

Invitation

1st Danube Financing Dialogue

Financing projects of Small and Medium Enterprises
in the Danube Region

22nd and 23rd March 2012



1st Danube Financing Dialogue

1st day | 22nd March 2012 | 13:00 - 17:45 | Dinner at 19:30

2nd day | 23rd March 2012 | 09:30 - 13:00 |

1st Danube Financing Dialogue

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a macro-regional strategy covering all countries along the Danube from the Black Forest in Germany to the Black Sea. The Strategy is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the Danube Region countries. Its main objective is to address common challenges and coordinate existing policies and programmes to reinforce integration in the Region.

The EUSDR has defined 11 so-called Priority Areas. Austria, represented by the City of Vienna, and Slovenia have been put in charge of coordinating Priority Area 10 (EUSDR PA 10) - "Institutional capacity and cooperation." An important element of the EUSDR PA 10 is the creation of a Danube Investment Framework to assist project owners in the Region in developing project proposals, and facilitate coordination between different funding sources.

At the 1st Danube Financing Dialogue in Vienna, international experts will gather to discuss vital issues concerning the financing of SME projects in the Region. Furthermore the event will serve as a matchmaking opportunity for regional SMEs and Financial Institutions. SME representatives will have the unique opportunity to identify suitable financing sources for investment projects and present their projects to participating representatives of Financial Institutions. In turn, Financial Institutions will have the opportunity to identify new fields of business.

Participation will be by application only. Participants will include:

- SMEs with eligible investment projects. Conditions: relevance to the priorities of the EUSDR and one or more policy fields (transport, energy, culture, environment, technologies, education or security) and a financing volume of 1 to 25 million EUR .
- Financial Institutions
- EUSDR representatives

On behalf of

European Commission
Directorate General Regional Policy

Chair

Kurt Puchinger
EUSDR PA 10 Coordinator | City of Vienna

Host

Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)
Otto-Wagner-Platz 3 | A - 1090 Vienna

Organisation

Metis GmbH
Technical Assistance for the EUSDR PA 10 Coordinator

Agenda

Host: Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)

Chair: Kurt Puchinger | EUSDR PA 10 Coordinator | City of Vienna

1st day | 22nd March 2012

13:00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

14:00 **Welcome**

Franz Nauschnigg, Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)

Kurt Puchinger, EUSDR PA 10 Coordinator | City of Vienna

14:15 **Session 1 | Key note speeches on the role of SMEs and Financial Institutions within the EU Strategy for the Danube Region**

Key note speakers

Colin Wolfe, European Commission:

The significance of SMEs in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Hubert Cottogni, European Investment Fund: Financing projects of SMEs in the Danube Region

Peter Bandilla, European Investment Bank: Supporting private investment for public goods

Diego Rodríguez Palenzuela, European Central Bank:

Assessing the access to finance of SMEs in the Danube Region

Chair: Peter Schneidewind, Metis GmbH

15:45 **Coffee break**

16:15 **Session 2 | Panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities of financing SME investment projects in the Danube Region**

Panelists

Andreja Jerina, Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Affairs

Heinz Kogler, Enterprise Europe Network

Johann Moser, Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH

Katya Goranova, Business Support Center for SMEs

Nikola Stefanovic, SEAF South Balkan Fund

Werner Weihs-Raabl, Erste Group Bank AG

Chair: Kurt Puchinger, EUSDR PA 10 Coordinator | City of Vienna

Summing up the panel discussion

José Palma Andres (tbc), European Commission

17:45 **End of session 2**

19:30 **Dinner | 'Wiener Rathauskeller' | Vienna City Hall**

Welcome

Elisabeth Vitouch, City of Vienna

2nd day | 23rd March 2012

09:00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

09:30 **Session 3 | Matchmaking**

Face-to-face meetings between representatives of SMEs and Financial Institutions

Poster session | SME project market place

12:30 **Closing session**

Ewald Nowotny, Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)

Johann Sollgruber, European Commission

Kurt Puchinger, EUSDR PA 10 Coordinator | City of Vienna

13:00 **End of conference**

Registration Directions

Registration

Please register by 1st March 2012

<http://groupspaces.com/CapacityandCooperation/item/223882/register>

Organisation

Metis GmbH

Marlene Hahn


+43 699 10 89 31 40

financing-dialogue@metis-vienna.eu

Directions

Conference

Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)

Otto-Wagner-Platz 3 | A-1090 Vienna 

By public transport

U2 Schottentor, trams 5, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44

Dinner

Restaurant 'Wiener Rathauskeller'

Rathausplatz 1 | A-1010 Vienna 

By public transport

U2 Rathaus

