

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

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

Venue: Flemings Hotel Wien-Stadthalle, Vienna, Austria

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

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.

Interreg Programme
Danube Region



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Thursday, 23 May 2024

- 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
 - Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, Ukraine (tbc)
 - Representative of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ukraine
 - Alexei Buzu, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova
- 10.15** **Keynote speeches**
- Maryna Tverdostup, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)
- Questions*
- Marie-Sophie Attems, Competence Center for Sustainability Transformation and Responsibility, Vienna University of Economics and Business
- Questions*
- 11.15** **Coffee break**
- 11.45** **Panel discussion**
- “Challenges and opportunities of the green, digital and fair transition in the Danube Region and beyond”*
- Stefaan Hermans, Director Policy, Strategy and Evaluation, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission (tbc)
 - 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
 - Tina Šarić, Director, Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)
 - Doris Wagner, Director General, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria
 - Ivana Šučur, Acting Director General of the Directorate-General for European Integration and International Cooperation, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Montenegro
- Questions*
- 12.45** **Lunch break**

14.15 Introduction to the Working Groups

14.30 Working Groups / Coffee

Working Group 1

Green Skills

Working Group 2

Digital Skills

Working Group 3

Vulnerable Groups and a Fair
Transition

**Working Group 4 (hosted by
Danube Youth Council)**

Green and digitally skilled youth
accessing the labour market

16.15 Reports from the Working Groups

16.35 Conclusions & Outlook

Priority Area Coordinators

16.45 End of the conference