

PROF. DR. DANIELA ELSNER

Executive & Top-Management Coach | Former Senior Leader & Strategic Advisor

Frankfurt am Main, Germany | International work (Europe & beyond)

Languages: German (native), English (C2), French (B1), Spanish (A2)

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Prof. Dr. Daniela Elsner is an executive and top-management coach, strategic sparring partner and former senior leader with extensive experience in governance, organizational leadership and decision-making in highly complex and regulated environments.

She held senior executive and board-level roles within large public institutions, including responsibility for strategic development, institutional governance, leadership of multinational teams and participation in high-stakes budgetary and executive appointment decisions.

Since 2017, she has advised CEOs, top executives and leadership teams as an independent executive coach and strategic advisor. Her work focuses on decision-making under pressure, leadership sustainability, psychological self-leadership and the private cost of responsibility.

She combines deep psychological expertise with first-hand leadership experience and a profound understanding of complex systems, making her a trusted sparring partner for leaders operating at the highest levels of responsibility.

CORE EXECUTIVE COMPETENCIES

- Executive decision-making under pressure and ambiguity
- Strategic sparring for CEOs, top executives and boards
- Leadership sustainability & psychological self-leadership
- Governance, board dynamics and senior stakeholder management
- Leading complex, regulated and politically sensitive systems
- Multinational and multicultural leadership
- Conflict resolution, restructuring and strategic realignment
- Confidential advisory work at C-level

EXECUTIVE & TOP-MANAGEMENT ADVISORY

Independent Executive Coach & Strategic Sparring Partner | 2017 – present

- Strategic advisor and executive coach to CEOs, top executives and boards
- More than 100 executive-level mandates
- Clients from Finance, Technology and Industrial sectors

- Focus on high-stakes decision-making, leadership under pressure, leadership sustainability
- International work in German and English

BOARD & SENIOR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Member of the University Senate – Goethe University Frankfurt am Main | 2012 – 2022

- Voting member of the university's highest decision-making and governance body
- Co-responsible for approval of the overall university budget
- Participation in selection and appointment of the university presidency
- Involvement in major strategic reforms and sustainability strategies

SENIOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLES

Executive Director / Managing Director – Academy for Educational Research, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main | 2014 – 2022

- Executive leadership of an autonomous organizational unit with its own governance framework
- Strategic responsibility for structures impacting approx. 7,000 teacher education students
- Chair of the Academy Council and leader of strategic decision processes
Leadership of multinational teams and complex stakeholder environments
- Responsibility for conflict resolution, structural realignment and strategic prioritization

ADDITIONAL SENIOR LEADERSHIP ROLES (SELECTED)

Goethe University Frankfurt am Main & University of Vechta | 2007 – 2022

- Head of Department for Didactics
- Head of Institute for Cultural Studies

Leadership scope:

- Personnel leadership and strategic coordination at department and institute level
- Responsibility for organizational development, academic quality assurance and governance-related decisions

PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS

- Appointment offer for a Professorship in Coaching and Leadership, VPU Vallendar (2023) – declined
- Full Professor of Didactics (W3-equivalent senior professorship), Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, 2011-2022
- Associate Professor of Didactics (W2-equivalent senior appointment), prior role, University of Vechta, 2007-2011

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

- PhD (Dr. phil.), University of Bremen, Germany
- Studies in Psychology, English and German (State Examination), University of Wuerzburg, Germany
- Authorization to practice psychotherapy (Germany), 2020, Gesundheitsamt Bad Soden
- Certified Systemic Coach, 2017, University of Wiesbaden
- Senior Coach (DBVC & IOBC)
- ICF ACC (International Coaching Federation)