

Freedom of Research – A European Summit:  
Europe in Times of Division  
Aachen, 5-6 November 2025

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

### ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Freedom, in all its dimensions, is a core European value and right. The freedom of research is vital for fostering innovation, expanding knowledge, and securing Europe's future in times of division. Today, our continent faces complex challenges – ranging from political polarization and geopolitical tensions to economic disparities and environmental divides. How can we navigate these challenges and create a resilient framework for future developments?

[The Freedom of Research Summit](#) serves as a platform for reflection and foresight. Our goal is to bring together people from diverse backgrounds across Europe, to foster connections with thought leaders, and to develop solutions to build bridges in times of division.

This second edition of the Summit will take place on 5-6 November 2025 and is jointly organized by the [Charlemagne Prize Foundation](#), RWTH Aachen University's [Knowledge Hub](#), and the [Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research \(c:o/re\)](#).

### YOUR PROPOSAL

We invite you to explore the role of scientists as bridge builders in Europe within your specific research area or field of work, and to reflect on the significance of research freedom in this context. We encourage you to contribute to the Summit's Symposium, which will take place on 6 November 2025 at the SuperC of RWTH Aachen University.

We are particularly, but not exclusively, interested in the following formats and topics:

#### Formats:

- Engaging Presentations: TED Talk-style pitches, project showcases
- Dynamic Discussions: Panel discussions, expert Q&A sessions
- Interactive Experiences: Workshops, scenario-based games, debates, case studies, and more

### Possible Topics:

- Science Diplomacy
  - e.g., How can science diplomacy foster cooperation between EU member states, neighboring regions, and globally? What role does the EU play in advancing global research partnerships despite political tensions?
- European Research Communities, Programs, and Projects
  - e.g., What lessons can be learned from successful cross-border research initiatives? How can funding structures better support European unity and innovation? What challenges do collaborative projects face, and how can they be addressed?
- Climate Change and Climate Science
  - e.g., What is the current state of climate protection efforts in Europe? How can scientists and policymakers engage the public in climate mitigation efforts and encourage participation? How can climate research foster unity and shared responsibility across Europe? How can Europe take the lead in global climate diplomacy?
- Science vs. Populism / Polarization
  - e.g., How can scientists, policymakers, and journalists collaborate to counter misinformation and polarization? How can science and European values be effectively communicated on social media? What role does science play in fostering dialogue between different regions, cultures, and traditions?
- Science and the Public / Youth
  - e.g., What are the best practices for knowledge transfer and public engagement? How can participation in scientific initiatives be encouraged? How can the EU and research institutions inspire the next generation to tackle shared challenges like climate change and public health?

### Important Information:

- You can apply individually or as a team with your colleagues. We especially encourage applications from European working or research groups that bring together participants from different European countries.
- The expected outcome of the session is an answer to the questions: “How can we, Europe and the scientific community, build bridges in

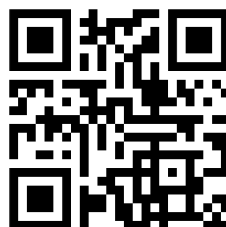
times of division?” and “What is the importance of freedom of research in this context?”

- If your session is selected, you will co-host it alongside the Summit organizers. You will be responsible for contacting speakers or institutions and coordinating travel arrangements in close collaboration with us. Please note that while we do not provide speaker fees, we will cover travel expenses.

Please submit your proposal (including information about yourself, a 200–300-word abstract, your preferred format, and suggested speakers) to [contact@for-summit.eu](mailto:contact@for-summit.eu) by **31 March 2025**.

If you have any questions, please reach out to

- Jana Hambitzer ([jana.hambitzer@khk.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:jana.hambitzer@khk.rwth-aachen.de)) and
- Karina Blommen ([blommen@karlspreis.de](mailto:blommen@karlspreis.de)).



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Cultures of Research

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