

14 april 2022

Press release



Innovation Day Upper Rhine :

Nearly 1,200 participants at the trinational event at the University of Strasbourg on Tuesday



On April 12, 2022 at the *Palais universitaire* of the University of Strasbourg was held the 1st trinational event Innovation Day Upper Rhine which brought together nearly 1,200 actors from the business world, start-ups and students. This day, organized in the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, also hosted the DeepTech Tour of Bpifrance.

For one full day, the event brought together the innovation ecosystem and all the technology and knowledge transfer players in the Upper Rhine Valley and beyond. The Innovation Day Upper Rhine focused on concrete issues of these actors, such as business creation, financing, intellectual property, digitalization...



Michel de Mathelin © Jean Francois Badias

"This trilateral day on innovation with young entrepreneurs, innovative companies and researchers from the 12 French, German and Swiss universities of the Upper Rhine region, showed by the quality of the exchanges and the record participation it generated, that the challenges of today's world, in particular, in the field of health and energy transition, require a joint effort between the academic world, the socio-economic world and society. The current crises remind us that Europe must unite in the field of research, innovation and industry. The European project KTUR, which is trilateral and cross-border, is a first step in the constitution of a sustainable network to build an innovation ecosystem on the scale of the Upper Rhine region. BPI France, with which the University of Strasbourg has signed a reinforced partnership, joined the day as part of its "deeptech" tour of France and contributed to the mobilization of all innovation players in Alsace."

Michel de Mathelin, 1st vice-president and vice-president for relations with the socio-economic world and development of the University of Strasbourg.

"As global challenges such as climate change, energy transition and digitization continue to grow, so does the significance of science. Science is therefore not only required to develop solutions, but also to participate in their implementation and to support complex transformation processes such as the energy or mobility transition. In this context, dialogue with society, as well as international networking in transfer, is becoming increasingly important. No state can master the major societal challenges on its own. That is why it is also so crucial to maintain and intensify international cooperation in networks such as Eucor and projects such as KTUR and in joint activities such as the Innovation Day Upper Rhine in Strasbourg. The Upper Rhine region in particular offers good conditions for sustainable networking among innovation players. The positive response to the Innovation Day Upper Rhine event has shown how valuable and sustainable these cross-border relationships are."



Thomas Hirth © Markus Breig, KIT

Thomas Hirth, Vice President for Transfer and International Affairs at KIT.



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The Upper Rhine Innovation Day in figures

- Nearly 1,400 registrants at the event
- Nearly 1,200 people on site throughout the day
- Nearly 200 remote connections
- Plus de 200 rendez-vous d'affaires (dont 110 en présentiel le 12 avril)
- Trinational participation: 75.56% French / 20.22% German / 4.21% Swiss
- Typology of participants:
 - 19% researchers
 - 22% of companies
 - 13% startups
 - 10% students
 - 35% support structures and others

The KTUR – Knowledge Transfer Upper Rhine project

Co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg V Upper Rhine funding program, the KTUR project has been receiving financial and human resources for a three-year period since October 2019. Led by the Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, the KTUR project brings together a consortium of 12 universities. The aim of the project is to set up joint structures and activities in the field of knowledge and technology transfer in the Rhine Valley region in order to facilitate collaboration between academic and business actors.

For more information about KTUR: <https://ktur.eu/fr/home-francais/>

To download photos of the event: <https://seafire.unistra.fr/d/7b220ad2f63a4cd986f3/>

Credit: © Nicolas Busser

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