



Dear Sir or Madam,

We are delighted to invite you to the kick-off event of SOUNDS, the University of the Saarland's new research and transformation project, taking place on 2 September 2026 at the Innovation Center on the Saarbrücken campus.

SOUNDS is an interdisciplinary research and transformation project at the intersection of computer science and the social sciences. Using innovative data sources from digital public spheres, online platforms, and media discourse, we investigate societal transformation processes and develop evidence-based insights for policymakers, the media, businesses, and civil society. At its core, the project explores how digital spaces can be shaped in ways that are democratic, responsible, and human-centered.

For more information, please see the latest article on the UdS intranet (in german, english and french):

<https://unisaarlandde.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet-Bereichs-News/SitePages/Kennen-Sie-schon-...-SOUNDS-.aspx>

The kick-off event offers an opportunity to meet the people behind SOUNDS: researchers from a wide range of disciplines as well as practitioners from government, industry, and civil society. The

keynote speeches by Prof. Dr. Melanie Revilla, *"Looking Back, Moving Forward: Lessons Learned from an ERC Journey,"* and Prof. Dr. Christina Elmer, *"Data in the Service of Society,"* will provide inspiring perspectives. Interactive dialogue sessions and dedicated networking opportunities will give you the chance to contribute your own ideas and engage with fellow participants. Those who wish are invited to round off the day at SOUNDS Beats, an informal evening gathering.

Further information and the registration link are available at:

<https://www.uni-saarland.de/en/researchers/sounds/events.html>

We look forward to welcoming you.

Prof. Dr. Ingmar Weber, Prof. Dr. Daniela Braun, Dr. Anke Köhler and the whole team