Statement letter

Three doctoral researcher networks from non-university research organisations in Germany – Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres (Helmholtz Juniors), Leibniz Association (Leibniz PhD Network), and Max Planck Society (Max Planck PhDnet) – intend to work closer together. Their aim is to establish a publicly visible platform that strengthens the communication between the different doctoral networks within Germany. This platform creates a forum to promote the regular discussion of overarching topics like:

- Working conditions and equal opportunities for doctoral researchers in non-university organisations and beyond
- Career opportunities for doctoral researchers in Germany
- Science policy in Germany and Europe

The elected spokespersons want to collaborate with the alumni spokespersons of their respective networks in order to enable the transfer of knowledge as well as to ensure progress beyond the length of a doctoral degree. The elected spokespersons will be the official representatives of their networks with the alumni spokespersons serving as advisors. The purpose of $n^2$ is not to govern the individual networks, but to represent the collective interests of doctoral researchers across all networks.

**Current spokespersons**

Konstantin Kuhne (Helmholtz Juniors)
Giulia Caglio (Helmholtz Juniors)
Leonard Borchert (Max Planck PhDnet)
Olga Naumov (Leibniz PhD Network)
Martin Schmidt (Leibniz PhD Network)

**Alumni**

Elias Eckert (Helmholtz Juniors)
Dagmara Rusiecka (Helmholtz Juniors)
Martin Grund (Max Planck PhDnet)
Camille Gaillard (Leibniz PhD Network)