

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)

PROGRAMME 2023/24

Austria holds the Presidency of the EUSDR from 1 November 2023 to 31 December 2024.

Austria is taking over the Presidency at a moment when the Danube macro-region is living through a time of transition. Beyond Russia's ongoing illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, we are facing fundamental and far-reaching transformations: geopolitical shifts, economic uncertainty, climate change, changing demographics and growing social imbalance. All these challenges call for intensified cooperation across borders.

Under the slogan '**Shaping Transformation, Creating Opportunities: A Prosperous, Resilient and Secure Danube Region**', the Austrian EUSDR Presidency will focus on the following three thematic priorities:

- 1) **Contributing to Stability and Security, and a clear European Perspective for the whole Danube Region**
- 2) **Fostering Innovation, Skills and Business Opportunities in the Danube Region**
- 3) **Enhancing the Danube Region Ecosystem, Water and Green Transition Management**

Across all these priorities, Austria will pursue the participation and involvement of **youth, civil society** and **regional and local stakeholders**.

Furthermore, the Austrian EUSDR Presidency will focus on the following **three institutional and governance objectives**:

- 1) Strengthening **political commitment and broad ownership of EUSDR**, by involving Danube Region stakeholders in a comprehensive way
- 2) Continuing joint efforts to enable **tangible funding opportunities**
- 3) Illustrating the **clear added value of the EUSDR** at local, regional, national and European levels and ensure **visibility**, i.a. by highlighting **Danube Strategy Flagships and Danube Region Programme (DRP) projects**

In addition, discussions to identify key messages and processes regarding the future perspectives of the EUSDR beyond 2024 will be launched during the Austrian Presidency.

Tentative list of key events of the Austrian EUSDR Presidency 2023/24*

13th EUSDR Annual Forum	20 / 21 June 2024
Meeting of the Danube Foreign Ministers	20 June 2024
11th Danube Participation Day	19 June 2024
Meeting of the Mayors of the EUSDR Capitals	20 June 2024
“Future Perspectives For The Danube Region” with MEPs (Brussels)	8 November 2023
International Danube Navigation and Tourism Conference	26 / 29 November 2023
Vienna Tech Summit (Vienna)	12 December 2023
26 th ICPDR Annual Meeting (Vienna)	12 / 13 December 2023
9 th Meeting of Presidents of Parliaments of EUSDR	18 / 19 March 2024
Meeting of EUSDR Transport Ministers	4 April 2024
wiiw Spring Seminar 2024: Danube Region in Transition Mode, Again (Vienna)	13 May 2024
Danube Business Talks (Vienna)	15 May 2024
Stakeholder Conference on People & Skills “Fair, Green and Digital Transition in education and labour Market Policies” (Vienna)	23 May 2024
Salzburg Forum (Meeting of Ministers of Interior) (Laxenburg)	25/ 26 June 2024
Danube Region Business Forum (jointly organised with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce) (Vienna)	6 November 2024
Annual Meeting of the Danube Rectors' Conference (Krems)	13 / 15 November 2024
Formal adoption of the Joint Statement at the 27 th ICPDR Annual Meeting (Vienna)	10 / 11 December 2024

* Version 22 April 2024