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WE GROW
Empowered for a
TOGETHER
prosperous and inclusive
TOGETHER
Danube Region
WE GROW

26 & 27 June 2014 | Vienna City Hall, Austria
3rd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region



PREFACE

In the **DANUBE REGION**, the opportunities for joint development and intensified co-operation are wide-ranging: be it more energy security through better networks, improved water quality or enhanced competitiveness through technology transfer. The EU Strategy for the Danube Region makes a better Europe a reality, in a region still marked by varying degrees of political and economic integration. We must now make sure that initiatives and projects are sustainable with clear funding through to 2020.

The **2014 ANNUAL FORUM** is the main event of the year for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Political, civil society and business representatives from the 14 Danube countries will discuss and decide how best to drive the region forward – under the frame “We grow together – Together we grow”.

WE GROW TOGETHER represents the EU goals of economic, territorial and social cohesion. This is particularly relevant for the sustainable development of the Danube area.

TOGETHER WE GROW recalls that the process is for the benefit of everybody involved. Inclusive development contributes to peace and well-being, and co-operation will itself contribute to the growth and international competitiveness of the Danube Region.

The **3RD ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EUSDR** is a big opportunity to meet, discuss and decide the future of the Danube Region. It is about perspectives for our citizens. We look forward to meeting you in Vienna.



Johannes Hahn
Member of the European
Commission



Sebastian Kurz
Federal Minister for Europe,
Integration and Foreign
Affairs, Austria



Michael Häupl
Mayor and Governor
of Vienna

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WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW

ONE THEME – THREE PERSPECTIVES

INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AS A FOCUS AND PREREQUISITE OF PROSPERITY

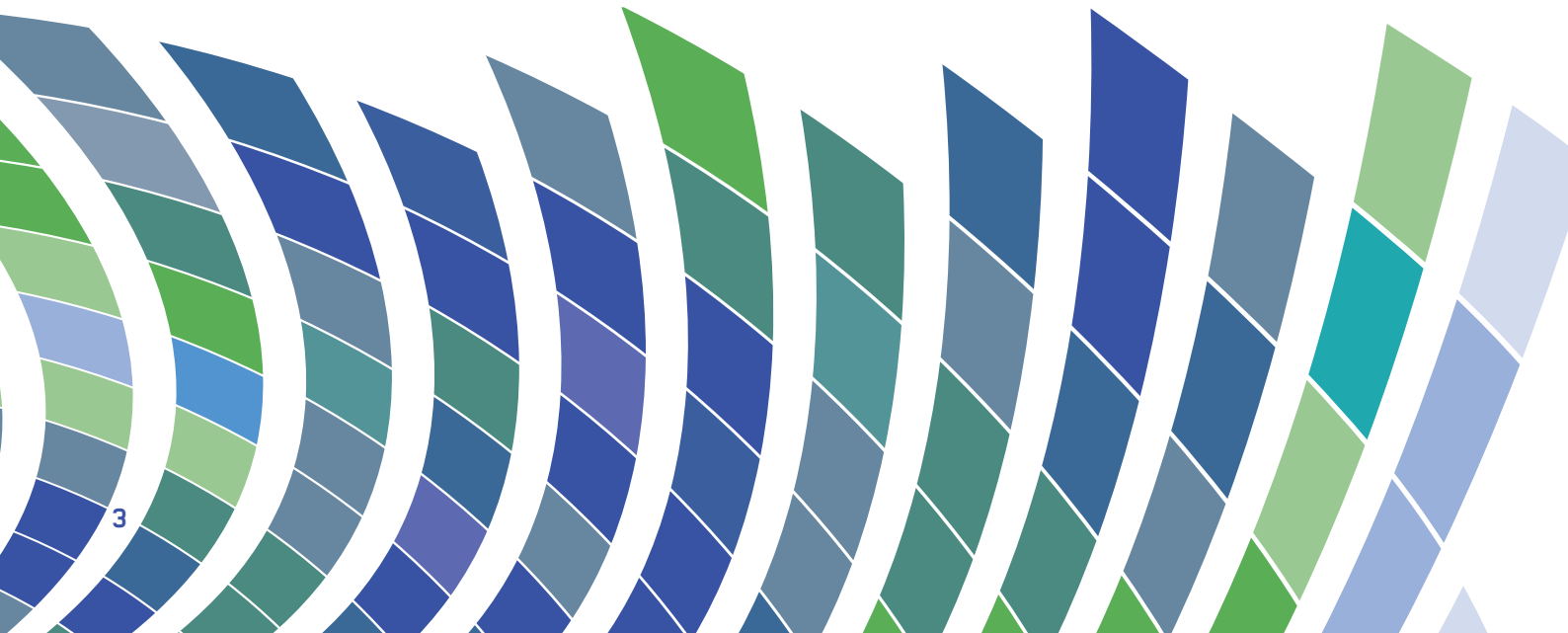
The financial and economic crisis has had a disproportionately negative effect on many countries in the Danube Region. Against this backdrop, the EUSDR can become a catalyst for accelerated recovery, growth and employment by contributing towards deeper economic integration and cohesion in the Danube Region. However, in order to achieve dynamism and prosperity, the aspects of inclusiveness, competitiveness and ecological sustainability must be understood as being of equal importance for balanced development. By adding emphasis to the social dimension and the creation of jobs, the conference establishes a strong thematic link with the objectives of Europe 2020, i.e. sustainable growth, employment, education and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER EUROPEAN POLICIES FOR AN INTEGRATED AND COMPETITIVE DANUBE REGION

Inclusive, sustainable growth will result from policies that are conceived and delivered in partnership of government, business and civil society – be it equality strategies to combat social exclusion, investment in education and employment opportunities or high-value services of general interest. Finding innovative solutions at the interface of different policy areas (such as labour market, innovation and entrepreneurship policies, social and educational policies, etc.) and strengthening the capacities of actors and institutions are key to successfully addressing major challenges in the Danube region. Representing the successful interplay of sub-state, national and European policy levels, the instruments and priorities of the EU Structural and Investment Funds can contribute much to this agenda and the implementation of the EUSDR.

GOVERNANCE AS A CRITERION OF SUCCESS FOR THE EUSDR

On a macro-regional level, a “smart” and inclusive governance model promises reinforced dynamic and shared ownership in the process of implementing the Danube Region Strategy. In spring 2014, the European Commission will conduct a discussion process regarding the governance structures for European macro-regions that is to result in a Communication to the European institutions. Thus the Vienna Annual Forum 2014 offers a timely occasion to address questions of EUSDR governance itself: Who is to assume political leadership for the Strategy? How and who is leading the overall and day-to-day implementation of the Strategy? Who shall be the voice of the EUSDR vis-à-vis external parties? What is needed to ensure that the people in the Danube Region will be mobilised, activated and motivated to become partners in support of the Strategy and the implementation of its goals?



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

DAY 1 THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 2014

-
- 12:00 Start of registration
-
- 12:30 Networking lunch
-
- 14:00** Conference opening
WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW
-
- 14:40** Plenary session 1
danube potentials MIND THE GAP
-
- 16:00 Coffee break
-
- 16:30** Plenary session 2
danube challenges INVEST IN PEOPLE
-
- 18:00 End of conference day 1
-
- 19:30** Gala dinner
danube influences TASTE VIENNA
-

DAY 2 FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2014

-
- 09:00** Plenary session 3
danube cosmos INSPIRED BY DIVERSITY
-
- 09:30** Parallel activities
danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 1)
-
- 10:30 Coffee break
-
- 11:00** Parallel activities
danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 2)
-
- 12:00** Parallel activities
danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 3)
-
- 13:00 Business lunch
-
- 14:30** Plenary session 4
danube prospects FACILITATE NEW GOVERNANCE
-
- 16:00** Closing session
CLOSING REMARKS AND OUTLOOK ON ANNUAL FORUM 2015
-
- 16:30 End of Annual Forum
-

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PROGRAMME DETAILS

DAY 1 THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 2014

12:00 Start of registration

12:30 Networking lunch

14:00 Conference opening

WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW

Welcome & introduction by conference moderator

- **Greg Clark**, city and regional development advisor, London

Opening speeches

- **Michael Häupl**, Mayor and Governor of Vienna
- **Walter Deffaa**, European Commission, Director General for Regional and Urban Policy
- **Titus Corlăţean**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Romania, Annual Forum host 2013
- **Sebastian Kurz**, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria

14:40 Plenary session 1

danube potentials MIND THE GAP

How to achieve accelerated recovery and deeper integration among the Danube countries? How can growth and higher employment levels contribute to cohesion and shared prosperity? Which policies and institutional capacities are needed to foster smart specialisation and economic success? – The 'state of the Danube region', between convergence and disparities, taking into account the challenges of competitiveness, social inclusion and good governance, is at the centre of this plenary session.

Keynote & comments

- **Michael Landesmann**, Director of Research, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)
- **Bernhard Boockmann**, Scientific Director, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IAW), Tübingen
- **Georg Licht**, Head of the Research Department of Industrial Economics and International Management, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim

Panel reflection and debate

- **Vladimír Šucha**, Director-General, European Commission, Joint Research Centre
- **Goran Svilanović**, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council RCC, Sarajevo
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

16:00 Coffee break

PROGRAMME DETAILS

16:30 Plenary session 2

danube challenges INVEST IN PEOPLE

From education and training to supporting innovation and creativity, from preventing early school leaving to active labour market strategies: competitiveness, inclusion and sustainable development result from balanced policies that take the often extensive know-how of local, regional and other stakeholders into account. In particular, this session assesses how employment opportunities can be created for young people and how labour mobility and the related brain-circulation can be shaped to the advantage of all involved.

Opening statement

- **Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek**, Federal Minister of Education and Women's Affairs, Austria

Keynote

- **Mike Campbell**, Principal Associate Fellow, Institute for Employment Studies, UK

Panel reflection and debate

- **Zoltán Kazatsay**, Deputy Director-General, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- **Remus Pricopie**, Minister of National Education, Romania
- **Madlen Serban**, Director, European Training Foundation
- **Christian Weinberger**, Senior Advisor, European Commission, Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry

18:00 End of conference day 1

19:30 Gala dinner

danube influences TASTE VIENNA

DAY 2 FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2014

09:00 Plenary session 3

danube cosmos INSPIRED BY DIVERSITY

Get involved with the Danube community and meet the abundance of Danube themes, projects and initiatives! Pick from the wide choice of actions and arrange your individual morning programme: discuss in workshops, learn from good practices and experiences at speakers' corners, meet new partners and ideas in matchmaking areas, get first-hand information in coaching zones and browse the Danube exhibition.

Impulse

- **Mercedes Echerer**, actress, writer, former MEP

Introducing the activities of the Danube Cosmos

- **Johannes Lutter**, europaforum wien – Centre for Urban Dialogue and European Policy
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PROGRAMME DETAILS

For details on the thematic focus and speakers of the parallel sessions please check out the conference website:

www.danubeforumvienna.eu

09:30 danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 1)

Parallel sessions on the thematic pillars of the EU Danube Strategy

Connecting the Region

- Towards a Low Carbon Economy in the Danube Region
[Workshop](#)
- Destination Danube – Tourism Development Model
[Workshop](#)

Protecting the Environment

- Active for a Safer Danube: Accident Prevention, Flood and Drought Management under Changing Climatic Conditions
[Workshop](#)
- 20 Years of ICPDR: Active for a Living Danube
[Speakers' Corner](#)
- Environmental Technology Network Danube Region: Promoting Environmental Technologies, Bringing Partners together, Creating Centers of Praxis in the Danube Region
[Matchmaking \(starting at 10.00!\)](#)

Building Prosperity

- Sustainability of the Danube Region as a Multidisciplinary Issue in Research and Education
[Workshop](#)
- SIRA DANUBE – Establishing Competences for Smart and Innovative Rural Areas in the Danube Region
[Speakers' Corner](#)
- Investing in Inclusive and Innovative Education and Training for Better Socioeconomic Outcomes
[Workshop](#)
- Vocational Training and EU Funding Opportunities
[Coaching Zone](#)
- i.e. SMART – The SMART Innovation Network for New Generation Enterprises: How to implement a transnational training network to promote entrepreneurial education, skills, and competences
[Presentation and Exhibition](#)
- CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies
[Presentation and Exhibition](#)
- Enhancing Interregional Competences – Experiences and Good Practices from Lower Austria
[Matchmaking](#)

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Strengthening the Region

- The Urban Agenda in the Danube Region – Growing Together on the Urban Platform
Workshop
- Creation of an eGovernance Platform for Digital Economy Development
Presentation and Exhibition
- Danube Excellence – Security and Safety of Critical Infrastructure, the Transformation of Regional Best Practices into a Joint Transborder University
Workshop
- European Territorial Co-operation Projects – From Project Idea to Application
Workshop
- Geographical Information: A Key to Integrating, Managing, Analysing and Presenting Data in the Catchment Area
Presentation and Exhibition

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 2)

Parallel sessions on the thematic pillars of the EU Danube Strategy

Connecting the Region

- Industry Meets Policy – Inland Waterway Navigation Event
Workshop
- Project GREEN PARTNERSHIPS for Sustainable Energy Efficiency in Mediterranean Regions
Presentation and Exhibition
- DanubeHIKE – Cross-country Hiking Tourism Along the Danube
Matchmaking

Protecting the Environment

- Synergy of the Danube Strategy with the Policy of the European Union
Workshop
- Eco-economy and the Danube Region: Tradition, Nature, Innovation
Presentation and Exhibition
- Flood Action Plan: A Comprehensive Action Plan for Flood Forecasting, Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation for the Danube Region
Workshop

Building Prosperity

- Challenges and Approaches in Multi-source Funding of Cross-border R&I Projects with a Specific Focus on the Danube Region
Workshop
- Scientific Research – Innovation – Clusters: The New Highway for Reindustrialisation of the EU
Presentation and Exhibition
- Technology Transfer and Regional Competitiveness – Pilot Initiatives in the Danube Region

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Speakers' Corner

- Smart Business Association and Platform - the Danube Chambers of Commerce Association and the Smart SME Platform Danube Region

Speakers' Corner

- Investing in Inclusive and Innovative Education and Training for Better Socioeconomic Outcomes (part 2)

Workshop

- Empowerment for an Inclusive Labour Market

Workshop

- Stepping up Institutional Capacity for Roma Inclusion in the Danube Region

Workshop

Stengthening the Region

- The Danube Civil Society Organisations: Stakeholders of the Danube Strategy

Workshop

- Social Partnership for the Future: Fostering the Co-operation of Relevant Stakeholders in the Labour Market

Presentation and Exhibition

- Transnational Co-operation in the Danube Region and Beyond: Funding Opportunities of the New CENTRAL EUROPE and DANUBE Programmes

Coaching Zone

The Danube Exhibition will present initiatives and projects, networks and institutions from the Danube area. For details please visit the conference website:

www.danubeforumvienna.eu

PROGRAMME DETAILS

For details on the thematic focus and speakers of the parallel sessions please check out the conference website:

www.danubeforumvienna.eu

12:00

danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 3)

Parallel sessions on the thematic pillars of the EU Danube Strategy

Connecting the Region

- Industry Meets Policy – Inland Waterway Navigation Event (part 2)
[Workshop](#)
- Culture and Tourism – the Danube Encounter
[Workshop](#)
- ARGE Donau Österreich – Presentation of Tourism-related Activities Along the Danube
[Presentation and Exhibition](#)

Protecting the Environment

- Crossing Borders, Crossing Sectors: Sustainable Navigation on a Healthy River
[Workshop](#)
- Interoperability among Emergency Response Authorities with the Purpose of Risk Consequence Mitigation – the SEERISK and MASPREM Projects
[Speakers' Corner](#)

Building Prosperity

- DREAM, Danubius, Urban Europe – An Insight from Practice in Planning, Managing and Financing Multi-source Cross-border R&I Activities
[Speakers' Corner](#)
- Research Talent Along the Danube – How the River Can Inspire Scientific Careers
[Presentation and Exhibition](#)
- Developing a Bio-based Economy – Contributions and Needs of the Danube Region
[Speakers' Corner](#)
- How Trade Fairs of the Central European Fair Alliance Network Can Boost the EUSDR and: DanuClus – Progress and Future of the Danube Cluster Networks
[Speakers' Corner](#)
- Labour Mobility in Central and South-East Europe – Challenges and Opportunities
[Workshop](#)
- Empowering Young People – Connecting Europe: Development and Implementation of Innovative Student-led Regional School Projects on “Shaping Life” in the Danube Region
[Speakers' Corner](#)
- Lifeguides & Learning Journeys
[Presentation and Exhibition](#)
- Common Sustainable Economic Activities – Under the Umbrella of “Working Community of the Danube Regions”
[Presentation and Exhibition](#)

Strengthening the Region

- Building Institutional Capacities in the Danube Region in Practice – Presentation of Integrated Project Approaches & Exchange of Experiences
[Workshop](#)
- Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
[Workshop](#)
- How to Create and Prepare Feasible Projects? Financing Options and Technical Assistance under Relevant Operational Programmes and Bank Sources
[Coaching Zone](#)

PROGRAMME DETAILS

13:00 Business lunch

14:30 Plenary session 4

danube prospects FACILITATE NEW GOVERNANCE

The more stakeholders become mobilised in all priority areas, the more business will be able to make use of opportunities, and the more citizens and civil society are involved in its implementation, the more relevant the EUSDR will be for the development of the Danube Region. Three years after its adoption, this session will look at the way forward and at the governance, partnership and funding issues underlying the success of the EU macro-regional strategy.

Governance concepts for the implementation of macro-regional strategies

- **Johannes Hahn**, Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional and Urban Policy

Outcome of the Vienna Ministerial Meeting of 26 June 2014

The Vienna Declaration for Governance of the Danube Region

- **Peter Friedrich**, Minister for European and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

Panel debate on the Danube Region and the way forward

- **Erhard Busek**, Coordinator of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
- **Peter Friedrich**, Minister for European and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- **Tanja Mišćević**, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of Serbia to the EU
- **Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia-Herzegovina; ICPDR Chair 2013
- **Michael Theurer**, Member of the European Parliament

16:00 Closing session

CLOSING REMARKS AND OUTLOOK ON ANNUAL FORUM 2015

Outlook: The EUSDR Annual Forum 2015

- **Peter Friedrich**, Minister for European and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

Conference closing by hosts

- **Johannes Hahn**, Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional and Urban Policy
- **Rudolf Hundstorfer**, Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria
- **Michael Ludwig**, Executive City Councillor for Housing, Housing Construction and Urban Renewal of Vienna

16:30 End of Annual Forum

REGISTRATION, VENUE AND TRAVEL

CONGRESS REGISTRATION

Participation in the Annual Forum is free of charge. For your registration please use the electronic form on <http://www.danubeforumvienna.eu>.

Registration deadline: 13 June 2014

CONGRESS LANGUAGES English and German (simultaneous translation)

CONGRESS LOCATION All sessions of the Annual Forum as well as the evening reception will take place at the Vienna City Hall. **Please use the entrances **Felderstraße 1** or **Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 1**.** For the venues of additional related events please see the section “Related Events” below.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The City Hall can easily be reached by public transport (Underground line U2, “Rathaus” station). You can buy your tickets in each station or book them online:

<https://shop.wienerlinien.at/index.php/>

AIR TRAVEL

Austrian Airlines acts as official carrier for the event and offers a discount of 15% on all applicable fares if you book your flights online at <http://www.austrian.com>. To do so, simply enter the code DFV14 in the eVoucher field on the Austrian homepage booking engine.

Conditions

- Booking period: now until June 27th, 2014
- Valid for flights to Vienna and return as of June 19th, 2014 until July 4th, 2014 (final date for return flight) on OS operated flights.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

There are several options for travel to and from the airport: metropolitan train (“S-Bahn” S7), City Airport Train (“CAT”), public shuttle bus, or taxi. For detailed information please see <http://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/to-and-around/airport-to-center>.

ACCOMMODATION

For useful information regarding hotel reservations, please go to the website of the Vienna Tourist Board: <http://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/hotels-accommodations>

ENTRY FORMALITIES – VISA

If you are unsure whether you need an entry permit (visa) for travelling to Austria, please consult the information page of the Austrian Foreign Ministry:

<http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/consulate-general-new-york/practical-advice/visa-and-residence-permit/>

RELATED EVENTS

24–25 June 2014

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON THE SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO THE DANUBE STRATEGY

One year after the launch of four scientific flagship clusters by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, the event will take stock of the first activities undertaken in the frame of the scientific clusters, to present first results and decide on further actions. During the meeting it will be discussed how JRC can facilitate cooperation and help to overcome challenges in the implementation of the macro-regional strategy.

Venue: Aula der Wissenschaften, Vienna

Further information: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/conference/scientific-support-danube-strategy-june-2014>

Venue: Aula der Wissenschaften, Vienna

Contact: Moritz Haller, moritz.haller@ec.europa.eu

Please note that participation to the technical workshops (24–25 June) is upon invitation only.

To register to the high-level event on 25 June (11:30-18:00) please fill in the registration form: <http://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/registration>

25 June 2014

11.30–18.00

PARTICIPATION DAY: LOCAL ACTORS AND PARTICIPATION

The Conference, merging stakeholder meetings of the priority areas 9 and 10 of the Danube Strategy with the closing conference of the Danube River Show project, will enable international civil society and local actors from the 14 countries of the Danube Region to meet, exchange views and perceptions, and conduct in-depth discussions with EU and national decision-makers.

Venue: Esterházy Palace, Eisenstadt

Contact: Stefan August Lütgenau, luetgenau@foster-europe.org

Public event – open to all

25 June (9.30) –

26 June 2014

(13.00)

THEMATIC SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS: LEARNING, TEACHING, EXCHANGING – SCHOOL COOPERATIONS IN THE DANUBE REGION

The seminar organized by the National Agency for Lifelong Learning, the Austrian National eTwinning Support Service and PAC 9 focuses on teacher cooperation in the Danube region. The participants will have the possibility to learn more about the Danube Region and its challenges in the 21st century and to create future partnerships.

Venue: Vienna

Contact: Martin Gradl, etwinning@oead.at

Teachers interested in participating have to contact the eTwinning National Support Services of their home countries first. For a contact list please see http://www.etwinning.net/de/pub/get_support/contact.htm

26 June 2014

10.00–12.00

(registration starting at 9.30)

COUNCIL OF DANUBE CITIES AND REGIONS (CoDCR) – EXTENDED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE

The meeting shall bring together mayors and representatives of cities and regions in the Danube countries to discuss further cooperation and upcoming projects in the frame of the "Urban Platform Danube Region".

Further information: <http://www.danubecities.eu>

Venue: Vienna City Hall, "Wappensaal"

Contact: Peter Langer, p.langer@ulm.de

Public event – open to all

RELATED EVENTS

26 June 2014

16.00–18.00

MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE DANUBE REGION

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries in the Danube area will meet with the objective of consulting and conveying political messages regarding the future governance of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Venue: Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria

Contact: Andrea Nasi, andrea.nasi@bmeia.gv.at

Attendance by invitation only

27 June 2014

08.30–10.00

INDUSTRY MEETS POLICY – HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE

The Dialogue, initiated and coordinated by Pro Danube, will unite high level representatives from the industry with political decision-makers in order to formulate concrete measures to improve the current infrastructure situation along the Danube.

Venue: Vienna City Hall, Consultation Room of the City Council

Contact: Manfred Seitz, seitz@prodanubeaustria.at

Irina Cruceru, irina.cruceru@ec.europa.eu

Attendance by invitation only

29 June 2014

DANUBE DAY

On the 29 June of each year, the 14 countries of the Danube Basin jointly celebrate one of Europe's greatest river systems and the people and wildlife that rely on it.

Further information: <http://www.danubeday.org>

Contact: Benedikt Mandl, benedikt.mandl@unvienna.org

Series of public events – open to all

1/2 July 2014

CENTRAL EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The conference will introduce future funding priorities and possibilities in CENTRAL EUROPE and discuss these with key decision makers from the regional, national, and European levels.

Further information: <http://www.central2013.eu>

Venue: Vienna City Hall

Contact: Dana Kaščaková, info@central2013.eu

Public event – open to all

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS



The 3rd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region is organised by the European Commission together with the Republic of Austria and the City of Vienna

European Commission

Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

http://www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy



Republic of Austria

Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

<http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/foreign-ministry/startpage.html>



City of Vienna

Executive Group for European and International Affairs

<http://www.wien.gv.at/english/politics/international/>

SPONSORS



Austrian Airlines acts as official carrier for the event.

<http://www.austrian.com>



Hafen Wien – the port of Vienna

<http://www.hafen-wien.com>



UniCredit Bank Austria AG

<http://www.bankaustria.at>

CONCEPT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE 3RD ANNUAL FORUM



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CONFERENCE WEBSITE

<http://www.danubeforumvienna.eu>

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Website of the Danube Region Strategy: <http://www.danube-region.eu>

Information page of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/danube/index_en.cfm