



## KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

### “INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COOPERATION – LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE”

— Protecting human reasoning in an AI-saturated world

International research is being squeezed between two powerful forces: the need to treat scientific knowledge as a global public good, and growing pressure to align research with national security, sovereignty and industrial competition. The panel warned that unless openness, reciprocity and “science for all” are hard-wired into future rules of collaboration, scientific cooperation risks splintering into rival blocs and deepening dependencies instead of solving shared problems.

This shift is unfolding as dual-use technologies, shared data infrastructures and cross-border research networks make science increasingly interdependent. At the same time, geopolitical tensions are testing the very openness, mobility and trust on which global collaboration depends.

### THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

#### 1 — Protect open science while managing security risks.

Embed proportionate security and sovereignty assessments into research policy without securitising the entire knowledge system; clearly define sensitive dual-use areas, ring-fence funding for curiosity-driven research, and agree shared risk-assessment standards so openness remains the default.

#### 2 — Treat data and publicly funded knowledge as a public good.

Build interoperable public data spaces and repositories, governed by fair principles and reciprocity rather than corporate or national lock-in, and require that publicly funded research data and results remain accessible.

#### 4 — Build coalitions of the willing around common challenges.

Prioritize like-minded institutional partnerships on climate, health, food security and digital governance, actively counter disinformation (incl. AI-driven), and align major funding instruments.

#### 4 — Empower researchers and communities as diplomatic actors.

Recognise scholars, students, citizen scientists and indigenous communities as key partners in international cooperation by funding long-term mobility schemes, co-created research agendas and participatory programmes, so that scientific networks and local knowledge can outlast electoral cycles and geopolitical tensions.

*This event is assembled in the framework of the Falling Walls Science Summit 2025 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society.*

### PANELLISTS

#### Jana Havlíková

*Deputy Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, Ministry of Science, Research and Innovation of the Czech Republic*

#### Andrzej Szeptycki

*Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland*

#### Violeta Vázquez-Rojas Maldonado

*Undersecretary, Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation (SECIHTI)*

#### Jean-Claude Burgelman

*Director of the Frontiers Planet Prize, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) / Frontiers Planet Prize, Moderator*

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