

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

SPRIND SYMPOSIUM SCIENCEPRENEURSHIP: “HOW TO SHAPE AND LEAD INNOVATION-DRIVEN ORGANISATIONS IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH”

This SPRIND Symposium panel emphasises the importance of creating systems and environments that foster innovation in the public sector. Together, the experts from both the public and the private sector discuss funding mechanisms and expectation management when working on innovations and translating science into a viable product.

Panelists: [Julia Borggräfe](#) (Metaplan, DE), [Rafael Laguna de la Vera](#) (Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation SPRIND, DE), [Henry Marx](#) (Berlin Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care, DE), [Benoit Schillings](#) (X - the Moonshot Factory, US), and moderator [Aidan McCullan](#) (The Innovation Show, IE).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Embrace failure.** Right now, science is often exclusively measured by whether it is successful and useful for commercial applications. "We need to exchange the 'fear gene' for one that encourages people to just experiment and not worry about failure", says Rafael Laguna de la Vera. By moving away from traditional benchmarks and embracing a more open approach to science, we can set up young scientists and entrepreneurs for success. As Benoit Schillings shares from his experience working on Moonshots, hard problems come with a substantial amount of failure. It is time for policy makers and investors to accept this as part of the scientific process.
- 2. Connect public and private sector.** Although the goals of public institutions like universities, politics and the private sector often align at base level, proper conversation between all sides is often lacking. Instead of acting in respective silos, conversations about innovation must happen more frequently and with the common goal in mind.
- 3. Provide transparent and accessible funding:** Making sure that the funding mechanisms are transparent and accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or the size of their organisation, is a crucial step to shape and lead innovation. This involves simplifying application processes for grants and providing more guidance and support for applicants. Another example the experts mention is a more trust-based allocation of funding, as well as new exploratory grants, where learning and failing in interdisciplinary missions are heavily encouraged.

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