

“Never Stand Still”

Five key learnings from the **Inaugural Conference: “Can Europe lead the Transformation? Mitigating Risks, Financing Change, and Shaping the Future”** at the Centre for European Transformation (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, March 11, 2024).

(1) Need for a positive, inspiring narrative for transformation

Despite unprecedented global wealth, the world faces significant challenges like geopolitical instability, climate change, and energy dependency. Further, industries deal with complex regulations, bureaucratic hurdles, lack of digitization, and a scarcity of skilled labor. This negativity surrounding transformation necessitates reframing it positively to inspire clear strategies, collective engagement, and action.

(2) Enhancing competitiveness through agility and improved business acumen

Boosting competitiveness relies on embracing a more flexible, entrepreneurial mindset, coupled with fostering a broader culture of risk-taking. Emphasizing the value of learning from failures from an early age through education will foster an environment that encourages rapid innovation, which is essential for driving positive and long-term systemic change.

(3) Embracing the power of technology

Leveraging technology and data is pivotal in designing effective strategies and mechanisms for advancement. Therefore, the future calls for increased investments in forward-thinking ventures, such as deep tech and climate tech, where the startup and venture capital ecosystem play a key role in fostering innovation and transformation. Consequently, decision-making processes must be accelerated to align with the rapid pace of emerging opportunities.

(4) Regulatory recalibration for tomorrow’s challenges

Regulatory frameworks need to adapt to meet future demands. Achieving this requires collaboration between regulators and the business sector to create a more supportive and flexible regulatory environment. Often, regulations are overly detailed, hindering potential innovations. Standardizing regulations across Europe will not only streamline processes but also enhance competitiveness and market relevance.

(5) Collaboration and partnership are key

At the heart of addressing future challenges lies the power of collaboration and partnership. The complex issues ahead cannot be funded by governments, financial sector, or corporations in isolation. Private investments will play a vital role, driving progress and enhancing decision-making capabilities through mutual empowerment. Together, these elements pave the way towards a more resilient and innovative future.

Considering our investment priorities such as climate change, energy security, and digital infrastructure, we must also address funding sources in the context of our geopolitical landscape. For instance, should Europe seek funding from household deposit accounts, insurance companies, or non-western sovereign wealth funds? If you are interested in joining the discussion, reach out to the **Centre of European Transformation**. We look forward to collaborating with you!