



September, 19th 2023

Together for sustainable transformation: IMPACT FESTIVAL welcomes more than 3,100 guests

Exhibiting SMEs, speakers, companies and investors discuss key challenges and solutions

On September 13 and 14, the Fredenhagen Halls in Offenbach were dedicated to sustainable transformation. The occasion was the third edition of the IMPACT FESTIVAL, Europe's largest B2B trade fair for sustainable innovations. Over two days, the event welcomed a total of more than 3,100 participants, 165 speakers, 200 investors and 171 solutions. Project Leads Mara Steinbrenner and Linda Köpper explain, "With the IMPACT FESTIVAL, we pursue several goals: We want to help ensure that financial resources flow into sustainable innovations. We want companies to find solutions that they can use and implement in their own operations in order to make processes and products more sustainable and finally, the participants of the IMPACT FESTIVAL should learn from each other, be inspired, expand their network and thus be better able to meet the challenges of transformation."

Lectures, panel discussions, masterclasses and the exhibition paid precisely to this. They were structured along six innovation areas, which are oriented to the EU Green Deal and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The lecture highlights included keynotes by the Hessian Minister of Economics Tarek Al-Wazir, transformation researcher Prof. Dr. Maja Göpel and the physician, comedian and science journalist Dr. Eckart von Hirschhausen. Within the art exhibition IMPACT ART the visitors of the IMPACT FESTIVAL could deal with the topic "sustainable transformation" in a creative way. Artist Verena Kandler created live art from old materials from past events. Exhibits by the Clean River Project, the Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences, and the two photographers Frank Bayh and Steff Rosenberger-Ochs complemented the exhibition.

The most promising solutions were honored with the IMPACT AWARD on the evening of September 13. The partner of the award this year was neosfer. The start-up heynanny won in the "Seed" category, the start-up eeden in the category "Growth". Both teams received a prize sponsored by Brighter Future. In the Transformation category, which was awarded jointly with Gemeinwohl Ökonomie, the seven-member jury chose scaffolding company Gemeinhardt Service GmbH as the winner.

In cooperation with Climate Action partner ClimateSeed, the IMPACT FESTIVAL took place with as little CO2 emissions as possible and a less-waste concept. The exclusively vegan catering was served in reusable containers. Hydro stations provided guests with free water. The event also worked with service providers with a sustainable business concept. For remaining CO2 emissions, the IMPACT FESTIVAL will make a donation to a selected project. The fourth edition will take place on October 30 and 31, 2024 - this time for the first time at Messe Frankfurt.

Press Release



The IMPACT FESTIVAL first took place in September 2021 and celebrated its second edition in October 2022. In addition to the annual two-day event, the project acts as a platform for key stakeholders in sustainable transformation to network and exchange ideas year-round through the IMPACT COMMUNITY. With an extensive supporting program, including the Global ClimateTech Bootcamp, the IMPACT Challenge, webinars, the IMPACT TALK podcast, and an online magazine, the IMPACT FESTIVAL pursues the goal of accelerating sustainable transformation year-round.

The IMPACT FESTIVAL is a project of neosfer GmbH, early-stage investor and innovation unit of the Commerzbank Group. Neosfer investigates future technologies relevant to business and society and promotes and develops sustainable, digital solutions. This is done via the three areas: invest, build and connect. Through strategic venture capital (invest), the in-house development of technologies and business models (build), and the creation of ecosystems around the sustainable and digital future of society (connect), neosfer creates access to innovations.

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