

Invitation

# 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Financing Dialogue

Financing projects of Small and Medium Enterprises  
in the Danube Region

22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012



# 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Financing Dialogue

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

2<sup>nd</sup> day | 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 | 09:30 - 13:00 |

## 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Financing Dialogue

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 offering grants, guarantees, loans etc.
- EUSDR representatives

### On behalf of

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European Commission  
Directorate General Regional Policy

### Chair

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Kurt Puchinger  
EUSDR PA 10 Coordinator | City of Vienna

### Host

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

### Organisation

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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

## 1<sup>st</sup> day | 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

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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

Emanuel Maravic, European Investment Bank: Supporting private investment for public goods

Diego Rodríguez Palenzuela, European Central Bank

**Chair:** Peter Schneidewind, Metis GmbH

15:45 **Coffee break**

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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

**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**

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

### Welcome

Elisabeth Vitouch (tbc), City of Vienna

## 2<sup>nd</sup> day | 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012

09:00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

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09:30 **Session 3 | Matchmaking**

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

Poster session | SME project market place

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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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012

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

## Organisation

**Metis GmbH**

Marlene Hahn


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## 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

