



Austrian Presidency
of the EU Strategy
for the Danube Region

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
European and International
Affairs

wiiw Spring Seminar 2024

Danube Region in Transition Mode, Again

in cooperation with the
Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) and the
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA)
on the occasion of the Austrian Presidency of the
EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

13. May 2024

Venue: OeNB Kassensaal,
Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Otto-Wagner-Platz 3, 1090 Vienna, Austria

Programme

08:30 – 09:00 Registration and Coffee

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome Addresses**

Thomas Steiner, Executive Director, Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Nikolaus Marschik, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry
for European and International Affairs, Vienna

Hannes Swoboda, President, wiiw

Robert Stehrer, Scientific Director, wiiw

09:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Address: Geopolitical Challenges for the Danube Region**

Dumitru Alaiba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic
Development and Digitalisation of the Republic of Moldova

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:15 **Panel discussion: The future of European integration in the Danube
Region – 20 years after the first Eastern enlargement of the EU**

moderated by **Harald Stranzl**, Ambassador, National Coordinator EU
Danube and Alpine Strategies, Head of Foreign Trade Department at BMEIA

Sebastian Schäffer, Director, Institute for the Danube Region and Central
Europe (IDM), Vienna

Corina Stratulat, Head of European Institutions Programme, European Policy Centre (EPC), Brussels

Alida Vračić, Executive Director, Think Tank Popolari, Sarajevo

Clotilde Warin, Advisor at the Center of Analysis, Planning and Strategy, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

12:15 – 12:45 **Presentation of wiiw forecasts for Central, East and Southeast Europe**

Richard Grieveson, Deputy Director, wiiw

12:45 – 13:45 Buffet luncheon

13:45 – 14:45 **Keynote Address: The European Green Deal and the EU Enlargement**

Heather Grabbe, Senior Fellow, Bruegel, Brussels

14:45 – 16:00 **Panel discussion: How to tackle the energy transition in the Danube Region?**

Moderator: **Birgit Niessner**, Director, OeNB Economic Analysis and Research Department, Vienna

Monika Figaj, Climate and just transition expert, Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna

Aleksandar Kovacevic, Senior Visiting Research Fellow, The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Florian Maringer, Board Member Strategy & Analysis, KONTEXT institute, Vienna

Vladimír Vaňo, Chief Economist, GLOBSEC, Bratislava

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:15 **Presentation and discussion of the Danube Region Monitor “People & Skills” – Skills challenges in the Danube Region**

Moderator: **Robert Stehrer**, Scientific Director, wiiw

Presenter: **Maryna Tverdostup**, Economist, wiiw, Vienna

Discussants: **Roland Hanak**, Head of Staff Position, Bilateral Cooperation in Labour Market Policy, Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy, Vienna

Jürgen Schick, Deputy Head of Department, EU Cooperation in Education & Training and Multilateral Affairs, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Vienna

17:15 End of seminar

18:00 **Dinner at a traditional Viennese wine tavern, the Zwölf-Apostelkeller**

Address: Sonnenfelsgasse 3, 1010 Vienna, Austria

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