

Danube Conference 2022

Growing Together or Drifting Apart? Regional contributions to a continental struggle

Due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Danube and its various tributaries moved into the spotlight. The struggle of exporting grain because of Russia's naval blockade revived Danubian corridors. Even if the solution was temporary and limited, the case reminded Europe of the region's ability to share resources and work together in times of crisis.

Today, besides water ways, a variety of lifelines run through the Danube Region connecting economies, infrastructures, and people. They are facing not only a war and its effects, but also economic threats, weather extremes, and ongoing attacks on democracy. Will we be able to safeguard democracy when tackling all these insecurities at the same time? Will we manage to share our natural resources with each other in a sustainable way, or will rising conflicts drift us further apart? What about the European Union and its member states after all, will they be able to adapt to the speed of decision-making and keep promises to its neighbors?

Facing continental and global struggles, regional actors urgently need to engage as key players in finding alternative routes. Therefore, the upcoming Danube Conference 2022 invites experts from various countries and backgrounds to explore regional contributions to cross-border challenges. Professionals will present regional networks and activities and discuss where to set priorities. Will macro-regional approaches such as the European Strategy of the Danube Region (EUSDR) be among the pioneers of a Europe that flows together? Join the debate!

Date: 29. November 2022
Venue: Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Minoritenplatz 8, 1010 Vienna, Alois Mock Saal
Language: English
Organisers: Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM),
University for Continuing Education Krens (UWK)

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In co-operation with

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10.00 Welcome addresses

Dr. Thomas OBERREITER, Ambassador/Director General for Europe and Economic Affairs, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

Video message by Dr. Martin EICHTINGER, State Minister of Housing, Labour and International Relations in the Government of Lower Austria on behalf of Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria

Mag. Friedrich FAULHAMMER, Rector of the University for Continuing Education KREMS (UWK) and Chairman of the IDM

10.30 Panel 1

FROM PRISONERS OF GEOGRAPHY TO KEY PLAYERS OF EUROPE'S FUTURE?

Macro-regional perspectives on the geopolitical dimension of the Danube Region

Nadija AFANASIEVA, MA, Director of the Ukrainian Institute for International Politics (UIIP), Kyiv

Michal BLAŠKO, Ambassador/National Coordinator EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, Slovakia

Dr. Harald STRANZL, Ambassador/National Coordinator EUSDR, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

Mag.^a Teresa STUMMER, Department for International and European Affairs, Federal State of Lower Austria, Working Community of the Danube Regions/ARGE Donauländer

Moderation: Mag. Sebastian SCHÄFFER, MA, Managing Director, IDM

12.00 Lunch break

12:45 Dance performance by Solomon Osayi Osazuva and Elsa Ingeborg Prinz "Der Schwan" / "Corsaire", choreography by Mihail Sosnovski

13.00 Panel 2

CUTTING THROUGH ROCK

How to foster cross-border cooperation along the Danube in times of emergencies

PD Dr.ⁱⁿ phil. Gertrud HAIDVOGL, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna

H. E. Artur LORKOWSKI, MA, Director, Energy Community, Vienna

Dr.ⁱⁿ Sarah MEYER, Principle investigator for the project REGIOPARL, UWK, Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy, KREMS

Olga PINDYUK, MA, Economist at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)

Moderation: Dr.ⁱⁿ Daniela APAYDIN, Research Associate, IDM

14.30 Closing remarks

by Sebastian SCHÄFFER and Daniela APAYDIN (IDM)

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