



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Transatlantic High-Level Roundtable
“Towards a common framework for EU-US higher education”
Thursday, May 2 from 8:30 am – 12:45 pm EDT / 2:30 pm – 6:45 pm CEST
Institute of International Education
1350 I Street NW, 6th floor, Washington, DC
Washington, DC

The transatlantic partnership in higher education is a strategic and enduring alliance featured prominently in the EU-US policy priorities and agenda. In a world of global crisis and geopolitical tensions, there is an increasing need for intensified transatlantic collaborations in research, student mobility and people-to-people exchanges, as they can valuably contribute to reinforcing our shared values such as democracy, academic freedom and pluralism while making our societies more resilient to face the challenges ahead.

This Washington, DC roundtable is the continuation of the Transatlantic high-level roundtable convened by DAAD and IIE in Brussels (October 9, 2023) in advance of the EU-US Summit in Washington, DC (October 20, 2023). The 2023 joint statement released from the EU-US Summit reinforced the critical importance of the transatlantic relationship through people-to-people exchanges and included a commitment by EU and US leadership to increase support for academic exchanges over the next five years. The roundtable will also be informed by the recent EU Delegation to US and US Department of State stakeholder event (February 14, 2024).

The Washington, DC roundtable will continue the exchange of ideas and discussions of meaningful measures to strengthen and expand transatlantic higher education collaborations and partnerships.

The aim of the roundtable will be to:

- Map the current opportunities and explore a common EU-US framework in higher education.
- Discuss the critical importance of supporting and expanding current programs with a focus on creating equitable and accessible opportunities.
- Engage academia, industry, and government in innovative collaborations for increasing research, student mobility and people-to-people exchanges.

Program Agenda

8:00 – 8:30 am: Arrival and Registration

8:30 am: Words of Welcome

Allan E. Goodman
CEO, Institute of International Education (IIE)

Kai Sicks
Secretary-General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)



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8:40 am: Opening Session - Developing a Bold Agenda for Transatlantic Exchange – Vision for Uncertain Times

Format: Opening Statements

Introduction: Allan Goodman, CEO, Institute of International Education (IIE)

Ambassador Michael Curtis

Deputy Chief of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to the United States

Ambassador Axel Dittmann

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Marianne Craven

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs, U.S. Department of State

9:30 am: Picture / Introduction of Participants

9:45 am: Session 1: Mapping existing initiatives and programs: Setting up a framework for deeper transatlantic collaboration.

Description: Through the perspectives of program agencies, higher education institutions, national associations, and program participants the session will explore current EU-US opportunities, set the agenda for enhanced collaboration, and focus on accessible and equitable initiatives and programs.

Format: Moderated discussion followed by Q&A

Moderator: A. Sarah Ilchman, Co-President, IIE

Bruno Castro Benito

International Cooperation with the Americas, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission (online)

Birgit Klüsener

Director Scholarship Department, DAAD

Lily Lopez-McGee

Executive Director of Diversity Abroad

Jill Blondin

Associate Vice Provost for Global initiatives, Virginia Commonwealth University

11:00 am: Coffee Break

11:15 am: Session 2: Increasing engagement: The nexus between exchange, research, and industry to support the transatlantic economy.

Description: Through the perspectives of the private and public sector stakeholders this session will explore innovative initiatives that have increased research partnerships and exchange internship opportunities to benefit the transatlantic partnership and economy with a focus on building a talent pool to meet the labour market needs in the EU and US.



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Format: Moderated discussion followed by Q&A

Moderator: Michael Hörig, Director, DAAD Brussels Office

Daniel Hamilton

Senior non-resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution and Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies

Jessica Robin

Deputy Office Head, Head of the Office of International Science and Engineering, National Science Foundation

Christer Bergman

Program Director, SIREUS, Swedish-American Chambers of Commerce

12:30 pm: Wrap-up: Where do we go from here?

Kai Sicks

Secretary-General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Allan E. Goodman

CEO, Institute of International Education (IIE)

12:45 pm: Program Ends + Lunch