Call for Proposals: Presentations and Panels

The International Forums of the “Academic Consortium for the 21st Century” (AC21) are the most prominent events of the international AC21 network. They bring together leaders in Higher Education, academic administration, and science from the current 19 AC21-member universities and many more institutions in order to discuss a future-oriented overarching theme of global interest. Since the foundation of the AC21 network in 2002, the biennial AC21 International Forums have been hosted by changing AC21 member universities. This time, Technische Universität Chemnitz is honored to organize the 8th AC21 International Forum from 30 April to 3 May 2016 at Chemnitz, Germany.

Overarching theme

Networks of innovation for the transformation of society through science

The overarching theme of the upcoming AC21 International Forum centers on the creation, establishment, and development of networks of innovation for the transformation of society through science. As a key driver within these environments, universities are forming sustainable and productive networks with partners in academia, commerce, politics, and society in order to build sustainable innovation systems for scientific, economic, social, and ecological advancement on the regional, national as well as international level. The AC21 International Forum 2016 aims to highlight pathways, provide “tools” and present “best practices” on how to form and further develop these novel and ambitious networks of the future and for the future.

Sub-themes of the workshops

The International Forum’s core theme will be approached from a range of perspectives. While a general overview on the topic is provided within plenary sessions, sub-themes are followed up in subsequent workshops. For these workshops, Technische Universität Chemnitz welcomes proposals from academics and administrators of the AC21 and non-AC21 member institutions with regard to the following topics:

1. Finding “best practices” of creating networks with scientific, economic, political or societal partners in a global context: This sub-theme provides the opportunity to present existing innovation networks including scientific and non-scientific partners and their contributions in approaching global scientific, economic or social challenges. By comparing networks on different continents and in different regions, a process of “mutual learning” will be initiated.
2. **Building “chains of innovation” for development in science, economy, and society:** This sub-theme opens up a chance to present and discuss examples, concepts or ideas for the establishment of innovation chains between academia, business, politics or society in order to inform and guide the economic and societal advancement through science.

3. **Stimulating innovation and a “transfer culture” within trans-disciplinary, cross-sector networks:** This sub-theme zooms in the implementation and use of scientific insights and results for economic and societal progress by the creation of a “transfer culture” between scientific and non-scientific partners. This way, the application of scientific findings can be linked back to the starting point of scientific inquiry in order to generate innovation.

4. **Identifying key innovation drivers and creating framework conditions and infrastructures:** In an increasingly collaborative and globalized world, it has become impossible for institutions to work in a sustainable way without appropriate partners in different disciplines, sectors, and countries. Thus, they have to identify collaborators worldwide who correspond to their strategic objectives and to their profile so to create networks where members bring in their strengths, their skills, and their resources for multiplying the effectiveness and sustainability of the entire network as a benefit for all partners. For this reason, this sub-theme seeks to assemble different approaches to identify key innovation drivers and to find appropriate partners for providing the necessary framework conditions and infrastructures for synergetic progress.

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**Submission of proposals for presentations and panels**

Proposals are welcome for individual presentations and for panel submissions corresponding to the International Forum’s sub-themes. Please submit the following documents:

- Abstracts for an individual presentation or a panel discussion outlining the contribution to the International Forum’s overarching theme and one or several sub-themes. Abstracts for individual presentations should not exceed 250 words; abstracts for panel submissions should be no more than 1,000 words.
- Short bio of each of the presenters or panelists (not more than 100 words each).

The proposal should clearly state a title, the type of contribution (individual presentations or panel submissions), the name/s of the contributor/s and their affiliation/s. Please provide all documents in English.

All proposals for presentations or panels to the AC21 International Forum 2016 have to be submitted by 31 January 2016 to Technische Universität Chemnitz via E-mail at the following address: if2016@tu-chemnitz.de (in .doc or similar format, no PDF).

All proposals will be peer-reviewed and authors will be notified about the result by 29 February 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: if2016@tu-chemnitz.de.

Thank you very much for your interest in participating in the AC21 International Forum 2016. Looking forward to meeting you in Chemnitz!