGP works closely with the chairs of production engineering and joining technology of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Marine Technology at the University of Rostock. The institute is a member of the Fraunhofer Transportation Alliance, the Fraunhofer Group for Production and various research associations and networks. Since 2005, more than 4000m² of laboratory and office space has been added to the Rostock site in three construction phases, in order to offer industry a tailor-made service for engineering projects.



13:00–13:30 Transfer

13:30–15:00

Note: Snack lunch

Presentation and discussion of a project on securing the skills base / digital: “Work 4.0” Project

Discussion of approaches to regional skills development in a modern, digital labour market.

At the smaller screen of the cinema, Frieda 23, MV Works will showcase the regional transformation of work in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania through image, sound and on stage, and discuss their experience will with the audience in the room.

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania as they go through a transformation in the world of work. The team runs business-oriented workshops on low-threshold access to digitalisation and change processes. Video is used to provide examples of regional good practice in shaping the transformation. Business partners are provided with an opportunity to exchange experience via regional BarCamps or cross-regional conferences. The Work 4.0 centre of excellence, MV Works, is supported by a network of organisations from both sides of industry: the industrial trade union IG Metall (coastal district), the employer association Nordmetall, the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Federation of Business Associations and the German Trade Union Confederation.



Followed by a transfer to Rostock central rail station, arrival by approx. 15:20.

Overview

**Keynote Speakers,
Participants in
the open animated
discussion,
Panellists**



Dr. Robert Habeck

Dr. Robert Habeck has been the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action since 8 December 2021, and a member of the German federal parliament since 2021. From 2018 to 2022 he was the leader of the Alliance 90/The Greens party. From 2012 to 2018 he served as Schleswig-Holstein's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Energy Transition, Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Areas (2017-2018 Minister for the Energy Transition, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalisation). Dr. Habeck studied at Freiburg im Breigau (German literature, philosophy and philology), Roskilde, Denmark (humanities) and Hamburg (literature and philosophy). He was awarded his PhD by the University of Hamburg.



Peter Berkowitz

Peter Berkowitz is Director for Policy in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy in the European Commission. This directorate is responsible for policy development, economic analysis, evaluation, the European Semester, financial instruments and legal affairs. From 2017 to 2021 he was Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth coordinating work on climate change, environment and the Just Transition Fund, innovation, the digital economy and transport. He holds postgraduate degrees in politics from the University of Oxford and the Institut d'études politiques de Paris, and finance and economic policy from the University of London.



Heather Boushey

Heather Boushey is a member of President Biden's Council of Economic Advisers and Chief Economist to the Investing in America Cabinet. Heather is co-founder of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, where she was President and CEO from 2013 - 2020. She previously served as chief economist for Secretary Clinton's 2016 transition team and as an economist for the Center for American Progress, the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, the Center for Economic and Policy Research, and the Economic Policy Institute.



Alejandra Y. Castillo

Alejandra Y. Castillo has served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development since August 13, 2021. She leads the only U.S. federal agency focused exclusively on economic development and has guided the implementation of over \$6 billion dollars in funding, powering the U.S Economic Development Administration (EDA) and its mission to make the transformational investments in America. Spanning over three decades and three U.S. Presidential administrations – Biden, Obama and Clinton – her career has focused on creating equitable and inclusive opportunities for all Americans.



Dr. Stefan Franzke

Dr. Franzke's studies in engineering at the University of Hannover were followed by a position as managing director at the Institute for Integrated Production in Hannover. As the head of Innovationszentrum Niedersachsen from 2003, he deepened his expertise in strategic consulting on innovation and key technologies, and advised international investors on setting up operations. In addition, from 2006 as the managing director of Innovatives Niedersachsen, he was responsible for the Lower Saxony region's national and international marketing. Dr. Franzke has been CEO at Berlin Partner for Business and Technology since 1 July 2014.



Alexandra Gauß

Born in 1978, mayor, 2nd vice-president of the North Rhine-Westphalia Local Authorities Confederation and a member of the presidium of the German Tax Officers' Union. Ms. Gauss is a qualified tax specialist. Alongside employment, she completed studies in economics at the University of Cologne. During this period she worked for a number of tax offices, before transferring to the budget department of the regional finance ministry. In 2018 she was elected mayor of Windeck, having stood as the joint CDU, FDP and Green Party candidate. Her roles include membership of the NRW Bank advisory board, membership of the management committee of the Federal Agency for Labour in Bonn/Rhein-Sieg and a voluntary position on the board of the "Windeck helps/Food Bank" association.



Sven Giegold

Since December 2021, Sven Giegold has been State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Previously, from 2009 to 2021, he was a member of the European Parliament. His roles included coordinator in the Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs and spokesperson for Alliance 90/The Greens in the European Parliament, as well as substitute membership of the committees on Employment, Constitutional Affairs, and Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. Sven Giegold is involved in numerous civil society initiatives. He studied economics, politics and adult education in Lüneburg, Bremen and Birmingham (UK).



Nico Gramenz

From the armed forces to a DAX30 company and on to the heart of the start-up scene! Transformation and innovation run in his blood. Born on the island of Rügen, in 2023 he decided to strike out in a new direction. He became CEO and co-founder of HEROFOUNDERS – the first company building network with a regional focus – in order to leverage the untapped potential of rural areas and his homeland, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. With a unique blend of public driven entrepreneurship, Europe's regions are tackling digital and regional transformation through sustainable enterprise. The aim: to strengthen the economy of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, developing the area into a new business region.



Jörg Hofmann

Jörg Hofmann has held the most senior position in IG Metall since the end of 2015. A graduate in economics, he now represents the interests of about 2.2 million members from across German industry. He takes a particular interest in the transformation of the labour market, aiming to ensure that the employee perspective is included at an early stage in the response to the megatrends of globalisation, digitalisation and decarbonisation. Hofmann is an acknowledged expert on wage agreements and has largely shaped IG Metall's wage policy with his groundbreaking work on collective bargaining.



Professor Michael Hüther

Professor Hüther has been Director of the German Economics Institute since 2004. He graduated from the University of Giessen in economics, and modern and medieval history. Having completed his doctorate, in 1991 he became a research associate, and in 1995, secretary general of the German Council of Economic Advisers. In 1999 he went on to become chief economist at DekaBank, and in 2001, head of the department for economics and communications. Since August 2001 he has been an honorary professor at the EBS Business School in Oestrich-Winkel, and since April 2019, chair of the supervisory board of TÜV Rheinland AG.



Michael Kellner

Born in 1977, Michael Kellner has been a member of the German federal parliament since 2021. Since 2022, he has been the federal government commissioner for medium-sized businesses, and since 8 December 2021, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. 2013-2022: federal policy officer for Alliance 90/The Greens. 2009-2013: office manager for Frithjof Schmidt MP. 2004-2009: office manager for Claudia Roth (at that time party leader of Alliance 90/The Greens). 1996-2002: studied political sciences at Potsdam, Canterbury and East Lansing.



Eva-Maria Kröger

Eva-Maria Kröger has been the mayor of the City of Rostock since February 2023. Born in Rostock, she studied political science in Rostock and Tübingen. From spring 2009 to early 2023 she was a member of the Rostock Parliament, where she headed the DIE LINKE parliamentary group. From 2016 to January 2023 she was a member of the state parliament of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. There she was involved in the areas of housing, construction, digitization, art and culture until her election as mayor.



Stephanie Kuntze

Stephanie Kuntze has been the deputy mayor of the city of Herzberg (Elster), digitization officer and smart city manager - CDIO since September 1st, 2019 and heads the department 1.0 - central control & services as well as family & education.

As a qualified administrative economist, she is actively involved in the modernization of administration, the development of models and the future orientation of the city. She is also an appointed member of the State Advisory Council for Family Policy of the State of Brandenburg and of the Committee for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport of the Brandenburg Association of Towns and Municipalities.



Reinhard Meyer

Since November 2021, Reinhard Meyer has been the Minister for Economics, Infrastructure, Tourism and Labour for the region of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

From 2019-2021, he was Finance Minister for the region of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and before that, served inter alia as Minister for the Economy, Labour, Transport and Technology for the region of Schleswig-Holstein. Meyer studied political sciences with history and economics, in addition to administrative sciences, in Braunschweig, Hamburg and Speyer.



Niklas Nienass, MEP

Born in 1992 in Marl, North Rhine-Westphalia, since 2013 Niklas Nienass has lived in his adopted home of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. He regards himself as a child of reunification and as a European. Since 2019, Nienass has been a member of the European Parliament, in the Alliance 90/The Greens party. One of the youngest MEPs, Nienass is the Green/EFA coordinator in the Committee for Regional Development (REGI), a member of the Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee for Industry, Research and Energy, and a substitute member of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs. In the REGI Committee he was the shadow rapporteur for the overall framework regulation on the cohesion package, as well as for the Just Transition Fund.



Reinhard Sager

Born in 1959, since 19 March 2014 Reinhard Sager has been president of the German Association of District Councils. From 1992 to 2001 he was a member of the regional parliament of Schleswig-Holstein. In May 2001 he became the first council leader of the Ostholstein district to be directly elected by citizens, most recently confirmed in office in March 2015. In 2008 he was elected chair of the Schleswig-Holstein District Council, and was re-elected in 2013 and 2018. Since then he has also been a member of the presidium of the German Association of District Councils.



Carsten Schneider

Born in 1976 in Erfurt, since December 2021 Carsten Schneider has been State Minister and Federal Government Commissioner for East Germany. After training as a bank officer, he went on to become a member of the German Federal Parliament. He has been an MP since 1998. From 2005 to 2013 he was the budget spokesperson for the SPD parliamentary group. In 2013 he undertook further studies in public policy at Erfurt University. Until 2017 he was deputy chair of the SPD parliamentary group, and then until 2021 the SPD's principal parliamentary manager.



Professor Jens Südekum

Jens Südekum (born in 1975, in Goslar) is a professor of international economics at the Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE), Heinrich Heine University. His research interests include international trade and the labour market impacts of globalisation and digitalisation, urban economics and regional policy. Professor Südekum is a member of the academic advisory board of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. He advises the Federal Government and various parties on economic and financial policy.

Event host



Susanne Schöne

Susanne Schöne is at home on stage and on television, both within Germany and internationally. With over 10 years of experience and having presided at over 2000 events, she is one of the few female professional event hosts in Germany. Her interests are wide-ranging, from technology and start-ups to business and IT, sustainability, innovation and AI. Among other things, since 2019 she has been the host for the Federal Government's Digital Summit.

Overview

Workshops

Just transition: International best practice

The move towards a climate neutral, digitalised society will bring with it the greatest transformation in at least 100 years. At the same time, there is a broad consensus that the transition to climate neutrality must be economically sound and socially just.

The aim of this workshop is to discuss how the necessary measures to support climate protection, sustainable economic development and social progress can be effectively combined. A particular focus will be on how best to avoid adverse impacts on society that could be triggered or exacerbated by the changing structure of the economy.

For representatives from politics,
business and academia

Speakers



Dr. Rüdiger Ahrend

Dr. Ahrend is head of the Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. He also oversees the activities of the OECD Laboratory for Geospatial Analysis and the Trento Spatial Productivity Laboratory. In these roles, and through his earlier work as head of the urban programme, he has supervised many projects in multiple areas, including climate neutrality, industrial change, green growth, transport, regional development, national urban policy, innovation, SMEs, subnational finance, land use and housing development. In addition to his work for the OECD, Dr. Ahrend has published widely in both academic journals and newspapers. Dr. Ahrend holds a PhD in economics from the London School of Economics, as well as degrees in social sciences and mathematics from the universities of Göttingen, Paris-IX Dauphine and the Sorbonne.



Marc Sadler

Marc Sadler is the program leader for sustainable development and infrastructure for Europe at the World Bank. Based in Brussels, Mr. Sadler oversees the investment and advisory work across these areas, with a particular focus on Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia. His previous roles at the World Bank included manager for climate and carbon finance in the climate change group, and adviser on risk and markets. Prior to his work for the World Bank, Mr. Sadler's roles included commodities trader in the former Soviet Union. He holds an MA in jurisprudence from Trinity College, Oxford.

panelists

**Dr. Elga Bartsch**

Dr. Bartsch is head of the economic policy department at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, and the Ministry's sustainability coordinator. Previous roles: head of economic and capital market research at Blackrock, London; global co-head of economics and chief European economist, Morgan Stanley. Member of the ECB Shadow Council, the ECB FSC and chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Policy at the Association of German Banks.

**Peter Berkowitz**

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**Heather Boushey**

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**Prof. Dr. Jens Südekum**

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Shaping the transition: Local and inclusive

Transformation is driven by global change. But what challenges arise at a regional level? How can we avoid structural dislocations and a loss of trust?

This workshop aims to provide an overview of regional specificities in the pressure linked to transformation, the available policy responses and the support on offer. The combination of socioeconomic data, political structures and a case study should help to provide a comprehensive overview of the needs and potential for collective policy design at a regional level.

Practical example: Throughout Germany, the BMWK supports 27 regional transformation networks that are to accompany and help shape the transformation of the automotive and supplier industry. „Cars 2.0“ is the network for the Stuttgart region, presented by Nicolas Bauer (IG Metall) and Holger Haas (Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation).

For

business developers, transfer and cluster managers, politicians and public servants, associations and unions, business operators, chambers of commerce and others with an interest in regional policy

Speakers



Christian Hossbach

Born in 1963, Christian Hossbach graduated in economics (Freie Universität Berlin, 1988). Following roles in politics and administration, from 1997 he worked for IG Metall. From 2010, during three electoral periods he was responsible for the German Trade Union Confederation's Berlin-Brandenburg district, becoming its chair in 2018. Since April 2022, he has headed up the newly established “Hub: shaping transformation”, which links up the diverse activities of the Hans Böckler Foundation in order to address themes in transformation, looking at issues of social participation in the just design of the transition from a practical and regional perspective.



Hanno Kempermann

A qualified economist, born in 1980 in Cologne. Studied economics in Cologne; 2006-2013 research analyst at IW Consult GmbH, Cologne; in 2013 awarded the IW research prize for “Value creation chains and network structures in the German economy”; 2013-2015 head of the Munich Office and 2015-2021 head of branches and regions. 2017 awarded the IW research prize for “Entrepreneurship – the key to future prosperity”. Managing director of IW Consult GmbH since 1.1.2022.

Simpler funding design: What matters?

The German funding landscape is very diverse. Identifying and accessing appropriate funding streams can be a challenge for all local authorities, and especially those that are smaller and/or structurally disadvantaged.

The result may be that funding does not get to the places where it is needed most – or not to a sufficient extent. This is why the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action is working with the Bavarian State Ministry for Digital Affairs to develop a nationwide home for everything related to funding. The aim of the integrated funding platform will be to radically simplify the funding landscape, providing a transparent, efficient and user-friendly service.

The aim of this workshop is to work together to define exactly what local authorities would want to see from a funding platform of this kind – so that the funding does get to where it is needed. The interactive format of the workshop aims to facilitate an exchange of views.

For representatives from
government, politics
and academia

Speakers



Susanne Breton

To shape the future, you must embrace the present. That's the approach of economist and policy expert, Susanne Breton. She is passionate about the transformation of the public sector to create a work environment that fosters talent, new ways of working and courageous management styles. In the light of major IT transformation programmes at a federal level, she calls for approaches such as agile coaching and design thinking, to generate organisational change fit for the future. As a certified systemic and Gallup strengths coach, Breton has a particular interest in complex stakeholder management, change enablement, future-oriented ways of working and the digitalisation of services in the public sector.



Andrea Neumann-Blank

Andrea Neumann-Blank is an experienced consultant and an expert with extensive experience in project support and guidance. She has worked on various projects in the public sector and in healthcare, with a particular focus on digital transformation and change management in the context of digitalisation. She is very familiar with the specific needs and challenges arising in both these areas as regards digitalisation, and aims to develop and implement sustainable solutions. She is currently leading a project implementing the online access law in the context of funding programmes, dealing with issues such as online reusability, and stakeholder and roll-out management.

Equivalent living standards in Germany: Status quo and future prospects

The Federal Government prioritizes the creation of equal living standards, because they are the foundation for equal opportunities and social inclusion for all, contribute to balanced economic development, help build trust in democracy and could strengthen social cohesion across Germany.

For

those involved in politics and administration, local government representatives and academia

During the 20th legislative period, the Federal Government has already introduced or implemented important measures to create more equal living standards. This includes the most significant reform in over 50 years of Germany's most important regional policy instrument, the joint task "Improving regional economic structures" (Law on Regional Infrastructure). The Nationwide Funding Programme for Structurally Disadvantaged Regions, which entered into force on 1 January 2020, is also developing apace. In 2024, the Federal Government plans to publish the first equality report, which will

provide greater transparency, inter alia, on the progress made towards achieving equal living standards.

This workshop aims to provide an overview of the current situation and progress made as regards the aim of creating equal living standards and to give some indicators as to the content of the equality report. There will also be an opportunity to discuss what more could be done to create more equal living standards across Germany.

Speakers



Dr. Bastian Alm

Dr. Alm is an economist. He currently serves as Head of Division Regional Economic and Structural Policy, Joint Scheme for the Improvement of Regional Economic Structures (GRW), Federal Funding System within the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Dr. Alm completed his doctorate following several months on a research visit to the Department of Economics, at the University of California in San Diego. He has also been a visiting researcher, inter alia, at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Alm has previously worked for the Federal Chancellery, and for the Foreign Office at the German Embassy in Washington D. C.



Holger Bornemann

Holger Bornemann graduated in economics and is a member of the management board of Prognos AG. His areas of interest include structural, regional and innovation policies. For 29 years he has been working on the development, evaluation and monitoring of regional policy strategies and programmes put in place by federal, regional or local governments or by the EU. He combines expertise in national and European regional policy, and is familiar with the current policy trends in multilevel systems. His work includes the analysis of regional development with the help of measurement concepts and indicators.

Digital transformation in the regions: what role for partners in the regional ecosystem?

The digital transformation of regions and rural areas is in full swing and is a core component of many federal and regional strategies.

However, the framework conditions for the successful digitalisation of rural regions have changed. Expediting the regional roll-out of digitalisation would help to create more vibrant, attractive regions. However, traditional funding programmes available for these processes have not been geared up to the need for speed and flexibility. New technologies and approaches develop at pace and may be disseminated far too late. In this workshop, we will look at the role of the regional partners ecosystem in future subsidy programmes, to consider how we can work together to bring about a major step-change towards more equal living standards.

The aim of this workshop is to agree on a vision for the regions of the future, and to develop a new, shared understanding of the roles of partners involved. Through a podium discussion we hope to work with you to come up with recommendations for the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action on how to approach digital transformation in the future.

For representatives of local authorities, businesses and research bodies

Speakers



Anne-Marie Kilpert

MSc in spatial development and nature resource management (TU Dresden, 2014), and business administration with a focus on public administration. Ms. Kilpert started out in the private sector, applying creative methods to coordinate participatory processes. She won funding from the Rhineland Palatinate region and from the EU for development projects in rural areas (2014-2022). Since August 2022, she has led the “Smart City Design” department at the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE). She supports cities and regions in designing smart city strategies and developing smart solutions.



Dominik Magin

MSc in information technology (TU Kaiserslautern, 2013). Worked as a requirements engineer and user experience designer at the Fraunhofer IESE, leading various projects for the research programme “Smart Rural Areas” (2013-2019). Went on to work on IT solutions in the private market for one year. Since 2020, business area manager for the “Smart City & Smart Region” section of the Fraunhofer IESE; supports strategic processes and the development of the business area “Smart City & Smart Region”.

High-value manufacturing jobs in transformation regions: Lessons learned from the REVIERWENDE project, example of the Rhineland mining area

The REVIERWENDE project was set up on the initiative of the German Trade Union Confederation in the light of an agreement in the Coal Commission on the need for a proactive structural policy to manage structural change.

Our aim is to tackle the social and environmental impacts of the transformation in the coalmining area with the use of active regional and participatory structural development policies. Our local REVIERWENDE offices are open to all – to workers, union members, staff representatives or works council members - to deal with issues relating to the direction of structural change. Employees, especially young workers, can obtain guidance, as well as qualifications for the period after coalmining is phased out. Regular events are held on structural change and innovation, to provide information and encourage an exchange of views among those affected at a local level. We also provide regular information on the current state of play as regards structural change, networking meetings, publications and awareness raising. Our local offices keep in touch with developments beyond the region, providing information about the aims and activities of other mining areas and facilitating an exchange of experience..

The aim of this workshop is to present the example of the “Revierwende” project, as a demonstration of how proactive structural policy can be effective. It will also provide an opportunity for an exchange of views with you. Together, we want to consider whether the existing economic development funding tools are sufficient to retain high-quality, preferably well-paid, manufacturing jobs, as well as to create new jobs.

For

representatives from
public service, politics
and academia

Speaker



Dr. Raphael L'Hoest

Dr. L'Hoest works at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, where he is responsible for regional and structural policy. He holds a PhD in economics, following studies at the universities of Cologne, Harvard and Cornell. He also holds an MA in political sciences from the George Washington University, Washington D.C. In 1997 he joined the civil service, and has served in several senior positions specialising in economic, structural and financial policy, including at the German embassies in Washington, D.C. and Bangkok, the Federal Chancellery in Berlin and in preparations for G7/G8 global economic summits. He is currently a member of the Administrative Council of the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) and of the Supervisory Board of Deutsche Bahn Netz AG. He is a Mercator science-policy fellow at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main and a member of Atlantik-Brücke.

High value manufacturing jobs in transformation regions: Lessons learned from the REVIERWENDE project, example of the Rhineland mining area

Speaker



Manfred Maresch

Manfred Maresch trained as a miner. Following his traineeship he worked for Ruhrkohle AG as a fitter at the Haus Aden pit. Following various voluntary roles in work-force representation and studies at the Social Academy, Dortmund, from the early 1990s, his main job was union secretary at IG Bergbau und Energie (now IG BCE). His first union placement was in the Rostock district, where he worked until 1998. He then took up placements in Munich, Düsseldorf and Alsdorf. Manfred Maresch now runs the project office for the Revierwende project in Bedburg, working with his team to promote social justice as the Rhineland mining region undergoes structural change. His leisure interests include football, hiking and cycling.

Innovation policy with a regional impact: Regional success factors and the effects of the cross-sectoral innovation scheme of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

The workshop will discuss the factors that drive success in terms of the regional impact of innovation policy. The impacts and achievements of the Ministry's innovation policy will be presented and evidenced with specific examples drawn from funding programmes.

A closing panel discussion will consider the stimuli that can help to develop the framework conditions needed to drive change. The discussion will draw on a preliminary online survey and an expert presentation based on experience in practice.

The aim of the workshop is to work out together which factors contribute to the regional impact of innovation: Which regional factors can support/underpin innovation in SMEs, and which factors can be a barrier?

For

SMEs, research bodies,
branch and industry associations,
business promoters

Speaker



Dr. Ole Janssen

Dr. Janssen was born in 1971 and holds a PhD in economics. Since 2014, he has been the head of the “Innovation and Technology Policy” subdivision at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Among other things, the subdivision deals with the quality of infrastructure, as well as national and international policy on standardisation. Key areas of the subdivision's remit include fundamental principles of national and international innovation and technology policy, the medium-sized business innovation programme, the innovation programme for business models and pioneering solutions, industrial research for business, innovation consultancy and policy on patents..

Hotels

For this year's annual conference we have put together a list of hotels close to the conference venue. Please take note of the reservation conditions and availability of your preferred hotel.



Radisson BLU Rostock

Lange Straße 40
18055 Rostock
Telephone: +49 381 3750 3500
Reservations: reservations.rostock@radissonblu.com



Das Hotel an der Stadthalle

Platz der Freundschaft 3
18059 Rostock
Reservations: info@hotelstadthalle.de



Motel One Rostock

Schröderplatz 2
18057 Rostock
Reservations: rostock@motel-one.com ([Buchungsformular](#))



pentahotel Rostock

Schwaansche Str. 6
18055 Rostock
Telephone: +49 6925 6699 300
Reservations: info.rostock@pentahotels.com



IntercityHotel Rostock

Herweghstr. 51
18055 Rostock
Telephone: +49 381 4950 990
Reservations: rostock@IntercityHotel.com



Arthotel Ana Amber

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