

14 March 2024 | 9:00 AM – 13:30 PM | Renaissance Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels

Re-framing innovation policy: The dynamics between the R and I



Magda Chlebus

Executive Director of Science Policy & Regulatory Affairs at EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries)

Magda Chlebus is Executive Director Scientific & Regulatory Affairs at the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), representing the R&D-based pharmaceutical industry in Europe.

Magda and her team are in charge of following policy and legislative developments that influence the research and regulatory environments for the healthcare industry in Europe. This includes public private collaborations (inter alia the Innovative Medicines Initiative and Innovative Health Initiative), enabling and sensitive technologies and the interface between new science and technology and regulation.

She joined EFPIA in 1995. Her experience covers public and government affairs mainly at EU level, on a range of legislative and non-legislative files in the area of research, development and access to medicines and enabling technologies.

Magda, a Polish national, holds a Master Degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of Warsaw.



Alberto Credi

Vice- Rector for Research at the University of Bologna

Alberto Credi is Vice Rector for Research and professor of general and inorganic chemistry at the University of Bologna.

He is the founder and scientific director of the Center for Light Activated Nanostructures (CLAN), a joint laboratory between the University of Bologna and the Italian National Research Council for research in the areas of supramolecular chemistry and photochemistry, materials science and nanoscience.

His interests are focused on the development of molecular systems and materials controlled by light; in particular, his contribution to the realization of logic devices, machines and motors of nanometer size is internationally recognized.

He is involved in various research projects and he collaborates with several laboratories and institutes in Italy and abroad. He has authored five books and over 320 scientific publications, he received several awards, including an ERC Advanced Grant, and he has delivered more than 180 invited talks at national and international conferences and seminars. Since the beginning of his career, he has been engaged in the popularization of chemistry disciplines and scientific culture in general.



Lars Frølund

Member of the Board of the European Innovation Council

Dr. Lars Frolund is a Deep Tech Investment expert and executive. His expertise lies at the intersection of mission-driven innovation (incl. defense and security), grant & venture capital investments into deep tech ventures, and the geopolitical/strategic aspects of technological capacity

building at the national and international level.

Currently, he is a Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he formerly was a Research Director, Visiting Fellow, and a Fulbright Scholar.

In 2021-2022, he was Special Advisor at NATO HQ for the creation of the Defense Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) and NATO's One Billion EUR Innovation Fund – the world's first multi-sovereign venture capital fund.

He serves on the Board of Directors of the European Innovation Council (Europe's largest investor into deep tech ventures), the EIC Fund (the equity investment part of the EIC), and the Danish Innovation Fund.

Most recently, he was appointed Special Advisor for Digital and Technological Sovereignty to Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission.



Alexandr Hobza

Chief Economist at the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation of the European Commission

Alexandr Hobza is Chief Economist at the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation of the European Commission. With his team, he strives to enhance the evidence base in support of science, technology and innovation policies of the European Commission. He serves as a Vice-Chair of the OECD Committee for Scientific and

Technological Policy. Previously, he headed teams working on assessments of structural reforms and was an advisor to the Director-General of DG ECFIN of the European Commission. Before joining the European Commission, he also worked as a Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. He holds a PhD degree from the University of Economics in Prague, D.E.A. degree in quantitative economics from Université Libre de Bruxelles and M.A. degree in Economics of European Integration from an international programme delivered by University of Antwerp, Staffordshire University and University of Economics in Prague.



Maria Leptin

President of European Research Council

Prof. Maria Leptin has been the President of the European Research Council (ERC) since November 2021 and chairs the ERC's governing body, the ERC Scientific Council. She is a biologist best known for her work on the mechanisms that allow a developing body to take on its correct shape.

After her studies in mathematics and biology at the University of Bonn and the University of Heidelberg, Germany, Maria Leptin carried out her PhD research at the Basel Institute for Immunology, Switzerland. She then moved to the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK, became a group leader at the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tübingen, Germany, and professor at the Institute of Genetics, University of Cologne, Germany. She spent extended research periods and sabbaticals at the University of California, San Francisco, USA, the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France, and at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, UK.

Before her appointment as ERC President, Maria Leptin was the Director of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) in Heidelberg, and a research group leader at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory.

She is an elected member of EMBO, the Academia Europaea and the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina). She is an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and an international member of the US National Academy of Sciences.