

# WIA-Europe: Bremen X Cologne RN

*Inspiring Visit to ESA's European Astronaut Centre (EAC) /DLR*

16.05.2025



From the moment we stepped inside, we were immersed in the world of human spaceflight. We learned about the rigorous training astronauts undergo to prepare for missions aboard the International Space Station and future lunar exploration. Walking through the training facilities—including life-size modules simulating the ISS Columbus—gave us a firsthand look at the complexity and precision of astronaut preparation.

We had the incredible opportunity to engage with ESA professionals, including engineers and trainers, who generously shared insights into their work and career paths. Their passion and dedication were truly contagious. Seeing where astronauts like Samantha Cristoforetti and Thomas Pesquet train brought the reality of space exploration closer than ever before.

We were offered a fascinating glimpse into the core of European space operations MUSC – where teams operate scientific experiments aboard the International Space Station (ISS) and support ambitious missions like MASCOT, the lander that explored asteroid Ryugu – and ECOS Eurocom, where European astronauts are supported during their missions.

One of the highlights was the visit to LUNA, a state-of-the-art lunar analogue facility designed to simulate the Moon's surface. Here, astronauts will train for upcoming missions under conditions that closely resemble the lunar environment, including operations with lunar rovers, habitats, and advanced robotics. One key takeaway from the visit was how deeply interdisciplinary the space sector is—engineering, biology, medicine, robotics, and more all converge in this exciting field. It was both eye-opening and motivating to realize how many avenues there are to contribute to the future of space missions.

*Aim high, train for the Moon and beyond!*



Bremen



Cologne