



Driving Research Excellence for Europe's Transformative Progress

Join the Conversation: Relive the Highlights from Our Annual Conference!

Dear Canan Kus,

Europe is at a critical juncture, with challenges that demand bold solutions and opportunities waiting to be seized. At our recent **2nd Annual Conference**, *Powering European Competitiveness: Innovation, Finance, and Strategic Resilience*, we brought together top leaders from finance, policy, and industry to tackle Europe's most pressing challenges. In our current edition explore the key learnings and get informed on our latest initiatives.

Here are the key highlights: (=> scroll down for more details)

1. **Latest Updates** – Key news and highlights at a glance.
 - **Feb. 2025:** C-Level Insights: KfW CEO Stefan Wintels kicks off new lecture series
 - **March 2025:** CfET's 2nd Annual Conference on "Powering European Competitiveness"
2. **Upcoming Events** – Must-attend workshops and networking opportunities.
 - **TODAY - 8 April 2025:** AI Frontiers in Finance Webinar – Session 7 – featuring Anthony Cookson (Colorado University) presenting his latest research on "Market Signals from Social Media"
 - **6 May 2025:** C-Level Insights: Silvia Carpitella (CEO of Citigroup Global Markets Europe) discussing "Innovate or Stagnate: Driving Change in Financial Services"
3. **Research Highlights** – Transformative studies and research results shaping our field.
 - Seminar Presentation at Krakow School of Economics
4. **Meet our Team** – The people driving our work forward.
 - Sophie's Fellowship at Harvard Business School – a Transformative Journey
 - Spotlight on Felix: PhD Student in Finance
5. **Other Research Centers** - News, highlights from the FS ecosystem.
 - FCCR launches DOGE-WATCH Newsletter
6. **Opportunities** – Jobs, theses, and collaboration openings.

As always, to better tailor future editions to your needs and interests, we'd love to hear your thoughts and feedback - don't hesitate to reach out!

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Stay curious & engaged,
CfET Team

1. Latest Updates – Key news and highlights at a glance.

A Decisive Decade: KfW CEO Stefan Wintels kicks off our new Lecture Series | Feb. 2025

On 17 February 2025, KfW CEO Stefan Wintels opened the “**C-Level Insights: Shaping Europe’s Transition**” lecture series at the Centre for European Transformation. Facing a decisive decade marked by polycrisis, the discussion, highlighted the necessity of mobilizing private capital as a strategic imperative for enhancing Germany’s and Europe’s competitiveness.

Stefan Wintels concluded by encouraging a forward-looking approach. If you want to learn more about the event, visit the full article [here](#).



CfET’s 2. Annual Conference: Powering European Competitiveness | March 2025

On 6 March 2025, the Centre for European Transformation hosted its **2. Annual Conference**, bringing together experts to discuss financing Europe’s transformation amid geopolitical challenges. **Key takeaways** included the recognition that Europe already possesses many necessary resources for transformation, but decisive action is required to harness them.

Watch the Highlights from the Conference:



If you want to explore some of our **Key Learnings**, please visit our website, where we have gathered some exciting resources for you (incl. keynote slides, pictures, etc)!

Special thanks to all participants and to our partners, including DWS as sponsor and Börsen-Zeitung as our media partner, for their invaluable support.

[Learn more](#)

+++ Save-the-Date +++ 12 March 2026 +++

We are excited to announce that our **3rd Annual Conference takes place on 12 March 2026**, stay tuned for more details! Don't forget to sign-up for our [Newsletter](#).

2. Upcoming Events – Must-attend workshops and networking opportunities.

AI in Frontiers Webinar - Session 7 | 8 April 2025, 17:00-18:00 (CET) | online

Join us *monthly* for our Webinar Series: **AI Frontiers in Finance: Bridging Theory and Practice**.

Our goal is to deepen the understanding of AI in Finance by bridging the gap between academic research and practical industry applications.



In our next session, [Anthony Cookson](#) (Colorado University) and [Sascha Steffen](#) (Frankfurt School) will discuss: [“Market Signals from Social Media”](#).

TODAY - last chance to register - don't miss out!

[Register here](#)

If you have missed previous webinars, check out our [YouTube channel](#) and don't forget to subscribe our AI in Frontiers [Newsletter!](#)

C-Level Insights | 6 May 2025, 18:00 (CET) | in-person @FS



Get ready to gain invaluable insights from top professionals who are shaping the future of their fields. This exclusive lecture series offers you a unique opportunity to learn from real-world experiences, cutting-edge strategies, and innovative

Our next **C-Level-Insights Lecture** on **May 6, 2025**, will feature **Silvia Carpitella (CEO of Citigroup Global Markets Europe)**. She will discuss **“Innovate or Stagnate: Driving Change in Financial Services”**.

approaches that drive success in today's dynamic business landscape.

[Register here](#)

3. Research Highlights – Transformative studies and research results shaping our field.

First Research Seminar Presentation at Krakow School of Economics

Paulina Verhoff reached an important milestone by presenting her paper, [CovenantAI - New Insights into Covenant Violations](#) (co-authored with Sascha Steffen and Anthony Saunders), at the Research Seminar hosted by the Krakow School of Economics. This marked her first research seminar presentation as a PhD student, showcasing her academic achievements. Congratulations, Paulina, many more to come!



4. Meet our Team – The people driving our work forward.

In this section we provide updates from talented individuals driving our work forward! From innovative researchers to dedicated support staff, our team is committed to advancing knowledge and making a meaningful impact. Discover the expertise behind our success!

Sophie's Fellowship at Harvard Business School – a Transformative Journey

From September to December 2024, Sophie-Dorothee Rotermund, PhD candidate at Frankfurt School, had the incredible opportunity to be a research fellow at Harvard Business School (HBS), where she advanced her doctoral research on the evolving role of private capital in transforming lending dynamics in the US and Europe. Her time at HBS provided invaluable exposure to leading researchers in private markets and global finance.

“At HBS, I experienced how powerful it can be when drive and determination go hand in hand with curiosity and an infectious sense of enthusiasm for our work.” – Sophie-Dorothee Rotermund



One of the key highlights of Sophie's fellowship was presenting her research to HBS faculty and fellow PhD students, sparking insightful discussions that broadened her perspective on the role of private debt in shaping credit markets. The experience deepened her understanding of how private capital is reshaping financial decision-making across regions, especially

Learn more about her current research project: [here](#)

comparing the state of US private markets to those in Europe.

Spotlight on Felix: PhD Student in Finance

"I study how firms and financial markets respond to transformative economic developments, aiming to integrate practical insights with academic research."
- Felix Martini



Felix Martini is a PhD candidate in Finance at Frankfurt School, currently undertaking a research visit at New York University (NYU).

His academic journey includes a Master's in Finance and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Mannheim.

Before joining Frankfurt School in 2021, he worked as an Investment Banking Analyst at Goldman Sachs in London and Frankfurt, specializing in Debt Capital Markets (DCM) and Derivatives. His research focuses on empirical financial intermediation, corporate finance, investment banking, and the intersection of finance and geopolitics.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Felix enjoys cooking and playing football. His background and passion for finance make him a valuable member of our research community.

Learn more about his current research project: [here](#)

If you can't wait to meet the rest of team – check out our [website](#).

5. Other Research Centers - News, highlights from the FS ecosystem.

This time, we feature some exciting **news** from the interdisciplinary [Frankfurt Competence Centre for German and Global Regulation \(FCCR\)](#). The FCCR deals with the design, application, and impact of regulation.

Reducing bureaucracy and improving efficiency are key priorities for nations striving to modernize their public administrations. As the United States undergoes radical reforms, these changes are expected to influence global discussions on administrative structures.

In this light, FCCR is excited to launch the **DOGE WATCH newsletter**, a collaborative project with regulatory experts from the **US and Europe**. This newsletter will provide timely insights and updates, ensuring recipients stay informed on key developments - especially those with economic interests in the US or curious about this unique process.

[Subscribe here](#)

Only for Students!

The FCCR is looking to fill a student assistant position in Digital Marketing & Project Management, if you are interested, [check it out!](#)

6. Opportunities – Jobs, theses, and collaboration openings.

In this section, you'll find a curated list of jobs, thesis topics, and collaboration openings to help advance your career and academic pursuits.

[Strategic Centre Manager \(m/f/d\)](#)

[Postdoctoral Fellowship in Finance “Center for European Transformation”](#)

[Research Assistant Position – Centre for European Transformation](#)

[Theses \(Bachelor & Master, fully booked for now\)](#)

If this opportunity isn't right for you, please consider referring it to a friend or colleague who might be interested. Your recommendations can make a significant difference!

Thank You!

Finally, keep an eye out for our next issue, and until then, feel free to connect with us on our social platforms, via [email](#) or explore more on our [website](#).

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

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