



## CONFERENCE INVITATION:

# The role of universities and scientific institutions in the social innovation ecosystem

**17th September 2024, 10 am - 4 pm**

TU Dortmund University

International Meeting Center (IBZ) / Campus Nord

Emil-Figge-Straße 59, 44227 Dortmund

The conference is **free** to attend and held **in-person** only!

Social innovation and social enterprises play a fundamental role in the future viability of our country. Universities and scientific institutions make important contributions in this field. Although many universities in Germany are already involved in the development and diffusion of social innovations in research, teaching and the Third Mission, both theoretically and creatively (Hachmeister & Roessler, 2021), it is still a major strategic challenge for higher education institutions (HEIs) to bring social innovations on a par with technological innovations (Menter 2024).

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK), is currently funding the development of a **platform** as a **central measure of the strategy for social innovation and social enterprises**. The platform is brought to life by Social Impact gGmbH, the Social Entrepreneurship Network Germany e.V., and TU Dortmund University. Based on the premise that universities and scientific institutions have important functions to fulfill in the social innovation ecosystem, TU Dortmund University is building an **open scientific network** as part of the platform and is thus addressing representatives from HEIs from all three missions in Germany who already play an active role in the ecosystem or intend to do so in the future. The network is intended to facilitate knowledge transfer between the stakeholders, set thematic priorities to raise the profile of the topic and prepare the necessary university policy decisions.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



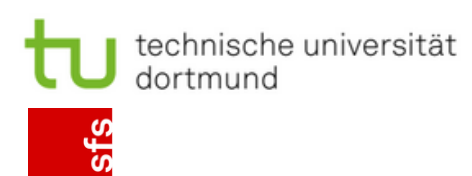
IN ZUSAMMENARBEIT MIT



The platform is a project of



**SE  
ND** Social  
Entrepreneurship  
Netzwerk  
Deutschland





With this conference the emerging network, which has formed less than a year ago, will reach its **first milestone**. It brings together interested researchers, lecturers and members of transfer centers as well as other members of scientific institutions and creates an opportunity for an intensive and cross-mission exchange of experiences.

You are cordially invited to get to know the ambition and work of the Science Network and its stakeholders in an interactive setting.

- You will receive an **update** on the network's activities to date.
- You will receive impulses from **two keynotes by international experts** in social innovation research.
- You will take part in **working on key issues**. The network's agenda was set by the previous network actors in the various formats (see above). We have condensed the central results into three problems that can be worked on interactively and in a results-oriented manner in dialog sessions.
- You can follow the reflections of a top-level **expert panel on the strategic consequences** of a sustainable integration of the field of social innovation into the academic landscape.

We would be delighted to talk to you the evening before, on the **16th of September at 7 pm**, at an **informal get-together** at Restaurant Pfefferkorn (Hoher Wall 38).

To participate in the conference, a **registration** is mandatory. The number of participants is limited. Registrations will be considered in the order in which they are received. The following link will take you to the booking system: <https://sfs.sowi.tu-dortmund.de/forschung/projekte/plattform-fuer-soziale-innovationen/anmeldung-plattform-fuer-soziale-innovation/>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Ralf Kopp via mail: [ralf.kopp@tu-dortmund.de](mailto:ralf.kopp@tu-dortmund.de)



## AGENDA

# The role of universities and scientific institutions in the social innovation ecosystem

9.15 am

Check-In

10.00 – 10.30 am

**A welcome and introduction to the conference**

**PD Dr. Christoph Kaletka** (Deputy Director of the Social Research Centre at TU Dortmund University)

10.30 – 12.00 am

**Keynotes**

**Creating Ecosystems across the world – where the local and the global come together**

**Mark Anderson** (Director of Research and Innovation at Glasgow Caledonian University)

**Prof. Julia Wittmayer** (Erasmus University Rotterdam / Dutch Research Institute for Transitions)

12.00 – 12.15 pm

**Pitches for the dialog sessions**

**Prof. Gerald Beck** (Munich University of Applied Sciences)

**Michael Kriegel** (TH Rosenheim)

**Dr. Anna Butzin** (Institute of Work and Technology)

12.15 – 13.00 pm

Lunch break

12.45 – 2.15 pm

**Dialog sessions**

- Driving Change at universities, anchoring social innovation (Moderation: **Prof. Gerald Beck**, Munich University of Applied Sciences)
- New innovation policy: Implications for research, teaching and transfer (Moderation: **Michael Kriegel**, TH Rosenheim)
- Positioning in the international discourse (Moderation: **Dr. Anna Butzin**, Institute for Work and Technology)

2.15 – 2.45 pm

Coffee break

2.45 – 3.00 pm

Reports from the sessions

3.00 – 3.45 pm

**Panel discussion**

Discussing the current and future significance and challenges of establishing social innovation at universities from the different perspectives of the three missions.

**Prof. Klaus Becker** (Vice President for Research and Knowledge Transfer at TH Köln)

**Dr. Ronald Kriedel** (Managing Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Transfer at TU Dortmund University)

**Prof.in Britta Gossel** (Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development)

**Prof. Julia Wittmayer** (Erasmus University Rotterdam / Dutch Research Institute for Transitions)

Moderation: **Prof. Jürgen Howaldt** (Director of the Social Research Center at TU Dortmund University)

3.45 – 4.00 pm

Summary and outlook