

## 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\*

<b>13<sup>th</sup> EUSDR Annual Forum</b>	<b>20 / 21 June 2024</b>
<b>Meeting of the Danube Foreign Ministers</b>	<b>20 June 2024</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Danube Participation Day</b>	<b>19 June 2024</b>
<b>Mayors' talk: Cities as transformation hubs of the Danube Region</b>	<b>20 June 2024</b>
"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 <sup>th</sup> ICPDR Annual Meeting (Vienna)	12 / 13 December 2023
9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Presidents of Parliaments of EUSDR	18 / 19 March 2024
Meeting of EUSDR Transport Ministers	4 April 2024
3 <sup>rd</sup> National Participation Day – Austria (Vienna)	9 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 <sup>th</sup> ICPDR Annual Meeting (Vienna)	10 / 11 December 2024

\* Version 6 June 2024