

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

SPRIND SYMPOSIUM SCIENCEPRENEURSHIP: “NEXT-GENERATION INNOVATION POLICIES TO EFFECTUATE CULTURE CHANGE IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH”

This panel of the SPRIND Symposium dives into the significance of adopting an entrepreneurial perspective in policy making and its profound impact on shaping a supportive ecosystem. The experts discuss policies that can ensure long-term funding, risk-taking and diversity and look at the cultural shifts that are needed to make sciencepreneurship more attractive, sustainable, and impactful.

Panelists: [Mario Brandenburg](#) (German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, DE), [Frank Buchholz](#) (Technical University of Dresden, DE), [Allison Duettmann](#) (Foresight Institute, US), [Darja Isaksson](#) (Vinnova, SE), and moderator [Aidan McCullan](#) (The Innovation Show, IE).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Politics need to engage the scientific and entrepreneurial community.** The experts emphasise the need for a more cohesive relationship between the different realms to drive entrepreneurial initiatives. In a call to action, the experts urge policy makers to gain a more comprehensive understanding of scientific intricacies and engage more closely with the entrepreneurial community. "Few people on the policy side of policy create programs or even have a proper understanding of the science, while scientists often lack political expertise. Both sides have to grow closer together", says Mario Brandenburg.
- 2. Build a robust funding pipeline.** A reluctance to invest early has driven away many scientists from entrepreneurship. It is crucial to provide more attractive conditions for individuals to pursue a sciencepreneurial path, for instance when it comes to spinning out a start-up from academia. "Right now, too few people with a scientific know-how choose to take this step, too few ideas are being tested, and too few ideas are being turned into intellectual property. We need to fix the whole pipeline and we need to find a policy to support the funding", says Darja Isaksson. Governmental agencies should not look down upon, but rather value private funding, champion trailblazers in their respective fields and provide scientists and entrepreneurs with more incentives so that they can unlock their full potential.
- 3. Reward ambitious ideas early on.** Addressing the innovation pipeline, the experts call for policies supporting funding programs which build a robust research environment that can foster entrepreneurship, starting in middle school. Government involvement can help by ensuring accessible tech infrastructure and the establishment of regulatory sandboxes, with a suggestion to direct funding towards solutions addressing significant problems with radical potential. If we want to capitalise on opportunities and early innovations, we must overcome the cautious "why?" mentality and embrace a "why not!" attitude, instead.

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