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

www.danubeforumvienna.eu
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

www.danubeforumvienna.eu
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Start of registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Networking lunch</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Conference opening</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW</strong></td>
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<td>14:40</td>
<td>Plenary session 1</td>
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<td><strong>danube potentials MIND THE GAP</strong></td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>16:30</td>
<td>Plenary session 2</td>
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<td><strong>danube challenges INVEST IN PEOPLE</strong></td>
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<td>18:00</td>
<td>End of conference day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Gala dinner</td>
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<td><strong>danube influences TASTE VIENNA</strong></td>
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### DAY 2  
**FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2014**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Plenary session 3</td>
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<td><strong>danube cosmos INSPIRED BY DIVERSITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Parallel activities</td>
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<td><strong>danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 1)</strong></td>
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<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
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<td><strong>danube cosmos READY FOR ACTION (slot 3)</strong></td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Business lunch</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Plenary session 4</td>
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<td><strong>danube prospects FACILITATE NEW GOVERNANCE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>Closing session</td>
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<td><strong>AWARD &amp; ANNUAL FORUM 2015</strong></td>
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<td>16:30</td>
<td>End of Annual Forum</td>
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[www.danubeforumvienna.eu](http://www.danubeforumvienna.eu)
# Programme Details

## Day 1  Thursday, 26 June 2014

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<td><strong>WE GROW TOGETHER – TOGETHER WE GROW</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Welcome &amp; introduction by conference moderator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Greg Clark, city and regional development advisor, London</td>
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<td>14:40</td>
<td>Plenary session 1</td>
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<td><strong>Danube Potentials MIND THE GAP</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Keynote &amp; comments</td>
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<td>- Michael Landesmann, Director of Research, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Bernhard Boockmann, Scientific Director, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IAW), Tübingen</td>
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<td>- Georg Licht, Head of the Research Department of Industrial Economics and International Management, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim</td>
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<td>Panel reflection and debate</td>
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<td>- László Baranyay, Vice-President, European Investment Bank</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Christian Ketels, Harvard Business School (to be confirmed)</td>
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<td>- Goran Svilanović, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council RCC, Sarajevo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Charlina Vitcheva, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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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 Affairs, Austria

Keynote

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

Panel reflection and debate

- Remus Pricopie, Minister of National Education, Romania (to be confirmed)
- Michel Servoz, Director-General, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (to be confirmed)
- Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, European Commission, Joint Research Centre (to be confirmed)

End of conference day 1

19:00 Gala dinner
danube influences TASTE VIENNA

DAY 2 FRIDAY, 27 JUNE 2014

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

Interviews introducing the activities of the Danube Cosmos with

- Johannes Lutter, Europaforum Wien – Centre for Urban Dialogue and European Policy
For details on the thematic focus and speakers of the parallel sessions please check out the conference website:

**PROGRAMME DETAILS**

**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

**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

**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
PROGRAMME DETAILS

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
  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
  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

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

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 EUSD 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
13:00 Business lunch

14:00 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.

Report from the European Commission

Governance concepts for the implementation of macro-regional strategies

- José Palma Andrés, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Report from the informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

The Vienna Declaration for Governance of the Danube Region

- Titus Corlățean, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Romania, Annual Forum host 2013

(to be confirmed)

Panel debate on the Danube Region and the way forward

- Erhard Busek, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe IDM, Vienna
- Danuta Hübner, Member of the European Parliament, Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development (to be confirmed)
- Tanja Miščević, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of Serbia to the EU
- Ermina Salkićević-Dizdarević, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia-Herzegovina; ICPDR Chair 2013

15:30 Closing session

AWARD & ANNUAL FORUM 2015

Danube Challenge award ceremony

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 for Social Affairs, Austria
- Michael Ludwig, Executive City Councillor for Housing, Housing Construction and Urban Renewal of Vienna

16:30 End of Annual Forum

www.danubeforumvienna.eu
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

24–26 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 Centre (JRC) 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
Contact: Moritz Haller, moritz.haller@ec.europa.eu
Attendance by invitation only

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
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
### MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE DANUBE REGION

**Date:** 26 June 2014  
**Time:** 16.00-18.00  
**Venue:** Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria  
**Contact:** Andrea Nasi, andrea.nasi@bmeia.gv.at  
**Attendance:** by invitation only

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.

### INDUSTRY MEETS POLICY – HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE

**Date:** 27 June 2014  
**Time:** 08.30-09.30  
**Venue:** Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Austria  
**Contact:** Manfred Seitz, seitz@prodanubeaustria.at  
Irina Cruceru, irina.cruceru@ec.europa.eu  
**Attendance:** by invitation only

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.

### DANUBE DAY

**Date:** 29 June 2014  
**Venue:** Vienna City Hall  
**Contact:** Benedikt Mandl, benedikt.mandl@unvienna.org  
Series of public events – open to all

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

### CENTRAL EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Date:** 1/2 July 2014  
**Venue:** Vienna City Hall  
**Contact:** Dana Kascakova, info@central2013.eu  
Public event – open to all

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
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

**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

CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT OF THE 3RD ANNUAL FORUM

europaforum wien – Center for Urban Dialogue and European Policy
Rahlgasse 3/2 | 1060 Wien
Tel. +43-1-5858510-0
office@europaforum.or.at
http://www.europaforum.or.at

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: