

12th International Stakeholder Conference
of Priority Area 9 “People and Skills”
of the European Union Strategy
for the Danube Region

FAIR, GREEN AND
DIGITAL TRANSITION IN EDUCATION
AND LABOUR MARKET POLICIES IN
THE DANUBE REGION

23 May 2024
Vienna, Austria

Date: Thursday, May 23rd 2024, 9:00-17:00 CET

Venue: Flemings Hotel Wien-Stadthalle, Vienna, Austria

[Neubaugürtel 26-28, 1070 Vienna, Austria](#)

Registration: [Link](#)

CONCEPT

International conference on challenges and opportunities of a fair, green and digital transition on the labour market and in the field of education in the Danube Region. The conference will be held on site in English and no interpretation will be provided. Participants are invited to bring along questions, ideas, and initiatives. The conference is hosted by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy and the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria in the framework of the 2024 Austrian Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Advancing Fair, Green, and Digital Transition in the Danube Region: Prioritizing People and Skills

The labour market and education systems in the Danube Region are undergoing profound transformations, shaped by four key factors on which the conference is going to focus:

- The **Green Transition** is fundamentally reshaping both education systems and the labour market. Developing green skills is essential for filling Green Jobs, which are pivotal for fostering a climate-neutral and sustainable Danube Region.
- **Digital technologies**, particularly artificial intelligence, are revolutionizing how we work and learn. Adapting to ongoing digitalisation demands acquiring new skills to navigate its challenges and seize its opportunities effectively.
- In this dynamic landscape, ensuring **inclusivity** is paramount. Given the significant economic and social disparities in the Danube Region, the success of its digital and green transitions hinges on their **fairness**. Priority should be given to integrating vulnerable groups in the Danube Region.
- Moreover, it is imperative to involve the voices of the **youth** in shaping the future of a fair, green, and digital Danube Region.

Within the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Priority Area 9 "People and Skills" serves as a pivotal platform focusing on labour market dynamics and education policies. This emphasis provides a suitable foundation for addressing the aforementioned challenges and formulating initiatives, projects, and policies accordingly. Furthermore, it effectively contextualizes pan-European strategies and initiatives such as the European Green Deal, the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the European Skills Agenda within a regional framework. The EUSDR plays a crucial role in creating a level playing field for both European Union Member States and candidate countries, thereby fostering a more inclusive and cohesive Europe. Given the geopolitical tensions at the edges of the Danube Region, notably Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, concerted efforts in labour and education policies are imperative. Notably, Priority Area 9 "People and Skills" is jointly coordinated by Austria, Ukraine, and the Republic of Moldova, underscoring its innovative nature as a platform for cooperation with emerging candidate countries.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday, 23 May 2024

Moderator: Nina Kraft

09.00 **Setting up and Checking in**

09.30 **Official Opening of the Conference**

- Martin Kocher, Federal Minister of Labour and Economy, Austria
- Doris Wagner, Director General, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria
- Alexei Buzu, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova
- Yuliia Svrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, Ukraine (tbc)
- Representative of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ukraine

10.15 **Keynote Speeches**

- Navigating the Digital Skills Divide: Labour Market and Education Transition in the Danube Region
Maryna Tverdostup, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)
- Green Skills
Marie-Sophie Attems, Competence Center for Sustainability Transformation and Responsibility, Vienna University of Economics and Business

11.15 **Coffee break**

11.45 **Panel Discussion**

Challenges and Opportunities of the Green, Digital and Fair Transition in the Danube Region and beyond

- Egbert Holthuis, Deputy Director – Jobs and Skills and Head of Unit – Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- Klaus Körner, Country Analyst, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission (tbc)
- Tina Šarić, Director, Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)
- Ivana Šučur, Acting Director General of the Directorate-General for European Integration and International Cooperation, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Montenegro
- Doris Wagner, Director General, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria

12.45 **Lunch break**

14.15 **Introduction to the Working Groups**

14.30

Working Groups

Working Group – Green Skills

- Green Transition
Gordon Purvis, European Training Foundation (ETF)
- Green Skills in the Austrian VET System
Wolfgang Pachatz, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria

Project Presentations:

- Öko-Booster Project
Christian Nowak, BFI Vienna
- EINFälle statt Abfälle
Kristijan Rehsmann, 4everyoung

Working Group – Digital Skills

- Digitalisation of the Labour Market
Anna Nowshad, Deloitte

Project Presentations:

- DigiMe – Digital and Media Competences for Pupils and Teachers
Hannah Diernhofer, European Office of the Board of Education for Vienna
- DigiPro
Robert Hauss, Institute of Technology Vienna (TGM)
- Digital Learning Centers in the Ukraine
Olha Dubovyk, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (tbc)

Working Group – Vulnerable Groups and a Fair Transition

- Barriers for Roma in Accessing Education and Labour Market
Andrey Ivanov, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Project Presentations:

- I-VET – Inclusive Vocational Education and Training in the Republic of Moldova
Sabine Albert, University College of Teacher Education Vienna
- NEVO DROM (Career and Education Prospects for Roma and Rom*nja) & EmpoR (EmpowerRom'nja - Equal Opportunities through Qualification)
Jelena Zlojutro, Adult Education Centres Vienna (VHS)
- MEET - Mental Well-being in Education for Disadvantaged Youth
Barbara Glinsner, Center for Social Innovation (ZSI)

Working Group – Green and Digitally Skilled Youth Accessing the Labour Market (hosted by EUSDR Danube Youth Council)

- *Matúš Mihaľko, Danube Youth Council*
- *Viktorija Čosić, Danube Youth Council*
- *Irina Apostol, Danube Youth Council*

16.15 **Reports from the Working Groups**

16.35 **Conclusions & Outlook**

Priority Area Coordinators

Anna Gherganova, Republic of Moldova

Viktoriia Karbysheva, Ukraine

Jürgen Schick, Austria

Roland Hanak, Austria

16.45 **End of the Conference**